Gender Spectrum: News from the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department

A Word from Our Chair

Mary Ann Dzuback

WGSS is pleased to have faculty members Amber Musser and Rebecca Wanzo home from their sabbaticals during the 2015-16 academic year. Julie Moreau, our new WGSS Postdoctoral Fellow, joins us from the Women's and Gender Studies department at Northern Arizona University. Dr. Moreau works at the intersection of political science and gender and sexuality studies; her current research focuses on transnational studies of social movements. She is teaching a course, "Queer Citizenship," in which her students created a work of art to display on campus during the presidential debate in October and participated in a number of discussions of the election and debates (see p. 6).

To grow as a department in line with developments in the field of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, we are expanding in a key area of scholarship: non-U.S. gender and sexuality studies with expertise in social sciences. Although affiliate social science faculty (mostly from Anthropology) contribute cross-listed courses in non-U.S. topics, our current department faculty are entirely U.S.-focused and do research largely in humanities. Recent WGSS postdoctoral fellows have brought non-U.S. and transnational social science expertise into our colloquia and courses. The Nooter endowment funds support the WGSS Decentering the West lecture series. This fall, WGSS is conducting an open-rank search, chaired by Andrea Friedman, for a tenure-line faculty member in transnational and/or non-U.S. gender and social sciences. We have received approximately 140 applications, which the search committee is reviewing. We hope to bring candidates to campus in January of 2017 and complete the search shortly afterward.

In another kind of "trans" studies, WGSS Senior Lecturer Amy Cislo worked closely with the Provost's Office and School of Social Work staff, as well as local community organizations, to organize the third Transgender Spectrum Conference in St. Louis (previously held at the University of Missouri, St. Louis). The conference met on November 4th and 5th on the Washington University campus. Featuring major speakers on transgender issues, the conference included sessions with local trans groups; medical workers; teachers and counselors in Missouri and Illinois schools; families struggling with trans issues in their communities; and Washington University students and faculty. Conference participants explored scholarship in transgender studies, institutional, local, and state policies to accommodate transgender people's needs, and a range of medical, educational, and social programs addressing transgender issues (p. 15).

The 2016 presidential election has made the fall semester here and everywhere a time of anxiety, discomfort, and disbelief, and shock. It has also presented a host
of opportunities to discuss key issues connected with power, gender, race, ethnicity, and sexuality in our society. Gender and leadership in one of the world's most economically developed nations has served as both the subtext and the text in much of our public conversations through conventional and social media. Gender and race issues as they intersect in our daily experiences and conversations have surfaced repeatedly in the ways we characterize our interactions with the police and the justice system and with our cities, rural areas, and suburbs. Sexual harassment and sexual assault have emerged as key topics of conversation, particularly their impact on women, trans-people, and sexual minorities, as we consider how to protect ourselves in both public and private spaces. Immigration, cross-border relationships, and racial and ethnic diversity have always been issues of both agreement and contention, but the ways the candidates have addressed them have pointed to the need for profound self-examination of our identity as a nation and our priorities as citizens of the United States and the world. And the constant disparaging references to "political correctness" have been attempts to render banal critical discussion about how we interact with each other as fellow human beings, striving every day to be treated and treat each other with respect, civility, and dignity. Democracies cannot work if citizens, in all of our intellectual, economic, ethnic, and social diversity, cannot carry on civil discussion and debate. This election season has made many of us deeply concerned about the state of our nation (and the world) and our ability to maintain a strong, well-functioning democratic society. One heartening aspect of election-related activities on campus is the range of opportunities to think deeply about, and recommit to engaging with, struggles to preserve safe spaces for everyone to participate in such conversations.


Barbara Baumgartner (Senior Lecturer and Associate Director, WGSS) published, "Anatomy Lessons: Emily Dickinson's Brain Poems," in Legacy: A Journal of American Women Writers. Working with three community organizations, she organized "Gender Impacts: Women and the Criminal Justice System Symposium," held on the Washington University campus September 30, 2016. With funding from the Gephardt Institute and WGSS, the symposium hosted over 100 participants. Speakers included Judge Webber, Senior District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri; Amy Lorenz Moser, an attorney who has a longstanding pro bono practice advocating on behalf of women and girls who have been victims of rape and abuse; and Julie Kempker, the Director of Probation & Parole for the Missouri Department of Corrections. Two panels, consisting of service providers, previously incarcerated individuals, and academics, addressed concerns of caregivers and families of incarcerated women and reentry needs and concerns when women are released from prison.

