So You Want to Change the World?

INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES

FROM THE PAGES OF MS. MAGAZINE, 1972-PRESENT

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SPECIAL SECTION:
SEXUAL HARASSMENT
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INTRODUCTION TO WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES

So You Want to Change the World?

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 and gender 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 past 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. An examination of national and global events in the chapters that follow reveals how far women have come and the ongoing challenges they face.

For the past 40 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 fledgling 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 at most colleges and universities in the U.S. and around the world.

Women’s studies gives us the tools to grasp and grapple with the most pressing social issues of our time. In women’s studies, students are encouraged to reflect on and bring their own experiences to bear on material presented. After taking women’s studies classes, students often discover that they have been taught to link intellectual, experiential and emotional ways of knowing. Women’s studies courses and projects provide students with an array of cultural and intellectual tools to develop analyses and strategies for change.

In 40 years the questions scholars ask about inequality and women’s lives have changed. Many academic units refer to themselves as “women’s and gender studies.” This move tries to historically reflect the activism that set these questions into 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, 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 are expressed and reproduced through institutional and cultural norms.

This uniquely designed reader is intended to provide you with a foundational approach to women’s and gender studies and to facilitate

After taking women’s studies classes, students often discover that they have been taught to link intellectual, experiential and emotional ways of knowing.
transformation learning. It draws on the work of scholars and feminist journalists who write for Ms. magazine. For the past 45 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 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 12 chapters of this reader are informed by core areas of women’s and gender studies developed by the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA). The NWSA is a premier organization for scholars and students of women’s and gender studies. It holds an annual conference with more than 1,500 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 and collective level, 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-nonconforming 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 tool kit.

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 thinking 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 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 inequities without situating Western ways of knowing at the center of the analysis?

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.

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 chapter maps the complexity of the topic through a diverse set of frames that include policy reports, personal essays, opinion pieces and research-driven articles. You’ll find materials that first appeared on the Ms. blog as well as feature-length articles. A brief introduction in each chapter provides background and context for the articles.
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.
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

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

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 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

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

Spring 2010

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

Fall 2012

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

Spring 2015

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

Spring 2015

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

Winter/Spring 2014

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

Winter 2011

Where Lesbians Don’t Exist
Mridu Khullar
India's LGBT activists hope Pride marches replace suicide pacts.

Spring 2010
The 2016 Elections

ENERGIZING. INTENSE. HISTORIC. ELECTIONS can be volatile, engaging and transformative. The recent U.S. election cycle was unlike any other in America’s history. Many people were excited by the historic nomination of Hillary Clinton as the first woman to be the presidential nominee of a major party. Candidate Donald Trump ran a campaign that many criticized as misogynist, Islamophobic, racist and bullying. Although Clinton captured the popular vote, she lost the Electoral College vote. These hot-topic articles delve into two important questions: 1) How did the gender gap in voting contribute to the outcome? 2) Given that women’s rights, in a wide variety of policy areas, may be challenged under a new Trump administration, what are the actions that feminists and the communities they serve need to take moving forward?
**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*

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

**Not Going Back**
Gaylynn Burroughs
Here’s where we’re drawing a line in the sand to defend our rights.
*Winter 2016/2017*

**Remarks by the First Lady at Hillary for America Campaign Event**
Michelle Obama
Obama touches on the misogyny and sexism aimed toward women across the country during Donald Trump’s campaign. She stands for Hillary Clinton, encourages women to vote and amplifies the importance of democracy and respect for women and girls.

**The New Feminists in Office**
Introducing the talented new leaders who will hold the line for women in Washington.
*Winter 2016/17*

**Betting on the Gender Gap**
Katherine Spillar
The women’s vote in the high-stakes elections of 2016.
*Summer 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*
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 and Gender 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 and gender 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 and gender studies constitutes a rich intellectual tradition that seeks to reimagine knowledge and power using a variety of approaches, theories and methods.
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

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

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.

Ms. blog, Oct. 28, 2014

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

Spring 2011

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

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

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

Winter 2012
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 40 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.
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

Intersectional Feminism in Prime Time
Cori Bratby-Rudd
Insecure is a must-watch.
Ms. blog, Sept. 26, 2017

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.
Ms. blog, July 14, 2015

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

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

#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, cismale actor.
Ms. blog, Aug. 20, 2015

Ana’s Choice
Patricia Zavella
Immigrant women face life-and-death decisions.
Winter 2009

How Would You Like to Work the Same Hours for Half the Pay? That’s the Gender Pay Gap for Latinas
Renee Davidson
In the U.S., Latina women are paid only 54 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men.
Ms. blog, Oct. 15, 2015

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.
Ms. blog, March 12, 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 reenvision the education system as a place of safety for black women and girls.
Ms. blog, Oct. 29, 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.
Ms. blog, Oct. 2, 2015
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.
Where Water Means Life
Erin Gistaro
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

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

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.
Ms. blog, Nov. 21, 2016

Doing It for Ourselves
Donna Brazile
Leave it to women to get health-care reform done.
Spring 2010

