

Abstract Special Issue of The Feminist & Scholar Online

The contributions in this special issue range from scholarly essays to interviews with activists from around the world, and plenty of examples of global LGBTQ “artivism”: from Mexico, Brazil, Spain, South Africa, Nigeria, China, Poland, India, the USA and more. Collectively, the scholars and activists in this special issue offer a promising picture of an invigorating transnational queer activist agenda. Their work encourages a multi-directional analysis of LGBT advocacy that embraces complex, multi-vocal, strategic, contingent, and affective activist practices. Through their work, we learn that local strategies of resignification, subaltern knowledge, humor, and critique are constantly deployed to counter neocolonial, homonational forces and the security archipelago, and we also learn that LGBT activists around the world consciously negotiate queer concepts and identities from the Global North in ad-hoc ways and blend them with local ones to survive oppressive regimes and to challenge “the bordering logics” (Chávez) that have carved out the world into “developed” and “underdeveloped” countries. None of our contributors fetishize false notions of autochthonous authenticity and much less of presentism, as most of them trace many global affective and intellectual exchanges that have almost never originated in the Global North and that, often, had important historical roots. The question of working with others across differences, of forging alliances—however contingent and fragile—permeates the contributions in this special issue on Thinking Queer Activism Transnationally: all of them suggest that, although politically pure actions may be nearly impossible, transnational activist collaboration is a key element of success for an effective, multi-vocal, multi-directional, coalitional LGBTQ activist agenda.

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