

WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM



**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

College of Arts & Sciences

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A *MESSAGE* from the DIRECTOR

The past academic year has been one of incredible growth and expansion for the WGS program in so many ways! Directing the program through this process has its challenges as well as rewards, but on balance, it's incredibly gratifying to look back on the program's accomplishments over the past year and to look forward to those successes yet to come.



Last summer, we held our first WGS Program Retreat at the Inn at Castle Hill on the Crane Estate in Ipswich. Against the gorgeous back drop of Crane Beach, a group of core faculty met for two days to think about the future of the WGS program. At the retreat, we identified our program's mission, strengths and weaknesses, opportunities for growth, and strategies for collaboration across the university and in the community. In the fall, we initiated a number of projects based on ideas from the retreat, including our monthly Works in Progress Workshop and the Writing Hunker, which have proven to be both popular and productive over the course of the last year. I've received great feedback from participants about the unique benefits of the workshop, including the opportunity to engage an interdisciplinary audience, to learn from colleagues about cutting edge research in different fields, and a heightened feeling of camaraderie and engagement within the WGS community. Likewise, the Writing Hunker has been working well, particularly this spring, as an outlet for consistent and protected research and writing time for faculty and graduate students. In addition to these projects, we've also begun building (or in some cases, rebuilding) bridges with units on campus such as the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Center (SARP), the Center for Gender, Sexuality, and Activism (CGSA), the African American Studies Program, and the American and New England Studies Program. These partnerships will help strengthen our ability to be responsive to student needs around gender and sexuality resources and to collaborate with likeminded programs toward mutually beneficial initiatives in critical area studies.

This year, we welcomed a number of newly affiliated and core faculty into the fold. These new members of our community include Shelly DeBiasse (Health Sciences), Sean Desilets (Writing Program), Sarah Ihmoud (Anthropology and WGS postdoc), Victor Kumar (Philosophy), Petrus Liu (WLL), Marie McDonough (Writing Program), Takeo Rivera (English), Katy Quissel (Health Sciences), Merav Shohet (Anthropology), Nancy Smith-Hefner (Anthropology), and Joanna Davison (Anthropology). Next year, we will also be joined by Sandy McEvoy (Political Science, Wheelock), whose primary appointment will be in WGS, I'm excited to report! (If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive me – the success of our expansion this year has the unfortunate side effect of making me lose track sometimes!) Unfortunately, we will also be saying goodbye to some beloved members of our faculty, including Jennifer Row (Romance Studies) and Ashley Farmer (History & AfAm). We wish

them luck in their new positions and hope they know they will always have a place in the BU WGS family!

The WGS curriculum has also seen some exciting changes this year, including the infusion of new faculty and a number of newly cross-listed courses. If you teach a course that should be cross-listed with WGS, please be in touch with Gabby Newton (gnewton@bu.edu) as soon as possible to get the process going. We have also taken advantage of the impending curricular transition known as the Hub to make gender and sexuality courses a key component of general education for students across the entire university. Some of the new Hub courses include *Gender and Sexuality: An Introduction* (1&2), *Sexism in the 21st Century*, and a brand new course, *Thinking Queerly: An Introduction to LGBTQ Studies*, along with several WGS cross-listed courses from a diversity of departments.

Finally, a brief look ahead: In the coming year, we will partake in an Academic Program Review, which will no doubt help identify where and how we can grow the program further. Among other things, the APR Committee will assess the feasibility of expanding into an undergraduate major offering. The WGS faculty met at the beginning of the year to discuss expansion possibilities; at that meeting, there was widespread consensus around the desire to offer a major and adjust the curriculum accordingly. In the coming semesters, we will harness the expertise of the APR committee and the program evaluation process to develop a successful plan for program growth. I am excited about the future of BU WGS, and I hope you are, too. If you'd like to be a part of the team that will shape that future, please be in touch.

I'd like to conclude with some words of appreciation for this truly amazing collective of WGS faculty and staff. Thank you to Gabby Newton for everything you do to keep the program thriving and for your ideas and inspiration about where this program can continue to push and flourish. Thank you to Susanne Sreedhar for stepping in as Interim Director and doing a flawless job of it! Thank you to Anthony Petro, Barbara Gotfried, and Diane Balser for directing our graduate and undergraduate studies – you're doing vital program building work that can sometimes go unacknowledged despite being essential to our success – I am so grateful for it. And finally, thank you to all of the WGS faculty who come to meetings and events, teach our courses, mentor our students, offer their research expertise and raise the program's profile with their work, and bring diversity and richness of experience to our program. I continue to feel incredibly lucky to work with you all to bring women's, gender, and sexuality studies to the BU community and beyond.

