A Word from Our Chair

When I first started reading about Harvey Weinstein's assaults on women in the entertainment industry, my immediate thought was: What, again? Wasn't it enough to hear about Donald Trump's assaults on women last year to move us forward? And the Silicon Valley moguls' assaults on women working with and for them? And the media titans who had to be removed from Fox and other companies for their egregious treatment of women?

I have been marginally involved in efforts to address sexual harassment and assault at Washington University since about 1989, when a graduate student persuaded the Office of Student Affairs (with Karen Coburn's help) to allow her to form a committee to address student-on-student assault and she asked me to join as a faculty member. As a woman, I knew about sexual harassment and assault—who among us women does not have first-hand experience with either or both? Sexual harassment and assault predominantly affect women, but men can be victims and survivors, too. In my recently-out-of-

"I've never been assaulted or harassed, unless you count the times I've had my breasts grabbed at fraternity parties or the Gargoyle."

"I was raped at a party in my freshman year, but I didn't know where to go to get help and I was afraid of what the guys would do to me if I did try to report it to someone."

"I don't think I have, except for this guy who wouldn't leave me alone when I walked back to the dorm from the library at night. But he was just being a guy."

Students then formed a variety of groups to address these issues, including the Sexual Assault and Rape Anonymous Hotline (SARAH). Years later,
Kim Webb was appointed Director and created the Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention (RSVP) Center. In addition, the University hired Jessica Kennedy to establish the Title IX Office and to disentangle sexual assault complaints from the more typical Judicial Board complaints about cheating, drinking, drug use, and other behaviors. We now have the University Sexual Assault Investigation Board (USAIB). But, as survivor Katy Hutson, whose case took 252 days to conclude, claimed in Student Life, the USAIB has been seriously ineffective in some cases (Student Life, May 5, and October 12, 2017). Washington University claims to be committed to responding to and resolving sexual assault complaints affecting students, but even with that commitment, the USAIB system does not always help students in the ways they need help.

Many WGSS students are involved in sexual assault work—doing research on domestic and intimate partner violence in Jami Ake’s classes, working on the Humanities Digital Project on Sexual Assault to provide research resources to scholars, governmental offices, and DV agencies. Many of these students then focus their postgraduate work on sexual assault intervention, treatment, and policy. I’m thinking of Shaina Goodman, who has been in D.C. working at the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, and Sarah Nesbitt, featured in our Alumni Updates in this issue. Every year we have at least one honors student doing research on the issue of sexual assault and gender violence.

All of these efforts have taught us about how embedded sexual assault is in our culture and our institutions and how fundamentally complicated intervening to stop sexual assault is in our society. When dominance of one gender over another is widely prevalent and uncontested, and that gender dominance is linked to political, legal, financial, or corporate power, it becomes extraordinarily difficult to persuade those serving the powerful to step forward and publicize the assaults they have experienced or witnessed. It could cost them their livelihoods, their health, and possibly their lives. This systemic form of discrimination and domination affects women, gay men, transwomen, people from underrepresented ethnic and racial groups, and anyone perceived as “weaker” or “less valuable” than the elites who seem to believe that they can do whatever they want to the less powerful and suffer no penalties or punishment. Sexual assault is not the only deep marker of gender inequality, but is also potentially present in every gender-related interaction in our society.

I hope Sarah Nesbitt, Shaina Goodman, and all who have devoted their time to addressing gender-related sexual assault take heart: It seems increasingly possible to hold the assaulters, even the most powerful, accountable for their actions. The recent reports among a wide variety of workplaces of leaders actually suffering, paying with their jobs, reputations, and freedom for their morally egregious, discriminatory, unprofessional, and illegal behavior offers some hope for those who have suffered sexual assault and intimidation. More than that, though, the sheer volume of complaints and the enormous variety of work sites in which survivors have suffered, make clear that the phenomenon cannot be explained away by attempting to cast blame on one kind of industry, workplace, or location. Survivors’ voices and their courage in stepping forward are not new to those of us who have worked in the field of sexual assault or paid attention to our students and colleagues’ complaints. But their ability to speak, and our willingness to listen and hold assaulters accountable, whoever they are and where ever they operate, is a crucial step in reducing and possibly eradicating sexual assault and violence in our communities. Despite recent efforts by the Secretary of the US Department of Education to hobble college and university efforts to develop more rigorous standards for adjudicating student sexual assault, many institutions remain dedicated to these efforts. We have survivors and advocates and those who listen to them to thank for institutions’ commitment to eradicating the exercise of this particular form of gendered power.

