A Word from Our Director

We welcome two new faculty members to Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and to the University this semester: Amber Jamilla Musser and Jeffrey Q. McCune, Jr. Amber Musser, Assistant Professor of WGSS in sexuality studies, comes to us from the Nancy L. Buc postdoctoral fellowship at the Pembroke Center for Research and Teaching on Women at Brown University. She finished her Ph.D. in the History of Science at Harvard University. She brings to the University expertise in queer theory, critical race theory, gender studies, and feminist theory. She is teaching "Intro to Sexuality Studies" this semester and will teach both "Advanced Queer Theory: The Intimacy of Precarity" and "Love and Intimacy" in the spring. She has published a number of articles in such feminist studies journals as Difference, Studies in Gender and Sexuality, and Feminist Review, as well as in Social Text, Literature and Medicine, and Theory and Event. Her book Sensational Flesh: Race, Power, and Masochism is under contract with NYU Press, and uses masochism to explore "how power is experienced by different bodies in different contexts." She examines clinical texts, literature and conceptual art and brings gender theory into conversation with critical race theory, history of psychiatry and psychoanalysis, and cultural studies. Jeffrey McCune, Associate Professor of WGSS and Performing Arts, comes to us from the University of Maryland.

He is teaching "Deconstructing Black Manhood" this term and will be on leave in the spring. He brings to the Program expertise in masculinities, queer theory, critical race theory, and performance studies. His research uses ethnographic methods to examine such issues as Black men on the Down Low, LGBT youth of color dealing with homelessness in urban areas, and Black men's experiences of violence. In addition he is a playwright and uses theater to share his scholarship with academic as well as non-academic audiences. His book Sexual Discretion: Black Masculinity and the Politics of Passing (University of Chicago Press) will be out in February of 2014. He was granted tenure at Washington University in early October. Both Amber Musser and Rebecca Wanzo, who joined the Program two years ago, are appointed fully in WGSS, which is critical for the stability of the curricular program and the scholarly presence of women, gender, and sexuality studies on the Washington University campus. Jeffrey McCune's is a fifty percent appointment in WGSS.

With these three appointments WGSS is able to offer a rich, interdisciplinary approach to teaching and scholarship in sexuality studies and in queer theory, as they interact with gender, cultural studies, and critical race studies. Many institutions have separate programs in gender studies and sexuality studies. But at Washington University, we believe that it is critically important to create coursework and scholarship that keeps these two growing areas of study in continual conversation with each other and with critical race theory. Such conversation enriches scholarship in our field. It enables our graduate and undergraduate students to satisfy their desire for a solid grounding in and sophisticated exploration of theory and offers the intellectual challenges students...
require to advance in the interdisciplinary field of women, gender, and sexuality studies and in their other academic pursuits.

Even as the Program is developing in new directions and welcoming new faculty, we have had to reckon with a great loss this fall. Helen Power, who led the Program for nine years (1992-2001) and served on the faculty for nearly twenty (1983-2002), died in early September. Helen was critical to the Program's outreach and survival. When I began working with the Program in 1990 on the advisory committee and then the executive committee, I found her to be wise and sensible about the institutional challenges of developing the Program and passionate about ensuring that the Program obtained resources and met student intellectual and social needs. As I continue as Director of WGSS, I keep her in my head and heart, as do many of us who had the privilege of knowing and working with her.
In Memoriam: Helen Power

On September 8, 2013, the Washington University community gathered in Hurst Lounge to remember the remarkable Women and Gender Studies professor and director, Helen Power. Professor Power, 77, suffered a fatal heart attack at her home in St. Louis on September 3rd. Born on October 9, 1935 in Chicago, she graduated from the University of Chicago in 1955 and worked as a writer, editor, and reporter. She accompanied her husband to St. Louis when he joined the faculty of the Saint Louis University law school. After earning her Ph.D. in 1966 at Washington University in English, she joined the faculty as a lecturer. In 1983, she began her long career in the Women and Gender Studies Program, first as an instructor, then coordinator. She continued to teach until her retirement in 2002.

Under her dedicated care, the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) program blossomed with an increase in undergraduates majoring in WGSS and graduate students from various disciplines choosing to study for the graduate certificate. She tirelessly inspired colleagues and students and spearheaded initiatives to develop the program with resources, new faculty, and courses, and an endowed professorship.

