A Word from Our Director

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies departments and programs navigate a challenging path. Women's activism has been a critical element in shaping feminist and gender studies. WGSS scholarship is driven by: 1) concerns about women's lives, women's contributions, and women's interests—lives, contributions, and interests that were not part of the canon 40 years ago when WGSS programs were established, and 2) by more recent work in gender and sexuality and the ways these categories have shaped our thought, our institutions, and real people's lives.

Some continue to think of WGSS as an interdisciplinary program that arose out of a political moment and do not always recognize the real scholarly methodological and interdisciplinary knowledge contributions feminist and gender scholars make. The knowledge WGSS scholars produce is not disengaged knowledge, nor is it "objective" in the sense that many positivist thinkers assert as a goal for scholarship. Rather, WGSS scholars lay claim to what we call "embodied knowledge" that is informed by our own positions or locations in any given society. We argue that no knowledge is entirely "objective" or entirely complete. Every scholar brings to the enterprise his or her interests, concerns, biases, assumptions, and blind spots, as well as the special insights that are shaped by our own experiences, what we have learned in our studies, and the expectations for legitimate knowledge claims that our disciplines demand. In WGSS scholarship we take great care to explore critically these biases and assumptions, our own and others', name them, and then let the evidence we find speak to us in our efforts to analyze and understand our social science data, literary texts and visual materials, documents and archives, and scientific discoveries. At this point in the development of the discipline, WGSS scholars use feminist theory, queer theory, affect theory, critical race theory, as well as the usual disciplinary approaches, to help us understand the processes shaping structural power, inequalities, marginalization, visibility and invisibility. That said, I would like to share some of our WGSS faculty's research contributions to feminist, sexuality, gender, and critical race studies.

In her new project, Sex in the Clinton Years, historian Andrea Friedman revisits the Clinton-Lewinsky scandal, which provided the opportunity for a wide-ranging debate about the definition of sex in late twentieth-century America. She argues that the scandal happened when and as it did because democracy had been transformed by the social justice movements of the postwar years—most to the point here, the women's and gay and lesbian movements that had challenged the near-monopoly on state power of white heterosexual men. In the 1990s, the extent and the limitations of that transformation were expressed in the enactment of numerous policies and laws relating to gender, sexuality, and reproduction, particularly Don't Ask, Don't Tell (DADT, 1993), the Violence Against Women Act (1994), the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA, 1996), and the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act which purported to "end welfare as we know it" (1996). By bringing together both "sex" (the scandal) and "politics" (the compromises negotiated between elected leaders, the pressures brought to bear by activists, and the laws and policies that institutionalized ideas), she traces how the "straight state" changed in the wake of identity politics, as it maintained some Ameri-
cans’ desires, pleasures, and rights at its center while purporting, but largely failing, to recognize the claims of others for the same sorts of autonomy and freedom.

Historian Mary Ann Dzuback has been working on a project for a number of years. Entitled Women Social Science Scholars in the Academy, 1890-1940, her work explores women who challenged the expectation that knowledge production was exclusively a male occupation. These women saw themselves as producers of knowledge at a time when most American institutions accepted women’s involvement in the transmission or consumption of knowledge, but not its production. She constructs the stories of women’s social science training in PhD programs in American research universities, and their efforts to transform institutional culture in American colleges and universities to accept women’s knowledge production. In addition, she analyzes women’s contributions to the development of the social sciences during this period of disciplinary formation and their work in using the knowledge produced to influence public policy and local, state, and federal social and economic programs.

Jeffrey McCune, scholar, performer, and playwright, has completed a pilot project on homelessness among LGBT youth of color in three cities and the ways race, gender, and sexuality figure in their lives and their interactions with social service agencies in trying to get off the streets. He is working on a project called Read! An Experiment in Seeing Black, investigating ways of “knowing” Black men without relying on the stereotypical constructions of Black manhood that have permeated our culture, media, politics, and policy debates. He introduces “care” and “critical generosity” as means of challenging these stereotypes. McCune is also continuing work on a play, “Archives of Violence,” which rests on ethnography (observations and interviews), to investigate Black men’s experiences as perpetrators and as victims of violence. Building on this project, he is exploring how everyday experiences of physical and psychical violence shape Black people’s lives and communities in “An Archive of Violence.” This project is to become a new play addressing the recent unrest in Ferguson. In addition McCune hopes that, through performances and discussions, it becomes a contribution to rebuilding the life of the community.

Theorist Amber Musser is working on her second book, Beyond the Feminine Mystique: Femininity and Its Objects, which examines three figures that are attached to our understanding of femininity: the mother, the lesbian, and the diva. Using psychoanalytic theory, science studies, and queer theory, she examines the responses these figures generate, including ambivalence, disgust, and love, that can lead to different ways the feminine is objectified. She analyzes the maternal, through the work of Audre Lorde, lesbian feminism, and queer of color critique. She then investigates feminine passivity, sexual receptivity, and pleasure using Masters and Johnson’s sexology research, as well as the work of others who theorized and studied female sexuality. And she investigates feminine excess as captured in certain kinds of characters—the diva and the dandy—as well as films, television shows, and other means of representing these characters through transgender portrayals in these media. Her work helps us to understand how such figures of femininity, produced in scientific research, theory, and media, have shaped our thinking about the liberatory and limiting meanings of the feminine.

