A Word from Our Chair

As many of you may have read in the Washington University Record, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is becoming a department in Arts & Sciences. Changing WGSS’s status from program to department means that the University is making a major commitment to feminist, gender, and sexuality scholarship and teaching and the University believes that the ways gender, race, sexuality, and class operate in our world are worthy of continued study. This news may not seem like a big deal, especially because many of our students thought we already were a department. But it is a very important signal to the Washington University community and the world of higher education. The difference between departments and interdisciplinary programs is that programs are easier to dismantle in higher education institutions. As important as they are to the curriculum and research in universities and colleges, such programs are not always able to appoint their own faculty, which limits their ability to define and grow their research and curricular programs in relation to the interdisciplinary field they represent. Washington University’s WGSS program weathered decades of limited support and growth. But since we received the Stiritz endowment in 2000, we have expanded our faculty, increased our undergraduate majors, minors, and graduate certificate students, and enriched our research program—with a strong emphasis on gender, race, and sexuality. At the same time, we maintain our continuing feminist commitments to understanding and addressing power, inequality, access, and representation with respect to knowledge production, through research, and construction, through teaching and learning. By granting WGSS departmental status, Washington University is signaling to faculty, staff, students, and alumni that the university takes seriously gender and sexuality, diversity and inclusion.

What does departmental status mean for WGSS’s future at Washington University? The WGSS curricular and research programs focus largely on issues related to diversity, which is a key—one could argue a central—component of the university’s plan for the future. WGSS examines structural and cultural inequalities and how they operate in all aspects of American culture and society and, in some of our work, on a transnational basis. Currently, our faculty strengths are in humanities—literature, theory, and history, largely centered in the U.S. We plan to expand our interdisciplinary reach into the social sciences and transnational studies in sexuality and gender. Our current postdoctoral fellow, Dredge Kang, suggests the potential of this expansion (see profile, page 4). Such an expansion can build on our faculty affiliates in departments and schools across the university. With the new Sociology Department focused on (largely U.S.) inequalities, we believe that WGSS can offer an enriched emphasis on power and inequality in transnational contexts shaped by gender, race, and sexuality. We offer a strong grounding in feminist and queer theory, as well as critical race and gender analysis, including transgender studies. Faculty in Social Work, Law, Anthropology, and Education are all doing work that connects well with WGSS. Departmental status will enable us to establish more institutionally sound and integrated graduate and undergraduate research opportunities and collaborations with these affiliates.

Our current students, our faculty, our faculty affiliates, and our alumni have helped us in immeasurable ways to grow into department status. Your enthusiasm and deep and long lasting commitment to WGSS and to what WGSS knowledge and education can do in our world are fueling our work every single day. We thank you all. We also thank the Chancellor, Provost, and Dean of Arts & Sciences for their institutional support of WGSS’s new status as a department.
On September 10th, WGSS welcomed Marcia Ochoa, Associate Professor of Feminist Studies and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies at the University of California-Santa Cruz, to give a talk as part of our Decentering the West lecture series. Professor Ochoa’s lecture, which was entitled “Queen for a Day: Transformistas, Beauty Queens, and the Performance of Femininity in Venezuela” and drew from her book of the same name, was focused on the negotiation of gender and particularly femininity in a country known for its success in international beauty pageants.

Professor Ochoa discussed how she resists the binary voice often used in anthropology that stylistically separates theory from ethnography, and her prose reflected this. As she read from her book, she weaved together a variety of different voices, seamlessly transitioning between anecdote, interview, and analysis. The majority of the talk centered on Venezuelan transformistas, whom Professor Ochoa described as transforming their previously male bodies, not with a coming out moment or clinical engagement, but through a gradual series of actions. She also painted an engaging picture of the landscape in which these transformistas find space for themselves, one in which the character of the “Miss,” or beauty pageant contestant, reigns supreme as the standard for glamour and femininity.