Mary Ann Dzuback, associate professor and director of WGSS, recognized Professor Power's critical contributions to the program when she noted: "Helen Power was a vital part of the Women and Gender Studies Program at Washington University for over 20 years. Without her the program may not have survived those years." Her imprint can still be felt on the program and since 2007, a graduating senior receives the Helen Power Award for Scholarship and Service.

Professor Power is survived by daughter Carla Power (Antony Seely) of Brighton, England; son Nicholas Power (Penelope Haskew) of San Juan Island, Wash.; and four grandchildren.

We all join Professor Dzuback in expressing our gratitude "to have been a part of and to continue this amazing woman’s life work."
Rishi Rattan graduated from Washington University in 2005, with a B.A. in Women and Gender Studies, and a minor in Biomedical Physics. He went on to receive his M.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2009 and to work as an International Surgery Research Fellow in the Landour Community Hospital in Mussoorie, India. Rattan is now a surgeon and global health activist, currently the Administrative Chief Resident of General Surgery at Tufts Medical Center where he has been a resident since 2009. He works for the non-profit Physicians for Haiti (P4H), an organization founded by Boston-area physicians in response to the January, 2010, earthquake that struck the region. This organization provides Haitian physicians and nurses with high-quality continuing medical education, leadership training, and professional development opportunities. The goal is to maintain a sustained engagement in Haiti’s rebuilding process, while empowering Haitian colleagues in the medical profession to work towards progress from within, in spite of challenging conditions.

Rattan has authored and co-authored several recent articles, including the following: "The United Nations and the Origin of Cholera in Haiti," and "MINUSTAH and the Tragic Consequences of Peacekeeping" in Montesinos’ Legacy: Defining and Defending Human Rights for 500 Years (Michigan State University Press, 2013); "Separating wheat from chaff: examining the obesity paradox in the critically ill," in Critical Care 17(4), in 2013; and, for the Huffington Post, "Baseball and science in the time of cholera" in 2012.

Rattan has been asked to lecture at several prestigious institutions this year, including Boston University School of Medicine, where he presented a lecture entitled "Global Health and Ethics." He also spoke at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he presented "Global health in the 21st century: Can we do it ethically?" He was the keynote speaker at the University of Michigan Global Health and Development Coalition. He was invited to Harvard University to speak about "NGO accountability in Haiti: Moral legitimacy and cholera," and New York University School of Law, where he lectured on "The cholera epidemic in Haiti: Questions of UN accountability and prevention." In 2014 Rattan will be at his alma mater, Washington University in St. Louis, at the Contemporary Women’s Health conference, where he will give a lecture entitled "Navigating a medical career as a feminist activist."

Rishi Rattan has made the WGSS Program very proud, using skills he learned in WGSS each and every day in his activism and medical work. Rattan states: "WGSS has helped me develop my own worldview of justice and injustice. While my work providing technical expertise and rewriting policy on Haiti and cholera with the UN, the US Congress, or foreign governments does not directly involve gender or sexuality, my very understanding of what justice is and how it should be achieved is founded in the skills from my major. Speaking about UN culpability in the introduction of cholera into Haiti at UN military departments or the UN Security Council is akin to walking into the lion’s den. I could not navigate these politically explosive situations or work with people who are so different from me if it weren't for my training" in the WGSS Program.

Rishi Rattan is a wonderful example of how WGSS prepares students to think critically and creatively in new situations, and to cultivate commitment to social justice. We are honored to have him as our distinguished alumnus.
On September 9, Judy Wu, Associate Professor in the Department of History at the Ohio State University, presented the WGSS Global and Transnational Feminisms Fall Lecture entitled "Eldridge Cleaver Goes to Pyangyang, Hanoi, and Peking: Third World Internationalism, Radical Orientalism, and Global Sisterhood," as part of the Global Transnational Feminisms and Gender Lecture Series. In her thought provoking talk, Wu examined the complex motivations of 11 delegates composing the U.S. People's Anti-Imperialist Delegation to socialist Asia, led in 1970 by Black Panther Party leader Eldridge Cleaver and New Left journalist Robert Sheer. The delegation included two Black Panther leaders, two Asian American activists, and seven women, representing a cross-section of U.S. radicals, whose complicated racial, gender and sexual relationships reflect in part the intricate political dynamics of 1970s identity politics and internationalism. Wu also explored the delegation's perceptions of decolonizing Asia, and whether their discourse was one of radical orientalism.