Linda Nicholson’s new book project examines the relationship between feminism and growing economic inequality in the U.S. (pg. 3). Literary and Cultural scholar Rebecca Wanzo will be on leave in 2015-16 at the Society for the Humanities at Cornell University. Building on her work on how feeling is used to shape misconceptions about race and gender in American public discourse, she plans to use discourse analysis, narrative theory, and critical legal theory to examine the relationship between time and rights in American public debates in her manuscript, Civil Rights Temporalities. Her analysis will include Supreme Court decisions, political speeches, news commentary, activist rhetoric, and popular culture to analyze the ways conflicting beliefs and understandings of time and identity, including racial and gender identity, work together to shape ideas about what people deserve as citizens. The areas of public debate she hopes to explore include racial equality, gender and reproductive rights, gun rights, and crime in relation to punishment in the criminal justice system. By disentangling competing and conflicting stories of progress and how what she calls temporal fictions are used to create arguments about what rights should exist in public discussions, she hopes we can better understand the relationship between time, identity, and rights.

WGSS faculty study the ways gender, sexuality, and race are constructed and inscribed in cultural productions and political discourse and how that in turn shapes our understanding of the ways gender, sexuality, and race are interpreted to challenge and legitimate existing power relations in a variety of institutions. In a period in which we have had to confront ongoing racial disparities in places including Ferguson, Missouri, and at a time when women’s control of our bodies, sexuality, and reproduction are under attack and LGBT people are still pursuing full equality under the law, this kind of research performs an important critical function.

WU’s program started in 1972 with a petition signed by 1100 students demanding courses that would analyze women’s lives and conditions in the past and present, in the U.S. and elsewhere, and address wide gender gaps in the college and graduate curriculum.

"So let us wage a glorious struggle against illiteracy, poverty, and terrorism. Let us pick up our books and our pens - They are the most powerful weapons."

—Malala Yousafzai
Faculty Spotlight: Linda Nicholson

When Professor Nicholson was an undergraduate in the 1960s and a graduate student in the early 1970s, there were no Women's Studies programs, at least not where she was, at Penn as an undergraduate and at Brandeis as a graduate student. In 1974 she joined the faculty at the State University of New York Albany. In 1975 she was asked by a colleague to teach a course on feminist theory for the SUNY Albany fledgling Women's Studies Program. She said yes. Teaching that course changed her academic career.

She came to Washington University at the very start of the century, on January 1, 2000, to take the newly endowed Susan and William Slavitz endowed chair in Women's Studies. For the first year and a half she focused on getting to know the program and its wonderful director, Hel- en Power. In the fall of 2001 she became director of the program for five years until 2006. Since then, she has chaired the Graduate Certificate Committee and the Colloquium and Lecture Series Committee, served as interim director in 2011-2012 when Professor Dzuback was on sab- batical, and worked on various search committees, the Re- search Institute Committee and the Dubrovnik Conference Committee. She has also been the official mentor of post- docs and young faculty in the program. She looks now at the decision to come here as one of the best of her life. As she says, "this is a great program with terrific people". She has learned a lot from her colleagues.

Her teaching for WGSS has principally been in the area of feminist theory, an undergraduate course that satis- fies a requirement for the major, and a graduate course. One of her main goals, particularly for her undergraduate theory course, is to show students how there is no one movement called "feminism" that has remained unchanged over time and across- cultures. She encourages students to explore how social movements aimed at changing gender understandings and gender relationships have varied: such variations depend upon the very diverse social contexts that have led different groups of activists to demand changes. In addition to teaching these two theory courses, she has also taught other courses over the years, including co- teaching with Beth Fisher "Women and Social Class" and with Mary Ann Dzuback "Feminist Research Methods." She says that one of the delights of teaching in WGSS at Washington University is that we are able to keep the size of our classes relatively small. That makes for much better student-to-student and student-to-teacher interaction. Teaching relatively small classes makes her aware of how every class is unique, depending on the specific personalities that make

Her undergraduate and graduate education shaped her research. As an undergraduate she was a phi- losophy major. Her graduate work was in an interdiscipli- nary department at Brandeis, called the History of Ideas. Since then her research has examined the relation between "big ideas," ideas that have informed major philosophical and political movements, and the historical contexts in which they have emerged and flourished. In her first book, Gender and History: The Limits of Social Theory in the Age of the Family, she criticized the social theorists John Locke and Karl Marx for failing to recognize how the relation between private and public in Locke's case and the domestic and the economic in Marx's case, were historically contin- gent separations. She argued that this failure to see these separations in historical terms led both of these theorists to weaknesses in their respective theories, particularly in their theories' abilities to understand gender. In the 1980s and
up the class. She doesn’t think that students are aware of how much they themselves contribute to the success of a particular class.

In the last few years, in addition to her research and teaching, she has taken on a new role at the university, that of faculty ombuds for the Danforth campus. The ombuds office is a place where faculty can come to informally talk about workplace concerns. Her role is to listen, to help faculty gain information about university policies and to assist them in figuring out ways to deal with their concerns. She says that it has been a very rewarding role, one that she has enjoyed a great deal.

Otherwise, she spends time relaxing with family and friends, walking, and reading. She reads novels in the evening to help her unwind. She is glad that she gave up early thoughts of being an English major. She likes having novel reading as a totally non-work related activity.

Professor Nicholson’s exceptional scholarship has been nationally and internationally recognized among feminist theorists for over 30 years.

## Faculty Updates

**Amy Cislo**, Lecturer in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, gave a keynote address at the Transgender Spectrum Conference at the University of Missouri St. Louis in November and also presented at the History of Science Society Conference in November. During the fall semester she participated in the Medical Humanities reading group along with fellow WGSS faculty member Barbara Baumgartner. Dr. Cislo is looking forward to the Vesalius and the Invention of the Modern Body conference in February ([Vesalius.wustl.edu](http://Vesalius.wustl.edu)), for which she served on the planning committee. She feels very fortunate this academic year to have had opportunities to coordinate her teaching with local conferences. Students who took Dr. Cislo’s Trans Studies class in the fall participated in the Transgender Spectrum conference and students who are currently enrolled in Making Sex and Gender: Understanding History of the Body will have an opportunity to participate in the Vesalius conference.

