The mission of the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies is to create committed communities that address the challenges faced in the areas of gender, sexuality, diversity, and equity.
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CENTER FOR WOMEN’S & GENDER STUDIES FACULTY AND STAFF

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Cover Photo 2018 Senior Seminar Class, Photo by Sarah Nicholus
Gendermatters compiled by Nancy Ewert
In this issue of GenderMatters, the Center for Women’s & Gender Studies celebrates the successes of its faculty, students and staff over the last year—a celebration that is especially imperative given the politically and socially toxic atmosphere we breathe everyday. So in this issue we applaud especially the triumphs of those whose voices have been raised and whose presence among us is powerful and transformative.

- The establishment in fall 2017 of the LGBTQ + Program, directed by Ann Cvetkovich: a testament to the patient insistence of faculty, students and staff, who over the years have held space and time for queer camaraderie.

- The selection of CWGS Associate Director Omise’eké Tinsley as the first woman of color to be appointed to the F.O. Matthiessen Visiting Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies at Harvard University (2018-2019).

- The appointment of Alison Kafer, scholar of Disability and Sexuality Studies, to the Embrey Professorship in Women’s and Gender Studies (thanks to the support of the Department of English).

- The appointment of Pavithra Vasudevan, as the first CWGS junior faculty member (thanks to the support of African and African Diaspora Studies).

- The commitment by Dean Randy Diehl to the funding in 2018-2019 of an additional two junior shared lines in the Center.

For the first time in its history, the Center will be able to design and implement curricula according to its own needs and scholarly focus rather than designing its course offerings around willing faculty. As welcome as these lines are, however, they will not allow the Center the kind of intellectual and pedagogical autonomy it must have to fulfill its mission—one that has been 40 years in the making. For that, we must become a department.

An analysis of hiring trends, published in the most recent issue of Feminist Studies (2018), refutes the frequently heard argument that there is a paucity of academic positions for those trained in the field of gender studies; on the contrary, the authors insist that “[there] has never been a greater opportunity to advance” because faculty lines “are at an all-time high,” even at a time “of economic austerity marked by limited budgets, hiring freezes, and program closures.” Indeed, the number of PhD programs has doubled since 2008 and “there has been a steady increase in posted positions: from twenty-nine in 2010-2011 to forty-four in 2014-2015. *

These statistics can help us make our case for departmentalization to the upper administration. But one also has to wonder: is there a better or more culturally appropriate time for UT to acknowledge that the scholarly study of gender and sexuality is vital to the core values of the institution and its mission?

WGS MA Graduates
Madyson Crawford (WGS MA), *We Knew To Stay in Our Lane!*: Southern Black Women’s Politics of Belonging and (Dis)Belonging. Supervised by Caroline Faria and Shirley S. Thompson.

Anushka Jasraj (WGS MA), *Emily Dickinson in Vain*. Supervised by Lisa L. Moore and Heather Houser.


Vivian D. Rodríguez Rocha (WGS MA), *Styling binds: U.S. Latina Women and Intimate Labor at a Beauty Salon in Austin, Texas*. Supervised by Gloria González-López and Dr. Rebecca Torres.


Summer 2018*
Emma Camp Flournoy
Zoe Layne Gonzalez
Ashley Sonnier Jennings
Sarah Xochitl Jones,
Steffi Lee
Gabrielle Posada
(*pending)

Undergraduate LGBTQ/Sexualities Certificate 2018
Sofía Isabel Hernández
David Lavon Johnson
Rachel G. Mellinger
Erika Yvonne Mercado
Linda Serna

WGS Undergraduates
Fall 2017
Lana Koy Porter
Erika Y. Mercado
Kathryn Lake Richter
Mary Elisabeth Stepek
Florian Alexander Trcalek

Spring 2018
Mari Mariana C. Bittencourt
David Lavon Johnson
Khamsin Lynne Kore Meadows
Rachel Gabrielle Mellinger
Linda Rose Serna

*pending*
STUDENT RECOGNITION


Heidy Guerra Castellanos, WGS undergraduate major, was selected for the 2018-19 Unrestricted Endowed Presidential Scholarship. The Unrestricted Endowed Presidential Scholarship (UEPS) program was created in 1973 to make available substantial scholarships to outstanding students at The University of Texas at Austin. UEPS recipients are nominated by their academic department and must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.75, among other prerequisites. Nominated students that demonstrate continuous participation in extracurricular activities and exhibit leadership in addition to being enrolled full-time are given the strongest consideration.

