

CALL FOR PAPERS

australian feminist studies

Heterosexuality Issue

Guest Editors: Chris Beasley, Heather Brook and Mary Holmes



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Australian Feminist Studies promotes cutting-edge feminist scholarship both within and beyond conventional academic disciplines. This includes discussion of feminist pedagogy; reports on local, national and international conferences; analyses of government, trade union, and United Nations policies that concern women; discussion in cultural, post-colonial and trans-national studies that involve feminist analyses. **Australian Feminist Studies** proudly proclaims commitment to feminist work. The editorial practice has always included its recognition of difference and diversity among feminisms, and hence within feminist scholarship.

Heterosexuality has received little attention in its own right within feminist scholarship and there have been considerable limitations to the work that does exist. When heterosexuality is studied, research tends to deal with the important matters of the oppressive and violent aspects of heterosexuality. However, sexual violence, pornography and sex-trafficking are not all there is to heterosexuality. It can be playful, pleasurable and even peculiar. Heterosexuality may be no less egalitarian than many non-heterosexual relationships, although heteronormativity does give it privilege. There may be forms of heterosexuality which are non-conventional: some may be excitingly transgressive, some more quietly subversive. All have their significance. We would however particularly welcome work that attends to the more routine everyday operation of heterosexuality, as well as that which is focused on the less usual.

The diversity of intimate heterosexual relationships in everyday life has not been well captured by scholarly endeavour. A truly fluid vision of sexuality needs to attend to that diversity, rather than assuming that heterosexuality inevitably equates with the heteronormative. Heterosexuality can involve pleasure and mutual pleasure, and there are forms of heterosexual intimacies, sexualities, and identities that have subversive potential. Whether by theoretical engagement or empirical illustration this issue will offer a rethinking of heterosexuality and its relationship to other forms of sexuality, power and pleasure.

Call for Papers

We are calling for papers for a special issue on heterosexuality. We are particularly interested in the everyday practice of heterosexuality, its pleasures and its relation to the normative. Topics could include normative and/or non-conventional relationships, affairs, non-monogamy, sexual practices, sex education, theories of heterosexuality, law, politics, the representation of heterosexuality, histories, heterosexual men as desirable, heterosexual women as having sexual fun/pleasure. Papers should be between 5,000 and 7,500 words. Expressions of interest should be sent preferably by email to **Mary Holmes (mary.holmes@flinders.edu.au)** or if that is not possible to **Heather Brook, Women's Studies, Flinders University, GPO 2100, Adelaide, SA 5001, Australia.**