**Adrienne Davis**, William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law, WGSS (Affiliate), and Vice Provost of the University, delivered the Ida B. Wells-Barnett Distinguished Lecture at Spelman College. She also gave talks on the emerging regulation of gender and bathrooms at Indiana University’s conference on Regulating Intimacy and the Queer Critical Legal Studies Northeastern University School of Law; a talk on black polygamy at Harvard Law School’s Frontiers in Sexuality symposium; a faculty workshop on sex work at the University of Minnesota Law School; a paper entitled From Placage to Sugar Babies: Contracts for Intimate Attachment from the Nineteenth Century to Today for the American Historical Association Annual Meeting; a talk "Feminism Comes Home: Governance at the University & the Trigger Debates at Harvard Law School"; remarks at the University of Washington/Seattle Law School annual conference on Promoting Diversity in Law School Leadership; and two talks at the Association of American Law Schools Annual Meeting: one on Law School Leadership in the 21st Century and the other on pet inheritance for the Animal Law Section. Professor Davis also served on the Littleton-Griswold Prize Selection Committee, which awards the American Historical Association’s prize for best book each year. Finally, she continued her involvement in the University of Michigan’s The Celia Project, about a woman enslaved in Missouri, and this fall hosted the seminar meeting here at Washington University. The Law, Identity & Culture Initiative, which Professor Davis co-directs, hosted talks by Patricia Williams and Lawrie Balfour and also sponsored the third Post-Race?: Interrogations, Provocations & Disruptions Lecture by Northwestern philosopher, Charles Mills.

**Andrea Friedman**, Associate Professor in History/Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, recently published her book, *Citizenship in Cold War America: the National Security State and the Possibilities of Dissent*. The book has been designated "highly recommended" by CHOICE Reviews. She has recently begun a new project, tentatively titled "Sex in the Clinton Years," that reads Clinton-era sex scandals through the lens of contemporary laws and policies such as Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell; the Defense of Marriage Act, welfare reform, and the Violence Against Women Act. In November 2014 she presented a paper on the Clinton-Lewinsky Scandal, “Dirty Pictures and Stained Dresses: Material Culture, Sexual Politics, and American Democracy” at the *Artifacts as Evidence: The Material Record of Politics* Symposium, sponsored by the Mellon Symposium in Interdisciplinary Inquiry at Washington University.

**Angela Miller**, Professor of Art History and Archaeology and WGSS (Affiliate), has received a fellowship from the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual
Arts, at the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. for 2015-16. Her project, Countermodernism: Reason and Magic in American Art at Mid-Century” is a group study of the circle of gay artists around Lincoln Kirstein, all based in post-World War II New York City.

Craig Monson, Paul Tietjens Professor Emeritus of Music and WGSS (Affiliate), retired January 1 after 30 years on the Washington University faculty. In February he is doing research at the Harry Ransom Center, University of Texas at Austin, with an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Research Fellowship Endowment grant. His new book, due to be published in 2016, is entitled Habitual Offenders: A True Cloister Tale of Repentance, Romance, and Murder. In Fall 2014, supported by a Paul Oskar Kristeller Research Grant from the Renaissance Society of America, he presented, "Conventi, Cantantrici, Convertite," at the Centro Documentazione delle Donne in Bologna, Italy.

Amber Musser, Assistant Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, published an article "Lesbians, Tea, and the Vernacular of Fluids" in the journal Women and Performance (Jan 2015). She has given/or will give talks at UCLA, SUNY-Stony Brook, Haverford, and Washington University related to her recently published book, Sensational Flesh: Race, Power, and Masochism, and new research. She has also participated in a "Key Words in Queer Studies" roundtable at the 2015 MLA conference in Vancouver. She'll be involved in the Queer Affective Histories seminar at the ACLA conference in March in Seattle; a Black Radical Imaginaries panel at Indiana University in April; and Queer Worldings at McGill in May. Dr. Musser is also part of the Sexual Politics/Sexual Poetics collective that is putting on Queer/Art/Poetics at Wesleyan in April, where she will also be presenting.

Anika Walke, Assistant Professor of History and WGSS (Affiliate) recently published the following paper: "Jewish Youth in the Minsk Ghetto: How Age and Gender Mattered," Kritika—Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History, 15, no. 3 (2014): 535-62.

Gerhild Williams, Barbara Schaps Thomas and David M. Thomas Professor in the Humanities and WGSS (Affiliate) recently published: Mediating Culture in the Seventeenth-Century German Novel (2014); "Familiengeschichten: Leonhard Thurneyssers autobiographisches Ausschreiben, * in Pars prooto: Historische Miniaturen zum 75 (2014); Romancing the News: History and Romance in Eberhard Werner Happel’s Deß Teutschen Carls (1690) and Deß Engelländischen Eduards (1691) " in Gender Matters: Discourses of Violence in Early Modern Literature and the Arts, (2013). Dr. Williams is starting a new project, "Knowledge in Motion: The Turk among Us," which deals with the presence of the Turk in 17th century German/European literature and culture. Last fall, she addressed a conference in Stockholm on "Movement and Rest: Transfer of Knowledge in Early Modern Europe." Professor Williams also presented a paper at the annual Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in New Orleans, which introduced her new project.

Taught from infancy that beauty is woman’s scepter, the mind shapes itself to the body, and roaming round its gilt cage, only seeks to adorn its prison.