CWGS MA and Portfolio Student Travel Awards
Kristin Perkins  Maro Youssef
Madyson Crawford  Siri Gurudev
Jeongin Lee  Samantha Simon
"Jamila" Jennifer Davey  Diayana Sastrawati
Briana Barner  Sarah Jones
William Mosley  Caitlin Carroll
Melissa Vera  Jess Goldstein-Kral
aems emswiler  Saralyn McKinnon-Crowley

STAFF RECOGNITION

CWGS Senior Academic Program Coordinator Alma Jackie Salcedo presented at the 2017 NACADA International Conference, hosted by the University of Sheffield, United Kingdom in June 2017. Presentation title: Cultivating a Culture of Positivity.

Jackie is also a contributor to The International Handbook of Gender Equity in Higher Education. The group of authors for this chapter is made up of University of Texas at Austin graduate students and staff: Emily A. Johnson, Saralyn McKinnon-Crowley, Aaron W. Voyles, and Alma J. Salcedo. The Handbook will provide a provocative collection of leading researchers’ thinking on the current intersection of gender and higher education, offering a picture of the research in the field of higher education and gender equity, while also projecting future paths of exploration, inquiry, and action.
STUDENT AND FACULTY AWARDS

At the Annual Spring Awards Reception, CWGS recognized student and faculty excellence in the 2017-2018 academic year. The following awards and recipients were announced at the reception:

CYNTHIA WALKER PEÑA SCHOLARSHIP
Khamsin L. Meadows (Women’s and Gender Studies)
Khamsin is a registered nurse and donates unpaid volunteer labor to women’s health clinics and the Austin Harm Reduction Coalition.

LORA ROMERO MEMORIAL UNDERGRADUATE AWARD FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH IN RACE, ETHNICITY AND GENDER
Zaria El-Fil (African and African Diaspora Studies/Psychology)
“Sexual Exploitation and Resistance of Enslaved Women.”

WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP
Delynn Parker (Department of History)
“Trails of Tears and Freedom: Slavery, Migration, and Emancipation in the Indian Territory Borderlands, 1830-1907.”

WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES MA THESIS AWARDS
Madyson Crawford (Women’s and Gender Studies)
“We Knew to Stay in Our Lane!”: Southern Black Women’s Politics of Belonging and (Dis)Belonging
Vivian Deidre Rodriguez Rocha (Women’s and Gender Studies)
“Styling binds: U.S. Latina Women and Intimate Labor at a Beauty Salon in Austin, Texas”

CONTRIBUTOR OF THE YEAR AWARD
Caroline Faria (Department of Geography and the Environment)

LUCIA, JOHN, AND MELISSA GILBERT TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD IN WGS
Omise’eke Tinsley (African and African Diaspora Studies/Women’s & Gender Studies)

Dr. Julie Minich presented Dr. Omise’eke Tinsley the Lucia, John, and Melissa Gilbert Teaching Excellence Award in WGS.

Dr. Ann Cvetkovich presented David Johnson with the LGBTQ Studies Certificate.

Dr. Susan Heinzelman presented the Cynthia Walker Peña Award to Khamsin Meadows.
Christine Williams (Department of Sociology) Dr. Williams was recently elected president of the American Sociological Association (ASA). She is the first faculty member from The University of Texas at Austin to be chosen for the position. Working at the national and international levels, the ASA aims to articulate policy and implement programs likely to have the broadest possible impact for sociology now and in the future.


Pat Somers (College of Education) Dr. Somers with Jessica Fry and Carlton J. Fong published an article about women and Campus Carry in the Summer 2017 issue of NEA's Thought & Action. “Duck and Cover, Little Lady: Women and Campus Carry.”

Omise’eke Tinsley (Department of African and African Diaspora Studies) Dr. Tinsley published a new book, Ezili’s Mirrors: Imagining Black Queer Genders, tracing how contemporary queer Caribbean and African American writers and performers evoke Ezili. Dr. Tinsley also published “Becky Goes to the University of Beyoncé” in Dame Magazine. Dr. Tinsley will teach at Harvard University for 2018-2019 academic year as the F.O. Matthiessen Visiting Professor of Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Kelly McDonough Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Faculty Fellows in Latin American Studies, Promoted to Associate Professor in Spanish and Portuguese.

Lyndon Gill Fellow of Chair in African and African Diaspora Studies, Promoted to Associate Professor in African and African Diaspora Studies.

Mary Bock School of Journalism, Promoted to Associate Professor in Journalism.

Julia Mickenberg Department of American Studies, Promoted to Full Professor in American Studies.

Daina Berry Fellow of Walter Prescott Webb Chair in History, Fellow of George W. Littlefield Professorship in American History, Fellow of Oliver H. Radkey Regents Professorship in History, Promoted to Full Professor in History.
FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (FDP)

The Center for Women’s & Gender Studies welcomed five Faculty Development Program Fellows in 2017-2018. This program is designed to assist in recruitment, retention and promotion of new scholars in women’s and gender studies by providing support of various kinds, including mentors and research funding.

