
Summaries

► *Niels Spierings*

A new view on quantitative methods in feminist research

In this article I argue that as long as we think in (epistemological) positions, there will not be much room for quantitative research in the mainstream of gender studies, despite the additional value this research can have. I rephrase the discussion in terms of diversity and to judge research fairly, I present the concept of a 'diversity continuum'. This tool connects the opposites simplism and difference, and makes it possible to see whether research has increased the acknowledgement of relevant diversity or not. Such a gradual and relative approach shows that quantitative research can lead to better research. By discussing how standard quantitative techniques can be applied to do justice to diversity and by giving examples from existing studies, it is illustrated that the 'diversity continuum' is not just a theoretical idea, but also applicable to current research practices.

► *Gerrie Strik*

Beyond the resisting reader

Poetics of the vegetative soul in Hella Haasse

This article addresses the question how the materiality of imagination and literature can be used to expand the scope of feminist analyses of the work of Hella Haasse. Two related concepts in feminist theories of literature will be discussed: the concept of the subject that underlies the resisting *reader* and the concept that underlies a resisting *reading* (Fetterley, 1978; Meijer, 1988). Demands inspired by a resisting reading towards the oeuvre of Haasse, an author usually viewed as ambiguous in relation to feminist issues, often ignore the singularity of literature and the materiality of imagination.

The author in this article introduces the figuration of *the vegetative soul*: a plant like relationship between the creative mind and nature as the place from where it originates, without individual agency and lacking transparency to self as its reason for being. How can this 'vegetable' figuration, reread through the material epistemology of Gaston Bachelard and Gilles Deleuze provide an alternative for the well known 'resisting reader' and the presumed intentional subject of feminist literary theory of the nineties? The practice of resisting reading and the alternative of a material-semiotic reading will be demonstrated through a double reading strategy of *The Hidden Source* (1950) by Hella S. Haasse.

► *Iris van der Tuin*

Sexual and generational difference in the 21st century

New feminist materialism as a non-dualist feminist epistemology

This article discusses 'new feminist materialism'. The term new feminist materialism was introduced by Rosi Braidotti in the late 1990s. This contemporary feminist epistemology is interested in the way in which physical and bodily matter actively participates in processes of signification and knowledge production. As such, it responds to the linguistic paradigm in feminist theory. The article discusses new feminist materialist insights in the 'material-semiotic' and in 'naturecultures', which are Donna Haraway's terms. It also speaks about the generational politics of new feminist materialism. I argue that new feminist materialism is non-dualist in two ways. First, materiality and linguisticity are conceptualized as 'intra-active' (Karen Barad's term), and, second, the relation between contemporary feminist scholars and their foremothers is seen as affirmative. The article also shows how new feminist materialism can be seen as beneficial for the future of our disciplinary field.