

**E**studos Feministas is an interdisciplinary academic journal whose mission is to legitimate and improve academic research on gender in Brazil. A collective project involving scholars from different academic backgrounds, it also represents the feminist movement's demand for an appropriate forum for the struggle against sex discrimination and the search for a better understanding of gender.

The journal's editorial board and editors, who change periodically, have been successful in ensuring a high standard of quality, autonomy, and independence for it, as well as keeping its focus current. Thus, Estudos Feministas is an important space for discussing the issues that inform Brazilian and international debates on gender relations. The high quality of its articles has made it a point of reference for academic researchers, women and men, and for Brazilian and Latin American women's movements in general.

The first issue of *Estudos Feministas* was published in 1992. Since then, it has come out twice a year, with a total of thirteen issues and nearly a hundred articles and reviews by Brazilian and foreign authors. Its goal is to ensure public access to issues and themes of a theoretical and methodological nature present in the Brazilian and international debates, providing a selection of articles that cross disciplinary boundaries. This approach has put our journal at the vanguard.

In addition to articles and reviews, each issue of *Estudos Feministas* has had a central focus. Thus we have published dossiers on the environment, affirmative action, reproductive rights, public policy and poverty, feminism, black women, culture, violence against women, reproductive technologies, gender and aging, and masculinity. In each issue, one article that reflects the Brazilian situation is selected for translation to English. From 1992 to 1998, sixteen articles covering a wide range of issues were translated.

Bringing together the articles translated since 1992, this special English edition of *Revista Estudos Feministas* hopes to provide, for a wider audience, a sampling of what this Brazilian publication has covered. Despite the seven years that have

passed since the journal's first issue was published, the articles are still extremely current, reflecting the issues of concern for women in Brazilian society.

The articles that appear in this special English edition deal with various themes that we group into the following general areas: sexuality and reproductive rights, culture, violence, feminism, work, and ethnicity. We believe that the articles published here will give the reader an idea of the debates and studies on gender that have been taking place in Brazil during the 1990s.

The Editors