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The late 1990s saw an explosion of protest against global capitalism. Women and men around the world took to the streets to resist the ill effects of globalization, while many of the world's most powerful political/financial institutions declared the processes of globalization to be unstoppable. Some commentators have argued that these processes constitute a major historical transition, from industrial capitalism to informational capitalism, and that this transition demands a paradigm shift in social and cultural analysis. This paradigm shift includes a new emphasis on global networks and flows (of people, objects, wealth, information, dangers); on 'time-space compression', in which new technologies allow such flows to occur across vast physical distances in seconds; on the reconfiguring of relations between the local, the national and the global; and on the new politics of (dis)enfranchisement in which inequality and exploitation are deployed as global strategies – and meet global resistances.

It has not always been clear, however, what role feminisms are playing in the politics of globalization. Political and sociological macro-analyses of globalization seem to have been left to male intellectuals who pay, at best, limited attention to feminist social and political thought. Thousands of women around the world, however, participate in anti-globalization movements. This issue of *Feminist Review* seeks to consider both the macro- and the micro-processes of globalization as they affect women's lives, and to make a distinctively feminist contribution to current debates over globalization.

If the term globalization has become omnipresent, it is both contested and controversial. In this issue all of the contributors bring new perspectives to the understanding of the processes invoked under the rubric 'globalization' including problematizing the term itself. Central to these interventions has been a restating of feminist analyses of postcolonial identities and positionalities, the question of gendered time, the refigurings of both public and private domains and their intersections with immigration and global citizenship, and the gendered and racialized economics of global privatization. If feminist insights have been eclipsed by the mainstream debate on the character of globalization, the events of 11 September have even further marginalized the issue of the positions occupied by women in the new global order. The immediate political realities of globalization illustrate how powerfully stereotypes can be mobilized by Western powers and how important feminist analyses and imaginations are in the political assaults on those hegemonies.

It is our hope that this issue will begin the process of locating feminist analyses at the centre of debates attempting to understand the new global order. The lives of women throughout the world are being refigured, often in the harshest ways, to sustain globalized capitalism: a deeper understanding of these processes is essential to all strategic resistances.

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