

Editorial

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As the year 2018 almost comes to an end, we would like to take the time to reflect on our network of feminist anthropologists. A year in which universities around the globe are fighting for feminism and gender studies. In Hungary, prime minister Orban banned gender studies programmes from all universities. In Brazil, newly elected prime minister Bolsonaro asks students to snitch on teachers that voice critique towards the current regime and its ideology. But 2018 has also been a year in which, due to #metoo, important discussion on unequal power relations and the treatment of women as second class citizens has regained centre stage in both public and academic discussions. The current international climate makes us appreciate our network even more.

This year, LOVA Journal has taken the step to align with academic standards for publishing. For the first time, the articles in this issue have been reviewed (single-blind). With this step we hope to improve the quality of LOVA Journal and become more attractive for authors in academia. At the same time, we hold true to our mission to introducing young scholars to a network of feminist anthropologists and anthropologists working on gender issues. A slightly changed editorial board will take this vision further in this and forthcoming issues. Our former editor-in-chief, Silvia Herrero has stepped down to focus on a new career of teaching Spanish, with a special focus on academic and business purposes. She is still involved in the lay-out process for the journal. Nikki Mulder has returned from fieldwork and as editor in our team.

Issue 39 of the LOVA Journal demonstrates again that feminist anthropology reaches further than the study of

women. Jemma Middleton's article provides a sensitive account of polyamorists in the Netherlands and therewith reminds us of the importance of understanding sexual practices and identifications. Pieter du Plessis takes us to Cape Town where he researched trans sex workers and how they live with tuberculosis. Du Plessis explains how conviviality and 'writing together' helped him to do more ethically sound research. Federica Banfi introduces the reader to the ways in which gender has become part of ethnomusicology and introduces two ways in which the nuances of gender identity formation and performance in ethnomusicology are approached. We are happy to also present three Fieldwork Reflections, short pieces in which the authors – Laurens Tan, Nikki Mulder and Irma Beusink – not only share the results of their research, but their emotional involvement as well.

The following pages will of course also inform you about LOVA's activities of the recent past. Participants of the LOVA International Summer School 2018 offer some reflections, there are reports of the LOVA International Workshop on *Gender and Nature* in June 2018 and of the LOVA panel session in the International Workshop *(En)gendering new conversations: Ethnographic research and its contribution to politicized debates on gender and sexuality* in November 2017, as well as an article on the winners of the LOVA/Marjan Rens Master's Thesis Award. Together with our journal, these activities form the beating heart of our LOVA network. A network that is alive and kicking; a network that we cherish dearly.