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Prof. Dr. Beate Neumeier

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Editor

Prof. Dr. Beate Neumeier

University of Cologne
English Department
Albertus-Magnus-Platz
D-50923 Köln/Cologne
Germany

Tel +49-(0)221-470 2284

Fax +49-(0)221-470 6725

email: gender-forum@uni-koeln.de

Editorial Office

Laura-Marie Schnitzler, MA

Sarah Youssef, MA

Christian Zeitz (General Assistant, Reviews)

Tel.: +49-(0)221-470 3030/3035

email: gender-forum@uni-koeln.de

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abstracts (October 1),

completed papers (January 1)

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abstracts (January 1),

completed papers (April 1)

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abstracts (April 1),

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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

Sonja Frenzel: Editorial	1
Natalie Collie: Walking in the city: urban space, stories, and gender	3
Judit Minczinger: A Mass-Produced Muse: Gender and Late-Victorian Urban Developments in George Du Maurier's <i>Trilby</i>	15
Ami Crinnion: The Slutwalks: Reappropriation through Demonstration	34
Chandramukhee and Stephanie Leder: Dowry Practices and Gendered Space in Urban Patna/India	54
Shu-Ju Ada Cheng (Review): <i>Illicit Flirtations: Labor, Migration, and Sex Trafficking in Tokyo</i> . By Rhacel Salazar Parrenas.	70
List of Contributors	74

Editorial

By Sonja Frenzel, Guest Editor

1 The majority of the world's population today live in urban habitats. In fact, cities have grown ever so rapidly into metropolises and even megalopolises that it seems difficult to keep track of their complex developments. Urban Studies as an interdisciplinary field of research has proliferated immensely in recent years and has reached out, from its grounding in the social sciences, to encompass such disciplines as history and literary studies, for instance. This on-going turn to space has brought forth an abundance of explorations into the construction and perpetual re-construction of urban space/s through urban dwellers' practices of habitation. It is gendered experiences, perceptions and performances of and in urban space/s that play a decisive role in these processes. The four contributions of this issue aim to shed new light upon the intersections of gender and urban space/s by highlighting the intricate interdependences between constructions of gender and constructions of urban space/s.

2 Natalie Collie's article "Walking in the City: Urban Space, Stories, and Gender" provides a feminist reading of Michel de Certeau's influential theory of urban space, urban movement and storytelling. Juxtaposing *The Practice of Everyday Life* with Elizabeth Grosz's work on gender and the urban, she shows the great merits of gendering theories of urban space/s and urban practices within these space/s. Indeed, her article establishes a valuable foundation for the subsequent contributions.

3 Judit Minczinger explores the growing visibility of women in the fin-de-siècle metropolis through a reading of George du Maurier's novel *Trilby*. While the novel was a best-selling success at the time, it has since disappeared from the literary canon. However, as Minczinger argues in her article "A Mass-Produced Muse: Gender and Late-Victorian Urban Developments in George Du Maurier's *Trilby*", it gives striking insights not only into the intersections between gender and commodification, but also into their significance for the production of urban space/s. As the novel's heroine becomes a stage performer, her female body is turned into a commodity for a world-wide audience. At the same time, the public spectacle of her performance disrupts the supposed equilibrium of the city.

4 This cue is taken up, from a very different vantage point, in Ami Crinnion's contribution "The Slutwalks: Reappropriation through Demonstration". Sparked by an incident of sexual harassment, the Slutwalks emerged in the summer of 2011 as a global

phenomenon: women of all walks of life taking to the streets in “provocative” dress to protest against derogatory perceptions of women in urban space/s. This reappropriation of a derogatory term entails the female and male participants’ reappropriation of urban space/s through the practice of public protest. Crinnion conducts interviews with female participants in the Slutwalks of Newcastle upon Tyne, UK, and Vienna, Austria, to outline their individual motivations and goals, as well as their collective effort at challenging hegemonic norms and structures of the urban environment.

5 Finally, human geographers Johanna Stephanie Leder and Chandramukhee, in their joint contribution “Dowry practices and gendered space in urban Patna/India”, illustrate how the social practice of dowry in India simultaneously reflects and produces gender discrimination against young women. They argue that dowry as a social practice creates a transactional space that is pertinent to the urban context of their study. In fact, this transactional space has a striking impact upon the urban space/s within which it emerges. Hence, this contribution takes the discussions of gendered urban space and of gendering urban space to a different cultural context. It thereby adds a new, critical perspective to this issue, while it also draws attention to the shared challenges of theorising gender and urban spaces across cultures.

6 The issue is rounded off with a review by Shu-Ju Ada Cheng of Rhacel Salazar Parrenas 2011 book *Illicit Flirtations: Labor, Migration, and Sex Trafficking in Tokyo*. In her book, Parrenas challenges the label of Filipina hostesses as trafficking victims coerced into prostitution and makes an important critique of anti-trafficking policies and campaigns, which frame these women as victims in need of rescue, rehabilitation, and reintegration. Instead, Parrenas calls for a more nuanced approach of addressing the lived experiences of these women and giving them the room to define their own subjectivities.