



**SPECIAL POINTS
OF INTEREST:**

- Global / Transnational Feminisms Lecture Series
- Faculty Spotlight: on Mona Lena Krook
- Those Amazing Graduates of 2010!
- Beverly Guy-Sheftall comes to Washington University

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Gender Spectrum: News from

Washington University's

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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A Word from Our Director



Mary Ann Dzuback

According to Ellen Gruenbaum, the WGSS Global/Transnational Feminisms and Gender lecturer in September, female genital cutting has economic, as well as cultural, social, and physical consequences for women and their families. Gruenbaum, a medical anthropologist at Purdue University, has studied female circumcision in Sudan and Sierra Leone, the international movement to eradicate this cultural practice, and local responses to this movement. Because in many poor, rural areas of Sudan marriage and childbearing are women's most viable means of gaining economic support, refusing to participate in circumcision can condemn a woman to a life of poverty and ostracism. In addition, men with substantially greater economic power than women are more likely to practice polygamy, which in turn decreases each wife's power within the family. This power dynamic raises the likelihood that a circumcised wife who can provide greater sexual pleasure for her husband will deter him from seeking multiple wives. But those are not the only reasons women and/or their families may choose circumcision; the practice itself enables young women to join the community

of women in many villages. Women themselves are often the staunchest supporters of female genital cutting. Understanding those issues is crucial for reformers who are trying to achieve change in this cultural practice in Sudan and elsewhere in Africa. At the same time, the efforts that have been most successful in reducing the extent of cutting or abolishing it altogether have often come from within local societies and efforts to educate midwives, men, and women about the damage of extensive genital mutilation and its impact on women's health, childbearing capacity, and income producing prospects.

Professor Gruenbaum has published numerous articles and reports on the practice; her book, *The Female Circumcision Controversy*, is the definitive study of both the practice and efforts to eradicate it. She has served as a consultant for UNICEF and CARE. As she told us at her lecture, through her extensive fieldwork she has come to understand that listening and observing, creating spaces for conversation about the cultural *contexts* of the practice, goes farther toward achieving more hygienic, less radical female circumcision and even eradicating the practice in some local areas. Professor Gruenbaum's lecture is an example of the best the Global/Transnational Feminisms and Gender Lecture Series can offer the Washington University campus. The series focuses this year on economic issues as they pertain to gender and health, education, security, and economic participation. Diana Strassman, editor of *Feminist Economics*, will be speaking in November, and Pamela Jakiela of Washington University's economics department will be speaking in February.

Among the other exciting activities and events in the WGSS Program this fall, we are conducting a search for a senior scholar of race and gender who will be housed in the Program. In addition, Distinguished Visiting Scholar Beverly Guy-Sheftall was on campus for two days in late October to give a talk, meet with faculty, and offer a workshop to Graduate Certificate Students. Her lecture on "Black Feminisms" drew over 130 listeners. And Rebecca Wanzo, Associate Professor of Women's Studies and English at Ohio State University, is a resident scholar for the fall semester; she has participated in the Colloquium Series and is visiting a number of classes while she is here working on her second book, *The Melancholic Patriot*, which examines representations of African American citizenship in comic art.



Ellen Gruenbaum, September 9, 2010

Home-Based Course Offerings

Fall 2010

L77 100B	Intro to Women and Gender Studies
L77 105	Intro to Sexuality Studies
L77 205	Intro to GLBT Studies
L77 214C	Intro to Women's Texts
L77 3041	Making Sex and Gender: Understanding the History of the Body
L77 308	Masculinities
L77 3172	Queer Histories
L77 329	Psychology of Women
L77 335	Feminist Theory
L77 337	Before Thelma and Louise: American Women's Adventure Stories
L77 3401	Performing Gender
L77 343	Understanding the Evidence: Provocative Topics of Contemporary Women's Health & Reproduction
L77 3461	Hooking Up: Healthy Exploration or Harmful Exploitation?
L77 392	Feminist Research Methods
L77 402	Transnational Reproductive Health
L77 501	Advanced Feminist Theory