Karma R. Chávez is an associate professor in the Department of Mexican American and Latina/o Studies, Core Faculty in Women’s and Gender Studies, and affiliate in the Department of Communication Studies. She is author of Standing in the Intersection: Feminist Voices, Feminist Practices in Communication Studies (with Cindy L. Griffin, SUNY Press, 2012); Queer Migration Politics: Activist Rhetoric and Coalitional Possibilities (University of Illinois Press, 2013), and co-editor of Text + Field: Innovations in Rhetorical Method (with Sara McKinnon, Robert Asen and Robert Glenn Howard, Penn State Press, 2016).

Yasiymn Irizarry is an assistant professor of African and African Diaspora Studies and Faculty Affiliate in the Population Research Center. Irizarry is a quantitative sociologist by training, who uses critical quantitative methods and frames to examine factors that produce and reinforce racial and social inequality. Her research focuses on (1) inequality in elementary and high school contexts, with a focus on STEM trajectories, (2) racial identity and the quantitative measurement of race, and (3) social attitudes, prejudice, and discrimination. Her work has appeared in Social Science Quarterly, Social Science Research, Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Race and Justice, and the Journal of Homosexuality, and has also been featured in Education Week and Scientific American.

Mónica A. Jiménez is an historian and an assistant professor in the African and African Diaspora Studies Department. Her teaching and research explores the intersections of law, race and nationalism in U.S. empire building in Latin America and the Caribbean. She is particularly concerned with the role that law has played in the creation of the relationship between the United States and its island colony of Puerto Rico. Her book manuscript, American State of Exception, offers a legal history of race and exception in United States empire building and centers on the place of Puerto Rico within that larger historical trajectory.

Fikile Nxumalo is an assistant professor in Early Childhood Education in the College of Education and an affiliated faculty with African and African Diaspora Studies, and Native American and Indigenous Studies. Her research focuses on environmental and place-attuned early childhood studies that are situated within and responsive to young children’s uneven anthropogenic and settler colonial inheritances.

Balbir K. Singh is at work on her first book, Militant Bodies: Violence and Visual Culture Under Islamophobia, which looks at the visual culture and body politics of Muslims and Sikhs under the rise of global Islamophobia. Her scholarly and teaching interests include Asian and Arab American cultural studies, comparative racialized religions, transnational feminist studies, visual culture, anti-colonial and anti-imperial thought, and queer studies. She has published articles in Sikh Formations, Critical Ethnic Studies, and QED: A Journal of GLBTQ Worldmaking.
NEW FACULTY

EMBREY PROFESSORSHIP IN WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

Alison Kafer is a professor of Feminist Studies, Environmental Studies and Race & Ethnicity Studies. Dr. Kafer presented her research in a talk titled, "Crip Kin Manifesting: Reproduction, Relation, and Crip Feminist Technoscience in the 2010s". She is the author of Feminist, Queer, Crip (Indiana, 2013), and her work has appeared in a number of journals and anthologies, including Disability Studies Quarterly, Feminist Disability Studies, the Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies, Sex and Disability, and South Atlantic Quarterly.

Dr. Kafer is a joint appointee between Women's and Gender Studies and the Department of English. She will begin teaching at UT Austin in January 2019.

JUNIOR FACULTY POSITION IN WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

Pavithra Vasudevan is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Geography at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr Vasudevan's job talk, "Bearing Witness to Intimate Monstrosities: Environmental Racism and Justice in an Aluminum Town", examined how industrial toxicity intimately binds race to waste, through disconcertingly familial relations in the factory, in quotidian practices of caregiving, and in affectively charged landscapes.

Dr. Vasudevan is a joint appointee between Women's and Gender Studies and the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies. She will teach Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies (WGS 301) this fall.

To view a video of their job talks, please visit:
Pavithra Vasudevan: https://utexas.box.com/s/lpx5lzep2zdnag3kpy7eccrnfztgoe85
Alison Kafer: https://utexas.box.com/s/5boxqy0om8w8f2orb1hquqoxoiy5hzn6

Welcome Fall 2018 MA Cohort

Charlotte Taylor grew up in Huntington Beach, California and received her Bachelor of Arts from the School of Media and Journalism at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She majored in Journalism with a specialization in advertising and graphic design and minored in Women’s and Gender Studies. She worked for numerous campus publications, including the award-winning Daily Tar Heel, and worked to bring The Clothesline Project and screenings of Miss Representation, Killing Me Softly and The Invisible War to her campus. She has worked with such organizations as Birmingham AIDS Outreach, the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) and the American Society for the Prevention and Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA). As an undergraduate she spent three months in India exploring international development with a focus on arts and culture. She studied Western media’s impact on Indian culture, concentrating on Bollywood’s influence and the role of globalization in the treatment of both white and Indian women in India. She is interested in the development of women’s identities, the role of the media in this and how it changes across countries and centuries. After her time in India she traveled throughout China, Japan, Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and Vietnam. After UNC she continued to travel, spending two years living between New Zealand and Australia. She has lived in NYC the past two years. She loves big dogs, fitness, hiking, reading and never remaining in one place too long.

