



## Gender, Race and the Material Culture

Guest Editor:

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### Message from the Guest Editor

Over the past two decades, researchers in rhetoric, literary studies, history, and cultural studies—fields that have traditionally focused almost exclusively on scripted or written texts—have turned increasingly to material culture to explore the significance of material artifacts and material strategies for ways of understanding history, culture, race, gender, sexuality, ableness, politics, economics, and literacy. Material culture encompasses a wide range of objects, from pottery shards to smart phones, that humans have a hand in making. Those who study material culture are interested in exploring how objects are designed, created, circulated, consumed, collected and/or repurposed. Objects, of course, are polysemic and multifunctional and can never be reduced to just one category, but each facet offers a starting point for understanding the role of everyday objects and their role in constituting and reflecting, as expressed by Kirkham and Attfield in the epigraph note, gender to which we must also add race.





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