

Editorial

Judith Rauscher, University of Cologne, Germany

When I first took over as general editor of *gender forum* in early 2021, I was particularly intrigued by the format of Early Career Researcher (ECR) Issues that, as I was told, Laura-Marie Schnitzler, one of the former managing editors of the journal, had established about ten years ago, before Sarah Youssef, her successor, took over the responsibility of editing the ECR Issues. I had the suspicion then that working on the ECR issues would be intense as well as very rewarding work. This suspicion was confirmed as I began to supervise the publication of the Early Career Researcher Issue formally known as “ECR Issue 2022,” even though it took us until the summer of 2023 to bring it to publication. I am grateful, as always, to the internal and external reviewers and to the wonderful team at *gender forum* for the work they have put into this issue. I also want to thank the Equal Opportunity Office of the University of Cologne for providing some additional funds for *gender forum* during the transition phase from the old to the new editorial team of the journal, in which I am now one co-editor in a team of co-editors that also includes my dear colleagues Johanna Pitetti-Heil and Susanne Gruß. Without those funds, which allowed us to hire Leontine Potthoff as editorial assistant for a few months in 2023, this ECR issue might have been delayed even more.

One idea we put into practice with the 2023 ECR Issue was for it to not only feature the scholarly work of early career researchers but to also involve early career researchers as guest editors. I want to thank Alexandra Novacov for contributing to the early editorial work on this issue, and I am glad that circumstances made it so that Sara Tewelde-Negassi was able to stay on as guest editor of the 2023 ECR issue from the very beginning, when we were drafting the CfP until the very end,

when the final versions of the articles were returned to us by the authors. I hope that this experience was as valuable to you both as it was for me. I also hope that the experience of going through blind peer review and several rounds of revision with their pieces was valuable to our five contributors. Now the products of your hard work are finally available to readers everywhere. You can be proud of yourselves!

Judith Rauscher
General Editor