Elizabeth C. Childs (Etta and Mark Steinberg Professor of Art History, Department of Art History and Archaeology, and WGSS Affiliate) gave a conference paper, "On the Brink of Insanity: Van Gogh's Illness," at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam in September. She addressed the perception of Van Gogh's illness on the part of Gauguin and other Symbolist artists in the 1890s. She finished "Taking Back Tehamana: Feminist Interventions in Gauguin's Legacy" for an anthology edited by Norma Broude forthcoming next year with Bloomsbury Press.

Amy Eisen Cislo (Senior Lecturer, WGSS), working with the Office of the Provost and the Brown School organized the 2016 Transgender Spectrum Conference on the Washington University Campus.

Adrienne Davis (William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law, WGSS Affiliate, and Vice Provost) gave a talk on law and polyamory at the University of Pennsylvania Law School; was a panelist at the colloquium, Voices and Visions of St. Louis: Past, Present, Future, at the Harvard University Graduate School of
Design; and spoke on reparations at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh. At Wash U she moderated a roundtable on Democracy and Disagreement. She chaired the American History Association Littleton-Griswold Prize committee for the best book on the history of American law and society, and is a member of the Association of American Law Schools Membership Review Team. She received a 2016 Washington University Founder's Day Award at the Founder's Day Celebration November 6th.

Mary Ann Dzuback (Associate Professor of WGSS, Education, and History (Courtesy), Chair of WGSS) presented "Women Economists in the Academy: Struggles and Strategies, 1900-1940," as part of a panel in the History of Women's Economic Thought, in June at the History of Economics Society annual meeting in Durham, NC. She served with three colleagues on the Sharlin Prize Committee for the best book in social science for the Social Science History Association.

Tonya Edmond (Associate Dean for Diversity & Associate Professor in the Brown School of Social Work, and WGSS Affiliate) received an inaugural grant from the Department of Justice, Office on 'Violence against Women Implementation of Cognitive Processing Therapy in Rape Crisis Centers'. She also published an article, "Perceptions and Utilization of EMDR in Rape Crisis Centers," in Journal of EMDR Practice and Research.

Jordache Ellapen (AFAS Postdoctoral Fellow) organized a panel, "Queering Blackness in Africa and the Diaspora: Forging links between Queer African Studies and Black Queer Studies," for the African Studies Association Conference in Washington, D.C., in December. Participants will include Shanti Parikh (Anthropology and WGSS Affiliate), chairing, and (among others) Jordache, presenting " Queering Blackness, Queering South Africa: Afronormativity and the Limits of Post-Apartheid Citizenship."

Vanessa Fabbre (Assistant Professor, Brown School of Social Work, and WGSS Affiliate) just published a paper in the Journal of Gerontology: Social Sciences titled "Agency and social forces in the life course: The case of gender transitions in later life."

Andrea Friedman (Professor, History and WGSS) is co-directing "Mapping LGBTQ St. Louis" with Miranda Rectenwald, Curator of Local History at Washington University Libraries. This digital humanities project, funded by the Divided City Initiative of the Center for the Humanities, will create a historical map of LGBTQ life in the greater St. Louis region, paying special attention to the ways that sexuality divides cities and patterns of racial, economic, and gender segregation divide sexual communities. She plans a March 2017 launch for the map. For more information and to follow their progress, visit http://library.wustl.edu/mapping-lgbtq-st-louis/. Professor Friedman has received funding (College of Arts and Sciences and the Gephardt Institute's Civic Engagement Fund) for a service-learning class, "Documenting the Queer Past," to be offered for the first time in Fall 2017.

Stephanie Kirk (Associate Professor, Spanish, and WGSS Affiliate) published her 2016 book Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and the Gender Politics of Knowledge in Colonial Mexico with Routledge as part of the series New Hispanisms.

