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GENDER FORUM

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Mediating Gender: Gender and the Media

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Spring Issue:

abstracts (October 1),

completed papers (January 1)

Summer Issue:

abstracts (January 1),

completed papers (April 1)

Fall Issue:

abstracts (April 1),

completed papers (July 1)

Early Career Researchers Special Issue:

abstracts (May 1),

completed papers (August 1)

Winter Issue:

abstracts (July 1),

completed papers (October 1)

About

Gender forum is an online, peer reviewed academic journal dedicated to the discussion of gender issues. As an electronic journal, *gender forum* offers a free-of-charge platform for the discussion of gender-related topics in the fields of literary and cultural production, media and the arts as well as politics, the natural sciences, medicine, the law, religion and philosophy. Inaugurated by Prof. Dr. Beate Neumeier in 2002, the quarterly issues of the journal have focused on a multitude of questions from different theoretical perspectives of feminist criticism, queer theory, and masculinity studies. *gender forum* also includes reviews and occasionally interviews, fictional pieces and poetry with a gender studies angle.

Opinions expressed in articles published in *gender forum* are those of individual authors and not necessarily endorsed by the editors of *gender forum*.

Submissions

Target articles should conform to current MLA Style (8th edition) and should be between 5,000 and 8,000 words in length. Please make sure to number your paragraphs and include a bio-blurb and an abstract of roughly 300 words. Files should be sent as email attachments in Word format. Please send your manuscripts to gender-forum@uni-koeln.de.

We always welcome reviews on recent releases in Gender Studies! Submitted reviews should conform to current MLA Style (8th edition), have numbered paragraphs, and should be between 750 and 1,000 words in length. Please note that the reviewed releases ought to be no older than 24 months. In most cases, we are able to secure a review copy for contributors.

Article Publishing

The journal aims to provide rapid publication of research through a continuous publication model. All submissions are subject to peer review. Articles should not be under review by any other journal when submitted to *Gender forum*.

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There are no submission or page charges, and no colour charges.

Detailed Table Of Contents

Editorial	1
Hanjo Berressem: Matters that Body. Philosophy in the Age of Complex Materialism	2
Nilufer Bharucha: Of Devis,. Devdaasis and Daayins: The Image of Women in Postcolonial Indian Cinema	3
Dirk Schulz: Where Do We Go from Queer: The Question of Naturalness and Normality in Literature, Film and the Media	14
Carmen Birkle (Review): Gina Wisker: Post-colonial and African American Women's Writing: A Critical Introduction	29
Monika Müller (Review): Kimberly VanEsveld Adams. <i>Our Lady of Victorian Feminism: The Madonna in the Work of Anna Jameson, Margaret Fuller, and George Eliot</i>	31
Astrid Recker (Review): Shannon Sullivan. <i>Living Across and Through Skins. Transactional Bodies, Pragmatism, and Feminism</i>	34
Stephanie Rott (Review): Sarita Malik. <i>Representing Black Britain. A History of Black and Asian Images on British Television</i>	40
Atima Srivastava: Excerpt from <i>Looking for Maya</i>	45
List of Contributors	55

Editorial

1 **Mediating Gender** is the second issue of the new electronic journal **gender forum**. The articles and reviews in this issue highlight the interacting and diversifying fields of interest and theoretical approaches within gender and cultural studies. Professor Bharucha's essay "Of Devis, Devdaasis and Daayins: The Image of Women in Postcolonial Indian Cinema" presents a feminist analysis of women's representation in postcolonial Indian cinema. Here, the categories of *Devi* (the goddess), *Devdaasi* (the fallen woman) and *Daayin* (the witch) are the prevailing female screen types indicating male dominated Indian society's attempts to defy the threat of female authority by continuous labeling and stereotypification.

2 Prof. Berressem's contribution, "Matter that Bodies. Philosophy in the Age of a Complex Materialism," takes issue with the poststructuralist logic of the "always already" inherent in much contemporary feminist thought, most prominently in the theories of Judith Butler. With examples from film and the media, the article argues for a breaking up of the discourse of representation by reconceptualising the body as machine in Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari's sense and shows how this results in the necessity to rethink the notions of discursivity, the body, and gender.

3 Finally, Dirk Schulz, in his essay, "Where Do We Go From Queer? The Question of Naturalness and Normality in Contemporary Literature, Film, and the Media" looks at various portrayals of non-straight relationships and characters in different contemporary cultural representations. He argues that these always have to be clearly marked as lesbian or gay against the backdrop of a non-representational straight body within the heteronormative matrix (cf. Judith Butler).

4 The fiction section of this issue contains an excerpt from Atima Srivastava's acclaimed novel *Looking for Maya* (1999).

Matter that Bodies. Philosophy in the Age of a Complex Materialism

By Hanjo Berressem, University of Cologne

Abstract:

If there is one formula that has characterized most of poststructuralism|cultural studies it has been the formula 'always already.' Its Freudian logic [Nachträglichkeit] has been a favourite of writers as diverse as Lacan, Derrida, Baudrillard, Butler or Bhabha. Often unspoken, but therefore all the more powerful, has been the qualification 'text|discourse|culture. Most branches of gender studies, especially those that operate at the interface between poststructuralism and cultural studies, have embraced this logic, which has caused many crucial insights into the logic of cultural productions and positionings. In the last years, however, a number of scholars, many coming from within gender studies themselves, have noted a certain blindness in and of this logic.

There are three ways to read this essay: The 'play' version [111 kb] provides the complete text of the essay, including digressions and detailed discussions.

<http://www.genderforum.org/fileadmin/archiv/genderforum/mediating/btm/btm.html>

The 'fastforward' version [60 kb] provides the text without these digressions and detailed discussions. The 'search' version [117 kb] provides the complete text with the option of jumping over the digressions and detailed discussions. All texts contain intratextual links and a set of randomised blinks.