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Call: Misogynist hate speech: portrayals, impacts and interventions

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Misogynist hate speech: portrayals, impacts and interventions

Despite growing concerns about the increasing prevalence of misogynistic or sexist hate speech on different popular digital platforms (e.g. Ging and Siapera 2018, 2019; Vickery and Everbach 2018), research in this field is relatively recent and has mainly generated scattered evidence of its occurrence, its individual impacts and cultural and democratic consequences. We know that misogynistic hatred often intersects with other expressions of intolerance and other types of abuse perpetrated using technology, including harassment, stalking, threats

and verbal offences, which disproportionately affect women (Duggan 2014; FRA 2014; EIGE 2017; Vogels 2021), but an understanding of how hatred is expressed and perceived is still limited.

The attention directed at ways to combat hate online is even more recent. Feminist and gender studies suggest that sociocultural and technological domains are mutually constitutive and that technologically mediated practices, therefore, reproduce crystallised hierarchies and privileges but are also driving springs for new phenomena, such as post-feminism, antifeminism, men's movements or toxic masculinities. However, how prominent social actors operationalise this knowledge to think up appropriate responses is a question that, with some exceptions (e.g. Free et al. 2017; Henry, Flynn and Powell 2018), has yet to be studied.

Scientific work in this field has also yet to provide consensual elements to support a widely accepted definition of the problem in the legal-political sphere. The term hate speech has been used interchangeably to refer to various types of harmful speech, including hate and its incitement, abusive and defamatory content based on characteristics of belonging to a specific social group, including extreme forms of discrimination and prejudice (Siegle 2020). Added to the complexity of creating a consensual definitional framework is the fragile balance in recognising different social groups as vulnerable to hatred. Unlike racist hate speech, which is always seen as contrary to European and international human rights standards, sexist hate speech is often not looked at from this perspective, a situation that some international instruments have sought to counteract (e.g. Recommendation CM/Rec(2019)1) by encouraging national States to ensure the same yardstick for dealing with racist and sexist speech, in particular concerning law enforcement intervention.

This thematic issue, under the theme "Misogynist hate speech: portraits, impacts and interventions", aims to provide a space to deepen the knowledge of how the sexist hate speech that circulates in the digital environment is expressed, perceived and confronted. We are particularly interested in interdisciplinary research conducted from feminist approaches focused on studies that produce empirical evidence referable to different international contexts. We also welcome studies that critically reflect on the theoretical, methodological and political challenges that hate speech poses to feminisms.

We, therefore, call for contributions that preferably focus on the following themes:

- Expressions of sexist hate on digital platforms;
- Antifeminism, toxic masculinities and the normalisation of hate;
- Extremist movements and misogynist hatred;
- Hate speech and intersectionality;
- Perceptions of victims/survivors, witnesses and stakeholders of sexist hatred;
- Feminist activism and online misogyny;
- Public policies to prevent and combat sexist hate online;
- Other interventions targeting hate speech;
- Contexts of sexist hate production;
- Networked misogyny during and after the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Hate speech and epistemological and methodological challenges.

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

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IMPORTANT DATES

Submission deadline: **May 29, 2023**

Notification of acceptance decisions: **July 30, 2023**

Deadline for submission of the revised version by the authors: **September 30, 2023**

Publication date: **December 2023**

SUBMISSION

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article, with the intention of being contacted to evaluate the text, should it pass the first screening. If you are a reviewer, please validate this element in order to proceed, but without having to indicate specialists.

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