

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

For the last four years, I have been receiving puzzling responses from *IJMES* to my submissions. My article on the presentation of women in the works of the Israeli author, Pinhas Sadeh, was held up for over two years, and I never received as much as a rejection letter. When I expressed my concerns to the present editor of *IJMES*, I found out that the journal had technical difficulties and that it is in fact interested in publishing research on Israeli fiction as well as on feminist readings. I therefore sent *IJMES* another article (the first one has already been published elsewhere), entitled “Amos Oz’s Gyniconologies and the Symbolization of National Otherness.” After two queries, and seven months, I informed the editor that I was beginning to offer the article to the consideration of other journals. This is common practice in most scholarly journals, and I do not know why the response I received was that my essay could no longer be considered for publication by *IJMES*.

Every scholarly journal has different policies and it is quite possible that *IJMES* experienced some technical difficulties. The present editor did tell me at one point that it was difficult to find readers for my essay. But if this is the case, this means that my essays are dealing with new fields of knowledge that might contribute something to the enlightenment of *IJMES*’ readership. If referees are hard to find, this means that the journal ought to have doubled its efforts in recruiting new readers, rather than ignoring unconventional and potentially important work.

At stake is more than a writer’s concern about the publication of her piece. I am writing this letter because more important issues might be at stake here. Four years is a long period of time by any standards. I think that the readers of *IJMES* must be made aware of the situation, and its possible implications about the competence and qualifications of *IJMES* referees, and its publication policies.

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EDITOR’S NOTE: Professor Fuchs and I do not share the same perspective on either the chronological or scholarly details of the evaluation of her manuscript, although once she decided to submit it to other journals the question of evaluation by *IJMES* became moot.