

ASHWINI TAMBE, BRITTANY FREMAUX

«Feminist Studies»

*Short Introduction*

«Feminist Studies» is an interdisciplinary women's studies journal, first published in 1972. We are an independent, English-language, peer-reviewed journal, located in the United States, publishing three issues annually (average number of 744 pages per volume year) in print and electronic form. «Feminist Studies» is housed at the University of Maryland, US, where our editorial director is a faculty member, but the journal is autonomous in terms of its content and production process and revenues: it is not owned by the university and is one of the few academic journals that is not owned by a university press. It is not an open access publication and relies primarily on subscriptions for its revenue. Currently, the journal has an editorial board of about a dozen academics, including the editorial director. <http://www.feministstudies.org/aboutfs/editors.html#current>

*Content*

The journal publishes research and criticism that take into account the intersections of gender with racial identity, sexual orientation, economic means, geographical location, and physical ability. In addition to scholarly articles, we also feature artistic, creative, and activist output: each issue contains multi-page full color art spreads alongside art essays, poetry and fiction, and commentaries on newsworthy topics. Our issues typically contain thematic clusters of essays, often paired with art and creative writing on related themes, and our special issues (on topics such as *Feminism and Capitalism*,

Doctoral Degrees in WGSF Studies, Food and Ecology, Everyday Militarism, Women's Friendships, Africa Reconfigured, Race and Transgender Studies, Categorizing Sexualities, Women and Prison) draw a wide readership. Whether drawing from the complex past or the shifting present, the pieces that appear in «Feminist Studies» raise social and political questions that intimately and significantly affect women and men around the world.

Although many of the articles we publish draw on the methodology of a single discipline, we especially welcome truly interdisciplinary research that showcases contributions from multiple traditions, sources, and methods. All accepted articles are reviewed by specialists in the author's field and also by editors from a variety of disciplines. Our editorial collective includes scholars in a variety of fields and our editorial consultants are drawn from an even wider pool to ensure that each article meets the highest standards of scholarship in the specialized field and also is of interest to a broader interdisciplinary readership. We truly depend on this intellectual network of scholars to produce the high quality of our journal's content. Forging connections with new scholars is crucial to our continuation.

### *History*

«Feminist Studies» first appeared in 1972, after more than three years of discussion and planning, and was the first US journal of interdisciplinary feminist scholarship. At that time, women from Columbia University's women's liberation group, students in a women's studies course at Sarah Lawrence College, and feminist activists from New York City brought together a wide network of feminists committed to creating a scholarly journal with high scholarly standards and community relevance. This feminist network believed that the women's movement needed an analytic forum to engage the issues raised by the movement and to bring together the contributions of feminist activists and scholars. This is still our mission today. The title, *Feminist Studies*, was chosen to indicate that the content of the journal would be both scholarly and political and would foreground women as a social group and gender as a category of analysis.

From its inception, «Feminist Studies» has never been averse to publishing content that is considered political or even militant. The tone and content of articles we publish, however, is generally in line with currents of feminist thought, and it also reflects the standards

of conventional academic writing. At times, the ideas in articles we currently publish, such as settler colonialism or race and police violence, can be at odds with dominant norms, and to that extent can be viewed as militant. Additionally, our creative and artistic content continues to manifest an energy that agitates for change, and as an independent publisher we proudly feature such work.

The spirit of collectivity and grassroots organizing has been present from the earliest days of «Feminist Studies». The journal's first editor, Ann Calderwood, ran the journal as an out-of-pocket, out-of-apartment operation, publishing only three volumes before 1977, several of which were special issues drawing on papers first presented at the earliest conferences organized by the Berkshire Conference in Women's History. It is sometimes difficult to remember how rapidly feminist ideas spread in the early 1970s. In 1969 it was a radical notion to argue that women should be studied; by 1977 women's studies was beginning its phenomenal growth inside the academy, and the earliest volumes of «Feminist Studies» are a testament to this historical moment. In the fall of that same year, the journal was restructured and thereafter edited by a collective of academics. It found its current home at the University of Maryland at College Park under the guidance of Editorial Director, Claire G. Moses, and a small paid staff. In 2011, Claire G. Moses retired and Ashwini Tambe became Editorial Director. «Feminist Studies» is still housed at the University of Maryland and through the Department of Women's Studies enjoys office space and a teaching release supporting the editorial director's time. Other than this assistance, «Feminist Studies» remains independent of the university.

