



Image by Efe Kurnaz via *Unsplash*

2018-2019
WOMEN'S,
GENDER, &
SEXUALITY STUDIES
PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

BOSTON
UNIVERSITY

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

What an amazing year for BU WGS! Looking back on our accomplishments during this academic year, I feel incredibly proud and fortunate to be a part of our collective project of raising our program profile, both within Boston University and beyond.

This year, we launched our first official seminar series, centered on the theme, "Gendered Institutions, Sexual Cultures: Intersectional Interventions Across Disciplines." Our speakers came from diverse disciplinary backgrounds, including biological anthropology, sociology, political science, American Studies, law, and drama & dance studies. In addition to the seminar series, we co-sponsored a wide range of events, including feminist art exhibitions, film screenings, a student drag show fundraiser, a direct action workshop, the Eve Sedgwick Memorial lecture, a lecture from Angela Davis, and held our own LGBTQ+ safe zone training. In the upcoming year, we will be collaborating with the BU Gender & Sexuality Studies Faculty Group for our next seminar series, tentatively titled "Decolonizing Sex, Gender, and the Body."

We welcomed nine newly affiliated faculty from a broad swath of departments and research interests, graduated three graduate certificate students, and added almost a dozen new and newly cross-listed courses to our curriculum. Our faculty accomplishments are too numerous to recount in detail here - to choose just one example, BU Biology and WGS faculty Karen Warkentin was chosen to give the 2018 University Lecture, entitled "Diversity and Plasticity of Life," which brought in hundreds of attendees from across the university and the city. This year, our faculty were honored with multiple grants and fellowships, published many articles and books, were invited to speak at national and international conferences and events, and taught almost 1,000 students in WGS courses alone! For more on our faculty's accomplishments, see our Faculty Spotlight section on Page 16.

We also held our first feminist and queer research methods mini-conference for graduate students! We had 22 grad students in attendance, from across the university as well as from Harvard, UMass, and Northeastern. Our morning panel addressed the hows, whats, and whys of feminist/ queer research practice; in the afternoon we held an advising workshop where each grad student got tailored dissertation project

feedback from our experts, followed by a roundtable on methodological dilemmas with the visiting panelists as well as BU WGS faculty from the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities, and finally by a lively reception at Fuller's Pub. The event was covered by The Daily Free Press and was supported by a wide swath of departments, programs, and deans. We hope to hold another such conference in the near future - our certificate students are eager for further training in specifically feminist and queer methodological strategies.

I'd like to conclude with my deepest thanks and appreciation for our WGS faculty and staff. Thank you to Gabby Newton (this year's winner of a CAS Outstanding Service Award!) for her many intellectual and administrative contributions to the program. Thanks also to our work student, Lauren Hagy, who helped design our website and promotional materials. Another thank you to Anthony Petro for serving as our Director of Graduate Studies, and an extra special thank you to our co-Directors of Undergraduate Studies and departing faculty members Barbara Gottfried and Diane Balser for their more than 20 years in the program. Their current and former students, collaborators, and colleagues turned out in truly impressive numbers to celebrate them at the WGS End of Year party, a testament to their legacy at Boston University. Finally, thank you to all of the WGS faculty who come to meetings and events, teach our courses, mentor our students, offer research expertise and raise the program's profile with their work, and bring diversity and richness of experience to our program. I look forward to another great year with you all, one that will no doubt produce another impressive roster of events and accomplishments!



Cati Connell

WGS Director



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

I'm excited to report that the graduate certificate program continues to thrive. In the 2018-2019 academic year, we have over thirty students enrolled in the program. They come 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, thirteen students enrolled in our Theories and Methods seminar (WS801), which our wonderful new colleague Dr. Lida Maxwell taught for the first time – thanks, Lida!

We continue to host colloquia on feminist pedagogy. In the fall, WGS Professors Petrus Liu (World Languages and Literatures) and Lida Maxwell (Political Science) led us in a discussion of Dr. Kyla Wazana Tompkins' essay ["We're Not Here to Learn What We Already Know."](#) on teaching feminist and queer theory. 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. They also host an annual essay contest for graduate students. BU's own Mariah Gruner won the 2018 "Motherboard Writing Prize" for her essay, "Materiality, Affect, and the Archive: The Possibility of Feminist Nostalgia in Contemporary Handkerchief Embroidery." Please be sure to check out the amazing work that GCWS does!



Anthony Petro

Director
WGS Graduate Studies

A NOTE FROM THE CO-DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

I am pleased to use this opportunity to say goodbye to colleagues and students connected to or in the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program of Boston University since I am departing at the end of June. I came to Boston University in 1996 after many years of participation and leadership in social movements that went hand in hand with my academic work. I received my Ph.D. in Sociology from Brandeis University and published my feminist dissertation "Sisterhood and Solidarity: Feminism and Labor in Modern Times (1983)".