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

Roe at 40: Reproductive Justice for Black Women
Atimah Omara-Awala
Women of color are still underrepresented in the mainstream debate on reproductive justice.
Ms. blog, Jan. 22, 2013

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

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

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

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

The Perfect Pantomime
Aimée Liu
What is our body telling us when we have an eating disorder?
Spring 2009

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

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

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.
Ms. blog, Nov. 3, 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.
Ms. blog, March 7, 2015

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.
Ms. blog, April 14, 2016

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

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

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

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.
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<td>Girls in White Dresses</td>
<td>Gayle Tzemach Lemmon</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Summer 2017</td>
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<td>I Do—Now What?</td>
<td>Sarah R. Boonin and Janson Wu</td>
<td>The marriage-equality victory is just the first step toward full legal equality for LGBTQ Americans.</td>
<td>Summer 2015</td>
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<td>A Black Mother’s Love (or What Love Looks Like in Public)</td>
<td>Robin Boylorn</td>
<td>Love, parenting and the danger of being black in America.</td>
<td>Ms. blog, April 29, 2015</td>
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<td>New Report Shows the Powerful Effect of Working Moms</td>
<td>Emma Niles</td>
<td>If we want daughters to be successful in the future, we have to support working mothers now.</td>
<td>Ms. blog, July 17, 2015</td>
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<td>Not So Happily Ever After</td>
<td>James Card</td>
<td>South Korea deals with gender imbalance by importing brides.</td>
<td>Winter 2010</td>
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<td>Until We Reach Equality, We Won’t End ‘Chore Wars’</td>
<td>Jessica Holden Sherwood</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Ms. blog, Aug. 2, 2011</td>
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<td>Mother and Child Reunion</td>
<td>Seth Freed Wessler and Kat Aaron</td>
<td>Should child welfare laws be so rigid about ending parental rights?</td>
<td>Summer 2014</td>
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<td>Beyond Babysitting</td>
<td>Cornelia Grumman</td>
<td>From birth to kindergarten, children need better education than many are receiving.</td>
<td>Winter 2009</td>
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<td>Back in the Kitchen</td>
<td>Maria McGrath</td>
<td>Today’s proponents of a natural food “revolution” sometimes forget history—and return to patriarchal fantasies of happy housewives at their hot stoves.</td>
<td>Winter 2013</td>
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<td>Young Mamas Need Support, Not Stigma</td>
<td>Verónica Bayetti Flores</td>
<td>Systemic discrimination in labor, education and health creates insurmountable barriers that disenfranchise young mothers.</td>
<td>Ms. blog, May 11, 2012</td>
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<td>Welfare Is a Women’s Issue</td>
<td>Johnnie Tillmon</td>
<td>Low-income women on welfare should be at the heart of the feminist fight.</td>
<td>1972/ Spring 2002</td>
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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. 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.
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.
Ms. blog, 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

A Brief History of Sexual Violence Activism in the U.S.
Caroline Heldman and Baillee 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.
Ms. blog, 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

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

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

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

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.
Ms. blog, July 20, 2015

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

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

SPECIAL SECTION:
Women, Peace and Security
**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

**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.  
Ms. blog, Sept. 13, 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

**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.  
Ms. blog, Sept. 25, 2017

**Street Lights and Short Grass**  
Holly Kearl  
Local strategies help improve global women’s security.  
Summer 2013
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
*Ms. blog, Sept. 20, 2017*

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**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.
*Ms. blog, Jan. 4, 2016*

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

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

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

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**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.”
*Ms. blog, Oct. 29, 2015*

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**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.
*Ms. blog, June 2, 2015*

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

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**Black Women, White Women and the Solidarity Question**
Janell Hobson
A reflection on Lily Allen’s music video “Hard Out Here.”
*Ms. blog, Nov. 27, 2013*

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**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.
*Ms. blog, July 24, 2015*

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**The F Word on The L Word**
Sal Renshaw
And by that we mean feminism.
*Winter 2009*

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**What You Won’t See on Orange Is the New Black**
Beatrice Codanni
The series doesn’t reflect the women in the camp as I know them.
*Ms. blog, July 16, 2015*
GLOBALLY, INCLUDING IN THE U.S., WOMEN’S work is often unsafe, unhealthy, transitory and under-paid. 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.
Ms. blog, May 12, 2017

From the Ashes of Rana Plaza
Jason Moltagh 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

Maximizing the Minimum
Sheila Bapat
The U.S. Congress won’t raise hourly pay—but the president, states and cities will.
Winter/Spring 2014

Fed Up: Women Fast-Food Workers Fight Back
Michelle Chen
The fast-food industry’s women workers join walkouts for better wages.
Fall 2013

The Vanishing Money Trick
Martha Burk
Like magic, once a job becomes “women’s work,” it immediately loses value.
Summer 2016