(CONTINUED)
Faith Williams is a graduate of Eastern Michigan University, where she received her Bachelor’s of Science in Psychology and Women’s and Gender Studies. During her time at EMU, Faith became actively involved in the Queer and Trans People of Color Collective which served as a support group and worked to educate campus organizations on cisgender/heterosexual privilege within bodies of color. Faith was a Ronald E. McNair Scholar who stood out within the program, winning the annual team challenge award for group research on gendered children’s toys and the complexity of play. Her main interests were forever changing throughout undergrad, but Faith remained steadfast in her passion for intragroup conflict and calling out heteropatriarchal frameworks within race theories. Faith published research titled, “Afrocentrism, Hip-Hop, and the “Black Queen”: Utilizing Hip-Hop Feminist Methods to Challenge Controlling Images of Black Women.” This article traces the cisnormative and heteronormative portrayals of Black womanhood within modern mainstream hip-hop and the idea of the respectable “Black queen” back to the political framework of afrocentrism. Faith's current research interests are afrofuturism, digital studies and performance ethnography. Faith is especially interested in the ways in which social media has been used as a political tool by marginalized communities outside of academia. Faith loves reading Rumi, creating art, and Michigan's Great Lakes.

Cecilia Cheung aspires to make contributions to women’s freedoms, both in their lives and work, and popularize feminism by virtue of the university. Cecilia Cheung hopes that the next generation of Chinese females can live more peacefully and happily on the land paved by [previous] generations’ efforts. She has decided to dedicate herself to a career of helping women get rid of the social and traditional shackles without sexism. Luckily, Cecilia's parents are very open-minded and they always show great support for her, even though some relatives strongly believe that females should not receive that much education and should focus on marriage and childbearing as early as possible. From a quite young age Cecilia noticed that women have always been treated as the belongings and accessories of men, instead of independent individuals. This aroused her determination to reverse this corrupted idea for a more harmonious society. She stood out amongst her peers and enrolled into Fudan University in her undergraduate periods as a Philosophy major to lay the foundations of rational thinking. In the first semester of junior year, her outstanding performance qualified her for the exchange program at University of British Columbia, during which she attended courses such as Sex, Gender and Philosophy, and Contemporary Moral Issues. This experience enormously broadened her horizons and opened a bigger world to her. Cecilia is very outgoing and willing to befriend others!

In its inaugural year of operations as a Program, LGBTQ Studies at UT Austin has established a robust and visible presence on the campus through its launch of dynamic programming and courses alongside its new website and branding. Central to this new Program was the designation of its Director, Dr. Ann Cvetkovich, the creation of the Program Coordinator position, filled by Dr. Grayson Hunt, an Advisory Council comprised of faculty, staff, and students, and the development of meaningful collaborations and coalition building with other academic units and student services organizations across the campus. To celebrate the launch of LGBTQ Studies, the program hosted a major symposium in January on Queer Camaraderie that brought in five visiting speakers in partnership with our faculty affiliates. The Program has sought to build community with students of all kinds – not only undergrad certificate and minor students and grad portfolio students, but the many LGBTQ-identified students on campus as well as those with an interest in LGBTQ Studies. Alongside this effort, LGBTQ Studies has sought to build its academic identity through curriculum and programming and also to establish a public face and perform outreach that contributes to a gender-inclusive and LGBTQ-friendly campus. These efforts have included developing a
gender-inclusive restroom campaign for buildings on campus and fundraising for Lavender Graduation, UT’s recognition ceremony for LGBTQ students and allies.

**TRANSGENDER FEMINISMS**

In March, Grayson began hosting a monthly Transgender Feminisms reading group that has since become a popular event for not only LGBTQ faculty and students, but for UT staff and the greater Austin community. The group has been invited to meet at off campus spaces including the Elisabet Ney Museum and Austin’s beloved feminist bookstore, BookWoman. The reading group was created as a way to engage in research and learning about transgender history, debates, theories, and activisms. Diversity within the group has been strong with transgender faculty, staff, students, and community members coming together in conversation with their peers.

The reading group was created to coincide with another curricular effort: Dr. Hunt’s summer course, WGS 335: Transgender Feminisms, the first of its kind to be taught at UT Austin. Offering this course on campus to undergraduate and graduate students has helped to further consolidate the resources LGBTQ Studies provides in the area of transgender studies. The students enrolled in this course represented UT’s diversity with varied gender identities and expressions, racial identities and ethnicities, and disciplines (the latter which included aerospace engineers, geography majors, and LGBTQ Studies minors).