For more than a decade in Massachusetts, I worked on public policies with policy makers concerning discrimination and oppression of women, people of color, GLBTQ, poor and working people, and I advised advocacy organizations. All of this gave me a background which I used in a variety of ways in my teaching of college students. In 2014, I helped to plan for the WGS's Women's Conference: "A Revolutionary Moment in Women's Liberation in the 1960s and early 1970s" during which I chaired a forum and gave a paper on the early stages of the women's movement. I have also been included in a film from that period of time.

For several decades, I have traveled globally as a consultant to women leaders and also led workshops in countries throughout the world (in Australia, Africa, Asia, Western and Eastern Europe, the Middle East and Latin America). My international work has included meeting educators in Women and Gender Studies, and leading workshops and delegations to several global women's conferences that were sponsored by NGOs and the United Nations. International issues have included poverty, illiteracy and education, political, economic inequalities, sex industries, sex trafficking, and war and violence towards many vulnerable groups. Most recently the organizing and electing of women politicians has become a key national and international issue and an important issue in my courses and talks.

I have loved teaching at BU. In 2004, I became Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies with Professor Gottfried (formerly named Women's Studies and then later the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program). My courses and seminars that I have taught have all been interdisciplinary in the social sciences. Key courses/seminars have included "Sexism in the 21st Century"; "Global Feminism: Race and Gender in International Perspectives"; "Women and Politics and Internships"; "Women, Gender,

and Social Change".

In my 23 years with the program, I have taught approximately 3,500 students and mentored many of them on issues that deeply affected their lives and our society. Some have brought these issues into their professional and/or activist lives. In both my Women and Politics seminar and Internship seminar I have offered my students internships with public policy makers, public leaders, and advocacy organizations. As a result, many students have had significant advocacy internship experiences and within several offices have given Boston University an excellent reputation. Several students have also gotten jobs in state government or among state officials as policy makers after they graduate.

I have often given talks (lectures) at Boston University or in other institutions as a result of my activities and issues in my courses. There has been increased interest since the two-time candidacy of Hillary Clinton for President, the "Me Too" Movement, growing examination of sexual assault on college campuses, the newly growing political organization of women in the electoral process and on social justice issues. On leaving Boston University, I am impressed with the number of students who search for relevancy of the academic world to the social crises of our times and eager to learn about leadership opportunities.

I will continue to give talks (and lectures), facilitate discussions, train leadership and lead workshops on the many issues I taught about in my career at Boston University. I intend to develop my analysis to meet with the contemporary times. I am traveling widely as a consultant and leader of workshops on global feminist issues.



Diane Balser

Undergraduate Studies
Co-Director

A NOTE FROM THE CO-DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

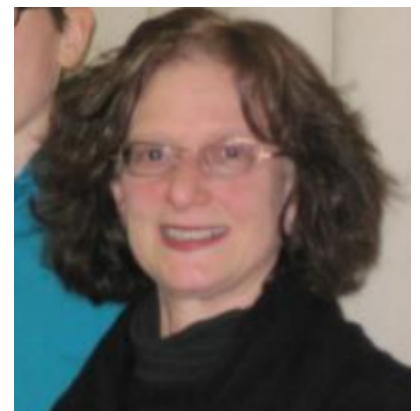
I first came to the Boston University Women's Studies Program in 1994, after teaching in the English Departments at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, then Bentley University for 9 years. At BU I needed to come up with courses that did not duplicate English Department offerings, so I began by elaborating writing courses I had taught on "decoding advertising" and a gender, class and race critique of media, which together became "Women, Gender, and Race in Mass Media." I then offered "Women and Film" for the Summer Session, and further developed it with Deborah Swedberg; it shifted into the regular semester WGS offerings when my position became full-time in 2001. Later I came up with "Asian Women's Literature, Autobiographies, and Film," and won a Summer Session development grant to design "Masculinities in the Media" which took off from my long-time interest in representations of femininity in male-authored texts, then morphed into "American Masculinities" for Sociology / WGS. Finally, I needed one more new course—at first I could not decide what to offer. Professor Belle, then Director of WGS suggested I follow my heart—and I did, designing "Women and Comedy" for Fall 2009 and offering it every Fall thereafter.

As part of teaching both film and comedy, I was awarded Humanities Grants to bring women film directors, critics, and comedians to campus to give talks and meet with students and was thrilled to host directors Patricia Rozema [Into the Forest;

Kit Kittredge: An American Girl; and Mansfield Park], Hillary Brouher [Stephanie Daley], Nisha Ganatra [Chutney Popcorn; Transparent; and Late Night (with Mindy Kaling)]; critics Kathleen Rowe Karlyn [The Unruly Woman; Unruly Girls, Unrepentant Mothers: Redefining Feminism on Screen] and Hilary Neroni [The Violent Woman: Femininity, Narrative, and Violence in Contemporary American Cinema]; and comedians Erin Judge, Micia Mosely, and Sam Jay.

Between, 2000 and 2011, in addition to teaching full-time at BU, I was the lead organizer for two successful union drives to organize part-time faculty for higher pay, better worker conditions, and benefits, first at Emerson College, then at Suffolk University in Boston. The Emerson drive made the news—the front page of the Boston Globe—as the drive was the first in the country to organize a stand-alone part-time faculty union at a private university. I still can't believe we did it, but those part-timers are now amongst the best paid in the country (though still grossly underpaid compared to full-time faculty).