Rebecca Messbarger (Professor of Italian, Affiliate in History, WGSS, Art History, IAS, and Performing Arts) gave an invited lecture at Notre Dame on September 15: "Anatomy of the Florentine Enlightenment." On Oct. 6, Messbarger hosted the Historia edica Lecture "Frankenstein, the Vital Force and Electricity," at the Becker Medical Library. For the Medical Humanities Program, Messbarger organized a panel discussion on "Sexploration at Washington University: The Legacy of Masters and Johnson in Sexuality Research and Clinical Practice" in conjuction with the Assembly Series celebration of the 50th anniversary of Masters' and Johnson's publication of The Human Sexual Response. She presented, "From the to the Body Politic: The Making of the Florentine Enlightenment State," in October in New York.

Amber Jamilla Musser (Assistant Professor, WGSS) published, "Queering Sugar: Kara Walker's Sugar Sphinx and the Intractability of Black Female Sexuality," in Signs: Journal of Women and Culture. She has a chapter, "Re-membering Lorde: Adding Lesbian Feminist Mother Poet to Black," in No Tea, No Shade (Duke University, 2016), which is a compilation of work in Black Queer Studies. She will be presenting at the NWSA conference in Montreal and American Studies Association conference in Denver.
Andrea Nichols (Lecturer, WGSS) co-edited *Broadening the Scope of Human Trafficking Research: A Reader* (forthcoming October 2016).

Kedron Thomas (Assistant Professor in Anthropology, and WGSS Affiliate) recently published *Regulating Style: Intellectual Property Law and the Business of Fashion in Guatemala*, which explores the world of fashion knock-offs and fakes in Central America.

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) published "Early Modern Translation and Transfer: Mixing and (not)matching Languages: Johannes Praetorius and Eberhard Werner Happel" in *Untranslatables* and "Body Language: Keeping Secrets in Early Modern Narrative," in "Mapping Gendered Routes and Spaces in the Early Modern World" in *Sixteenth Century Journal*. She also organized the St. Louis Symposium on German Literature and Culture entitled "Knowledge in Motion: Constructing Transcultural Experiences in Early Modern Germany" in the spring of 2016.

Adia Harvey Wingfield (Professor of Sociology, and WGSS Affiliate) co-wrote with Taura Taylor, "Race, Gender, and Class in the Entrepreneurial Process: Intersectional Counterframes and Black Business Owners," in *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. She continues to serve as a contributing writer for *The Atlantic*. She also did an interview with NPR on October 8, 2016 on the racial wage gap. She has been chosen as President-Elect of Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), which promotes scholarship and other activities related to gender issues in sociology. This group publishes the journal *Gender and Society*, which is considered the top outlet for sociological research focused on gender issues. As part of her duties in this position, she will be organizing a national conference for SWS.

"Something which we think is impossible now is not impossible in another decade."
—Constantte Baker Motley
(First Black Woman in the U.S. to become a Federal Judge)

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE UPDATES**

Andrea Bolivar (Anthropology) has completed her ethnographic dissertation research in Chicago. She worked with Transgender Latinas, focusing on their experiences in sexual economies of labor. She presented "Ethnography and Transgender Latinas’ Experiences in Sex Work in Chicago," at the 2016 Latinx Studies Conference in Pasadena, California. The paper was recently awarded The Association of Latina and Latino Anthropologists (ALLLA) "Graduate Student Paper Prize." She also presented her work at a class session in Feminist Research Methodologies this fall.

Elyse Ona Singer (Anthropology) is currently completing her dissertation, *Legalizing Sin: Abortion Reform and Reproductive Governance in Mexico*, with the support of a dissertation fellowship from the American Association for University Women. She recently won a prize from the Council on Anthropology of Reproduction for the best graduate student paper for her work examining processes of moral reckoning around abortion among Catholic women in Mexico City. Last month she was invited to speak about her research at the University of Connecticut’s Danforth Conference on health and human rights. Moreover, this semester Elyse is teaching *Regulating Reproduction: Morality, Politics, and (in)justice*, which is cross-listed in Anthropology and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.
# WGSS Course Offerings

