
----- Forwarded message -----

מאת: **Cultural Critique** <cultcrit@umn.edu>

Date: 17:49 ב-26 במאי 2024,

Subject: Re: Submission: Generative AI and Drag

To: Gai Farchi <gaifarchi91@gmail.com>

Dear Dr. Farchi,

Thank you for your email. We understand your concern, and we can assure you that the reason we are not considering your submission has nothing to do either with your Israeli nationality or with your having earned your PhD at an Israeli institution, neither of which we were aware of, and both of which we are learning now from your email: neither nationality nor provenance of academic degrees ever play a role in our journal's review process. Your submission was not considered solely on the basis of your current work at and affiliation with Israeli academic institutions.

While your bio paragraph does not note any affiliation with Israeli universities, we are not able to verify the credentials listed therein: specifically, we are not able to find any record online of your postdoctoral appointment at Potsdam University. Additionally, we noticed that you listed Tel Aviv University and Belazel Academy of Arts and Design on your Academia.edu page (which we notice you have since amended, but see screenshot below):



Gai Farchi

New York University, Department of French Literature,
Thought, and Culture, Post-Doc

Tel Aviv University, Literature, Teaching Fellow

Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, History & Theory
Dept., Teaching Fellow

We also found records of your teaching fellowships listed independently by both [Tel Aviv University](#) and [Belazel Academy of Arts and Design](#).

Could you please verify the institutions where you work and with which you are affiliated at present? Should the information we found online be incorrect, and should you in fact not be currently employed at any Israeli academic institution, we would be glad, of course, to consider your submission. Thank you.

Best,

Alya Ansari
Devon Moore
Assistant Editors

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On Fri, May 24, 2024 at 4:04 PM Gai Farchi <gaifarchi91@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Cultural Critique Editorial Team,

I am shocked and disappointed by your decision to reject my proposed article manuscript based on “the journal's commitment to BDS guidelines”. This decision crosses a dangerous line, particularly because, as my bio paragraph made clear, I am not affiliated at the moment with any Israeli institution (if we follow the BDS guidelines). This means that I am being discriminated against for being of Israeli nationality—for being born in Israel and completing my PhD at an Israeli institution. Under the recent cultural atmosphere, I fear that even the BDS principles were dangerously breached by your action.

As scholars, we are acutely aware of the complex relationships we have with our countries and their histories, a sentiment that applies equally to those from the United States, Europe, and beyond. By rejecting my manuscript solely on the basis of my Israeli origin, you are effectively associating me with the actions of my government, a stance that clearly violates the very BDS guidelines you claim to uphold. Censoring Israeli academics does not serve to discourage the Israeli government; on the contrary, it stifles the voices of those who criticize it. While I am ambivalent towards any immediate attempt to conflate anti-Zionism with antisemitism, the decision to discriminate against individuals, beyond being simply illegal, is a troubling step in that direction.

Finally, I ask you to take a moment to consider the ramifications of this decision on a collegial and personal level. Consider what it means for a scholar, who struggles under the impossible Israeli reality, resisting the government and fighting to bring it down, to receive such a rejection from their colleagues who share similar values.

Gai Farchi

:<cultcrit@umn.edu> Cultural Critique בתאריך יום ו', 24 במאי 2024 ב-20:20 מאת

Dear Gai Farchi,

We regret to inform you that we cannot consider your submission for publication due to the journal's commitment to BDS guidelines, which include "withdrawing support from Israel's...cultural and academic institutions." (See <https://bdsmovement.net/what-is-bds>). We thank you for submitting your work to *Cultural Critique*, and we hope for better times.

Sincerely,

Cesare Casarino
Frieda Ekotto
Maggie Hennefeld
John Mowitt
Simona Sawhney
Editors

Alya Ansari
Devon Moore
Assistant Editors

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On Mon, Apr 15, 2024 at 1:50AM Cultural Critique <cultcrit@umn.edu> wrote:

Dear Gai Farchi,

Thank you for your submission to *Cultural Critique*.

We will do our best to expedite our review of your submission, but please allow a **minimum of four months** for editorial consideration.

While it is not required, if your submission did not include an abstract and/or keywords, we encourage you to consider sending these materials along as addenda to your original submission. They can be extremely useful in securing appropriate readers in a timely fashion.

Please be advised that, should your piece be accepted for publication, it will take **at least one year** from the time of acceptance for it to appear in print.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

We look forward to future correspondence about your submission.

Best,
Alya

Alya Ansari
Devon Moore
Assistant Editors

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On Sun, Apr 14, 2024 at 7:33 PM Gai Farchi <gaifarchi91@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Cultural Critique Editors,

I hope this email finds you well. Please find attached the submission of my article titled "Nirvana Realness: Generative AI and Drag". I would greatly appreciate your review of this article, which seems to align with the journal's core interests.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

Gai Farchi