

Carol Taylor, Susanne Gannon, Jayne Osgood & Kathryn Scantlebury 'Interesting times: a short introduction from the new editorial team of *Gender and Education*', *Gender and Education*, 28:7 (2016), pp.821-822 (<https://doi.org/10.1080/09540253.2016.1245475>)

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As the incoming editorial team of *Gender and Education* we write this at an interesting moment for global gender politics. People in the UK have recently taken a vote to leave the EU with serious, albeit not yet known, implications for both women and education; the USA may be about to elect their first woman president; and in Australia, a national anti-bullying initiative assisting schools to support same-sex attracted and gender diverse youth has been subject to sustained conservative attack. Meanwhile, the burkini has raised new concerns in southern France about the policing of women's bodies and the Olympic Games in Rio has shown that old prejudices about gendered bodies and performativities remain strong. Turning to Syria we see people's lives dominated by a necropolitics oriented to war; and nationalistic movements and transnational fundamentalisms are on the rise in many parts of the world. These global contexts of inequality, violence and division make feminism increasingly more not less relevant, and continue to constitute education as, in bell hooks's words, a space of opportunity and hope, as well as of contestation and conflict.

In beginning our editorial term of office, we want to say the warmest thank you to the outgoing editors (Jo-Anne Dillabough, Gabrielle Ivinson, Julie McLeod and Maria Tamboukou) for their support during our transition period and for their great work in positioning the journal as one of the key 'go to' academic spaces for debate and exchange on gender and feminist politics of education. Their innovative thinking, commitment and sheer hard work over the last four years have helped shape the journal into a global platform. Within this, their achievements in garnering special issues on topics of wide significance has been key. Under their stewardship, *Gender and Education* has improved its impact factor to 0.905, thereby reflecting the journal's breadth of readership and influence in shaping debates in this multidisciplinary space.

We want to build on the cumulative legacy of the many previous editors of the journal in ways which address with seriousness, dedication and hope some of the vital ways in which education establishes and exposes gendered inequalities as well as the ways in which it may promote a more just society for all. We look forward to working with the journal's authors, reviewers and editorial board as we harness our collective passions and imaginations in this endeavour. We are profoundly grateful to be supported by Helen Rowlands who has been working as the Editorial Manager of *Gender and Education* since 2008. Helen brings a publishing memory of the journal, along with a nitty-gritty attention to detail, that will be invaluable to us. Alexandra Allan is to be commended for her work over the last 7 years as Book Reviews Editor, ensuring that important new texts are critically and sensitively reviewed.

In our role as custodians of the journal's heritage, we will foreground our commitment to feminist modes of publishing, theorising, praxis and activism. Our vision for the journal is shaped around some new directions to ensure we achieve this. First, we will seek ways to enhance further the journal's role as a key global platform for informed debate about

education, gender and culture. We would like to make more use of Viewpoints by inviting international scholars for individual contributions on work which is theoretically, methodologically and empirically at the cutting edge; and we will work with the Editorial Board to discuss strategies to further internationalise the journal's reach. Second, we want to ensure we maintain a focus on theoretically robust work, while creating space for edgy, innovative interventions. Much of this work is taking shape in the disciplinary interstices, and we want to encourage gender scholars involved in inter-, multi- and transdisciplinary work to see *Gender and Education* as a place for them. In line with this, we have refocused the strategy for special issues and the Open Call is now live on the website. Third, we want to develop strategies to reach out to, inspire and support emerging gender scholars and enhance the journal's role as an international collaborative resource for those fighting gendered inequality in multiple ways in local contexts. To this end, we will make more use of social media platforms and multi-media to extend audiences, open discussions on issues related to gender and education, and enhance impact.

Individually and collectively, each of us have been nurtured as researchers, theorists and academic writers by the quality of the scholarship in *Gender and Education*. We are proud to be taking on the journal's editorship in these interesting times.