So You Want to Change the World?

INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN’S, GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

FROM THE PAGES OF MS. MAGAZINE, 1972-PRESENT

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INCLUDES NEW MS. ON THE ISSUES PODCASTS
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This reader makes two bold assumptions—you care about the world you live in and by the time you finish this reader, you’ll have several powerful ideas about how your efforts to challenge gender inequality can change the world. That’s a tall order, but many students in women’s, gender and sexuality studies classes are encouraged to consider how what they learn in the classroom can apply to making change in society. In this reader, you’ll find many examples of others, who after learning about injustice, applied what they learned for the betterment of their communities. That’s one of the outcomes of learning about feminist ideas.

Feminist and social justice movements of the last century brought questions about women and inequality into everyday conversation. Women and gender issues permeate and have implications for all aspects of our political, social, cultural and economic lives. A brief look at global events reveals both how far women have come, and the ongoing challenges they face.

In January of 2021, Kamala Harris became the first female and person of color to be Vice President of the United States. She is a strong supporter of racial justice, women’s rights and LGBTQI rights as well as advocate for issues women care deeply about, including affordable healthcare, affordable childcare and confronting violence against women. Vice President Harris is a strong contrast to the prior Vice President, who spent four years working to erode women’s rights. Around the world, women demonstrated strong leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a UN Women policy brief, female heads of state were in general much for effective in fighting the virus than male heads of state. Female leaders in Denmark, Finland, Iceland, New Zealand, Germany and Slovakia took proactive steps to address the virus, implemented masking and social distancing restrictions early, relied on expert advice in developing responses to the virus and spoke compassionately and openly about the virus. These responses contrasted strongly to leaders like Boris Johnson in the UK and Donald Trump in the U.S., where the pandemic ran rampant. The UN Women policy brief concluded, “lower COVID-19 death rates and effective virus containment policies in countries led by women are disproving the discriminatory social norms” that men are better leaders than women.

But despite women’s political victories and demonstrated talents, women across the world still face a wide range of inequalities, including many forms of violence. According to the World Health Organization, one in three women globally—around 736 million women—experience violence physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence from a non-partner during their lifetime. This violence disproportionately affects women living in low- and lower-middle-income countries. Young women and girls are at highest risk. In November 2019, for example, a group of four men gang raped and murdered a 26-year-old veterinary doctor in Shamshabad, near Hyderabad, sparking outrage across India. In March of 2020 in the U.S., Louisville Kentucky police killed Black medical worker Breonna Taylor, leading to wide-scale demonstrations over police and racial justice. In May of 2020, police tortured and raped a woman in police custody in the town of Kahalyk in the Kyiv Oblast province in Ukraine, generating extensive media coverage and public outcry. But for each high-profile case, thousands more we never even hear about. “Violence against women is endemic in every country and culture, causing harm to millions of women and their

After taking women’s studies classes, students often discover that they have been taught to link intellectual, experiential and emotional ways of knowing.
families, and has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic,” says Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. “But unlike COVID-19, violence against women cannot be stopped with a vaccine. We can only fight it with deep-rooted and sustained efforts—by governments, communities and individuals—to change harmful attitudes, improve access to opportunities and services for women and girls, and foster healthy and mutually respectful relationships.”

Campus sexual assault is another facet of this issue that has spurred a national conversation on consent, rape, and the pursuit of educational equity for women. How do we create a campus culture that changes the current statistic—1 in 5 women are sexually assaulted during their college career? How does a national culture that openly supports sexual violence affect women, transwomen and girls’ self-esteem and vision of who they can be in the world?

A new generation of artists is reshaping the portrayal of women’s realities on both the big and small screen. How have television writers and producers like Shonda Rhimes and Amy Schuler created never before seen characters to explore new truths about women’s lives?

Women still remain the world’s poorest citizens and often are victims of various forms of labor and sex trafficking. How have the effects of globalization, military conflict, migration and the feminization of poverty contributed to these conditions?

Ms. has been a pioneer in the media, calling attention to the many complex issues that affect women and their communities both nationally and globally, including abortion, racism, health disparities, sexual violence, LGBTQ rights, pay equity, immigration and police brutality.

For the last fifty years the academic field of women’s studies has asked and answered the provocative questions about how both power and privilege operate in women’s lives. Women’s studies goes beyond sensational headlines and provides an organized way to study matters about women and gender. Women’s studies began as a fledging endeavor, arising alongside the second wave feminist movement. The founders of women’s studies had two goals 1) to document and redress the exclusions of women’s experiences from the traditional male-defined curriculum and 2) to pose interdisciplinary questions and analyses across the social sciences, arts, humanities, and natural sciences.

Critics thought that putting women at the center of analysis was unnecessary and skeptics argued that women’s studies was just a trend. They were proven wrong! Women’s studies is now a firmly established interdisciplinary course of study. It is well represented on most colleges and universities in the US and globally.

In forty years the questions that scholars ask about inequality and women’s lives have changed. Feminist scholarship (and activism) is self-reflexive and dynamic. More than a decade ago, many academic units began to refer to themselves as ‘women and gender studies’. This move tries to historically reflect the activism that set these questions in motion (during ‘the women’s movement’) that remedied bias in erasing women’s lives and the insights that come from examining ideas about the cultural forms of masculinity, femininity, and sexuality, race and other categories of difference. The field explores the gendering process that is a feature in all cultures and how ideas about gender and bodies is expressed and reproduced through institutional and cultural norms. Gender, gender expression and identity has been central in understanding questions of inequality.

Most recently, we have also seen a move to include sexuality in how academic units define themselves. The study of human sexuality intersects with thinking critically about power in its legal, social and political configurations. Studying sexuality, provides an important lens for the examination of social difference and its interplay with race, gender, class, disability, religion, nationality and ethnicity. Thus, this reader’s focus uses the inclusive frame of ‘women’s, gender and sexuality studies’. This frame captures the historical significance of questioning sexism by early feminists and the complex world
that we experience today. In your classes, you, your classmates and professors may debate these issues and be on the cutting edge of the next change in nomenclature!

Women’s, gender and sexuality studies gives us the tools to grasp and grapple with the most pressing social issues of our times. In these classes, students are encouraged to reflect on and bring their own experiences to bear on material presented. After taking women’s, gender and sexuality studies classes, students often discover that they have been taught to link intellectual, experiential and emotional ways of knowing. Courses and activism projects provide students with an array of cultural and intellectual tools to develop analyses and strategies for change. This uniquely designed reader is intended to provide you with a foundational approach to women’s, gender and sexuality studies and to facilitate transformative learning. It draws on the work of scholars and feminist journalists who write for Ms. magazine. For more than forty-five years, Ms. magazine has been at the forefront of feminist journalism. Ms. has been a pioneer in the media, calling attention to the many complex issues that affect women, trans women, gender nonconforming people and their communities both nationally and globally including: abortion, racism, health disparities, sexual violence, LGBTQ rights, pay equity, immigration and police brutality. You will read some of the best contemporary analyses about local and international issues written for a worldwide audience.

The thirteen sections of this reader are informed by core areas of women’s and gender studies developed by The National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA). NWSA is a premier organization for scholars and students of women’s and gender studies. It holds an annual conference with over 1500 attendees, including K-12 teachers, college professors, undergraduate and graduate students, higher education administrators and women’s center directors. The core areas are the result of two centuries of feminist theorizing, organizing and healthy debates among scholars and activists.

The four core areas are social justice, intersectionality, knowledge production and transnational analysis. You’ll find that these concepts often overlap in the readings. The feminist fight for equality, both at the individual level and collectively defines a social justice approach. Intersectionality is an analytical way of taking into account the systems of inequality that make a difference in a woman’s life. These systems of inequality can be based in ideas about sexuality, race or ethnicity, or language status. Who shapes knowledge? How do men, women and gender non-conforming people experience the world? And, what differences does that make in how society rewards knowledge? These questions define the core concept of knowledge production. Thinking through a transnational lens enables us to discover how patterns of globalization, histories of colonialism and labor practices shape women’s access to food, security, and power.

