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Women, Gender, and Families of Color

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**SPECIAL ISSUE:
THE UNEXPECTED
CARIBBEAN, PART I**

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History of the Journal

Women, Gender, and Families of Color (WGFC) is a multidisciplinary journal from the University of Illinois Press that studies Black, Latinx, Indigenous, and Asian American women, genders, and families. Within this framework, the journal publishes theoretical and empirical research from the social and behavioral sciences and the humanities. It encompasses comparative and transnational research, as well as analyses of domestic social, cultural, political, and economic policies and practices. To date, the journal has featured a variety of articles on the African Diaspora, Indigenous history and politics, migrant experiences, LGBTQIA of color civic life, Asian American families, single mothers, and activists, among other related topics. Guest-edited and special topics issues include Black girlhood and kinship; race, gender, and disability; women, gender politics, and pan-Africanism; Black love after E. Franklin Frazier; and critical essays from readers on the state of college campuses in Trump's America.

WGFC was established in 2012 by Dr. Jennifer Hamer at the University of Kansas and was hosted by the American Studies Department. WGFC was an expansion of its predecessor *Black Women, Gender, and Families (BWGF)*, which was established by Hamer in 2006 at the University of Illinois and published by the University of Illinois Press. An editorial success, *BWGF* featured the work of new and established scholars, was invited to join Project MUSE in its third year, and received thousands of monthly online views and prestigious accolades. Rosalyn Terborg-Penn's article "Migration, Trans-Racial/National Identity Re-Formation: Becoming African Diaspora Women" in the fall 2011 issue of *BWGF*, for example, won the Association of Black Women Historians' 2011–2012 Letitia Woods Brown Best Article Prize for its leading work. Building on this success, Hamer extended the focus of *BWGF* after six years and founded *Women, Gender, and Families of Color* as a more inclusive, intersectional platform that would broadly capture what it means to be a person of color in the United States and throughout the world.

Since its founding, WGFC has provided a necessary and welcoming forum for diverse topics and scholars. With the critical contributions of talented reviewers, editorial board members, and guest editors, the journal has highlighted the work of scholars writing from a variety of fields, methods, and perspectives. This vital research interrogates the *hows* and *whys* underlining social experiences, political systems, and modes of commemoration and resistance. The journal promotes cutting-edge studies on populations otherwise marginalized in society and scholarship to demonstrate the breadth and depth of work needed to more fully understand and combat systemic inequities. The journal continues to be available in both hard copy and electronically through Project MUSE and JSTOR.

In 2019, Hamer accepted a position as the first associate vice provost for faculty affairs and faculty development at Pennsylvania State University, and the journal appointed Dr. Ayesha K. Hardison as its new lead editor. In this transition, the journal is now hosted by the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department at the University of Kansas. Dr. Cécile Accilien also joined WGFC as the new editorial board chair, and Hamer moved into the new role of advisory editor in this year.

Special Issues

- Volume 2.2: “Race, Gender, and Disability: Intersectionality, Disability Studies, and Families of Color,” guest edited by Liat Ben-Moshe and Sandra Magaña (2014)
- Volume 4.2: “Women, Gender Politics, and Pan-Africanism,” guest edited by Keisha N. Blain, Asia Leeds, and Ula Y. Taylor (2016)
- Volume 6.1: “Trump’s America? Disquiet Campus? Women and Marginalized College Students, Faculty, and Staff Reflect on Learning, Working, Living, and Engaging” (2018)
- Volume 7.1: “Black Girlhood and Kinship,” guest edited by Corinne T. Field and LaKisha Michelle Simmons (2019)
- Volume 7.2: “Black Love after E. Franklin Frazier,” guest edited by Randal Maurice Jelks and Ayesha K. Hardison (2019)
- Volume 8.2: “Crosstalk: Graduate Students of Color Reflect on Lessons Lived and Learned in the Academy” (2020)
- Volume 9.1: “The Unexpeted Caribbean,” guest edited by Cécile Accilien and Giselle Anatol (2021)

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