

**Female disenchantment in Mr̥dulā Garg's novel *Cittakobrā* (1979)**

My presentation will focus on the novel *Cittakobrā*, an early work of the well-known Hindi author Mr̥dulā Garg. Shortly after its publication in 1979, a controversy aroused over two pages of this novel and, in the end, the author was arrested and charged with the Obscenities Act.

At first sight, this narrative deals with Manu, a married Indian woman, and her amorous relationship with Richard, a married clergyman from Scotland who regularly visits India to do some work. But in this narrative, not only Manu's inner disruption between two men, namely her husband and her lover, and her dealing with two cultures, that is to say the „West“ and „India“, is being told, but also Manu's disenchantment with gender roles. An analysis of selected passages of *Cittakobrā* will show that for the female protagonist and first-person narrator Manu India's Independence in 1947 did not lead to an inner, subjective independence. Rather, Manu is struggling with images of „traditional“ and „modern“ women, notions of female identity, femininity and masculinity – be it out of a „western“ or „Indian“ perspective.