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Editorial

As GST enters the third year of publication we are in the midst of a number of changes. UK government funding cuts mean that, from April this year, we will no longer be getting financial sponsorship from the UKRC. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Editorial Team and Board to thank the UKRC for their generous support to date. Of course we are pleased that the UKRC will carry on their excellent work in supporting gender equality in SET, but along with many other organisations that have benefited from financial support and will no longer be in receipt of funding, we will need to find new and creative ways to maintain our work through other resources. I am pleased to say that our plans are progressing well to these ends.

Another new development for the journal, is the creation of our interactive section [Engage](#), where we warmly invite you to contribute more informally to the global conversation that we have started between gender and SET experts.

We are also delighted to include for the first time a dedicated special issue as part of this edition of GST. The Women and Games Special Issue, edited by Marian Carr and Helen Kennedy, brings together an exciting collection of papers that explore the growing field of gender in computer games, bringing a gender analysis to this particular area of SET. As many of our previous authors have noted, one of the key discourses in discussions about girls and computing careers (and by association often other STEM areas of the curriculum), the familiarity and ease with which boys engage with high level IT is often seen to be associated with crucial experience of computer gaming during teenage years. In this collection of papers, however, we see a range of perspectives that go further than such simplistic analyses, and present new insights. [Carr and Kennedy's editorial](#) piece highlights the contributions of the authors in this special issue.

In addition to the Women in Games Special Issue, we have an impressive group of papers in our regular sections of the journal.



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The first two papers focus on identity questions. In [She's Geeky](#), Rhiannon Bury analyses interview data from women who identify as geeks to dispel some myths about technical identities. She found they had undergone a complex negotiation of normative masculine and feminine identities, a process that had both challenged and reinforced gender norms. The female geek in her view needs to be understood as a hybridised feminine identity. Linda Vigdor's paper [A Techno-Passion that is Not One](#) also examines identity issues, this time for women engaged in technology mediated artistic production. Her exploration of techno-passion offers an alternative to prevailing discourses that say women and girls are simply not interested in computers. Artists, she argues, occupy the margins and therefore have different and individualised technological agencies, which open up new possibilities for understanding the gender-technology relationship.

Another discourse that appears regularly in debates about women and SET is that of single sex schooling, which although contested, has been attributed by some as enabling women to enter and succeed in SET and in science in particular. However there is little robust evidence that this is actually the case. [Glasser's paper](#) reviews the research in this area and responds to the growing trend towards single sex classes in the US. Unlike previous work in this area, Glasser looks at both boys and girls in single sex classes and examines how argumentation, an important skill in a scientific career, is supported and fostered for boys but not girls in single sex classrooms.

Such claims for single sex groupings are often based on spurious evidence of biological sex differences, an issue that is tackled by Cordelia Fine in her book *Delusions of Gender*. The book, which stirred up considerable controversy when it was first published last year, is [reviewed here by Gabrielle Ivinson](#) who offers a detailed overview of Fine's critique of popularised neuroscience and her challenges to establishment researchers and writers.

School experiences are also addressed in Denner's paper [What predicts Middle School Girls Interest in Computing?](#) Denner contends that expectancy of success is not enough to explain interest in computing. Denner offers technological curiosity as an alternative framework for analysing the interests and choices of 11-13 year old girls, drawing on data from work with Latina girls in California.

Sharon Bell's perspectives piece in our last issue gave an important insight into horizontal and vertical occupational segregation of SET women in higher education and research in Australia. In this issue [she reviews a report from the U.S. National Research Council of the National Academies](#) that examines career progression among STEM academics. Bell highlights that whilst the report may appear to offer some room for optimism, the reader should be cautious of the report's "perhaps premature and at times, if not carefully contextualized, quite misleading, conclusions" (p.103).

The report reviewed by Bell focuses on academic hiring, organisational culture and tenure and promotions. Getting more women into high level decision making positions is also addressed in [Morton and Tobbell's case study](#), which describes a mentoring project carried out by the UKRC. The aim of the project was to support women to join public bodies concerned with SET in the UK.

Kathleen Gerson's book, *The Unfinished Revolution* [reviewed here by Yuling Huang](#) deals with the thorny issue of work-life balance. This issue is examined by Gerson via in depth interviews with adult children of working parents, who she calls the 'children of the gender revolution'.

Finally, [Prescott's review](#) of Cindy Royal's book *Gendered Spaces and Digital Discourse* examines gendered discourses of women's Internet spaces, focusing on websites targeted at women. Many of these are based on a women's magazine format and the author concludes that if women do not become more involved in online representations they will be subjected to the representations of women similar to those in print publications – something which we hope we are in some small way able to address through the work of this journal.

*Clem Herman, on behalf of the editorial team: Jennifer Carr, Elizabeth Whitelegg, Helen Donelan, Barbara Hodgson and Gill Kirkup.
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