Professor Ochoa ended her talk with a quote from her book that beautifully summed up her interest in the transformistas of Venezuela, saying: “My focus is always on the frivolous: those people most excluded from political possibility because of how ridiculous the idea is that they have any politics. It is in the lives of transformistas… making survival out of impossibilities, that I have found the core of political possibility.” After the talk, Professor Ochoa fielded questions about her work with the transgender community in both Venezuela and San Francisco, her writing style, issues of class among the transformistas, and definitions of glamour.
"Translatina Citizenship"

Graduate Workshop with Professor Marcia Ochoa

During her visit, Marcia Ochoa, Chair of the Feminist Studies Department at University of California Santa Cruz, where she also has an appointment in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, held an informal but highly productive workshop with undergraduate and graduate students, as well as with the WGSS post-doctoral fellow, on the topic of methodological approaches. As almost all participants came from different disciplinary fields, the workshop discussion focused on similarities and differences between methods and methodologies across the disciplines in the humanities and social sciences (specifically anthropology). Professor Ochoa and the participants developed working definitions for both terms, emphasizing the fact that methods typically concern the various ways of reading and asking questions in order to acquire knowledge while a methodology is typically the study of the methods employed in one's scholarly pursuits. Professor Ochoa foregrounded that methods do not always determine what one is seeing, and can be shaped by activist work—as was the case for her first book project Queen for a Day: Transformistas, Beauty Queens, and the Performance of Femininity in Venezuela (2014). Professor Ochoa’s methods always consider positionality and relationality to others within a given space, and allow her to enter particular social spheres and to engage in a broad variety of social interactions with different kinds of people.
Faculty Spotlight: Dredge Byung'chu Kang

Dredge Byung'chu Kang is the new Post-Doctoral Fellow in WGSS. He arrived in St. Louis the day before the first day of Fall 2015 classes, as he was at the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies conference in Surabaya, Indonesia in early August. Dr. Kang says that "WGSS is a great place to be. The faculty and staff are top notch." He feels fortunate to be in an intellectually rigorous yet supportive environment. He is being mentored by Professor Jeffrey McCune and is also impressed by his undergraduate students at Washington University, as they are engaged and willing to work through difficult material. This semester, he is teaching a course on transgender ethnographies outside U.S. contexts. Next semester, he will teach The New Anthropology of Love, focusing on relationships that cross borders of race, class, and nation. He is considering teaching courses on beauty and the Korean Wave the following academic year. Regarding his research, he is currently working on four articles and book chapters, including modeling Vietnamese beauty in Thailand and transgender spirit mediumship in mainland Southeast Asia. He will next focus on revising his dissertation (White Asians Wanted: Queer Racialization in Thailand) for publication as a book (tentatively entitled The White Asian: Racialized Desires in Thailand), which has been solicited by Duke and Hong Kong University Presses.

For Dr. Kang, academia is his second career. He came of age and came out when AIDS was considered a crisis in the U.S. He dropped out of college to become an activist and worked in AIDS service organizations. Dr. Kang jokes: "Just to give you an idea of how old I am, I was conferred an award at the White House by First Lady Hillary Clinton during the first Clinton administration." He developed community-based prevention programs for transgender women of color, gay men of color, sex workers, and monolingual (non-English) populations. He subsequently went to work in HIV research at the University of California San Francisco, which made him consider going to graduate school. However, his sentiments about how to conduct research on HIV affected communities brought him into conflict with his Principal Investigator. So, he left his lucrative position and went back to community work in AIDS services, focusing more on access to clinical care, community development, and capacity building. He reached a point in his career when his only further option was to become an Executive Director. Dr. Kang already had minimal contact with clients and people other than staff, funders, and bureaucrats and thus decided to leave non-profit work, as he did not want to become a professional fundraiser. He went back to college to finish his undergraduate degree and pursue graduate education.

As Dr. Kang initially thought he would focus on international AIDS research, he specifically wanted to attend Emory University so that he could pursue joint training in medical anthropology and global epidemiology. At the time, Emory’s Center for Health, Culture, and Society (later a casualty of the U.S. mortgage crisis recession), run by his dissertation advisor, Peter J. Brown, was the only program in the country that provided this kind of training. But, in the fashion of ethnographic serendipity, after he started conducting field research, his fieldwork experiences altered his project. The questions most interesting to Dr. Kang were those that dealt with interracial/transnational relationships. Specifically, he felt compelled to understand why Thai gay men kept telling him that they did not want Caucasian partners, when, in global and U.S. contexts, white men are typically idealized in gay communities. Dr. Kang’s dissertation research thus focused on the intersection of sexuality, race, and class. He argues that middle class Thai gay men orient their desires towards “white Asians,” or light-skinned Asians from economically developed countries, to reinforce their social status. In particular, because of widespread international sex tourism in Thailand (with women, transgender women, gay men, and children) that is visually focused on relationships...
between Thais and Caucasian foreigners, one way that middle class Thais differentiate themselves from sex workers and other lower status service workers is to partner with white Asians. In this way, they are complicit with broader oppressive systems of class differentiation and light skin beauty privilege. But, at the same time, Dr. Kang emphasizes how their status as middle-class individuals in a middle-income country shape the need to make such distinctions. In this sense, he does not condone, but understands, middle-class desires to be "ordinary" or "normal" global queer citizens. He also questions intellectual disdain for beauty transformations.