I have been bummed that my position at BU was terminated, but when I read this narrative, I see that I've been pretty fortunate in my work life—getting both these positions, teaching and organizing, by the sheerest serendipity. I am thrilled by the resurgence of feminist awareness on campus and will miss teaching the wonderful students at BU who have given me so much over the years.



Barbara Gottfried

Undergraduate Studies
Co-Director

WGS LAUNCHES FIRST ANNUAL SEMINAR SERIES



As part of the WGS Seminar Series, Dr. Leticia Alvarado discussed her research behind her latest book, "Abject Performances: Aesthetic Strategies in Latino Cultural Production," in the BU Rajan Kilachand Center for Integrated Life Sciences and Engineering on Jan. 28.

To kick off the first annual WGS Seminar Series, six speakers from various disciplines and universities shared their research with BU students and faculty. The series connected different areas of study to this year's theme: "Gendered Institutions, Sexual Cultures: Intersectional Interventions Across Disciplines".

A Q&A session with the audience concluded each talk and was followed by a lively dinner with the speaker

that included BU WGS faculty and others affiliated with similar subject areas.

This year's seminar series was made possible with the generous support of a wide range of departments and programs across campus, including BU Law, Sociology, the Center for the Humanities, Anthropology, Political Science, Kilachand Honors College, and the American & New England Studies

Program. See Page 7 for a complete list of this year's seminar speakers.

The upcoming 2019-2020 WGS Seminar Series will include a variety of national and local speakers whose research pertains to the decolonization of sex, gender and the body. The second annual seminar series will be carried out with the collaboration of the BU Gender & Sexuality Studies Faculty Group.



Holly Dunsworth

University of Rhode
Island

*Sex Differences in the Human
Skeleton Have Earned Better
Evolutionary Explanations Than
Male Competition and Childbirth*

*Trans Kids: Being
Gendered in the
Twenty-First Century*



Tey Meadow

Columbia University



Sandy McEvoy

Boston University

*"We Were Not
Monsters": Protestant
Women Paramilitaries
in Northern Ireland*

*From Abject
Performances to
Aesthetics in Relation*



Leticia Alvarado

Brown University

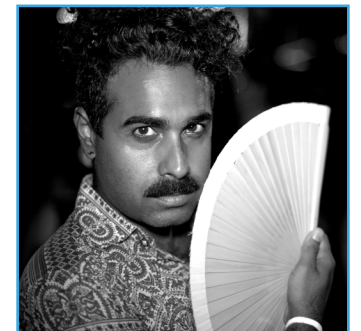


Aziza Ahmed

Northeastern
University

*"Dead But Not Disabled":
How Feminist Lawyers
and Advocates Changed
the Medical Definition of
AIDS*

*Dancing Against the Law:
Critical Moves in
Bangalore's Gay Nightlife*



Kareem Khubchandani

Tufts University

2018-2019 SEMINAR SPEAKERS

Meet the Queer & Feminist Research Experts:



Evren Savci,
Yale University
WGS



Angela Jones,
SUNY
Farmingdale
Sociology



Piper Sledge,
Bryn Mawr,
Sociology



Lida Maxwell,
BU Political Science

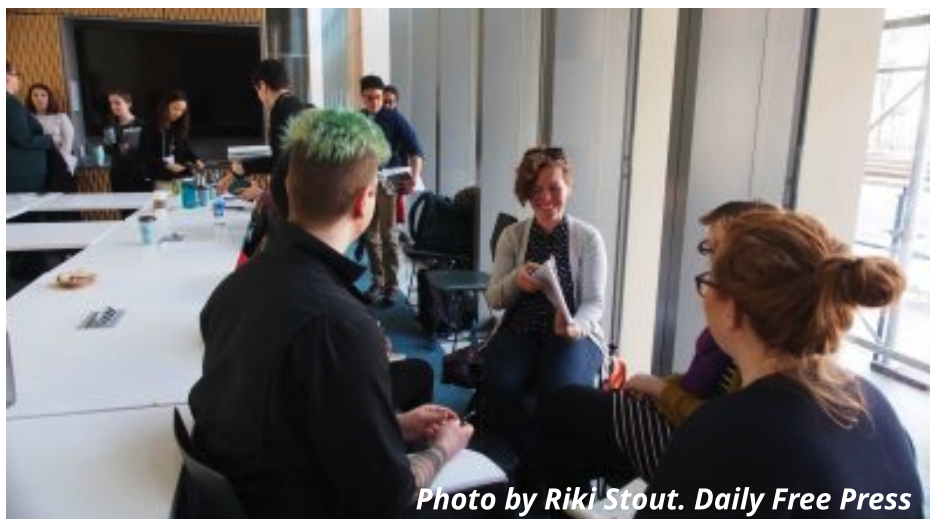


Photo by Riki Stout. Daily Free Press

QUEER & FEMINIST GRADUATE RESEARCH METHODS WORKSHOP

The BU WGS hosted a day-long conference that provided graduate students with an opportunity to learn how to approach their dissertation proposals and projects using queer and feminist research methodology. The workshop, which took place in the Rajen Kilachand Center for Integrated Life Sciences and Engineering, started with Professor Connell giving an engaging presentation that equipped students with an overview of what research methods rooted in queer and feminist theory look like.

