

# Kohl: a Journal for Body and Gender Research



## “Tensions in Movement Building”

Vol. 6, No. 1, Summer 2020.

This issue has been produced with the financial assistance of the Heinrich Böll Stiftung - Middle East Office, Beirut. The views expressed herein are those of the author(s) and can therefore not be taken to reflect the opinion of HBS.

## Acknowledgments

Postponed by a domestic revolution and a global pandemic, the Tensions issue is finally seeing the light. Yet, the need to think movement building at this juncture of crisis could not be more urgent. Centered in feminist, queer, and intersectionality theories, this issue elucidates some tensions between different forms of organizing in the MENA: institutional, non-governmental, and grassroots.

We've had to say goodbye to our dear managing editor, Roula Seghaier, who, for four years, grew Kohl alongside us. We are grateful beyond words for the labor and love she has invested in Kohl. For the first time, our team has expanded to a quartet. This month, Hiba Abbani joined us in her capacity as Translation Manager, and Sabah Ayoub as Arabic Editor. In the past month and a half, Rita Slaoui has also joined the team as editorial intern, and has provided invaluable support for this difficult and overwhelming period.

We would like to thank Kohl's advisory board, Arianne Shahvisi, Ebtihal Mahadeen, Elisabeth Armstrong, Khouloud Mahdhaoui, Maie Panaga, Nadje Al-Ali, Rola Yasmine, Sabiha Allouche, and Sawsan Abdulrahim, for their strengthening of our vision, their commitment to feminist knowledge and to Kohl, and a visionary annual meeting in March 2020. Kohl's family was complete then.

We are indebted to the tireless work of our team of translators, Dima Hamadeh, Farah Youssef, Khouloud Fawaz, Madeleine Arnaut, Maya Zebdawi, Sarah Kaddoura, and Yasmeen Mobayed, who made the Arabic version of Kohl possible and generously accommodated our tight deadlines.

Our immense gratitude goes to our writers, who humble us with their generosity and commitment to feminist causes. Thank you Anne de Jong, Cecile Khoury, Christine Şahin, Emily McNutt Yue, Leila Abdelrazaq, Lucy Wanjiku Mung'ala, Mahdi Zaidan, Maria Najjar, Rula Asad, Sabiha Allouche, Samaa Elturkey, Taylor Miller, Yumna Jamal, and Zahra Zuwayed for trusting us with your writings, and to Skinsells for their artwork illustrating this issue.

Our immense gratitude goes to the peer reviewers of this issue's editorial review board, Arianne Shahvisi, Dina Georgis, Fadi Saleh, Felogene Anumo, Hiba Abbani, Lisa Armstrong, Maie Panaga, Maya Mikdashi, Nadje Al-Ali, Nana Abouelsoud, Razan Ghazzawi, Roula Seghaier, Sabiha Allouche, Sara Salem, Sawsan Abdulrahim, Shereen Abouelnaga, and Sophie Chamas, who have generously provided us and the authors with detailed and thoughtful feedback. We look forward to future cooperation.

We cannot thank Layal Khatib, our web developer enough. Her work has been crucial to our digital autonomy.

We would like to thank Heinrich Böll Stiftung and their Middle East Office in Beirut for their continuous financial support since Kohl's beginnings. We are grateful for the support of Mama Cash, Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, and Global Fund for Women.

The Kohl Team,  
Ghiwa Sayegh, Hiba Abbani, Sabah Ayoub, and Safa Hamzeh