By exploring these four concepts, you are building a powerful theoretical toolkit.

As you read each section keep in mind the following questions. They will help you track several recurring ideas that you’ll encounter in the readings:

Social justice imperative: How do feminist ideas and practices translate into strategies for change? Where are there tensions and contradictions? Intersectionality: Why is looking at one aspect of a person’s identity insufficient to think about how they experience injustice? How can we make sense of the complexity of women’s lives? How have social movements failed to see the connections between multiple and simultaneous forms of oppression?

Knowledge production: How do the readings challenge what I thought was taken-for- granted “knowledge?” Whose histories are typically remembered or forgotten? What is gained from problem-solving through the lens of how women marginalized communities may experience the world?

Transnational analysis: Why is it important to think about how global processes shape local realities? How can we think complexly about global inequalities without situating Western ways of knowing at the center of the analysis?

This reader covers a variety of topics that include leadership, gender based violence, health and reproductive justice, technology, how bodies are represented in popular culture, and how creative interventions can fuel social justice. Each section maps the complexity of the topic through a diverse set of frames that include policy reports, personal essays and opinion pieces, and research driven articles. You’ll find materials that first appeared on Ms. online as well as feature length articles. A brief introduction in each section provides background and context for the articles.
Feminist Leadership: Creating and Sustaining Change

WHO ARE THE LEADERS YOU ADMIRE? WHAT MAKES THEM EFFECTIVE? DO THEY HOLD ELECTED office, or are they activists and community leaders? Leadership is not a static or monolithic experience. Most people resist the title leader. This is especially true for women, as society has typically seen men as “natural” leaders. Increasingly, scholars are turning to look at the multiple dimensions of feminist activism as new models for understanding leadership. Feminist leadership is visible, collective-oriented and making a difference across all sectors of society including in business, politics, education, the arts, etc. In their book, *Junctures in Women’s Leadership*, Mary K. Trigg and Alison R. Bernstein chronicle 12 female leaders, including 1970s feminist activist, writer and founder of Ms. Gloria Steinem. Steinem exemplifies some of the distinct ways that women lead. From the start, Steinem understood the importance of the media’s role in framing ideas about the burgeoning women’s movement. She cultivated a relationship with the media in a savvy way. She became a confident speaker and deployed humor and passion in her public talks that helped her audience connect to her. What is less well-known about her leadership style is that Steinem decided early on to travel and share the stage with other feminist organizers with different perspectives and life experiences than hers. She specifically partnered with African American women and women of color to highlight race and class issues and show the broad experiences of feminism. She credits much of her own success to her willingness to learn from others. These factors helped her shape a career and leadership path that spans 45 years. Steinem provides a model of shared leadership. This chapter explores the importance of feminist leadership as a practice that tackles complex issues and contributes to the betterment of human communities.

*Kamala Harris and the Feminist Future of America*
Janell Hobson
Our historic new vice president sits poised to advance gender equality for all women.
*Winter 2021*

*Beyond Firsts and Onlys*
Aviva Dove-Viebahn
Envisioning a world in which powerful women are the rule, not the exception.
*Winter 2021*

*Women’s Political Leadership*
On the Issues podcast with Michele Goodwin
Michelle Goodwin is joined by Representatives Jan Schakowsky and Barbara Lee to discuss why women’s leadership has been central to political representation and the fight for equality and justice in the U.S. and abroad.
*Podcast Episode 6*
Monica Ramirez’s Call for Advocates to Pass the Mic
Sophie Dorf-Kamieny
Passing the Mic to migrant farmworkers
Msmedia.org, June 27, 2019

A Sustainable Solution
Juhie Bhatia
As communities worldwide wake up to the reality of climate change and our related dependence on fossil fuels, women-led groups across the U.S. are helping grow a sustainable, grassroots movement advancing renewable energy as one solution.
Spring 2017

A Woman for Women
Linda Kramer Jenning
The U.N.’s Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka has the “women portfolio” as the advocate for the world’s 3.5 billion women and girls.
Summer 2016

The Women of #BlackLivesMatter
Brittney Cooper
A new civil rights movement has emerged from the tragic killings of young African Americans—and women are at the activist forefront.
Winter 2015

The Legacies of Boxer and Mikulski
Donna Brazile
We’ll miss these two pioneering women senators.
Spring 2015

More Than Cookies
Kitty Lindsay
Radical Monarchs: a social justice twist on Girl Scouts.
Spring 2015

Our Revolution Has Just Begun
Gloria Steinem
The esteemed writer, strategist and cofounder of Ms. looks ahead at some of the critical unfinished goals of the feminist movement.
Winter/Spring 2014

A Place at the Table
Donna Brazile
Women can make a big difference in the halls of power.
Winter/Spring 2014

Young Feminists Have Their Day
Anna Bahr
The U.N. recognizes girl power.
Fall 2012

Most Effective. Speaker. Ever.
Linda Burstyn
Despite the attacks, Nancy Pelosi’s record speaks for itself.
Winter 2011

Honoring Wilma and Each Other
Gloria Steinem
Cherokee Chief Wilma Mankiller understood the secret of true leadership.
Spring 2010

Where Lesbians Don’t Exist
Mridu Khullar
India’s LGBT activists hope Pride marches replace suicide pacts.
Spring 2010
U.S. Elections can be volatile, engaging and transformative. *Ms.* has been on the frontlines covering the most important elections of our times—with a focus on gender, sexuality, race and feminism. The 2020 election saw a historic moment for women in politics with the election of Kamala Harris, the first woman who is also Black and South Asian, to be elected vice-president. In addition, a diversity of women made incremental progress in representation to elected office. In this section, *Ms.* will take you inside the White House and the halls of Congress with our election analysis, interviews with feminists in office, and focus on the decisive gender gap. These hot topic articles delve into two important issues: 1) How did the gender gap—with black women as a key driver—contribute to the outcome? 2) Given that women’s rights have, in a wide variety of policy areas, been aggressively rolled back during the Trump administration, what can women expect from a Biden-Harris administration as we look forward to a new era?
A New Era For Women
Carrie N. Baker
President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris promise to ‘build back better’ on women’s rights to health care, economic security and physical safety.
Winter 2021

A Cabinet That Looks Like America
Tiffany D. Barnes and Diana Z. O’Brien
With Kamala Harris and 11 women nominees, seven of them women of color, President Joe Biden’s Cabinet will be, as her promised, “the single-most diverse...That’s ever existed.
Winter 2021

Protecting Voting from Covid-19
Rachel Jones
U.S. democracy was already under assault from voter suppression tactics, and then the nation was challenged with holding a presidential election during a pandemic.
Fall, 2020

The Power of Women’s Votes: 100 Years Later
Katherine Spillar
As the high-stakes elections of 2020 take shape and the Equal Rights Amendment nears final ratification, women voters will be the key to securing women’s rights.
Winter 2020

Voting Where It Counts
Milan Polk
With record numbers of college students expected to vote in 2020, campuses in swing states have become decisive election battlegrounds.
Winter 2020

Ms. Conversation: Nancy Pelosi Never Backs Down From a Fight
Katherine Spillar
The Most Powerful Woman in the U.S. government on why empowering women matters.
Spring 2019

The New Feminists in Office
Katherine Spillar
Meet the leaders ready to hold the line for women.
Winter 2019

Beyond the Gender Gap: Growing the Feminist Factor
Eleanor Smeal
The heartbreaking presidential election of 2016 had a silver lining.
Winter 2016/2017

Our Post-Election Call to Action
This is not the time to sit on the sidelines. We must fight on. We have come too far and worked too hard to go back now. We must organize, organize, organize.
Fall 2016

The New Feminists in Office
Introducing the talented new leaders who will hold the line for women in Washington.
Fall 2016

The Gender Gap, Then and Now
A Ms. conversation with Eleanor Smeal—the woman who wrote the book on the gender gap.
Summer 2016
2:

What Is Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies?