Spring 2011

L77 100B	Intro to Women and Gender Studies
L77 105	Intro to Sexuality Studies
L77 214C	Intro to Women's Texts
L77 303	Gender and Education
L77 308	Masculinities
L77 316	Contemporary Women's Health
L77 3206	Global Gender Issues
L77 3561	Women and the Law
L77 357B	Gender & Politics in Global Perspective
L77 360	Transgender Studies
L77 370	Service Learning: Sex, Lies, & Myths of the Mother
L77 3661	Sexuality, Courtship and Marriage in U.S. History
L77 380	Biomedicalization: Life Under Medical Authority
L77 384	Gender & Consumer Culture in U.S. Fiction of the Late 19th & Early 20th Century
L77 393	Violence Against Women: Current Issues and Responses
L77 3942	Service Learning: Projects in Domestic Violence
L77 3943	Violence Against Women Service Learning Seminar
L77 402	Transnational Reproductive Health
L77 404	Regulating Sex: Historical and Cultural Encounters
L77 406	Queering Theory: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach
L77 419	Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory

Global and Transnational Feminisms Lecture Series

Ellen Gruenbaum, PhD

Department of Anthropology
Purdue University

**"Secrets, Fear, Honor, and Outrage:
Resistance to the Global Feminist Movement Efforts
to Abolish Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting
in Sierra Leone and Sudan"**

Thursday, September 9, 2010 4 p.m. McMillan Café

Diana Strassmann, PhD

School of Humanities,
Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality
Chao Center for Asian Studies
Rice University

**"Gender and Well-Being in Transnational Economies:
Insights from Feminist Economics"**

Thursday, November 30, 2010 4:30 p.m. McMillan Café

Pamela Jakiela, PhD

Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
Washington University

**"Does Africa Need a Rotten Kin Theorem?
Experimental Evidence from Village Economies"**

Tuesday, February 2, 2011 4:00 p.m. McMillan Café

Faculty Spotlight: Mona Lena Krook



Mona Lena Krook

Since World War II, more than one hundred countries have employed gender quotas in selecting candidates for political office, yet only recently has this international trend become a topic of scholarship. The Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program is lucky to count among its faculty Dr. Mona Lena Krook, one of the leading experts on the subject. After receiving her PhD from Columbia University in 2005, Dr. Krook came to Washington University in St. Louis with a joint appointment to the WGSS program and the Political Science department.

Dr. Krook first became interested in studying the importance of gender in candidate selection processes as an

undergraduate. Interested in the large number of female officeholders in Scandinavia, she embarked on a line of inquiry that has culminated in the publication of her first book, *Quotas for Women in Politics: Gender and Candidate Selection Reform Worldwide* (Oxford University Press, 2009), which received the American Political Science Association's 2010 Victoria Schuck Award for the best book on women and politics the year it was published. Mona's second book, *Women, Gender, and Politics: A Reader*, which was co-edited with Sara Childs, was published by Oxford University Press in 2010. And she has published almost two-dozen peer-reviewed articles on gender and political representation. Her ongoing research has been recognized by the National Science Foundation, which awarded her the Faculty Early Career Development Award for "Gender Quotas and Women's Political Participation," 2010-2015 (\$635,244).

Underpinning her scholarly productivity is a commitment to principles of justice and democratic fairness. In Dr. Krook's view, women's proportionate representation in political office ensures a diversity of perspectives in political decision-making processes. It also, she says, encourages a greater interest in politics by non-office-holding women.

Faculty News Briefs

Amy Eisen Cislo will be presenting on "Teaching Transgender" at the National Women's Studies Association Conference in November 2010. Amy's book, *Paracelsus's Theory of Embodiment: Conception and Gestation in Early Modern Europe*, was published in 2010.

Beth Fisher will be teaching a new writing-intensive course in WGSS (and cross-listed in English): Gender & Consumer Culture in U.S. Fiction of the Late 19th and Early 20th Century (L77 384) in Spring 2011. The class will read novels by Henry James, Edith Wharton, Nella Larsen, and Theodore Dreiser, plus some short stories. If anyone has advisees who like to read novels, would like to work on their writing, and are interested in this period and the intersection of gender and consumer culture, please encourage them to register.

Andrea Friedman is expanding her teaching in GLBT issues and offered a new course, "Queer Histories," this fall.

Linda Nicholson will be a fellow in The Humanities Center at Washington University in Spring 2011. She will also be working on expanding the article "Identity After Identity Politics" into a book length manuscript.

Kim Schreck received the Mary Neth Prize in April 2010, an award presented biennially by the Missouri Historical Society for the best article published on a topic of women or gender in the *Missouri Historical Review*. The article is entitled: "The Patriarch, His 'Wives,' His 'Slaves,' and His 'Children': Contested Wills in the Case of *Keen v. Keen*." She will be revising this essay for a workshop on "Marriage, Domesticity, and Class" for the Berkshires Conference for Historians of Women to be held June 9-12, 2011 in Amherst, MA.

