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Raj Chandarlapaty

Psychedelic Modernism

Literature and Film

SERIES IN LITERARY STUDIES

About the author

Dr. Raj Chandarlapaty studied at the University of South Florida and taught literature, writing, and philosophy courses in the United States and Afghanistan for 17 years. In Kabul, Afghanistan, he was awarded the Most Promising Teacher award in his first year. Dr. Chandarlapaty has since authored four books, which include 'Psychedelic Modernism: Literature and Film,' 'Seeing The Beat Generation,' 'Re-Creating Paul Bowles, the Other, and the Imagination,' and 'The Beat Generation and Counterculture.' He is most interested in American and British authors who write in the fault lines between modernism, postmodernism, and postcolonialism. Dr. Chandarlapaty has published ten journal articles, including 'ARIEL,' 'The Mailer Review,' 'Storytelling, Self, and Society,' and 'The Journal of Urban Education.' With articles on Norman Mailer, Mohammed Mrabet, James Baldwin, and Allen Ginsberg, Chandarlapaty is an accomplished essayist who studies books and articles from the perspective of critical theory and unconscious literary formation. Not borne of any one period, Chandarlapaty chooses to call himself a modernist, and refers to humankind's incomplete formation of ideas and culture.

Summary

The primary purpose of 'Psychedelic Modernism: Literature and Film' is to trace the development of ideas and perspectives from the writing and private ambitions of 20th-century modernist writers, including Aldous Huxley. The purpose of the book is to offer a rough chronology during which ideas were first given a literary imagination, then transposed onto discussions of science and psychology, and then theoretically democratized to bring fruit to a relatively de-centered process where images, text, and interviews could re-conceptualize the modern Being from an admixture of modernist, historical, and pop roots that could express a greater moment in the human action.

The work includes discussions from scientists such as Swiss chemist Albert Hofmann, rock stars such as Jerry Garcia, and unconfirmed mystics such as Carlos Castaneda. The primary focus of this work isn't literature per se, but the literary imagination as it may correspond to greater, wider, and more impactful goals than the writing of 20th-century fiction. While there is some outreach that favors de-centered models such as the Beat Generation, the author's primary purpose is to assemble an anthology covering the study and quests for knowledge from as many sides as could power the relative 1960s countercultural movement.

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