

USHA MUDIGANTI, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Dr Usha Mudiganti's research interests are: constructions of childhoods in literature; the tropes of childhood in post-colonial literature in India and gender stereotypes in the representation of women in literature. She uses popular culture and critical theories such as: psychoanalytic theory, post-colonialism, feminism and close reading of texts to debunk the popular myths about childhood. Her interest in the study of childhood began during her Master's degree in English at the University of Hyderabad.

Through her MPhil dissertation at the University of Hyderabad, she has highlighted the lack of substantial depictions of girlhood even in *bildungsroman* novels with girl protagonists in late Victorian and Early Modern England. She obtained her Ph D degree in 2007 for her thesis on the reification of childhood in Anglo-American novels of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

PAST EMPLOYMENT

Dr Usha Mudiganti has taught English language and literature in colleges across India. Her first job was at the International Institute of Technology, Hyderabad. She has also taught undergraduate students in Kerala and Mumbai. She was a visiting faculty at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay. Her previous assignment involved teaching Classical Literature to undergraduate students of the Honours programme in English at Delhi University. She has also worked as a consultant for Action Aid, Save the Children and CRY.

PUBLICATIONS

- "Alice in BPoland". *Biblio*. Vol. XIV, Nos. 1&2. January – February 2009. New Delhi.
- "School in Cinema: The Myth Exposed". *Diary: India International Centre*. Vol. XVIII, No. 4. July – August 2004. New Delhi.
- "Curing Cacographers". *Teacher Plus*. No. 58. January/February 1999.

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

- Presented a paper titled "Sisterhood in *Listening Now*" at a UGC - National Seminar on "Gender Studies: Matriarchal Assertiveness in Literatures" at Government Arts College, Salem on 21st and 22nd January 2010.
- Presented a paper titled "Writing for the 'Other'" at a national Seminar on "What's in a Booker?: The Booker Prize and the Indian Novel in English" organized by the Osmania University Centre for International Programmes on 15th and 16th September 2009.
- Participated in a workshop on "Feminism and Sexuality in Global Perspective" conducted by the Centre for Women's Studies at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences on 14th and 15th January 2009.
- Attended an orientation programme in communication skills conducted by Atharva College of Engineering of University of Mumbai on 17th and 18th January 2008.

- Was in the organizing committee of a training programme on Soft Skills for Teachers of Technical Colleges approved by the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE) in January 2008.

CURRENT RESEARCH

Dr. Mudiganti is researching the emerging norms of childhood in a globalized world, while focusing on the impact of technology on childhood and children's literature. She is also studying the notions that led to the creation of gender-specific school syllabi in 20th century India. One of her current projects is to critically examine cinematic adaptations of literary texts.