WGSS also hosted a faculty and graduate student workshop on the subject of Wu's recent paper, "Patsy Takemoto Mink and Anti-Nuclear Activism: Cold War Militarism, Asian American Civic Inclusion, and Pacific Islander Sovereignty." This fascinating paper discusses the activism of Patsy Takemoto Mink, the first Asian American woman elected to Congress. Democratic representative Mink argued against anti-nuclear testing in the Pacific Islands. Mink, who was also the first woman elected to Congress from the state of Hawaii, served twelve terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, representing Hawaii's first and second congressional districts. She co-authored the Title IX Amendment of the Higher Education Act, called the "Patsy T. Mink Equal Opportunity in Education Act." WGSS workshop attendees were intrigued by Mink's advocacy of the inclusion of multiple nations and cultures into Hawaiian U.S. statehood, in disagreement with some of her native and Pacific Islander allies, who wanted sovereignty or political independence for islands such as Kahoalwe and Amchitka, used as nuclear testing sites by the U.S. Navy. Mink occupied a unique position, for though she was in many ways an outsider in United States politics due to her ethnicity, gender, and representation of Hawaii (a remote geographical location), she was able to mediate between her indigenous allies and the U.S. government, advocating for equality and government accountability in Hawaii.
Thursday, September 5th, 4:00-5:30 pm  
Jessica Ruthven  
PhD candidate in Anthropology & WGSS Graduate Certificate Student  
"Shadow Behavior and Other Contradictions: Identity in South African HIV/AIDS Theatre"  
Commentator: Jeffrey Q. McCune, Jr., Associate Professor  
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program and Performing Arts  
Location: McMillan Hall, Room 259

Thursday, October 3rd 4:00-5:30 pm  
Elizabeth Sepper  
Associate Professor, Washington University School of Law  
"Free Exercise Lochnerism: The Modern Attack on Contraception, Antidiscrimination, and the Welfare State"  
Commentator: Marcia L. McCormick, Professor and Co-Director of the Wefel Center for Employment Law  
St. Louis University School of Law  
Location: McMillan Hall, Room 221

Thursday, October 31st, 4:15-5:45 pm  
Kevin Wooten  
PhD candidate in History & WGSS Graduate Certificate Student  
"Refugees from Amerika: The Origins of Gay Liberation in the United States"  
Commentator: Trevor Sangrey, Lecturer in WGSS and International and Area Studies  
Location: McMillan Hall, Room 221

Wednesday, November 13th, 4:00-5:30 pm  
Amber Musser, Assistant Professor  
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program  
"The Commons of Audre Lorde: Queer of Color Critique and Theorizations of Lesbianism"  
Commentator: Andrea Friedman, Associate Professor of History and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies  
Location: McMillan Hall, Room 221

Colloquium papers will be available two weeks before the colloquium and can be obtained by contacting Donna Kepley, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program Administrative Assistant, McMillan Hall, Room 210 (dkepley@wustl.edu or 935-5102).
Congratulations to the WGSS Class of 2013!

Members of the WGSS Class of 2013

Jeremy Scheiner, WGSS Graduate receives award for the most service-learning courses in WGSS with WGSS lecturer, Amy Cislo

Recipients of the Helen Power Award for Scholarship and Service for 2013 with WGSS Director, Mary Ann Dzuback
Graduates: Laura Dietrich and Trish Yeh

Graduation Eve

WGSS Graduates
Brian Richter, Faren Silverman, Louis Liss, and Emily Gosche
Jami Ake (Assistant Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Senior Lecturer in IPH, and WGSS), Amy Cislo (Lecturer in WGSS), Susan Stiritz (Senior Lecturer at the George Warren Brown School of Social Work), and Barbara Baumgartner (Senior Lecturer and Associate Director of WGSS) are presenting a roundtable at the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA) conference in November, bringing together scholar/activists who teach service learning classes on a broad range of topics including Sexuality Studies, Women in Prison, Domestic Violence, Poverty, Feminist Activism, and Girls Studies.


Cynthia Barounis's (Postdoctoral Fellow in WGSS) "Why So Serious: Crippling Camp Performance in Christopher Nolan's The Dark Knight," appeared in a special issue of Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies on "Disability, Humor, and Comedy." She will present "Queer Spaces, Feminist Histories: Revisiting Times Square Red, Times Square Blue" at the NWSA Conference in November.

Elizabeth Childs (Department Chair and Etta and Mark Steinberg Professor of Art History, and WGSS). Her book, Vanishing Paradise: Art and Exoticism in Colonial Tahiti, was published in May by University of California Press.

Amy Cislo's (Lecturer in WGSS) article, "Eve, Mary, and the Reformation," is forthcoming in Cultures of Reproduction (Columbia UP). She recently organized a roundtable on Girls Studies for the 2013 NWSA conference.

