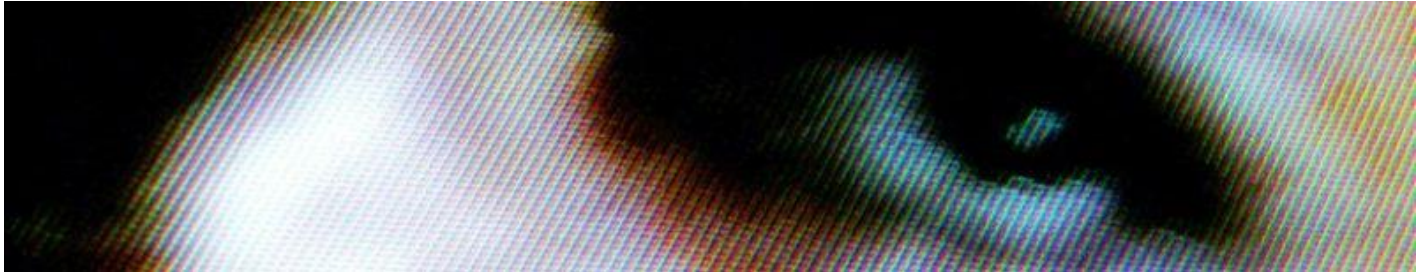


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Face to Race: Gender, Ethnicity and the Media

Edited by
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abstracts (October 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.

Detailed Table of Contents

Editorial	1
Jennifer Esposito and Bettina Love: The Black Lesbians Are White and the Studs Are Femmes: A Cultural Studies Analysis of The L Word	3
Norbert Finzsch: Male Gaze and Racism	23
Melissa Wright: Racist Bullying or "Girls Being Girls"? Untangling Constructions of Race and Gender in Celebrity Big Brother	41
Saheed Aderinto (Review): Marc Epprecht. <i>Heterosexual Africa? The History of an Idea from the Age of Exploration to the Age of AIDS</i>	59
Rosemary Onyango (Review): Stefanie Tannen. <i>The Female Trickster: The Mask that Reveals, Post-Jungian and Postmodern Psychological Perspectives on Women in Contemporary Culture</i>	62
List of Contributors	66

Editorial

1 **Face to Race — Gender, Ethnicity and the Media** is the fourth issue of **gender forum** to address the nexus of race and gender, this time with an emphasis on audiovisual media. Television and film have been of key concern for cultural studies, and certain strategies in media representation have been shown to apply across dimensions of ethnic, sexual, economic or religious difference. This issue addresses the question whether diversity transcending discreet categories of difference does and can find representation beyond the fringes of our mediascapes. Frequently, media representations seemingly progressive in regard to either race or gender turn out to be deplorably heteronormative or eurocentric.

2 As constructions of race and gender inform or subvert each other, they can be alternately employed as strategies of cultural normativity. The necessary theoretical framework for discussions of these issues focusing on notions of power and the gaze, of visibility and the body, of voyeurism and reciprocal visual pleasure has been of central importance in feminism, gender studies as well as postcolonial studies.

3 The three articles in this issue address these concerns from different angles. Jennifer Esposito and Bettina Love's study "The Black Lesbians Are White and the Studs Are Femmes: A Cultural Studies Analysis of *The L Word*" approaches the popular American television series *The L Word*. Being one of the few mainstream television formats centering on lesbian characters, the show's representative politics are scrutinized in regard to their homogenizing tendencies. The study also includes focus group data that emphasize the identificatory relevance such a show has to be credited with in a heteronormative mediascape.

4 Norbert Finzsch's essay "Male Gaze and Racism" transfers a decentered notion of the gaze to the study of racism. Necessarily, such an approach entails a positioning vis à vis Laura Mulvey's film theory as well as its later modifications. Within the context of a definition of racism as a visual ideology, the possibility of returning the gaze and subverting the power strategies is focused on. Drawing on Lacan and Barthes this essay provides a historical analysis of Australia's colonization and the depiction of the indigenous Others foregrounding the counterdiscourses challenging the normative, white male heterosexual "viscourses" of colonial accounts.

5 Focusing on a series of events in the 2007 UK *Celebrity Big Brother* series, Melissa Wright's contribution "Racist Bullying or 'Girls Being Girls'? Untangling Constructions of Race and Gender in *Celebrity Big Brother*" discusses the masking of racial privilege via the

use of gendered discursive constructions within the theoretical framework of critical whiteness studies. Wright's analysis addresses the discursive tactics attempting to hide the series' underlying racism, such as the assumption that racism is a phenomenon limited to male working class contexts.

6 This issue is completed by Review(s) of Stefanie Tannen's *The Female Trickster: The Mask that Reveals, Post-Jungian and Postmodern Psychological Perspectives on Women in Contemporary Culture* and Marc Epprecht's *Heterosexual Africa? The History of an Idea from the Age of Exploration to the Age of AIDS*.