

Editorial

1 For the seventh time this special issue of *gender forum* provides a platform for early career researchers in the field. The articles selected for the 2019 ECR issue focus on hegemonic systems of power, sex positivity and queerness, as well as notions of gendered identity.

2 Marvin John Walter's posthumanist reading of Tomi Adeyemi's *Children of Blood and Bone* and N.K. Jemisin's *The Fifth Season* aims at deconstructing the naturalised discourses by which hegemonic systems of power define the human and its others. Drawing on Herbrechter and Callus, Walter foregrounds the discursive strategies employed in the novels, to counter oppressive methods of othering and their limits within a humanist framework. According to Walter's analysis both novels fundamentally stay within this frame, while *The Fifth Season* at least to a certain extent successfully de-centers the human from its allocated exceptional position.

3 Leah E. Wilson's article "Performing Queer Time: Disrupting Heteronormativity with Representations of Working-Class Sexual Minorities in Michelle Tea's *Valencia* (2000)" argues that the novel advocates sex positivity and queer ways of being to resist heteronormative life markers and capital accumulation fuelling a hyper-gentrification, which displaces queer communities and people of color from their neighborhoods. Drawing on Jack Halberstam's notion of 'queer temporality' Wilson demonstrates how Tea constructs queer spaces occupied by sexual minorities who, removed from financial wealth and inheritance, inhabit a temporality that insists on the present moment. In this sense Tea's *Valencia* is read as a text disrupting the idealization of access to heteronormative institutions, arguing for a transformational politics that critiques capitalist power structures.

4 Jana Tubbesing looks into "'Adult Games' – Gender Subversion in Miranda July's *The First Bad Man* (2015)" analysing the deconstruction of stable gendered identities in the novel by performance artist Miranda July. Drawing on Judith Butler's notion of performative acts Tubbesing investigates the adult games, in which the main characters Clee and Cheryl are engaged throughout the novel.

5 Two reviews on current web series complete this Early Career Researchers' issue 2019. Laken Brooks reviews *Brown Girls* (2017), created by Fatimah Asghar and Sam Bally, an Emmy nominated series about the life of two friends in Chicago. Kanak Yadav looks into the documentary style series, *Berliner Farben* (2017-2018), created by Poliana Baumgarten. which addresses LGBTQ+ issues in the context of the German capital.