

## Forty years of LOVA, forty years of LOVA Journal

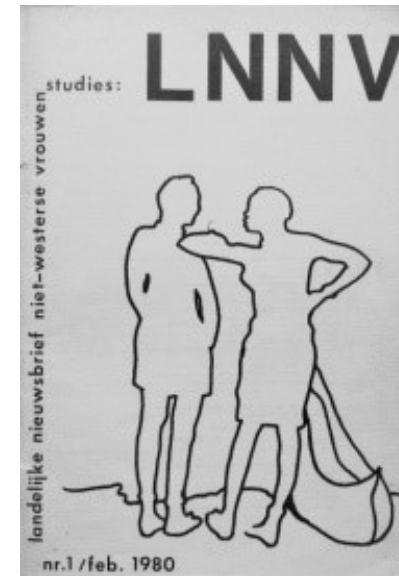
Ina Keuper

For preparing the interview above I had delved into the boxes with the LOVA journals I had kept and started reading in some of the issues to refresh my memory about the whereabouts of the journal. After the interview I continued this reading and even constructed an overview of all the issues which have been published. Below I present some main events in the history of the journal.

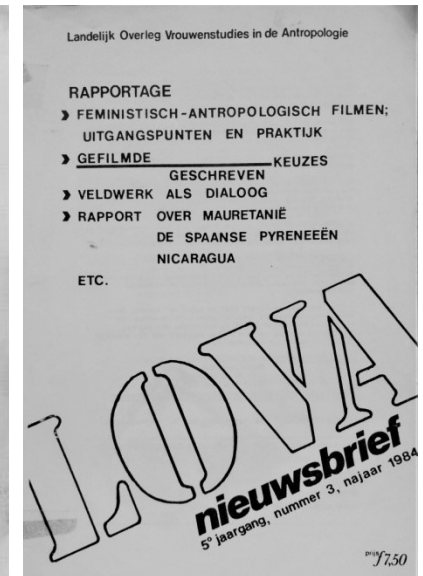
As described in the interview it all started in 1979 when the LOVA platform was created. To support the various women's groups for enlarging their theoretical knowledge of anthropological women's studies and for sharing strategies how to get staff positions for the integration of women's studies courses in the educational programmes. The women's group at Leiden University produced the first LOVA Newsletter in February 1980, using contributions from other women's groups. With financial support of this university, six hundred copies could be distributed to all anthropology departments and many organisations involved with research, international development cooperation and/or lobbying in the Netherlands. Readers were invited to subscribe and about three hundred people did so by paying the fee of six guilders for the next three editions to be produced in 1980. The names of contact persons and addresses of eight women's groups in the field of anthropology and sociology of development of universities in the Netherlands were listed in the newsletter.

In the 1980s much was realised of the original plans. After the first year with four issues, a number of three issues have been published annually in the subsequent nine years. Most were produced

by the women's group which had the turn to organise the next LOVA study day. Articles about literature studies and field researches were used in the presentations and discussions. The newsletters also included many short messages about plans for research, recent publications of scholars and students, calls for participation in activities, reports of previous LOVA study days, and always the list of the women's groups' names and addresses. Also information was spread about the various appointments of women staff at the anthropology departments for lecturing and researching in the field of women's studies, which later in the decade transformed into gender studies. Nearly every year a growing number of university courses in women's and gender studies could be listed as well as ever longer overviews of completed PhD theses. The integration struggle had been successful.

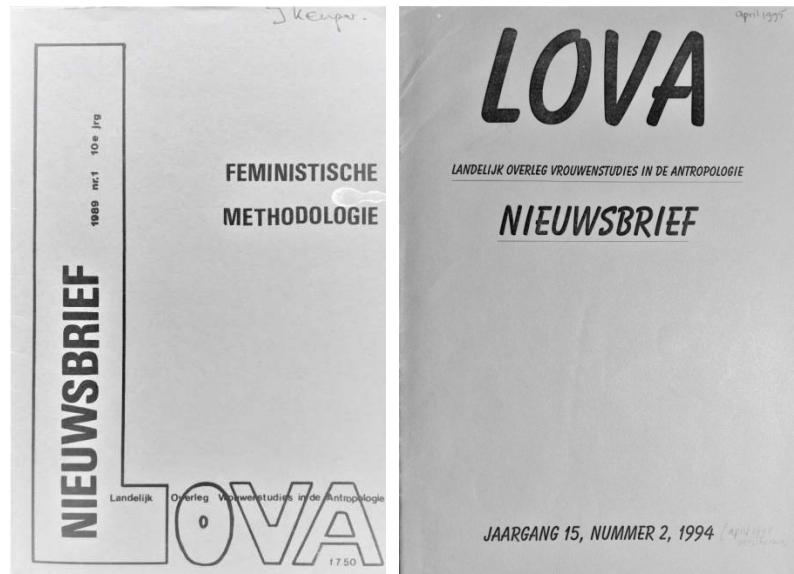


Volume 1, Issue 1, February 1980



Volume 5, Issue 3, October 1984

Because of the growing number of paid lecturers and researchers at the universities, the study days became organised more and more by these women in cooperation with students of their courses. The need for activism of students in the women's groups faded away. In the early 1990s the number of issues of the newsletter and study days declined to two per year. In 1993 only one LOVA study day was organised, and for the first time this was done in cooperation with the organisation of anthropologists in the Netherlands at the University of Amsterdam. It really seemed LOVA was dying out.



