



Sex & Sexuality

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Sex is a primal instinct. It is the way in which we guarantee the perpetuation of our families and of the human race. It is also the driving force behind so much beauty and tragedy, poetry and art, theater and film—the most profound and most soaring of feelings. Lately, it has transcended traditional relations between man and woman, allowing transsexuals, lesbians, gays, and bisexuals to openly acknowledge and enjoy its richness and texture. At the same time, there are persistent inequalities of the sexes that are crying to be redressed, gaps in income and aspirations, and persistent historic discrimination in a host

of societies. These are the variety of challenges and opportunities that we set out to explore in the Spring issue of *World Policy Journal*.

We begin with Big Question, featuring a selection of global thinkers reflecting on how sex and sexuality affect individuals' roles in their societies. In our Anatomy feature, the brilliant Saudi Arabian female film director Haifaa al-Mansour takes us inside the making of her multi-award winning film *Wadjda*, the first feature film shot inside the Kingdom and the first by a woman—a considerable feat that led to a masterful production, an intimate profile of the role of women, and an exclusive look at the challenges they face in Saudi society. Then, Deborah Steinborn and Uwe Jean Heuser, from their base in Hamburg, discuss the challenges and opportunities of breaking through the glass ceiling. Our Map Room examines the growing pandemic of sexual violence and the steps several European nations are taking to redress it, while our Timeline lays out milestones along the road to greater equality around the world. From Tehran, Rochelle Terman takes us inside the world of Iranian transsexuals who avoid prison only by undergoing a surgical procedure, mandated by the theocratic state, to change their sex. In Latin America, Silvia Viñas examines what's behind the election of more female leaders than on any other continent and at any time in history. And for our Conversation, we turn to Anne-Marie Slaughter, president of the New America Foundation, who has asked and answered the explosive question of whether it's possible for “women to have it all.”

In our Portfolio, photographer Katie Orlinsky and writer Judith Matloff examine the arrival of vigilante justice to fill the vacuum in the most lawless stretches of Mexico, where the drug cartels reign supreme. Melanie Smuts, an educator in South Africa, argues her nation is failing those most in need of basic schooling, a sharp contrast to other African states that are doing more with less. Matt Surrusco has uncovered Palestinian children being pressed into laboring in the fields of West Bank settlements. Witchcraft is still very much alive and used to enslave and abuse women across Europe and Africa, a reality that Gary Foxcroft explores. And as Romania enters the European Union, Maurizio Bongioanni examines how a host of foreign investors, many from nearby Italy, are snapping up cheap and fertile agricultural land. Elizabeth Pond, who covered the last days of “the American War” in the 1970s, returns to Vietnam to find a transformed landscape and people. Finally, in his Coda, *World Policy Journal* editor David A. Andelman chronicles the use and abuse of currencies across the globe.

—The Editors