Student Updates: Graduate Certificate Program

Alejandra Aguilar earned her MA in Spanish at Washington University in 2008 and is now pursuing her PhD. Her academic and research interests include nineteenth-century Brazil, Cuba, and Colombia. For the past year she has studied racial representations and the cultural contribution of Afro-Latin-American subjects and communities to the development of several different nationalisms on the continent.

Patrick Brugh, recently married and officially ABD as of May, presented a paper on "Women Warriors in Seventeenth Century German Novels" at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in October. He is currently working on the first chapter of his dissertation, "A Cultural History of Gunpowder," which he will present at the MLA in January. He teaches Intro to Women's Texts this Fall; he will teach Masculinities in WGSS in the Spring.

Diana Z. O'Brien was recently awarded a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant for her thesis, "When Women Matter: Linking Women's Descriptive and Substantive Representation." Using a mixed methods approach, the project develops and tests theoretical expectations concerning when and why increasing women's presence in national assemblies leads to greater attention to women's issues on the political agenda.

Norma Suvak is currently applying for grants and will be spending next year in Germany researching female masculinities in 1920s Germany. Last spring she received the Dean's Award for Teaching Excellence for her work in WGSS. She is currently teaching Intro to Women and Gender Studies.

Nancy Twilley is finishing her dissertation "Reading Gender in 19th Century German Children's Literature." She is also presenting a paper at the UCLA Queer Studies Conference in early October on community and cooperation between homosexual women and men who dressed or lived as women in Weimar Germany.

Kevin Wooten will earn his master's degree in history in late October, at which time he will become ABD. He is currently beginning work on his dissertation about the culture of the gay liberation movement, provisionally titled "Refugees from Amerika': Gay Liberation in United States, 1966-1978."

Yunjing Xu, a PhD student in the Chinese and Comparative Literature programs, is studying the relationship between Christianity and Chinese literature and culture in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. She is currently investigating the role of Catholic missionaries in discussions of male friendship in late imperial China.



Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Colloquium Series Fall 2010

September 16, 2010

Rebecca Wanzo, Associate Professor of Women's Studies and English
Ohio State University & Visiting Scholar in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

"It's a Hero?: Graphic Storytelling, Race, and Satirizing Subjectation"

Commentator: Gerald Early, The Merle Kling Professor of Modern Letters

Professor of English and African and African American Studies and Director of the Humanities Center

September 30, 2010

Marc Spindelman, Professor of Law
Moritz College of Law, Ohio State University

"Sexual Freedom's Shadows"

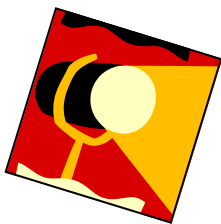
Commentator, Susan Stiritz, Senior Lecturer, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

November 4, 2010

Fatemeh Keshavarz, Professor of Persian and Comparative Literature
Chair of the Department of Asian and Near Eastern Languages and Literature, Washington University

"Shirin: A Medieval Icon of Womanhood in Modern Iranian Cinema"





WGSS Undergraduate Spotlight

Presenting Our New WGSS Major

Shira Sacks

When Shira Sacks (WGSS '12) speaks about her dedication to human rights, her voice fills up the whole room. Although Shira became a major recently, she's no stranger to social justice. She has been volunteering with the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous since she was in high school, and coming to understand the intersectional nature of her identity as a Jewish woman led her to join WGSS.



Shira Sacks

Shira is a double major in WGSS and in political science. She has worked in St. Louis on issues of domestic violence and next year will expand her focus to global issues of gendered violence when she travels to the Balkans with the SIT Peace and Conflict program.

Summer Updates

During summer 2010, funded by the Office of Undergraduate Research, and the Andrea Biggs Undergraduate Research Award, **Dan Woznica (WGSS '11)** examined the origins of AIDS in America as groundwork for his senior honors thesis. He researched historical and medical documents about "Robert R.," America's first known AIDS victim, and other early AIDS victims. In the course of his studies, he also interviewed scientists and journalists who worked with this case and other early AIDS cases. Dan's thesis outlines how experts have produced knowledge about Robert R., especially with regard to his race, sexuality, and illness.

Melissa Brandt (WGSS '11) spent five weeks last summer with an organization called Viva Nicaragua! in Granada, Nicaragua. She worked with various women's health organizations educating and advocating for better sexual and overall health. She also helped teach English to a group of girls who were no longer attending school. This experience was made possible by the Stueck Summer Internship/Study Abroad Award and the Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program. She went to learn, grow, and help others, and she counts it as a life changing experience.