~Mary Wollstonecraft
WGSS Graduate Certificate Student Updates

Britta Anderson (Romance Languages and Literatures) is currently working on her dissertation, "Criminality and Spirituality in the Borderlands: New Discourses of Mobility." It is a study of recycled spiritual imagery in contemporary works that challenge the immobilization of women on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. She attended the National Women’s Studies Association conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in November, where she presented on a mural project in a Mexico City women's prison, met bell hooks, and practiced yoga with other feminists.

Christiane Merritt (Philosophy) is giving a talk at "Philosophy of Street Art: Art in and of the Street," a conference sponsored by Pratt Institute, American Society for Aesthetics, and NY Institute of Philosophy. Her talk, entitled "Political Art and Street Art Definitions," challenges current philosophical accounts of street art by drawing attention to works by feminist and gay activist groups like Guerrilla Girls and Gran Fury. The conference takes place in March at Pratt and NYU. Christiane is also giving a talk at the Pacific Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association in Vancouver, BC, in April, entitled "Deafness and Mindreading: A Dilemma for Modular Accounts."

Sarah Sobonya (Anthropology) presented her paper, "Natural, Like My Hair: Conceptualizations of Breastfeeding among African American Women," at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropology Association in Washington, D.C. This paper grew out of her research in St. Louis, Missouri. Sarah also worked with the St. Louis Breastfeeding Coalition last fall to write a grant to the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). The grant was to hire and provide training and mentoring to African American women in Ferguson and Jennings, Missouri. The funding will enable them to create a breastfeeding support organization specifically targeting African American women in an effort to reduce racial disparities in breastfeeding initiation and duration. The grant was funded for a total of $48,500 over a period of 18 months beginning in January of 2015.

Adrienne Strong (Anthropology) is currently doing field research in Tanzania from January 2014 through August 2015. She received a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (2014) and a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Grant (2014) to fund her dissertation fieldwork. Her research examines the ways in which the healthcare system in the Rukwa region may contribute to poor maternal health outcomes. She is examining the regional hospital and the health system generally as a biobureaucracy. She emphasizes the voices of health care providers and the challenges they face in striving to provide high quality care, save women’s lives, and make ends meet in their own lives in the face of immense structural challenges and constraints. Additionally, Adrienne has two recent publications, a book chapter and a co-authored paper, "The convergence of social and institutional dynamics resulting in maternal death in Rukwa, Tanzania" in Maternal Mortality: Risk Factors, Anthropological Perspectives, Prevalence in Developing Countries and Preventative Strategies for Pregnancy-Related Death. (forthcoming, 2015) and "Three case studies and experiences of maternal death at a regional referral hospital in Rukwa, Tanzania" in the same volume.

Elisabeth Windle (English and American literature) will present her paper, "Cocksucking and Democracy: Walt Whitman and the Neoliberal Literary Imagining," in March at the annual meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association.
Graduate Student: Beth Windle

Beth Windle is a sixth-year PhD candidate in English and American Literature with a certificate in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Beth is working on her dissertation, tentatively entitled *Queer Nostalgia Across the Gay American Century*, wherein she recovers nostalgia—unpopular, readily dismissed, and presumptively conservative—as a generative emotional position from which to read queer texts. This dissertation gathers together a group of post-Stonewall films, literature, and cultural products that deploy the pre-Stonewall past to think through contemporary issues of gay life, sometimes overtly, sometimes obliquely. These issues include same-sex marriage, the myth of the down low, hate crime laws, and gay teen suicides. Her archive shows how nostalgia is an essential affective mode for negotiating our relationship with the queer past.

The dissertation's first chapter focuses on how the 19th-century queer American poet Walt Whitman has been deployed since the early 1990s by mainstream LGBT activists who argue for marriage equality. Here, she points out the historical violence done by normative, progressivist narratives. The second chapter offers a nostalgic alternative. Beth reads the 2004 film, *Brother to Brother*, which nostalgically depicts a black queer Harlem Renaissance moment. She argues that this film works through an implicit contrast between the Harlem Renaissance past and the early 2000s movement of "down-low" paranoia. The dissertation's next chapter will closely focus on filmic depictions of Truman Capote, examining these films' nostalgia for 1950s gay male effeminacy. In a later chapter, she plans to read the documentary *Gay Sex in the 70s*, which looks back to a promiscuous gay male past before the AIDS epidemic.

"I see my work as performing cultural criticism, using the tools of literary analysis—particularly close reading," she says. "At the same time, I see myself engaging with critics of visual culture on the one hand, and historians of gay and lesbian literature and culture of the other. Because of my training as a literary scholar, I have always been particularly interested in the ways that gay writers of American modernism are taken up in our moment." One of the questions that brought her to this topic was the way in which queer theorists have dismissed nostalgia even as they have engaged so productively with so many other affective positions. This almost ubiquitous denigration made her want to take nostalgia more seriously.

In addition to her dissertation work and teaching, Beth has been an active member of the WGSS Queer Theory Reading Group. "I appreciate that there has always been a great mix of both graduate students and faculty, from various departments, in attendance," she says of the group. "I also like that it offers a rich opportunity for those primarily trained in feminist theory and those primarily trained in queer theory to engage in productive, often surprising conversation." Finally, she appreciates her opportunity to lead one of last year's discussions, which focused on David Halperin's recent book, *How to be Gay*, which helped her to think through some of questions of her dissertation.