Dr. Kang’s second project, tentatively entitled: Amazing Waves: Queering East Asian Popular Culture through Thailand, focuses on queer inter-Asian connections and specifically how Korean and Japanese popular culture are affecting Thai gender and sexual aesthetics and everyday practices, as well as Thailand’s regional role as a queer hub for all of East and Southeast Asia. For example, for the WGSS Colloquium Series, he presented a paper on how K-pop gender aesthetics are molding tom (butch lesbian) and sissy (femme gay) youth styles via a convergent soft masculinity. He was invited to present this paper at a Korean studies conference in Bucharest, Romania, but it conflicted with the first week of classes at Washington University. In the spring, he will be giving a talk at the University of Michigan on transnational transgender K-pop cover dance for the Nam Center Korean Studies Colloquium Series. The talk is based on an article he published in Transgender Studies Quarterly last year. Dr. Kang has also been invited to present a paper on bodily transformations in Thailand for a workshop on beauty at the University of Bayreuth, Germany. This fall, he will be participating in a roundtable on fieldwork taboos at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting and is organizing a panel on Asian beauty work for the Association for Asian Studies in Asia conference next June in Kyoto, Japan.

St. Louis, being the smallest city he has ever lived in, has broadened his perspective. For the first time in his adult life, he thought: "I could live here, buy a house, and raise children. Given that the orchids in my office are dying after two weeks, my partner is afraid to walk dogs, and the fish he buys never last more than a few months, I don’t think childrearing is a good idea. But, it’s also the first time in my life I have felt safe riding a bicycle on city streets (thanks to Dr. Trevor Sangrey for lending me a bike)." As an immigrant and an anthropologist, Dr. Kang is well aware of the interactions between environment and opportunity. At the same time, he also acknowledges and understands how tastes get fixed. He is a Korean American whose family was given priority to immigrate because his father worked as a contractor for the U.S. military for five years during the American War in Vietnam and mainland Southeast Asia. His partner of eighteen years is Vietnamese American, and fled Vietnam by boat with his parents and six sisters. Dr. Kang summarizes: "Both of us were raised in primarily African American and Latino neighborhoods. I grew up eating things like watermelon kimchi and scrapple. Food is an important part of many cultures. As an adult, my greatest joy has been cooking. Unlike academic work, I revel in the immediacy and the fact that, whether successful or not, the venture is over within a few hours. I’m fond of cooking that fuses Korean, Vietnamese, Thai, Japanese, and California cuisines. In particular, I like to participate in ‘Iron Chef’ and ‘Chopped’ challenges."
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Fall 2015 Colloquium Series

Monday September 21, 4:00 - 5:30 pm  
**Adrienne Davis**  
William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law  
"The Potty is the Hardest Part: Rethinking Gender Segregation and Sex Equality"  
Commentator: Arca Parvulescu, Professor of English and the Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities  
Location: Anheuser Busch Hall, Faculty Seminar Room 320

Thursday October 15, 4:00 - 5:30 pm  
**Dredge Kang**  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
"Tomboy or Sissy? Korpanske Popular Culture and the Convergence of Soft Masculine Aesthetics in Thai Queer Youth Cultures"  
Commentator: Andrea Friedman, Associate Professor of History & Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Location: McMillan Hall Room 259

Wednesday November 4, 4:00 - 5:30 pm  
**Vanessa D. Fabbre**  
Assistant Professor, Brown School of Social Work  
"Agency and Social Forces in the Life Course: The Case of Gender Transitions in Later Life"  
Commentator: Amy Cislo, Senior Lecturer, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Location: McMillan Hall Room 259

Thursday December 3, 4:00 - 5:30 pm  
**Britta Anderson**  
Ph.D. Student in Romance Languages and Literatures and Graduate Certificate Student in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
"Maquila Muralists: Queer Gestures in US-Mexico Border Factories"  
Commentator: Siham Bouamer, Ph.D. Student in Romance Languages and Literatures and Graduate Certificate Student in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Location: McMillan Hall Room 259
Dubrovnik Report by WGSS Assistant Professor
Amber Musser:

The seminar, "Feminist Critical Analysis: Queering Knowledge: Intimacies, Spaces, Affects," was very intellectually stimulating. From Rutgers, participants included Leah DeVun, associate professor of gender and history, who presented "Animal Appetites: Hermaphrodites and the Boundaries of the Human in the Middle Ages," and Lindsey Whitmore, a PhD Student in Women and Gender Studies, who presented "Queer In-toxicity: Race, Disability, and the Affective Politics of Drugs." From the University of Belgrade, Jelisaveta Blagojevic gave an overview of queer theory and its central concerns. Milica Mirazic (PhD student in Political Theory) presented "Queering the Flesh: Affective time-space in Bracha Ettinger's ontology of The Matrix," Jovana Timotijevic (Master's student) presented "Queering Architecture--Unlearning How to Design Space," and Dasa Duhacek presented her work on Arendt: "Spaces/Place of Judgment." The Washington University group included Sarah Sobonya (PhD student in Anthropology): "Submission: Freedom and Feminism Within the BDSM Framework" and Ben Meiners (PhD student in English): "Rethinking Drag: Mother Camp's Career and the Politics of Feminist Queer Citation." In addition, Amber Musser, Assistant Professor of WGSS, represented Washington University’s involvement in organizing the seminar and presented "Is the Mother a Place? Marking the Maternal in Queer Theory," using Melanie Klein and women of color feminism to rethink the theoretical place of motherhood in feminist theory. It was a full few days with lots of good food and a field trip to Lokrum.
Faculty Updates

Jami Ake (Assistant Dean and Academic Coordinator, College of Arts and Sciences, and Senior Lecturer, Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities and WGSS) presented "The Sexual Assault Crisis on America's College Campuses" at the Women's Society. Her (with Gretchen Arnold of St. Louis University) "Brief History of Anti-violence Against Women Movements in the U.S." comes out in Sourcebook on Violence Against Women in fall 2015. "Battered Women" will appear in the Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Susan Appleton (Lemma Barkeloo & Phoebe Couzins Professor of Law and WGSS Affiliate) was an invited speaker at the 2015 Conference on "Feminist Jurisprudence in the United States and Asia: A Transpacific Dialogue" at Fudan University Law School in Shanghai, China. Appleton chaired a panel and gave a presentation on feminism's influence on family law.

Cynthia Barounis (Lecturer, WGSS) presented "A Giving Plague: Samuel Delany and the Anti-Prophylactic" at the American Studies Association conference in Toronto, and "Pleasure, Capacitation, and Rhetorics of Queer Citizenship" at the National Women's Studies Association conference in Milwaukee this fall.

Barbara Baumgartner (Senior Lecturer and Associate Director, WGSS) presented "Confronting Gender and Race in Liminal Space: Reading American Women Writers in a Men's Prison," and moderated "The Personal Economics of Sympathy" at the Society of the Study of American Women Writers Conference in fall 2015 in Philadelphia. As Associate Director of the Washington University Prison Education Program (PEP), which offers college-level courses to a medium security men's prison in Pacific, Missouri, she helped organize a reading group for inmates to improve their reading and comprehension skills for future participation in the program.

Nancy Berg (Professor of Hebrew Language and Literature and WGSS Affiliate) became chair of the Department of Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures in July.

Shefali Chandra (Associate Professor in the Department of History and International and Area Studies and WGSS Affiliate) co-edited and introduced a special issue of Women's Studies Quarterly (Winter 2015), published "India Will Change You Forever: Hinduism, Islam and Whiteness since 9/11" in Signs (2015), and is currently a Faculty Fellow at the Center for the Humanities.

Elizabeth Childs (Etta and Mark Steinberg Professor and Chair of the Department of Art History and Archaeology and WGSS Affiliate) will give two lectures this fall: "Gauguin in Polynesia: Rethinking the Late Career" at Middlebury College and "Painting Tahiti's Women for Paris: Meanings in Gauguin's Nafea Faaipoipo" for the Phillips Collection, in Washington D.C.

Amy Cislo (Senior Lecturer, WGSS) is giving a plenary talk at the upcoming Transgender Spectrum Conference at University of Missouri, St. Louis this fall: "Diagnosing Gender: A Brief Historical Overview." She will be the inaugural facilitator for a session for the medical faculty and community staff of Barnes-Jewish Hospital, entitled "Medicine and Literature: Using Medical Humanities to Enrich Our Professional Lives."

Rebecca Copeland (Professor of Japanese Literature in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures and WGSS Affiliate) won the 2014-15 Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission Prize for the Translation of Japanese Literature for her translation of Kirino Natsuo's The Goddess Chronicle. Joshinki (The Goddess Chronicle), published in Japan in 2009, is an imaginative retelling of Japan's earliest written myth, the Kojiki (712).