-- Catherine Connell

Director
Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR of *GRADUATE* STUDIES

I'm excited to report that the graduate certificate program continues to thrive. In the 2017-2018 academic year, we have more than forty students enrolled in the program and coming from a range of fields, including the Schools of Law, Theology, and Public Health, and from a host of departments across the Graduate College of Arts and Sciences. This spring, twelve students enrolled in our Theories and Methods seminar (WS801), which our wonderful new colleague Dr. Takeo Rivera is teaching for the first time – thanks, Takeo!

We have continued to host colloquia on feminist pedagogy. In the fall, our workshop focused on how to teach “Hot Button Issues,” and we were joined by BU professors Ashley Farmer, Jennifer Knust, and Erin Murphy. In the spring, Megan Goodwin (visiting scholar at Northeastern University and BU alum) led a lunchtime workshop called “The Way Forward Is with a Broken Heart: Risk as Feminist Pedagogy.” We look forward to continuing these conversations next fall and would greatly value your feedback if you have ideas for additional topics!

BU and WGS in particular remained committed to our partnership with the Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (GCWS), which hosts cutting edge, interdisciplinary seminars, in addition to conferences and networking events for faculty and graduate students. Please be sure to check out the amazing work they do!



Megan Goodwin leading the Spring WGS Workshop



-- Anthony Petro

Director of Graduate Studies
Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program

Meet

SARAH IHMOUD!

Dr. Sarah Ihmoud is a Postdoctoral Associate in Anthropology and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Her fieldwork is centered in the Middle East and Latin America regions, where she uses ethnographic research methods to investigate gendered experiences of militarization and violence in colonial and conflict contexts.

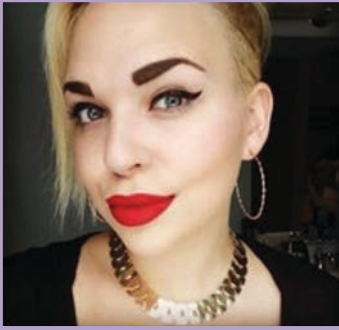
Dr. Ihmoud's current scholarship considers the relationship between structural and internal patriarchal power in borderlands areas—where national interests and spaces overlap, state power is most heavily contested, and new political, legal, and cultural norms are often created. Her work draws on the insights of black, native and third world feminists to understand intimate, embodied experiences of racialized and gendered violence and access to justice.

Dr. Ihmoud's research has been published in various peer-reviewed journals including *Cultural Anthropology* (forthcoming), *State Crime*, *Borderlands* and *Biography*. She has also contributed to monographs for Harvard University's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy's Global Initiative on Violence Against Women and UN Women's initiative on access to justice and rule of law.

Visiting Scholar

2017-2019 WGS





Bridget Daly
CAS '15



Sasha Goodfriend
CAS '14



Gabby Newton
CAS/COM '14



Michelle Weiser
COM '12

WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?

Bridget Daly graduated with a major in Cultural Anthropology and a minor in WGS studies. Upon graduation she began working for Labor Unions and worker organizations including Unite Here Local 26 and Massachusetts Jobs with Justice. She recently accepted a new position with Unite Here in Baltimore, where she organizes efforts for low wage workers and legislative campaigns to raise minimum wage.

Sasha Goodfriend works at Simmons College as the Government Relations Coordinator. She is co-president of the Massachusetts National Organization for Women and vice chair of the Massachusetts Commission on LGBTQ Youth. She holds an MA in Public Policy from Simmons College. This Fall semester, Sasha is teaching "Organizing for Social Change" at Simmons.

Gabby Newton works as the Program Coordinator for the BU WGS Program and serves as the liaison between the WGS and the Center for Gender, Sexuality, & Activism. Prior to this position, she worked for a global health organization. Combining her passion for social justice and black women's health, Gabby is pursuing a Masters in Public Health at BU School of Public Health.

Michelle Weiser is the Communications & Development Director at Boston Workmen's Circle Center for Jewish Culture and Social Justice where she combines her passion for political organizing and building community with her professional skills of storytelling and fundraising. She is an alumni of the JOIN for Justice Community Organizing Fellowship.

In November, 2017, WGS minors had the opportunity to meet and speak with these four recent graduates of the WGS who returned to campus to share what they are doing now and how their undergraduate experiences as a WGS minor contributed to their current life and careers.