A panel and roundtable of distinguished queer and feminist research experts from the BU WGS Program and nearby universities captivated attendees as they shared their experiences and insights gained through conducting innovative research using this methodology. Q&A sessions led by the students followed.

After lunch, graduate students had individual consultations with an expert who provided them with feedback on their dissertation proposals and projects. This one-on-one time with the students encouraged them to reflect on their ideas and identify ways they can conduct their research in more holistic and inclusive ways.



Sandy McEvoy,
BU WGS



Takeo Rivera,
BU English



Chris Schmitt,
BU Anthropology

WS101 CLASS SEES FUN HOME THE MUSICAL



Photo by Professor Karen Warkentin

WS 101 students and faculty saw Fun Home The Musical together on Nov. 16 at SpeakEasy Stage Company.

Students and faculty of Gender and Sexuality I (WS101) attended Fun Home the Musical produced by the Speakeasy Theater in November. In conjunction with attending the play, WS 101 students read the 2006 graphic memoir of the same name by Alison Bechdel and attended a lecture that integrated both the play and the reading with the social issues with which it deals in the following class lecture.

WS101 is an interdisciplinary course that is taught by a team of three professors: Dr. Sarah Miller, from the social sciences, Dr. Karen Warkentin, from biology and Dr. Sarah Frederick, from the humanities. All three of these professors will be teaching WS101 together again in the Fall 2019.

"The course is very much about connecting critical thinking about gender and sexuality with contemporary issues and students' own lives," says Professor Sarah Frederick. "This experience really helped with that."

The WGS thanks the BU Academic Enhancement Fund and the BU Arts Initiative for helping make this WS101 learning opportunity possible.



BU SAFEZONES ALLY TRAINING



Photo by Professor Sandy McEvoy

In April, the WGS hosted Dr. Susan Cayleff of San Diego State University to facilitate a SafeZones training workshop geared towards BU faculty and staff members. This Ally Training, adapted from SafeZones@SDSU, strives to combat homophobia and transphobia through educating the campus faculty and staff, providing resources and information for LGBTQIA+ individuals on campus, and to foster an environment where LGBTQIA+ individuals are valued.

Faculty, staff, and students from various BU departments and organizations attended the training, including the Career Development and Educational Resource Center, CAS Advising, BU Wheelock, Biology, the HUB, Events & Conferences, and Sociology.

The WGS thanks the Political Science Department for their generous support to help make this training possible.

"SafeZones@SDSU is an Ally Training and social justice organization whose primary goal is to create a campus atmosphere that is supportive, educated, proactive, welcoming and safe for all LGBTQIA+ members of the SDSU campus community, students, faculty, staff and administrators."



-- Susan Cayleff, Ph.D.

**San Diego State University,
Department of Women's Studies**

WGS UNESCO/UNITWIN NETWORK



Photo by Dr. McSweeney

Senator Will Brownsberger, President Pro Tem of the Senate, engaging on Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney's photograph of two women leaders in Burkina Faso, West Africa.

The BU-based UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & People-Centered Development proactively supports the work of academics at member universities and social activists in partner NGOs, promoting interdisciplinary and intersectional collaboration between continents. The Network is now a global partnership of 13 universities and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in India, West Africa and Greater Boston. Here are several 2018-19 highlights.

UNESCO/UNITWIN Affiliate Unbound Visual Arts (UVA) hosted its 3rd annual Women's History Month exhibition at the Honan-Allston Library Art Gallery entitled "Peace in Her Time: Visionary Women Against War and Violence". Twenty artists were featured. WGS's Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney was exhibit Advisor. UVA's Executive Director John Quatralo oversaw the exhibition and program (see

unboundvisualarts.org), while Susan Janowsky was Curator. The exhibit was co-sponsored by BU's WGS, also supported by the Gender and International Development Initiatives (GaIDI) of Brandeis University's Women's Studies Research Center (WSRC).

In West Bengal India, our UNESCO/UNITWIN Founding Partner, Chandana Dey, works with Bolpur Manab Jamin (BMJ), a village-based organization of young people from diverse backgrounds with varying levels of education that focuses on food security and gender empowerment in ten villages populated by land-poor families. Still largely unexplored are domestic violence and sexual harassment. Chandana writes:

"The Me Too movement has given voice to many groups of urban women, especially from privileged backgrounds. I felt the need to air many issues flagged by Me Too with the BMJ team and find out how people living in a rural environment would respond. Some people even feel that unless the central problem of violence against women is addressed, other development goals cannot be met successfully. A Gender Sensitization

Workshop, held in Shantiniketan in March 2019, was a first attempt at getting a small group of people together to discuss this central issue. I hope the workshop is the first in a series of informal, un-hierarchical discussions where everyone finds a voice, and where we might find ways to bring the issues into a wider forum."