WGSS has a number of developments to celebrate. This fall, four of our faculty helped develop, and taught parts of a course at the Medical School for 15 medical and 6 pharmacy first-year students: Queer Theory: A Philosophical Approach to LGBTQ+ Health. Senior Lecturer, Amy Cislo played a central role in collaborating with university and community groups to organize this year’s Transgender Spectrum Conference on the Washington University campus.

Rachel Brown has joined the department as Assistant Professor and is teaching courses in transnational feminisms, labor, immigration, and citizenship. Bahia Munem has joined us as a WGSS postdoctoral fellow; her work focuses on Muslim refugees in Brazil. She is teaching a course on gender, war, and migration next spring. And WGSS is currently engaged in a search for a candidate working at the intersection of gender studies and ethnic studies.
Jami Ake (Assistant Dean and Academic Coordinator) wrote a chapter for the latest edition of the *Sourcebook on Violence Against Women, 3rd edition* (2017) called "A Brief History of Anti-violence Against Women Movements in the U.S." with Gretchen Arnold of Saint Louis University. She is also presenting "No Room of Their Own: Teaching Gender Studies in a Men’s Prison," at the Annual Conference of the National Women’s Studies Association in November, and continues to co-facilitate reading groups at the Women’s Federal Prison in Greenville, Illinois.

Barbara Baumgartner (Senior Lecturer, WGSS) in her role as the Associate Director of the Washington University Prison Education Project organized the second Gender Impacts: Women in the Criminal Justice System. This one-day symposium on the Washington University campus used a public health lens to examine the factors that drive women into the criminal justice system and then discussed the collaborations and possible community responses vital for successful reentry. Speakers included Kim Gardner, the Circuit Attorney for the City of St. Louis, Dr. Heidi Miller from the Family Care Health Centers, and Carrie Pettus-Davis, Assistant Professor at George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University. Funding was provided by the Gephardt Institute and by Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Additionally, she has continued to co-facilitate a reading group for incarcerated women at the minimum-security Federal prison at Greenville, Illinois.

Amy Cislo (Senior Lecturer, WGSS) taught a new service learning class called "Feminist and Queer Youth Studies." Students worked with the Mathews-Dicky Boys and Girls Club, Girls in the Know, TransparentUSA and the Missouri Institute for Mental Health. Last year, and again this year, she directed the Transgender Spectrum Conference. The conference has brought together scholars and activists from across the country, and it has made lasting changes in St. Louis by connecting local people who advocate for transgender people. Through the conference, Chris Lewis and Sarah Garwood assembled a group of community members to serve as advisors as they opened the Pediatric Gender Identity Clinic at St. Louis Children’s Hospital in August 2017.

Adrienne Davis (William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law, WGSS Affiliate, and Vice Provost) delivered the Allison Davis Lecture at Northwestern University, participated in a conference at Rutgers University commemorating Saidiya Hartman’s iconic book on slavery, *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery & Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America*, and gave a lecture to Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies at Yale on her book. The Law, Identity & Culture Initiative sponsored and supported several events, including a panel with Pulitzer-Prize winning author Annette Gordon-Reed.

Mary Ann Dzuback (Associate Professor of WGSS, Education, and History (Courtesy), Chair of WGSS) had a chapter entitled "Research at Women's Colleges, 1890-1940" published in a recent volume, *New Perspectives on Women's Education in the United States*, edited by Margaret A. Nash.

Andrea Friedman (Professor, History and WGSS) celebrated the launch of "Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis" on Oct. 11 at the History Museum alongside collaborators from Washington University Libraries, the St. Louis LGBT History Project, the Missouri History Museum, and the State Historical Society of Missouri. This historical digital map, funded by the Mellon Foundation by way of the Washington University Center for the Humanities; identifies locations of LGBTQ life in the St. Louis region between 1945 and 1992 and analyzes the relationship between sexuality and various forms of segregation in the divided city. In June she attended the Oral History Summer School in Hudson, New York, in preparation for a new course she is currently teaching, "Documenting the Queer Past in St. Louis."

Marie Griffith (John C. Danforth Distinguished Professor, Center on Religion and Politics, WGSS affiliate) recently published *Moral Combat: How Sex Divided American Christians and Fractured American Politics* (Basic Books, 2017). She has given several invited talks about the book, including at the Chicago Humanities Festival. One of the book chapters received great feedback from the WGSS Colloquium a few years ago.
Angela Miller (Professor of Art History & Archaeology, WGSS affiliate) was awarded a fellowship at the National Gallery of Art, Center for Advanced Study in Visual Arts in 2015-2016 to advance ongoing research for a book on the gay artistic networks of New York City in the 1940s, focusing on the figure of Lincoln Kirstein.