Women’s studies was born out of the social movements of the 1960s and 1970s and a desire to bring a broader truth about human history and culture—one that included women—to higher education. Women’s studies emerged as a radical inquiry into how traditional disciplinary knowledge misrepresented, distorted and ignored women’s experiences. Women’s studies is no longer the new major on the block, but an established field that engages students inside and outside the classroom to apply their learning in the service of social change. The field itself has gone through a number of name changes as it appears in college and university settings. In the 1970s you would find a number of programs with the word feminist in the title. Now many departments more commonly use the moniker Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies. This naming trend reflects both the history of fighting for inclusion of women’s lives in the academic curriculum and the understanding that gender is an important category of analysis. Under this broad umbrella women’s, gender and sexuality studies scholars have explored racism, nationalism, militarism, the gender binary, informal and formal labor, immigration, gender socialization, sexuality, media representation, literary history and much more. They investigate the invisible, trivialized and taken-for-granted ways in which societies are organized that often systematically reproduce hierarchy. Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies constitutes a rich intellectual tradition that seeks to reimagine knowledge and power using a variety of approaches, theories and methods.
Call In for Equality
Carrie N. Baker
A longtime feminist activist has a solution for the counterproductive public shaming that takes place in social justice movements—she calls on us to try “calling in.”
Spring 2021

Virtual U
Michelle McGibney Vlahoulis
Interacting with online women’s studies courses.
Spring 2015

Second-Degree Feminism
Carrie Baker
Women’s studies and law combine in these graduate programs.
Fall 2014

Take a Class With bell hooks
Corinne Gaston
Watch live conversations between the influential feminist scholar and other leading voices on subjects ranging from politics to love, race to spirituality, gender to lived bodies.
Msmedia.org, Oct. 28, 2014

Feminist High
Ileana Jimenez
How to teach women’s studies before college.
Winter 2013

So You Want to Change the World?
Michele Tracy Berger
Nine scholars reflect on the burgeoning global, activist field of women’s studies and how it is transforming students, universities, communities and feminism itself.
Fall 2012

Hot Topics in Women’s Studies
Janell Hobson
By taking seriously the lives and struggles of those deemed “not culturally important,” women’s studies encourages students to critically rethink the values they’ve been taught and that societal institutions justify.
Fall 2012

Women’s Studies Brings Global Change
Michelle V. Rowley
Women’s studies programs outside the U.S. have empowered women to say no to discrimination.
Fall 2012

Taking Women’s Studies Into the Streets
Carrie Baker and Bonnie Thornton Dill
Women’s studies, with its activist roots and central focus on social justice, is at the forefront of civic engagement on campuses today.
Fall 2012

What Would bell hooks Say?
Jennifer Williams
Ms. called the iconoclastic scholar, writer and activist to find out.
Spring 2011

40 Years of Women’s Studies
Beverly Guy-Sheftall
Women’s Studies made its debut in 1970 with the establishment of the first program at San Diego State University. Forty years later, there are more than 900 programs in the U.S., boasting in excess of 10,000 courses and an enrollment larger than that of any other interdisciplinary field.
Spring 2009
Intersectionality: Theory and Practice

You might have come across the term intersectionality recently. Intersectionality has made its way into popular culture discussions regarding the interactions between Nicki Minaj and Taylor Swift about race and gender in the music industry and the controversy over Patricia Arquette’s discussion of pay equity during her 2015 acceptance speech at the Oscars. You also might have seen the YouTube video “Intersectional Feminism and Pizza” or intersectionality discussed on MTV’s Decoded. So, what is intersectionality? It’s an analytical way of taking into account the systems of inequality and privilege that make a difference in a woman’s life, including sexuality, race, ethnicity, class and/or language status. Intersectionality has a long intellectual history with its roots in the early 19th century writings of Anna Julia Cooper and others who argued that black women’s realities were intertwined with sexism and racism. Multiracial feminist activism and theorizing over the past fifty years brought this body of knowledge into academic communities. As the following readings document, an attention to intersectionality helps to reduce potential blind spots in organizing about complex issues.

Birthing While Black
Jallicia Jolly
Organizations are working to help pregnant Black women survive three pandemics: COVID-19, racial violence and the U.S. maternal mortality crisis.
Summer 2021

Policing in America: A Tale of Race, Sex and Violence
On the Issues podcast with Michele Goodwin
In recent weeks, as the nation has erupted in protest related to the tragic murder of George Floyd, some might argue that the killing of 26 year old Breonna Taylor was an afterthought, even though her death was no less inhumane, violent and preventable.
Podcast Episode 1
**Intersectional Feminism in Prime Time**
Cori Braty-Rudd
Insecure is a must-watch.
Msmedia.org, Sept. 26, 2017

**Stand With Nan-Hui: Stop the Deportation of a Domestic Violence Survivor**
Anita Little
A woman faces deportation for trying to protect her child from her abusive partner.
Msmedia.org, March 12, 2015

**The Charleston Imperative: Why Feminism and Antiracism Must Be Linked**
African American Policy Forum
A petition letter released after the 2015 Charleston massacre calls for intersectional, anti-racist feminism to combat the systematic racist and patriarchal structure that upholds and normalizes such violence.
Msmedia.org, July 14, 2015

**#NotOurStonewall Calls Out the Whitewashing of LGBT History**
Anita Little
When history hit the big screen, the trans person of color was replaced with a white, cis male actor.
Msmedia.org, Aug. 20, 2015

**Strawberry Fields (Not) Forever: An Immigrant Daughter’s Story**
Catalina Sofia Dansberger Duque
A recent college graduate speaks about feminism, immigration, gender equality and body positivity.
Msmedia.org, Oct. 2, 2015

**On Spring Valley High, Police Violence, Rape Culture and the School-to-Prison Pipeline**
Janell Hobson
At the intersection of our education system’s patriarchal, racist and violent structures, black women and girls are in danger. Janell Hobson questions the normalization of this system and calls on readers to use their anger as a creative force to challenge normalized violence and to re-envision the education system as a place of safety for black women and girls.
Msmedia.org, Oct. 29, 2015

**For the Price of a Pad**
Linda Villarosa
While women in the U.S. take menstrual protection for granted, millions of girls worldwide miss school or drop out because they can’t afford sanitary napkins.
Spring 2012

**What a Difference a Latina Makes**
Carolina González
Gender and ethnicity can’t help but inform a judge’s sensibilities.
Summer 2009

**Intersections**
Bonnie Thornton Dill
Today’s intersectional feminism incorporates the notion of difference, beginning with race, ethnicity, class and culture, allowing the perspectives of previously ignored groups of women to become central to the discussion of equality.
Spring 2009

**Ana’s Choice**
Patricia Zavella
Immigrant women face life-and-death decisions.
Winter 2009
T H E W O R L D H E A L T H O R G A N I Z AT IO N (W H O ), a division of the United Nations, defines health broadly as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” Women’s struggle to be treated with dignity by medical providers and to have control over their bodies has defined much of contemporary activism in the past 50 years. Globally, women have documented the ways in which employers, medical institutions and governments ignore their health needs and organized on their own behalf for access to contraception, safer working conditions, comprehensive reproductive health—including access to safe abortions—and inclusion in medical research. They also have identified and challenged cultural beliefs that frame women’s bodies as inferior to men’s bodies. The following readings demonstrate why it is important to consider women’s health through the multiple roles they hold in society (e.g., worker, caretaker, parent). Reproductive justice, also highlighted in the readings, connects the fight for reproductive rights to social justice. Reproductive-justice activists link together questions from whether to have or not have a child to issues of access, resources and education. Activists point to environmental degradation, economic inequality and racism as structural factors that impact women’s reproductive options.