Adrienne Davis (William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law, WGSS Affiliate, and Vice Provost of the University) participated on a roundtable, "Slavery: The State of the Field," at the Society of Historians of the Early Republic annual conference in Raleigh, NC in July. In summer, 2015, she chaired the Littleton-Griswold Prize Selection Committee, which awards the American Historical Association's prize for best book each year.

Denise Gill (Assistant Professor of Music, Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, and WGSS Affiliate) is currently the First Book Fellow at the Center for the Humanities, where she is completing her monograph Melancholic Modalities: Affect and Contemporary Turkish Classical Musicians (forthcoming, Oxford University Press). She received also an ACLS fellowship, which will support ethnographic fieldwork in Turkey in 2016 for her next project on post-human auralities.
Vanessa Fabbre's (Assistant Professor of Social Work and WGSS Affiliate) "Gender transitions in later life: A queer perspective on successful aging" appeared recently in The Gerontologist (55.1).

Jeffrey McCune's (Associate Professor, Performing Arts and WGSS) Sexual Discretion: Black Masculinity and the Politics of Passing has been selected as the 2015 Book of the Year by the National Communication Association's GLBTQ Communication Studies Division.

Erin McGlothlin (Associate Professor of German, Jewish Studies and WGSS Affiliate) has been elected as Secretary of the Faculty Senate.

Angela Miller (Professor of Art History and Archaeology and WGSS Affiliate) is on a research fellowship for the 2015-2016 academic year at the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.

Amber Musser (Assistant Professor, WGSS) is on sabbatical in 2015-2016. Her "BDSM and the Boundaries of Criticism: Feminism and Neoliberalism in Fifty Shades of Grey and The Story of O," was published in Fall 2015 in Feminist Theory. Her research on incest metaphors and femininity was supported by a grant from the Center for the Humanities, and her research on drag and radicalized performances of femininity is being supported by a grant from the Ruth Landes Memorial Foundation.

Andrea Nichol's (Lecturer, WGSS) Human Trafficking in the Midwest: A Case Study of the St. Louis Bi-State Area (2015, with Dr. Erin Heil) critically examines sex, labor trafficking, exploitation and community, justice system, and social service responses in St. Louis and the larger bi-state area.

Patricia Olynyk (Director of the Graduate School of Art, Florence and Frank Bush Professor of Art in the Sam Fox School of Design & Visual Arts, and WGSS Affiliate) is on a panel to reevaluate critical theory in terms of modernity reconceived by exploring answers to questions such as "How does bio-architecture inform bio-art and vice versa?" at the the 21st Conference on Electronic Art.

Shanti Parikh's (Associate Professor of Sociocultural Anthropology, African and African-American Studies, and WGSS Affiliate) second book, Regulating Romance. Youth Love Letters, Moral Anxiety, and Intervention in Uganda’s Time of Aids was published in Fall 2015.

Anca Parvulescu (Professor of English, Interdisciplinary Project in the Humanities, and WGSS Affiliate) is giving a talk entitled "Questioning Comedy: Politics, Theater, Laughter" this fall at Washington University.

Trevor Joy Sangrey (Assistant Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences and Lecturer, WGSS) is presenting "Printing Change: The CPUSA, Black Power, and Decades of Building Black Political Struggle" this fall at the annual conference for the Society for U.S. Intellectual History.

Gaylyn Studlar's (David May Distinguished Professor in the Humanities, Program Director in Film and Media Studies, and WGSS Affiliate) Have Gun—Will Travel was published in May (2015).

Anika Walke's (Assistant Professor of History and WGSS Affiliate) Pioneers and Partisans: An Oral History of Nazi Genocide in Belorussia was published in 2015. She received the 2015 Association for Women in Slavic Studies Heldt Prize for her article "Jewish Youth in the Minsk Ghetto: How Age and Gender Mattered," published in Kritika; the prize is awarded for the best article in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian Women's Studies.

