

Call for Papers

***Feminist Media Studies* Special Issue: Transcultural Mediations and Transnational Politics of Difference Vol. 9, No. 4, December 2009**

The guest editors seek submissions for “Transcultural Mediations and Transnational Politics of Difference,” a special issue of *Feminist Media Studies* slated for publication in fall 2009. At a time when feminism readily becomes instrumentalized in the service of the military and economic goals of the global war on terror and various commercial agendas, it is crucial to forge polycentric transnational coalitions as alternatives to the much-critiqued ideas of “global sisterhood” and “global feminism.” However, such a search for alliances often forces women to grapple with choices among incommensurable options: familial, national, and religious commitments are often seen as obstacles to making transnational feminist connections. We are interested in how such choices are negotiated and articulated through the use of a range of media technologies. The transnational reach of global television, Hollywood and Bollywood, MySpace and YouTube allows for immediate connections, shared media experiences, and unprecedented opportunities for theorizing and organizing across borders. Still, the open-ended logic of such transnational media experiences also makes them vulnerable to hijacking for the purposes of neoliberalist or militarist nation-states and transnational corporations, in processes that create or solidify borders among women of various ethnoracial and national positions. To this end, we invite proposals focusing on transcultural mediations that engage with incommensurable experiences and the politics of authenticity on a transnational scale.

Women’s multiple engagements with global media to negotiate what appear to be incommensurable identifications afford feminism new opportunities to reconstitute itself as a crucial resource in critiquing transnational media capitalism. This special issue will contribute to a sustained theorization of the relationship between transnational feminism, incommensurabilities that arise from new, mediated affinities, and the politics of authenticity vis-à-vis knowledge production. We are especially interested in examining how feminists employ the tools of global media to work together across borders in order to dismantle the category of authenticity, which reduces migrant and transcultural identities to “native” points of cultural origin. What are the models of media praxis generated by transnational feminisms? Who can be a transnational feminist and what does it mean to claim such a position? How can transcultural mediations be mobilized to work with, rather than against, the challenges presented by encounters with incommensurability?

In recent decades, an increasing number of media activists, artists, and scholars from Eastern and Western Europe, Africa, and the Middle East have begun to reflect on women’s complex and often contradictory choices and identifications in the face of widespread transnational political and cultural changes, including the dissolution of the bipolar world system of the Cold War and the accelerated globalization of the media. We seek contributions that present cases where the incommensurability of women’s choices

and experiences has been acknowledged in media representations. We are interested in projects that analyze convergences between the globalization of the media and the transnationalization of feminism. We invite work that addresses how women consume and employ a range of audiovisual media to negotiate the challenges of transnational incommensurability, whether these are instantiated by nationalistic or religious loyalties, commercial cooptation, or powerful affective ties to local identities. Besides studies that analyze feature films, documentaries and television, we welcome artistic practices such as performance, installation art, poster art, graffiti, radio, photography and accounts of feminist online activism across borders and cultures.

Examples of potential topics and themes to address: Migration, immigration, exile, refugeeism; Politics of difference; Pedagogical practices; Sexualities across cultural divides; Conflicting religious imperatives across borders and cultures; Cross-border media activism; Global television format; Transnational feminist approaches to computer games and virtual identities; World music vis-a-vis transcultural feminist negotiations; Nation-states, NGOs and transnational feminist mediations; Neoliberalism and consumerism; The war on terror.

The special issue editors are Anikó Imre (Assistant Professor of Critical Studies, School of Cinematic Arts, University of Southern California), Katarzyna Marciniak (Associate Professor of Transnational Studies, English Department, Ohio University), and Áine O’Healy (Professor of Modern Languages and Literatures, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles). Please submit a 350-word abstract and abridged cv to imre@usc.edu, marcinia@ohiou.edu, and aohealy@lmu.edu by May 1, 2008.