Beth thinks that interdisciplinary work is essential for any kind of academic work in the humanities. However, the WGSS program has offered her structured ways of thinking about interdisciplinarity within the context of a scholarly community. In WGSS, she says, interdisciplinarity is a very real commitment rather than a facile buzzword.
Graduate Student Teaching Experiences

Angineh Djavadghazaryans, PhD Candidate in Germanic Languages and Literatures and WGSS Graduate Certificate

I am currently teaching my own section of "Introduction to Women’s Texts" with the title "Shame, Humiliation, Violence and Justice: Women Writing Back." Throughout the course we approach the topic of shame from various perspectives while concentrating on four specific sub-topics: "Coming to Age, Coming to Shame," "Secrecy, Silence, and Shame," "Shamed Bodies," and "Identity and Shame: Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Class."

Not only did I get to design my own syllabus including negotiating sub-topics and readings, as well as materials that encompass the broadest definition of "texts" (such as song lyrics, slam poetry, and visual media), but I also had the opportunity to design creative assignments that allow my students to show their understanding of the materials in a more unconventional way. So far, these assignments have been very rewarding both for my students and for myself. My students have been able to engage with the materials in ways that require a very thoughtful and deep-rooted commitment to the content matter, which, in turn, resulted in very sophisticated discussions of the texts that brought to light perspectives that I would not have necessarily considered. My group of students is absolutely wonderful! We have been able to establish a respectful environment that allows for everyone to feel comfortable in discussing potentially challenging content.

Both challenging and rewarding, this course has been a wonderful experience filled with many memorable moments – both professionally and personally – and I am excited to continue learning with my students in the second half of the semester.

Elisabeth (Beth) Windle, PhD Candidate in English and WGSS Graduate Certificate

In the fall, I taught "Queer Modernisms," a course I designed as a version of "Intro to Women's Texts." Midway into the semester, as we were discussing a passage of James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room*, in which the main character David narrates the shame and self-hatred he feels around his homosexuality, one of my students made an observation that reconfirmed to me the importance of teaching gay and lesbian literary texts. She commented that she had initially signed up to take the class because she assumed it would be heavily theoretical, but that narratives like *Giovanni's Room* (as well as *The Well of Loneliness*, *Maurice*, and others we read) had shown her that the notion of queer need not be cut off from lived human experience. Her comment sparked a discussion that allowed students to draw out ways that the course's materials both were and were not specific to lesbian and gay sexualities, which allowed me to reflect further on my own conception and organization of the course. This interaction was both humbling and instructive for me. I believe it was enabled by this particular pedagogical context, structured by the supportive but flexible WGSS certificate program and its teaching opportunities, that draw on grad students' own skills, knowledges, and creativity. I am thankful for the freedom to design a course that not only fostered students' willingness and ability to ask big questions about sexuality, history, and identity, but also deepened my own thinking about questions relating to my teaching field and my research interests. It goes without saying, too—but perhaps it shouldn't—that the undergraduates who take courses in WGSS are among the most ethically invested of any I've taught at Washington University and elsewhere.
Honors Thesis Presentations

Barriers to Access:
An Analysis of Obstacles to Obtaining Services for Bosnian Immigrant Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence in St. Louis
Christy Marx
Thesis Advisor: Jami Ake

Research shows that immigrants and refugees experience intimate partner violence in different ways than those from other populations. These victims also face many barriers to accessing existing support services for survivors of intimate partner violence. These barriers include first language, lack of knowledge of the United States legal system, and distrust of police. Studies have shown that intimate partner violence is present at relatively equal levels across race and socio-economic status. In St. Louis, Bosnians currently make up approximately five percent of the city’s population. Yet they represent an even smaller percentage of people attempting to utilize services available to assist survivors of intimate partner violence, such as transitional housing, orders of protection, and domestic violence shelters. This discrepancy is likely the result of barriers that are keeping Bosnian survivors from accessing the services they need to achieve safety. Through in-depth interviews with service providers, Christy says, she has gained insight into aspects of the current service system that may be excluding Bosnian immigrant survivors, and she has also developed ideas on how these services could better provide for Bosnian survivors of intimate partner violence.

Christy will be entering the Peace Corps this fall and travelling to Benin to work.

Understanding Malagasy Women’s Preferences for Reproductive Health Care
Mackenzie Findlay
Thesis Advisor: Carolyn Sargent

Mackenzie’s thesis explores the different ways women in Mahabo, Madagascar interact with biomedical (Western) forms of reproductive health care and local, traditional reproductive health care. She conducted ethnographic field research in Mahabo in May, 2014, in order to better understand women’s preferences for care and the barriers they face in accessing their preferred type of care. The ultimate goal is to produce knowledge that could help to improve reproductive health outcomes from a culturally-informed perspective. She asserts that most Mahabo women value the biomedical health center, as evidenced by their attendance at monthly prenatal check-ups, yet many significant barriers preclude routine access to biomedical care. Therefore, most women prefer to, and do, give birth at home. Mackenzie concludes by proposing several initiatives, including building a midwifery clinic. She uses GIS Spatial analysis to determine an ideal location for the clinic so that it could appropriately connect the community with easily accessible biomedical services.

