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GENDER FORUM

An Internet Journal for Gender Studies



Gender and Sexuality in Australian Speculative Fiction

Edited by
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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. 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 (9th edition) and should be between 5,000 and 8,000 words in length. Please make sure 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 (9th edition), 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.

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Editorial

Beate Neumeier, University of Cologne, Germany

gender forum started out almost 20 years ago. Since then, it has turned into a vibrant medium of excellent research and expanded its scope in innovative ways. At its launch in 2002 *gender forum* was the first English-language academic e-journal in gender studies in Germany. Founded and based at the University of Cologne our peer-reviewed open-access journal has been dedicated to the international and interdisciplinary discussion of gender issues, with a strong focus on literature/media and cultural studies in the anglophone world, and on theoretical perspectives in the field. Throughout our mission always aimed at widening the scope to explore transdisciplinary intersections highlighting gender issues in a wide range of areas from politics to social and religious institutions, from criminal justice to health care systems.

By 2021 *gender forum* has published 80 quarterly issues, including various special editions in response to urgent topical matters. A substantial number of issues has been guest-edited by international colleagues from different disciplines within the humanities, social sciences, and performance studies. I would like to thank all those dedicated colleagues who put their time and expertise into these issues, contributing to the continued success of the journal which registers 5000 monthly readers on average.

I would also like to thank the members of our editorial board, Mita Banerjee (University of Mainz), Nilufer E. Bharucha (University of Mumbai), Carmen Birkle (University of Marburg), Ingrid Hotz-Davies, (Tübingen University), Ralph Poole (University of Salzburg), and Chris Weedon (Cardiff University) for their relentless support and dedication and for their willingness to continue to shape the progress of the journal in the future.

In 2014 we introduced the new format of an annual early career researchers issue to promote young colleagues in the field. I am particularly grateful to the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Cologne which has financially supported this addition to *gender forum*.

In relation to these efforts we have offered internships at *gender forum* for students dedicated to gender and queer studies and welcomed local as well as international students and early career researchers who have immensely enriched our work. My thanks go to all of them.

Most gratitude I owe to the amazing teams of editorial assistants and student assistants without whose enthusiasm, creativity and hard work *gender forum* would not have become such a success story. Their input in terms of choosing issue topics and titles, formulating calls for papers, reading proposals, communicating with authors, proof-reading and solving technical problems along the way has been tremendous. In chronological order my thanks go to Dirk Schulz (thank you for so many ingenious issue titles!), Jonas Recker, Christina Wald, Johanna Schorn, Sarah Youssef, and Laura Schnitzler (initiator of and responsible for the early career researcher issues). The longevity prize for service goes to Dirk Schulz (2002-2012) and Sarah Youssef (2012-2021). It is gratifying to see that the engagement with *gender forum* contributed to the advance of so many professional careers.

At this moment of passing the task of editing the journal on to a new team of editors and a number of new editorial board members, we see a disturbing rise of homophobia, sexism, racism, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance in many parts of the world. At the same time the recognition and impact of movements such as Me Too and Black Lives Matter reinforce the belief in the potential and power for change. My best wishes go to the new team in charge of *gender forum*, the recently appointed professor of American Studies, Judith Rauscher, the newly hired tenured assistant professor, Johanna Pitetti-Heil, and my soon to be appointed successor in English literature. I am convinced that they will steer *gender forum* to new horizons.

Beate Neumeier
Founding Editor of *gender forum*