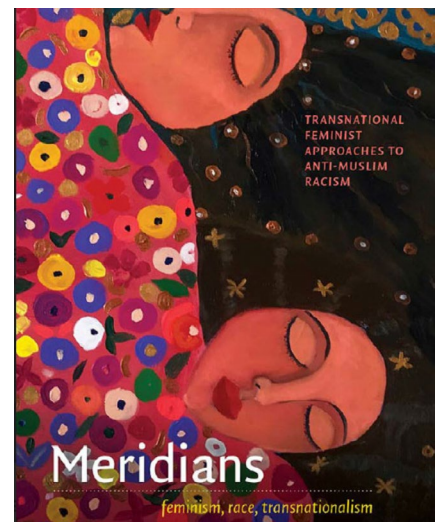
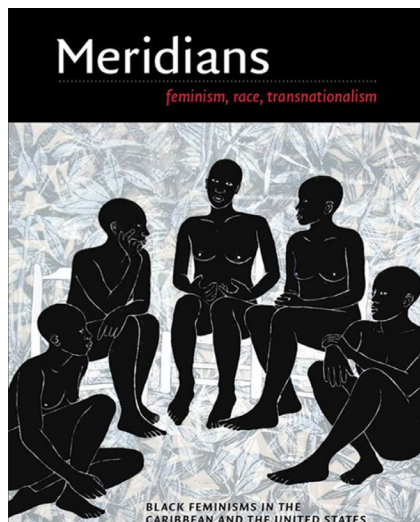
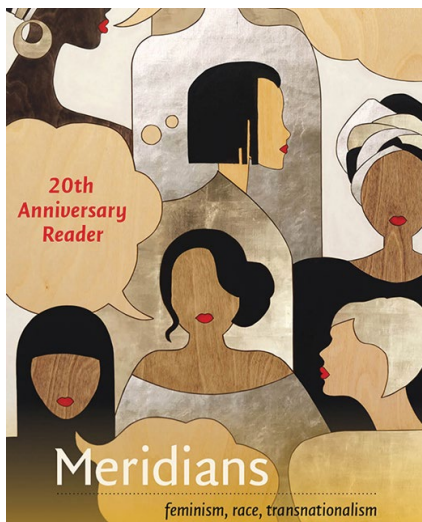
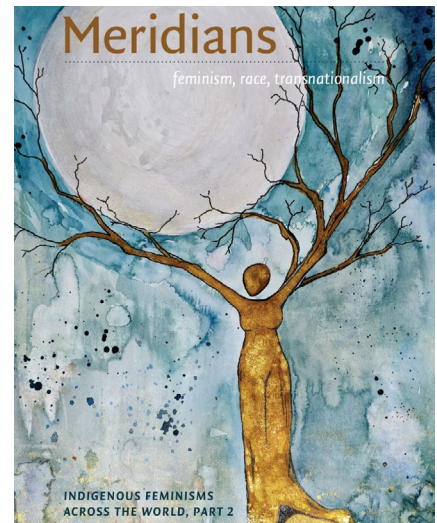
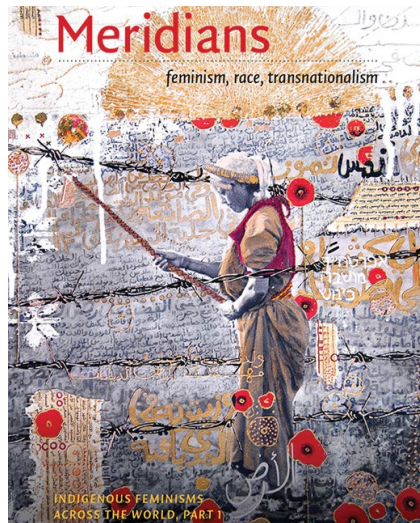
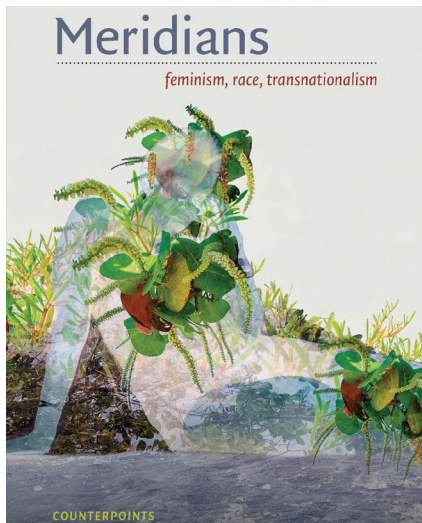


