

In the End, Not Alone?: Considering Queer Ageing in Arun Mirchandani's *You Are Not Alone*

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Abstract :

Very little has been achieved as critical insight into the intersectional politics of sexuality and age in the domain of literary studies. The concept of 'queer ageing' has only recently gained momentum in gerontological studies related to the issues of ageing and queer sexuality, mostly through critical sociological interventions. Referring to such studies, this paper attempts to interrogate the intersectional politics of ageing and homosexuality in the broader context of queer ageing, focussing upon the literary agency of queer memory and recollection, in Arun Mirchandani's novella titled *You Are Not Alone* (2010). Mirchandani's protagonist, Sanjay, is a 75 year old urban, gay man, who, on his deathbed, recollects various aspects and events of his past. He chronicles a journey of queer ageing that both builds up his identity as the protagonist in the novel and also posits an agential use of memory in this retelling. This paper intends to situate the re-figurations of queer ageing that Sanjay's memories and recollections embed in the narrative, along with Hoshang Merchant's views on queer ageing, in the context of studying queer ageing in India.

Keywords: queer, Indian, ageing, memory, recollection