4: Health and Reproductive Justice

THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO), a division of the United Nations, defines health broadly as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” Women’s struggle to be treated with dignity by medical providers and to have control over their bodies has defined much of contemporary activism in the past 50 years. Globally, women have documented the ways in which employers, medical institutions and governments ignore their health needs and organized on their own behalf for access to contraception, safer working conditions, comprehensive reproductive health—including access to safe abortions—and inclusion in medical research. They also have identified and challenged cultural beliefs that frame women’s bodies as inferior to men’s bodies. The following readings demonstrate why it is important to consider women’s health through the multiple roles they hold in society (e.g., worker, caretaker, parent). Reproductive justice, also highlighted in the readings, connects the fight for reproductive rights to social justice. Reproductive-justice activists link together questions from whether to have or not have a child to issues of access, resources and education. Activists point to environmental degradation, economic inequality and racism as structural factors that impact women’s reproductive options.

Abortion Rights, Code Red
Carrie N. Baker
A case before the Supreme Court threatens nearly 50 years of precedent
Summer 2021

Blood Sugar: Reproductive Coercion In India
Sathya Saran
In Maharashtra, India, an estimated 86,000 sugarcane cutters have been coerced into unnecessary hysterectomies.
Winter 2021

States v. Roe
Amanda Robb
Seven male-dominated state legislatures attempt to ban abortion.
Summer 2019

How Telemedicine Startups Are Revolutionizing Abortion Care in the U.S.
Carrie N. Baker
Telemedicine abortion startups are springing up across the country after a federal court in July 2020 temporarily suspended FDA restrictions on distribution of the abortion pill during the pandemic. Once people realize how safe, easy and accessible medication abortion can be, they are unlikely to go back.
Msmedia.org, November 16, 2020

The Crime Was Pregnancy
Amber Khan
Fetal rights laws mean U.S. women can be and are being prosecuted, not just for abortion, but for miscarriages and stillborn births—for pregnancy itself.
Summer 2019
June Medical v. Russo and the Future of U.S. Abortion Rights
On the Issues podcast with Michele Goodwin
Reproductive justice matters, and bringing that lens into conversations about abortion rights and pregnancy is urgent.
Podcast Episode 3

Jailed for Abortion
Cindy Wolfe Boynton
Feminists’ worst fears are already a reality: Women are facing prosecution for self-managing abortions.
Spring 2019

Black Mamas Matter
Dr. Joia Crear-Perry
Racism is the reason black mothers in the U.S. are far more likely to die of childbirth than white mothers.
Winter 2019

TRAP-ed in Texas
Amanda Robb
Even if the Supreme Court overturns Texas’ devastating abortion restrictions, access to reproductive health care in the state—and across the country—will remain in peril.
Spring 2016

Justices Side With Women
Sarah R. Boonin
Whole Woman’s Health is a major—though tenuous—victory for abortion rights.
Summer 2016

Where Water Means Life
Erin Gistera
For some women, protesting the Dakota Access Pipeline and protecting the water supply isn’t only about environmental justice—it’s about reproductive justice as well.
Winter 2016

Your Obstetrician (and Trump) Will See You Now
Dr. Priya Rajan
Restrictive policy decisions ignore the complex reality of late-term abortion; the emotions and facts behind deciding to end high-risk, third-trimester pregnancies; and the real people who face those decisions.
Msmedia.org, Nov. 21, 2016

Making Gains
Leila Hessini
Access to reproductive care is expanding in Muslim-majority countries.
Summer 2015

Rx for the XX
Mary Jane Horton
Despite progress, there needs to be more health research on women.
Spring 2014

An Abortion in Chile
Erica Hellerstein
A network of underground abortion-rights advocates are providing a safe choice for Chilean women.
Summer 2014

Roe at 40: Reproductive Justice for Black Women
Atima Omara-Alwala
Women of color are still underrepresented in the mainstream debate on reproductive justice.
Msmedia.org, Jan. 22, 2013

Heart and Soul
Linda Villarosa
In their poor country with too few doctors for too many needy families, thousands of young Ethiopian women act as counselors, midwives, health teachers and sources of inspiration.
Winter 2011

Korea’s Electronics Scandal
Lily Bixler
Why are Samsung’s women workers getting cancer?
Fall 2010

The Perfect Pantomime
Aimee Liu
What is our body telling us when we have an eating disorder?
Spring 2009
Laws and policies govern how people should be treated in a society. Historically and even to this day, in many parts of the world women are excluded from having a meaningful role in how laws and policies are created. Women often have to confront laws and policies that ignore their life experiences or actively work against their interests. These readings examine how formal and informal policies shape women’s experiences in a variety of institutions (e.g., the military, the Vatican, the Cuban government, etc.). They also provide insight into how women individually and collectively mobilize and respond to inequality.

**Don’t Filibuster Democracy**  
Jennifer Weiss-Wolf  
The Equal Rights Amendment and other advancements for women’s and civil rights hinge on the battle to eliminate an antidemocratic Senate tactic.  
Summer 2021

**Stacking the Courts**  
Michele Goodwin  
Through the unprecedented confirmation of ultraconservative federal judges, the Trump era will directly affect women’s rights for decades to come.  
Winter 2020
The ERA—Sooooo Close
Erin Gistaro
With one state the Virginia Senate passes the Equal Rights Amendment, but in the state House, it loses by just one vote. Activists vow to replace lawmakers who vote no.
Spring 2019

Civil Rights Wronged
Carrie Baker
While headlines focus on the latest White House scandal, President Donald Trump’s executive agencies are working quietly to roll back civil rights protections and enforcements.
Fall 2017

Band of Brothers and Sisters
Rebecca Alwine
U.S. women prepare for the front lines as all combat positions are opened to them.
Summer 2016

Taking on Campus Rape and Winning
Carrie Baker
The Hunting Ground has inspired nationwide legislative action.
Spring 2016

How Canada Finally Axed Its Federal Tampon Tax
Courtney Dickson
An inspiring look at how feminist activism led to the removal of a discriminatory federal tax on menstrual products in Canada.
Msmedia.org, April 14, 2016

Black Girls Matter
Kimberlé Crenshaw
When national initiatives to help youth of color are only focused on boys, the needs of our most vulnerable young women become invisible.
Spring 2015

50 Years From Selma, Still Fighting for Voting Rights
Anne Rooney
Decades later, the fight for democratic equality continues as widespread voter-suppression legislation continues to deny many Americans their voting rights.
Msmedia.org, March 7, 2015

Pregnant and Jobless: Pregnant Women Still Choose Between a Paycheck and a Healthy Pregnancy
Dina Bakst
Pregnant workers and new parents still face widespread discrimination in the American workplace; passing the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act would remedy much of the hardship they face.
Msmedia.org, Nov. 3, 2015

ERA Yes
Gaylynn Burroughs
Thirty-three years after the Equal Rights Amendment fell just short of ratification, it’s time to once again push for inscribing women’s equality into the U.S. Constitution.
Winter 2015

Calling Out the Vatican
Michael D’Antonio
The world confronts the Catholic Church hierarchy on sexual abuse.
Winter/Spring 2014

Cuba Puts Women Forward, But…
Martha Burk
Even with government support for gender equality, there’s still a cultural double standard.
Summer 2010

Where Are You Going, Arizona?
Nicole Guidotti-Hernandez
Regressive new laws targeting immigrants and others spark nationwide protests.
Summer 2010
OUTSIDE OF OUR WORK LIVES, WE SPEND THE majority of our time with the people we care about, including partners, spouses, children, parents and friends. Feminists have long called attention to the ways in which limiting gender roles can negatively impact the home, or private sphere. Changes in women’s roles in public life, especially in the workplace, have contributed to seismic shifts in how people make decisions to parent and manage a household. The readings in this chapter explore the ways that families and partnerships are impacted by cultural and legal changes.
Do We Care? The Nation’s Moment of Truth
Rakeen Mabud and Lenore Palladino
The economic and moral case for investing in caregivers.
Spring 2021