Volume 10, Issue 1, April 1989

Volume 15, Issue 2, 1994  
(published April 1995)

Fortunately, Anna Aalten, assistant professor at the University of Amsterdam, took the initiative for a revival. As the administrator of the LOVA Newsletter since 1986, she had noticed the declining number of subscriptions and the growing problems in organising the study days. Together with some other LOVA members Anna wrote

a proposal for a new style of LOVA which was published in the newsletter of May 1993 and in the next newsletter a call was published for creating a core group of LOVA members in paid staff positions to discuss LOVA's future. Then a newsletter of only a few pages was distributed to announce the next LOVA study day on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1994 at Radboud University Nijmegen to discuss LOVA's future with all members. In this important meeting some reflections on anthropological women's and gender studies in the past were presented and it was decided to transform LOVA from an informal network to a formal organisation of professional feminist anthropologists with a board and three committees for different tasks. Joke Schrijvers was willing to take the first three year turn of the chair position in the board and Anna became the treasurer (until 1997). Together with Marion den Uyl, Anna organised the official deed of a notary in September 1995 by which LOVA became a formalized organisation with a professional bank account.



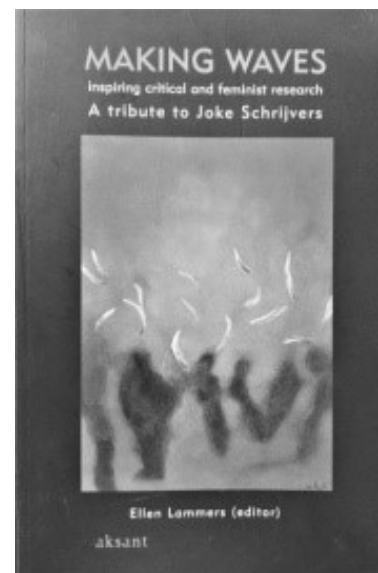
Volume 20, Issue 1, May 1999

Volume 22, Issue 1, May 2001

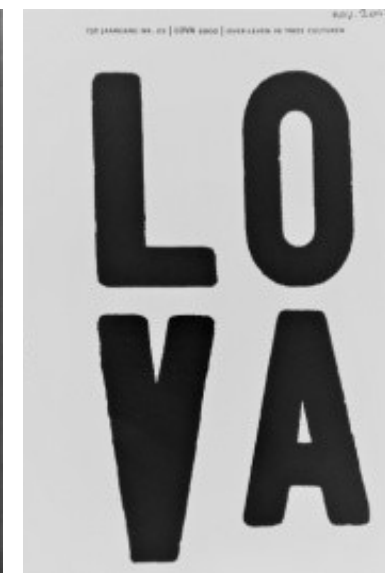
In relation to the restyling of LOVA the newsletter was in 1996 transformed into a journal for professionals and all others interested in gender studies and feminist anthropology in the Netherlands, titled 'LOVA Tijdschrift voor Feministische Antropologie' (in English: 'LOVA Journal for Feminist Anthropology'). It was no longer closely connected with the LOVA study days. Most of the articles in the journal were now written by academic researchers and lecturers but also PhD and Master's students were encouraged to publish in the journal. The journal also presented reports of the annual LOVA study days, as well as information about events, PhD defences, publications and news about changes in women staff at the various anthropology departments.

The year of 2002 was another important milestone. In June the LOVA Journal issue was published as a book for the retirement of Joke Schrijvers. The next issues of the journal were produced by professional lay-outer Tina Lenz, which implied that the editorial committee could focus on the improvement of the quality of articles. Tina changed the format of the journal back into the A5-size of the first decade (1980-1993), while it was in A4-size during the period of 1994-2001. From 1998 to 2011 two issues of the LOVA Journal have been published in the annual volumes, since then each volume consisted of one issue per year. In the course of the past 39 years a total of 84 issues of the LOVA newsletter and journal have been published. Now you are reading the 85<sup>th</sup> issue of the 40<sup>th</sup> volume.

In 2014 there was another crisis. Most members of the editorial committee had left and it was really difficult to find replacement. Happily, Silvia Herrero Simancas responded to the call for new editors of the journal. She became the chief editor and new members for the editorial board were found as well. Silvia introduced a new ordering of the content by rubrics: research, essay, fieldwork experience, book review, interview, opinion/debate, column, LOVA activities, personalia, and others. After two years of experiments with



Volume 23, Issue 1, June 2002



Volume 23, Issue 2, 2002

outsourcing the lay-outing job, Silvia designed a new cover format which is in use since 2016. In the book edition of 2002 half of the articles had been written in English. Since then it took some time before English language articles were accepted in the journal, as it focused on readers in the Netherlands. However, more and more articles of Dutch (mostly PhD) researchers were written in English and the number of articles in this language grew steadily. Although the start of international conferences every three years since 2008 enhanced English language contributions, it was the entrance of Silvia Herrero Simancas with her Spanish background in 2014 which made that nearly all the texts in the journal were in English.

In 2018 Jasmijn Rana took over the position of chief editor and since then LOVA Journal is completely written in English. The professionalization of LOVA as an academic journal is furthered by introducing a peer-review process for its research articles. The board

of LOVA and the editorial board of LOVA Journal are determined to keep their work going and are continuously striving for a journal that fits the needs of feminist anthropologists in the Netherlands and beyond. Do get in touch if you feel like joining us!