**QUEER CAMARADERIE**

LGBTQ Studies’ biggest event this past year was Queer Camaraderie, which brought 5 scholars to campus in partnership with LGBTQ Studies faculty affiliates from English, MALS, AAADS, and NAIS. Our invited speakers included Joshua Javier Guzmán, Assistant Professor in the Department of Gender Studies at UCLA; Xandra Ibarra, an Oakland-based performance artist from the US/Mexico border who also works under the alias of La Chica Boom; Ernesto Javier Martínez, Associate Professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of Oregon; Kim TallBear, Associate Professor of Native Studies at the University of Alberta and the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Peoples, Technoscience & Environment; and Roderick Ferguson Professor in the department of African American Studies and the Gender and Women’s Studies Program at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Support for this event was provided by the Sterling Clark Holloway Lectureship in Liberal Arts.

Queer Camaraderie was designed to celebrate the launch of LGBTQ Studies at UT and the queer community more generally. The guiding themes of the symposium - Camaraderie, Cabaret, Comadres, Colleagues, Coteries, Conversation, Collaboration, and Collectivity were present throughout with an eclectic mix – part gay cabaret, part lesbian potluck – of wide-ranging affiliations, friendships, and networks that LGBTQ Studies shares across and beyond UT.
The focus on “queer camaraderie” was also marked by a strong emphasis on work that combines the scholarly and the creative, the performative and the discursive, and that is attuned to the affective dimensions of queer intimacies. These informal cross-campus affiliations long sustained the LGBTQ Research Cluster out of which the Program emerged. And while the Program now has more institutional support and affirmation, especially through its ties with the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, these more personal connections will remain one of its strengths as the Program goes forward in creating and fostering an LGBTQ-friendly and gender-inclusive campus, as well as one committed to racial justice.

2017-2018 EVENTS

| 5 Faculty Development Program lectures | 24 sponsored or co-sponsored talks, lectures and presentations by speakers from UT and the community | 3 sponsored or co-sponsored book events and film screenings |

12 sponsored or co-sponsored conferences/symposia including:

- Texas Asia Conference (September 22)
- GRITS Social Justice Conference (September 23)
- Graduate Conference in Comparative Literature - Reclaiming the Swamp (Thing); Popular Culture and the Public Academy (October 27)
- Jil Jadid (New Generation) Conference in Middle Eastern Languages and Literature (Feb 15-17)
- Di-visions: New Directions in Anthropology (March 30)
- British Women Writers Association Conference (April 11)
- SALSA Conference - Language in Society, Culture, Space, and Identity (April 20-21)
- Black Women’s Voices in the Age of #MeToo with keynote speaker, Tarana Burke (May 4)
- Transatlantic Feminisms in the Age of Revolutions (May 9)

LGBTQ Events

- Inaugural Event: UT’s new LGBTQ Studies Program presents Justin Vivian Bond (September 7)
- LGBTQ Studies Program in Partnership with PEFSA showcased the work of PJ Raval (RTF) (October 3)
- Queer Camaraderie: A Symposium Celebrating the Launch of LGBTQ Studies at UT (January 25)
- LGBTQ Studies End of Semester Celebration (May 7)
Dr. Caroline Faria, Zaria El-Fil, and Nakia Delynn Parker at the CWGS Annual Spring Awards Reception

Mariela Vasquez, Anthonia Okolie, and Janett Munoz at NEW Leadership™ Texas

FEATURED EVENTS

10-Year Celebration of the WGS BA Program
November 4-5, 2017
The Center for Women’s & Gender Studies celebrated 10 years of offering its Undergraduate Bachelor of Arts Degree at The University of Texas at Austin. We reunited alumni with current students, created networking opportunities, and shared the accomplishments of our graduates. View our video of the Alumni Panel on our YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/gk0flI1iyhk

Panels and workshops included:
• Professional Development: Connections and Career Building Workshop: Karen Landolt
• Non-profit Alumni Panel: Andy Escobar, Danae Johnson, Darcy Kues, and Lenzi Sheible. Moderated by Ginger Jacinic
• Keynote: Texas State Representative for House District 75, Mary E. González, Feminist Education: Scholarship, Activism, and Creating Spaces.
• Alumni Panel including Asha Dane’el, Brandon Hunter, April Looney, Katie Villereal, and Andrea Zarate; and Q & A, moderated by Ixchel Rosal.
• Finding Beyoncé Feminism, with Dr. Omise’eke Tinsley.
• The Future of Women’s and Gender Studies at UT Austin by CWGS Director, Dr. Susan Sage Heinzelman.

