

# GENDER FORUM

An Internet Journal for Gender Studies

THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A SINGLE-ISSUE STRUGGLE BECAUSE WE DO NOT LIVE SINGLE-ISSUE LIVES. - AUDRE LORDE

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## Gender and Intersectionality

Edited by  
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ISSN 1613-1878

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abstracts (October 1),

completed papers (January 1)

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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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## Editorial

1 “My feminism will be intersectional or it will be bullshit”, writes Flavia Dzodan, feminist blogger at Tiger Beatdown, in perhaps one of the [most well-known articles on the topic](#) in the feminist blogosphere. One of the most important tenets of third wave feminism is the acknowledgement of the fact that gender and gender relations do not exist in a vacuum, but that they are, in fact, only a part of an intricate web of oppression and privileging based on a myriad of factors. Other important factors influencing the level of oppression someone faces are, for example, race, class, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion or disability. In this issue of Gender Forum, our contributors present a wide array of intersectional approaches to Women’s and Gender Studies.

2 In her article “*Jasmine* as a Fantasy”, Uplabdhī Sangwan examines Bharati Mukherjee’s novel *Jasmine* to see in how far the novel succeeds in presenting a liberated woman. Sangwan finds that the novel is lacking in alternatives to the heteronormative matrix, however, and the heroine does not find a way to overcome what Adrienne Rich insists are the political institutions of “heterosexuality” and “motherhood”. The absence of these alternatives in *Jasmine* is juxtaposed to other powerful narratives by women of color, such as for example Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple* (1983) where such alternatives are explored. *Jasmine* concludes by invoking a fairy tale economic and emotional rescue of the colored heroine by white male figures, and in doing so the novel enacts, what Adrienne Rich calls the “lie” of “the romantic” in Western tradition.

3 The second contribution, “A ‘Wild Zone’ of Her Own: Locating the Chicana Experience in the Theatre Works of Josefina López”, Trevor Boffone focuses on the different psychological spaces that Chicana women must occupy in order to develop an oppositional consciousness and discourse through an analysis of three plays by Josefina López: *Boyle Heights* (2005), *Detained in the Desert* (2010), and *Hungry Woman* (2013). To do so, he employs the “Wild Zone” theory posited by Cordelia Candelaria, which serves as the primary theoretical lens due to its usefulness in an intersectional analysis of Chicana experience and identity, both in the Southwestern United States and abroad, by theorizing the separate cultural and political spaces, or zones, that women inhabit in society.

4 The article “Speaking through ‘Lard-Slicked Lips’: Fatness, Racism, and Narratives of Self-Control Encircling the Paula Deen Scandal” is a joint contribution by Megan Condis, Kaitlin Marks-Dubbs and T.J. Tallie. In the article, the three scholars draw on their diverse

backgrounds (pop culture criticism, feminist studies with a focus on body image, and history with a focus on race and ethnicity) to create dialogues between the disciplines and determine how and why Deen's own body came to be used to rebuke her for her remarks, how sizeism came to stand in for a condemnation of racism.

5 Dr. Zoila Clark, in her article "Maxine Hong Kingston: Ghostbuster Feminist", focuses on the publication *The Woman Warrior, Memoirs of a Girlhood among Ghosts*, arguing that Kingston's book of the uncanny draws on Chinese-American women's writing in order to construct the role-model of a bicultural Ghostbuster feminist able to fight the ghosting patriarchal policies of the US. Clark argues that Kingston's writing style of *écriture féminine* helped her overcome her bicultural uncanny experience.

6 Ellen J. Stockstill provides a review of Ben Griffin's *The Politics of Gender in Victorian Britain*, which offers a thorough history of the fight for women's rights in Britain during the latter half of the nineteenth century.