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Rac(e)ing Questions I: Gender and Postcolonial/Intercultural Issues

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Early Career Researchers Special Issue:

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completed papers (August 1)

Winter Issue:

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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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Editorial

1 **Rac(e)ing Questions**, the third issue of **gender forum**, focuses on the discursive intersection of gender and race. It examines the question of power and power relations from various theoretical viewpoints. The target essays in **Rac(e)ing Questions** cover a wide range of investigated genres, periods and cultural backgrounds, thus providing a broad insight into contemporary theoretical approaches to questions of gender and racial difference.

2 Mita Banerjee's essay "Josephine Baker: Gendered Ethnicity on a Mainstream Stage" looks at the way in which gender and race intersect in the spectacular performance of Josephine Baker dressed in a bird-feather costume on what is constituted as a "white" stage. At the same time, an analysis of Baker's films *Zou Zou* and *Princess Tam Tam* reveals a curious disavowal of the white male gaze: the films' male protagonists are caught not looking at the black woman on stage. This disavowal of white desire for blackness, Banerjee argues, indexes a strong attempt on the part of the mainstream to uphold the whiteness of its nation-space.

3 Claudia Liebrand's contribution compares *The King and I*, the Hollywood musical based on Anna Leonowens's diary, with its more recent screen adaptation *Anna and the King*. Liebrand argues that in both cases gender and race interact and cross in interesting ways. While the Orient, personified by the King of Siam, is conventionally depicted as the exotic, feminized Other, the opposed masculine subjectivity, ratio and agency of the Occident are embodied by a female representative. Thus power relationships are simultaneously confirmed and refigured.

4 Finally, Monika Müller's article "Nineteenth-Century Narraceons: Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and George Eliot's *Daniel Deronda*" compares the ways in which the two writers address the issue of gender and racial identity in their novels. While both authors definitely aimed at a rectification of a racial wrong done by the hegemonical notions of racial difference, their notion of racial difference still seems to be rooted in stereotypical and essentialist ideas, thus leading to conflicting narrative conceptualisations.

5 The questions raced in the interview with Atima Shrivastava by Stefanie Rott attest to the difficulty of avoiding categorisation and marginalisation due to racial and/or gendered difference. The Indian British author talks about *Looking for Maya* (an excerpt of this novel is featured in the second issue of **gender forum**, **Mediating Gender**) and its presentation of the struggle with racial, cultural, and religious difference in a multicultural society.

6 In the fiction section, a selection of poetry by the Indian writer Sridhar Rajeswaran, whose creative and academic work has been strongly influenced by Postcolonial theories, complements the theoretical investigations of **Rac(e)ing questions**.

7 Finally, reviews of recent theoretical works by Richard Dyer, Helen Moglen and Cindy Carlson (coedited with Mazzola, Robert L. Mazzola and Susan Bernardo) complete this issue.