(CONTINUED)
25th Annual Conference on Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies
March 30, 2018
Now in its 25th year, the Emerging Scholarship in Women's & Gender Studies Graduate Student Conference presented: **Undisciplining Women's & Gender Studies**. Through this topic we sought to unfix the boundaries between different fields of study and rethink traditional methodologies for the production of knowledge from imaginative and cross-disciplinary perspectives that unsettle traditional power dynamics inside academic settings. The keynote speaker/performer for this year's conference was UK-based artist and activist Travis Alabanza presenting “Gender non conformiT, the left behind T in trans liberation,” a thought-provoking piece on gender non-conformity, non-binary identities, and the missing elements in the current discussions of trans politics and feminist liberation. Support for this event was provided by the Sterling Clark Holloway Lectureship in Liberal Arts.

Where did Trump Come From? Reproductive Politics, Whiteness, and Neoliberalism, By Laura Briggs, Chair and Professor, Women Gender, Sexuality Studies, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
April 19, 2018
For many inside and outside the United States, the election of Donald J. Trump seemed to come out of nowhere - what happened to the nice U.S. that elected Barack Obama? This talk explored the ways that both white supremacy and neoliberalism have been enacted through attacks on the reproduction and family forms particularly of women of color across the past forty years - from welfare "reform" that eliminated support for single mothers to crackdowns on immigrants that have particularly targeted workers to a home-loan debacle that crashed global economy while blaming Black and Latino single mothers, not banks or lenders. This lecture was supported by the Sterling Clark Holloway Centennial Lectureship in Liberal Arts and sponsored by the Center for Women's & Gender Studies, Center for Asian American Studies, and the Department of American Studies.

Book Discussion of Curran Nault's Queercore: Queer Punk Media Subculture
November 8, 2017
UT Lecturer Curran Nault (CAAS, CWGS, RTF) gave a transmedia talk and punked up discussion on his newly published book, *Queercore: Queer Punk Media Subculture*. *Queercore* considers the histories, practices, and politics of queercore; a queer punk scene that materialized in 1980's Toronto as a dual response to the decad 50e's rise in anti-queer/-transgender violence and the mainstreaming of "respectable" gays and lesbians via emergent politics of marriage and the military. A formative text on grassroots LGBTQ+ art-activism, *Queercore* establishes the oppositional aesthetics and values central to queercore's subcultural distinction - as well as subsequent iterations of the "radical queer."

Dr. Laura Briggs

Graduate Students Vivian Rodriguez, Anushka Jasraj, and Madyson Crawford present their research at the WGS Graduate Student Conference.
NEW LEADERSHIP™ TEXAS

NEW Leadership™ Texas (May 31-June 5) is an intensive, six-day, non-partisan residential program that gives college women the knowledge and skills to become effective leaders in politics and public service. This program, sponsored by UT's Center for Women's & Gender Studies, is held every summer on The University of Texas at Austin campus.

This year, 38 undergraduate students attended from 27 universities and colleges: Brookhaven Community College, Collin College, George Washington University, Houston Community College, Jacksonville College, Lamar University, McLennan Community College, North Lake College, Prairie View A & M University, Rice University, Sam Houston State University, San Jacinto College, St. Edward's University, Tarrant Community College, Texas A & M University - Corpus Christi, Texas Christian University, Texas Women’s University, Trinity University, University of Houston - Downtown, University of Texas (Arlington, Austin, El Paso, Rio Grande Valley, Permian Basin, San Antonio, Tyler), and Western Texas College.

Faculty in Residence (FIRs) The students benefit from the experience of our faculty-in-residence, three women public leaders who served as mentors for students throughout their stay. Our 2018 FIRs:

- Nancy Bocskor, President, Nancy Bocskor Company
- Maggie Jo Buchanan, President, Maggie Jo Consulting, LLC
- Kimberly McGuire, Senior Program Director, ConwayStrategic

Workshops and Panels Throughout the week, students attended workshops to learn about their leadership styles, public speaking, diversity, networking, managing their message, and becoming the next generation of effective civic and political leaders. The students were also presented with a variety of panels that led to discussions on public leadership, technology and politics, advocacy, and policy experts.
Since 2009, the INSPIRE program has served as UT’s signature leadership program for women undergraduates. INSPIRE is a three-year program (sophomore to senior).

The seniors (Class of 2018) along with their facilitator, Rebecca Woo mentored high school students from Austin High School where they worked with and tutored students in the AVID program. AVID is a college readiness program to help students develop the skills they need to be successful in college. Four students in this cohort graduated in 3 years.

The juniors (Class of 2019) did double duty this year with a research project and presentation as well as completing their service project. Research presentations were held on April 20. Six students presented: Quimberly Jasso, Frida Estrada, Mirka Mendez, Samantha Farmer, Lina Kim, and Zebin Dholasaniya. The students also prepared Christmas packages for the mothers at Posada Esperanza, a refugee community in Austin. Other activities planned by facilitator Briana Barnes included a self defense class and a trip to the movie theater to see “A Wrinkle in Time.”

