

Proposal for a Hypatia Special Issue
Crossing Borders
Submitted September 2010

I. Narrative

Globalization offers many challenges and promises for feminist theory. Feminists in philosophy and related disciplines have responded with a growing literature on global, transnational, post-colonial, and 'Third World' feminisms. Even while social and political borders appear more porous with global communication and transportation, however, some nation-states are issuing ever more stringent immigration policies or refusing to enter global agreements for the prosecution of transnational crimes. Globalization invites and implores feminist theorists and activists to look beyond national and even regional concerns to scrutinize the implications of theory and action on the lives of women across borders of nation-states, cultural and religious ideologies, global class, race and ethnicity, and other boundaries or margins that might be seen as dividing us in our differences.

This proposal for a Special issue of Hypatia focused on "Crossing Borders" seeks to collect cutting edge feminist scholarship on the issues, theories, and strategies of feminist responses to the prospects and problems of globalized relations, broadly construed.

At least four different umbrella approaches may be identified in the burgeoning literature on feminism crossing borders. Global feminism looks at issues that affect women globally, such as sex and gender based harassment and violence, or seeks a global perspective for recognized feminist issues, such as domestic work. Transnational feminism explicitly aims to articulate feminism spanning beyond or through borders of nation-states. With an emphasis on connecting feminist insights from different parts of the world, transnational feminism raises challenging questions pertaining to epistemic privilege, political responsibility, and coalitional identity. 'Third World' feminists challenge racism, sexism, colonialism, and imperialism by emphasizing strength and resistance in the face of hegemonic culture. Residing in both wealthy nations and poorer nations, Third World feminists describe their locations as 'third world' to indicate the conditions of poverty, exploitation, and marginalization that may be experienced wherever one resides. The name 'third world' itself issues from a colonial past but has been appropriated by some feminists in order to describe the political unity against oppression. Similarly, Postcolonial feminism traces many of the problems of lesser-developed countries back to the histories of colonialism. Colonialism exploited not just natural resources; it also hijacked cultures, educational systems, beliefs about race and gender relations, and languages. Postcolonial feminism analyzes sexist ideologies and practices within this context. One key element to the resistance of Third World and Postcolonial feminists is the rejection of the colonial histories and feminist theories written from the perspective of the imperialist colonizer. Instead, Third World feminists advocate crossing imperialist borders through the rewriting of history and the rethinking of feminism from the perspective and experience of colonized peoples. This added particularity avoids the totalizing claims of former imperialists.

Global, transnational, postcolonial, and Third World feminists address numerous issues in their efforts to advance women's rights and challenge sexist or patriarchal structures globally. An important element of global feminist theory is to examine issues as interconnected and mutually reinforcing. Key concepts in global feminist theories are human rights, coalition or solidarity, and empowerment. Building bridges across borders between feminist groups and other women's groups may be seen as a political act itself in addition to the political acts for which feminists coalesce across nation-state borders. Global feminists use the concepts of solidarity and coalition to demonstrate the connections among women's groups across national borders despite cultural and linguistic differences, but they also demonstrate the possibility of connections across feminist borders. Global feminist coalitions have already taken shape in efforts to combat sex trafficking and rape of women during conflict situations. One of the most interesting things about transnational and global feminist coalitions is that they reveal that feminists from very different schools of thought and very different methodologies can come together to create significant social change toward the liberation of all women, men, and children. Coalitions and solidarities offer insightful theoretical analyses of global problems and indicate the positive power that comes from working

together for a common end perhaps even in spite of our differences in ideologies, methodologies, oppressions, and other commitments.

Finally, Crossing Borders is also a literal crossing as women move from one nation or region to another in the hopes of a better life for themselves and their families, in an effort to attain political asylum, through forced migration or human trafficking, seeking temporary labor in domestic and agricultural work, and for numerous other reasons. This issue of Hypatia will welcome submissions that address these forms of border crossings as well as the crossing of cultural, linguistic, methodological, and ideological borders.

Variations and contributions on some of these themes have appeared in papers at a few recent or forthcoming conferences. The special issue would certainly be a possibility for such papers not promised elsewhere. This issue is especially well suited to tap into the Association for Feminist Ethics and Social Theory September 2011 Conference on the same theme. This is ideally scheduled for a Call for Papers submission deadline of November 2011 and with the complete issue ready for production by September 2012 (suitable for a Spring 2013 printing, vol. 28.2).

II. List of Feminist philosophers and other theorists: Potential contributors or reviewers for this special issue

[REDACTED]

Please note: the names of proposed contributors and reviewers have been redacted for reasons of confidentiality.

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III. Call for Papers

Hypatia seeks papers for a special issue on Crossing Borders featuring important new feminist scholarship on the issues, theories, and strategies of feminist responses to the prospects and problems of globalized relations. Globalization offers many challenges and promises for feminist theory. Feminists in philosophy and related disciplines have responded with a growing literature on global, transnational, post-colonial, and neo-colonial feminisms. Even while social and political borders appear more porous with global communication and transportation, however, some nation-states are issuing ever more stringent immigration policies or refusing to enter global agreements for the prosecution of transnational crimes. Globalization invites and implores feminist theorists and activists to look beyond national and even

regional concerns to scrutinize the implications of theory and action on the lives of women across borders of nation-states, cultural and religious ideologies, global class, race and ethnicity, and other boundaries or margins that might be seen as dividing us in our differences.

Submissions from an array of feminist perspectives addressing topics related to this theme are welcome.

Possible topics include:

- Issues of persons literally crossing borders such as immigration, human trafficking, global care chains, transnational adoption
- Issues that themselves cross borders of nation-state jurisdiction such as women and Human Security, War, International Law, and Crimes against Humanity, Violence against Women, War rape and genocide
- Feminist theories crossing borders: Third world feminisms & Transnational feminisms, Neocolonialism and feminism, Post-Colonial feminisms
- Reconfiguring political philosophy through feminism: Global feminist coalitions, transnational feminist solidarities, feminism and Global Justice, transnational cyber feminist activism or communities

Deadline for submission November 15, 2011.

Preliminary list of places the CFP would be published:

FEAST conference, Sept 22-25, 2011

FEAST Listserv

SWIP Listserv

WMST-Listserv

APA Divisional Meetings

IV. CV and Biography

An abbreviated CV with relevant information is attached.