## Spring 2017

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>L77 100B</td>
<td>Intro to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies</td>
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<td>L77 103</td>
<td>Freshman Seminar: Sex &amp; Gender in the Gutter: An Intro to Gender and Sexuality Studies Through Comics</td>
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<td>L77 214C</td>
<td>Gender and Texts: Treating Disabilities: Writings on Women and Men with Different Abilities and IMPA</td>
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<td>L77 3013</td>
<td>On Love and Intimacy: Theorizing Kinship in the Multiple</td>
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<td>L77 301A</td>
<td>The Politics of Kanye West: Black Genius and Sonic Aesthetics</td>
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<td>L77 3133</td>
<td>Service Learning: Feminist and Queer Youth Studies</td>
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<td>L77 3171</td>
<td>Service Learning: Women and Prison</td>
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<td>L77 323A</td>
<td>Sex Trafficking</td>
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<td>L77 3561</td>
<td>Law, Gender, &amp; Justice</td>
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<td>L77 3751</td>
<td>Topics in Women's History: Women, Gender and Sexuality in Postwar America</td>
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<td>L77 393</td>
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<td>L77 3942</td>
<td>Service Learning: Projects in Domestic Violence</td>
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<td>L77 396</td>
<td>Gender and Social Class</td>
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<td>L77 4013</td>
<td>Queer of Color Critique: Sense and Sexuality</td>
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<td>L77 401A</td>
<td>Transnational Queer Activism</td>
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<td>Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory</td>
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<td>L77 475</td>
<td>Performers and Radicals: Feminist Thinking Through History</td>
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## Fall 2016

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<tr>
<td>L77 100B</td>
<td>Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies</td>
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<td>L77 206</td>
<td>Sexuality and the State</td>
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<td>L77 310</td>
<td>From Hysteria to Hysterectomy</td>
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<td>L77 3172</td>
<td>Queer Histories</td>
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<td>L77 343</td>
<td>Understanding the Evidence</td>
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<td>L77 3561</td>
<td>Women and the Law</td>
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<td>L77 360</td>
<td>Transgender Studies</td>
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<td>L77 3813</td>
<td>Flower Boys &amp; Tom Boys</td>
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<td>L77 4012</td>
<td>Advanced Queer Theory</td>
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<td>L77 417W</td>
<td>Feminist Research Methodologies</td>
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<td>L77 421</td>
<td>From Mammy to Welfare Queen</td>
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<td>L77 436</td>
<td>Black Sexual Politics</td>
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<td>L77 501</td>
<td>Advanced Feminist Theory</td>
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Julie Moreau joined the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Washington University this fall as a Postdoctoral Fellow. Dr. Moreau completed her doctoral degree in Political Science and earned a certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at McGill University and taught at Northern Arizona University before coming to Washington University. Dr. Moreau's multi-sited research examines the political strategies of lesbian activists in Argentina and South Africa. Dr. Moreau has published numerous articles and book chapters on this research. She is currently working on a book project, which argues "that lesbian activists have always articulated demands that cannot be met through the extension of citizenship rights." Moreau "explores how rights claims have a hard time accommodating multiple forms of difference—or intersectional demands for justice. In this sense, incorporation into the nation as full citizens doesn't change what many activists are up to. On the other hand, activists need to be careful that their demands and their work are not coopted by state projects." Her research on activists in Argentina and South Africa sheds light on the dynamics of women's movements all over the world, and provides new ways of thinking about the role of women, and other underrepresented groups, in the mainstream political sphere—issues that have come to the fore during the current Presidential election season.

Currently, Dr. Moreau is teaching a course called 'Queer Citizenship.' "My students are amazing," she stated. "They are so engaged and make such exciting connections between course material, their other classes, and their everyday lives. I am grateful to have the opportunity to work with them." She is looking forward to teaching another course this spring called "Transnational Queer Activism." This course will examine the various forms that queer mobilization takes in transnational context.

