

# Gated Spaces, Commodity Cultures and the Politics of Gender

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## **Abstract**

This ethnographically derived discussion focuses on new urban spaces such as gated residential communities, shopping malls and religious theme parks in order to locate contemporary relationships between gender and consumption. It explores the ways in which the disquieting figure of the 'consuming woman' is positioned within new arrangements of residence, leisure and consumption. The discussion is organized around the idea of 'moral consumption' and 'retractable modernity'. These terms are used to suggest the ways in which consumerism is the grounds for both an anxiety about gender as well the 'solution' to questions of women's (and men's) identity in a time of rapid social and economic transformations.