

## Editorial

The last year was a year of transition for *Gender Forum: An Internet Journal for Gender Studies*, which is now entering its twentieth year. As the new general editor of *Gender Forum*, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Beate Neumeier, the founding editor and outgoing general editor of the journal, for her decade-long services to *Gender Forum*. I am in awe of what you and your editorial teams have created over the last twenty years and honored that you trust me to continue your work. I would also like to thank Sarah Youssef for her tireless work as managing editor of the journal during the years prior to my arrival and for your willingness to share your expertise during the transition between editorial teams. Your work, like the work of many managing editors, review editors, and student assistants before you, has been invaluable for keeping the journal afloat. Your dedication to the idea behind the Early Career Researchers Issues, in particular, has been an inspiration. I hope the new team can continue the work of *Gender Forum* in your spirit.

This year was not only a year of transition for the journal; it was also the second year of the Covid pandemic. This pandemic has brought with it challenges for everyone, but it has undoubtedly brought more challenges for some than others, further exacerbating the inequalities that exist in academia. As a free open access online journal invested in intersectional feminist publishing practices, *Gender Forum* is dedicated to promoting the work of early-career researchers, marginalized scholars, and precariously employed scholars working in the fields of gender and queer studies. Scholars from these groups have been hit hardest by the adverse effects of the pandemic on scholarly working conditions, especially if they have also had young children or if they have been living with pre-existing medical conditions.

Here at *Gender Forum*, we want to acknowledge the energy it takes to publish in times like the ones we are living in now, especially when your financial situation is not stable, when your future is insecure, when concerns for your own health or the health of others keep you away from networking opportunities, and when you don't have a room of your own

to work in or enough time for your research due to care-taking responsibilities. We also want to acknowledge the pressures that come with deciding not to publish because the hurdles to submit work are too big. This present issue on “Gender, Violence, and the State in Speculative Fiction” and the following two are going to come out later than we had originally intended. We have been trying and will continue to try to process and publish accepted submissions in a timely manner because we know that career opportunities can depend on the timeliness of publications. Yet, we have also been trying and will continue to try to keep the publishing process attuned to the needs of the people hoping to work with us. If you are one of these people, do not hesitate to ask questions about the publishing process and let us know about things that might help us to work with you more productively. We are looking forward to your submissions and proposals.

Judith Rauscher  
General Editor