

## Editor's Preface

When we published the last issue of *Journal of Gender and Power* in December, there was no signal of the coming COVID-19 catastrophe. Suddenly, in March 2020 we started to live in a new reality full of uncertainty and danger. Every second could be the beginning of the end. The COVID-19 epidemic has changed our understanding of time and space and has influenced relationships between people. It appeared that virtual reality can be more real than “real reality”. Suddenly our children started to participate in their school lessons online and we began to teach our university students sitting before a computer screen. Even shopping for food felt like a mission on Mars. Our freedom of mobility and expression has been limited. And then when governments began to ease lockdown rules in many countries and communities, we saw the growing euphoria in face-to-face interactions. Shopping malls, beaches, restaurants, parties and family meetings full of people (without masks and gloves). The materialization of human need to be together even at the highest risk.

We haven't been able to gather articles related to COVID-19 and gender. But I decided to symbolically attach this issue to the *Journal of Gender and Power*. It is reflected on the cover of the volume. However, I didn't want to choose a pessimistic picture, so instead there are young people who are probably together and can live a valuable life even during the COVID-19 period. And perhaps I can believe, somewhat paradoxically that in this time of 2020 there will be a growing gender understanding of common problems and destiny. Also, I can believe that can be more support for gender and an acceptance of various differences, more gender empathy and solidarity.

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