Rebecca Copeland's (Department Chair and Professor of Japanese Language and Literature, and WGSS) translation of Kirino Natsuo's The Goddess Chronicle was published this spring by Canongate in the UK and released by Grove Atlantic in the US. The novel offers a feminist re-telling of one of the foundational myths of Japan. The translation received a Pen Translates! Award.

Adrienne Davis (William M. Van Cleve Professor of Law and Vice Provost, and Professor of WGSS) gave a paper on her sex work research at the Feminist Critical Analysis conference in Dubrovnik, which is co-sponsored by WGSS and Washington University. She participated in a roundtable on the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation at the Law & Society Association Annual Meeting. In September she hosted a Black Sexual Economies conference: "Transforming Black Sexualities Research" at Washington University. This fall Davis is the John Hope Franklin Visiting Scholar of Law at Duke University.

Deborah Dinner's (Associate Professor of Law and Israel Treiman Faculty Fellow, and WGSS) article entitled "Strange Bedfellows at Work: Neomaternalism in the Making of Sex Discrimination Law" is forthcoming in the Washington University Law Review.

Andrea Friedman's (Associate Professor of History and WGSS) book, Cold War Citizenship: National Security and the Possibilities of Dissent in America, will be published in September, 2014, by University of Massachusetts Press in its series Culture, Politics and the Cold War.

Stephanie Kirk's (Associate Professor of Spanish, and WGSS) Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz and the Gender Politics of Knowledge in Colonial Mexico is under contract with Ashgate Publishing. Her "Sor Margarida Ignácia's Apologia a favor do Reverendo P. Antonio Vieyra: An Eighteenth-Century Reply to Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz’s Carta Atenagórica" was published in Colonial Latin American Review. Professor Kirk gave two invited talks: "The Urban Jesuit College and the Construction of Colonial Mexican Masculinity" (Authority and Identity in Colonial Ibero-America: A Richard E. Greenleaf Symposium on Latin America, University of New Mexico) and "Gender and the Writing of Piety in New Spain" (American Religions/American Literatures symposium, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign).

Jeffrey McCune (Associate Professor of WGSS and Performing Arts) joined the University in August and was awarded tenure in early October.

Rebecca Messbarger (Professor of Italian, and WGSS) is Faculty Fellow at the Center for the Humanities this semester and delivered a public lecture, "The Enlightenment Body," on October 24.

Craig Monson (Paul Tietjens Professor of Music, and WGSS) presented "In the old days, singers washed the dishes!: Music as a Source of Convent Conflict" at the Newberry Library Conference on Men & Women Reli-
gious in Chicago. He also presented an NEH Summer Seminar for College Teachers entitled "Music and Travel," at the Newberry Library. His essay, "Preaching to the Choir: Arts of Persuasion in the Convents of Italy," appears in his co-edited volume Music in Print and Beyond: Hildegard von Bingen to The Beatles.

Amber Musser's (Assistant Professor of WGSS) "Objects of Desire: Towards an Ethics of Sameness" was recently published in Theory and Event.


Patricia Olynyk (Director of the Graduate School of Art and Florence and Frank Bush Professor of Art, and WGSS) will screen her large-scale video and sound work, entitled Eureka!: Or, Because Nothing Was, Therefore, All Things Are and present on Challenging Ocularcentrism: New Adventures in Mediated Sensoria at Postnatural, the 27th annual conference of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts (SLSA) at the University of Notre Dame. She is showing at SPLICE: At the Intersection of Art and Medicine at the Pratt Manhattan Gallery in New York, bringing together both scientific and artistic means of representing the human body.

Shanti Parikh (Associate Professor of Sociocultural Anthropology, African and African-American Studies, and WGSS) has been commissioned by Doorways Interfaith Residency for HIV to do ethnographic research and produce a strategy paper entitled "Homelessness among at Risk and Queer Youth in St. Louis." She received a St. Louis County Health Department grant with Prof. Brad Stoner (Anthropology) to conduct research and develop a website for STD risk and prevention among youth.

Vivian Pollak (Professor of English, and WGSS) presented a lecture on the poets Emily Dickinson and Muriel Rukeyser in August at the conference of the Emily Dickinson International Society in Colleage Park, Maryland.


