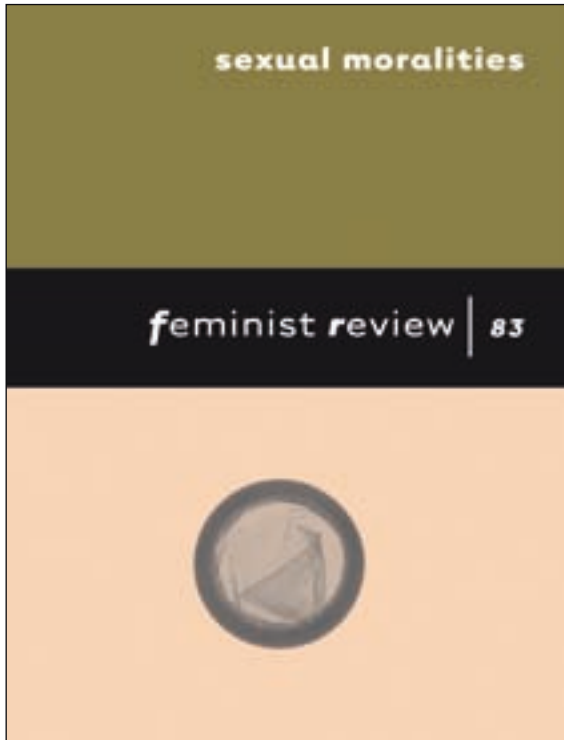


## sexual moralities



*The intersections of race, ethnicity, class, gender and sexual morality...*

A conservative sexual morality appears to be on the increase globally, operating in both new and familiar ways. How are we to make sense of the possibilities, contradictions and exploitations that make up the contemporary realm of sexual morality?

- Declarations of sexual morality are consistently targeted at women and minorities, often as a way of policing national boundaries and preserving the 'integrity' of the heterosexual family
- Discourses of sexual morality operate in contradictory ways, frequently serving as a dense site where hierarchies of race, gender, class and religion are affirmed or challenged. As a result new oppositions emerge – we speak of high and low risk groups for sexually transmitted diseases, and sexually-liberated versus sexually oppressive nation-states
- While assertions of sexual morality are increasing, new forms of sexual exploitation and expression reveal themselves – in the global sex trade, in contests between women's rights and foetal rights, in domestic partnership legislation for same-sex couples, and in new relationships made possible by new forms of communication and technology.

*This special issue of **Feminist Review** explores manifestations of anxieties about sexual morality for these reasons.*

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