Mackenzie has received a Fulbright Fellowship to teach in Indonesia, starting this Fall.
WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM
SPRING 2015 COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Thursday, February 12th, 4:00-5:30 pm
Shefali Chandra
Associate Professor of History and International and Area Studies
"Just Some Exotic Hindu Thing: The Temporalities of Caste and Race under Globalization"
Commentator: J. Dillon Brown, Associate Professor of English
Location: McMillan Hall, Room 221

Tuesday, March 24th, 4:00-5:30 pm
Laura Rosenbury, Professor of Law
"Lawless Families"
Commentator: Robert Pollak, Hermreich Distinguished Professor of Economics
Location: McMillan Hall, Room 221

Thursday, April 9th, 4:00-5:30 pm
Wynne Moskop
Associate Professor of Political Science, St. Louis University
"Jane Addams and the Formation of Transnational Friendships"
Commentator: Mary Ann Dzuback, Associate Professor of Education and Director of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Location: McMillan Hall, Room 221

Thursday, April 23rd, 4:00-5:30 pm
Shanti Parikh
Associate Professor of Anthropology and African and African American Studies
"Queer Visibility: Uganda’s Anti-Homosexuality Bill, Gay Contagion, and the Incitement to Discourse"
Commentator: Andrea Friedman, Associate Professor of History and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Location: McMillan Hall, Room 259

Colloquium papers will be available two weeks before the colloquium by contacting the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program 935-5102 or wgss@wustl.edu. Since only a summary of the paper will be presented, participants are expected to familiarize themselves with the paper prior to the colloquium.
Home Based WGSS Course Offerings

Spring 2015

L77 100B  Intro to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
L77 206  Sexuality and the State: Introduction to Sexuality Studies
L77 214C  Intro to Women's Texts: Shame, Humiliation, Violence and Justice: Women Writing Back
L77 3013  On Love and Intimacy: Theorizing Kinships in the Multiple
L77 3171  Service Learning: Women in Prison
L77 3203  Bodies Out of Bounds: Feminist and Queer Disability Studies
L77 335  Feminist Theory
L77 3401  Performing Gender
L77 3561  Women and the Law
L77 383  Spectacular Blackness: Race, Gender, and Visual Culture
L77 393  Violence Against Women
L77 3942  Service Learning: Projects in Domestic Violence
L77 419  Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory
L77 475  Intellectual History of Feminisms
L77 499  Honors Thesis

Fall 2015

L77 100B  Intro to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
L77 3031  Queer Theory
L77 3255  Black Masculinities
L77 343  Understanding the Evidence: Provocative Topics of Contemporary Women's Health and Reproduction
L77 348  Rethinking the Second Wave: Race, Sexuality, and Class in the Feminist Movement 1960-1990
L77 361  Women and the Law
L77 368  Scribbling Women: 19th-Century American Women Writers
L77 369  Trans Studies
L77 417W  Feminist Research Methods
L77 499  Honors Thesis
L77 501  Advanced Feminist Theory
"Giving Life: Managing Intimacy and Regulating Affective Circuits Among Malagasy Migrants in France" - Presentation by Jennifer Cole

Jennifer Cole, Professor of Comparative Human Development at University of Chicago, came to Washington University on February 5, 2015 to give a talk entitled, "Giving Life: Managing Intimacy and Regulating Affective Circuits Among Malagasy Migrants in France," as part of the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies' Global and Transnational Feminisms Lecture Series. Cole is the author of two books on Madagascar, including Forget Colonialism? Sacrifice and the Art of Memory in Madagascar (2001) and Sex and Salvation: Imagining the Future in Madagascar (2010), and is currently working on a third book about Malagasy women who migrate to France and marry European men.

Cole's captivating talk focused on the affective circuits that are created when Malagasy women take on French husbands and are forced to negotiate between two very different cultural registrars in their relationships with their European husbands in France and their Malagasy family back home. Cole discussed the many challenges that these women face in managing these relationships, which include negative stereotypes surrounding immigrants in France, family members in Madagascar who believe that European wives are richer than they are and so ask for more than the women can afford to give, and jealous friends who could potentially destroy a woman's relationship with her husband or her kin through spreading "bad" information about her. To deal with these challenges, Malagasy women use a variety of techniques to control the flow of information between their new and ancestral homes, using distance to their advantage. Cole filled her talk with numerous anecdotes of women who have cleverly managed to control the flow of both resources and information between France and Madagascar in such a way as to maintain their reputations and prestige in both countries. She expertly traced how these women manage intimacy in their day-to-day lives.

"Materialist Mourning: Danh Võ and the Communism of Incommensurability" Presentation by Joshua Takano Chambers-Letson

On February 4, 2015, Joshua Takano Chambers-Letson, Assistant Professor of Performance Studies at Northwestern University, visited Washington University’s campus to give a talk entitled "Materialist Mourning: Danh Võ and the Communism of Incommensurability." Chambers-Letson is the author of A Race So Different: The Making of Asian Americans in Law and Performance (2013). His talk came from his new book project, which he has tentatively titled The Coming Communism: Marxism and Minoritarian Performance. The talk focuses specifically on the work of Danh Võ, a Vietnamese refugee and Danish performance artist.

At the beginning of the talk, Chambers-Letson immediately captured the room's attention with his vivid description of one of Võ's performance pieces called "Metal." The piece was presented at The Kitchen, a performance space in New York City, where Võ had covered the walls with large stylized letters. On one side of the room were two Vietnamese workers, laboriously pounding the gold leaf that usually fills Võ’s lettering in his other installations but was notably absent from the lettering in The Kitchen. The time it took these workers to finish pounding the gold leaf determined the length of the day's performance.