Trevor Sangrey (Lecturer in WGSS and IAS) recently received an Emerging Diversity Scholar Citation from the University of Michigan National Center for Institutional Diversity and published "Productive Fiction and Propaganda: The Development and Uses of Communist Party Pamphlet Literature" in Activism in Modern United States Print Culture (Ashgate). Her "A Black Man for Vice President: The Communist Party USA 1932 Election Campaign and the Black Nation Thesis" is forthcoming in Arab Spring, Africa and China Relations, and Africans in the Americas.

Peggie Smith (Charles Nagel Professor of Employment & Labor Law, and WGSS) published "Who Will Care for the Elderly?: The Future of Home Care" in the Buffalo Law Review (2013). She presented "Care, Choice, and Commodification" at the Law & Society Conference in Boston and at the 20th IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics in Seoul, Korea. She delivered the keynote address at the 8th annual Lutie Lytle Workshop of Black Women in Legal Academia at the University of Las Vegas, Nevada, all in June.

Akiko Tsuchiya (Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures, and WGSS) has participated for the past three years in an international research group investigating the social and cultural networks created by Hispanic women of letters in the nineteenth century both within Spain and across the Atlantic. In April she delivered an invited lecture, "Gender, Spaces of Sociability, and Antislavery Discourse in the Writings of Nineteenth-century Spanish Women of Letters," at the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana.

An issue of Feminist Formations entitled Feminists Interrogate States of Emergency, co-edited by Rebecca Wanzo, Associate Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (with Jill M. Bystydzienski and Jennifer Suchland) has just been released.

Gerhild Williams (Barbara Schaps Thomas and David M. Thomas Professor in the Humanities, Vice Provost, and Professor of WGSS) was invited to present at a conference entitled "The Feminine in German Culture" hosted by Oxford University in honor of Professor Helen Watanabe-O'Kelly.
### Home-Based WGSS Course Offerings

#### Fall 2013

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>L77 100B</td>
<td>Intro to Women and Gender Studies</td>
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<td>L77 105</td>
<td>Intro to Sexuality Studies</td>
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<td>L77 214C</td>
<td>Intro to Women's Texts</td>
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<td>L77 3031</td>
<td>Queer Theory</td>
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<td>L77 304</td>
<td>Sex, Gender, and Popular Culture</td>
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<td>L77 3041</td>
<td>Making Sex, and Gender: Understanding the History of the Body</td>
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<td>L77 3255</td>
<td>Deconstructing Black Manhood</td>
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<td>L77 343</td>
<td>Understanding the Evidence: Provocative Topics of Contemporary Women's Health &amp; 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 3561</td>
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<td>L77 370</td>
<td>Service Learning: Sex, Lies, and Myths of the Mother</td>
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<td>L77 383</td>
<td>Topics in Women and Gender Studies: From Mammy to the Welfare Queen: African American Women Theorize Identity</td>
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<td>L77 392</td>
<td>Feminist Research Methods</td>
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#### Spring 2014

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<td>Intro to GLBTQ Studies</td>
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<td>L77 3013</td>
<td>On Love and Intimacy</td>
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<td>Intro to Women's Texts</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 in Prison</td>
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<td>L77 3203</td>
<td>Bodies Out of Bounds: Feminist and Queer Disability Studies</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 360</td>
<td>Transgender Studies</td>
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<td>L77 384</td>
<td>Gender &amp; Consumer Culture in U.S. Fiction of the Late 19th &amp; Early 20th Century</td>
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<td>L77 393</td>
<td>Violence Against Women: Current Issues and Responses</td>
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<td>L77 3942</td>
<td>Service Learning: Projects in Domestic Violence</td>
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<td>L77 3943</td>
<td>Violence Against Women: Court Project</td>
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<td>L77 4012</td>
<td>Advanced Queer Theory: The Intimacy of Procarity</td>
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<td>L77 419</td>
<td>Feminist Literary and Cultural Theory</td>
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Home - Based WGSS Course Offerings
The Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program welcomes Associate Professor Jeffrey Q. McCune, Jr. to our core faculty this fall. Professor McCune also holds a joint appointment in the Performing Arts Department. Before coming to Washington University, he earned his Ph.D. in Performance Studies in 2007 from Northwestern University and subsequently taught at the University of Maryland, College Park. His first book, *Sexual Discretion: Black Masculinity and the Politics of Passing* is forthcoming in early Spring 2014 from the University of Chicago Press. He is currently at work on several new projects, one of which is a second book, *Reading Black Men: New Ways of Seeing*, which he describes as "offering a new lens through which to encounter the black male body, which moves beyond capture, incarceration, and damage."

