



## Feminist Politics, Feminist Asylum

Feminist Asylum Editorial Collective

### ABSTRACT

Editorial notes for the fourth issue.

### KEYWORDS

*Feminist politics, feminist asylum, politics of everyday life*



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## FEMINIST POLITICS, FEMINIST ASYLUM

*We are here at a time when politics is colored with blood.*

Our fourth issue is on. In this issue we look at different forms of feminist politics—academic production, texts that spring from the field and extend to read, see, understand together, and which return back to the field, to action; poems, illustrations, articles, letters, narratives that convey women's existence in different geographies and different subjecthoods.

This year we are witnesses to injustices, atrocities, pain all around the world. At certain times, we take long breaks, we cannot write, we cannot talk; we do not have the strength to do so. But, against all odds, we take shelter in each other; we care for each other. Waiting in silence does not help us; we regain our strength by listening and hearing each other. This issue comes up from within these pauses, through our persistent solidarity that is continuously tested.

Each text, each line, each drawing might lack in certain aspects. But it is our contention that when put together, lacking points lead to a collective word. This issue is prepared by a wounded but resistant look—not with hopelessness, but with the insistence to re-generate hope. It is prepared by the women's labor, who never give up creating through writing, knitting, narrating and different forms of sharing.

The fourth issue starts with three academic articles. In the first article, Simten Coşar tries to bring the field into the realm of political theory. She looks at the opportunities for feminist interventions to neoliberal academia and offers a critical reading on neoliberal knowledge processes by means of semi-structured in-depth interviews—according to an interviewee feminist conversations. In doing so, she tries to color the maleist political theory with feminist brushstrokes. The second article is by Işıl Bayraktar. Bayraktar narrates migration and cancer processes through women's experiences. The article is a valuable example of how we can constitute harmony between literary and social science texts without sacrificing aesthetics and scientific concerns. Bayraktar pursues the transitions between autobiography and autoethnography with a feminist style, and gives hints about the political extensions of thinking and acting together. The third contribution is a re-publishing of the Simten Coşar and Leyla Bektaş Ata's article in Turkish. We would like to thank Doğu Batı for sharing the Turkish version, and consenting to its publication in English, too. Coşar and Bektaş Ata pursue collaborative autoethnography in looking at their experiences in neoliberal academic settings. They try to offer a theoretical account of the experiences of two academics from different generations. In doing so, they start from the individual and move on to shared experiences to take issue with the marketization of relations in today's academicworld in Turkey. They also point at

different forms of writing – producing knowledge in social and human sciences.

In our fourth issue we have a quite rich Commentary section both in quantity and style. The letter by Zeki Bayhan from the prison invite us not to forget the inside when we walk the outside. Şafak Altan's letter from Paris brings the outside into the inside; her letter is an example to re-live the inside when one walks the outside. Işıl Eğrikavuk's narrative on *The Other Garden*, points at the ways to trespass the destructive workings of power politics and step into the forms of constructive politics by seeing, pursuing the connections between academic production and the politics of everyday life. Nalan Soyarik Şentürk, shares her handicraft, which she transforms into everyday artwork, and narrates the process that looks into aspects of women's lifeworlds. She puts notes on the way intergenerational transfer of women's subjecthood that relies on creativity. One of her works is our cover photo, redesigned by Leyla Bektaş Ata. Dilek Çiğerdelen who was with us in our third issue as an interviewee contributes to this issue with notes that spring from moments of thinking through walking—these notes are telling about the intersectionality between feminism and veganism.

We close this issue with three poems and an illustration in the Artwork section. Aslı Alpar is with us, again; she points at the possibilities for peace and solidarity. She visualizes that solidarity is actually here and now; giving us the reasons to continue. Nafia Akdeniz, who has for long been conducting ethnographic research in the Maraş region of Cyprus shares her poem Meditation in the City Garden. She puts displacement in words through the urban memory, in English, Turkish and Greek. Rania Mamoun's another poem—56—from her book, *Something Evergreen Called Life*, is another valuable contribution on growing up to womanhood, and on exile. The poem is colored by the drawing of Diane Samuels. Hilal Barbay, who recently joined our editorial collective as the Turkish editor shares her poem on loving, and love as a fact of everyday life: *lines that come from staying, leaving, loving, not being loved and invisibility. The addressee of this poem could never read it.*

Every text shares this dislocation of the addressees and readers. Each and every text waits for its meant-to-be readers while searching its addressees.

It is our reason to continue that the works that make this issue possible find their readers; it is the reason to continue to resist for the hope of a world in peace..

### Feminist Asylum Editorial Collective

*Canada, France, Greece, USA, Turkey*