A longer-term goal is a phase of village-level interactions.



Photo by Debasish, team member, BMJ

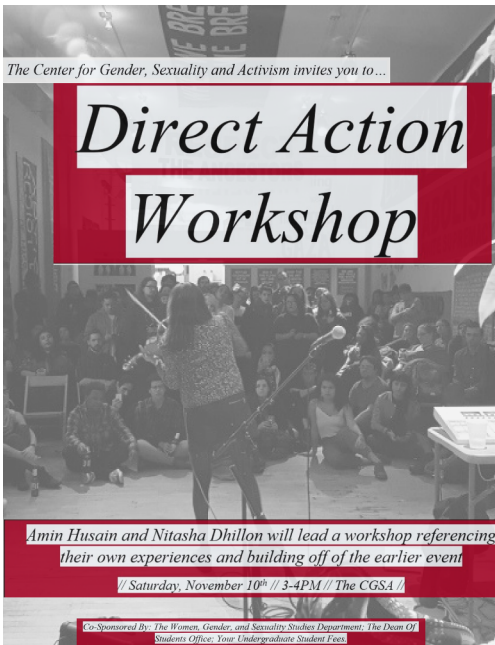
Chandana Dey speaking to Bolpur Manab Jamin team

More on the BU-based UNITWIN at:
bu.edu/wgs/networks/unesco-unitwin-at-bu and
unitwin.blogspot.com

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

The Center for Gender, Sexuality and Activism invites you to...

Direct Action Workshop



Amin Husain and Nitasha Dhillon will lead a workshop referencing their own experiences and building off of the earlier event

// Saturday, November 10th // 3-4PM // The CGSA //

Co-Sponsored By: The Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department - The Dean Of Students Office - Your Undergraduate Student Fees

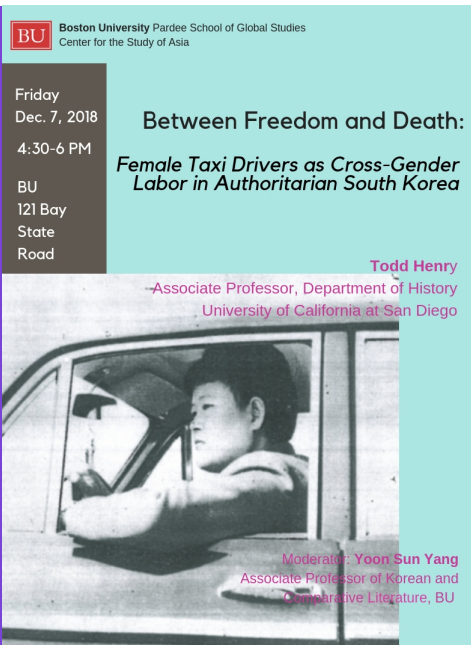
BU Boston University Pardee School of Global Studies
Center for the Study of Asia

Friday
Dec. 7, 2018
4:30-6 PM

BU
121 Bay
State
Road

Between Freedom and Death: Female Taxi Drivers as Cross-Gender Labor in Authoritarian South Korea

Todd Henry
Associate Professor, Department of History
University of California at San Diego



Moderator: Yoon Sun Yang
Associate Professor of Korean and
Comparative Literature, BU


OCTOBER 18, 2018 • 3:30-6 PM
ROOM COM 212
640 COMMONWEALTH AVE



SUSAN X. JANE
DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
SPECIALIST, SX3 CONSULTANTS
PHOTO: [HTTPS://SMNTKS.COM/](https://smntks.com/)

"SISTER?:
INTERSECTIONALITY
BEYOND THE BUZZWORD"

WOMEN TAKE THE REEL
A FILM FESTIVAL
CELEBRATING
WOMEN'S HISTORY
MONTH



TINYURL.COM/WTR2019

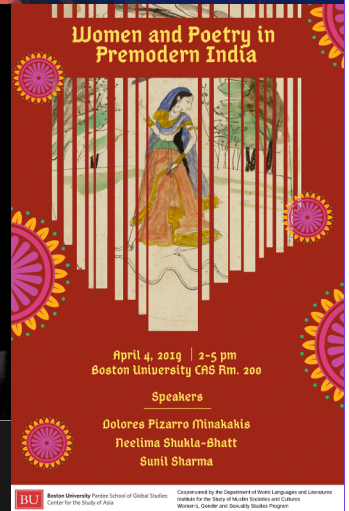
ANGELA DAVIS

ACTIVIST, ACADEMIC, AUTHOR

PRESENTED BY
THE BU UNDERGRADUATE SOCIOLOGY ASSOCIATION



Women and Poetry in Premodern India



April 4, 2019 | 2-5 pm
Boston University CAS Rm. 200

Speakers
Dolores Pizarro Minakakis
Neelima Shukla-Bhatt
Sunil Sharma

Enough with Catcalling



Wednesday
10.10.18
6 - 8 PM

Phonics Center
Boston University
8 St. Mary's Street, Room 205

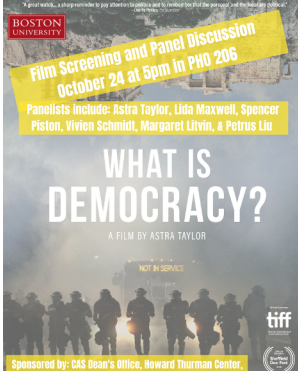
BOSTON UNIVERSITY

Film Screening and Panel Discussion
October 24 at 5pm in PHO 206

Panelists include: Astra Taylor, Lida Maxwell, Spencer Piston, Vivien Schmidt, Margaret Litvin, & Petrus Liu

WHAT IS DEMOCRACY?


