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GENDER FORUM

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Gender Studies: Masculinity Studies

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Early Career Researchers Special Issue:

abstracts (May 1),

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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There are no submission or page charges, and no colour charges.

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Editorial

1 When we talk about gender or Gender Studies, it is often assumed that the experiences being discussed are exclusively those of women. This assumption is likely owed to the close relationship of Gender Studies to Women's and Feminist Studies, as well as Gender Studies origins in Women's Studies departments. While Women's Studies is concerned primarily with the experiences of women, however, the basis of Gender Studies is the idea of all genders as socially, historically and culturally specific constructs.

2 This issue of Gender Forum is dedicated specifically to the field of Masculinity Studies. In their contributions, our authors explore masculinity in a wide variety of different contexts, such as gay masculinity, constructions of male friendship, Arab-Muslim Masculinity and Fascist ideals of masculinity.

3 Our first article, Patrick Fischer's "Textual and Sexual Revision: The Dynamics of Queer Identification(s) in Henry James' *The Middle Years*", is concerned with the queer identity formation process engaged in by the protagonist of James' novella. More precisely, it will be set forth how the story's central motifs, the reading and the revisioning routine, can be considered as allegorizing a quest for signification of which an unambiguous meaning can never be ascertained. Fischer argues that the resulting defamiliarization of the self leads to the emergence of a more diffuse and dissonant self, a queer self.

4 In his article entitled "The Question of the Jamesian Presence in Hollinghurst's *The Line of Beauty*", Wisam Abdul Jabbar reads Alan Hollinghurst's novel through the lense of Henry James. The paper explores the presence of James as a figure in the fictional world of the book via the protagonist's academic studies on James, and examines how Hollinghurst employs the Jamesian presence through the literary techniques of ironies and implications.

5 In the article "Of Male Friendship and Spirals in *The Lion King*, *Vertigo* and the *American Pie* Saga", Marc Demont presents an alternative to Freudian readings of *The Lion King* and focuses on the film's depiction of the threat of male homosocial bonds. He posits that, if in the *Lion King* as well as in *American Pie*, male friendships can sometimes become a threat to the patriarchal organization, it is due to their particular temporality, defined here as the timeless *jouissance* of friendship, which jeopardizes the temporality of the Circle of Life.

6 Gibson NCube, in his article "Arab-Muslim Masculinity on Trial: Gay Muslim Writers Broaching Homosexuality", examines the importance of masculinity in Arab-Muslim societies before analysing the qualities that these societies deem imperative of masculinity.

Ultimately, the paper will attempt to theorise the manner in which homosexuality destabilises these preconceptions about Arab-Muslim masculinity and male sexuality.

7 Ryan Stryffeler, in his contribution entitled “Masculinity and Fascism in Three Dystopic American Novels”, focuses on novels by Sinclair Lewis, Philip K. Dick and Philip Roth that examine the ways in which a Fascist regime appropriates the masculine discourse to legitimize its hold over the people and justify repression against marginal groups. In all of these works, the regime firmly controls both access to and definition of normative male behavior, promotes traditional Victorian concepts of manhood, and alienates and marginalizes “other” men outside this homogeneous concept.

8 The final contribution comes from Talel Ben Jemia, and is entitled “‘Not Like the Rest of Us’ – Masculine Idyll and the (Im)possibility of Love in Gore Vidal’s *The City and the Pillar*”. In this article, he deals with Gore Vidal's controversial fourth novel *The City and the Pillar* (1948), which has been noted for its explicit portrayal of homosexuality in post-World War II. Ben Jemia focuses on an examination of how the relation of homosexual individual and the external world, including homosexual subculture as well as heteronormative mainstream culture, is regulated by culturally and socially prescribed narratives of manhood. The aim of this essay is to explore how Vidal's novel negotiates the struggle of the homosexual individual to express and pursue love and desire while still adhering to a standardized normative masculinity.

9 This issue also features a book review by Lauren Specht, of J. Jack Halberstam’s *Gaga Feminism. Sex, Gender and the End of Normal*.