

Preface

It's been ten years since this zine/book was put together and went out into the world. It's had a good few reprints, it's available as a pdf (threadsbook.org) and has reached and resonated with more people, and people across a wider geography than I could have ever imagined. A collective in Barcelona are also in the process of translating it into Spanish.

In these ten years conversation around feminist health and around gender and race have expanded in all kinds of ways. To some extent the possibility to share information has also increased with the exponential growth of the internet.

I'm grateful for the hard, often dangerous, work and emotional labour that's continued to be done by genderqueer, gender non-binary and trans people to broaden understandings of, and generate more possibilities for freedoms around our various embodied and gendered experiences. Threads always aimed to avoid essentialism (the idea that any particular biological anatomy or processes are conflated with any particular gender). It continues to speak to various gender identities inhabiting different bodies, even though the deconstruction of sex and gender and the quest for language that embraces that complexity, has increased in sophistication.

It feels important to acknowledge that over the past ten years I've also had increased access to conversation, thinking and resources about colonialism, processes of decolonisation and whiteness. I want to express gratitude for the way I've continued to be inspired by the legacy of general, and specifically reproductive/health justice activism and scholarship of people of colour.

Both these areas of expanded awareness would be represented differently were I to put Threads together now. Still, it stands as a gathering of different thoughts and ideas collated by one person at a given point in time. It hopes to be a part of continuing to generate dialogue about our diverse lived experiences, and the social justice/change that can be activated from complex, wide understandings. The original content remains the same, just with some edits and additions to the reading/resources section.

Thanks to everyone who has been in touch to give responses or share thoughts; all the collective exchange as part of making sense of our lived realities and mobilising for more well being and health (in the broadest sense of the word) has felt energising. I'd like to take this chance to thank everyone again who was involved in Threads coming together in the first place (see thanks list at the back). And additional thanks to Active/Stocitas for picking up the baton with a new cover design, reprinting and distro support.

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