A FILM BY ASTRA TAYLOR



Sponsored by: CAS Dean's Office, Howard Thurman Center,
HUPH, PHS, PRC, and the Center for Gender, Sexuality, and Activism

Peace in Her Time

Visionary Women Against War and Violence



Honan-Allston Library Art Gallery
300 North Harvard St., Allston, MA 02134
Organized by Unbound Visual Arts
March 8 - April 29, 2019

OUT RAGE


FEELING THE POLITICAL PRESENT

6th ANNUAL EVE KOSOFSKY SERGEWICK MEMORIAL LECTURE IN GENDER + SEXUALITY STUDIES

PRESENTED BY THE BOSTON UNIVERSITY GENDER + SEXUALITY STUDIES GROUP
ROBYN WIEGMAN DUKE UNIVERSITY

MARCH 21 2019 / THURSDAY 6:00 PM
PRE-RECEPTION 5:00 PM
BOSTON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF GENERAL STUDIES ROOM 120
871 COMMONWEALTH AVE. / BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02215

THIS EVENT IS FREE + OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
DUKE UNIVERSITY



10 YEARS OF THE CENTER FOR GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND ACTIVISM



WGS 2018-2019 CO-SPONSORED EVENTS COLLAGE

WGS 2018-2019 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Elliot Chudyk, Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology

"First and foremost, I would like to thank the BU WGS program for helping fund non-dissertation research. My current research could not have been conducted without financial assistance. Since I was asking a considerable amount of time from individuals in a time of great economic strain I wanted to be able to compensate them with \$40 per interview. This value of compensation would not be economically feasible without the grant and ethically I felt it was imperative to compensate these participants for their time given the circumstances and the nature of the research. As my proposal laid out the entirety of my grant went to compensating participants in my study. I would not have been able to pull out of my personal funds to pay for compensation, which would have put me behind schedule in my research, I am grateful to the WGS team for seeing the merit in my project and helping aid this research."

Joanna Davidson, Associate Professor, Anthropology

"This grant helped support one month of ethnographic fieldwork in northwestern Guinea-Bissau. I spent the end of February through most of March in the main Jola village of Esana, where I have been conducting extensive (although now sporadic) fieldwork over the past 19 years. My current research focuses on shifts in gender relations and marriage currently underway in this region. This fieldwork trip was especially productive...I was able to complete all of the tasks and research activities I had planned, including:

- a village-wide household survey (to continue to track widows' houses as compared to non-widows' houses);
- extended life-history interviews with several widows across a range of ages and life experiences;
- elaborate and clarify marriage-related vocabulary in the Jola language;
- record, transcribe, translate, and collaboratively interpret 40 women's songs (uñagau);
- facilitate a youth (20-29-year-old women and men) roundtable to discuss changing perspectives on marriage and sexuality;
- record traditional Jola personal names (approx. 35) and discuss back-story of each one;
- engage in a wide range of conversations with various interlocutors about the following topics: witchcraft; death; sexuality; menstruation; schooling; national & local politics; jealousy; increasing land-based conflicts among villages...

Overall, this was an exceptionally fruitful research trip...I am so grateful to WGS for supporting my research in Guinea-Bissau, and I also look forward to sharing the results -- in the form of articles, book chapters, and an eventual monograph -- with the WGS scholarly community."

WGS 2018-2019 GRANT RECIPIENTS

Rebecca Farber, Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology

"Presenting at [Easter Sociology Society] this year was a rich experience that helped me advance my professional network, presentation skills, and participation in both global health and transnational feminist sub disciplines. My presentation afforded me the opportunity to learn from other panelists, Minwoo Jung and Ghassan Moussawi, whose work I am now integrating in my dissertation. The comments provided by Jyoti Puri instigated further thought on the relationship between private institutions and the state, as well as the historical context of the research. Based on the presentation and the feedback of the panel, I am developing a chapter of my dissertation on the 'cultural wealth' of LGBTQ diversity for the Thai nation-state. This will add to transnational feminist research about how gay-friendly states are based on exclusionary politics - particularly related to gender, race, and class. I greatly appreciate the support and consideration. "

Susanne Sreedhar, Associate Professor, Philosophy

"I used my grant funding to work with a coach and developmental editor on a proposal for a second book, tentatively titled Sex and the Social Contract. Over the course of the semester, I drafted and revised a proposal that I've been circulating to scholars in my area for feedback. I also presented it at the philosophy department works in progress series. The next step is to write some sample chapters and then send the whole thing off to a press, which will helpfully publish it. Working with the developmental editor was incredibly helpful and I'm grateful to WGS for supporting my research. "