Girls in White Dresses
Gayle Tzemach Lemmon
Forced child marriage isn’t just a problem abroad. Thousands of U.S. girls are married off each year—often to adult men—in places like the South Bronx and Lincoln City and the Silicon Valley. It’s time state laws protected them.
Summer 2017

A Black Mother’s Love (or What Love Looks Like in Public)
Robin Boylorn
Love, parenting and the danger of being black in America.
Msmedia.org, April 29, 2015

I Do—Now What?
Sarah R. Boonin and Janson Wu
The marriage-equality victory is just the first step toward full legal equality for LGBTQ Americans.
Summer 2015

New Report Shows the Powerful Effect of Working Moms
Emma Niles
If we want daughters to be successful in the future, we have to support working mothers now.
Msmedia.org, July 17, 2015

Mother and Child Reunion
Seth Freed Wessler and Kat Aaron
Should child welfare laws be so rigid about ending parental rights?
Summer 2014

Back in the Kitchen
Maria McGrath
Today’s proponents of a natural food “revolution” sometimes forget history—and return to patriarchal fantasies of happy housewives at their hot stoves.
Winter 2013

Young Mamas Need Support, Not Stigma
Verónica Bayetti Flores
Systemic discrimination in labor, education and health creates insurmountable barriers that disenfranchise young mothers.
Msmedia.org, May 11, 2012

Until We Reach Equality, We Won’t End ‘Chore Wars’
Jessica Holden Sherwood
We need to redefine what it means to be an “ideal” American worker to gain full equality for working mothers without relying on domestic (often disenfranchised female) workers.
Msmedia.org, Aug. 2, 2011

Not So Happily Ever After
James Card
South Korea deals with gender imbalance by importing brides.
Winter 2010

Beyond Babysitting
Cornelia Grumman
From birth to kindergarten, children need better education than many are receiving.
Winter 2009

Welfare Is a Women’s Issue
Johnnie Tillmon
Low-income women on welfare should be at the heart of the feminist fight.
1972/ Spring 2002

Beyond Babysitting
Cornelia Grumman
From birth to kindergarten, children need better education than many are receiving.
Winter 2009

Welfare Is a Women’s Issue
Johnnie Tillmon
Low-income women on welfare should be at the heart of the feminist fight.
1972/ Spring 2002
WOMEN ACROSS ALL BACKGROUNDs (e.g., heterosexual, lesbian, queer, transgender) experience a continuum of gender-based violence throughout their lives. Gender-based violence can take many forms, including—but not limited to—sexual assault, rape, sexual harassment in the workplace, stalking, domestic or interpersonal violence, and street harassment. Gender-based violence can severely curtail women's experience of both civic and private life, even driving women across borders and away from their homes, communities and countries. Legacies of colonization, poverty, classism, racism and patriarchy all play a role in perpetuating gender-based violence. This chapter surveys the global nature of the problem and the rich tapestry of feminist activism that continues to make inroads in legal, political and social arenas.
What the Epstein Case Means for the Fight to End Sex Trafficking
Msmedia.org, July 11, 2019

An Immigration Policy of Cruelty, Misogyny and Child Abuse
Roxana Bacon
Central American women who headed north to safety lost their children along with their freedom when the Zero Tolerance policy was instituted.
Fall 2018

A Dangerous Place for Women
Valérian Mazataud
Honduras is an epicenter of violence against women.
Summer 2017

She Stood With Mizzou: A Conversation With Dr. Melissa Click
Bambi Haggins
First Amendment rights and safety on college campus: An administrator looks back at the handling of a student protest against pervasive campus racism.
Msmedia.org, Sept. 22, 2016

Too Young to Marry
Gayle Tzemarch Lemmon
Saving girls from forced marriage gives them a better chance to stay healthy, fulfill their dreams and make their communities proud.
Winter 2015

Injustice League
Dave Zirin
The NFL covered up domestic violence, head trauma and the possible connection.
Msmedia.org, Jan. 30, 2015

Parity at a Price
Linda Farthing
Bolivian women won political equality but face unprecedented violence.
Summer 2015

The Juvenile Justice System Is Failing Girls
Carter Sherman
A new study finds that more than 30 percent of girls in the juvenile justice system have been sexually abused.
Msmedia.org, July 20, 2015

A Brief History of Sexual Violence Activism in the U.S.
Caroline Heldman and Bailee Brown
When it comes to organized activism, the recent campus anti-rape movement is the fourth peak of work that started more than a century ago.
Msmedia.org, Aug. 8, 2014

In the Aftermath of Isla Vista
Donna Decker
Feminists have long tried to show the link between misogyny, hypermasculinity and violence against women. This time, there was no mistaking the connection.
Fall 2014

Blowing the Whistle on Campus Rape
Caroline Heldman and Danielle Dirks
Student activists, alumni and supportive faculty have taken on the epidemic of sexual assault with renewed vigor and added legal tools.
Winter/Spring 2014

Fighting Femicide
Pamela Redela
Guatemala’s grassroots women’s movement works to end violence.
Winter 2011

Save Your Life, Save Your Livelihood
Justine Andronici and Debra Katz
Women trying to leave abusive relationships need protection for their jobs as well.
Spring 2010
Society has long told us that there are two genders: female and male. Pink is for girls and blue is for boys. Sex is an immutable trait that can be found in our hormones and on birth certificates, driver’s licenses and death certificates. But feminists know better. Feminist scholars and activists have deconstructed the concepts of sex and gender for more than 50 years. Finally, gender and sex are increasingly recognized by mainstream culture as matters of identity not biology, and that they do not exist solely on a binary spectrum. Someone who menstruates may identify as a woman and use the pronouns “she” and “her”, or may identify as a man and use the male pronouns “he” and “him” or s/he/they may identify as gender-fluid, pangender, bi-gender, queer or something else entirely. People who don’t identify within established sex and gender roles are increasingly under attack from feminism’s opponents, including those at the highest levels of governments. Black trans women are being murdered at alarming rates and politicians are questioning the physical spaces trans and gender nonconforming people can occupy. These readings highlight the struggles many trans and gender nonconforming people endure everyday, often far removed from the attention of the mainstream media, as well as the progress we are making together and the victories for equality still to come.

Gender Identities
**Trans Care Persists**
Hil Malatino
Amid an onslaught of transphobic legislation, trans folks look to one another to survive and thrive.
*Summer 2021*

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**Beyond Marriage: The Fight for LGBTQ Rights**
On the Issues podcast with Michele Goodwin
What is the current landscape for LGBTQ and transgender rights? What is the significance of Election 2020? What is at stake?
*Podcast Episode 13*

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**Because of Sex: A Historic Win for LGBTQ Americans During Pride Month**
Adam P. Romero
On Monday, June 15, 2020, the Supreme Court ruled that Title VII of the Civil Rights Act protects LGBTQ and transgender employees from workplace discrimination.
*Msmedia.org, June 15, 2020*

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**Neither Feminist Nor Christian**
Susan Shaw
“The so-called “Christian” Right has continued to attack the LGBT community—and now, some folks who call themselves feminists are abetting them.”
*Msmedia.org, February 4, 2019*

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**Feminist and Trans Advocates Are Fighting the Trump Administration’s Discriminatory Policies Together**
Paige Schilt
Moving beyond trans tokenism and into a side-by-side struggle for equality and justice.
*Msmedia.org, April 9, 2018*

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**How Renaissance-Era Sexism Connects the Fights for Gender Equality and Trans Liberation**
Cynthia Nazarian
“Until we address the hidden role played by misogyny and anxious masculinity...we’ll continue to take one step back for every two steps forward when it comes to rights and attitudes around transgender and gender non-conforming people.”
*Msmedia.org, March 28, 2018*

