

**Call for Abstracts**  
***Archives, Migration and Gender***

The next issue of *Diffractions* pursues an interdisciplinary reflection on the relationship(s) between archives, migration, and gender. We invite contributions on the topic of migration and gender in conjunction with and through the lens of the archive in its literal as well as metaphorical uses. Archives are depositories and collections but also, as Foucault argues, discursive systems of control and enunciation. As sites that preserve, but also suppress and repress, archives can become a sepulcher where debris meeting certain archivability criteria is tamed (Mbembe). But archives are as much made of the material they hold as of absences and gaps, becoming open-ended and productive as they invite the drive to not just collect, document, preserve, and organize, but also to challenge and reconfigure, or destroy and rebuild (Derrida). Archives determine what and also frame how we remember and forget (Mbembe). They can become a (biased) epistemological experiment (Stoler), whose order can and should be reversed and revolutionized so archives can become a claim on the present as well as on the past (Azoulay).

Over recent years, inquiry about the interrelation between migration and gender has gained momentum within critical theory, cultural analysis, and social sciences. It has increasingly become apparent that there have been conspicuous absences of women and queers within migration studies, narratives, and archives, and that the perspectives of migrantized and racialized (diasporic) subjects have been widely overlooked within gender studies and feminism. Particularly, postcolonial and black feminist theorists such as Sara Ahmed have pointed to the importance of understanding framings, categorizations, and experiences of gender/sexuality and mobility/immobility as interdependent. This entails not only the recognition that migration and gender are internally quite diverse categories, but also that they are caught up in broader epistemologies and social relations and should be examined in relation to other categories of difference such as race, class, or age.

Bearing in mind Derrida’s assertion that “[t]here is no political power without control of the archive”, in the next issue of *Diffractions* we aim to look at the cultural fabric that underpins the dyad migration and gender. We therefore propose to conceive of archives, migration and gender as mutually constitutive. How do archives structure the way migration and gender are framed, imagined and narrated, both in the past and in the present? As repositories, discursive systems, and sites of knowledge production, what is their structuring role and power? And how can that power be challenged, reversed, or revolutionized? How can articulations of gender and migration shape archives and archival practices? How do gendered patterns inform representations, memories, and experiences of mobility and displacement? How does movement and the perspective of migrantized subjects relate to sexuality or gender? And how are they negotiated in artistic practices?

We are looking forward to receiving contributions from all areas of the humanities addressing these or associated questions. Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- archives and structures of normativity, power, and kinship
- gendered dimensions of migration archives
- archives and population management
- intersectionality and archives
- archives as source of acknowledgement
- re-readings of gender studies from the perspective of migration
- the migrant as archive
- transmission of knowledge and memory in migrantized/gendered bodies
- gendered representations of migration in past and present
- gendered dimensions in representational practices of migration
- gender and migration as structuring principles of the archive
- archival art/archival intervention and gender/migration
- archival art/intervention and political alliances
- queer perspectives on archives and migration
- migration and queer archives
- the queer as archive
- migration, gender, and archival absences
- gender as travelling/migrating concept

Abstracts will be received and reviewed by the *Diffractions* editorial board at [info.diffractions@gmail.com](mailto:info.diffractions@gmail.com), who will decide on the pertinence of proposals for the upcoming issue. After submission, we will get in touch with the authors of accepted abstracts in order to invite them to deliver a full paper. However, this does not imply that these papers will be automatically published. Rather, they will go through a peer-review process that will determine whether papers are publishable with minor or major changes, or they do not fulfill the criteria for publication.

Please send abstracts of **150 to 200 words**, and **5-8 Keywords** by **October 25st, 2020** to [info.diffractions@gmail.com](mailto:info.diffractions@gmail.com) with the subject “Diffractions 4” and your Abstract’s title.

Every issue of *Diffractions* has a thematic focus, but also contains special sections for non-thematic articles and reviews. If you are interest in submitting an article that is not related to the topic of this particular issue, please consult the general guidelines available at the *Diffractions* website ([revistas.ucp.pt/index.php/diffractions/about](http://revistas.ucp.pt/index.php/diffractions/about)). The submission and review process for non-thematic articles is the same as for the general thematic issue. All research areas of the humanities are welcome.