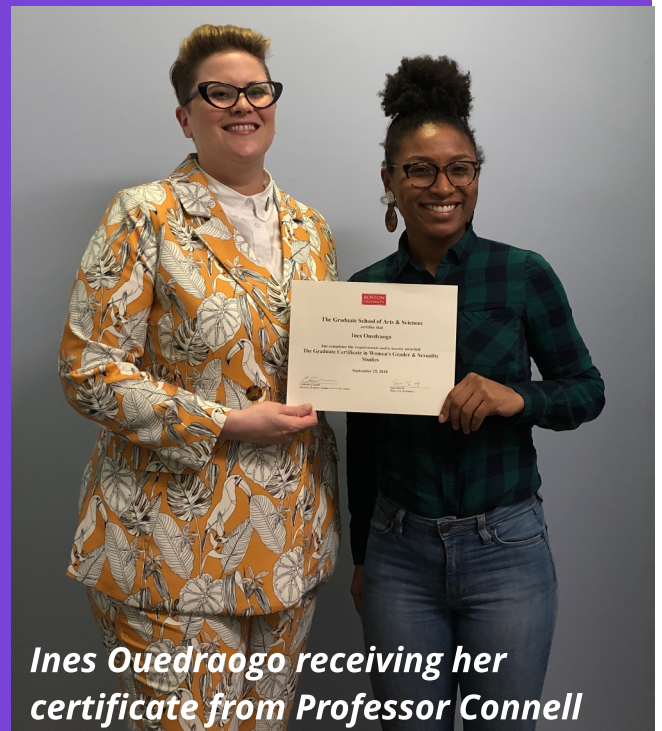
SARAH JOANNE DAVIS AWARD WINNERS

Wen-Lin (Emily) Chow (CAS '19)

"Her Hijab: The Intersectional Analysis of the Hijab and Female Solidarity in Middle Eastern Films"

Caroline Kinsella (CAS '20)

"Rape and Resistance: The Strategic Abuse of Female Bodies in the Bosnian War and Rwandan Genocide"



GRADUATES WHO COMPLETED THE WGS CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Ines Ouedraogo

Ph.D., Hispanic Language and Literatures

Nicole Peer

M.A., International Affairs

Jordan Pouliot

Ph.D., American and New England Studies

Visit bu.edu/wgs/sjd for more information about the Sarah Joanne Davis Award

WGS FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



Petrus Liu

Giving a lecture at UC Berkeley titled "The Pasts and Futures of Queer Marxism"

Petrus Liu taught the new course "Queer Theory" in Spring 2018. Liu also received two honors in AY 18-19: A National Humanities Center (NHC) Summer Fellowship for a research project on "Thinking Gender in the Age of the Beijing Consensus," and a \$240,000 grant from the Ford Foundation for a multi-year collaborative project on "Gender Analysis and Communications in China-Global South Relations."

Additionally, Liu was invited by UC Berkeley's Program in Critical Theory to give a lecture titled, "The Pasts and Futures of Queer Marxism." Liu was also interviewed by China Global Television Network on the literary legacy of Jin Yong. Yong is a best-selling Chinese author and an icon of Chinese culture who has sold over 300 million copies of "martial arts" novels, passed away on Oct. 30, 2018. Liu joined two other cultural critics on "World Insight with Tian Wei" to discuss Jin Yong's works,

cultural influence, and achievements. Click here to see the full televised interview. Two collections of essays on gender/sexuality which Liu co-edited were published. The first one, "Wolf Warrior II: The Rise of China and Sexual Politics", was published as a special issue of "Router: Cultural Studies" (in traditional Chinese), "Refeng" (in simplified Chinese), "Modern Chinese Literature and Culture" (in English), and "Genre en action" (in French). The second one, "Un Cuento Chino: China in the Global South and Sexual Policy Watch", was also published in multiple languages: The English version appeared in "Sexuality Policy Watch", the Chinese version in "Refeng", and a Spanish version is currently under preparation.

Erin Murphy published the essay "Rude Milton: Gender, Sexuality, and the Missing Middle of Milton Studies," in *Queer Milton*, edited by David Orvis (Palgrave, 2018). She gave the paper "How War Feels: News, Violence, and the Garrison Writing of Jane Cavendish and Elizabeth Brackley," at the Modern Language Association in Chicago in January. She was an invited speaker for a round table on "Queer Milton" at the City University of New York Graduate Center in February 2019. This March, she led a seminar on "Retheorizing Gender in the Work of John Milton" at the Renaissance Society of America Conference in Toronto. This past summer, she co-organized, presented at, and facilitated the workshop "Teaching the Social Media of the English Revolution," with Emily Jones Griffith (BU PhD 2014) at the biannual Attending to Early Modern Women Symposium in Milwaukee, MI.



Erin Murphy

She has been selected to take over leadership of the interdisciplinary seminar on Women and Culture in the Early Modern World at the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard beginning Fall 2019.

