

Globalising gender, Engendering the global, Presentation of contributions

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Dear colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that I announce the publication of our 13th edition at *Entremons* entitled *globalising gender, gendering the global*.

In this issue we have aimed to bring together varying contributions from authors who have brought the lens of gender to bear on differing historical contexts and geographies. By adopting a global historical approach, the articles of this issue showcase how gendered interpretations can provide a more detailed understanding of numerous facets, from uncovering the systems of domination of colonial models, to demonstrating how men and women interpreted, contributed to, imparted and were subjected to systems of power.

In *the coloniality of girls education in Sri Lanka* Jessica Albrecht posits that the educational systems of colonial Ceylon were underpinned by interpretations of Victorian virtues that fostered a primacy of religiosity and ‘Britishness’. These colonial foundations, in turn were taken as a model of excellence and adapted for a post-colonial reality. By highlighting a select number of case studies, Albrecht demonstrates how values were transmitted in part, by women who had been educated in the prestigious grammar schools in England. The work thus gives a novel insight into the ways that educated, travelled Victorian women influenced the educational institutions of far-flung locations.

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The second article of the issue, *conflicting agencies in the Juntas* brings us to the final years of slavery in Cuba 1880-1888. The author, Elena Barattini, examines the gendered aspects of slavery as it was beginning to transition into “coexisting forms of dependencies”. Working on the “Junta” petitions of formerly enslaved women, Barattini shows us how subaltern groups were active in engaging with the legalistic systems of the Spanish empire to secure certain compensations. Through an incisive analysis of three cases studies, the article deftly ties wider historical contexts and certain aspects of the legalistic procedures to life stories and individual cases. In doing so, Barattini demonstrates how engagement with the petitioning system led to a gradual building up of the emancipation movement, and how households staffed and run by women were, along with the traditionally masculine workplaces and plantations, an important site of resistance.

Monica Bolufer and Elena Serrano’s historiographical contribution *decentering the enlightenment*, brings a refreshing analysis of the possibilities of twinning gendered analysis with world history. Highlighting certain critiques within the field, notably Anglocentrism and a disappearance of the individual, the authors consider three exciting avenues, which are already yielding brilliant insights. Bolufer and Serrano examine the topic of the global enlightenment to draw attention to some choice scholarship that have utilised innovative gender analysis. The piece makes an excellent case for why gender should be considered a central aspect for the field of world history.

Bringing focus to more contemporary times, Kenia Santa Herrera Izquierdo and Abucar Fofana Leon lay out the actions, functioning and membership of the “Union Laborista de Mujeres” (ULM) in 20th century Cuba. Charting the development of the union, Izquierdo and Leon demonstrate ways in which the ULM was part of an interconnected webs of feminist and revolutionary movements across the Caribbean and beyond. The authors’ detailed assessment of a select few members underlines the role that women in the group contributed to the creation and empowering of a working-class consciousness in resistance to a dictatorial regime.

The final article of this issue brings our attention back to 16th century Mexico. The author, Nathaniel Sola Rubio, introduces us to the “Lienzo de Tlaxcala”, a painted relation created by the Tlaxcallans after the conquest of their enemies the Mexica. The aim was to celebrate the involvement of the republic in the events of the conquest hitherto dominated by Spanish accounts. Drawing on analytical techniques from art history, Sola Rubio interprets some of the scenes in which the indigenous protagonist Malintzin, given a political, military, diplomatic role, seems to transcend the gendered norms of both pre and post-colonial society. Rubio also contemplates the numerous Christian and preconquest figuring, for instance, Hernán Cortés in the gestures and figuring of Santiago Matamoros and simultaneously in the guise of an indigenous lord *teuchtli* with Malintzin as his political advisor *cihuacoatl*. Rubio’s work is a valuable addition which reveals how taking a gendered interpretation can give insights that demonstrate wider transatlantic social and cultural trends.

As a collection, despite our authors coming from varying backgrounds and treating diverse historical and geographical contexts, they have all demonstrated the utility of a gendered interpretation of global historical themes. Each of the articles have founded their investigations on case studies of individuals, presenting their source material tactfully. In doing so the authors have been able to add “colour to the historical tapestry” both by deepening our awareness of wider historical contexts, as well as provide a “surgical insight” into life on the ground, whether it be in a religious grammar school in 20th century Ceylon, or a 16th century military camp in central Mexico.

From the whole team at *Entremons* we hope you enjoy the issue.

Yours sincerely,

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Editor-in-chief