

Exploring Coexistence from the Lens of Diversity: A Gender Perspective

Misako KANNO

Abstract

This article reexamines the conditions of “coexistence” (*kyōsei*) amid the diversification (*tayosei*) and internal differentiation of gender. It traces how anthropological practices of comparison and classification have not merely revealed differences but have actively produced the boundaries and hierarchies through which they become intelligible. Engaging Foucault’s analysis of power/knowledge, it situates inclusion and exclusion within modern formations that distinguish the “rational subject” from the “deviant,” while attending to how such distinctions are reproduced in everyday discursive practices.

The paper explores tensions between feminist and LGBTQ movements, asymmetries between male-to-female (MTF) and female-to-male (FTM) positions, and heterogeneity within feminism. Drawing on Butler’s performativity, Crenshaw’s intersectionality, and Mohanty’s critique of Western universalism and Orientalism, it examines how intra-category differences are politicized or rendered invisible in specific socio-historical contexts.

Through an ethnographically grounded discussion of sexual violence in India, it shows how caste and class intersections shape differential visibility, complicating celebratory narratives of “diversity.” Rather than fixing definitions of diversity or coexistence, the article advocates fine-grained, context-sensitive description as a methodological condition for thinking coexistence anthropologically.