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GENDER FORUM

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Gender Queeries: Queer Concerns

Edited by
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 (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.

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Editorial

1 The contributions to **Gender Queeries** explore conceptualisations and representations of queerness in recent literary works and contemporary philosophical thought.

2 Anja Müller-Wood and Ulrike Tanke's essay "The Hidden Misogynies of Queering 'light': The Case of *The Hours*" reconsiders Michael Cunningham's novel, which has recently been turned into a film by Stephen Daldry. Although it was praised and marketed for its queerness and gender transgressions, Tanke and Müller-Wood argue that the book displays both misogynist traces and conventional gender patterns, and thus performs only a superficial queering "light" of gender identity.

3 In "'Femme(inine) Diaspora': Queering the lesbian femme," Chris Michael contributes to the queer and feminist debate on the figure of the lesbian femme, whose subversiveness remains literally invisible from a point of view of gender performativity. Drawing on French feminist thought and recent queer theory, Michael uses notions of the subversive potential of the "feminine" and a diasporic model of queer identity and sexuality to develop an alternative account of the femme that conceptualises her subversive power.

4 Susanne Jung's contribution "Queering Popular Culture: Female Spectators and the Appeal of Writing Slash Fiction" explores slash fiction, a form of queer fan fiction which is almost exclusively written by female authors for a predominantly female readership. In presenting same-sex relationships of male TV characters, slash fiction strengthens the homoerotic subtext of popular TV series. Being a slash fan fiction writer herself, Jung offers a fascinating insight into the genre, which appears as critique not only of popular culture but also of heterosexual hegemonic notions of gender and sexuality.

5 In her piece "*Aunt Mary*: The Dialectics of Desire," Dimple Godiwala calls attention to Pam Gems' early play *Aunt Mary*, which anticipated much of the queer thought of the following decades as early as 1982. Gems stages the shifting and fluid identities of three transgendered, transvestite, and transsexual characters, thus presenting us with a spectacle of drag and queer.

6 "People confuse personal relations with legal structures," says Canadian author Margaret Atwood in Susanne Gruss's interview. Atwood not only talks about her novels, particularly the latest science fiction *Oryx and Crake*, but also reflects on the meaning feminism has for her and argues for a more specific definition of "feminist."

7 Following the interview with Julia Pascal published in **gender forum**'s last issue **Anybody's Concerns II**, the fiction section of **Gender Queeries** features "Theresienstadt," a

short story by the British-Jewish author which depicts an uncanny visit of a Jewish-British woman to the erstwhile concentration camp.

8 Finally, a reading of Carol Shields' novel *Unless* as well as reviews of recent publications within the field of gender studies by Tamar Heller and Patricia Moran, by Sylvia von Arx, Sabine Gisin, Ita Grosz-Ganzoni, Monika Leuzinger, and Andreas Sidler, and by Jeffrey Weeks complete this issue.