The sophomores (Class of 2020) began their year with Creative Community Building classes taught by Theatre and Dance graduate student, Briyana Clarel. Among the many activities they enjoyed this year were a self-defense class, a money management course, and a trip to the PAC for a performance of “Fall for Dance.” The group, led by Crysbel Tejada, also met during the semester to begin working on a community service project.

**NEW Leadership™ Texas was made possible, in part, with support from the Embrey Family Foundation, LBJ School of Public Affairs, H-E-B, and all the donors who support NEW Leadership™ Texas.**
The cohorts had several opportunities to come together for INSPIRE-related activities. In November INSPIRE held a Fall Retreat, organized by junior Harmony Smith, with many activities planned throughout the day. In April, a group of students from all three cohorts attended a Texas Roller Derby match. We all got together for an End-of-Year Celebration on May 9, where the students were presented with books and certificates. To end the year on a high note, nine students traveled to Washington, DC for the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders.

**INSPIRE END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION**

**INSPIRE is supported by the Mary Braunagel-Brown Excellence Fund and the Jody Conradt Excellence Fund, as well as individual donors.**

**SAGE: Students' Association for Gender Studies Engagement**

SAGE is a dynamic social and educational organization that provides a home for Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS) majors, as well as allies of the feminist and LGBTQIA+ communities on UT's campus. We are committed to fostering conversation and action for aspiring scholar activists, and we place the utmost importance on being a resource and guide for feminist/queer students at the University.

SAGE Board Members include Sruti Gopalakrishnan, Ashley Link, and Luke Hernandez.

Sruti uses she/her pronouns, and is from Plano, TX. She is currently a third-year double major in Women’s & Gender Studies and Management Information Systems. Sruti chose to be a part of SAGE because she believes it’s important to create a community for WGS/LGBTQ+ students and allies to have a safe space that fosters great discussion, collective healing, and motivation for the underrepresented groups at UT.

Ashley uses she/her and they/them pronouns. She is from Dallas, Texas and is a second year Women’s and Gender Studies and Sociology dual major. Ashley is in SAGE because she thinks creating a space for WGS, LGBTQ+ Studies majors and minors, as well as underrepresented students and allies of feminist and LGBTQ+ communities is important and needed at UT. Cultivating a community that emphasizes solidarity, well-being, and healthy intra and interpersonal relationships is essential to collective healing.

Luke Hernandez uses he/him/his pronouns, and is from San Antonio. He is a second-year dual major in Government and Mexican American and Latino/a Studies. Luke is pursing a certificate in LGBTQ+ Studies. He is in SAGE because community building, especially within academic spaces, is crucial for wellness and solidarity. SAGE helps create a space in UT Austin for underrepresented scholars. It’s also a good organization to make friends.

[https://www.facebook.com/SAGEUTAustin/](https://www.facebook.com/SAGEUTAustin/)

**WGS Community Goal Setting event**
Free Minds, cosponsored by CWGS, offers a free, two semester college course in the humanities to adults who have faced educational boundaries. Students work with UT Austin and ACC professors to study literature, philosophy, history, creative writing, and art, and receive free meals, books, tuition, and child care during the program. Students who complete the class earn six college credits through ACC, and graduate feeling more engaged in their communities, their children’s educations, and their own futures.

Those eligible to apply are at least 18 years old, have a high school diploma or GED, don’t have a college degree and haven’t been enrolled in a degree program in the past two years, have demonstrated financial need, are able to read challenging books in English, and are ready to commit to attending class regularly and completing all assignments. For more information or to apply, visit www.FreeMindsAustin.org or call 512-610-7961.

*Courtesy of https://www.facebook.com/freemindsproject/*

UT OAXACA GLOBAL HEALTH STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM

CWGS was a collaborating partner in the community-based participatory research on health disparities and the UT Oaxaca Global Health 2017 Study Abroad Program (School of Social Work) to achieve health equity and maternal and child deaths. A book was created to contain the work of 11 indigenous and afromexican women from different regions in Oaxaca who took part in the research seminar entitled “Community Intervention in Favor of Maternal Health.” Within the seminar, maternal health was defined using a reproductive justice lens and a life course perspective beginning in the womb of one’s own mother through the reproductive years. In this broader definition, maternal health encompassed the right to individual bodily autonomy, including choosing if, when, and how to become a mother, along with the right to live in an equitable and healthy community. Every woman was equipped and trained to use a digital camera to complete their photovoice project. Photovoice is a tool in participatory action research for community assessment. The cameras were purchased with donated funds from the Embrey Family Foundation. The title was selected through a participatory process in which each participant wrote a word that encapsulated their experience through this project and in their work. The word Rebirth was selected because it represents the social change the women are trying to bring about in their communities, and reflects the need to rethink maternal health beyond raising awareness. View the book here: https://bit.ly/2KRpoUb