Amber Musser (Associate Professor, WGSS) co-edited with Roy Pérez and Kadji Amin a special issue of ASAP Journal on Queer Form, published in May 2017. She was a master teacher at the Sexuality Studies Institute on Race, Perversion, and Psychoanalysis at SUNY Cortland in September and will be keynoting a conference on Sensation at Georgia State University in November.

Shanti Parikh (Associate Professor of Anthropology, WGSS affiliate) was an invited guest editor on a special issue of American Ethnologist on the rise of nationalist populism, the 2016 election of Trump, and the Brexit referendum. Shanti was invited alongside Anthropology graduate student Ashley Wilson to write the Africa courtship and marriage section for a multi-volume collection, A Cultural History of Marriage: From Antiquity to the Modern Age.

Vivian Pollak's (Professor of English, WGSS affiliate) Our Emily Dickinsons: American Women Poets and the Intimacies of Difference was published by the University of Pennsylvania last fall. Since then, she has completed an article on Emily Dickinson's fascicles (her manuscript poem sequences) and will be speaking at the meeting of the Modern Language Association in early January on "Muriel Rukeyser and the False Security of Confinement." She also spoke at the meeting of the American Literature Association in May and will be speaking on poet Elizabeth Bishop in Paris in June. The results of a class project ("American Women Poets and the Trouble with Trouble") are currently featured at http://murielrukeyser.emuenglish.org/

Trevor Sangrey (Lecturer, WGSS) curated a teaching gallery, "Reframing Feminism: Visualizing, Women, Gender and Sexuality," at the Kemper Art Museum in conjunction with the Fall 2017 course "Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies."

Kedron Thomas (Assistant Professor of Anthropology, WGSS affiliate) published a chapter, "Intellectual Property Law in Comparative Perspective: The Case of Trademark 'Piracy' in Guatemala" in Comparative Law and Anthropology and presented on this research at the Latin American Studies Association International Congress in May 2017, where she also co-organized a panel on "The Anthropology of Illegal Economic Practices." She co-organized (with Tatiana Paz Lemus, Universidad del Valle de Guatemala) the Fourth Biennial International Conference of the Guatemala Scholars Network, held July 2017.

Akiko Tsuchiya (Professor of Spanish, WGSS affiliate) presented "Identity, Gender and Disability in Galdós’s Works" at the 11th International Galdós Conference in Las Palmas, Canary Islands; an interview about her work published in the local newspaper La Provincia. In October, she organized a roundtable discussion with her research group, "Transoceanic Perspectives on Gender, Race and Colonialism in the Nineteenth-century Hispanic World," at the Mid-America Conference on Hispanic Literatures, hosted by Washington University.

Gerhild Scholz Williams (Vice Provost and Barbara Schaps Thomas and David M. Thomas Professor in the Humanities, Associate Vice Chancellor, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Professor of Comparative Literature, and WGSS Affiliate) and Christian Schneider published "Knowledge in Motion: Constructing Transcultural Experience in the Medieval and Early Modern Periods (1200–1750)," in DAPHNIS. Zeitschrift für die Mittlere Deutsche Literatur und Kultur (1400-1750). She also presented "Literary Recycling: Daniel Speer’s Work with the Simplicissimus and Eulenspiegel" at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in July of 2016 and “Exploring Travel Literature at Skokloster” in Sweden in August 2016.

Rachel Brown is the newest faculty member in the department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Before arriving at Washington University in St. Louis, Dr. Brown served as a Research Associate and Visiting Instructor of Gender Studies at Mount Holyoke College. She completed her doctoral degree in political science at CUNY's Graduate Center in 2016. Her dissertation and forthcoming book project, titled "Four Years, Three Months: Migrant Caregivers in Israel/Palestine," explores the relationship between migrant domestic workers in Palestine/Israel and the Jewish-Israeli citizens employing them. This forthcoming book will be uniquely interdisciplinary as Brown puts migrant labor and care work in conversation with scholarship on settler colonialism to understand the connections between labor, citizenship, nationalism, and occupation.

A political theorist, Brown employs the lens of feminist theory, literature on gender and work, and transnational feminist theorizations of solidarity in her research. Brown uses affect theory too, which lends itself — in many ways — to a feminist analysis of power and of how categories such as "migrant worker" and "citizen" are gendered and racialized. Women, gender and sexuality studies helps provide a necessary lens and these interdisciplinary lenses of analysis ensure that her work is attuned to processes of knowledge-production and power asymmetry in Israel/Palestine.