Gerhild 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) was elected president of Frühe Neuzeit Interdisziplinaer (FNI) (2015-2018). She organized and contributed "It’s about Time" to a workshop, "Making Time Go Away: Magical Manipulations of Time and Space" at the Attending to Early Modern Women Conference at University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, in June of 2015. She also contributed pieces to several essay collections.
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department
Sample of Fall 2015 Events

Decentering the West Lecture Series Presents: "Queen for a Day: Transformistas, Beauty Queens, and the Performance of Femininity in Venezuela"
Marcia Ochoa, Associate Professor
Departments of Feminist Studies, and Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, University of California-Santa Cruz
September 10, 2015  4:00 p.m.
Danforth University Center, Room 276

Special Advance Screening of "Suffragette"
September 20, 2015  4:30 p.m.
Brown Hall, Room 200

James E. McLeod Memorial Lecture: “Finding Purpose in the Prison Classroom”
Rebecca Ginsburg, Director of the Education Justice Project, University of Illinois-Champaign-Urbana
September 24, 2015  4:00 p.m.
Clark-Fox Forum Hillman Hall

"Trans 101"
A Panel discussion with members of the Metro Trans Umbrella group of St. Louis
September 24  4:00 p.m.
Mcmillan Hall, Room G52

WU Slam and Alpha Phi present "Speak Like a Girl"
October 12, 2015  9:30 p.m.
Tisch Commons

LIVE presents "It Happened Here," a documentary that focuses on sexual assault on college campuses. Panel discussion following documentary
October 22, 2015  5:00 p.m.
College Hall

Historica Medica lecture: "Harriet, Hirrel, Jessie and a few Surprises: The Earliest Women at Washington University School of Medicine"
Candance O’Connor, Independent Scholar
October 22, 2015  4:30 p.m.
Becker Medical Library, 7th floor, King Center

Film screening and panel discussion of "The Hunting Ground"
October 26, 2015  6:00 p.m.
January Hall, Room 110

Transgender Spectrum Conference 2015
November 6-7
University of Missouri-St. Louis
JC Penney Conference Center

School of Law, Public Interest Law and Policy Speaker: "The Changing Landscape of Transgender Law: Perspectives from a Transgender Trailblazer Judge"
The Honorable Phyllis Frye, Associate Municipal Judge, City of Houston
November 16, 2015  12:00 p.m.
Anheuser Busch Hall
**WGSS Graduate Certificate Student Updates**

**Claire Class** (English and American Literature) studied with sociologists at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris and at the University of Amsterdam as part of the Social Studies of Institutions Student Exchange Program. She worked to refine the framework for her dissertation, entitled "Typewriting: Literature, Gender, and Modernist Sociology in America, 1892-1930," which traces the development of a distinctive modernist sociology in the fiction and life writing of sociologists Jane Addams, W. E. B. Du Bois, Pauline Hopkins, and Charlotte Perkins Gilman. Claire is currently on Dissertation Fellowship, and she will be joining the Center for the Humanities as a Graduate Student Fellow in Spring 2016. She will also be giving talks at the National Women Studies Association and the Modern Language Association meetings this fall.

**Angineh Djavadghazaryans** (Germanic Languages and Literatures) will be presenting at the annual Coalition of Women in German Conference in October. She will present her work on shame and female agency, which is part of her dissertation project that looks at shame in the German village tale of the nineteenth century. At the same conference, she will also be co-organizing a panel entitled "Trigger Warnings in Higher Education: Censorship or Sensitivity?"

**Ben Meiners** (English and American Literature) presented his paper, "Rethinking Drag: Mother Camp's Career and the Politics of Feministqueer Citation," at the Feminist Critical Analysis Conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia, in May.

**Matthew Thomas Miller** (Comparative Literature) gave a talk entitled "Embodying the Beloved: (Homo)eroticism and Embodiment in Medieval Sufism" as part of the The Persian Book Lecture Series at the Library of Congress.
Simone Pfleger (Germanic Languages and Literatures) will be participating in a seminar entitled "New Feminist and Queer Approaches to German Studies" at the German Studies Association. She will also be presenting a poster, "Queer Principles of Hope in Christoph Hochhäusler’s Falscher Bekenner (2005)," at the annual Coalition of Women in German Conference. The paper is related to her dissertation project on queer figures in 21st century German-language literature and film in relation to time and space. At the same conference, she will also be co-organizing a panel on "Woman with a Movie Camera: Feminist Media Theory and Culture."

Ashley Wilson (Anthropology) has received funding from the U.S. Department of Education’s Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad program as well as National Geographic's Committee on Research and Exploration (Young Explorer's Program) for her dissertation research project entitled, "Informal Marriage in the Informal Economy: Come-we-stay Relationships in an Urban, Kenyan Slum." Her research will be completed over the 2016 annual year. It explores the dynamism of cohabitation (what are locally called come-we-stay relationships) in the lives of Kenyans operating in the socially marginalized, but economically vital informal economy of Kibera.

