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Illuminating Gender I: Gender and Disease

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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.

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 **Illuminating Gender** examines the interface of gender and disease, a thematic concern that will be taken up again in **Illuminating Gender II** next year. Two of the contributions to our first issue consider the interaction of medical theory and German literature in the eighteenth as well as in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, while the third target essay focuses on the Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome that troubles notions of normative femininity.

2 Elisabeth Strowick's article "The Infectious Performative. Contagion between Bacteriology and Literature" examines Robert Koch's groundbreaking research on tuberculosis in the late nineteenth century and Thomas Mann's literary presentation of the disease in *The Magic Mountain*. Emphasising issues of gender, Strowick analyses Mann's writing as a poeology of the "infectious performative" and in turn investigates the importance of language and script for Koch's science.

3 In "Foreboding Forefathers: Cross(br)ed Desire, a Child and Dubious Parenthood. Goethe's *Elective Affinities*," Tanja Nusser analyses the impact of the contemporary discourse on female and maternal imagination on Goethe's writing of *Elective Affinities*. Nusser's reading of Goethe's novel highlights the importance of maternal imagination and its relation to artistic creative capacity. Studying the "monstrous" child Otto as a product of parental and specifically maternal imagination, Nusser shows how Goethe's novel partakes in but also invalidates a discourse that places maternal imagination in the context of abnormal, monstrous visualization by opposing biological/natural (paternal) and artificial/imaginative (maternal) insemination.

4 In her essay "'Too Fat, Too Hairy, Too (In)visible': Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome and Normative Femininity", Christina Fisanick deals with the little-known Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome and assesses its cultural significance. Fisanick traces the reasons why the syndrome despite its visible symptoms such as overweight and baldness, which transgress normative femininity, is made culturally invisible and considers ways of implementing the transgressive potential of the syndrome.

5 The featured interview of **Illuminating Gender** is "Crippling up is the twenty-first century's answer to blacking up". The British theatre practitioner and playwright Kaite O'Reilly talks to Jozefína Komporály about theatre, feminism, and disability. We would like to remind readers that the interviews we publish are usually not chosen in accordance with the issue's thematic focus and that we do not consider disability a disease. However, the processes

of social stigmatization as described by both Nusser and Fisanick and those addressed by O'Reilly share similar concerns. The fiction section of **Illuminating Gender** presents excerpts from Kaite O'Reilly's *Peeling*, which was first staged in 2003 at the Birmingham Rep.

6 **Illuminating Gender** also offers reviews of Judith Butler's *Undoing Gender*, of *Butler Matters*, edited by Margaret Sönsen Breen and Warren J. Blumfeld, and *Gender and Qualitative Methods* by Helma Järviluoma, Pirkko Moisala & Anni Vilkkö.