WGS *ALUMNI* EVENT

CONGRATULATIONS

to PROFESSOR ASHLEY FARMER on her new book,

Remaking Black Power: How Black Women Transformed an Era

(UNC Press, 2017)

In February, 2018, the WGS celebrated Professor Farmer's great achievement with a book event attended by faculty, students, and friends.

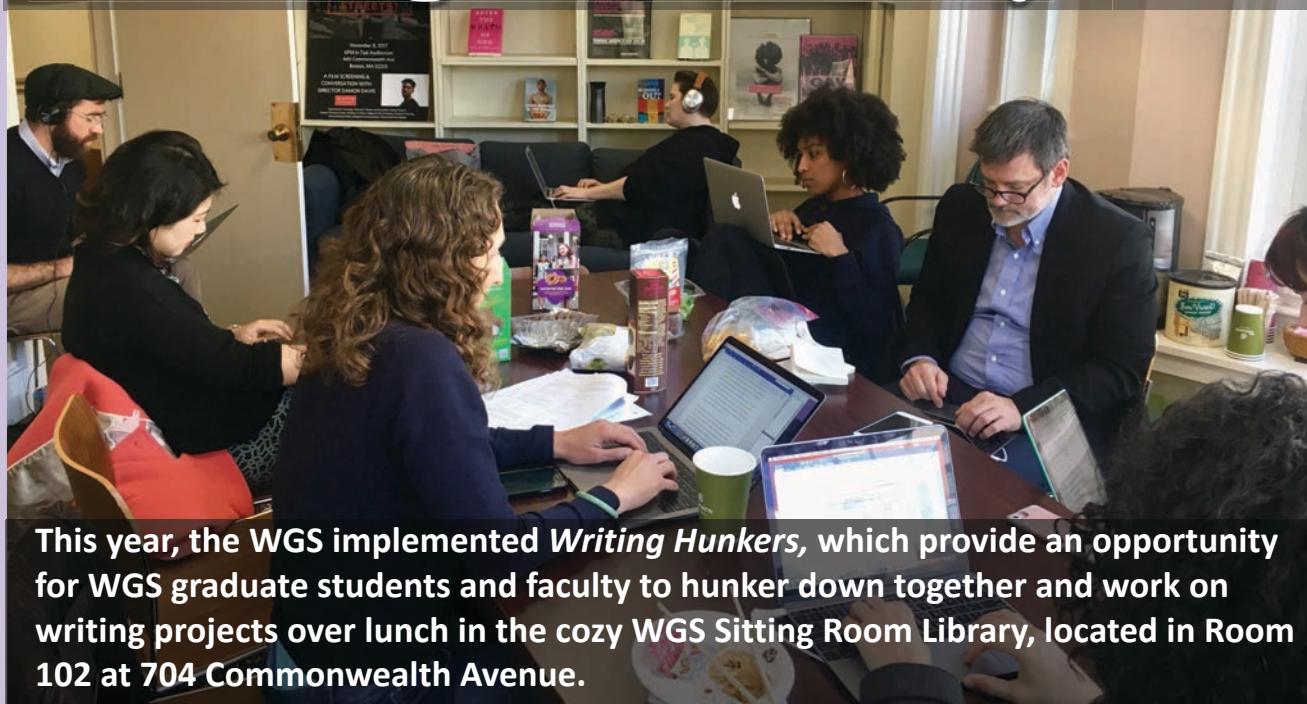


ABOUT THE BOOK:

"In this comprehensive history, Ashley D. Farmer examines black women's political, social, and cultural engagement with Black Power ideals and organizations. Complicating the assumption that sexism relegated black women to the margins of the movement, Farmer demonstrates how female activists fought for more inclusive understandings of Black Power and social justice by developing new ideas about black womanhood. This compelling book shows how the new tropes of womanhood that they created--the "Militant Black Domestic," the "Revolutionary Black Woman," and the "Third World Woman," for instance--spurred debate among activists over the importance of women and gender to Black Power organizing, causing many of the era's organizations and leaders to critique patriarchy and support gender equality.

Making use of a vast and untapped array of black women's artwork, political cartoons, manifestos, and political essays that they produced as members of groups such as the Black Panther Party and the Congress of African People, Farmer reveals how black women activists reimagined black womanhood, challenged sexism, and redefined the meaning of race, gender, and identity in American life."

Working Together Building Community



This year, the WGS implemented *Writing Hunkers*, which provide an opportunity for WGS graduate students and faculty to hunker down together and work on writing projects over lunch in the cozy WGS Sitting Room Library, located in Room 102 at 704 Commonwealth Avenue.