The editorial board embodies the feminist ideal of collectivity in the level of shared work engagement and responsibility. Together, editors shepherd their assigned manuscripts through the review process, suggest and compose new calls for papers, review creative submissions, suggest and recruit new scholars as consultants and editors, slate accepted manuscripts for publication (including special issues), compose text for issue prefaces and letters to authors, and publicize «Feminist Studies» content through their academic and activist networks. The editorial collective is composed of around a dozen collective members at any given time, with some editors serving on the board for decades and others only a handful of years, with former editors usually becoming editorial consultants when they step down. We explicitly try to ensure that we have a mix of scholars who are late, early, and midcareer. Additionally, as new fields and specializa-

tions have evolved, we have also invited new editors and consultants to join, and it is this rotating and ever-expanding network of scholars that we rely upon to maintain the validity and integrity of the journal as an analytic forum serving academics and activists.

To feature the most cutting-edge developments in feminist theory, «Feminist Studies» prioritizes attending and soliciting papers and reports from the nation's most prominent women's studies conferences. We are an important presence at the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) annual conference, and the triennial Berkshire Conference on the History of Women ("The Big Berks"), where we sponsor panels on innovative topics as well as academic publishing, and connect with new readers and potential authors.

«Feminist Studies» is committed to supporting the development of our field and of junior scholars for our very continuance. We regularly provide internships to graduate students at the University of Maryland, and we have two awards (accompanied by cash prizes) relevant to junior scholars: one award for the best article written by a graduate student, and one award for the year's most theoretically innovative article (which is often awarded to someone in an earlier or mid-level stage of their career). Because of the increasing pressure to publish, we have received more and more submissions from younger scholars over the years. Recently, we have evolved our editorial practices to be more mindful of junior authors' precarity, and to provide those authors with even further substantial constructive editorial feedback.

Additionally, we now include more work by feminist activists (including commentaries, short reports, and interviews), connecting us with new generations of activists and alerting our readership to emerging crises and other timely events. Our content is not in competition with the news cycle, since we work with different time horizons, but as a scholarly journal we see our role as providing reflective, relevant, teachable content on current social issues. We regularly produce work we feature as "Teachable Articles" that are about topics in the news: we were among the very first academic journals to produce forums on the Arab Spring, Slutwalks, the Delhi 2012 gang rape, race and police violence in the US, and the gay nightclub shooting in Orlando. This kind of feminist content that is at once innovative and reflective is forged only through a keen understanding of history. As an interdisciplinary journal, we certainly do not privilege submissions written by historians, but meeting the high scholarly standards of the journal requires that our authors'

work pay special attention to history –both the history of the subjects in their work, and the history of the relevant scholarship– to defend against the erasure of particular voices and knowledges.

Always deeply committed to interdisciplinary scholarship, «Feminist Studies» has been well positioned to engage in global feminist dialogues. In addition to publishing work by women around the world, we have created strong ties with other journals through our membership in the international group, Feminist Journals Network (FJN). Like other publishers, we have weathered the transition from print to digital media successfully, in the process making updates such as, digitizing our back issues and adjusting our price model to bring in more readers (and subsequently authors as well) internationally by offering free or deeply discounted subscription access to countries in the global south/outside the OECD. We have also taken up and sponsored new translation projects to bring classic feminist texts from the global south to our readership, as well as permitting all translations of «Feminist Studies» content gratis.