Chambers-Letson discussed how Võ's highlighting of the labor that goes into creating an object, in this case gold leaf, reverses the invisibility of labor that Karl Marx once marked as an effect of capitalism. Chambers-Letson gave a number of other examples from Danh Võ's oeuvre that similarly draw attention to the history behind various objects and the people who have labored to create, collect, and maintain them. He highlighted how social relations with objects can extend the life of both the object (which labor saves from rust and decay) and the people who transfer some of their life into the objects they touch, creating the possibility for what Chambers-Letson has termed "communist sociality." He also discussed how death can act as a catalyst for community as objects once owned by the deceased person become important for the shared attachment community members have to them. This contemplation of objects' backgrounds and their connections to the lives of both the living and the deceased is rich with the potentiality of communism, not as a state mandated political movement, but as a mode of social plurality that has as its goal total emancipation from social hierarchies. Chambers-Letson ended his talk with a quote from José Esteban Muñoz: "This potentiality is always on the horizon and, like performance, never completely disappears but instead, lingers and serves as a conduit for knowing and feeling other people."
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program
A Sample of Spring 2015 Events

"Materialist Mourning: Danh Võ and the Object's Extension of Life"
Joshua Takano Chambers-Letson
Assistant Professor of Performance Studies at Northwestern University
February 4, 2015 4:00 p.m.
Danforth University Center, Room 276

"Riddles of the Sphinx: Kara Walker and the Dangers of Black Female Sexuality"
Amber Musser, Assistant Professor
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program
February 10, 2015 4:30 p.m.
Olin Library Ginkgo Reading Room

"She Did What? A Panel on Feminism in the Media and on Campus"
February 11, 2015 6:30 p.m.
Tisch Commons

"LGBT Rights in International and Comparative Law: Progress and Contestation"
Laurence R. Helfer, the Harry R. Chadwick Sr.
Professor of Law, Duke University
February 20 3:00 p.m.
Anheuser Busch Hall, Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom

"Vesalius and the Invention of the Modern Body," Symposium
February 26-28, 2015
Hosted by St. Louis University and Washington University
- events at both campuses
Registration required by February 19, 2015

"Teaching East Asia: Fashioning Mr. Japan: Masculinity on the Pageant Runway"
Jan Bardsley, Associate Professor, Japanese University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
February 26, 2015 4:00 p.m.
Busch Hall, Room 18

"Sexuality's Freedom"
Marc Spindleman, Isadore and Ida Topper Professor of Law at the Ohio State University
March 26, 2015 12:00 p.m.
Anheuser Busch Hall, Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom

March 21, 2015 5:30 p.m.
Olin Library Gingko Room

"Auntie Steward"
Scott Herring, Associate Professor of English
Indiana University
April 2, 2015 4:00 p.m.
Hurst Lounge, Duncker Hall, Room 201

"The Corruption of Boys: the Medieval Church and Pedophilia"
Dyan Elliott, Peter B. Ritzma Professor of Humanities and History
Northwestern University
April 9, 2015 5:30 p.m.
Umrath Lounge
Alumni Updates

Graduate Alumni

Patrick Brugh  
(Ph.D. German, 2012)  
Since graduating from Washington University, Patrick has been teaching gender studies graduate and undergraduate courses at Loyola University Maryland. He has published a few pieces since graduating, a peer-reviewed article in *Clio* called "The Aesthetics of Gunpowder" and a forthcoming review for *The Report: A Journal of German American History*. He is revising his dissertation into a book manuscript. He is also currently advising an MA thesis on Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* for the Masters of Liberal Studies program at Loyola University Maryland, and he is teaching broadly in the Gender Studies minor, including the Intro to Gender Studies course and the senior capstone course on Masculinities next spring. He has been the Assistant Director of Admissions for Loyola Blakefield since 2013. Patrick has also been busy outside of the academy learning to live on much less sleep. On June 11th, 2014, Patrick and his partner Ann welcomed Henry Wolf Brugh into the world. They are hoping he will learn the joys of sleep very soon. In the meantime, he has taken a permanent position in administration and teaching at Loyola University Maryland, Director of the Language Learning Center; he will teach 2 courses in German and 1 course in Gender Studies or Liberal Studies (MA program) each year.

Liv Stone  
(Ph.D. Anthropology, 2012)  
Liv’s research explores the production of film and other visual media as a political and social practice to investigate the ways people use everyday practices to effect cultural and social change. Her current book project, *Filming Atenco: Documentary Film and Social Transformation in Mexico*, is based on her dissertation work in socio-cultural anthropology. The book explores a social movement on the outskirts of Mexico City that for over a decade has been attempting to build a future for their town and agricultural lands that doesn’t include becoming absorbed into urban sprawl. She was initially drawn to The Frente de Pueblos en Defensa de la Tierra (The People’s Front in Defense of Land) because it has been the subject of dozens of documentary films and was continuing to use filmmaking and film distribution as part of their political strategy. Her new research is transnational and comparative. In it she connects many of the social, political, and cultural movements in Central Mexico to similar anarchist and libertarian movements in the United States and Europe. Her goal is to better understand what this network of radical anti-state movements from the political Right as well as the Left can tell us about broad political, economic, and cultural shifts in the 21st century. Liv taught at Colby College for a year and is now an Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Sociology & Anthropology at Illinois State University in Normal. She’s an affiliated faculty member in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program and in the Latin@/Latin American Studies Program. She teaches a range of classes including Media & Visual Anthropology; Anthropology of Sex, Gender, & Sexuality; and Race, Class, and Gender in Latin America. She says, "in retrospect, I can see how much my graduate certificate in WGSS at Wash U helped prepare me to teach these very interdisciplinary courses."

