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GENDER FORUM

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Anybody's Concerns I: Gender and the Body

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abstracts (October 1),

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abstracts (January 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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Editorial

1 Ranging from contemporary performance art to the ritual of clitoridectomy to in vitro fertilisation and its dramatic representation, the contributions to **Anybody's Concerns** explore artistic, medical and cultural practices and discourses concerning gendered bodies.

2 **Anna Furse's** essay "**Art of A.R.T.**" investigates the artistic and aesthetic potential of Assisted Reproduction Technology (A.R.T.) from a personal perspective. In so doing, she highlights the cultural tendency to marginalise sub-fertile women and describes the difficulties and prejudices women are confronted with when undergoing a fertilisation treatment. Furse complements her unusual theoretical and practical exploration of A.R.T. with a presentation of her current performance piece *Yerma's Eggs* and the impact it had on its audiences.

3 In her article, "**'Know that I do not suffer, unlike you...': Visual and Verbal Codings of Pain in Body and Performance Art,**" **Andrea Gutenberg** explores the interface of body art and the cultural codes at work in discourses of religion, hysteria and (cosmetic) surgery, among others. Focussing on gender differences, she traces the scenarios of narcissism and voyeurism both implied in the artists' live performances and stated in the manifestoes released by them.

4 **Samantha Hume's** contribution, "**The narrative of male violence on women's bodies,**" argues that past and present cultural practices such as clitoridectomy, foot binding or cosmetic surgery can be interpreted as acts in which male violence writes its narrative onto women's bodies. Hume interprets violent acts committed by women on their own bodies (or on those of other women) as a consequence of male-defined expectations of femininity that have become social imperatives. Focussing on cases of female genital mutilation, Hume highlights the urgency to take political as well as personal measures against acts of patriarchally motivated violence.

5 "One of my missions as a playwright is to let the magic back in," says **Diane Samuels**, British-Jewish playwright and novelist, in Andrea Birk and Tina Wald's interview. Samuels talks about her plays (among them her best-known work, *Kindertransport*) and her forthcoming novel *Cinderella's Daughter*. She also shares her experiences as a British-Jewish woman writer, reflecting, for example, on the patriarchal structure of the British theatre system.

6 The fiction section of **Anybody's Concerns** presents an excerpt from Diane Samuels' novel-in-progress *Cinderella's Daughter*, which juxtaposes Samuels' witty re-writing of the

Cinderella tale with a family story in a contemporary setting.

7 Finally, reviews of recent publications within the field of gender studies by Gabriele Griffin, Karin Ikas and Christina Hughes complete this issue.