As we continue to grow and to engage new generations of feminist scholars, activists, artists, and creative writers, we find ourselves looking back to our history for inspiration. We view it as a primary responsibility to conserve our reputation as the oldest US flagship journal in women's studies and we hope to ensure it by being responsive to currents around us. As our history reflects, «Feminist Studies» has not remained stagnant; we continue to seek out new ways to remain a vital forum for scholars as well as activists involved in all aspects of feminist practice.

*Abstract:* «Feminist Studies» è una rivista interdisciplinare di studi sulle donne nata nel 1972: è la più antica rivista di Women's Studies degli Stati Uniti. E' in lingua inglese, si avvale di peer-review e pubblica tre uscite annue sia a stampa che in digitale. Ha sede presso l'Università del Maryland, tuttavia è indipendente, e costituisce una delle poche riviste accademiche non di proprietà di un'editrice universitaria. «Feminist Studies» fece la sua prima comparsa quando gruppi di studiose e attiviste femministe si misero in rete con l'intento di creare una pubblicazione accademica con elevati standard scientifici, ritenendo che il movimento delle donne avesse bisogno di uno spazio per confrontarsi in modo analitico con le istanze messe a tema. Tale rimane lo scopo della rivista. Il titolo fu scelto per indicare il contenuto al tempo stesso scientifico e politico, che avrebbe interessato le donne come gruppo sociale e il genere come categoria di analisi. La redazione, composta circa una dozzina di accademiche, vuole incarnare l'ideale femminista della collettività attraverso la condivisione di lavoro, impegno, responsabilità.

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Although housed at the University of Maryland, it is independent, and one of the few academic journals that is not owned by a university press. «Feminist Studies» appeared when groups of feminists scholars and activists came together in order to create a scholarly journal with high scholarly standards. This feminist network believed that the women's movement needed an analytical forum to engage the issues raised by the movement. This is still the journal's mission. The title was chosen to indicate that the content of the journal would be both scholarly and political, and foreground women as a social group and gender as a category of analysis. The editorial board about a dozen academics strives wants to embody the feminist ideal of collectivity through shared work engagement and responsibility.

*Kewords:* storia delle donne, studi di genere, studi sul femminismo, femminismi, Università del Maryland; feminist studies, women's studies, gender, feminism, University of Maryland.

*Biodata:* Ashwini Tambe è Professoressa nel dipartimento di Women's Studies dell'Università del Maryland, dopo aver insegnato presso la Georgetown University, l'Università di Toronto e la Temple University. Si interessa di teorie femministe transnazionali, storia moderna dell'Asia meridionale, studi sulla sessualità ed economia politica globale. Il suo scritto più recente esamina i paradossi legali nei limiti di età per il consenso sessuale. Nell'ultimo decennio, la sua ricerca si è concentrata su come si disciplinano le pratiche sessuali nelle società dell'Asia meridionale. I suoi articoli recenti trattano il ruolo della climatologia nel cosiddetto razzismo scientifico, gli approcci interdisciplinari alla teoria femminista dello Stato, e la tradizione transnazionale degli studi femministi (atambe@umd.edu).

Ashwini Tambe is professor, department of Women's Studies, University of Maryland. She previously taught at the University of Toronto, Georgetown University, and Temple University. Her interests include transnational feminist theory, modern South Asian history, sexuality studies, and global political economy. Her current work examines the legal paradoxes in age standards for sexual consent. Over the past decade, her work has focused on how South Asian societies regulate sexual practices. Her recent articles have spanned topics such as climatology in scientific racism, interdisciplinary approaches to feminist state theory, and transnational approaches in feminist scholarship (atambe@umd.edu).

Brittany Fremaux è la Business Manager presso «Feminist Studies». Ha conseguito la laurea in letteratura presso American University e ha lavorato per Cambridge Scientific Abstracts e ProQuest LCC prima di unirsi al gruppo di «Feminist Studies» nel 2011.

Brittany Fremaux is the Business Manager at «Feminist Studies». She received her B.A. in literature from American University and worked for Cambridge Scientific Abstracts and ProQuest LLC before joining the «Feminist Studies» team in 2011.