She is currently the director of the BU Public Humanities Undergraduate Fellows Program, which places a select group of humanities majors in summer positions in public, private and not-for-profit organizations around Boston. She founded this program last year to help humanities students bridge their academic training and their future careers, and to create a new generation of humanities advocates.



Anthony Petro

Anthony Petro served as co-chair for the Boston Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Women, and Sexuality last year, during which time they organized a bunch of events and courses, including a very successful grad student conference on "Interrogating Self-Care." Petro also taught a new seminar, cross-listed with RN and WGS, called "Sex, Art, and the Sacred in the Modern U.S." which was a blast. He's looking forward to being on leave next year to work on his new book -- he will spend the year as a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton.

Carrie Preston has published four essays: "Translation in Noh Time," *Modernism/modernity* Print Plus, Vol. 3 Cycle 3 (Aug 20, 2018); "Hissing, Bidding, and Lynching: Participation in Jacobs-Jenkins's 'An Octoroon' and the Melodramatics of American Racism," in *The Drama Review*, 62.4.; "Blackfaced at 'The Blacks': Audience Participation in Jean Genet's *Les Nègres* on Race and Gender" in *Modern Drama*, 62.1 (2019): 1-22; and "Sweeney Agonistes in Noh Mask: T.S. Eliot, Japanese Noh, and the Fragments of World Drama," in "Neohelicon", (online 11 Dec. 2018, print May 2019). She also published the short piece "Lost and Found" for the Bright Lights Festival at the Lincoln Center, Fall 2018. She gave a lecture titled "Question and Question: How can we conduct research in refugee camps without further traumatizing refugees?" on July 3 at the American University in Beirut as part of a Humanitarian Engineering Course involving field research in refugee camps. She also participated in a seminar, served as a respondent to a panel, and gave a paper at the Modernist Studies Association Conference in Columbus, Ohio, November 8-12. Her paper was titled, "Is it hard work? Teaching, Researching, Serving Modernism." She gave an invited lecture "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Refugee Crises and the Role of the Humanities" at the conference on Emergent Trends in Refugee and Humanitarian Studies: Bridging the Arts and Sciences, University of Cypress, January 7, 2019.



Carrie Preston



Karen Warkentin

giving the 2018 BU Lecture titled "Diversity and Plasticity of Life: A Biologist's Journey from Embryo Self-Defense to Sexual Behavior."

Prof. Karen Warkentin taught WS101 in Fall 2018 and BI506 "Phenotypic Plasticity" in Spring 2019. In collaboration with her students, she published 5 biology papers during the 2018/19 academic year. She will return to Panama in June for another field season of research on her NSF-funded project "Development of Adaptive Embryo Behavior."

Prof. Warkentin was selected to give the 2018 Boston University Lecture. She spoke about "Diversity and Plasticity of Life: A Biologist's Journey from Embryo Self-Defense to Sexual Behavior," linking lessons from her research on Neotropical frogs with key points about the biology of sexual diversity (drawn from her WS101 teaching) and illustrating how human life experience affects the questions scientists ask and, therefore, what we learn. The video of her standing-ovation-worthy talk can be watched at <https://youtu.be/jE54f6eFmE0>

During the summer of 2019, Prof. Warkentin will give two plenary talks at conferences, both linking biology with gender and sexuality studies: July 2019 – "Queering herpetology: on human perspectives and the study of diverse animals" for the Brazilian Congress of Herpetology meeting in Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil.

August 2019 – "All the variations matter: bridging disciplines and communities to study diversity in life history and sexual behavior" for the Ecological Society of America meeting in Louisville, KY.

Joanna Davidson received a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) summer stipend award to support her research project "Singing Wives & Silent Widows". She published an essay entitled "Women in Guinea-Bissau" in the Oxford Encyclopedia of African Women's History. Davidson received the BU CAS Neu Family Award for Excellence in Teaching. Additionally, she gave invited lectures at UC Berkeley's anthropology department and Harvard University's African Studies Center and conducted a month (Feb-March 2019) of ethnographic research in marriage practices, with a WGS small grant to support the aforementioned research!



Joanna Davidson

Pictured fourth from the left in the first row, conducted ethnographic research in Guinea-Bissau



Sarah Ihmoud

Sarah Ihmoud recently published an article titled "Policing the Intimate: Israel's Anti-Miscegenation Movement" in Jerusalem Quarterly. Her article "Murabita: The Politics of Staying in Place", which was workshopped with the WGSS faculty works in progress group, will be published in a forthcoming special issue of Feminist Studies on indigenous feminist politics in settler contexts. The feminist anthropology collective of which she is a part recently obtained a grant from the Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research to convene a workshop at UNC Chapel Hill on "Gender Violence and the Politics of Fieldwork." Sarah and her husband, Ahmed, welcomed their twin boys into the world this past November.

Learn more
about the WGS Faculty at:
bu.edu/wgs/people/wgs-faculty

Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program

704 Commonwealth Avenue, Suite 101,
Boston MA 02215

Telephone: (617) 358-2370

Email: wgs@bu.edu

Web: bu.edu/wgs

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