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**Sarah McBride Knows Tomorrow Will Be Different**
Carmen Rios
The first openly transgender person to address a major political party’s convention talks with Ms.
*Msmedia.org, March 5, 2018*

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**The Horror Moves West**
Mischa Haider
“The foundation of liberal democracy appears to be much more threadbare than we thought, and it would be unwise to delude ourselves into believing that fascist dictatorship is something that only happens in other times and places.”
*Msmedia.org, February 15, 2018*

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**Beyond Abstractions: Confronting Trans Directed Violence**
Chloe Schwenke
Why are transgender people so often the lightening rods for gender based violence?
*Msmedia.org, November 20, 2017*

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**Protecting Women Starts At Home—Not In Public Bathrooms**
Cindy Elmore
Legislation like North Carolina’s “bathroom bill” will never protect women.
*Msmedia.org, April 19, 2017*

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**“What Trans Panic Means for My Family and Me”**
Heather McNamara
For many, fight over public restrooms hits close to home.
*Msmedia.org, May 10, 2016*

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**World Without Gender**
Jessica Holden Sherwood
Imagine there’s no gender; it’s not easy, but we can try.
*Msmedia.org, September 30, 2011*
SPECIAL SECTION:
Women, Peace and Security

Gender-based violence, the lack of women in political decision-making roles, restricted reproductive rights and persistent forms of inequality are key mechanisms that shape women’s experiences of safety, both locally and globally. Women and children are dramatically and disproportionately affected by sectarian conflict and war. It can affect women’s and girls’ educational and labor opportunities, health status and increase their risk of sexual violence. The readings in this special section examine how women’s equality is inexorably tied to peace and security within their societies. Moreover, the readings highlight the impact of U.S. policies that situate women and children in the intersection of militarism, hypermasculinity and control over women’s bodies.
The Women in the Room
Interview by Renee Montagne
A firsthand account of the Afghan peace talks from negotiators Fawzia Koofi and Fatima Gailani.
Summer 2021

Mercy Denied
Sophia Jones
Fewer people globally are dying from HIV/AIDS, but young women and girls are still being infected at alarming rates. With Trump’s Global Gag Rule threatening U.S. funding for HIV/AIDS and reproductive health care, women will die.
Fall 2017

Women On the Run
Nina Rabin and Roxana Bacon
Central American women fleeing domestic violence are hardly a national security threat, yet these terrified women have borne the brunt of some of the harshest border control policies enacted—all in the name of “keeping America safe.”
Summer 2017

Island Escape
Arzo Wardak
An Afghan American who has worked as an independent volunteer at the Moria Refugee Camp on the Greek Island of Lesbos, Wardak gives Ms. her firsthand account of what women and children face while there.
Summer 2017

Turkish Women Rising
Sophia Jones and Christina Asquith
As Turkey descends into increasingly authoritarian and Islamist rule, one group of activists has refused to keep quiet, catapulting the fight for women’s rights into the spotlight.
Spring 2017

We Must Confront Gendered Violence in War to Achieve Peace
Taliah Mancini
Why centering Afghani women in post-war efforts is vital for creating peace and equality.
Msmedia.org, Sept. 13, 2017

In Just One Year, More Than 1,600 Women Were Murdered by Men in the U.S.
Kali Holloway
A new report examines the horrific connection between gun violence and domestic violence.
Msmedia.org, Sept. 25, 2017

Street Lights and Short Grass
Holly Kearl
Local strategies help improve global women’s security.
Summer 2013
Bodies, Sexuality and Popular Culture

In 2007, a report of the American psychological association (APA) found evidence that the proliferation of sexualized images of girls and young women in advertising, merchandising and media is harmful to girls’ self-image and healthy development. The readings here raise the following questions: What role does popular culture play in shaping ideas about what a “normal” or “desirable” body is? How do some bodies get constructed as “different,” which are then often stigmatized? How do women and girls navigate the often contradictory messages they see in popular culture? How does popular culture provide a space that simultaneously empowers women and constrains them? How do women claim sexual agency? One of the recommendations of the APA is to encourage media literacy. After reading through this chapter, you will come away with tools that enable you to, as theorist bell hooks suggests, “talk back” to popular culture.
Watch: Amplifying the Personal and Political in Pop Culture
Lynn Rosado
Msmedia.org, Sept. 20, 2017

The Chimera of Choice
Afshan Jafar
How do we determine where to draw the lines of acceptable and unacceptable bodily interventions?
Msmedia.org, May 19, 2017

Toxic Culture 101: Understanding the Sexualization of Women
Shadia Duske
We are bombarded with hypersexualized images of females, so much so that most of us don’t even notice them.
Msmedia.org, Jan. 4, 2016

What Scandal's Civil Rights-Era Critique Says About Contemporary Black Women and Girls
Oneka LaBennett
“Do the impossible, raise an African American girl who felt as fully entitled to own the world as much as any white man.”
Msmedia.org, Oct. 29, 2015

The Feminist Power of Nicki Minaj and Beyoncé’s ‘Feeling Myself’
Vanessa Willoughby
The pair exude the confidence of women who know they own the world.
Msmedia.org, July 24, 2015

What You Won’t See on Orange Is the New Black
Beatrice Codianni
The series doesn’t reflect the women in the camp as I know them.
Msmedia.org, July 16, 2015

Transgender Activists React to Caitlyn Jenner’s Debut
Anita Little
We captured the most insightful reactions to Jenner’s very public debut on the cover of Vanity Fair.
Msmedia.org, June 2, 2015

What Does the Female Gaze Look Like?
Aviva Dove-Viebahn
A Ms. conversation with Jill Soloway.
Spring 2015

Bodies on the Line: The Streets vs. Pop Culture
Janell Hobson
A reflection on Ferguson, Mo., and Taylor Swift.
Msmedia.org, Aug. 20, 2014

Black Women, White Women and the Solidarity Question
Janell Hobson
A reflection on Lily Allen's music video “Hard Out Here.”
Msmedia.org, Nov. 27, 2013

Embracing Their Roundness
Clair MacDougall
Ghana's new pageant aims to redefine African beauty.
Spring 2011

The F Word on The L Word
Sal Renshaw
And by that we mean feminism.
Winter 2009
GLOBALLY, INCLUDING IN THE U.S., women’s work is often unsafe, unhealthy, transitory and underpaid. Women as workers often have to contend with sexual harassment, the lack of fair and equal pay, and toxic health environments. The ways women have organized to bring visibility to these and other workplace issues are discussed in the readings here. Consider how the core areas of intersectionality and transnational analysis help you analyze recurring themes in this chapter, including: gendered labor practices, low-wage working conditions and the unequal effects of globalization.
**There Is No Women's Economic Empowerment Without Reproductive Empowerment**  
Sara Gammage and Suzanne Petroni  
A message to Ivanka Trump and the Trump administration.  
[Msmedia.org, May 12, 2017](https://www.msmedia.org)

**Meet the Activist Who Just Launched the Nation’s First Trans Employee Job Placement Program**  
Michele Sleighel  
Ms. talked to transgender activist Michaela Mendelsohn about her launch of the California Transgender Workplace Project.  
[Msmedia.org, Sept. 26, 2016](https://www.msmedia.org)

**The Vanishing Money Trick**  
Martha Burk  
Like magic, once a job becomes “women’s work,” it immediately loses value.  
[Summer 2016](https://www.msmedia.org)

**Imported to Care**  
Sarah Gammage  
How can we resolve that care work is valuable, important and increasingly in demand, yet too often is rewarded with low wages and associated with poor working conditions?  
[Msmedia.org, July 13, 2016](https://www.msmedia.org)

**Why 100 Women Just Marched 100 Miles**  
Deepa Iyer  
Our nation’s immigration policies must ensure that women and children are treated with dignity, respect and inclusion.  
[Msmedia.org, Sept. 24, 2015](https://www.msmedia.org)

