

“A Place on the Map is also a Place in History”: Mapping Displacement in Women’s Poetry from India’s Northeast

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Abstract:

A major feature of contemporary world is its engagement with various tropes of displacement. India’s Northeast region has been especially prone to mass displacement because of its varied geographical and socio-political factors. How do writings by and about women in India’s Northeast map a history of discursive and gendered displacement? Literature from the Northeastern region, in many different ways, offer a rich repository of diverse voices interpreting and reimagining ways through which we can examine and explore multiple nuances of displacement and its affective resonances. Nabina Das, Nabanita Kanungo and a few other women writers have used displacement as an important theme in their poems. Drawing upon insights on displacement and relocation studies, this paper examines how their poems offer complex engagements with perennially displaced lives and fragmented experiences.

Keywords: Displacement, Women, Poetry, Northeast, Home

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