Beth Windle (English and American Literature) currently holds two graduate fellowships at Washington University: a one-semester fellowship in the Center for the Humanities and a full-year fellowship sponsored by the University Libraries and the Writing Center.

Welcome WGSS Graduate Certificate Student Chelsey Carter (Anthropology)
Undergraduate Spotlight: Kara Skjoldager

Kara Skjoldager, a senior in the WGSS department, came to Washington University interested in biology with the goal of eventually studying medicine. In her first year, she signed up for the FOCUS course, "Women in Science," and quickly became interested in taking more classes in WGSS. She is currently a double major in WGSS and neuroscience and is working in Professor David Brody's lab on a clinical study involving the effect of traumatic brain injuries and concussions on the civilian population.

Even with her intense pre-med coursework, Kara is a very active volunteer in sexual assault and domestic violence organizations, and is spending much time off campus in the St. Louis community. She volunteers as an advocate at the Domestic Violence Court in Clayton, helping women who have been the victims of sexual and physical assault to navigate the sometimes daunting court system in order to get the protection they need. Kara is also a member of the YWCA Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) working in local hospital emergency rooms, acting as an advocate for patients who come in after being sexually assaulted.

After Kara graduates, before applying to medical school, she plans on taking some time off to work for a year in the social services, preferably in crisis intervention for sexual assault. She is still very interested in neuroscience, but she wants to work clinically with women and children who have been physically and sexually assaulted, and thinks that psychiatry might be a more useful field to go into to help this population. She is currently considering getting a combined MD-PhD in a social work field, perhaps women's public health.

Whatever the future holds for her, Kara is grateful to all of the WGSS professors who have pushed her to look at topics in a new and interesting way, and for the great community of friends she has made through taking WGSS courses, who helped to shape her current goals and interests.
## Home Based WGSS Course Offerings

### Fall 2015

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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L77 100B</td>
<td>Intro to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies</td>
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<td>L77 3031</td>
<td>Queer Theory</td>
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<td>L77 343</td>
<td>Understanding the Evidence: Provocative Topics in Contemporary Women's Health and Reproduction</td>
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<td>L77 348</td>
<td>Rethinking the Second Wave: Race, Sexuality, and Class in the Feminist Movement, 1960-1990</td>
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<td>L77 358</td>
<td>Scribbling Women: 19th Century American Women Writers</td>
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<td>L77 360</td>
<td>Trans Studies</td>
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<td>L77 363</td>
<td>Neither Man nor Woman: Transgender Ethnographies in Global Context</td>
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<td>L77 417W</td>
<td>Feminist Research Methodologies</td>
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### Spring 2016

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<tr>
<td>L77 100B</td>
<td>Intro to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies</td>
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<td>L77 205</td>
<td>Intro to Queer Studies</td>
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<td>L77 206</td>
<td>Sexuality and the State: Introduction to Sexuality Studies</td>
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<td>L77 3132</td>
<td>Service Learning: Girls' Studies</td>
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<td>L77 316</td>
<td>Contemporary Women's Health</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 3255</td>
<td>Black Masculinities</td>
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<td>L77 335</td>
<td>Feminist Theory</td>
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<td>L77 3561</td>
<td>Women and the Law</td>
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<td>L77 384</td>
<td>Gender and Consumer Culture in U.S. Fiction of the Late 19th and Early 20th Century</td>
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<td>L77 393</td>
<td>Gender Violence</td>
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<td>L77 3942</td>
<td>Service Learning: Projects in Domestic Violence</td>
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<td>L77 4012</td>
<td>Advanced Queer Theory: Queer Negativity, Queer Biopolitics</td>
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<td>L77 419</td>
<td>Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory</td>
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<td>L77 426</td>
<td>The New Anthropology of Love: Romance and Relationships Across Racial, Class, and National Borders</td>
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<tr>
<td>L77 475</td>
<td>Intellectual History of Feminisms</td>
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<td>L77 499</td>
<td>Honors Thesis</td>
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This summer, Bianca Kauschal had the incredible opportunity to intern with Saweraa, the South Asian Women Empowerment Regional Association of St. Louis. The organization is dedicated to empowering South Asian women in the St. Louis area through client advocacy and connecting victims of domestic violence to the appropriate resources in St. Louis. Her position in the organization was split between serving as the Community Outreach Coordinator and acting as a Victim's Advocate. As a Community Outreach Coordinator, Bianca's job was to heighten awareness of the organization and the services offered. This included producing new promotional materials, updating all of the brochures and flyers, and putting together a panel for South Asian high school students about college and decision-making. A big part of this organization's efforts to engage the South Asian community in St. Louis included an outreach program that she helped design. The outreach informed local mosques, temples, and community spaces about the organization and what women's empowerment means. The other half of Bianca's job involved client advocacy. By the end of the summer, she worked personally with 7 clients, including coaching them through job placement, immigration status concerns, welfare, and legal matters, and helping them to become independent for themselves and their children.
Congratulations WGSS Class of 2015!

