

Kohl: a Journal for Body and Gender Research



“Gendering Migration”

Vol. 3, no. 1, Summer 2017

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

Publishing this issue has perhaps been our most arduous endeavor yet since Kohl embarked us on its journey. Amidst tedious and lengthy paperwork, innumerable tasks that could barely be managed by a team of two, and delays beyond our control, we have been blessed by a powerful support system that met us with patience, motivation, and inspiration.

Our advisory board, Angelika Arutyunova, Arianne Shahvisi, Ebtihal Mahadeen, Elisabeth Armstrong, Fatima Sadiqi, Khouloud Mahdhaoui, and Nadje Al-Ali, have courageously led Kohl through its transition process towards independence, and have provided incredible support to the editorial team. Nadje, Arianne, and Elisabeth have been the pillars of Kohl and have had our backs since its inception. We are grateful, beyond words, to have a structure we can turn to and trust with no second-guessing. We would also like to acknowledge Sawsan Abdulrahim, who has supported us at times of need and provided us with invaluable advice.

The Arabic version of Kohl would not be possible without the tireless work of our team of translators. Leen Hashem and Rebecca Saab Saade, thank you for the monumental work you have put into the making of this issue, which greatly contributed to maintaining Kohl's ethos.

Once again, our writers and contributors have humbled us with their fierce determination and commitment to feminist knowledge. Thank you Amira Elwakil, Golchehr Hamidi-Manesh, Hana Masri, Jillian Grisel, Lara Bitar, Marlene Soulier, Muntaha Abed, Ralph Haddad, Sabiha Allouche, and Yara Mamdouh Ahmed for trusting us with your writings. We are also incredibly grateful to the activists Amira, Gholama, Mawn, Sama, and Zakaria, who have made their voices heard in our Openings section, reaffirming a locality that cannot be dismissed.

Our immense gratitude goes to the peer reviewers of this issue's editorial review board, who have generously provided us and the authors with detailed and thoughtful feedback. Thank you Deema Kaedbey, Deema Nasser, Dilara Çalışkan, Dina Georgis, Fadi Saleh, Isis Nusair, Katharine Halls, Leen Hashem, Martine Heijthuyzen, and Shereen Abuelnaga. We look forward to future cooperation.

We deeply appreciate the contribution of Hala H. Hassan, who tailored her mind-blowing artwork to this issue's theme, and has been a great source of support to the team. More of Hala's moving work can be found in our Artivism section.

Yves Nasrallah, our new web developer and IT provider, has taken over the technical aspect of Kohl, and we cannot thank him enough for his skills, knowledge, and timeliness.

Our lawyer, Youmna Makhlouf, has overseen all of Kohl's legal aspects throughout its transition phase and independence. We are incredibly grateful for her strength and clarity.

We would like to thank Heinrich Böll Stiftung and their Middle East Office in Beirut for their continuous financial support since Kohl's beginnings. In particular, we wish to thank Noor Baalbaki, who has been our referential point in communication with HBS, for her patience and support, as well as Bente Scheller and Corinne Deek. We are grateful for the support of Mama Cash, particularly Sanne Rezk, Happy Kinyili, and Chantelle de Nobrega, as well as the support of Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice, particularly Mariam Gagoshashvili. Finally, we are infinitely indebted to the people who generously and informally donated to Kohl and who wish to remain anonymous, making our independence possible.

To Zakaria Nasser, who gifted us the power of solidarity by volunteering to help out with our paperwork and financial systems, a thank you is not enough to express our gratitude. We are grateful to the DammeH Coop, who let us work from their space. So many people showed solidarity by doing emotional labor for us, a type of labor that more often than not remains unacknowledged. So thank you Dalia Othman, Gemma Justo, Leila Kobeissi, Lynn Darwich, Mari-Claire Price, Marisa Viana, Maya Mikdashi, Nadine Kamel, Nelly Bassily, Rebecca Saab Saade, RESURJ, Rita Liavali Coquet Barbosa E Silva, Sachini Perera, and Shereen Abuelnaga for your sisterhood, your food, your hugs, your feminist tools, your words of encouragement, and your unwavering values.

To the Kohl community, thank you for giving us hope and Kohl its *raison d'être*.

The Kohl Team,
Ghiwa Sayegh and Roula Seghaier