

## [Speaking Margins, Talking Mainstream: Strategies of Inclusivity in Popular Culture](#)

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Call for Publications

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Subject Fields:

Popular Culture Studies, Women's & Gender History / Studies, African American History / Studies, American History / Studies, Sexuality Studies

### **Speaking Margins, Talking Mainstream: Strategies of Inclusivity in Popular Culture**

*There has been an awakening. Have you felt it?*  
Supreme Leader Snoke

The opening lines of the 2014 teaser for *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* were followed by the first unmasking of a black stormtrooper which became a subject of immediate controversy for a certain group of fans, some of whom also voiced objections against a strong female lead in the sequel trilogy. And yet with the success of *Captain Marvel*, Steve Rogers passing his shield to Sam Wilson, Natalie Portman soon to portray Thor (not a “female Thor” - Thor) and with the inclusion of LGBTQI characters in major narratives across all media, a change can definitely be felt.

*Kultura popularna* seeks articles critically addressing what could arguably be termed as the inclusive turn taking place in the 21st century mass and popular culture, and the various forms of backlash against the shift. We invite discussions of particular textual and discursive formulations as well as analyses of broader cultural practices. Contributors are encouraged to examine intra- and cross-cultural dynamics, and while the focus of the issue remains on the recent developments, historical perspectives tracing back specific current tensions are also welcome. The issue is open to inter- and transdisciplinary investigations addressing, but not limited to the topics below:

- emergence and role of non-normative protagonists in popular/superhero narratives
- manifestations of the fourth wave feminisms and the #metoo movement
- theorizing intersectionality in the 21st century
- new racial discourses and popular culture
- inclusivity in/and culture industries
- market value of inclusivity
- repetition with a difference: reboots, returns and adaptations
- rejects and abjects as the agents of change
- posthuman narratives and territories

- technology as a vehicle of inclusion
- non-normative voices and embodiments in the mainstream
- new strategies of normative violence
- backlash against demarginalization
- sex and the mainstream

Deadline for sending articles: **28 February 2020.**

Reviews of recent academic works relevant to the scope of the CfP will also be considered for publication.

Texts should be sent to [kulturapopularna@gmail.com](mailto:kulturapopularna@gmail.com). Submissions (25 000-30 000 characters for articles, 2000-4000 characters for reviews) should be accompanied by a short biography of the author (3-4 sentences). Article submissions should additionally include an abstract (ca 200 words) and 5-7 keywords. Please limit the footnotes to a minimum and, if necessary, use endnotes instead. Otherwise, follow the 8th ed. MLA stylesheet. Submitted articles should not have been published previously, nor be under consideration for publication elsewhere. Selected articles will be published in the 4/2019 issue of the journal.

*Kultura popularna* [Popular Culture] is a peer reviewed quarterly published since 2002 by the SWPS University in Warsaw. Since 2012 all articles have been available in open access.

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