

Kohl: a Journal for Body and Gender Research



“The Non-Exotic Erotic: Questions of Desire and Representation”

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Acknowledgments

As we publish our second issue, we continue to be in awe of the support and the commitment of people who understand the importance of having a journal like *Kohl* producing MENA-based knowledge on gender and sexuality.

A big thank you to our advisory board. We welcome Angelika Arutyunova to the team. We are very grateful to have Arianne Shahvisi and Elisabeth Armstrong just an email or a skype call away, though we miss having them in Beirut. Sahar Mandour keeps our spirits high with her vision and humor, and Nadge Al-Ali is always generously available for feedback and input. We also appreciate the support of Ebtihal Mahadeen, Fatima Sadiqi, Islah Jad, Khouloud Mahdhaoui, and Samar Habib.

The writers who sent us their work this issue were phenomenal. To the seminal writers, graduate students and fresh graduates, activists, and academics, we loved reading your papers. We are honored to share them and have your work become important sources in this emerging field of gender and sexuality studies in the MENA. Sincere thanks to Cynthia El Khoury, Dina Georgis, Ghadir K. Zannoun, Lady Gya, Maya El Helou, Sarah Hamdan, Salma Shash, Sanaa Khoury, and Zouhair Gassim. To our "Openings" participants, Mawn, Amanda, Sarag, and Jessika Khazrik, we loved and appreciated your openness, intellect, and wittiness. Thank you for sharing your experiences with us and with our readers. To the facilitator, Rebecca Saab Saadeh, thank you so much for a job well done!

We owe so much to our team of peer reviewers for the service they so generously provide the writers with. We welcome back from last issue's editorial review board Alaa Hijazi, Leen Hashem, Lynn Darwich, Nancy Gallagher, Nicole Khoury, and Katherine Halls. We are grateful you were willing to review for the second time in a row. A warm welcome to Arianne Shahvisi, Deborah Al-Najjar, Evelyne Accad, Ghassan Moussawi, Isis Nusair, Lila Sharif, Mounira Soliman, Nada Elia, Najib Mokhtari, Natalie Kouri-Towe, Rachel Kaplan, Ra'ed Al-Ramahi, Sara Salem, and Umayyah Cable. Your willingness to engage with our writers and share your comments with them made all the difference.

A very big thank you to Leen Hashem, whom we were fortunate to have as lead translator for this issue, as she dedicated herself to translating most of our material from English to Arabic. Leen holds a BA in Media Studies from the Lebanese University, and an MA in Gender Studies from SOAS, University of London. Since 2009, she has been part of different leftist, secularist, queer and feminist groups in Lebanon. She has worked as a researcher, translator, editor and policy advisor at different organizations and projects. We were also lucky to be able to have Rebecca Saab Saadeh and Sahar Mandour translate articles to Arabic for us. This Arabic issue would not have been possible without you all. We are also grateful to have Karla Bou Serhal provide Arabic to English translation for us.

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Much gratitude goes to Rawane Khalil who provided the beautiful artwork. You can see more of her work at [this link](#). We owe the face of this new issue to our designer, Toni Bou Serhal, who never fails to respond to our whims and last minute requests.

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The Kohl team,
Ghiwa Sayegh and Deema Kaedbey