



## Cyborg Bodies, Posthuman Identities: Rethinking Gender in the Age of AI

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### Abstract

This paper interrogates posthuman feminism through the lens of artificial intelligence (AI) in Kazuo Ishiguro's *Klara and the Sun* (2021) and Manjula Padmanabhan's *The Island of Lost Girls* (2015). Amid AI's disruption of human ontologies, these novels reimagine feminist agency beyond corporeal and patriarchal limits. In *Klara and the Sun*, Klara, a solar-powered AI, transcends gendered norms. Her ethereal care and non-human subjectivity challenge anthropocentric hierarchies, offering a posthuman feminist ethic of radical alterity. Conversely, *The Island of Lost Girls* exposes a dystopian counterpoint: bio-engineered girls navigate a world of commodification and resistance, revealing technology's entanglement with gendered subjugation. Engaging Rosi Braidotti's posthuman theory and Donna Haraway's cyborg manifesto, this study pioneers a comparative lens - Klara's autonomy juxtaposed with Padmanabhan's splintered survivors - uncovering how AI refracts feminist futures across cultural divides. Ishiguro's meditative prose and Padmanabhan's sharp satire illuminate distinct yet intertwined visions: emancipation through machine consciousness versus critique of techno-patriarchy. This analysis not only bridges Western and South Asian speculative traditions but also advances humanities scholarship by demonstrating how literature negotiates AI's ethical ambiguities - agency, embodiment, and power in a posthuman age. By foregrounding these texts as sites of feminist reworlding, the paper delivers insights into identity's reconfiguration, compelling a rethinking of human-machine enmeshment. These findings resonate with pressing global debates, positioning AI as a transformative lens for feminist and humanistic inquiry.

**Keywords:** posthuman feminism, artificial intelligence (AI), gender, cyborg theory, speculative fiction

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