**Aesthetic Activism**  
Julia Robins  
Nail technicians face labor-rights abuses—but advocates are fighting back.  
[Summer 2015](https://www.msmedia.org)

**Behind the Labels**  
Kristi Eaton  
Cambodia’s garment workers pay for what we save.  
[Spring 2015](https://www.msmedia.org)

**Maximizing the Minimum**  
Sheila Bapat  
The U.S. Congress won’t raise hourly pay—but the president, states and cities will.  
[Winter/Spring 2014](https://www.msmedia.org)

**Fed Up: Women Fast-Food Workers Fight Back**  
Michelle Chen  
The fast-food industry’s women workers join walkouts for better wages.  
[Fall 2013](https://www.msmedia.org)

**From the Ashes of Rana Plaza**  
Jason Motlagh and Susie Taylor  
It took a huge tragedy for the garment factories of Bangladesh, filled with exploited young women workers, to finally draw international attention and action.  
[Summer 2013](https://www.msmedia.org)

**Life on the Global Assembly Line**  
Barbara Ehrenreich and Annette Fuentes  
The exploitation of women in U.S. sweatshops, South Korean textile factories and Ciudad Juarez *masquilladores*.  
[1981/Spring 2002](https://www.msmedia.org)
WE ARE IMMERSED IN A DIGITAL AND interactive world. Increasingly, we interact with technology to work, shop, connect with a health provider and meet a potential date. Women and underrepresented communities have played important roles in creating and supporting the technological innovation that many of us take for granted—without receiving proper acknowledgment. The readings in this chapter look at issues of women in STEM, the technology divide, how feminist activism is virtual—and celebrate those early unsung hero(ines). They also explore the various ways that feminists use technology to combat gender-based violence.
4 Ways Feminists Can Protect Themselves Online
Fembot Collective and Robert W. Gehl
There are steps we can take to stay safer online—even if we can never be totally safe.
Msmedia.org, Sept. 27, 2017

The Call for a Culture Shift: Sexual Harassment and Accountability in Silicon Valley
Madeline Kim
Women in tech, now more than ever, are intervening on their own behalf where others failed them.
Msmedia.org, July 7, 2017

Hidden Figures in Math
Susan D’Agostino and Sylvia Trimble Bozeman
Hidden Figures begs the question: How are women, particularly underrepresented women, faring in the U.S. math community more than 50 years later?
Msmedia.org, Nov. 30, 2016

Interactive Computer Games Give Women Choices
Emily Mae Czachor
Interactive games teach players how to navigate limited access to health care in Texas and South Dakota.
Msmedia.org, March 24, 2015

Facebook Leans In
Martha Burk
The tech giant gave contracted workers a huge boost.
Summer 2015

Mapping a Feminist World
Soraya Chemaly
Violence against women activates a new global network.
Fall 2013

It IS Rocket Science
Malia Schilling
Girls get a boost into STEM careers.
Spring 2013

The Women and People of Color Who Invented the Internet
Tara L. Conley
A response to the fallacy that “men invented the Internet.”
Msmedia.org, June 6, 2012

Women of the Valley
Laura Sydell
The male geek is not the only image of success in the tech world.
Winter 2012

Hollaback Goes Global
Anita Little
Here’s what to do when a perv hits a nerve.
Summer 2010

We Are the Ones We’ve Been Waiting For
Moya Bailey and Alexis Pauline Gumb
Young black feminists take their research and activism online.
Winter 2010

Cyberhood Is Powerful
Kara Jesella
The maternal impulse turns political when you mix moms, feminism and the blogosphere.
Summer 2009

Electrifying Women
Sathya Saran
India’s “barefoot engineers” light up the world.
Spring 2009
MORE THAN 30 YEARS AGO IN A LANDMARK ESSAY titled “In Search of Our Mothers’ Gardens,” Alice Walker alerted feminists to pay attention to the power of creativity as contributing to survival and resistance, as well as aesthetics. She documented the generations of enslaved and free African American women who were able to harness their creative energies despite a lack of support and encouragement from the social world. There are many ways to resist discrimination, and one of them is through creative and artistic practices. In this chapter, you’ll discover how a diverse array of artists and cultural workers have challenged various forms of oppression and offered new visions.
The Daughters Left Behind
Claudia D. Hernández
Chapina writer Hernandez reflects on the impact of her mother’s difficult decision to flee domestic violence and poverty in Guatemala and immigrate illegally into the U.S.
Summer 2019

Excerpt: Born Bright: A Young Girl’s Journey From Nothing To Something in America
C. Nicole Mason
Hard work and ambition are supposed to be the keys to escaping poverty, yet few poor black girls will ever achieve middle-class success. In her new memoir, Born Bright, public policy expert C. Nicole Mason illustrates why.
Winter 2016/2017

Q&A: Taj Paxton on Queer Women of Color in Filmmaking
Annette Semerdjian
“I am drawn to stories about women and it’s important to not apologize for that.”
Msmedia.org, Oct. 12, 2016

Not Your Mother’s Wonder Woman: Feminist Comics Out Now
Kat Kucera
Young women have emerged as the fastest-growing demographic in the Western comic scene, and the industry is reflecting the changing audience.
Msmedia.org, Aug. 12, 2015

The Women Who Steal the Show
Dani Klein Modisett
Shonda Rhimes, Jenji Kohan, Jill Soloway—and more!—are changing the face of television for the better.
Spring 2015

That Time of the Month
Dinsa Sachan
An Indian comic book breaks the silence on menstruation.
Spring 2015

The Courage to Resist
Michele Kort
Ethiopian filmmakers and Angelina Jolie work to end the crime of child marriage-by-abduction.
Winter 2015

Remembering Wilma: The Cherokee Word for Water
Melissa McGlensey
A new film reminds us of Wilma Mankiller’s leadership and commitment to community.
Winter/Spring 2014

Undercover With China’s ‘Factory Girls’
Catherine Scott
A British artist brings women workers into focus.
Winter/Spring 2014

Excerpt: The Birth of Pussy Riot
Masha Gessen
The Russian feminist punk band arose in a country where feminism has long been stifled.
Winter/Spring 2014

When Feminist Art Went Public
Michele Kort
An upcoming exhibition in Los Angeles will celebrate the Woman’s Building and the remarkable artistic community it nurtured from 1973 to 1991. Our Ms. senior editor was there from the start.
Summer 2011
IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY TRUE that governments, businesses and social leaders ignore women’s experiences and leadership at their peril. These pieces reflect on the major gains feminist movements have achieved in the past 50 years and what remains undone. They provide road maps for social change in your lifetime.

Coming to the end of the reader provides an opportunity for reflection. Return to the four core concepts discussed in the beginning: social justice, intersectionality, knowledge production and transnational analysis. How well can you apply these concepts to the topics discussed in the reader? What do you see differently now than when you began? How have you applied what you’ve learned outside the classroom? What topics have you connected with the most? Why? And, most important, what’s your way forward as you think about contributing to gender equity?
last word
Michelle Obama and Amanda Gorman
“Do you have any advice for young girls, can Black girls in particular, who earn their way into the spotlight?”
Spring 2021

An Act of Radical Imagination
Treva B. Lindsey
A black feminist describes her journey to prison and police abolitionist politics.
Fall 2020

Welcome the Sunrisers
Jim Grossfeld
Young women are leading a fast-growing movement to enact a Green New Deal and halt climate change
Spring 2019

Nevada Says ERA Yes!
Carrie Baker
Propelled by a record number of women lawmakers, the state becomes the 36th to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment—and the first in 40 years.
Summer 2017

Feet on the Ground. Not Backing Down!
On Trump’s first day in office, women delivered a huge message—too massive to ignore.
Spring 2017