WORKS In PROGRESS

In addition to the weekly *Writing Hunkers*, the WGS began holding *Works in Progress* series every month as a way for WGS faculty to share their current work and receive feedback from the Program's interdepartmental community.

“It was such a treat and a privilege to have colleagues read an article I am writing on gender and the reception of the *Tale of Genji* by two modern male writers. Even before the event itself, I found it helpful just to imagine them as readers encountering my work from their various disciplinary perspectives, and the discussion itself helped me to see clearly what I need to do to sort out the various audiences I am writing for (queer theorists, literature specialists, historians, and general readers). It was an incredibly fruitful afternoon, and I left feeling energized and excited to dive into revisions. I hope very much that we make the works-in-progress a tradition in WGS.”

-- Keith Vincent

Associate Professor of World Languages & Literatures

CURRENT WORKS in WGS

2017-2018

Queer Velocities: Time, Sex and the Early Modern Stage

Jennifer E. Row

Assistant Professor of French

Racial Masochism: Performance, Media, and the Undoing of the Asian American Subject

Takeo Rivera

Assistant Professor of English

Purple and White: Sōseki and Shiki's *Genji*

Keith Vincent

Associate Professor of World Languages & Literatures

The Right to Rule and the Rights of Women in Victorian Britain

Arianne Chernock

Associate Professor of History

Intimate Invasions: Gender, Violence, and the Politics of Belongings at the Jerusalem Border

Sarah Ihmoud

Postdoctoral Fellow of Anthropology and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies

Madness, Medicine, and Masculinity in Kim Tongin's 'Oh, the Frail-hearted'

Yoon Sun Yang

Assistant Professor of Korean and Comparative Literature

Participate! Race and Gender in the Audience for Interactive Theater

Carrie Preston

Professor of English

“Presenting my work as part of the WIP series was a valuable experience. The interdisciplinary nature of the conversation encouraged me to think about the audience(s) for my writing in new and productive ways. It also reminded me of the incredible generosity of my colleagues.”

-- Arianne Chernock

Rude Milton: Gender, Sexuality, and the Missing Middle of Milton Studies

Erin Murphy

Associate Professor of English

THE 8th ANNUAL EVE SEDGWICK MEMORIAL LECTURE IN GENDER + SEXUALITY STUDIES FEATURING

DEAN SPADE

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

Activist, scholar, and Seattle University Law School Professor, Dean Spade, delivered the Eighth Annual Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick Memorial Lecture in March, 2018. These annual lectures were established by members of the Faculty of Gender and Sexuality Studies Group to honor the memory of Professor Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, a founder of queer theory and a former educator at BU.

Spade kicked off his visit to Boston University by leading an informal lunch discussion that took up issues related to the provocative interview: “Now is the Time for ‘Nobodies’: Dean Spade on Mutual Aid and Resistance in the Trump Era.” With a handful of BU Law School students, and Gender and Sexuality Studies Group members, ideas and questions were addressed, ranging from how to resist and maintain one’s humanity while in law school, to finding ways to support people most endangered by harmful federal policies at the local level.

Later that evening, in his lecture, *How Social Movements Feel*, Professor Spade took the audience on a vulnerable and inspiring journey through parts of his new work. “You are the first people [to see this] because of Eve,” said

Spade, who felt moved by the bravery exemplified in Eve Sedgwick’s art to share his project for the first time with the crowd of BU students, faculty, and friends in attendance. In his new work, Spade challenges the concepts of “self-help” and “self-care” as it pertains to participating in social movements. He also inquires into the capacity of people to stay with their purpose in the face of intense relationships. Learning to feel more is essential to carrying out transformative projects.



Professor Dean Spade delivers his lecture to the audience.

The point of doing this work is so that I have more capacity to be with people where ever they are at...So when I’m with a person who’s really really having a hard time for whatever reason, having a crisis, really directing a lot of anger towards me...whatever it is, **can I have enough capacity to be with them where they are?** It’s a very different question from, ‘**can everybody get in line and do things in a way that I perceive to be healthy?**’

An engaging Q&A session with students proceeded Dean Spade’s lecture, and was followed by a heartfelt dinner with Spade and WGS faculty.

WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES *AWARDS*

Sarah Joanne Davis Award Winners

Ashley Barquin (COM '18)

"Anita Hill: Raising awareness of African American women's sexual abuse"

Caroline Aaron (CAS '18)

"Geek, Fag or Menace: Subverting Stereotypes of Black Masculinity in *Dope* and *Moonlight*"

Kellen Dorio (CAS '19)

"Analyzing the International Lack of Gender Parity in Education"

Nivetha Saravanan (CAS '20)

"A Real Simple Analysis of *Real Simple*"

Honorable Mentions

Maddie Hren (CAS '18)

"Invisible and Gendered: The Intersection of Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and Military Sexual Trauma"

Lianne A. O'Reilly (CAS '18)

"Ranked at the Top of Everyone's List: America's Top Universities and their Inefficient Sexual Assault Policies"



A few of the SJD winners, from left to right: Maddie Hren, Caroline Aaron, and Nivetha Saravanan

VISIT

[BU.EDU/WGS/SJD](https://bu.edu/wgs/sjd)

FOR MORE

INFORMATION ABOUT

THE SARAH JOANNE
DAVIS AWARD

CONGRATULATIONS

TO THOSE WHO COMPLETED THE WGS

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



Some of this year's graduates pictured above. From left to right: Rebecca Farber, Christina Jarymowycz, Kurt Blankschaen, Mariah Gruner, and Ryan Weberling

Tazeen Ali

Ph.D. Candidate, Religious Studies

Kurt Blankschaen

Ph.D. Candidate, Philosophy

Paul Edwards

Ph.D., Philosophy

Rebecca Farber

Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology

Mariah Gruner

Ph.D. Candidate, American and New England Studies

Christina Jarymowycz

Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology

Bansari Kamdar

M.A. Candidate, International Relations and International Communications

Ryan Weberling

Ph.D. Candidate, English



SHANNON DRAUCKER

THIS YEAR'S *BEST*

GRADUATE STUDENT

INSTRUCTOR

CONGRATULATIONS to Shannon Draucker, who won the award for Best Graduate Student Instructor in the BU College of Arts & Sciences for her outstanding work in the WGS Topics Course: *Music, Gender, and Social Change*!

From nineteenth-century Verdian opera, to Helen Reddy's 1971 feminist anthem "I Am Woman," to Beyoncé's 2016 sensation "Formation," music has long fueled movements for social change. In my Fall 2017 course, "Music, Gender, and Social Change," we discussed how sound and song can foster explorations of gender, sexuality, race, and class. We studied a variety of genres — from classical, to folk, to punk, to Broadway showtunes, to hip-hop — and explored how music differs from other art forms (literature, drama, dance, theatre) in its subversive potential. We also considered examples of music's more complex or vexed relationship to progressive politics — the paucity of female conductors in the classical music world, the sexist lyrics that pervade a variety of genres, and the forms of cultural appropriation displayed in many music videos and performances.

My students in WS 305 produced an amazing amount of work. In addition to writing thoughtful papers and leading enthusiastic class discussions, they created their own podcast episodes; gave presentations about alternative genres, artists, and songs (many of which were new-to-me!); and developed "performative" final projects, including original songs, music videos, and remixes. A few students also traveled to Rosie's Place, where they led a discussion about the power of music for adult English language learners. You can view more of my students' great work [on our class website](#). I am so grateful to them and to the WGS Department for the opportunity to explore how art can often be the most powerful way to critique — and even change — the world.

-- *Shannon Draucker*

Lecturer

Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program

Ph.D. Candidate, English

WGS'S UNESCO/UNITWIN NETWORK:

2017-2018 HIGHLIGHTS



*Maino and Laxmi Mardi, Ramchandrapur village
Photo: Saunak Kar, Bolpur Manab Jamin*

2017-2018 was a period of expansive action from the grassroots to the global policy level for the UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & and People-Centered Development. Here are several illustrations of activity underway in the Network spanning from India to Greater Boston to West Africa.

In West Bengal, India, Chandana Dey of our Network now works with the Livestock Asset Building Programme established by agricultural scientist Srikanta Mondal and his team of Bolpur Manab Jamin in 15 Bengal villages. In beneficiary villages, all cattle, goats, chickens and ducks were inoculated with the help of the District Livestock Department, West Bengal. The beneficiaries promised to another family the first calf, kid, and duckling born, while the rest of the brood would stay with the original owner.

Chandana states, "We hope that in four years, these women will have built their 'moving banks', and benefited from both sale and consumption of livestock, and livestock products and by products. ... The additional income is likely to be spent on the family, children's education and health needs and some may even be saved for future security."

