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# GENDER FORUM

An Internet Journal for Gender Studies



## Everything is Queer: The Relevance of Queer Studies Today

Edited by  
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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](mailto: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

<b>Editorial</b>	1
<b>Dirk Schulz:</b> Truth Be Told, Science Be Bold. The Growing Fear of ‘Queer’	3
<b>Robyn Dudin:</b> Power and the Gender Binary: Between Disruption and Reaffirmation	23
<b>Alexandra Fine (Review):</b> Michael J. Bosia, Sandra M. McEvoy, and Momin Rahman. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Global LGBT and Sexual Diversity Politics</i> . Oxford Handbooks, 2020.	36
<b>Jon Heggestad (Review):</b> Fiennes, Natalie. <i>Behind Closed Doors: Sex Education Transformed</i> . London, Pluto Press, 2019.	39
<b>Amy Keating (Review):</b> Lane, Jennifer. “Using queer phenomenology to disrupt heteronormativity and deconstruct homosexuality.” <i>Journal of homosexuality</i> , 2020, pp. 1-20.	42
<b>Hatty Nestor:</b> Jacobs, Laura, and Cecil Meeusen. “Coming Out of the Closet, Also on the News? A Longitudinal Content Analysis of Patterns in Visibility, Tone and Framing of LGBTs on Television News (1986-2017).” <i>Journal of Homosexuality</i> , 2020, pp. 1-25.	45
<b>Nishtha Pandey (Review): Dozier, Raine.</b> “‘You Look Like a Dude, Dude’: Masculine Females Undoing Gender in the Workplace”. In <i>Journal of Homosexuality</i> , Vol. 66, Issue 9, 2019, pp. 1219-1237.	49
<b>Nic Rios (Review):</b> Robertson, Mary. <i>Growing Up Queer. Kids and the Remaking of LGBTQ Identity</i> . New York, NYU Press, 2018.	52
<b>Avenel Rolfsen (Review):</b> Thomas, Lynn M. <i>Beneath the Surface: A Transnational History of Skin Lighteners</i> . Durham, North Carolina, Duke University Press, 2020.	55
<b>List of Contributors</b>	57

## Editorial

1 Gender Studies is not only a means that allows us the examination of social norms pertaining what it means to be a ‘woman’ or a ‘man’, it is also not merely a means to challenge or contest those meanings. More than anything gender studies continues to be critical in the pursue of social, economic, and political justice for all. A means to investigate the production, reproduction and (more often than not) the resistance to norms that produce inequalities. Also, it is of utmost importance to understand that the gender binary is a Western concept and that historically speaking, gender has always been fluid and must maintain to be viewed so.

2 Gender studies has come increasingly under attack by opponents outside (and inside) of academia for the better part of the last two decades. However, the ongoing criticism has reached a new peak when in 2018 Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban deemed the field as “an ideology, not a science”, signing a decree banning gender studies and the “madness” surrounding it from Universities across the country (Verseck). The ‘logic’ and rhetoric used by the government was and still is appalling, however, other critics quickly followed into what has become widely known as the anti-gender movement, spearheaded by conservative Christian groups, right-wing populist, nationalists and a collation of varying far right groups across Europe, the US and Latin America as well as elsewhere (cf. Dahl and Kennedy-Macfoy).

3 The individual choice of gender must remain an expression of not only personal but also social freedom and gender studies is one of the most important fields to continuously fight for gender diversity, the freedom of choice and expression for all, as well as the constant pursue of fairness and equality for minority groups. The ongoing fostering of new gender research as well as the constant critical reflections on the role of women and other disadvantaged groups, underlines the fields continuing relevance across all fields and in activism. The spike of hate crimes towards sexual minorities, the rollback on transgender rights during the Trump administration, the gender pay gap, the Black Lives Matter movements and many more issues reflect that gender studies maintains central in academia as well as in everyday life.

4 This special issue is dedicated to highlight the relevance and importance of Gender and Queer Studies with regard to recent and contemporary academic literature. We have only included two articles in this issue, as we wanted to focus on reviewing relevant contemporary academic work in Gender and Queer Studies. The first contribution is by Dirk Schulz, managing director of GeStiK, the Gender Studies Centre at the University of Cologne. He focuses on the relevance of Gender and Queer studies in academia, taking into account not only the political and social scope of the field but also interrogating the ‘fear’ of the queer. The

second contribution is by graduate student Robyn Dudic who also co-edited this issue. Dudic investigates non-binary characters in speculative fiction, not only addressing one of literatures most beloved and popular areas but also emphasising evolving gender roles in fantasy literature. Our reviews cover a wild field, ranging from mental health, over education and media to economy and politics. We have included handbooks, articles as well as monographies to underline the breadth and depth of research and expertise in this important field. With this issue we aim to emphasize not only the necessity of research in the field of Gender and Queer Studies, but we also want to draw on contemporary issues that reflect the importance of an ongoing discourse on a global scale.

### **Works Cited**

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