Why I Marched
Ms. celebrates the power of that day through the stories and thoughts of our many readers and community members who were—in body or in spirit—at every Sister March.
Spring 2017

She Runs, We Win
Ronnee Schreiber
Women are entering politics in record numbers, fueled by Hillary Clinton’s stunning loss. Here’s how organizations like Emerge America, Ready to Run and EMILY’s List will turn this surge of interest into real numbers of women in office.
Spring 2017

Celebrating Feminism
Janell Hobson
Feminism has grown more popular, more relevant and more vital than ever.
Fall 2016

This Is What a Revolution Looks Like
Jeanne K.C. Clarke
In 50 years, the National Organization for Women has changed—and continues to change—the lives of women everywhere.
Summer 2016

6 Women Leading Nations Around the World
Mariela Santos
These six women would be peers of a President Hillary Clinton on the world stage.
Msmedia.org, Aug. 9, 2016

Saving Mother Earth
Antonia Juhasz
Women are taking on change everywhere—from the world stage to their own backyards.
Spring 2016

Women Claiming the Streets, Women Claiming Community
Janell Hobson
Women of color are leading recent street protests for black lives.
Msmedia.org, Dec. 12, 2014

Halfway Into a Feminist Century
Gloria Steinem
Previous social movements have taken 100 years to fully succeed; so what leaps are we going to take during the next 50 years of feminism?
Fall 2012
THE VEIL OVER THE COUNTRY’S CULTURE OF sexual harassment is being lifted to towering heights. Empowered by the #MeToo movement, women and their allies are teaming up and speaking out like never before. With this wave of vocalization comes a transformation in public consciousness. Diverse women’s voices and experiences from every sector of society are beginning to be rightfully heard – and perpetrators of sexual misconduct finally held accountable.

The most powerful antidote to patriarchy and white supremacy is a strong feminist education and mass participation in social justice movements that demand change in our laws, institutions and customs.

In this special section on sexual harassment, we shed light on the myriad ways those laws, institutions and customs have historically failed women, especially the most vulnerable, in workplaces and on college campuses across the country – and how we can organize to take them back.

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**The Long March of #MeToo**
Robin Morgan
Women in China are demanding that powerful men be held to account.
Spring 2021

**Violent, Sexist Online Abuse**
Carrie N. Baker
In a landmark opinion, a federal appeals court rules that universities must protect students against online harassment.
Spring 2019

**Saying #MeToo In the Push of a Button**
Brock Coyer
“You never know knocking on one of those doors what’s going to be on the other side of the door. We witnessed it all. We saw it all.”
January 10, 2019
https://msmagazine.com/2019/01/10/saying-metoo-push-button/
Celebrating Sisterhood and Solidarity in the Fight to End Sexual Harassment
Carmen Rios
Ms. speaks to Monica Ramirez and other trailblazing women fighting for progress in the era of #MeToo.
Msmedia.org, December 19, 2018

The Ms. Q&A: Tarana Burke is taking the #MeToo Movement Back to School
Alicia Kay
“Schools don’t take in sexual harassment as an issue, it gets looped in with bully. And a lot of times the rules they create for bullying are across the board.”
Msmedia.org, August 20, 2018

Enough is Enough
Carrie N. Baker
Women workers, celebrities, feminist leaders and Congress members are demanding changes in laws to predators accountable for sexual harassment and assault.
Summer 2018

Guilty
Cartoon and text by Liza Donnelly
Summer 2018

The Weinstein Effect
Linda Burstyn
How the downfall of one sexual predator can usher in an era of change for women everywhere.
Winter 2018

Looking Back, Moving Forward: Anita Hill, #MeToo and What Comes Next
Carrie Baker
Anita Hill’s testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee in 1991 raised awareness about sexual harassment and mobilized women and girls to fight back on multiple fronts. The #MeToo movement has, too—and it’s already begun to reverberate into politics and law. What comes next?
Msmedia.org, December 11, 2017

The Naked Man at the Door
Susan Cloke
City ordinances seek to protect hotel workers from sexual harassment and assault.
Fall 2017

What About the Sexual Harasser in the White House?
Linda Burstyn
There’s now a long and growing list of well-known men who’ve recently seen their careers shortened or ended after accusations of sexual misconduct. And then there’s Donald Trump.
Msmedia.org, December 7, 2017

We Must Shatter Silence – And Shift Our Sexist Culture
Irma McClain
Lawmakers are now being tasked with shattering the silence around sexual abuse—but it is not a “culture of secrecy” that must end in our legislative sectors. What must end is our gendered culture that has privileged men’s desires and needs over the safety and security of women.
Msmedia.org, November 29, 2017

The Ms. Q&A: Gloria Steinem on #MeToo and Believing Women After Weinstein
Emily Sernaker
Gloria Steinem discusses #MeToo, the power of social media, the sexualization of dominance, and reproductive rights
Msmedia.org, October 23, 2017

The Intersectionality of Believability
Jordannah Elizabeth
The parallels between Anita Hill’s 1991 case and today’s cases of sexual harassment, and how culturally ingrained stereotypes—colored by sexism and racism—determine responsibility and believability.
Msmedia.org, November 8, 2017

Not Okay
Debra Katz and Hannah Alejandro
Roger Ailes’ behavior, like that of Trump and countless other men in the workplace, has been enabled by legal and cultural forces that push women’s experience of harassment into the shadows. The women who have come forward are a reminder that speaking truth to power is its own power, despite its costs.
Msmedia.org, December 21, 2016
Title IX: Won’t Back Down
Gaylynn Burroughs and Debra S. Katz
Student activists and survivors are using the legal system to fight sexual assault and harassment on college campuses.

Summer 2015

Misplaced Faith
Michele Kort
Molested by their coaches and unprotected by their sport’s leaders, women athletes are breaking the silence about sexual abuse.

Fall 2014

The Nature of the Beast: What I’ve Learned about Sexual Harassment
Anita Hill
In learning that I am not alone in experiencing sexual harassment, I am also learning that there are far too many women who have experienced a range of inexcusable and illegal activities – from sexual jokes to sexual assault – on the job.

Jan/Feb 1992/Spring 2002

Sexual Harassment on the Job – and How to Stop It
Karen Lindsey
This groundbreaking cover story precedes by nine years the Supreme Court’s sexual harassment decision and by nearly 15 years Anita’s Hill’s famous testimony.

November 1977
MICHELE TRACY BERGER, PH.D. is associate professor in the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and adjunct professor in the Department of City and Regional Planning.

“What can you do with an interest in women’s and gender studies?” is an often heard question from students, parents, the general public and even some educators. Dr. Berger’s recent co-authored book *Transforming Scholarship: How Women’s and Gender Studies Students are Changing Themselves and the World* (Routledge 2011, 2nd ed. 2014) grapples with this question, arguing that women’s and gender studies graduates are not only able to find fulfilling employment, but they also comprise an emerging community of knowledge producers in the U.S. and globally, and maintain a strong commitment to gender equality and social justice after graduation.

Dr. Berger served as the Vice-President of the National Women’s Studies Association from 2011-2014. She has written for Ms. magazine and serves as Co-Chair with Carrie N. Baker on the Ms. Committee of Scholars.

KARON JOLNA, PH.D. is director and editor of Ms. Classroom, an innovative education program that brings cutting-edge feminist scholarship to Ms. magazine – and Ms. to the next generation of feminist scholars and activists. She is co-editor with Aviva Dove-Viebahn of *Gender, Race and Class: From the Pages of Ms. magazine, 1972-Present* and guest editor of “So You Want to Change the World?” a Fall 2012 special section in Ms. on women’s studies, in which nine scholars reflect on the burgeoning global, activist field of women’s studies and how it’s transforming students, universities and feminism itself.

Dr. Jolna is a research affiliate at the UCLA Center for the Study of Women and was among the first cohort of scholars to earn a Ph.D. in Women’s Studies from Emory University.