In Boston, the Unbound Visual Arts (UVA) exhibition *Battle of the Sexes Revisited: The Sexual Harassment Valley of Today* showcased works from Greater Boston, West Africa, and beyond portraying ongoing challenges to achieving gender justice. The #MeToo movement was a light-motif of the event. UVA's Executive Director John Quatralle was Curator and UNITWIN Director at BU Brenda Gael McSweeney was Exhibition Advisor. Cosponsors include: The Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program (WGS) at Boston University, The Gender and International Development Initiatives of the Brandeis Women's Studies Research Center (GaDI/WSRC), and Hubert H. Humphrey Fellows at BU.

In France, UNESCO Paris convened an Experts' Meeting of UNESCO Chairs in the field of Gender Equality in 2017. Professor Asha Mukherjee of Visva Bharati University in Shantiniketan, West Bengal represented our Network. Asha shared policy recommendations in the arena of 'Women's equal participation and leadership in political and economic domains: research findings on advances, obstacles and way forward strategies.' These feed into the implementation of the global Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.



Left to Right: John Quatralle, Nicole Rizzo, Brenda Gael McSweeney, Angela Shpolberg, Peg Ehrlinger Photo: Mei-Mei Ellerman

Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney
Director
UNESCO/UNITWIN at BU WGS

MORE ON THE BU-BASED UNITWIN AT:

BU.EDU/WGS/NETWORKS/UNESCO-UNITWIN-AT-BU, AND UNITWIN.BLOGSPOT.COM

MEET OUR *NEW* WGS FACULTY!

JOANNA DAVIDSON, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Joanna Davidson is a cultural anthropologist whose research is based in rural West Africa, where she has conducted long-term ethnographic fieldwork among Jola rice cultivators in Guinea-Bissau. Her first book, *Sacred Rice: Identity, Environment, & Development in Rural West Africa* (Oxford University Press, 2016), explored social and religious transformation, cultural conceptions of knowledge, and changing notions of personhood among Jola in the context of environmental and economic change. Other research topics have included: the regional dynamics of social fragility, ethnic conflict, and the anthropology of international development. Articles and book chapters based on this research have been published in various edited volumes and journals, including *American Ethnologist*, *African Studies Review*, and *Culture, Agriculture, Food & Environment*. Dr. Davidson is also the co-editor of *Narrating Illness: Prospects and Constraints* (Oxford: Interdisciplinary Press, 2016). Partially emerging from this ongoing set of research interests, Dr. Davidson is now exploring the role of storytelling in various disciplinary and professional practices, including medicine, law, and international development. This central interest in the power and politics of storytelling has unlocked new arenas for understanding her ongoing ethnographic work with Jola villagers, which increasingly focuses on shifts in women's roles and gender relations. Her new book project based on this research is tentatively titled *Singing Wives and Silent Widows: Making and Unmaking Marriage in Rural West Africa*.



Dr. Davidson teaches courses on cultural anthropology, Africanist anthropology, ethnographic genres, anthropological critiques of development, feminist anthropology, and the politics of storytelling. She was the 2018 recipient of BU's College of Arts & Sciences Neu Family Award for Excellence in Teaching.

MICHELLE DEBIASSE, CLINICAL ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Michele "Shelly" DeBiasse, PhD, RDN is a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist whose initial career was in healthcare as a critical care/nutrition support specialist and researcher, and later, clinical nutrition manager. For the past 15 years, she has held a full-time faculty position at Boston University, and most recently was named Director, Programs in Nutrition at Boston University/College of Health & Rehabilitation Sciences: Sargent College. She holds a BA in Psychology, a BS in Human Nutrition, and a MS in Clinical Nutrition. In September of 2016, DeBiasse completed her PhD in Nutrition & Metabolism at the Boston University School of Medicine, Division of Graduate Medical Sciences. Her PhD dissertation, *The Theory of Planned Behavior and Implementation Intentions to Improve Fruit and Vegetable Intake in Women with Low Socioeconomic Status*, afforded her three first-author publications, and helped further our understanding of the challenges women with low socioeconomic status face when trying to improve the quality of their diet.



As a feminist, DeBiasse brings relevant discussion of gender into her classroom. She is currently working with Dr. Bria Dunham on the development of a course *Gender and Healthcare*, and she hopes to engage in research with other WGS faculty on issues related to women, gender and sexuality.

SEAN DESILETS, SENIOR LECTURER

Sean Desilets is Senior Lecturer in the College of Arts and Sciences Writing Program. His teaching and research interests include film, religion, queer theory, poststructuralism, and intersectional feminism. He is author of *Hermeneutic Humility and the Theology of Cinema: Blind Paul* (Routledge, 2017), and his essays have appeared in *Camera Obscura*, *Film Criticism*, *Literature/Film Quarterly*, and *Studies in French Cinema*. His current book project is entitled *A Theology of Media: Migration, Expenditure, Revelation*.