# SMITH COLLEGE



## *Meridians*: One of Smith's Intellectual Treasures

Journal Founded at Smith Has Amplified  
the Voices of Women of Color for 25 Years



# Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism

*Meridians* was established in 2000 to elevate boundary-breaking scholarship and art by women of color. The journal’s unique transnational framework has since placed Smith at the center of a dynamic global community of feminist thinkers and activists. Endowing this intellectual treasure will protect its focus on women of color, energize its community-building and outreach, and sustain its ability to publish exceptional academic and creative work for another 25 years—and beyond.



“For far too long, generations of students and scholars were unaware of the stories and intellectual contributions of women of color. *Meridians* has changed that, making these part of the academic discourse.”

—Sarah Willie-LeBreton, Smith College president

## A Global Community, Centered at Smith

*Meridians* was founded by an interdisciplinary group of Smith professors under the leadership of President Emerita Ruth J. Simmons with the help of advisors including Angela Davis, Wilma Mankiller, and Toni Morrison. Their goal was to center women of color in the history, definition, and practice of feminism across the globe.

Today, *Meridians* is a highly regarded journal published by Duke University Press and edited by Smith alum and Professor of Sociology Ginetta E.B. Candelario '90. Its twice-yearly issues showcase art, poetry, memoir, and award-winning multimedia content as well as widely cited academic scholarship.

### MERIDIANS ENGAGES SMITH STUDENTS THROUGH:

- Internships and work-study positions
- Interactions with visiting authors
- Arts workshops and student-curated exhibits
- Faculty mentoring
- Coursework on the intersectionality of gender, race, and ethnicity

*Meridians*’ greatest point of pride is the vibrant intellectual community it has fostered through its work—a community that embraces Smith faculty and involves students in every aspect of the publishing process. Students have also lent their digital expertise to improve the journal’s accessibility: They run its social media channels; created an online, searchable catalogue of all *Meridians* content; and designed the journal’s new website.

“It is incredibly important to have *Meridians* at Smith, where it has played a powerful role in giving women of color scholars a voice and building a global community in support of those voices... Based right on campus, *Meridians* encourages Smithies to engage directly with its work as interns and through the journal’s activities. After 25 years of breakthroughs, *Meridians* is ready to do much more.”

—Daphne Lamothe, Smith provost, *Meridians* board member



# Points of Pride and Promise

## EXCELLENCE

- *Meridians* is the world’s only feminist journal with an intersectional framework of race and ethnicity adhering to the **highest standard of scholarly evaluation**.
- “On the Line,” *Meridians*’ multimedia complement to its print offerings, **won the Best Digital Feature award** from the Council of Editors of Learned Journals.
- The journal currently **accepts only 6% of all submissions**, and is forced to reject publishable scholarship due to resource constraints.

The journal would be able to publish a third yearly issue with increased funding.

## ACCESS

- *Meridians* **content has been downloaded** in all 50 states and Puerto Rico; in all 10 Canadian provinces; and in **45 countries**, including China and Iran.
- Its most cited essays, activist reports, and poetry have been collected in a 555-page **Twentieth Anniversary Reader anthology for use in classrooms around the world**.

Additional resources would enable *Meridians* to become more globally accessible and facilitate outreach to activists and scholars in developing nations.

## COMMUNITY

- The journal’s Transnational Advisory Board has **expanded its sphere of influence and outreach**, while guest-edited issues and co-produced conference panels have **solidified ties with journals** like Ghana-based *Feminist Africa* and professional organizations in countries such as Switzerland and Morocco.