Professor McCune is particularly interested in connecting scholarly work in gender and sexuality studies to a "reading-listening-feeling public" in the hopes of "transforming some of the ugly in this world. . . We are called to develop some vehicle for responding to everyday critical race-gender-sexual questions," he explains, "in a language that reaches a broader audience." Some of Professor McCune's own work, including an interactive public intellectual project that resembles a video blog and a one-man show constructed from interviews with victims and perpetrators of violence in Chicago, points toward his investment in the intersections of academic and non-academic cultures.

In his first semester on the faculty at Washington University, Professor McCune has been impressed by his students, whom he calls "eager," "prepared," and "intellectually charged." This fall, he is teaching an undergraduate class, "Deconstructing Black Manhood." In the future, he would like to teach courses including "Hip-Hop Culture & Consciousness," "Black Feminist Theory Meets Queer Theory," "Black Queer Studies," and "Gender in Contemporary Black Film." For relaxation, Professor McCune enjoys both traditional and musical theatre, new music, and popular film.
Louisa Kornblatt barely contains her enthusiasm as she remembers the way a course she took with Jamie Ake about violence against women transformed her life and gave her a sense of purpose. She explains: "The course gave me a vocabulary. It helped me to see how grey the world is, that it’s not just perpetrators and victims." With that knowledge, Louisa created the Writing Shelter, which gives women who have been victimized by domestic violence a creative coping mechanism, through poetry slams, writing or analyzing song lyrics. Louisa bemoans the fact that these women "don't know how strong their voices can be and that their voices are silenced by structural norms and violence."

She credits her mother, a former Russian professor, and her father, a playwright and author of children's books, for raising her in an environment where she appreciates words and languages. "I value my voice so much! It has allowed me to meet all kinds of people. It has allowed me to verbalize my passions," she said. As a child, she earned the nickname "Loud mouth Louie."

Her Jewish values have shaped her personal stake in social justice. For the past two years, she has been working as an advocate at the Domestic Violence Court in Clayton, Missouri. What she witnesses has inspired her to cast a critical look at these victims' narratives through her senior honors thesis. She examines the way the petitioner crafts her story from the moment she first comes to the court room and fills out forms to how she articulates her story aloud to the judge at the hearing. Then she analyzes the narratives in relation to the legal language and expectations of the court. By understanding better how petitioners tell their stories, given their sense of what the court expects, she hopes to articulate "what it means to be literate in court culture," or what counts for personhood in the courtroom.

Originally from Madison, Wisconsin, Louisa will graduate in May, 2014, with majors in WGSS, drama, and Spanish. Besides the various extracurricular activities that she's involved in, Louisa still finds the time to lend a hand to the Violence Against Women Database Project, which is being supported through the Humanities Digital Workshop. From January to July of this year, she studied abroad in Chile. After graduation, she plans to move to Israel to continue her social justice work, possibly by working with the Ethiopian population there.
Britta Anderson (Romance Languages and Literatures, Spanish) presented her paper "Strategies of Visibility along the Mexico-U.S. Border" at the Feminist Critical Analysis course in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The feedback and conversations from the seminar grew into her thesis proposal, which focuses on border crossing as a gendered experience. Her article "Un espacio al que entramos: Presencia como resistencia en Premario de Cecilia Vicuña" will appear in the anthology Palabras, hilos e imágenes: Un diálogo sobre el arte y la poesía de Cecilia Vicuña, forthcoming in Chile by Cuarto Propio in 2014.

Claire Class (English) has begun work on a dissertation tentatively entitled "Typewriting: Literature, Gender, and Modernist Sociology in America, 1890-1945." She is also teaching a course for WGSS: "The Mothership: Reproduction and Parenting in Women's Utopian and Science Fiction." She currently serves on the Executive Board of the Graduate Student Senate.

Meg Dobbins (English) is beginning work on her dissertation, tentatively entitled "Queer Accounts: Economic Woman, Partnership, and Family Values in the Victorian Era," exploring the construction and gendering of the modern economic subject in mid-Victorian literature. She is currently co-teaching "The English Novel of the 19th Century" with Professor Miriam Bailin.

María Alejandra Aguilar Dornelles (Romance Languages and Literatures, Spanish) taught "Writing Love in Times of War: Latin American Women Writing Modernity" for WGSS in Spring 2013. She participated in the Congreso Internacional Cuba Trasatlántica in Havana and the Coloquio Internacional Montevideana in Montevideo, and pursued archival work in La Habana during the summer. Her article, "El esclavo y el letrado: máscaras de la auto-representación en la temprana narraativa antiesclavista cubana," has appeared in Confluence: Romance Language Journal of Saint Louis University. Currently, she is working on her dissertation entitled "Chasing Liberty: Black Criminalization, Leadership, and Writing in Colombia, Brazil, and Cuba (1830-1912)."

