

Tribhuvan University

Feminism of Stardom: Representation of Body and Sexuality by
American Feminist Pop Culture Icons

A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English for the partial fulfilment of
the requirements for the Degree of Masters of Arts in English

By

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Letter of Recommendation

Nikita Koirala has completed her thesis entitled “Feminism of Stardom: Representation of Body and Sexuality by American Feminist Pop Culture Icons” under my supervision. I hereby recommend her thesis to be submitted for viva voce.

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Letter of Approval

This thesis entitled “Feminism of Stardom: Representation of Body and Sexuality by American Feminist Pop Culture Icons” submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Nikita Koirala, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee:

Members of the Research Committee

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Abstract:

Western academia is divided in terms of addressing the feminism endorsed by popular culture icons. A part of academia has been outrightly dismissive about the celebrity feminism concluding it either as a fiasco to cover up the overt commodification and objectification of female body or as uncritical theatrics that do not solve the real problems. On the other hand, there is also a part that is too embracing of the power of celebrity feminism over media and its impact on maneuvering public consciousness that they miss upon interrogating the criticality and pragmatism of celebrity projects. This paper examines the brand of feminism promoted by three American popular culture icons: Madonna, Beyonce and Lady Gaga drawing on the insights offered by the extant dualism in academic feminism in terms of scope and space popular feminism should occupy in larger feminist project. The research is based on critical reading of the feminist repertoires of the mentioned icons with frequent examination of ongoing disagreements between the academic feminists. It offers a balanced approach to view the celebrity feminism and way to mitigate the pertinent dispute between academia and popular culture.

Keywords: celebrity feminism, pop(ular) culture, body, sexuality, feminist enculturation