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**Gaze, Power and Patriarchy:
The Politics of Visibility in Transgender Life Writing**



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ABSTRACT

Everyday life is a performative political activity. Readings of life and the bygone as lived experience of the ordinary has attained a prominent theoretical position as a critique of the enlightenment claims of linearity of history and modernity. Readings of everyday life is a platform upon which new modes of little resistances are invented. Life Writing is a tool of everyday resistance challenging the normative standards of any given society. As a way of self-expression it has brought in all the nuances and possibilities of everyday resistance. Everyday life theory and Life Writing thus shares the basic premises of alter visions of plurality against all modes of power dominance or binaries. This paper attempts to bring together these two theoretical realizations in its reading of gender formation and the politics of invisibility of the many genders/sexualities that come outside the binary of the masculine

and feminine as expressed through the autobiographical texts, *I am Vidya: A Transgender's Journey* and *The Truth About Me* by Living Smile Vidya and Revathy respectively.

KEYWORDS

Everyday Life Theory, Life Writing, Sexuality, Gender, Transgender Narratives