As she completes her current book manuscript, Dr. Moreau is also setting up a new collaborative project that examines political participation among LGBT Latinx registered voters. She says, "Most scholarship on LGBT voters in the United States only looks at what white LGBT folks do. This is a big problem because it fails to recognize diversity within the LGBT community, and can reinforce the falsehoods that sexual diversity is less common in communities of color, or that communities of color are homophobic." She hopes the project will provide a more complex picture of the LGBT community and challenge these widespread and damaging myths. She continued: "I'm also interested to hear how LGBT Latinx voters describe their relationships to the electoral process... LGBT issues have received [much attention] this election season... Trump, for example, has made numerous statements that equate Latinos with immigrants and immigrants with criminals." Clearly Moreau's new project is timely.

Dr. Moreau is loving Washington University so far. "Everyone is so nice! Seriously!" she told me. "I've felt very welcome on campus since day one. I am very grateful for the opportunity to be here."
The Queering the Global/Transnational Conversation Reading Group

The Queering the Global/Transnational Conversation Reading Group offers opportunities for faculty and students to discuss global/transnational flows of thought at the intersections of race, gender, and queerness. Organized by Mary Ann Dzuback and Jeffrey McCune with graduate students Ben Meiners and Simone Pfleger, the group engages with a range of texts addressing transnational/global concerns. The group explores the cutting edge of theories and methodologies in queer studies from across the globe. The first reading was Gayatri Gopinath’s *Impossible Desires: Queer Diasporas and South Asian Public Cultures* (2005), which explores queer female diasporic subjectivity in South Asian literature, film, and music. In discussion, the group noted that while Gopinath’s book meaningfully reconsiders the South Asian diaspora in terms beyond the configuration of patrilineal descent so often at the foundation of discourses on the nation-state/diaspora relationship, her project elides certain crucial intersections of caste and sexuality. A productive conversation ensued about how scholars can construct and deploy truly transnational methodologies, and whether it’s possible when making provocative critical interventions to give readers enough field-context to critique our work in real time. The second reading was Eng-Beng Lim’s 2014 book *Brown Boys and Rice Queens: Spellbinding Performance in the Asias*, which examines the white man/native boy dyad in the context of Asian, Asian-American, and diasporic performance, bringing to the forefront of post/transcolonial studies the queer desire often overlooked in cross-cultural encounters between the Asias and the West. The group discussed Lim’s successful decentering of the West in the colonial narrative and his dedication to seeing the native boy on the native boy’s own terms. Constructive criticism of the text’s dense theoretical framework led to consideration of how interdisciplinary scholarship can attempt to put multiple ways of reading into conversation with one another, ultimately expanding expected discourses in new and surprising ways. For the final meeting of the semester, the group will read Amanda Lock Swarr’s, *Sex in Transition: Remaking Gender and Race in South Africa* (2012), which examines gender liminality, political transition, and intersections of race and sexuality in South Africa from the 1990s to the contemporary moment.

Voice and Sexuality Studies Reading Group

Professors Amber Musser (WGSS) and Paige McGinley (Performing Arts) are leading a new reading group titled “Voice and Sexuality Studies,” which aims to create opportunities for interested faculty and students to read and discuss various methods, debates, and burgeoning ideas within sound studies. A truly interdisciplinary endeavor, the group plans to engage with materials that approach sound studies from multiple angles, including performance studies, musicology, film studies, and technology studies, as well as critical projects that also examine the racial and sexual dimensions of sound, noise, and song.

For their first meeting, the group paired Roland Barthes’ foundational essay, “The Grain of the Voice” (1977), with African American and visual studies scholar Fred Moten’s reading of Barthes in his book *In the Break: The Aesthetics of the Black Radical Tradition* (2003). In addition to reading some of the fundamental texts in the field of sound studies and its familial branches, the group also plans to mix in more contemporary works that are pushing the field in new and exciting directions. For their next and final meeting of the fall semester, the Voice and Sexuality Studies group will read William Cheng’s (2016) *Just Vibrations: The Purpose of Sounding Good*, which examines paranoid and reparative affects that inform our attitudes toward self, sound, and scholarship, and which is available via open access on the University of Michigan Press website. The group’s discussion of Cheng’s book will take place on December 6, 2016, at noon in McMillan 221, and all those interested are welcome to join. The group will reconvene in the spring semester, offering a fresh take on their topic each month. The spring semester might also see the group devote some meetings to workshop each other’s work, should group members elect to put forward a piece of their own writing for feedback and discussion. In all, this new reading group should provide a thoughtful space for students and faculty to develop ideas relating to their own interests and research in a community environment.
THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES
SAMPLING OF EVENTS FOR FALL 2016