With new funding, *Meridians* would enhance its “On the Line” digital component with multilingual features aimed at priority regions of global feminist activism.

## ADVANCEMENT

- Longitudinal studies show an **18% increase in the number of full professors among contributors** since they were published in *Meridians*—a meaningful statistic for scholars who are starkly underrepresented at the full professor level.
- *Meridians* propels careers by offering **competitive annual awards**, including the influential Elizabeth Alexander Creative Writing Award.

The journal would apply additional support toward artists’ residencies for winners of the Elizabeth Alexander Prize.

## “ON THE LINE”



Recordings, videos, and other digital offerings enrich each issue.



## FULL-TIME WOMEN COLLEGE FACULTY IN THE U.S.

- 6% Asian or Pacific Islander
- 4% Black
- 3% Hispanic
- 1% American Indian/Alaska Native

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

# Why Your Support Is Needed

From its inception, *Meridians* has been supported by grants and discretionary funds allocated by the President's office, the Provost's office, and the Study of Women and Gender Program. **Without a consistent funding source, the journal has struggled to plan securely for the future.**

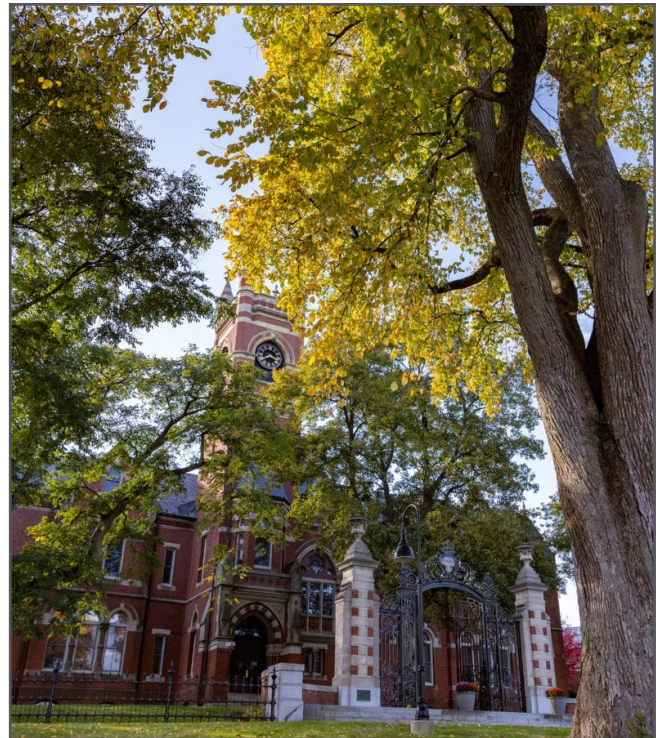
To mark *Meridians*' 25th anniversary and preserve Smith's place at the center of this global network, we are seeking gifts toward a \$2.5 million endowment goal.

An anonymous donor from the class of '86 has led the way with a foundational gift of \$1 million.

“I come from a culture where women's voices are marginalized and often entirely unheard. Being able to center the experience of women, and women of color in particular, is an exciting opportunity to change the discourse of how higher ed is taught, how it works, and who advances. Because *Meridians* is created by and for people who have lived the experience, the voices carry tremendous authenticity. They are determining how they are heard.”

—Lead anonymous donor, '86

In line with the collective, inclusive spirit of the journal itself, we invite alums to join in this effort with a contribution of any amount. **Your gift will help *Meridians* publish additional high-quality scholarship, advance the careers of exceptional scholars, transmit insights and best practices to the front lines of feminism, and nurture a global community of women—all from the heart of Smith's campus.**



“We're creating a conversation of intellectuals, an international community with a shared focus on feminism and activism, which expands the pipeline of women of color scholars and supports women in shifting the ways in which academic communities envision social justice.”

—Ginetta E.B. Candelario '90, *Meridians* editor and professor, sociology and LALS

# SMITH COLLEGE

April 2025

To learn more and make a gift, contact:  
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413-585-2672, [mswexler@smith.edu](mailto:mswexler@smith.edu)