VICTOR KUMAR, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Dr. Victor Kumar's main interests are in moral philosophy and moral psychology. He has written about the evolution of morality and the possibility of progressive moral change. He is especially interested in the roles that emotion and reasoning play in moral thought. He is currently writing a natural history of morality with his co-author, Richmond Campbell. He teaches a number of different courses in the BU Philosophy Department, including an upper level class on the ethics of race and gender.



PETRUS LIU, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Petrus Liu is Associate Professor of Chinese & Comparative Literature and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. He received his Ph.D. in Comparative Literature (Chinese, German, and Latin) from UC Berkeley and taught at Cornell University and Yale-NUS College.

Professor Petrus Liu's teaching and research interests focus on modern Chinese and comparative literature, transnational queer theory, digital media, and the aesthetic of Cold War cultures. His first book, *Stateless Subjects: Chinese Martial Arts Literature and Postcolonial History* (Cornell 2011), is the first comprehensive study of *wuxia* film and fiction in the English language. His second book, *Queer Marxism in Two Chinas* (Duke 2015), assembles a queer Marxist archive of literary materials, cultural criticism, and activist strategies to develop a nonliberal alternative to Western models of queer emancipation. This book won the Alan Bray Memorial Book Prize Honorable Mention and was a finalist for the 2016



Lambda Literary Award for LGBT Studies. Professor Liu is also the coeditor (with Lisa Rofel) of *Beyond the Strai(gh)ts: Transnationalism and Queer Chinese Politics*, a special issue of *Positions: East Asia Cultures Critique* that received the Modern Language Association's Council of Editors of Learned Journals (CELJ) Award for Best Journal Special Issue of 2010. His original articles and critical translations of Chinese theory have appeared in *Interventions*, *Social Text*, *Modern Language Quarterly*, *GLQ*, *Positions*, *Asian Exchange*, *CLEAR*, *Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*, and *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies*. His current book project, *Cold War Aesthetics in East Asia*, offers a new cultural history of postwar world order through a comparative study of Chinese and Korean independence/reunification debates, industries of popular culture, and historical responses to Japanese imperialism. He is also working on several articles that reconsider the tensions between queer theory and Marxism through a transnational framework. Prof. Liu has been a recipient of a J. Y. Pillay Fellowship in Global Asia, and Institute for Cultural Inquiry Berlin Visiting Fellowship, a Telluride Faculty Scholarship, and a Cornell Society for the Humanities Fellowship.

MARIE SATYA MCDONOUGH, LECTURER

Marie Satya McDonough's research and teaching interests include indigenous and other women-of-color feminisms, care ethics and affect theory, and issues of gender and sexuality in genre literature. In Spring 2018, she will be teaching WS/EN 326, *Arts of Gender*, focusing on recent feminist comics; she also regularly teaches courses about indigenous politics, science fiction and environmental catastrophe, and critical theory. Her recent research has focused on depictions of justice and law in indigenous literature, specifically in cases of sexual assault. In addition to WGS, she teaches in the Writing Program, the English Department, and Core.



SANDRA MCEVOY, CLINICAL ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Sandra McEvoy is a Clinical Associate Professor of Political Science and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies. Professor McEvoy is formerly the Director of Political Science and Global Studies at Wheelock College; served as Associate Director of the Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights at the University of Massachusetts-Boston; and a Research Fellow at the Five Colleges Women's Studies Research Center in South Hadley, MA.

Professor McEvoy's research focuses on two critical aspects of gender and politics. First, she examines women's participation in political violence and advocates for gender-focused strategies that incorporate perpetrators of political violence into long-term conflict resolution strategies – primarily in Northern Ireland. Professor McEvoy is preparing a book manuscript that documents Loyalist women's participation in paramilitary organizations in Northern Ireland during the 30-year conflict in the country. The manuscript draws on empirical data she has collected during ongoing field research in Northern Ireland over the last 16 years. Research related to this work appears in book chapters and academic journals.

A second area of Professor McEvoy's research focuses on LGBT+ identities and global politics, particularly a concern with displaced and stateless LGBT people in conflict and post-conflict settings. She is currently co-editing a book manuscript for Oxford University Press, *The Oxford Handbook on Global LGBT Politics* (expected in 2019).

In the classroom, Professor McEvoy teaches courses including: *Global Social Movements*; *Gender and Political Violence*; *Gender and Politics*; *Seeking Justice After War*; and *LGBT Politics in Film*.

