

Reflections on 25 years

Feminist Review is celebrating 25 years of academic and a political intervention. Over this quarter of a century the journal and the Collective have re-invented themselves many times in response to shifting political landscapes both within and beyond the collective. Some of these shifts are reflected in this anniversary issue of *Feminist Review*, in the ground-breaking articles, which we are republishing, editorials from past issues of FR, which were written at key moments in the history of feminism and in the current Collective's Round Table Discussion. Each of these turning points have involved reflexivity – often painful – challenges and adjustments to the project of feminism. This project is ongoing and in this anniversary issue we are contributing to this continuing conversation by publishing the Collective's reflections on how we tell the history of the journal, of feminism and of the Collective itself. All of the past editorials included in the issue reflect similar moments of reassessment. In re-reading these we were struck by the continuities of concerns and dilemmas we share today with previous collectives. Many of these issues – perhaps by their very nature – remain unresolved: tensions between academic and activist feminisms; the lived experience of the intersections of class, race, gender, sexuality and generation; the difficulties of divisions of labour and collective working; and of keeping creativity and collective intellectual engagement alive, in the face of the relentless administrative demands of producing the journal in a context of new work regimes in education.

As well as these continuities we face new challenges as a Collective in sustaining *Feminist Review* as an ongoing project. From Issue No.1, published in 1979 *Feminist Review* has been committed to internationalism. Today the need to maintain this commitment is a deeply felt concern to the Collective. Our dialogue with our international corresponding editors and the FR issues co-edited from outside the UK go some way towards addressing this, but perhaps not far enough. Feminist understandings of the changing international landscape demand new relationships across borders, stripped of colonial sensibilities however unconscious. Just as we, in the London-based Collective, have to work through our different social and political locations, a whole new sphere of such negotiations is opened up by our commitment to working internationally, particularly with our corresponding editors. We are grateful to Firdous Azim, our corresponding editor in Dacca, for discussing some of these issues with us. We are pleased to be able to include a piece by Firdous, first presented at the *Feminist Review* panel at the European Social forum in November 2004 in this issue.

Collective politics and the politics of individual members of the Collective continue to form complex relationships, which both strengthen and challenge the future political identity of the Collective and of the journal. The tensions and contradictions of the Collective – perhaps less ideological than in the past – nonetheless continue to reflect different desires and aspirations around the direction of the journal. New social movements need platforms for ideas and debates and some of our more recent contributions bear witness to this. Contributions which address the tensions outlined here are crucial in keeping the journal and the different spaces it contains, open. There have always been conflicting voices within the journal – that is its history – and the way we have chosen to tell this history and the selection we have made here map this. However, we are conscious that this is one of many possible maps. There is no doubt there are other stories and accounts of this history and we look forward to responses, interrogations and debates regarding the histories and the future of feminisms and of *Feminist Review*.

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