Decentering the West: Queer Space Graduate Workshop

Gender and Politics in the 2016 Presidential Election

Friday, August 26th
1:00-3:45 pm
Wunder Hall, Room 221

Gender Impacts: Women and the Criminal Justice System


Law, Identity, and Culture Initiative in the School of Law presents

Aimee Meredith Cox
Professor of Africana and African American Studies at Florida State University

Love Letters & Lessons: Notes on the Ethnography of Black Girlhood

4:00 p.m., October 19, 2016
Women's Building Formal Lounge

GLOBAL BLACKNESS

TINA CAMPT
Professor, Department of Philosophy

STIRRING PASSION: THE TERRORISM OF BLACK FEMINISM IN A PHOTOGRAPHIC PERSPECTIVE

FALL 2016

4:00 p.m.
October 19, 2016
Women's Building Formal Lounge

BARBARA PIERCE BUSH
Advocate, Entrepreneur, Changemaker

"One Person Can Make A Difference: Confronting Today's Global Health Challenges"
5 PM Sunday, November 20th
Graham Chapel

Washington University in St. Louis

Washington University in St. Louis
DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES
FALL 2016 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Tuesday, September 20
Busch Hall, Room 18 4:00-5:30 p.m.
"Legalizing Sin: Catholic Religiosity and Moral Reckoning Around Abortion in Mexico"
Elyse Singer, PhD Candidate, Anthropology & WGSS Graduate Certificate
Commentator: Katherine D. Moran, Assistant Professor of American Studies, Saint Louis University

Thursday, October 6
McMillan Hall, Room 259 4:00-5:30 p.m.
"The Erotics of Tears: Moving Beyond Pornographies of Woundedness"
Amber Jamilla Musser, Assistant Professor, WGSS
Commentator: Paige McGinley, Assistant Professor of Performing Arts

Thursday, November 3
McMillan Hall, Room 259 4:00-5:30 p.m.
"Research at Women’s Colleges, 1890-1940"
Mary Ann Dzuback, Associate Professor, WGSS & Education
Commentator: Linda Nicholson, Susan E. and William P. Stiritz Distinguished Professor of Women’s Studies, and Professor of History

Thursday, December 1
McMillan Hall, Room 259 4:00-5:30 p.m.
"The Rapist’s Tears"
Rebecca Wanzo, Associate Professor, WGSS
Commentator: Jami Ake, Senior Lecturer, WGSS & IPH

Colloquium paper will be available two weeks before the session, by contacting the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at 935-5102 or dkepley@wustl.edu. Only a brief summary of the paper will be presented at the colloquium, so attendees are requested to read the paper in advance.
Olivia Beres is a junior majoring in WGSS and Systems Engineering, with a minor in Computer Science. Olivia is passionate about reproductive justice, which moves beyond reproductive health and rights to acknowledge systemic barriers to reproductive choice. Olivia’s commitment to reproductive justice started in high school, where she participated in and eventually led Louisville Girls Leadership. She also served as a Peer Educator for Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky, teaching sex education in Louisville schools.

Upon arriving at Washington University, Olivia continued her work in sexual health; she facilitates birth control education programs through Bedsider and serves as a Sexual Health Peer Health Educator for Student Health Services. As a PHE she presents Washington University’s sex education program, Sex in the Dark, to first year students; organizes Sex Week, a week dedicated to sex-positive programming; and distributes safe sex supplies like condoms and dental dams. This fall, Olivia also facilitated The Date, Washington University’s sexual violence and consent education program for first year students.

Olivia first encountered the WGSS department through the FOCUS program, "Women in Science," and is currently a teaching assistant for the FOCUS course "Introduction to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies." Olivia has also created a mentoring program for first years with other FOCUS participants. Olivia has taken many courses in the department; her favorites include "Women and the Law," "Making Sex and Gender: Understanding the History of the Body," and "Queer Citizenship."

