

Feminist Thought, Feminist Practice

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Welcome to thirdspace's latest issue. We are proud to have the opportunity to publish such a rich, diverse, and thought-provoking assortment of articles, essays, dialogues, resources, and reviews. Each of this issue's authors provides valuable insights into the ways in which theory and practice inevitably intersect in feminist scholarship--into the ways in which what we teach and learn within the academy shapes our lives, experiences, and consciousnesses, as well as our societies more generally. We invite you to engage with all of the provocative issues raised by our authors by commenting on and discussing their work, both on our site and beyond it. For, as this issue's authors so eloquently demonstrate, one of the primary goals of feminist scholarship is to foster collaboration, dialogue, and debate.

This issue's articles offer new perspectives on how the popular media and the law have the potential to reshape women's identities and sexuality in both empowering and problematic ways. Focusing on the controversial figure of Phoolan Devi, Madhavi Murty's "Reading the Perplexing Figure of the 'Bandit Queen': Interpellation, Resistance, and Opacity" considers the ways in which Devi has been represented in different accounts of her life and death. Murty contends that considering Devi (and constructed images of her) gives important insights into neoliberal ideology's attempts to manage the burgeoning political power of lower caste and dalit groups through the body of the gendered subaltern in postcolonial India. Kate Lockwood Harris' "The Communicative Criterion: Establishing a New Standard for Non-Violent Sexual Encounters by Reframing Consent" encourages us to reflect on the troubling aspects of using the concept of "consent" in discussions of violent sexual interactions. Lockwood Harris suggests that a communicative criterion model (in which sexual partners attend to each other, seek information from each other about likes and dislikes, and negotiate boundaries) has the potential to disrupt heteronormative conceptions of sexuality and to reshape current understandings of sexual violence in the realms of law, academic scholarship, and public education.

This issue also offers a rich collection of essays, resources, dialogues, and reflections on teaching and learning. These pieces urge us to reconsider how we define feminism both inside and outside of academia--how we incorporate feminist ideas and practices in both our professional and personal lives. Feminism has too long been defined as an "all work and no play" philosophy and practice, Shira Chess maintains in "How to Play a Feminist." Feminists need to successfully reclaim leisure and play, integrating them into politics, technology, workplaces, sports, and families. In "Podcasting: Thinking About New Opportunities for Pedagogy and Activism", Georgia Gaden considers how feminist bloggers and professors can incorporate podcasting into their work. Podcasting, Gaden demonstrates, has the potential to engage students in powerful ways and to bring readers, writers, and creators of feminist blogs

together for discussion, debate, and community building. Meredith Nash's "My Wedge, My Self" considers the complexities involved in her transformation from a Ph.D. candidate to a Ph.D., and from graduate student to public media figure. Reflecting on her research on pregnant women and their subjective experiences of pregnancy, Nash considers the ways in which a (still male-defined) academy makes room (or fails to make room) for female-centered scholarship and feminist scholars. In "Distance Education: A Women's Studies Perspective", Natasha Patterson asks whether distance education (a sector in which many students are female) is compatible with feminist pedagogical goals. Although distance education presents several challenges, Patterson offers thoughts on how distance education can nonetheless become a fruitful feminist practice.

In this issue, we are also pleased to publish a series of reviews on the theme of feminism and geography. Questions about space and place have long been vitally important within feminist thought, and the diverse, intriguing assortment of books reviewed in this issue help to shed new light on these discussions.

We encourage you to visit the "Comments" section of our journal and to share your thoughts with our authors, with us, and with one another. (If you're not already a registered user of our site, signing up is easy- for more information, see our readers page: <http://www.thirdspace.ca/journal/information/readers>.) We hope that the discussions which our authors have begun here will continue in your scholarship, your classrooms, and your conversations with your students, colleagues, and friends.