Tarah Dement  
(Ph.D. English, 2010)  
Tarah took a position as Visiting Assistant Professor at Mills College in Oakland, California and taught English and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies there for four years. Recently, Tarah left academia to take a position as the Senior Director of the Identity and Discrimination Unit for Amnesty International USA in Washington, D.C., where her policy and advocacy work focuses on women’s rights and LGBT rights globally.
Undergraduate Alumni

Keren Lehavot (2005) received her Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in 2011 from the University of Washington. Her graduate work largely focused on minority stress and the health of sexual minority women. In her last year of graduate study, she completed her internship at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System and found that she loved working with veterans. She became especially interested in working with women veterans, whose rates of enlistment have risen rapidly in the last decade. She notes that “many women veterans have experienced multiple traumas over the course of their lives, including childhood and military traumas as well as adult civilian traumas, and their rates of mental health problems are elevated compared to women in the general population.” She stayed on at the VA for a two-year postdoctoral fellowship, focusing on women veterans and PTSD. During this time, the military repealed Don’t Ask Don’t Tell and created new VA initiatives to promote research and competent care for LGBT veterans. Keren was thrilled to apply her LGBT research to the VA setting and has since built a program of research partly focused on the health of both sexual minority and transgender veterans. In 2014, she received a 5-year Career Development Award (CDA) from the VA for her project, “Evaluation of Web-Based CBT for Women Veterans with PTSD.” Specifically aimed at junior investigators, the CDA provides her salary, the grant budget, and the ability to locate mentors and pursue additional training goals. She is currently a Core Investigator at the Health Services Research & Development (HSR&D) Center of Innovation (COIN) at the VA Puget Sound Health Care System and Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at the University of Washington. Her research interests focus on health disparities for vulnerable populations, LGBT issues, risk factors and consequences of trauma, barriers in access to care for women veterans, and targeted treatments for women veterans with mental health concerns. As she says, “I enjoy the work immensely, and I have wonderful mentors and colleagues both at the VA and University setting.” Keren credits WGSS Senior Lecturer Barbara Baumgartner with being “one of the very best” mentors she has had.

Jamison Liang (2009) has used his Anthro major and WGSS minor to pursue a deep commitment to human rights since he left Washington University. As an undergraduate, he was awarded the WGSS Melinda Wolfe Internship in Transnational Issues. He spent the summer working at NGO Gaya Nusanta, doing HIV/AIDS educational work with gay men in Indonesia. As he notes: "In many ways, my internship at Gaya Nusantara supported by the Melinda Wolfe Grant in Transnational Gender Issues, effectively launched my work on LGBT rights in Indonesia, helping me connect with activists across the region. I then landed my internships at Purple Sky Network and UNESCO Bangkok, where I worked on LGBT health and human rights. From here, I was able to go back to Asia this past summer to support the joint UNDP-USAID “Being LGBT in Asia” project, the first meaningful engagement either agency has ever had on comprehensive LGBT issues, going beyond the traditional lens of HIV prevention for Men who have Sex with Men (MSM)/gay men to also look at challenges in education, media representation, employment, politics, and family affairs.”

After his post-graduation work in Bangkok, he received the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, which supported him through his graduate research on LGBT rights, Islamic law, and the regulation of sexual morality in Indonesia at George Washington University, where he earned a Master's degree in 2014. He then participated in the US State Department's Critical Language Scholarship program for advanced Indonesian language study during the summer. He has been a research consultant for the National NGO Study and Service Centre, an Australian Aid project on strengthening Indonesian civil society. Jamison has just taken a position as Senior Campaigner, Southeast Asia for Walk Free, an Australian foundation that works to end modern-day slavery practices around the world. He partners with local NGOs to help amplify national and global advocacy campaigns, and as he concentrates on Indonesia and the Philippines, he works on protections for domestic migrant workers, labor exploitation in the fishing industry, and elimination of slavery practices from company supply chains. He says: "To be sure, it has been incredible that these opportunities have aligned so well over the years, and my internship at Gaya Nusantara is what truly confirmed my passion for promoting social justice in Southeast Asia and set the foundation for where I am now."
When Ariel Frankel, AB ’14, was a first year student in her first WGSS class, she began a journey that involved her entire family in the WGSS program. Soon, she convinced her sister, Morell Frankel, LA ’15, to take courses. Then she talked with her parents about majoring in WGSS.

“As traditional and practical parents, we were not familiar with the WGSS program and could not understand how a major in WGSS could help our daughter land a paying job that would lead to a successful career—a starting point for our daughter to be financially independent,” Michael and Lydia Frankel remembered. “Within a few weeks of graduation, though, Ariel found a job in DC that monitors and evaluates international aid and development work. There, she has constantly applied her WGSS perspective to her work, whether it is proposal writing or the implementation of projects abroad.”

Not long after Ariel decided to major in WGSS, her parents became interested in course content. They visited a class and eventually met Program Director, Professor Mary Ann Dzuback. Soon, Ariel’s youngest sister, Danielle, who attends Brandeis University, began taking women and gender studies courses there—and is now planning to major or minor in the field.

WGSS was a natural choice for the Frankel daughters. Their mother, Lydia, had worked at NASA during the early years of employing women scientists. She later worked to promote science curricula to girls in their elementary, middle, and high school years.

According to Lydia and Michael Frankel, the WGSS faculty’s approach to learning and their interest in seeing Ariel fulfill her potential marked her educational experience at Washington University.

“The amazing WGSS faculty forge such valuable, deep and personal connections with their students (and) are unlike faculty in any other major or department,” Michael and Lydia noted. “We choose to donate to the program in honor of these inspirational faculty and to encourage the program’s continued growth as an interdisciplinary major at Wash U.”

“The Frankels’ gifts to Washington University help us support student internships and undergraduate research,” said Dzuback. “Parents often choose to recognize their child’s transformational education experiences in our classrooms, and we are honored by the Frankels’ and other parents’ gifts to the program.”

In the past year, we have received significant gifts from new donors and we are very grateful for them. We are continuing to raise new funds to support activities in two developing areas in the Program: sexuality studies and international and transnational studies of gender and sexuality.

Funding for our undergraduate study abroad summer internships, which combine academic study with research and service experience is nearly gone. We would like to be able to expand these opportunities, perhaps by endowing the study abroad research internships, and those located in the US, addressing critical issues related to gender, race, and sexuality.

To donate to the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program Annual Fund, please note that your gift is designated for WGSS and send your contributions to:

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