Dr. Brown is an engaged scholar whose work spans beyond the academy and considers global current events. It is easy to find examples of gendered racism perpetrated against migrants, whether this takes the form of ICE-administered deportations, travel bans, or hate crimes. These trends have a disproportionate impact on temporary workers, and particularly women, gender non-conforming individuals, and non-heterosexual individuals. Recent struggles of the Standing Rock Water Protectors and the halt to the Keystone XL Pipeline demonstrate the ongoing prevalence of government and corporate takeover of indigenous land. Each of these issues highlights the linkages between the regulation of movements across borders, and the project of land annexation in the formation of various nation-building projects, and the gendered and racialized construction of the "ideal" citizen and the "ideal" worker, which is important to Brown's work. Her scholarship expands beyond Israel/Palestine and considers how gendered forms of labor connect each of these issues in different, though interrelated geographical contexts.

Dr. Brown relocated to St. Louis this summer and is thoroughly enjoying Washington University and the St. Louis community. She loves teaching, remarking that the students she's encountered are "engaged, passionate, and smart." She has also been inspired by "the incredible organizing going on across the city" in the wake of the Jason Stockley verdict and learning how various organizations have been strategizing to fight systemic injustice. Although Dr. Brown has yet to try St. Louis' famous provol cheese, she's loved St. Louis cuisine options so far. When she's not doing research and teaching Brown is busy publishing poetry and playing the guitar and drums.
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<th>Course</th>
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<td>L77 100B Intro to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies</td>
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<td>L77 205 Sexuality &amp; the State: Intro to Sexuality Studies</td>
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<td>L77 310 From Hysteria to Hysterectomy: Women's Healthcare in America</td>
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<td>L77 348 Rethinking the Second Wave: Race, Sexuality and Class in the Feminist Movement 1950-1990</td>
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<td>L77 4012 Advanced Feminist Theory: The Intimacy of Precarity</td>
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<td>L77 406 Queering Theory: Collaborating, Solidarity, and Working Together</td>
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<td>L77 419 Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory</td>
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<td>L77 429 Feminist Political Theory</td>
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<td>L77 475 Reformers and Radicals: Feminist Thinking through History</td>
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A sampling of Events From the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department

LATANYA MAPP FRETTE
Executive Director of Planned Parenthood Global

“Daring to Believe in Your Right to Lead”
Saturday, November 11 @ 6:30 pm
Edison Theatre

THE INSTITUTIONAL AS USUAL:
Diversity, Utility and the University
SU

SARAH AHMED
DOWN OF FEMINIST THEORY CRITICAL RACE THEORY
Friday, October 20 @ 5 pm
Civic Center, Silberman Graduation Centre

HUMANITIES

THE INSTITUTIONAL AS USUAL:
Diversity, Utility and the University

Fall 2017 Undergraduate Research Symposium
Presentations by Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies majors:
Nicole Esposito, Sally Rafael, Mechal Sheld, and Priska Zibera

Join us Saturday, October 21
Emerson Auditorium
Opening Presentation noon - 1 pm
Kendall and Bauer Hall
Poster Session 1:30 - 5 pm

Visit us on Facebook

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Visit us on Facebook
This fall's "Decentering the West" lecture series keynote was offered by anthropologist Jafari Allen. The University of Miami professor presented a riveting lecture entitled "Ethnography of an Idea: There's a Disco Ball Between Us." In Allen's first project, iVen-ceremos?: The Erotics of Black Self-making in Cuba, he developed a fresh perspective on identity making for marginalized blacks and sexual minorities. Considering black queer anthropology as an analytic, Dr. Allen's new project investigates the experiences of transnational black queer identities, politics, and sociability since the 1980s. The guiding question is: What do black sexual minorities and gender resurgence share across borders, boundaries, and titles?

Through multi-sited ethnographic method, Allen explores black queer sites of interest in Miami (Florida, USA), Havana (Cuba), Nairobi (Kenya), London (United Kingdom), and beyond. At these various sites, he explores LGBTQ life in the party scene, black queer love and romance, criminalization of black queer bodies, public health priorities for HIV+ black queer people, and the perpetual fear, marginalization, discrimination, or death that this group experiences daily. "Ethnography of an Idea" demonstrates the shifts that queer black people make in and out of these spaces and examines experiences unique to black queer subjectivities. Allen argues that his respondents are also living in the abstract, where we often find our theoretical conventions as scholars. This combination of abstraction and lived experiences is the new idea Allen is investigating which requires him to develop new epistemologies.

Allen's project requires Women, Gender, and Sexuality scholarship to disrupt current epistemologies and develop new ones that center black queer voices in theorizations of race, gender, and sexualities. In developing this new form of critical interdisciplinary ethnography, Allen relies on black feminist theory to help produce purposeful and embodied narrative through his informants. He argues that that anthropology, black feminist scholarship, and queer studies scholarship mandate resisting, subverting, and interrogating the grammar of normativity that we find in the social sciences literature about black queer people.
On Oct. 11, a group of 11 graduate students from a variety of different disciplines attended a workshop on the politics and ethics of feminist research with Jafari Allen. Allen, an Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Miami, was visiting Washington University not only to spend time with the graduate students, but also to deliver the Decentering the West lecture later that day. Compared to the lecture, the environment during the workshop was far more informal. As everybody was enjoying pizza, Allen began the workshop by asking two very personal questions. In order to introduce ourselves, the graduate students were to answer the following: What or who do I love? To what or to whom am I accountable? Many students were taken aback by this seemingly direct approach, asking themselves, “how much information from my private life can or should I share in this setting?” While in the beginning, many graduate students simply innocently answered, “I love my cat” – I was one of them – some other graduate students were courageously open and admitted to loving things such as specific TV series that might be in opposition to their feminist research and values. With these two simple questions, Jafari raised awareness about the importance of recognizing one’s own contradictions and the need to think through our real-life politics. How does our private life and our personality influence our work? Who are we as producers of knowledge? How are we presenting the work that we do? What is our scholarly temperament and how does it filter our work? With these questions, we left the room, thinking about our own very personal contradictions and our position towards the work that we do in academia.
Sara Ahmed's Oct. 20 talk, entitled "The Institutional as Usual: Diversity, Utility and the University" centered on a discussion of "diversity" as the contemporary university understands it. Ahmed approached this topic through the notion of "use," with many meanings of that word coming into play. One question she posed was, "Can we use the university in a way it was not intended?" Thoughts about how to "use" the university allowed Ahmed to consider the role of scholars and professors of color in an institution that is structurally hostile to their very presence. These "diversity workers" become disempowered by the university through the very language of diversity itself, which becomes a form of what Ahmed calls "non-performativity." In these instances, naming the presence or absence of diversity—especially as a buzzword—becomes a way to avoid the actual ramifications and responsibilities of making diversity happen. As a result, the burden of labor falls again on the under represented members of the institution, especially women of color, to raise awareness and make the university "useful" to new participants. The realities of this labor leads Ahmed to call privilege "an energy saving device," letting its beneficiaries move seamlessly and unthinkingly through structures that were built to support them. Ultimately, Ahmed called for the importance of both doing and reshaping diversity work, since it is the work many must do in order to exist and participate.
"Feminist Killjoys and the Cultural Politics of Hate and Humor"
A Seminar with Sara Ahmed

Wearing a black t-shirt with the logo “Feminist Killjoy,” Sara Ahmed walks into the room smiling, and obviously excited to meet the 20 graduate students who responded quickly enough to an invitation in order to gain one of the highly coveted spots in the seminar. Other graduate students who weren’t quite as lucky had the option to follow the discussion in an overflow room, since the seminar was live streamed.

After a quick round of introductions from the participants, Rebecca Wanzo, Associate Director for Humanities and Associate Professor for Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Washington University, opened up the room for discussion and questions. Since the graduate students read two chapters of her book *Cultural Politics of Emotion* to prepare for this seminar, the questions posed by the graduate students, as well as Sarah Ahmed and Rebecca Wanzo, revolved around the mechanisms of emotions. Of particular interest were the questions: which, why, and when are people entitled to happiness? What role does humor play in social interactions and in academia? What happens to women when they decide not to participate in laughing about what other people believe to be a joke? What does it mean for an individual to be a feminist killjoy and what are the social implications of being a feminist killjoy? Leading by example and telling her story, for Sarah Ahmed, being a feminist killjoy meant resigning from her position at the university in protest against the way sexual harassment was addressed. Ultimately, the sharing of experiences of being a feminist killjoy in academia, which usually results in being excluded and sidelined, paradoxically meant for this seminar the creation of a space of solidarity for critical thinkers.
In Spring 2016, WGSS senior Priyanka Zylstra studied abroad in Jaipur, India, through the SIT Program, Sustainable Development and Social Change. She spoke to Gender Spectrum about how her experiences influenced her education, research, and future goals.

How did your WGSS coursework inform your experiences studying abroad and working with a women’s organization? Or was it more the other way around? How has your perspective on WGSS changed?

My interest in social justice and activism started in high school, but coming into college and taking WGSS classes gave me a completely new framework to conceptualize problems in society. My motivation to interrogate social systems and norms led to working with a women’s organization in India, but past WGSS classes and the department equipped me with a unique foundation upon which to understand my experiences abroad. I do not think I could have begun to grasp the complexities, intricacies, and entanglements of different systems of oppression in a new country without the analytical tools I’ve developed from a WGSS major. My perspective has shifted to understand the academia and theory in WGSS as a basis upon which to continually engage with the community service or activist component of gender studies.

Is there any one experience or person you met that had a great impact on you?

One of the greatest experiences abroad I had was living with a host family. I became especially close with my host brother, who was studying law in India. I could approach him with any questions or concerns, and he was always excited to engage in complex discussions. It was great to connect with someone my own age and with similar academic interests. He was a guide for me in every way, from showing me where to get the best cold coffee to explaining different ceremonies and rituals at a family wedding.

What makes study abroad learning different from classroom learning at Washington University?

After a few years immersed in a college campus culture, the familiarity and comforts of Washington University can become an obstacle to learning. It becomes really easy to get lost in the routine of Washington University and no longer look beyond the grades, papers, and walls of Washington University. Going abroad can be challenging, but those challenges are moments to learn outside the classroom. For me, the most important part of being abroad was sitting with not understanding or knowing all of what was going on, and accepting that I may not be able to ever fully grasp these things. This experience often caused discomfort, but I took...
the opportunity to observe and reflect rather than trying to come up with answers or conclusions. We are not often asked to do this in the classroom.

**Would you encourage other WGSS students to study abroad?**

I would encourage WGSS students to go abroad and observe how a different community, government, or country addresses an issue of interest. We have an opportunity to understand a new approach or perspective, which can improve our own attempts to address systems of oppression at home.

Studying abroad can be problematic when it becomes a pattern of American students taking and consuming a culture while leaving nothing behind, or when student engagement abroad is rooted in a savior complex. However, there are ways to break these patterns and it is important to learn to be part of the global community an impactful way.

**Has your study abroad experience affected your career plans after college?**

After graduation, I would like to spend a few years working with an NGO before going to graduate school. My experience abroad reaffirmed my plans, as I greatly enjoyed the research component of my study abroad program and enjoyed working with an NGO in India.

**How does your thesis connect to your study abroad experience?**

My thesis looks at cultural representations of Indian immigrant women in a domestic violence agency in Chicago, Illinois. This agency began as a culturally specific organization and has now expanded to specializing in assisting immigrant survivors of gender based violence. I am studying how this agency understands the intersection of ethnicity and gender to assess the current relevance of and need for culturally specific organizations in domestic violence intervention, in order to conceptualize the role of South Asian identity in domestic violence intervention today. While studying abroad, I researched forms of domestic violence intervention in India and that experience has given me a context to place my thesis research. I gained greater insight in cultural gender norms and approaches to domestic violence in India, which allows me to understand the context from which many of the immigrant women at the center of my research are coming from.

**How has the WGSS major prepared you for your honors work?**

The WGSS department has helped me immensely in preparation for my thesis. The required methodology class for writing an honor’s thesis walked me through all the steps to develop a thorough research proposal before I went abroad. As a result, I was able to prepare for my thesis far in advance and talk to faculty about questions I developed along the way. I then could try using similar research methods in my research project abroad to both practice these methods and foresee possible difficulties I could encounter in my thesis research.

"To all the little girls who are watching, never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world to pursue and achieve your own dreams."

Hillary Clinton
2016 concession speech

Lisa Brune (English) gave a paper, "'A Wife Ought to be Obedient': Women's Self-Mastery in The Roaring Girl" at the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference.

Chelsey Carter (Anthropology) earned a Divided City Graduate Summer Research Fellowship through the Center for the Humanities and presented at the Divided City conference in September. She also presented a paper entitled "Intricate Isolations: an ethnographic exploration of black patients with ALS" at the University of Colorado, Boulder’s conference "Boundaries, Barriers, and Transgression in Anthropology."

Francesca Dennstedt (Spanish) was awarded a Divided City Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship through the Center for the Humanities for a project titled "Between the Global Gay and Tough Love: Queering Gentrification in Mexico City’s ‘La Zona Rosa’ and ‘La Merced.’" She also published a book chapter entitled "Una feminazi, una teibolera y una lesbiana: acercamientos al feminismo en la literatura mexicana actual" in Romper con la palabra: Violencia y género en las escritoras mexicanas contemporáneas, edited by Adriana Pacheco Roldán.

Cameron Evans (Philosophy) organized a conference in November with the benefit of grants from the American Philosophical Association, the Center for the Humanities, and the Philosophy Department.

Jordan Shaw (Philosophy) published a paper with colleagues, "The Relationship Between Joint Attention and Theory of Mind in Neurotypical Adults," in Consciousness and Cognition and had a paper entitled "Contra 'Wrongful Procreation' in Dark Ghettos" selected for presentation at a group session of the Society for Analytical Feminism at the Eastern meeting of the American Philosophical Association.

Ashley Wilson (Anthropology) was invited, in conjunction with Professor Shanti Parikh, to write the Africa courtship and marriage section for a multi-volume collection, A Cultural History of Marriage: From Antiquity to the Modern Age.
Congratulations!
Class of 2017

Majors
Divya Babbula, Natasha Ceballos, Katie Chew, Gaelyn Golde, Reuben Forman, Erin Hall, Zachary Hyams, Bianca Kaushal, Jaydee Lee, Megan Magray, Ryan Paige, Jaszmine Parks, Rachel Phillip, Shoshanah Shanes, Sunidhi Singh, Laken Sylvander, Brianna Tobias, Jordan Victorian

Minors
Rebecca Benson, Becca Bloom, Mary-Brent Brown, Meredith Davis, Shivani Desai, Elaine Engelhard, Grace Gallagher, Sarah Goldberg, Carly Herbert, Jessica Klugman, Laura Lee, Shannon Levin, Katie Moeder, Samantha Pitz, Jules Rader, Jerusha Simmons, Austin Skootsky, Bree Veazey, Bree Williams

2017 Helen Power Award for Scholarship and Service
Katie Chew

Best Wishes for your futures!
Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
**Graduate Certificate Updates**

**Alejandra Aguilar-Dornelles (PhD 2014, Romance Languages and Literatures and WGSS Graduate Certificate)**

Alejandra has been Assistant Professor of Hispanic Studies at University at Albany-SUNY since fall 2015. She has been teaching courses on Latin American Literature, Caribbean Literature and Film, and Literature and Human Rights. In April 2016 Alejandra presented her paper "Beauty as Political Contestation: Black Intellectual Women in the Caribbean Cultural Market (1868-1912)" at the Nineteenth-Century Studies Association Conference in Lincoln, Nebraska. In June 2017, she presented "Contesting Slavery's Legacy: Memory and Racial Identity in Cristina Ayala's Poetry (1888 – 1912)" at The Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders, and Sexualities at Hofstra University. Her article, "Heroísmo y conciencia racial en la obra de la poeta afro-cubana Cristina Ayala," was awarded with the 2017 Ibero-American Prize for an Academic Article on the Nineteenth Century Latin American Studies Association (LASA), and with the Harold Eugene Davis Prize awarded by the Middle Atlantic Council of Latin American Studies (MACLAS). Currently, she is working on a book length manuscript, titled *Herederos de la libertad: criminalización, liderazgo y escritura de afro-descendientes en Colombia, Brasil y Cuba / Heirs of Freedom: Black Criminalization, Leadership, and Writing in Colombia, Brazil, and Cuba.*

**Adrienne Strong (PhD 2017 Anthropology and WGSS Graduate Certificate)**

Adrienne received a joint PhD from Washington University and the Universiteit van Amsterdam. She is now a postdoctoral research fellow funded by the National Science Foundation at Columbia University in the Department of Population and Family Health. She is working with the Averting Maternal Death and Disability Program. With this group, Adrienne will be conducting a new research project in Tanzania for 11 months in 2018. The project focuses on a birth companionship program that a Tanzanian non-governmental organization is implementing in health centers in the country’s Kigoma region. Adrienne will be exploring the ways in which the birth companionship program impacts interactions between women, their companions, and healthcare providers in these facilities. She will be talking with community members and healthcare workers about local meanings of care, comfort, and support for pregnant women during labor and while giving birth. This research is designed to improve our understanding of drivers of disrespect and abuse during labor and delivery in these low resource health facilities. In her spare time, Adrienne is involved with Columbia’s Women in Science group and the Office of the University Life’s Task Force on Race, Ethnicity, and Inclusion. She is currently working on transforming her dissertation into a book manuscript.
Undergraduate Updates

Sarah Nesbitt ('17)

A December 2016 graduate of Washington University's Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies department, Sarah Nesbitt now works as a public policy coordinator at the Texas Council on Family Violence, the statewide coalition for domestic violence service providers and Texas' DV legislative advocacy agency. She sits on the policy department's legal sub-team, which focuses on rendering trauma-informed the criminal and civil legal systems with which survivors sometimes interface. Her team's work with prosecutors, judges, and DV program legal advocates across the state includes providing technical assistance, policy analysis, and regional trainings, all in pursuit of a legal system that more effectively maximizes survivor safety and offender accountability in Texas. Sarah's piece on the latest moves by the Department of Education Secretary DeVos to dismantle accountability on Title IX can be found at https://www.thenation.com/article/campus-assault-survivors-deserve-better-than-secretary-devos/.

Cameron Kinker ('16)

Cameron Kinker currently lives in New York City and works as an Engagement Coordinator for the One Love Foundation. One Love was created in 2010 to honor the memory of Yeardley Love, a UVA senior student-athlete who was beaten to death by her ex-boyfriend just weeks before graduation. After her death, Yeardley's family and friends were shocked to learn the statistics: one in three women and one in four men will be in some type of abusive relationship in their lifetimes. Cameron works to bring One Love's programs and content to colleges, high schools, and community groups across the country to ensure young people can recognize the difference between healthy relationships and unhealthy and potentially dangerous relationships that Yeardley, her friends and family did not. Cameron also oversees One Love's Campus Ambassador program, which has over 90 student leaders from 70 schools across the country. Cameron notes that his "WGSS education (especially Jami's class and my time as her TA) is instrumental in my work and I am forever indebted to everyone in the department for launching my career." You can contact Cameron at cameron.kinker@joinonelove.org.

Visit www.joinonelove.org to learn more about the One Love Foundation. The organization's short educational videos can be found at: https://www.joinonelove.org/act/thats-not-love/.
Friends of Washington University's Department of WGSS

WGSS has received numerous contributions from our friends, large and small. We are grateful for every gift that helps to support our work. We have used the funding to support our Decentering the West lecture series; faculty travel to conferences; course development for undergraduates; student internships and travel for research and study; books and films for our library and course work; and many other enriching and important activities involving faculty and graduate and undergraduate students. Some of these activities are visible on our web page:

http://wgss.artsci.wustl.edu/; in our newsletters: http://wgss.artsci.wustl.edu/newsletters; our undergraduate prize for research and service; and in our material resources—a seminar, meeting, and workshop room, which we furnished with tables and chairs; video equipment in our library, which supports both teaching and routine department activities; and in our excellent collections, which faculty and students use for research, writing, and coursework.

WGSS is positioned within an internationally renowned, top-tier research university. To enhance the department's impact across the institution and around the world, we must expand our resources and offerings as follows:

Attract Exceptional Faculty
Our current faculty exhibit nationally recognized strengths in humanities, social sciences, critical race studies, and transnational gender and sexuality studies. We hope to recruit additional faculty expertise in both transnational and ethnic studies.

Increase the Number of Postdoctoral Fellowships
We intend to expand our postdoctoral fellow program from one fellow to supporting several each year. Postdoctoral fellows enrich WGSS by increasing the variety and depth of our coursework; employing the newest methodological and theoretical research approaches; sharing developing scholarship with university colleagues and students; and increasing the intellectual diversity of the postdoctoral cohort in Arts and Sciences.

Develop Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs
We are working collaboratively with other university units on joint graduate programs that fully integrate feminist, gender, and sexuality studies in coursework and theses and in graduates’ career plans in and outside of the academy.

Establish a Conference Series
We plan to create a series of intensive one-day conferences to draw scholars and students from around the world. Led by distinguished faculty, the series will generate exciting conversations on campus, help participants develop powerful scholarly networks, and advance research critical to gender equity among faculty and students here at Washington University.

To support the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, please send your gifts to:
Arts & Sciences Development Office
Attn: Julianne Smutz, Campus Box 1210
Washington University, One Brookings Drive
St. Louis, MO 63130

"Responsibility to yourself means refusing to let others do your thinking, talking, and naming for you...it means that you do not treat your body as a commodity with which to purchase superficial intimacy or economic security; for our bodies to be treated as objects, our minds are in mortal danger. It means insisting that those to whom you give your friendship and love are able to respect your mind."
Adrienne Rich, Claiming an Education, 1977