Finally, Professor McEvoy is active in several professional associations, including the International Studies Association, where she is former Chair of the Women's Caucus and founding Chair of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Allies Caucus.



TAKEO RIVERA, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Takeo Rivera is a specialist in modern and contemporary drama with a focus on race, sexuality, and gender in the U.S. American cultural production. His current project, *Racial Masochism*, is focused on masochism and techno-orientalism in Asian American cultural production across multiple media, including theater, literature, graphic novels, historical archives, and video games. This project explores the relationship between power and pleasure within the traumas of racialization, examining affective attachments to nonhuman, machine-like stereotypical forms. Dr. Rivera is also an award-winning playwright whose plays have been staged in New York City, Los Angeles, and the San Francisco Bay Area. His creative work explores race, masculinity, and sexuality at length. His play *Goliath* has been recognized by the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival, the New Works of Merit Playwriting Contest, and the Planet Connections Theater Festivity. Also prior to his professional career in academia, Dr. Rivera worked as a rape crisis advocate, counselor, and community educator.



In WGS, Dr. Rivera teaches courses exploring the relationship of gender and sexuality to aesthetic practice across multiple media.

MERAV SHOHET, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Dr. Merav Shohet is a cultural anthropologist whose specializations in psychological, medical, and linguistic anthropology lead to ethnographically grounded, comparative, language-centered research on gender, affect, morality, and health. In both Vietnam and North America, she focuses on the subjective, emotional lives of specific gendered persons to illuminate how discursive practices — and the socio-historical and political-economic transformations of which they are a part — mediate individuals' experiences of moral personhood and lived possibilities in extra-clinical contexts of care-giving, suffering and recovery.

Dr. Shohet is currently completing a book manuscript provisionally entitled *Sustaining Sacrifice*, where she draws on person-centered and



language socialization research among multi-generational families in central Vietnam to theorize how “sacrifice” works as a complex meta-value guiding everyday (gendered) moral practice that provides continuity and minimizes overt conflict in Vietnam’s rapidly changing socio-economic and biopolitical urbanizing context. In addition, Dr. Shohet is returning to earlier eating disorders research in . Boston, to investigate lifespan illness and recovery processes, particularly how discourses of food, economic development, and cross-cultural psychiatry insidiously figure in marginalized people’s lives. Finally, linking her sustained interests in narrative, sacrifice, and care, and the intersections of nationalist and familial ethics, Dr. Shohet is also exploring possibilities for additional research on kibbutz life or other settler communities in Israel/Palestine.

Dr. Shohet’s research has been supported by Fulbright-Hays, SSRC, Pacific-Rim, and a number of other grants and fellowships. She has published in *American Anthropologist*, *American Ethnologist*, *Ethos*, *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, *Transcultural Psychiatry*, and *New Directions in Child and Adolescent Development*.

NANCY SMITH-HEFNER, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Dr. Nancy J. Smith-Hefner's teaching and research interests focus on the relations between language, culture, and Islam as expressed in the discourses and practices of gender and sexuality in contemporary Southeast Asia. Her forthcoming book *Islamizing Intimacies: Youth, Sexuality, and Gender in Contemporary Indonesia* (University of Hawaii, 2019) is an ethnographic study of the changing personal lives and sexual attitudes of educated, Muslim Javanese youth against the backdrop of a resurgent interest in more normative forms of Islam. These young Indonesians seek to establish personal relationships characterized by a greater measure of informality, openness, and intimacy than was typical of the friendships and marital ties of their parents and grandparents. Young women in particular seek a personal freedom expressed through a heightened aspiration for self-expression, employment, and social fulfillment outside of the home. The changes have been no less massive with regard to intimacy and sexuality.



The "new Muslim romance" is characterized by the desire for shared Islamic piety, but in conjunction with a greater degree of self-actualization, romantic love, and companionate partnership. Through all its nuances and variations, the culture of the new Muslim youth shows evidence of the inexorable abandonment of traditions and practices deemed incompatible with authentic Islam, and of an ongoing and profound Islamization of intimacies.

Professor Smith-Hefner's current research is focused on the gendered implications of the widespread phenomenon of delayed marriage or "waithood" particularly as related to higher levels of education for women. Professor Smith-Hefner's course, Global Intimacies: Sex, Gender, and Contemporary Sexualities (AN/WS 530) will be offered for the first time in the Spring of 2019. The course will explore theoretical and ethnographic approaches to gender, sex, and sexuality as linked to globalizing discourses and transnational mobilities. She also offers AN 260 Sex and Gender in Anthropological Perspective each spring semester.

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