

<p>JOURNAL</p>  <p>Edições Afrontamento APEM</p> <p>Dossier Feminist Challenges to Law: resistance and possibilities</p> <p>Editors: Madalena Duarte (Centre for Social Studies/Univ Coimbra, School of Economics) (Portugal). Maria Teresa Beleza (Nova School of Law) (Portugal)</p> <p>DEADLINE: 3 JANUARY 2022 (to be published in June 2022)</p>	<p>Indexed in:</p>      
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ex æquo

is a scientific, interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary peer reviewed journal open to contributions of multiple disciplines and currents of thought. Published since 1999 as a bi-annual interdisciplinary journal in the area of Women’s, Gender and Feminist Studies (<http://exaequo.apem-estudos.org/page/apresentacao-da-revista?lingua=en>)

About *ex æquo*: “The journal consistently includes articles that are scientifically sound and relevant to an international academic or professional audience in this field.”

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The call for non-themed submissions (articles and reviews) is continuously open.

Summary:

In recent years, the law, and in particular the courts, have come under increased public scrutiny over the legal and judicial treatment of gender issues. On the one hand, the growing conservative backlash, which is gaining in strength in various countries with the aim of rolling back women's rights in a number of areas, is a conspicuous and worrying trend. On the other, even in countries with national

normative legal frameworks to promote gender equality, we see judicial practices corrupting existing rights.

In Portugal, the recent media attention given to judicial sentences especially in the area of criminal law, which devalue certain types of violence, demonise female sexuality, blame the victim based on stereotypical models of femininity, and resort to conservative and misogynistic arguments for the mitigation of sentences, have contributed to greater social scrutiny of the courts' actions in these matters. This themed issue is intended to be a contribution to this scientifically informed debate, to offer a critical, multidisciplinary, and intersectional reflection on the law.

This has, in fact, been the role of feminist theories of law, widely disseminated in the Anglo-Saxon world, but still little known in Portugal. Feminist concern with law became more visible in the judicial and academic milieu of the USA in the early 1970s, with the contributions of a number of authors in scientific and legal journals, symposia and so on. This highlighted the need to challenge the knowledge produced in and by law and contributed to the development of a school of thought on state law that came to be known as Feminist Jurisprudence.

There is a consensus among the various feminisms that law has historically contributed to the perpetuation, legitimation, and/or reproduction of hetero-patriarchal relations, making room for different forms of subalternization. While it is true that it has led to undeniable legal achievements in the fight against gender discrimination, what has been the practical impact of these achievements?

This is a challenging scenario for feminist theories of law because, on the one hand, different strands of feminism seem unable to make law more emancipatory and, on the other, law has also improved women's quality of life.

There is, therefore, a fundamental need to deepen feminist reflection on law in order to deconstruct it, to understand how it has been sustained by (and sustains) the hetero-patriarchal status quo, and reveal possible pathways to effectively protect and promote women's rights in the face of multiple systems of oppression that exclude, subordinate and make them invisible.

The aim of this themed issue, entitled "Feminist Challenges to Law: resistance and possibilities", is to include articles presenting a feminist approach to law, providing an international and interdisciplinary space for theoretical and critical reflection, for mapping conceptual and methodological challenges, and for deepening a set of fundamental discussions which relate different areas of state and non-state law to gender, sexuality, and feminisms.

Possible themes include:

- feminisms and international law
- mobilisation of law by feminist movements
- human rights
- family law
- sexual and reproductive rights
- law and sexual and gender-based violence
- sexual rights
- labour discrimination
- feminist criminology
- law and intersectionality
- LGBTIQ+ rights
- feminist epistemologies and methodologies in law

This list is not intended to be exhaustive. Other proposals that fit the theme of the issue are therefore encouraged. Texts will be accepted in Portuguese, English, Spanish and French.

Deadline for delivery: Submission of articles, with scrupulous compliance with the rules of the review presented in <http://www.apem-estudos.org/pt/page/submissao-de-artigos> until **January 3,**