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.
Ms. blog, Sept. 24, 2015

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?
Ms. blog, July 13, 2016

Aesthetic Activism
Julia Robins
Nail technicians face labor-rights abuses—but advocates are fighting back.
Summer 2015

Behind the Labels
Kristi Eaton
Cambodia’s garment workers pay for what we save.
Spring 2015

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.
Ms. blog, Sept. 26, 2016

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
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.
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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4 Ways Feminists Can Protect Themselves Online</strong></td>
<td>Fembot Collective and Robert W. Gehl</td>
<td>There are steps we can take to stay safer online—even if we can never be totally safe.</td>
<td><em>Ms. blog, Sept. 27, 2017</em></td>
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<td><strong>The Call for a Culture Shift: Sexual Harassment and Accountability in Silicon Valley</strong></td>
<td>Madeline Kim</td>
<td>Women in tech, now more than ever, are intervening on their own behalf where others failed them.</td>
<td><em>Ms. blog, July 7, 2017</em></td>
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<td><strong>Hidden Figures in Math</strong></td>
<td>Susan D’Agostino and Sylvia Trimble Bozeman</td>
<td>Hidden Figures begs the question: How are women, particularly underrepresented women, faring in the U.S. math community more than 50 years later?</td>
<td><em>Ms. blog, Nov. 30, 2016</em></td>
</tr>
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<td><strong>The Women and People of Color Who Invented the Internet</strong></td>
<td>Tara L. Conley</td>
<td>A response to the fallacy that “men invented the Internet.”</td>
<td><em>Ms. blog, June 6, 2012</em></td>
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<td><strong>Interactive Computer Games Give Women Choices</strong></td>
<td>Emily Mae Czachor</td>
<td>Interactive games teach players how to navigate limited access to health care in Texas and South Dakota.</td>
<td><em>Ms. blog, March 24, 2015</em></td>
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<td><strong>Mapping a Feminist World</strong></td>
<td>Soraya Chemaly</td>
<td>Violence against women activates a new global network.</td>
<td><em>Fall 2013</em></td>
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<td><strong>Facebook Leans In</strong></td>
<td>Martha Burk</td>
<td>The tech giant gave contracted workers a huge boost.</td>
<td><em>Summer 2015</em></td>
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<td><strong>It IS Rocket Science</strong></td>
<td>Malia Schilling</td>
<td>Girls get a boost into STEM careers.</td>
<td><em>Spring 2013</em></td>
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<td><strong>Women of the Valley</strong></td>
<td>Laura Sydell</td>
<td>The male geek is not the only image of success in the tech world.</td>
<td><em>Winter 2012</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>We Are the Ones We’ve Been Waiting For</strong></td>
<td>Moya Bailey and Alexis Pauline Gumbs</td>
<td>Young black feminists take their research and activism online.</td>
<td><em>Winter 2010</em></td>
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<td><strong>Hollaback Goes Global</strong></td>
<td>Anita Little</td>
<td>Here’s what to do when a perv hits a nerve.</td>
<td><em>Summer 2010</em></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Electrifying Women</strong></td>
<td>Sathya Saran</td>
<td>India’s “barefoot engineers” light up the world.</td>
<td><em>Spring 2009</em></td>
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<td><strong>Cyberhood Is Powerful</strong></td>
<td>Kara Jesella</td>
<td>The maternal impulse turns political when you mix moms, feminism and the blogosphere.</td>
<td><em>Summer 2009</em></td>
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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.
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

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

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.
Ms. blog, 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

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

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

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

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.”
Ms. blog, Oct. 12, 2016
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?
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

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

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

Saving Mother Earth
Antonia Juhasz
Women are taking on change everywhere—from the world stage to their own backyards.
Spring 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.
Ms. blog, Aug. 9, 2016

Women Claiming the Streets, Women Claiming Community
Janell Hobson
Women of color are leading recent street protests for black lives.
Ms. blog, Dec. 12, 2014
SPECIAL SECTION:

Sexual Harassment

2017 WAS A YEAR MARKED BY THE SHATTERING OF silence, as the veil over the country’s culture of sexual harassment is being lifted to towering heights. With a waterfall of sexual assault allegations nationwide, the re-launching of the historic #MeToo movement, and the rapidly changing landscape of rape on college campuses, 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 rightfully honored – and perpetrators of sexual misconduct are finally held accountable.

The 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 failed women, especially the most vulnerable, in workplaces and on college campuses across the country – and how we can organize to take them back.

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?
Ms. blog, December 11, 2017
Why Hasn't Sexual Harassment Disappeared?
Documentary
Produced by Bonnie Bertram
From the naming of the problem in the 1970’s, to bringing it out of the shadows in the 90’s, to the growing accountability today — the evolution of sexual harassment in the workplace.
Retro Report Video, October 17, 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.
Ms. blog, December 7, 2017

We Must Shatter Silence – And Shift Our Sexist Culture
Irma McClaurin
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.
Ms. blog, 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
Ms. blog, 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.
Ms. blog, 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.
Ms. blog, 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.