Amanda Lee (Romance Languages and Literatures, French) is working on a dissertation entitled "The Poetics of Dance: Representations of Ballet in French Literature". This past summer, she conducted research at the Jerome Robbins Dance Collection at the New York Public Library. Awarded a Teaching Citation from the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in May, she is currently a member of the Eighteenth-Century Interdisciplinary Sa-
Feminist Contentions in Croatia

Washington University co-hosted the Feminist Critical Analysis Course/Conference at the Inter-University Center in Dubrovnik, Croatia, this past May 27-31. Graduate students Jessica Ruthven and Britta Anderson received grants from the WGSS Program to participate. Faculty members Linda Nicholson, Mary Ann Dzuback, Rebecca Wanzo, and Adrienne Davis also attended and contributed. Nicholson, with Dasa Duhacek of Belgrade University, helped to organize the course/conference and lead discussions throughout the week. Wanzo spoke about the ways in which discourses on rights are informed by temporality in her presentation, "Civil Rights Time," and Adrienne Davis discussed the debates among pro sex work advocates in her presentation "Regulating Sex Work." The course/conference as a whole focused on current questions that are significant for a wider international feminist community as well as for the Balkans. The driving question behind the week of international feminist discussion and collaboration was: What are today's feminist contentions?

The Inter-University Center in Dubrovnik was originally created in 1971 by Marshal Tito to bring internationally known scholars to what was then Yugoslavia and expose Yugoslav graduate students to these scholars. From 1971 until the outbreak of war in the early 1990s, the Center sponsored a large number of courses/conferences each year that brought internationally renowned scholars from all over the world to Yugoslavia for one or two weeks. Graduate students could apply and receive course credit for attending one of these conferences/courses. After the war, the Inter-University Center was reborn in Dubrovnik under the sponsorship of the new Croatian government. "Feminist Critical Analysis" was a new course/conference, created in 2000, sponsored by scholars at The University of Belgrade, Central European University, and Rutgers University. This course/conference has met yearly since then. In 2013, Central European University withdrew its support, and Washington University stepped in as the third partner. In addition to attracting scholars from across Europe and the United States, "Feminist Critical Analysis" attracts graduate students from a wide variety of countries, who apply for admission to each year's course/conference. Students and scholars from Croatia, Serbia, the U.K., Hungary, Scotland, Greece, Turkey, Poland, Finland, the Philippines, the Netherlands, the United States, and other countries attended the conference this year.

After her presentation "'Shadow Behavior' and Other Contradictions: Identity in South African HIV/AIDS Theatre," Jessica Ruthven reflected on her participation: "The Feminist Critical Analysis Conference provided a foundation for me in experiencing collaboration with scholars from Eastern Europe, specifically the Balkans. This allowed a truly global experience at the conference, with presentations on feminist studies around the world (with me representing sub-Saharan Africa). Not only was I allowed to share the data, perspectives, and ideas that have come out of South Africa in the past several years, but I was afforded an opportunity for comparison. Attending this conference allowed me to expand boundaries and contextualize my own work in South Africa within the experiences of women in other parts of the world. This ability to reflect critically on the similarities and differences in lived experience of gender identity and identity politics in various parts of the world has proven useful in developing additional..."
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"The particular location of the conference was more than a beautiful destination. I questioned the dominance of U.S. voices in feminist theory and criticism in a new way. This area of the world is marked by recent violence and particular challenges for feminists. The conference presentations balanced material that addressed the specificities of the Balkans and many other local contexts. The conference participants worked together to consider the particularities of cultural context, to move beyond a narrative of victimization in cross-cultural conversations, and to consciously create a space for everyone's voice to be heard, regardless of academic status, national origin, or linguistic abilities. These efforts made me optimistic about what can be achieved on a larger scale and pushed me to reconsider concepts that I thought I understood, such as liberalism, progress, consent, national identification, and even the relevancy and stakes of the label of feminism.

