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GENDER FORUM

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Gender and Force in the Media

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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.

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.

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Editorial

1 Addressing the diverse field of gender and violence, the current issue of *gender forum* brings together aspects of gender-based violence and its traumatic repercussions as part of our everyday society. The contributors examine various themes such as sexism, rape and murder thus leading to the question of victimhood and the representation of victims in news and mass media. While men also fall victim to rape and other forms of violence, this issue is dedicated to the investigation of violence towards women and the forms of feminist narrative that empower abused women to fight not just their abuser, but a misogynist, patriarchal system at large.

2 This issue features an interview with Internet activist Anne Wizorek. Alarmed by the current debate on sexism in Germany Wizorek initiated the twitter campaign #aufschrei and has since become one of the leading figures in the fight against sex discrimination. Despite her tight schedule Anne Wizorek was kind enough to engage in a critical dialogue with us.

3 In her article “Murderous Honor Past and Present: Webster’s Duchess of Malfi and Contemporary Crimes of Honor”, Sarah Youssef looks at cases of ‘honor killings’ worldwide, discussing not only current cases of Banaz Mahmod (UK) and Arzu Ö. (Germany) which received wide media coverage, but also cases in performing arts. Here John Webster’s Jacobean play, *The Duchess of Malfi*, proves to be exceptionally relevant when looking at the relationship of ‘honor’, family, justice, and women’s rights then and now. Youssef argues that ‘honor killings’ are not limited to class, geography or gender (although the majority of the victims are women) but are a socio-political issue that needs to be addressed globally.

4 In the following contribution, Laura von Czarnowsky discusses in her article “The postmortal rape survivor and the paradox of female agency across different media: Alice Sebold’s novel *The Lovely Bones* and its 2009 film adaptation” in what ways Peter Jackson’s film adaptation diverges from Sebold’s 2002 bestseller and especially its feminist agenda. Sebold’s novel challenges the silencing process surrounding the crime of rape by paradoxically establishing a postmortal rape survivor as its narrator. In contrast, the film rewrites the story as one wherein entrapment of innocence is the dominant theme and the myth of the helpless ‘perfect victim’ finds perpetuation.

5 Johanna Schorn’s contribution “Empowerment Through Violence: Feminism and the Rape/Revenge Narrative in *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*” provides a further view on the constructions of rape victims in popular as well as news media and the ways in which they are consistently denied agency. In most cases, passivity is perceived as the hallmark of a ‘true

victim', one of the only alternatives being the presentation of a rape-revenge narrative, in which the victim reclaims agency and resorts to violence to avenger her own rape, insinuating that brute physical force may be a victim's only recourse in a rape culture dominated by systemic misogyny. By using Stieg Larsson's novel *The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo* as an example, Johanna Schorn examines the feminist potential of the rape-revenge narrative and its application in the novel.

6 Finally, a review by Gibson Ncube of Lawrence R. Schehr's *French Post-Modern Masculinities: From Neuromatrices to Seropositivity*, rounds up this issue. Ncube values the diversity of Schehr's last monograph which examines contemporary French cultural productions including novels, essays, films and graphic novels in relation to representations and depictions of masculinity and masculine sexualities.