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This dissertation entitled *The Nation in Question: A Gendered Critique of Nationalism and Partition in Select Women's Narratives in English since 1990* proposes to offer a gendered critique of Indian nationalism in the context of the bloody Partition of British India into the nation states of India and Pakistan. It employs the Partition as a template to show how nationalism inflected individual and collective identities through social contexts that were often violent and always already gendered. Specifically, I look at the ways in which female experiences of the great divide of 1947 were written out of sanctioned histories of the nation, and make an effort to address this disenfranchisement through a critical reading of women's life narratives related to the Partition. I contend that the contemporary literature on the Partition demands contemplation on gender/femininity in ways disavowed by official narratives of the nation. In doing so, this dissertation takes its cue from recent feminist scholarship on the Partition initiated by Ritu Menon, Kamla Bhasin, Urvashi Butalia and Veena Das among others, since the late 1990s.

Drawing from the contemporary feminist critiques of nation and nationalism pioneered by a wide range of scholars, it analyses how implicit and explicit assumptions about sexual/gender identity are complicit in shaping the public spheres of national/communal politics and religious community as well as the more private spheres of family and kinship.

As the title indicates, this dissertation centres on recently published women's life narratives in English, in order to analyse the troubled relationship nationalism forged with gender at the vital historical (dis)juncture called the Partition. I maintain that life narratives of women mark a privileged archive, a veritable template to test the relationships and intersections of gender, citizenship and nation in the subcontinental context. Apart from compilations of oral narratives like Urvashi Butalia's *The Other Side of Silence* and Meenakshie Verma's *The Aftermath*, I look at published collections of interviews with survivors like *Borders and Boundaries* (by Ritu Menon and Kamla Bhasin) and *Epicentre of Violence: Partition Voices and Memories from Amritsar* (by Ian Talbot and Darshan Singh Tatla), and memoirs written by social workers like Anis Kidwai and Kamla Patel which have been recently translated into English. I also analyse Nonica Datta's *Violence, Martyrdom and Partition: A Daughter's Testimony* as a fragment of individual memory that subverts the national imaginary.