"Much of the global exchange took place after and between the formal sessions. During our lunch breaks, many of the graduate students sat in the harbor eating spinach pastries and fresh fruit while we brainstormed models to combat sexual violence that go beyond the concept of consent or discussed homophobia in the Balkans and the inadequacy of Western forms of LGBT activism within that setting. I walked to the conference center with an outstanding artist, discussing the relation between practice and theory, and the possibilities for my dissertation to create social change. Inside and outside of the organized conference sessions, I spent the week surrounded by loud, powerful, articulate feminist scholars. I left with admiration for these role models, but also with a sense of the importance of my own voice in our conversations.

"This conference not only provided a model of powerful global exchange, but also demonstrated what authentic interdisciplinary cooperation can achieve. At this conference, I found myself challenged to really define and defend my own methods, one of only a handful of literary scholars in a room full of anthropologists, artists, historians, and activists. We all engaged the theory in different ways, which meant that we all had something unique to offer, creating a cooperative community of feminist scholars."

Britta Anderson developed the ideas for her dissertation writing. It has also prompted me to reconsider my staunch Africanist commitment and tentatively think of expanding my geographic regions of focus during postdoctoral projects (or at least committing to a more comparative framework).

"Attending this conference allowed me to create new, and expand existing, relationships (both personally and professionally) with other scholars. Although I have been a WGSS graduate certificate student for several years, I did not feel wholly integrated in the department until this experience. It allowed me to more fully interact with colleagues, professors, and mentors in WGSS in a way I had not experienced before. Because of the structure of the conference, I was in contact with colleagues and professors for the majority of 5-6 days straight. We attended the conference together, had meals together, and discussed the intellectual developments in the conference during free time (also spent together). In addition, I came to know the colleagues and professors who were there as individuals, personally, which for me facilitated a different (and more valuable) kind of connection. In short, I feel a significantly closer bond to the department both personally and professionally, as a result of attending this conference. I am more committed to the department and its goals than I was before, even though I valued the department and its activities prior to this conference. Before, my primary identity was as a medical anthropologist who incorporated some feminist theory and analytic methods. Now, I identify as a medical anthropologist AND feminist scholar. My increased participation in and commitment to WGSS as a whole is a direct result of my inclusion in this conference."

Britta Anderson developed the ideas for her dissertation in her presentation "Strategies of Visibility along the U.S.-Mexico Border." After her experience in the course, she commented:

"Through my participation in the Feminist Critical Analysis conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia, I've become part of a global community of feminist critical thinkers. After a demanding intellectual week, we've redefined what interdisciplinary and global cooperation can look like, and I've emerged with renewed enthusiasm and direction for my dissertation."
The Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program would like to honor Helen Power's contributions to the Program and the University in two ways: continuing the Helen Power Award for Scholarship and Service with better support, and establishing the Helen Power WGSS Seminar Room in McMillan Hall. We have provided funds for the Helen Power Award since 2007 from our operating budget, but hope to enlarge the award for future recipients. We already have the seminar room and use it for meetings and our colloquium series. But we want to use the space to hold multi media presentations for students and faculty, to enable us to use Skype to interview scholars in the U.S. and abroad, and to show films to small groups of students and faculty. To make it more useful for the program, we would like to purchase a/v equipment for the room to make it more useful for the Program. We are the only program/department in the building without such a well-equipped room specifically for our use, and we need help to rectify this situation. The cost to add multi media equipment is about $8000.

The Program is also raising funds to support activities in Global/Transnational Feminisms and Gender Studies, including study abroad summer internships for our undergraduates, combining academic study with research and service experience; the Global/Transnational Feminisms and Gender Lecture Series; and visiting scholar support in global/transnational feminisms and gender studies.

A third area of initiative is to establish a Center for Research in Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Washington University as a resource for faculty who may not be trained in gender and sexuality research, but who are working on gender and sexuality issues and problems, to collaborate with scholars who have expertise in feminist and gender analysis. The Center will focus on projects that would be greatly enriched with better understanding of gender and culture, feminist research methods, and feminist and gender theory.

As part of the Center development effort and our global/transnational activities, WGSS and Washington University co-sponsor the Feminist Critical Analysis Course/Conference each May in Dubrovnik (Gender Spectrum p. 14), which brings together researchers from all over the world to share new scholarship and create a community of professors and graduate students exploring critical questions in feminist, gender, and sexuality studies. We have funding for a limited period of time and would like to ensure our ongoing involvement by increasing support for the Dubrovnik program.

To donate to the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program Annual Fund, the Helen Power Award, or the Helen Power WGSS Seminar Room, please send your contributions to the following and designate WGSS as the recipient of the funds:

Washington University
Arts & Sciences Development Office
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Friends of WGSS

Linda Nicholson teaching
Contemporary Feminism, Spring 2013