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Where Two Worlds Coincide. David Berger on Repression, Transgression, and the Roman Catholic Church

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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

By Dirk Schulz, University of Cologne, Germany

1 This special issue of *gender forum* is the outcome of several conversations with David Berger over the last two months. I became aware of his story through a talk show in December 2010, where he was invited as a guest to speak about his book *Der heilige Schein* which by that time had already become a bestseller. After that I saw his name reappear frequently, be it on TV or in newspapers. I became intrigued by the remarkable media interest and his personal explanations, particularly because he was always shying away from labels and positionings which others were very quick to employ for him. I noticed how my own attributions and conceptualisations of “victim and perpetrator” as well as “self and other” were questioned by his stance and how an imagined safety of distance to the established discourses regarding the Roman Catholic Church and sexuality was beginning to falter. Berger's story rather is indicative of a more general problem, namely how to balance individual and group interests, the complex self and social identity.

2 Despite his tight schedule David Berger was kind enough and willing to not only answer questions but to engage in a critical dialogue. The article “Where Two Worlds Coincide” in this issue traces some of the implications of the thoughts that were exchanged.