Our Featured WGSS Major

Wes Sebring

When asked why he decided to get involved in WGSS Wes Sebring chuckles and says, "Because I want to change the world." Bright-eyed and eager with a mop of curly brown hair, Wes radiates excitement when he describes his experiences as a WGSS student. Wes has always been interested in feminist issues and took "Intro to WGSS" with Dr. Barbara Baumgartner his first year. When the course was over, he decided he needed to make WGSS a priority and became a major. Wes says that he likes WGSS because it deals with important issues that are typically absent from other courses.

For the last two years Wes has been working on his upcoming senior honors thesis and researching during the summers at Johns Hopkins University. His thesis focuses on intersex people and the ways in which they were able to fashion their own identities as adult patients of urologist Hugh. H. Young, a forerunner of the infamous John Money. The project began as a paper for Dr. Corinna Treitel's "Women in Modern Europe" course during which he wrote about the case of an early twentieth century German FTM who wrote his memoir under the English pseudonym N.O. Body. Dr. Corinna Treitel, who has an affiliate appointment in WGSS is continuing to work with Wes as his research supervisor for the thesis.

Wes's future looks bright, literally; he has applied to become a Luce Scholar. Inspired by Dr. Shanti Parikh's course "The AIDs Epidemic: Ethnographies & Epidemics," he plans to work on issues related to AIDs if he receives the scholarship. Wes is also considering going to graduate school in either history or law. Changing the world may sound like a cliché, but Wes's commitment to social justice ensures that he can make that change happen.



Wes Sebring

Those Amazing Graduates of 2010 and Alumni News !



Emily Levitt (WGSS '10), is on a Fulbright Fellowship in Croatia researching masculinity in relation to large-scale institutional changes. She is studying men in Zagreb, the capital city, who formulated their identities under a pre-war communist-secular Yugoslavia, and comparing them to younger men, ages twenty to twenty-five, who grew up in an independent, Catholic, and capitalist Croatia. In addition to this research, she is working with professors at Zagreb University, with a concentration in sex and sexuality, and taking intensive language courses in Croatian to boost her fluency.

Cari Sekendur (WGSS '10) graduated in May and began interning at Planned Parenthood of Illinois as the Social Media Marketing and E-Organizing coordinator. She is continuing to pursue her marketing internship training with Groupon at their headquarters in Chicago, where she works with the online marketing team and in customer acquisition.

*"The future belongs to
those who believe in the
beauty of their dreams"
Eleanor Roosevelt*

*Good Luck and Best Wishes
to the
Class of 2010!*



Class of 2010



*Lauren Weiss with Mary Ann Dzuback, Director of WGSS
Lauren is the 2010 recipient of the Helen Power Award
for Scholarship And Service in WGSS*



Class of 2010

Beverly Guy-Sheftall

visits

Washington University



Beverly Guy-Sheftall visited campus October 24-26, as a Washington University Distinguished Visiting Scholar. Professor Guy-Sheftall is Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies and founding director of the Women's Research and Resource Center at Spelman College, and President of the National Women's Studies Association. She has (co)written and (co)edited numerous volumes, including *Sturdy Black Bridges* (1977); *Daughters of Sorrow* (1990); *Double-Stitch* (1991); *Words of Fire* (1995); *Traps: African American Men on Gender and Sexuality* (2001); *Gender Talk: The Struggle for Women's Equality in African American Communities* (2003); *Still Brave: The Evolution of Black Women's Studies* (2008); and *Who Should Be First?: Feminists Speak Out on the 2008 Presidential Campaign* (2010). While on campus, Professor Guy-Sheftall conducted a research workshop with graduate students, visited a feminist theory class, met with faculty, and spoke at the Women's Law Caucus. She also gave a lecture entitled "Black Feminism: Looking Back, Looking Forward" that was attended by over 130 students, faculty, and community members.



"Black Feminism: Looking Back, Looking Forward" filled McMillan Café to capacity and beyond with students and faculty

"Black Feminism: Looking Back, Looking Forward"



Beverly Guy-Sheftall
Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies and Founding Director of
the Women's Research and Resource Center
Spelman College
and
President of the National Women's Studies Association

Co-sponsored by the Washington University Distinguished Visiting Scholar Program, the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, the Law and Culture Initiative at Washington University School of Law, and the African and African-American Studies Program

Tuesday, October 26, 2010

Lecture 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Reception 5:00-5:45

McMillan Café