

# ***Call for Papers***

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There are many kinds of power, used and unused, acknowledged or otherwise. The erotic is a resource within each of us that lies in a deeply female and spiritual plane, firmly rooted in the power of our unexpressed or unrecognized feeling.

Audrey Lorde

Audre Lorde's seminal essay "Uses of the Erotic: The Erotic as Power" is a powerful and radical intervention in feminist, queer and decolonial thought. The erotic, as described by Lorde is a subliminal power, possessed by every woman, that is a source of joy and satisfaction, that is beyond the carnal. It is therefore, deeply spiritual and anchored in "the power of our unexpressed or unrecognized feeling". This potent source of power and knowledge in female lives, is also perceived as a threat by the white supremacist patriarchal society. Hence the suppression of the erotic through its vilification and devaluation is a task constantly engaged in by the phallocentric society. Women have been taught to mistrust and suppress this source of power within, while the superficially erotic is encouraged and thrust upon them to showcase their inferiority. Audre Lorde reclaims the erotic from the narrow and reductive confines of the pornographic, by revealing it as something which is deeply spiritual, empowering and life-affirming force for all women.

The erotic is thus a profound source of creative energy, spiritual insights and political resistance.

It is not just Audre Lorde who has engaged in discourses on the erotic. Lyotard observes that desires are not just the end-product of human psyche but is also shaped by the socio-political structures of a society. He calls desires as “libidinal intensities” that are powerful and hidden deep within the human psyche and drives human behaviour and social structures. Georges Batallie views eroticism as something that is beyond the human flesh and physical pleasure, connecting it to concepts like transgressions, death and the sacred. The erotic is thus a realm of transgressions where in power structures and hierarchies are challenged. The erotic, according to Audre Lorde, is “a measure between the beginnings of our sense of self and the chaos of our strongest feelings.” However, this idea of the erotic has often been misconstrued and sometimes oversimplified to represent sexual or physical pleasure. This misinterpretation completely overlooks the creative, radical and spiritual potential that Lorde associates with the erotic. In a world structured by domination and disconnection, Lorde’s erotic emerges as a form of embodied knowledge—deep, intuitive, and revolutionary.

This call invites papers to engage with Audre Lorde’s concept of the erotic as power through interdisciplinary, intersectional and critical lenses. The aim is to pry open the multitude of possibilities and meanings that remain suppressed in today’s resurgent misogyny, political repression and the ongoing struggles for bodily autonomy. The task is to find out what it means to live erotically —as an act of resistance, healing, and connection; and, how might reclaiming the erotic open up new possibilities for feminist, queer, and collective futures.

We invite submissions that may address (but are not limited to) the following themes:

- Theoretical engagements with Lorde's notion of the erotic.
- Erotic knowledge and embodied epistemologies
- Black feminist and queer readings of the erotic
- The erotic in art, performance, cinema, literature, and activism.
- Reclaiming pleasure, desire, and intimacy in decolonial and anti-capitalist frameworks.
- The erotic and spirituality, healing, or collective care
- Pleasure politics and the ethics of desire
- Black feminist frameworks of the erotic
- Queer intimacies and affective resistance

Original and unpublished articles should be in MS Word, double spaced throughout (i.e., including references and quotations). They should not exceed 5,000 words including a brief abstract and keywords. Articles that are not adhering to the latest MLA format will not be considered . The printing charges of the upcoming volume will be collected from the authors of the selected articles. The complete article along with the author details (attached separately as content in the mail) should be send to: [Littscape.english@gvc.ac.in](mailto:Littscape.english@gvc.ac.in)

**Deadline for Submission of full articles : 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025**