

*This issue of de genere comes at a somewhat momentous time for us – a sea-change of sorts – navigating through personal and collective odds, in the face of everyone’s changed, “pandemic” lives, and the re-organization of relations, communities, ways of living and working. There seems to be so much to unpack.*

*The issue confronts a wide corpus of travel writing by women, and as such emerges as an unwitting but poignant counterpoint to our suddenly warped pandemic space. It reminds us that journeys and trajectories are always in need of being problematized, thinking through our own limits. The reflections collected here span from the privileged gaze of the Grand Tour traveler, to the predicament of migration; the projection of white European fantasies of orientalism in travelogues and in their critical reception, and a “traveling South”, projecting structural inequalities onto the walls of one-way routes, re-writing journeys and, sometimes, epistemologies too. These gazes intersect each other in reading, as they intersected ours during the labour of love (but yes, also always a hideous progeny) that this issue represents.*

*Our own, personal journey was painfully deviated this year. We lost our mentor and friend, irreplaceable and exceptional scholar and feminist Lidia Curti. It is in her light and brilliant footsteps that we try to tread, often wondering, what would she think? What would she say? We are left to think for ourselves, yet not alone. We dedicate our work and this journal to Lidia, in the strength of connectedness and collectivity, of relations and networks that become maps, routes, journeys.*