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES AT UT AUSTIN

Beginning in 2019, CWGS will begin a year-long celebration to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Gender Studies at UT Austin. The spring and fall semesters of 2019 will be filled with a series of events that will tell the story of gender studies at UT, from its inception in 1979 to its present status - with an undergraduate degree program, LGBTQ undergraduate certificate program, a master’s degree program, two dual master’s degree programs with the School of Information and the LBJ School of Public Affairs, an LGBTQ Studies Program, and a graduate portfolio program for master’s students and doctoral students. Please stay tuned for more details on the events surrounding this important milestone.
In an effort to promote space for learning and dialogue through a love of reading non-violence work, WGS alum Kristina Miller (BA, 2016) and Jenn Tristan designed a comprehensive and inclusive anti-sexual violence literary primer: "We are excited to share this as an additional tool for shifting cultural norms and supporting survivors and validating their experiences." The literary primer centers stories by voices often marginalized and overlooked in society and the anti-violence movement. Many works that explore surviving sexual violence, the lasting effects of trauma, and rape culture exist and sit on the shelves of our local libraries and bookstores ready to be read and spark conversations, introspection, and collective growth. The books included in the primer reflect the rich diversity found among survivors of sexual violence and advocates for healing, respect, and justice.

Kristina Miller is 2016 CWGS alumna and an anti-violence educator, advocate, and consultant from Katy, Texas. She produces events, educational materials, and provides consulting services and workshops for groups and individuals that seek to better understand rape culture, institutional oppression such as white supremacy, misogyny, misogynoir, and gender-based violence.

If you are interested in collaborating or requesting services, email her at Towardslessharm@gmail.com You can also find her on Twitter @TowardsLessHarm

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**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS + PREVENTION**

#METOO: A LITERARY PRIMER ON RAPE CULTURE + SEXUAL VIOLENCE

*GrowYourShelf #BorrowIt @TowardsLessHarm

The body of literature on sexual violence grows more robust by the day. As socially engaged booklovers witness the sustained relevance of #metoo and #timesup within mainstream media, there exists an increasing need for opportunities to engage in these conversations with sensitivity, awareness, and empathy.

This list of books - both fiction and nonfiction- addresses the attitudes that contribute to our culture of violence, particularly against marginalized communities. It is incumbent upon us to begin the work of listening and learning from those whose experiences of sexual trauma are erased or misrepresented.

In order to provide guidance in navigating an expanding selection of works on this topic, here is a list of books that many appreciate for their thoughtfully-crafted narratives, socio-political significance, and inclusion of underrepresented narratives and communities. This primer provides an entry point into literature that positively adds to a movement that fully represents the vast living experiences of survivor of sexual violence and those working towards less harm.

Anticipate an upcoming, extended list that will feature a more comprehensive collection of books, films, and other media. Utilize this list to explore new narratives, grow your shelf (and self), and suggest these titles to your local libraries and independent bookstores if they are not already available.

*legend icons are descriptive of the featured book covers on this primer

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**MOEMIO ANTHOLOGIES**

*Queering Sexual Violence, edited by Jenness Patterson and with a foreword by Reina Gossett*

Also See: *Redefining Realness, Janet Mock*  
*Surpassing Certainty, Janet Mock*  
*Hunger, Roxanne Gay*

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**EARLY CHILDHOOD**

*Some Secrets Should Never Be Kept, Written by Jaynee Sanders, Illustrated by Craig Smith.*

Also see: *Who Are You? The Kid’s Guide to Gender Identity, by Brook Pessin-Whedbee, Illustrated by Naomi Bardoff*  
*No Means No! Teaching Personal Boundaries, Consent; Empowering Children to Say ‘No!’ by Jaynee Sanders, Illustrated by Cherrie Zimazang*

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**YOUNG ADULT**

*The House on Mango Street, Sandra Cisneros*

Also See: *Speak, Laurie Halse Anderson*  
*Eleanor & Park, Rainbow Rowell*  
* Asking For It, Louise O’Neill*

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**HISTORICAL NON FICTION + INVESTIGATIVE JOURNALISM**

*At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance - A New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power, Danielle McGuire*

Also See: *In a Day's Work: The Fight to End Sexual Violence Against America's Most Vulnerable Workers, Bernice Yeung*  
*The Beginning and End of Rape: Confronting Sexual Violence in Native America, Sarah Deer*

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**TAKEN FROM THE HEADLINES**

*The Central Park Five, Sarah Burns*

Also See: *Silent No More, Aaron Fisher*  
*Lead Us Not Into Temptation: Catholic Priests and the Sexual Abuse of Children, Jason Berry*

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This literary primer was developed by Jenn Tristan and Kristina Miller | Poster Design by Anita Nichole - anitanichole.myportfolio.com @anitanichole
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