Graduate Certificate Students

Maria Alejandra Aguilar- Romance Languages and Literatures: Spanish
Andia Augustin Billy- Romance Languages and Literatures: French
Ben Davis- Germanic Languages and Literatures
Kazue Harada-Japanese
Amanda Lee- Romance Languages and Literatures: French
Jessica Ruthven- Anthropology
Yunjing Xu- Chinese and Comparative Literature

Majors

Anna Blitstein
Lianna Cohen
Nicholas Curry
Mackenzie Findlay
Hannah Hartman
Rachel Hirsch
Lily Jacobi
Sarah Langer
Erica Mann

Christy Marx
Maddy Morrison
Clare Mulligan
Lucy Randall
Jackie Reich
Aubrey Richards
Reuven Shechter
Emma Tyler

Minors

Stephanie Adams
Christian Gordon
Laura Haft
Daniel Iken
Maya Liran
Hannah Paulding
Natalie Spitzer
Judy Wang
Libby Ward
WGSS Graduation 2015

Members of the WGSS Class of 2015 with Professor Jami Ake

WGSS Selfie

2015 Recipients of the Helen Power Award for Scholarship and Service
Presented by WGSS Director, Mary Ann Dzuback (center) to Mackenzie Findlay and Lily Jacobi
Alumni Updates

Graduate Certificate Alumni

Alejandra Aguilar (2015), as of fall 2015, is a tenure-track Assistant Professor in Spanish American literature at the University at Albany (SUNY).

Andia Augustin-Billy (2015) is now Assistant Professor of French at Centenary College in Shreveport, LA.

Harada Kazue (2015) is now Assistant Professor of Japanese at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

David Holloway (2014) is now Visiting Assistant Professor of Japanese at the University of Rochester.

Jessica Ruthven (2014) has a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Witwatersrand School of Health Systems and Public Health in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Anubha Sood (2013) is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Anthropology at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas.

Undergraduate Alumni

Mackenzie Findlay (2015) is on a Fulbright Fellowship in Indonesia in 2015-16.

Sarah Langer (2015) is currently a student at Washington University Law School.

Christy Marx (2015) is in the Peace Corps in Benin, in West Africa.

Trish Yeh (2013) has entered the second (and final) year of the MSW program at UC Berkeley, concentrating in Community Mental Health. She will be presenting a co-authored paper with Professor Gretchen Arnold from St. Louis University at the annual National Women's Studies Association in Milwaukee this fall.

Identity Literacy Course Offered

For the first time this academic year, 150 incoming freshmen were selected to participate in a new first-year experience at the university, a course entitled "Identity Literacy: An Introduction to Cultural Competence in a Diverse World." Students participate with a small group of other students on their residential hall floor. After two sessions during orientation, students meet approximately once a month until the last session in February. Students also have one community engagement experience.

The class gives people the opportunity to build community and is primarily organized around discussing vocabulary and concepts related to race, class, gender expression and other issues in local and national contexts that will assist in cultural competence with a variety of identity groups. They are introduced to the ways that structural inequality interacts with identity. The course provides a foundation for students to explore the kinds of literacy they need for diverse social and professional worlds, and they will be encouraged to think about how greater knowledge about varied identities can augment curricular work and extracurricular activities at Washington University.

WGSS faculty and affiliate faculty Trevor Sangrey, Nancy Berg (Hebrew Languages and Literatures), Erin McGlothlin (Germanic Languages and Literatures), as well as WGSS certificate student Angineh Djavaghazaryans are part of the first cohort of 10 instructors for this pilot program.

First Year Reading Program Selection
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 gains 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 Department; sexuality studies and international and transnational studies of gender and sexuality.

Now that WGSS is a department, we plan to secure the gains of the past decade in undergraduate education and expand our role in the University’s efforts to promote diversity in key areas: graduate and professional education and in transnational and sexuality teaching and research. Our donors, friends, and alumni families alike are key partners in these efforts. Let us hear from you!

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

Washington University
Arts & Sciences Development Office
Campus Box 1202
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Attn: Julianne Smutz
St. Louis, Missouri 63105
https://gifts.wustl.edu/giftform.aspx