



Call for Papers: Special Issue of the JIWS

Gendered Journeys: Women, Mobility, and Travel Narratives

Special Issue Editors:

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Mobility is a gendered and socially stratified practice; feminist sociology, anthropology, gender studies, and postcolonial scholarship have demonstrated that travel is not simply an individual act of movement, but a socially regulated process shaped by power relations embedded in family structures, labour markets, state institutions, cultural norms, and historical inequalities (Siegel, 2004). For women, movement across spaces—whether through travel, migration, work, or displacement—is mediated by gendered expectations of respectability, care, and risk, as well as by intersecting axes of class, caste, race, sexuality, nationality, and colonial legacies (Chatterjee, 2012). This special issue invites critical and sociologically informed interventions that examine women's mobility as a gendered social practice, a site of surveillance and control, and a terrain of inequality and resistance. Drawing on feminist theories of mobility (Cresswell, 2016; Sheller & Urry, 2006), postcolonial critiques of travel writing (Pratt, 2007; Spivak, 2005), feminist geographies of space and risk (Massey, 1994), and sociological analyses of gender, labour, and citizenship, the issue foregrounds travel not merely as leisure or tourism but as a process through which gendered subjectivities, social hierarchies, and forms of belonging are produced and contested. Examined from a socio-cultural and gender studies perspective, women's journeys are located within the quotidian struggles and negotiations of household work, moral regulation, economic uncertainty, and surveillance by the state and the public (Gupta, 2020). Texts such as feminist travel narratives, life writing, cinema, digital media, and ethnographic accounts allow for analysis of the construction of agency and vulnerability, and the negotiations of pleasure, fear, and other forms of restriction and regulation in women's travel and mobility. In postcolonial contexts, women's travel exposes the enduring legacies of empire, racialised encounters, and asymmetrical relations between the traveller and the space that is travelled through. At the same time, contemporary regimes of borders, visas, biometric surveillance, and mobility control underscore the gendered governance of movement; these regimes reveal that women's mobility is evaluated through discourses of safety, morality, productivity, and national interest. The special issue seeks contributions that combine gender analysis with socio-cultural attention to institutions, everyday practices, and structural inequalities, and that situate women's mobility within broader debates on citizenship, labour, safety, sexuality, and cultural identity across the globe.

The special issue welcomes interdisciplinary contributions from gender studies, sociology, cultural and literary studies, media studies, anthropology, history, and related fields.

Submissions should foreground specified feminist approaches to women's mobility, travel, and narrative practices in global contexts.

Possible Themes:

- Feminist travel writing and life narratives
- Sociological analyses of women's mobility, inequality, and social regulation
- Women travellers and the politics of mobility, risk, and respectability
- Gendered experiences of tourism, public space, safety, and surveillance
- Borders, visas, citizenship, and the state governance of women's movement
- Postcolonial women travellers and the legacies of empire and encounter
- Science fiction of time travel, futurism, and futurity
- Travel, migration, and gendered labour (care, service, domestic, creative, and informal work)
- Representations of women travellers in literature, cinema, and digital cultures
- Digital travel narratives, social media, and gendered self-fashioning and visibility
- The mobility of queer, Indigenous, caste-marginalised, and otherwise minoritised women
- Everyday mobilities, immobility, and constrained movement in women's lives

Submissions must follow the author guidelines of the *Journal of International Women's Studies* available at the [journal website](#) which mandates full disclosure of any use of AI tools in an acknowledgements or methodology section in accordance with its AI ethics policy. Abstracts for this special issue should be approximately 200 words and need to be submitted with an author bio of 100 words. Selected papers must be around 5,000–7,000 words exclusive of references; we particularly encourage submissions engaging with feminist concerns across the globe. We encourage submission of academic articles, essays, feminist reflections, travel diaries, video texts, and literary works such as poetry or short stories.

Timeline of Publication:

Submission of Abstracts: 15th November, 2026 (email: travelcfp@gmail.com)

Notification of Abstract Acceptance: 30th November, 2026

Submission of Full papers: 31st January, 2027 (email: travelcfp@gmail.com)

Notification of Paper Acceptance from Special Issue Editors: 30th June 2027

Final Notification of Acceptance from JIWS: 30th November 2027

Publication of the Special Issue: July 2028

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