The summer after her freshman year, Olivia interned with the Reproductive Rights Activist Service Corps, which accepts less than 4% of applicants. Her host site was Kentucky Health Justice Network, where she helped plan workshops on trans health and reproductive justice, updated social media accounts, and interviewed clients from KHJN’s practical support abortion fund.

This past summer, Olivia served as a patient educator and advocate at Reproductive Health Services of Planned Parenthood in St. Louis and has continued her work there this semester. As a patient educator, Olivia provides options counseling, birth control education, and intimate partner violence screening for pregnant folks accessing abortion. As a patient advocate, she supports patients throughout their procedure by talking to them and holding their hand. This summer, Olivia also attended the American Association of University Women’s National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Washington, DC, where she heard from inspiring speakers including Franchesca Ramsey, Judge Marisa Demelo, Kelly Tsai, and Sarah McBride.

In addition to her work for reproductive justice, Olivia is a computer science TA and an active member of Lutheran Campus Ministry. Olivia plans to pursue a career that combines her engineering skills and passion for reproductive justice.
WGsS ALUMNI UPDATES

Rosa Heyman (2014)
Upon graduating, Rosa moved to New York City to pursue a job in media. She began her career as an assistant to the editor in chief of PEOPLE.com, quickly climbing the ranks to land the role of engagement editor just two years after graduation. In November, Rosa moved on to MarieClaire.com, where she works to grow the brand’s audience and meet monthly web traffic goals as social media editor. Rosa’s WGSS degree played a major part in securing the job at MarieClaire.com, her boss revealed. The feminist brand covers complex issues, such as sexuality and rape, and therefore requires editors to be able to speak thoughtfully and bring nuance to the content. Rosa says that “working at MarieClaire.com truly feels like the perfect intersection” of her interests in women’s issues and journalism.

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/rosaheyman/
Twitter: https://twitter.com/Rosa_Heyman

Erika Sabbath (2005)
After graduating from Washington University with a double major in WGSS and English, Erika worked for two years at a health care research firm in Washington, DC, she then pursued an MPH in social and behavioral sciences at Harvard’s T.H. Chan School of Public Health. In 2009 she entered a doctoral program in social epidemiology at Harvard and the University of Paris. In 2012, she started a postdoc at the Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies. There she continued to focus on working conditions as social determinants of health, specifically American and European women’s work family conditions throughout the lifespan, and their effects on long-term health and mortality. She began a tenure-track assistant professor position at Boston College School of Social Work in 2014. That fall, she was awarded a three-year career development (K01) grant from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and subsequently a five-year grant to study the impact of workplace policies and practices on both worker health and patient health in hospitals. She’s very happy that the dean at BC SSW, Gautam Yadama, and his wife Shanta Pandey, were just recruited from Washington University. She was on campus for a conference in mid-September and said that it was “great to be back!” Erika and her spouse Nick Teich, who founded and directs “the world’s first overnight summer camp for transgender and gender-variant kids and youth,” live at camp all summer, where she can do her academic research. She says she has had “the privilege of witnessing the changes in kids’ confidence and happiness as they meet others like themselves and are able to enjoy a summer camp experience that otherwise might not be available to them because of their gender identity or expression.”
"Global City Futures: Desire and Development in Singapore"

NATALIE OSWIN
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR
DEPT OF GEOGRAPHY
MCGILL UNIVERSITY

OCTOBER 27  4 PM
BUSCH HALL, ROOM 18
On October 27th, WGSS welcomed Natalie Oswin, Associate Professor of Geography at McGill University. As part of our Decentering the West series, Professor Oswin gave a talk entitled "Global City Futures: Desire and Development in Singapore," drawn from her upcoming book of the same name. Through an analysis of Singapore, where she lived and worked for six years, Professor Oswin examined the challenges and possibilities of maintaining a queer political agenda when queerness moves from the margins to the center. Though the Singapore government has adopted an official policy of tolerance towards LGBT people in order to grow its economy, actual policy changes have not followed and LGBT organizations have been forced to adopt assimilationist and homonationalist standpoints. Professor Oswin wants to imagine a different kind of queer political challenge to the Singapore government. Drawing on theorists such as Lee Edelman, Jasbir Puar, and José Muñoz, her book asks why, in this apparently queer time in its history, does Singapore remain a straight space?

