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This issue of *Feminist Review* is concerned with drugs. Non-recreational drugs have a huge impact on women's lives, which tend to be more medicalized than men's, so that normal biological processes have come to be treated as medical problems requiring intervention or control. Emily Banks' account of the origins and contemporary use of hormonal therapy for the menopause, and Jane-Marie Maher's analysis of visual images of the foetus provide two fine examples of this phenomenon. Karen Throsby's article on the experiences of women undertaking in-vitro fertilization (IVF) treatment considers the personal and psychological aspects of medical treatments.

Women are prescribed far more medicines than men. The commonest prescription drugs in the world are hormonal medications, prescribed worldwide for population control, and in the West for management of the menopause. It is ironic, then, to discover that drug trials are most frequently conducted on male subjects, with women specifically excluded. Oonagh Corrigan explores the causes and effects of this androcentric bias in her article about the politics and ethics of clinical drug trials.

In the West, drugs are ubiquitous, and taken for granted, while in other parts of the world they are often difficult to obtain and prohibitively expensive. Johanna Hanefeld comments on the problems surrounding the availability of anti-retroviral drugs for the treatment of HIV in Africa, while the images from 'Pharmacopeia' engage with a culture saturated with prescription drugs. These prize-winning textiles, made out of surplus prescription drugs, are the result of a collaboration between a doctor and a sculptor, designed to educate and provoke.

This issue of *Feminist Review* employs different media (including fiction and poetry) and modes of thought to address many aspects of drug use. It also engages with epistemological and methodological questions, a concern which is extended into a non-medical, educational context in Louise Archer's article on race and gender. The issue does not attempt to be comprehensive; the focus is on medical contexts, though we hope that in the future the journal will include more articles on this theme (particularly on recreational drug use, and international contexts), as well as responses to what is published here.

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