

## Call For Papers: Rethinking Intersections: A MENA-centered Definition of Gender and Sexuality

One of the few academic journals on gender and sexuality based in the MENA region, *Kohl: a Journal for Body and Gender Research* saw the light in December 2014. We are pleased to invite submissions for *Kohl's* first issue, slated for publication in May 2015. Young activists, independent researchers, graduate students and fresh graduates are particularly encouraged to apply. We also welcome submissions from seminal contributors in the field.

Click [here](#) to submit a manuscript through the *Kohl* editorial manager system.

Click [here](#) to review our submission guidelines.

The Middle East, South West Asia and North Africa region has witnessed historical interpolations of Western and colonial influences, and the fields of gender and sexuality were not exempt from these dynamics of power. At the same time, purporting to a discourse of authenticity and pushing for a return to a pre-colonial status, remain unfavorable to the contemporary discourses of gender and sexuality. The recent rise of feminist and sexuality movements expresses the need to redefine these concepts in light of the current political and cultural contexts of the MENA. We are interested in papers that historicize these movements and that contextualize their challenges.

An introductory issue on gender and sexuality in the MENA region cannot disregard the contemporary fluctuations of geopolitical landscapes. Whether these have put a strain on grassroots movements, or have induced strategies of adaptability to change, sexuality politics is constantly pushed in and out of private and public spaces. Mobility across borders, within and beyond the MENA, evokes the fluidity of spaces, especially in relation to refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants. It remains unclear whether reinventing loci of gender and sexuality in temporary homes as a tool for resistance or survival responds to its own intersectional context or to a universalized discourse on human rights.

Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Redefining the terms and concepts around identity, gender, and sexuality
- Counteracting Orientalist manifestations and influences in the MENA grassroots movements with contextualized strategies for the advancement of gender and sexuality
- Women's and sexual rights movements: social, cultural, and legal challenges to organize and adaptability to change

- Displacing the idea of individualistic “visibility” in favor of “ambiguous visibilities”\*
- Politicizing and depoliticizing sexuality within a shifting notion of nation-states
- The interplay of private and public spaces in questions of gender and sexuality in the MENA
- Mobility across borders and changing geopolitical landscapes in relation to refugees, migrants, asylum seekers, and host cultures
- Theories of intersectionality in regional efforts and in specific encounters

The deadline for submission is **March 8, 2015**.

We accept work in progress, provided **full drafts** are submitted. Please make sure to comply with the [submission guidelines](#). If accepted for inclusion, please note that your paper will be translated to a second language by our team.

For further queries, please contact [kohl@gsrc-mena.org](mailto:kohl@gsrc-mena.org)

*Kohl: a Journal for Body and Gender Research* مجلة لأبحاث الجسد و الجندر is an initiative of the [Gender and Sexuality Resource Center](#) (GSRC) in cooperation with Heinrich Boell Stiftung, Middle East Office, Beirut.

\*This term was borrowed from “[Framing Visibility: Coming Out and the International Spectrum of Visibility](#),” an article by Lynn.