Asserting that Singaporean LGBT activist claims for "the freedom to love" cannot recognize the foreclosure of the futures of others, Professor Oswin argues for a broader understanding of who constitutes a queer subject. She explained that Singapore enforces a specific heterosexual family norm that leaves many non-LGBT people stranded in queer time. For example, while the government encourages the immigration of "foreign talent," or wealthy, well-educated people it envisions as members of its burgeoning "creative class," foreign workers are excluded from the national family. Legally prevented from marrying a citizen and barred from becoming pregnant or delivering a child in Singapore, these foreign workers are cast as queer, abject, and anachronistic. Professor Oswin ended her talk by arguing that we should go beyond the destabilization of the homosexual/heterosexual binary to interrogate a racialized, nationalized, gendered, and classed family norm that renders many subjects precarious and without a future. After her talk, Professor Oswin answered questions about Singapore’s political and legal landscape, as well as the strategies of and impediments to resistance that she observed during her time there.
In conjunction with Professor Natalie Oswin’s talk, "Global City Futures: Desire and Development in Singapore," the first WGSS Graduate Certificate student workshop of the 2016-17 academic year was held October 28 in conversation with Professor Oswin. The group discussed her 2008 article, "Critical geographies and the uses of sexuality: deconstructing queer space," which has become a classic text in the field of queer geography and in which Oswin offers more capacious ways of thinking about queer space beyond the critically standard hetero/homo divide. Oswin argues for the consideration of queer space not as "thing" or singular location on a map, but as event, an approach that allows for the ephemerality of space as environment and recognizes possible changes or map-shifts over time.

During the workshop, Oswin answered questions about her methodologies. She explained that much of her research strategy is a combination of conceptual and archival work, attempting to bring to bear on one another empirical data and critical theories of sexuality, race, gender, and class. When archives are piece-meal or limited, Oswin creates her own through extensive, exploratory reading of materials of all kinds. Most importantly, Oswin says, it does no service to enter an archive looking for one particularly defined subject you expect to find; this narrow approach can cause you to miss all the diversely unexpected things that might be there.

Oswin also addressed migration as a fruitful concept in her ability to think about race and sexuality together. Of all points of intersectionality, this pair is particularly privileged in considerations of how we reproduce ourselves. Unfortunately, so often still today our discussions of nation, race, migration, and the diaspora still elide the fact that heteronormativity powerfully shapes each of these. Most emphatically Oswin’s work strives to expose and correct for the critical blind spots, especially in the social sciences, that continue to ignore or deprioritize sexuality as a crucial category of analysis.

The workshop ended with a discussion of the WGSS speakers series theme, "Decentering the West." Oswin emphasized that decentering does not mean delinking; to shift the focus of our study does not mean to break or to ignore our ties to elsewhere. Rejection is not a viable option. We cannot get around the fact of colonial history, Oswin says, but we can negotiate it mindfully and responsibly in our critical endeavors.
Washington University in St. Louis will host the third annual Transgender Spectrum Conference Friday, November 4th and Saturday, November 5th, 2016. Initiated by the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 2014, the conference brings together a wide range of people interested in celebrating the lives of transgender people in the St. Louis area and beyond. Our goal is to create dialogue, to educate ourselves and our community, and to improve the lives of all gender variant people.

The conference will include a variety of programming (papers, panels, workshops) for everyone—from those learning about transgender issues for the first time to seasoned scholars and activists. This year’s conference theme is Education, Liberation, and Healing.

Supervised activities for children/youth will be scheduled on Saturday. Children must be registered for the conference. Children’s programming is open to all kids who are old enough to participate in group activities.

Continuing Education Credit is available for Medical and Social Service Professionals. CME is provided by the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Continuing Medical Education. CE is provided by the George Warren Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis.

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Class of 2016

Best Wishes for your futures!!

The Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies