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■ Comments

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Mala Khullar presents a detailed account of the challenges she has encountered in editing *Asian Journal of Women's Studies* in the past decade. Her informative paper made me realize what a daunting task it is to run this journal. Currently I am co editing a special issue of *Gender and History* on Translating Feminism. We are at the beginning stage and I already see the complexity of working with contributors from different parts of the world. Mala Khullar told us that about 50 percent contributors are not native English writers. This number suggests that the journal is fulfilling its goal of serving as a forum for Asian women's studies scholars. At the same time, it also suggests conceivable challenges of communicating with contributors speaking different languages and from different academic backgrounds, and managing to be a gatekeeper. I truly admire Mala Khullar's courage and dedication.

Since there are multiple issues presented in the paper, I can go in many directions. For instance, I was intrigued by Mala Khullar's uneasiness of being a gatekeeper. If we have time, I would like to discuss this issue. But first, let me address other issues that interest me more.

First, Mala Khullar points out that it has been common for many of us to view individual country contexts vis-à-vis the West but refer less so to research on Asia or other regions. I think Mala Khullar made a sound suggestion that the *AJWS* should become a

forum for us to compare and contrast within the region. Drawing upon the works published in the *AJWS* Mala Khullar suggested some areas for comparison among Asian countries, such as women's political participation. Before any one else uses the rich material in the *AJWS* to do a comparative study of women's political participation in Asia, I wonder if Mala Khullar has identified any patterns of women's political participation in such diverse socio-economic and political contexts. You kind of suggested three categories, women's role in local governance, in social movements and women's interaction with the state. Anything else can you add to these categories to help us have a contour map of women and politics in Asia? I think you are in the best position to do this.

Also, since most contributors consciously engage Western theories and frameworks, I wonder if there are any major findings by *AJWS* contributors that have challenged Western paradigms or theories. Or what are the major feminist theories and paradigms originated in the West that have been adopted by scholars working on Asia or that have been modified or reworked in the Asian context? In other words, besides knowing major themes covered by the *AJWS*, as Mala Khullar detailed in this paper, I would like to know what kind of intellectual dialogues between Asian scholars and scholars in other locations have been presented by the *AJWS*.

Secondly, I was struck by Mala Khullar's concern that gender mainstreaming is threatening the existence of the *AJWS*. In China so far only a tiny minority academics are conversant with feminist scholarship and great majority even do not know the word gender let alone use it as an analytical category in their scholarly work. Mala Khullar's paper once again made me see the uneven development of women's studies within this region. How has been *AJWS* dealing with this issue? This is my concern from my specific location, a concern not addressed in Mala Khullar's paper. I think including China in the map of women's studies in Asia will greatly help reduce your anxiety about the viability of the journal in competition.

Of course, including China entails a different challenge, the language. In order to make the *AJWS* known to the community of

feminist scholars in China, most of them do not read or write in English, we may need some innovative ways to overcome language barriers. For instance, is it possible to simultaneously publish a translated version of *AJWS*? Or at least, to publish the table of contents and abstracts of articles in Chinese? We have to do something to make the journal known to this generation of feminist scholars in China who cannot read English texts and they may recommend the journal to their students who mostly are able to read English. Women's and gender studies is an emerging field in China, that is to say, a pretty large market for feminist scholarship is on the rise. Sometimes I think while feminists critique and resist global capitalism, we should simultaneously learn from its entrepreneur skills and visions. Capitalists all over the world are dreaming of occupying the Chinese market, why do feminists have to be so shy and timid? If western feminists may understandably concern about the implication of cultural imperialism in such a scheme, what are Asian feminists are worrying about? Go for it. This is my suggestion to your questions concerning the future of the journal.

It is not just an issue of reaching a potentially large readership in China. Fundamentally it is an issue of how to address the problem of uneven development of feminist scholarship in Asia. Perhaps the goal of the *AJWS* should not only be creating a space for women's writings. Perhaps the *AJWS* can take a more assertive role of advocating and promoting feminist scholarship in the areas that still lack intellectual and material resources to develop such scholarship.

Beyond the region of Asia, the *AJWS* also has large space for development. Women's studies scholars in North America are making great efforts to globalize women's studies curricula there. It may be worth thinking about what kind of role the *AJWS* could play in this process, and in what ways the flow of feminist knowledge from east to west could be materialized and accelerated. In short, this regional feminist journal has its own special function and it has yet to fulfill some of its goals. It is a good time for us Asian feminists to work together to envision the next ten years for the journal.