EDITORIAL

In 2012, LES Online changed from biannual to annual periodicity. Aiming at broadening the scope of this first annual number, the editorial team has disseminated a call for papers that encouraged research scholars and scientists from different domains to submit papers emphasizing intersections of the topics gender and sexual orientation.

Notwithstanding the fact that the dominance of heterosexuality has historically been explained by biology, constructionists assert that biological differences do not have any inherent meanings, and that a whole set of characteristics and behaviours have been attributed to and associated with being male or female (Valentine, 1993), this way creating male supremacy and heteronormativity. We believe with Valentine (2007) that “it is not possible to separate out the categories of gender, race, class, and sexuality, nor to explain inequalities through a single framework”. In this context, the delivered Call for Papers was an invitation to approaches of gender, class, race, and sexuality interdependences.

This number of LES Online collects papers from Portugal, Canada, Spain and Senegal and introduces two new sections: the section named “Narratives about the participation of women in the LGBT movement in Portugal” and the student section that provides a framework for publication of students’ ongoing work.

This number also includes a brief presentation of the book “Saber ao Certo” (“Knowing for Sure”) written by Margarida Fonseca Santos and illustrated by Francisca Torres. It is a story of a coming out and of the positive and negative changes that it causes.

The first paper of this number of LES Online is entitled “Activism and the Queering of Academia”. In this paper, António Fernando Cascais follows the discussion on the topic “Activism and Academia: Intersections, Conflicts and Potentialities” that was the challenge of the previous issue (see LES Online Vol 4, No 1). Cascais reviews and discusses in an extensive way the gulfs and bridges between the academy, the LGBT studies and the activism, in Portugal.

Rachel Epstein is the author of the second paper that is named “LGBTQ Parenting in Canada: Looking Back, Looking Forward” and reviews the history of LGBTQ parenting in Canada in the last forty years. This paper is the publication of the talk of Rachel Epstein (Coordinator of the LGBTQ Parenting Network) in the First Congress of Parenthood of the Porto Institute of Psychology and Neuropsychology (1º Congresso Internacional de Parentalidade do IPNP Instituto de Psicologia e Neuropsicologia do Porto, http://ciparentalidade.webnode.pt/).

In the third paper, named “Media Education for Addressing Sexual Diversity in Secondary Schools”, Andrea Francisco and Lidón Moliner explore media education and inclusive education to propose a secondary school didactic material, which evaluate the role of the media discourse in the construction of stereotypes of lesbian and bisexual women.
Helena Lopes Braga authored the fourth paper of this number “Towards the History of Lesbian Invisibility in Musicology: Francine Benoit”. This paper intends to deepen and broaden the knowledge about Francine Benoit, as well as to begin addressing LGBT issues in Portuguese musicology.

In the section “Narratives about the participation of women in the LGBT movement in Portugal”, Eduarda Ferreira gives her testimony about her participation in the Lesbian Movement in Portugal, analysing critically diverse phases of the story of “Clube Safo” association (the only Portuguese Association that defends exclusively the Lesbian rights).

“The Issue of Genital Mutilation in the Fight for Women’s Emancipation”, written by Sileymane Sylla, is the paper that inaugurates the Student Section. This author explains the female genital mutilation practices using an approach that crisscrosses the local and the global, while analysing the different controls that have oppressed women throughout history.

Flávia Gil, also in the Student Section, explores how heterosexism and homophobia impact lesbian and bisexual women representations and behaviours in the paper “Heterosexism and Homophobia in the Female Homosexual Community”.

This first annual number of LES Online brings together a set of papers that use diverse approaches and address a diversity of topics, while focusing the “intersections of the topics gender and sexual orientation”. The editorial team acknowledges the authors that made possible one more number of a research publication exclusively dedicated to lesbian issues.

REFERENCES:
