

Newsletter

2022-2023



Boston University

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program

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A Message From The Director



Susanne Sreedhar
WGS Program Director

A Message from the Director:

My first year as WGS director has been a whirlwind, and I'm grateful to the WGS community for their support and patience as I've found my footing in this new role.

It's been a good year for WGS, and I'm happy to report on the growth of the program and the accomplishments of our students and faculty. This year, we welcomed newly affiliated and core faculty into the fold. Ianna Hawkins Owen (English) and Najawa Mayer (Religion) joined us as affiliate faculty. Peng Yin (Theology) joined as core faculty, and Chris Schmitt (Anthropology) has become core faculty after years of tremendous service and participation as an affiliate. Next year, Micah Goodrich (English) will join us as a core faculty member; read more about Micah on [page 17](#).

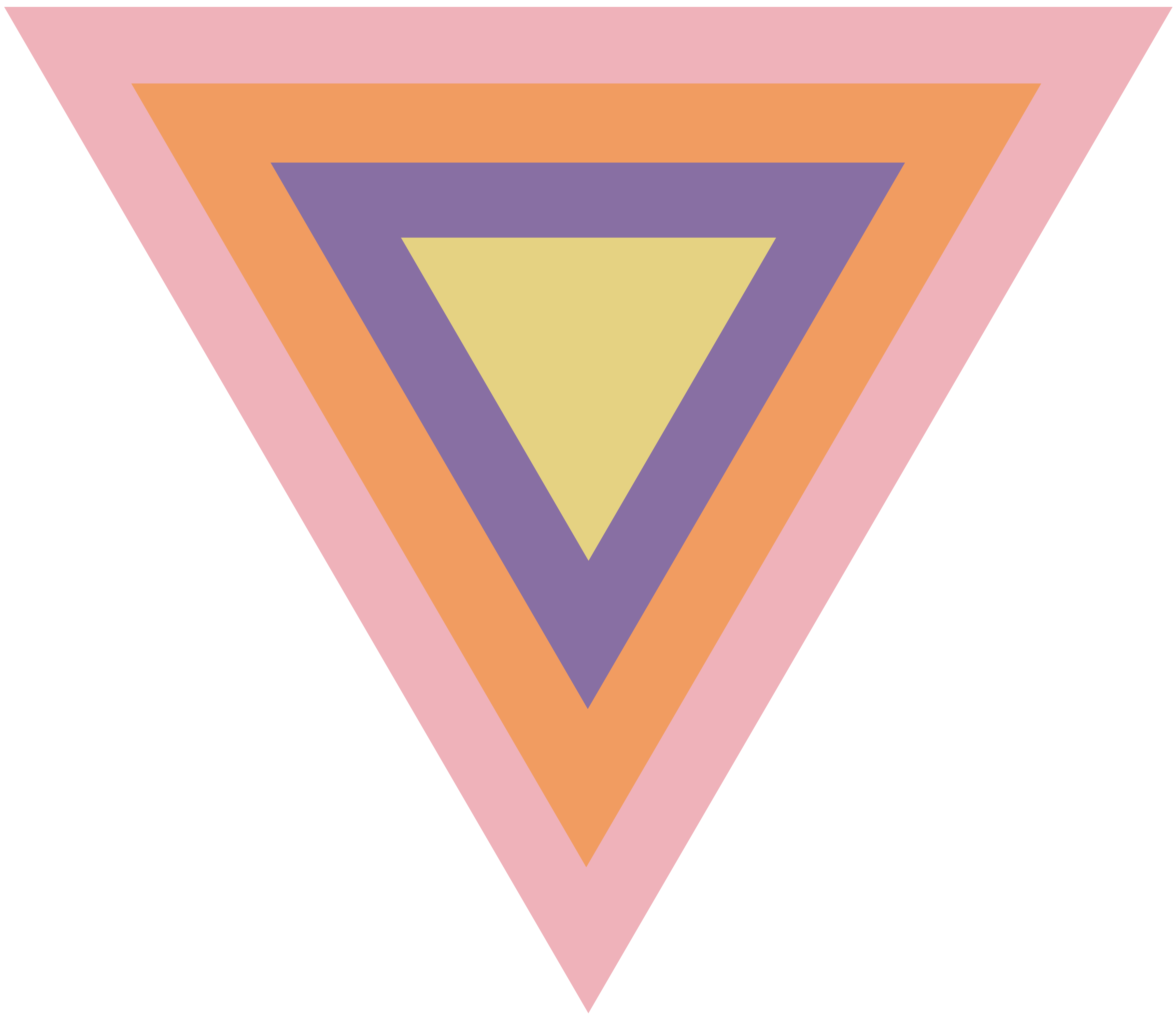
The end of this academic year requires us to bid fond farewells to two treasured members of our community. We are losing Brenda McSweeney, who led the UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & People-Centered Development. Olivia McCargar, our beloved program coordinator, is taking a new position at the Framingham Heart Study. Olivia joined WGS just before COVID hit and was instrumental in keeping the program afloat during that difficult and trying time. We are grateful for the contributions of Brenda and Olivia and wish them luck in their next adventures.

Next year will see some changes in department leadership and undergraduate curriculum. Marie McDonough (Writing Program, English, Core Curriculum) will be the new Director of Graduate Studies starting on July 1st. Many, many thanks go to Sandy McEvoy for her service in this position. Much appreciation also goes to Sarah Miller, who will continue as the Director of Undergraduate Studies. We have two new cross-listed courses: WS 395 "Inhuman Films: Genders, Animals, and Machines," which is cross-listed with CIMS, and WS333 "Queering Health," which is cross-listed with Sargent College. Many more cross-listed classes are in the works!

This year our students and faculty have amassed an enviable list of achievements. Two of our faculty won teaching awards: Joanna Davidson won the Metcalf Award for Excellence in Teaching, and Petrus Liu won The Gitner Award for Distinguished Teaching. Check out [pages 18-24](#) to see more about the publication and professional accomplishments of our faculty. We awarded research grants to five faculty: Cati Connell, Shelly DeBiasse and Shannon Peters, Najwa Mayer, and myself. We are delighted to be able to support these important projects. Read more about them on [page 12](#). Congratulations to the graduate students who earned their WGS certificate this year and to our undergraduate winners of the Sarah Joanne Davis award: Tia Perkins and Nicholas Lyons. The Sarah Joanne Davis award recognizes WGS minors who have demonstrated excellence in gender and sexuality scholarship through course papers, activism, leadership, artistic creation, publication, political engagement, or other initiatives (see [page 14](#)). The WGS program organized or co-sponsored a number of events this year. Read more about them on [pages 5-11](#).

Thanks to the WGS faculty who come to meetings and events, teach our courses, mentor our students, produce new scholarship, and bring diversity and richness of experience to our program. Thanks most of all to our students for your intellectual excellence, your energy, enthusiasm, and creativity, and for all you do to make WGS, CAS, and Boston University a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable community for all. I look forward to another year working with all of you. Recent events have made the world an even more terrifying place for women and LGBTQIA+ folks, and WGS is more important than ever.

Susanne Sreedhar
WGS Director



Community Events

Co-sponsored and other Events of Interest to WGS from 2022-2023

Faculty of Color & LGBTQIA+ Faculty Reception

September 13, 2022

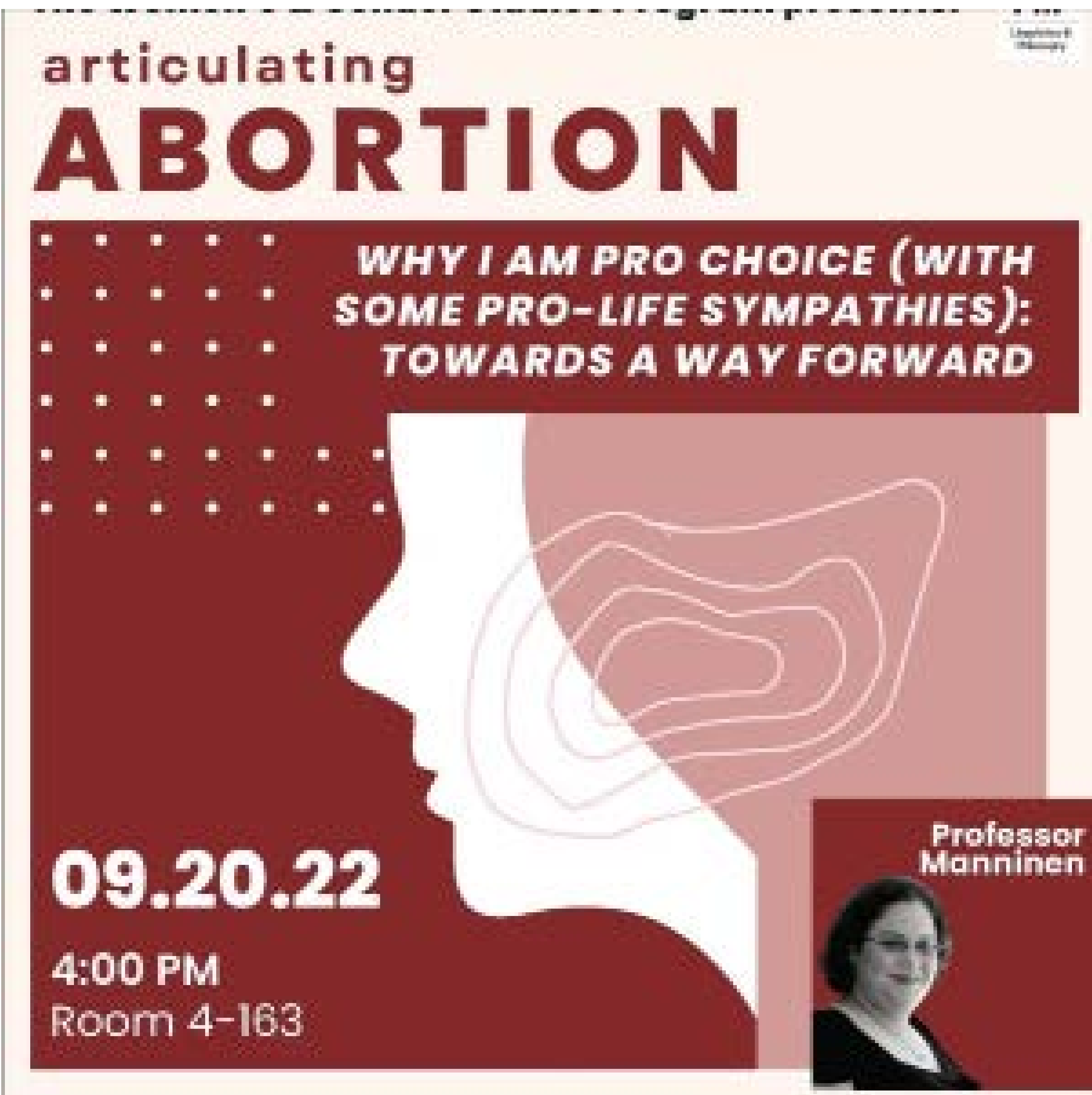
Join BU D&I and the LGBTQIA+ Center for Faculty and Staff to connect with new and returning colleagues! Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served.

First Gen Faculty & Staff Reception

September 19, 2022 from 5 to 6:30 pm

Join us for an opportunity to meet and connect with faculty and staff colleagues who also identify as first generation college students! This reception is the first program in our new slate of offerings to support first generation professionals at BU. Keep an eye out for more events, professional development, and resources throughout the semester.

We define first-generation professionals as faculty or staff who were themselves first-generation students, i.e. the first in their generation of their family to go to college. That is, their parents, guardians, or caregivers did not earn a bachelor's degree, although elder siblings and cousins may be attending college already or have earned four-year degrees.



Faculty & Staff of Color Luncheon

October 11, 2022 from 12 to 1:30 pm

Join BU D&I and the Faculty & Staff of Color Community Network for good company, good food, and good conversation! We hope to see you at this mid-semester opportunity to reconnect and refresh! Lunch will be provided.

LGBTQIA+ Faculty & Staff Luncheon

October 25, 2022 from 12 pm - 1:30 pm

Enjoy lunch and make new connections with fellow LGBTQIA+ colleagues on October 25 in the Photonics Colloquium Room (906). Meet the leaders of the LGBTQIA+ Faculty & Staff Community Network and find ways to get involved in the BU community this semester.



Malin Ah-King

Evolutionary biologist
and gender researcher

Department of Ethnology,
History of Religions and
Gender Studies
Stockholm University
Sweden

"The Female Turn – how evolutionary science shifted perceptions about females"

Wed. Oct. 12, 12:20 pm, Room 113 BRB, 5 Cummington Mall

This talk traces the history of how evolutionary biology transformed its understanding of females from being coy, reserved and sexually passive, to having active sexual strategies and often mating with multiple males. Why did it take so long to discover female active sexual strategies? What prevented some researchers from engaging in sexually active females, and what prompted others to develop this new knowledge? Based on the scientific literature on sexual selection and in-depth interviews with leading researchers, pioneers and feminist scientists in the field, I analyse how conclusions drawn about sex were formed by the researchers' scientific interests, theoretical frameworks, specific study animals, technological innovations, methodologies and sometimes feminist insights. Thereby, my analysis shows how and why certain researchers gained knowledge about active females, and also how ignorance was and continues to be produced.

CO-SPONSORED by
the Department of Biology and
Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program



ACTIVISM IN ACADEMIA

OCTOBER 17TH | 5-6 PM | CAS B36



KAREN
WARKENTIN



SEAN
TALLMAN



DAWN
BELKIN MARTINEZ



CHRISTOPHER
SCHMITT

Come hear from our panel of accomplished BU professors as they talk about their experiences integrating activism into their work in academia.

REGISTER AT [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/YVZAWF88](https://tinyurl.com/yvzawf88)



Boston University College of Arts & Sciences
Diversity & Inclusion

Sponsored by the Jewish Cultural Endowment
Jeremiah Lockwood & Ricky Gordon Present

Fierce as Death
Agadelkha & Jewlia
Eisenberg in Memoriam

Bent Like a Question Mark
Performing the
Celia Dropkin Archives

Oct 18th 2022

Virtual & In-Person
Howard Thurman Center for Common Ground
Howard Thurman Event Space | FLR 104
808 Commonwealth Avenue 02215
Register for Virtual at bit.ly/3KV6ZXb

Supported by
African American Studies
Department of Musicology and
Ethnomusicology
Department of Religion
Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies
English Department
Learn More Series
Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

5:00 PM LECTURE
The Queer Erotics of Piyutim

INTERMISSION & REFRESHMENTS

6:15 PM MUSICAL PERFORMANCE
Celia Dropkin Archive on
Erotic Abjection

MASKS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED

*If you require communication access services please
contact howman@bu.edu by Sept 27 to discuss your needs.

author talk

Tristan Josephson

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES,
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

"Transfer Points:
Trans Migrants
and Immigration
Detention"

On Transits and Transitions
Trans Migrants and
U.S. Immigration Law
TRISTAN JOSEPHSON

12:00-2:00PM
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2022
HOWARD THURMAN CENTER
ROOM 205
808 COMMONWEALTH AVE.

Sponsored by
Department of History • School of Law • Women, Gender, &
Sexuality Studies Program • Howard Thurman Center

Panel - "We're Not Going Back": Protecting and Advancing LGBTQIA+ Rights in 2022

October 26, 2022 from 12 to 1:45 pm

Activists have described it as civil rights whiplash: Despite all of the progress in LGBTQIA+ rights, visibility, and acceptance in this new century, a wave of transphobia and homophobia is sweeping the nation. This year alone, more than 200 pieces of anti-LGBTQIA+ legislation have been introduced in 36 states, the majority targeting trans and nonbinary people for discrimination in accessing health care, obtaining identification documents, using appropriate bathrooms, and participating fully in sports. On October 26, 12-1:45 pm, join "We're Not Going Back": Protecting and Advancing LGBTQIA+ Rights in 2022, a panel discussion at Hillel House – 213 Bay State Rd, 4th Floor about the current state of LGBTQIA+ laws and rights, and what we can do to protect and advance those rights in the future. This event is co-sponsored by the LGBTQIA+ Center for

Boston University College of Arts & Sciences

INSPIRING GREEK WOMEN WRITERS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF THEIR TRANSLATION



Friday, October 28, 2022
5:30pm, Reception to follow
Photonics Auditorium (PHO 206)
8 St. Mary's Street, Boston, MA





Amanda Michalopoulos
Internationally acclaimed Greek author
of eight novels and three short story
collections, translated in 20 languages.



Kallia Papatlaki
Screen writer, poet, and novelist.
Her poem "I Am Not John Brown"
inspired a 2021 American movie.



Vilemini Sosoni
Assistant Professor, Department of
Theatre, Dance, and Performance
Studies, and the Center for the Study of
the American Theatre.

Join us for an afternoon discussion of the life and works of two prominent Greek authors, Amanda Michalopoulos and Kallia Papatlaki, and a celebration of the importance of women writers to contemporary cultural life in Greece. The authors will read from their works, and Prof. Vilemini Sosoni will moderate a discussion and Q & A. Attendees will have a chance to meet the authors and experts at a reception afterwards. The event is free and open to students, scholars, and the general public.

Photo credit: Amanda Michalopoulos, Kallia Papatlaki, and Vilemini Sosoni. Photo credit: Amanda Michalopoulos, Kallia Papatlaki, and Vilemini Sosoni. Photo credit: Amanda Michalopoulos, Kallia Papatlaki, and Vilemini Sosoni.

“A” is for Asexual Liberation: Centering Ace & Aro Identities, Deconstructing Compulsory Sexuality, and Creating a Movement

November 10, 2022 from 12-1:45 pm

On November 10, 12-1:45 pm, “A” is for Asexual Liberation: Centering Ace & Aro Identities, Deconstructing Compulsory Sexuality, and Creating a Movement brings together two thought leaders, activist David Jay, and journalist Angela Chen, for a Learn More Series In Conversation event about asexual and aromantic identity, history, movements, and culture. This event is co-sponsored by the LGBTQIA+ Center for Faculty & Staff.

African American Art History: Present Coordinates

November 11, 2022 to November 12, 2022

Boston University’s Department of the History of Art & Architecture is pleased to present African American Art History: Present Coordinates, a symposium of research conducted by emerging scholars in the field of African American art history. This program is committed to advancing the connection and collaboration between diverse members of the Boston University community and emerging scholars of African American visual art, material culture, and architecture.


Five doctoral students will present their latest projects with particular attention paid to interdisciplinary methodologies and alternative frameworks.

THE LGBTQIA+ BU STUDENT TASK FORCE & THE LGBTQIA+ FACULTY & STAFF COMMUNITY NETWORK PRESENT

Task Force Q&A with Faculty & Staff

Come learn more about our findings & recommendations about BU’s LGBTQIA+ students!

**Monday, 11/21
12:00-1:00 PM ET
On Zoom**



Moderate JAKE SMITH (he/him)
LGBTQIA+ F Vice Ch Task F Staff Adv

Register: bit.ly/taskforceevent

Learn More Series Film Festival - “Stonewall Forever”

November 29, 2022 from 5 pm - 6 pm

Join BU Diversity & Inclusion and the LGBTQIA+ Center for Faculty & Staff for a film screening of Ro Haber’s “Stonewall Forever” (2019), a 21-minute documentary that brings together voices from over 50 years of LGBTQ activism to explore the ongoing legacy of Stonewall. The film screening will be followed by a debriefing conversation.

The history of the Stonewall Riots is equally as cherished as it is charged. There are questions of who was there, who “threw the first brick” and who can claim Stonewall. This film doesn’t answer these questions but instead it aims to expand the story of Stonewall by including more voices in its telling. We hope to see you there!

Learning and Action Workshops: Inclusive Learning Spaces

November 30, 2022 from 9 to 11 am

How do we create more inclusive learning spaces? What does Inclusive Teaching look like in physical spaces? What does it look like in digital spaces?

Designed for Faculty and Staff who supports Learning Spaces activities, this workshop will explore key D&I terms, concepts, and pedagogical approaches in Inclusive Learning Spaces, from classroom climate to the tone of a syllabus to the integration of information technology in digital learning spaces. Through these, participants will develop new practices in advancing inclusion, innovation, and problem-based learning with students.

Queerfolk, Transfolk, Fatfolk, Blackfolk: Intersections of Queer and Black Identities

November 30, 2022 from 12:30 to 2 pm

To be Black and queer is to live at the margins within the margins, erased from both mainstream heteronormative culture and white-dominant LGBTQIA+ culture. Join BU Diversity & Inclusion and the LGBTQIA+ Center for Faculty & Staff for a Learn More Series In Conversation event featuring two visionaries who are pushing the boundaries of queer Black activism: Sean Saifa Wall, co-founder of the Intersex Justice Project, and Da’Shaun L. Harrison, author of *Belly of the Beast: The Politics of Anti-Fatness as Anti-Blackness*.

To be Black and queer is to inhabit a body that is hypervisible, overpoliced, and totally unprotected in society. Yet it is also to look up and see one’s self in celebrated icons like Lil Nas X, Billy Porter, and Laverne Cox; to stand on the shoulders of iconic figures like Marsha P. Johnson and Audre Lorde. We hope you’ll join us for an insightful conversation!

Learn More Series: The Conversation After the Conversation: Reflecting on Intersections of Queer and Black Identities

November 30, 2022 from 2 to 2:30 pm

Join the LGBTQIA+ Faculty & Staff Community Network immediately following the Learn More Series event *Queerfolk, Transfolk, Fatfolk, Blackfolk: Intersections of Queer and Black Identities* to unpack and reflect on the themes emerging from the powerhouse conversation between Sean Saifa Wall and Da’Shaun L. Harrison.

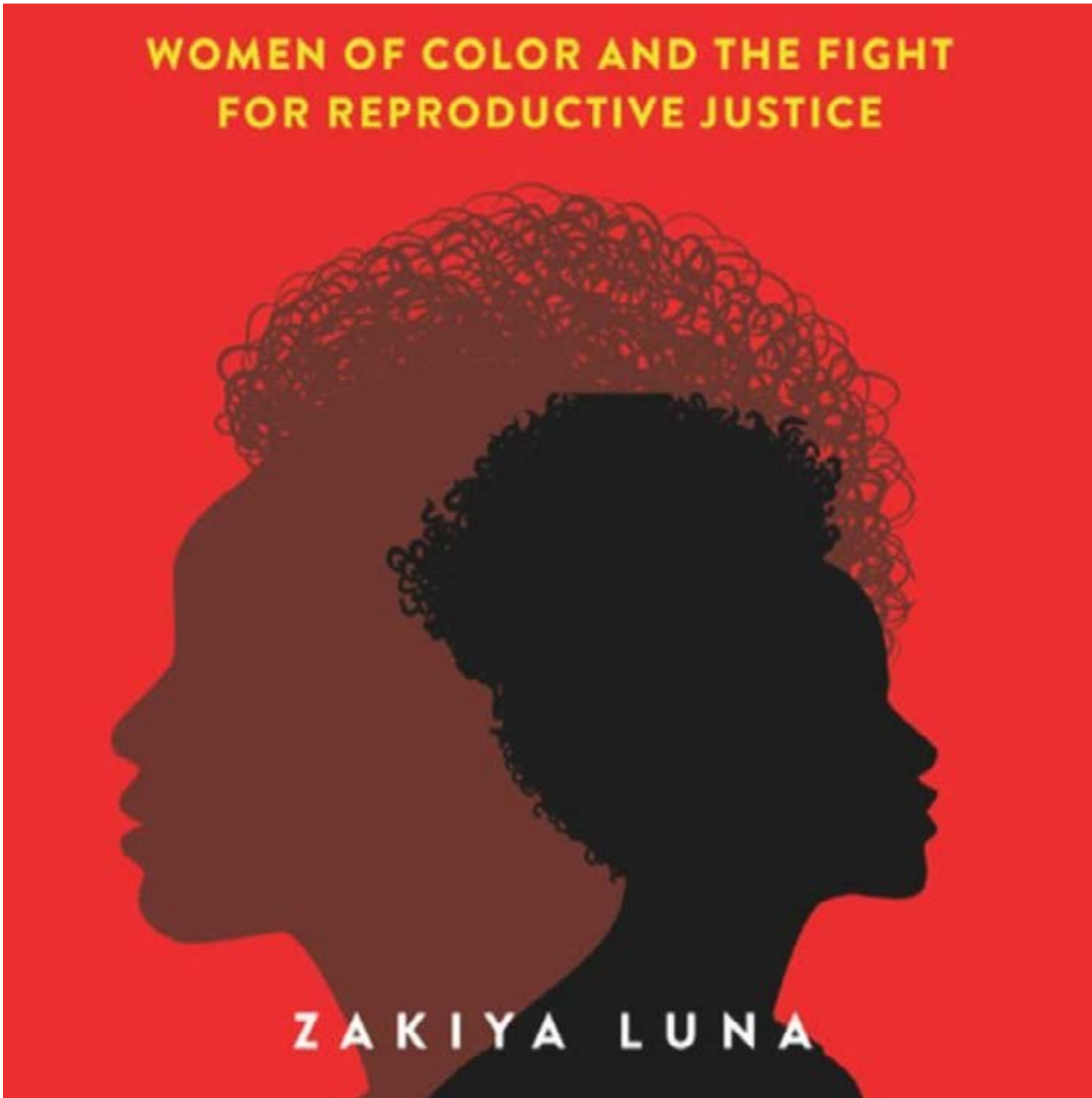
All participants in this debrief are eligible to receive a copy of Harrison’s groundbreaking book, *Belly of the Beast: The Politics of Anti-Fatness as Anti-Blackness*.

Learning and Action Workshops: Implicit Bias and Microaggressions

December 7, 2022 from 9 to 11 am

We tend to think of biases as conscious attitudes that are intentional, malicious, and easy to see. But most of the bias that occurs inside us and around us is unconscious, or implicit – learned assumptions that our brains leap to automatically, influencing our actions in ways that go against our consciously stated values. When these actions cause harm to others, we call them microaggressions.

In this workshop, we will explore the ways that bias and microaggressions show up in ourselves, in society, and in the workplace. Participants will learn to identify forms of implicit bias and the various “-isms” they reflect. We will also work to understand the unintentional but very real harm of microaggressions and begin to develop the muscles and skills needed to name, interrupt and take responsibility for them. Lastly, participants will identify actionable ways they can bring the knowledge co-created in the workshop into their own spaces at BU and beyond.





AFRICAN AMERICAN & BLACK DIASPORA STUDIES PRESENTS

BLACK
HISTORY
SEASON
2023

KEMI ALABI

AGAINST HEAVEN

February 21, 2023 | 6:00pm EST
Howard Thurman Center, FLR 205
& streaming at tinyurl.com/kemi2023

*Kemi Alabi (they/them) is the author of **Against Heaven**, selected by Claudia Rankine as **winner of the 2021 Academy of American Poets First Book Award**.*

Kemi believes in the world-shifting power of words and the radical imaginations of Black queer and trans people.

Masks Strongly Encouraged

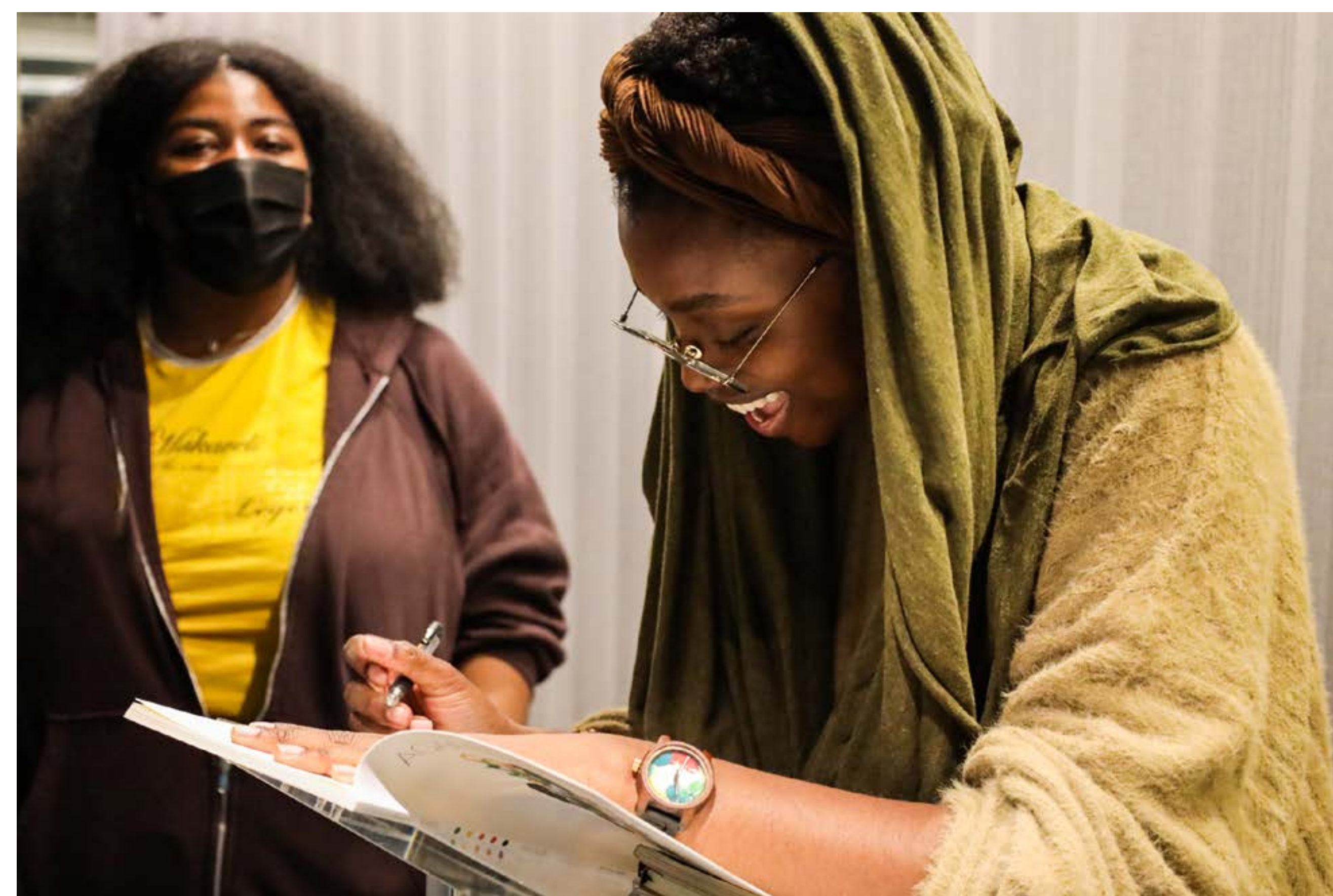
To request accommodations,
please contact ihowen@bu.edu
by or before Feb. 1, 2023

BU College of Arts & Sciences
African American & Black Diaspora Studies

CO-SPONSORED BY
the Learn More Series;
Philosophy; Political Science;
English; African Studies;
Women's, Gender, &
Sexuality Studies; and
the Writing Program



PORTRAIT BY
TOYA BEACHAM



Listen to some of Kemi Alabi's Poetry

Book Talk: *The Specter of Materialism: Queer Theory and Marxism in the Age of the Beijing Consensus*

with Petrus Liu



Gay Liberation Goes to Church

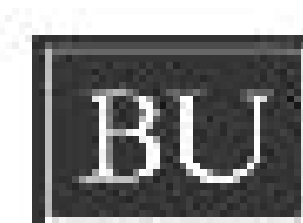
The Stonewall Riots of June 1969 have been remembered and celebrated as an iconic shift in queer movement activism. This lecture explores an unmarked part of this celebrated past: the parish hall of an Episcopal Church, which functioned as a community center for New York City's rapidly growing gay movement. This meeting space was part of the Church of the Holy Apostles and was recognized only very recently as a site significant to LGBTQ history. What insights about queer history and social change do we find in this almost-unmemorable church space?

Sponsored by Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies and Gender and Sexuality Studies by the BU Department of Religion, through the Project, *www.GSL@BU.edu* and *Gender and Sexuality Studies*

Thursday, March 16 4:00PM
725 Commonwealth Ave (CAS) Room B36

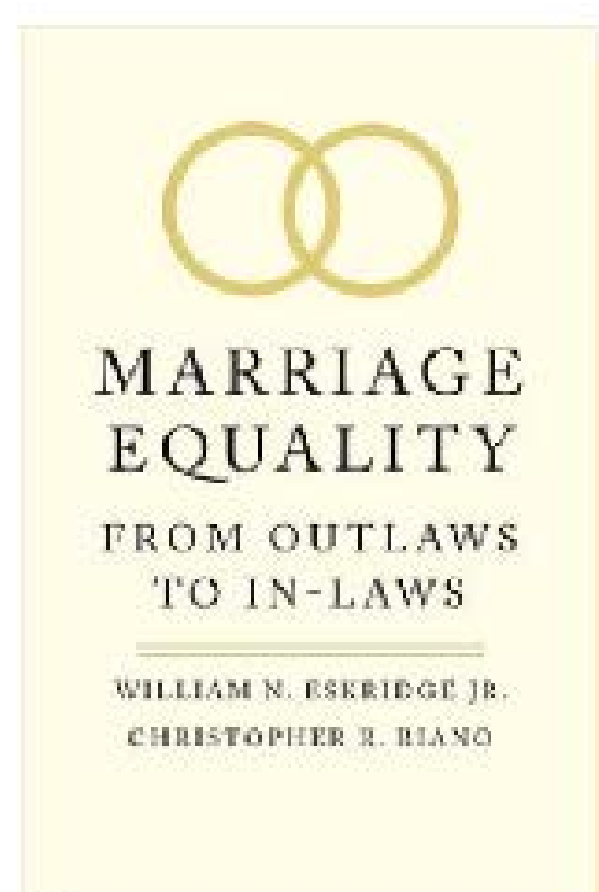


Dr. Heather Whitely's work focuses on histories of religion and queer activism in the twentieth-century United States. Heather is the author of *Reclaiming Boston: Protestants and the Rise of Gay Rights* (University of North Carolina Press, 2015) and co-edited with Patricia Morison and Gillian Kornfeld *Disruptions and Desires: Histories of Sexuality and Religion in the Twentieth Century* (University of North Carolina Press, 2018) as well as numerous other essays, which include topics ranging from "The 'Gay' Italian Space" to how queer resistance to mass incarceration values. Heather is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor at the University of Connecticut's position field since 2015 and serves as research associate and visiting scholar in the Women's Studies in the English Department at Harvard Divinity School.



Boston University
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program

"Marriage Equality: From Outlaws to In-Laws"



A lecture featuring
William N. Eskridge Jr.,
Yale Law School


Thursday, April 6
12:45 - 2:00pm

Guest Lecture: Olena Shevchenko

The WGS community is invited to attend a special guest lecture by Ukrainian queer rights activist Olena Shevchenko. Shevchenko co-founded the Kyiv-based nonprofit [Insight](#) in 2017 to support women and LGBTQI communities – work that has become all the more urgent in light of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. For this work, she was named one of Time Magazine's 2022 "Women of the Year." The lecture and discussion will take place online during Prof. Sandy McEvoy's course "Global Women's Movements."

WHEN: Monday, 10 April at 2:45PM

HOW: On Zoom - RSVP to Prof. Sandy McEvoy (smce@bu.edu) for access to the talk



"Living with Monkey"

a talk with writer
Eli Clare

April 11, 5pm Location TBD

Join queer disabled writer and activist Eli Clare as he digs into the forces that have long associated people of color--both disabled and non-disabled--and white disabled people with monkeys and dehumanized us. In what ways is personhood used as a weapon and a tool of social control? How do we resist dehumanizing while claiming our connections with more-than-human animals?

Sponsored by BU Gen/Sex, BU Center of the Humanities, the Health Humanities Project, and the LGBTQIA+ Center for Faculty & Staff.

Legal Plunder: The Predatory Dimensions of Criminal Justice.
Joe Soss, Cowles Chair for the Study of Public Service, Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, Department of Political Science, and Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota.
Wednesday, April 12, 3:45-5:15
CAS B20

For a related paper, see Page, J., Soss, J., & Piehowski, V. 2019. "A debt of care commercial bail and the gendered logic of criminal justice predation." *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 5(1), 150-72.

This is the final lecture in a series recognizing the retirement of Virginia Sapiro, Dean of Arts & Sciences Emerita and Professor of Political Science Emerita



Dr. Carol Cohn

Lecturer, UMass Boston
Director, Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights at the University of Massachusetts Boston

Sponsored by the BU-Political Science Graduate Student Speaker Series and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program

Masks encouraged



Wednesday, April 12th
1:00pm-2:30pm
232 Bay State Road, 312b
Lunch provided at 2:30pm



APRIL 24, 2023 12:30-2:00PM EDT

GENEALOGIES OF FEMINISM IN AFRICA

SHIREEN HASSIM
CARLETON UNIVERSITY

Walter Rodney Seminar Series

African Studies Center Spring 2023

Co-sponsor: Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
Attend on Zoom.
Zoom registration: <https://tinyurl.com/RODNEYS23>
Questions? Email us: ascinfo@bu.edu




WGS Graduate Certificate Student Colloquia

Join Prof. Sandy McEvoy for a conversation and skill-building workshop focused on developing a syllabus/classroom informed by intersectionality and preparing for the job market.

When: Tuesday, April 25
Time: 4pm-5:30pm
Location: Zoom

Please RSVP to smce@bu.edu by April 22 and to secure a link to the meeting

Small Grant Updates



From Michele “Shelly” DeBiasse, Shannon Peters, Hagere Yilma

Participation of white-identified individuals in antiracist actions is essential to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion and disrupt systemic racism. Relatedly, the need to diversify healthcare professions has received renewed attention, and healthcare education programs and professional organizations have been tasked to improve diversity within their professional ranks and inclusion in professional spaces. Improving diversity, equity, and inclusion among healthcare professionals has the potential to reduce health disparities and increase diversity and inclusion in healthcare professional education programs. Distress tolerance (DT) and emotional regulation (ER) are two emotional/behavior constructs that describe an individual's ability to withstand and modulate negative emotional states. “White fragility” (WF) is a recently coined term that describes the emotional/behavioral reactions of white-identified individuals to threats to their self-concept as “good people”. We hypothesize that DT, ER, and WF are related to white-identified individual's engagement with anti-racist actions (EARA). Adult healthcare providers who self-identify as white, non-Hispanic are being recruited to complete a survey. Survey data includes demographics (age, race/ethnicity, gender identity, healthcare profession) and questionnaires that measure DT, ER, and WF. Our work will determine the relationships between these variables and if any variable exerts a mediator or moderator effect upon EARA. If our work demonstrates a relationship, the research suggests that including principles of dialectic behavior therapy (DBT) into diversity and inclusion trainings might help individuals improve their DT and ER abilities and decrease experience of WF such that EARA might be more meaningful and impactful.

We used the grant funds for participant compensation. Securing adequate participation from the healthcare professionals we seek for this study is essential to the project's success. This is especially difficult when recruiting healthcare providers who are often overtaxed with the high demand and insufficient resources in healthcare settings. With this funding, we were able to purchase gift cards that will be raffled off to participants who complete the survey to help increase participation and express our appreciation for participants' time. We plan to complete data collection at the end of May, 2023.

From Susanne Sreedhar

I was very grateful for the WGS research grant, which offset the cost of editorial assistance in the writing of a proposal and sample chapters for my second book, entitled *Hobbes on Sex*. These materials then earned me a contract with Oxford University Press.

Thanks, WGS!

From Cati Connell

Thanks to my spring 2023 WGS small grant, I was able to finish focus group and interview transcription for my current project about lesbian identities/subjectivities in the 21st century. These interviews and focus groups were conducted with research assistants iO Fields (WGS minor, class of 2022) and Elliot Chudyk (WGS grad certificate student, class of 2023). We met with self-identified lesbians of all genders to learn more about how lesbians are (re)defining the meaning of and boundaries around lesbian belonging. Drawing on this data, we submitted a proposal to a call for papers for a special issue of the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*; our proposal was recently accepted and we are now drafting a co-authored manuscript for submission titled “It’s a Vibe: The Making of the Modern Lesbian Through Intergenerational Lesbian Solidarities.”

From Najwa Mayer

I am grateful to the BU WGS small grants program, which generously funded research for a book chapter about what I call the “property of Islamophobia.” It examines the spatial and propertied reproduction of Islamophobic media in the US public square, and its juridical protections, through free market exercises of law, secularism, and capital. With WGS support, I interview a queer, Muslim women-led group of street art activists who perform anti-property direct actions against Islamophobic propaganda circulated in privatized arenas of public space. In dialogue with these activists, I co-theorize anti-capitalist critiques of Islamophobia as praxes that draw on queer, feminist, working-class, and anticolonial legacies of contesting the racial histories of property.

I am also grateful to BU WGS for joining the California State University’s Carol Mukhopadhyay Feminist Lecture Series in co-sponsoring an interdisciplinary event on Transnational Feminist Critique in the Context of Afghanistan, with Dr. Anila Daulatza, Dr. Saugher Nojan, and myself.

From Courteney Smith

Thanks to the generous support of the WGS Program, I was able to travel to London to conduct research at the Women’s Library at the London School of Economics. I spent a week in the archive, examining the records of the Women’s Freedom League and the National Union of Women’s Suffrage Societies, as well as the library’s extensive postcard collection, among other documents. All of these offered insight on the role the imperial nature of the city of London played in shaping the women’s movement and their advocacy campaigns in the 1910s and have been critical to drafting this chapter of my dissertation. When completed, this project will offer a new way of thinking about the role of place and space in shaping progressive movements. In addition, I will present a paper derived from this chapter at the Women’s Archive Wales annual conference in October 2022 and another at the North American Conference on British Studies in November 2022. I’m grateful to WGS for their support of my work.

Awards and Recognition:

Sarah Joanne Davis Award Winners

The Sarah Joanne Davis Scholarship Award competition is conducted every year in WGS. The award is given to a Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies minor who has made a significant contribution by either writing a paper in one of their WGS courses, or to their community through activism, leadership, artistic creation, publication, political engagement, or other initiatives. We are delighted to announce the 2022-2023 award winners:



Tia Perkins

*for the outstanding project
"Sexual Health Zine"*



Nicholas Lyons

for the outstanding paper

*"Size Matters - And Color, Too! Considering
The Polka Dot Sock for Packing as a
Garment for Non-Binary Gender Affirmation
and Artifact of Trans* History"*

Please visit www.bu.edu/wgs/sjd for more

Awards and Recognition:

WGS Certificate Completions

Every year we celebrate our grad students who have completed the WGS certificate at our end of the year party; while we can't gatehr in person, we are still very proud of the new certificate holders and can't wait to see their future work and accomplishments

Catherine Abou-Khalil
Ph.D., Political Science

Alicia Matz
Ph.D., Classics

Laura Mayron
Ph.D., Hispanic Studies

Rachel Monsey
Ph.D., History

Amanda Napior
Ph.D., Religion

Awards and Recognition:

WGS End of Year Celebrations



Awards and Recognition:

Faculty Introduction: Micah Goodrich



Micah Goodrich
WGS Core Faculty Member

My research explores the triangulation among nature, temporality, and (re)production to formulate a premodern trans theology of embodiment. I consider how the cultural power of nature is invoked by medieval institutions to control embodiment, specifically the body's power to create and transform. My book project, *Chronic Bodies: Trans Natures and Premodern Temporalities*, explores the emergence of a literary scientific discourse around body transformation in medieval and early modern England. Teetering between pre-modernity and modernity, the period from 1300 to 1650 precipitated a literary "return to nature" that put pressure on the efficacy of nature's hierarchies, systems, and laws as a template for human social conditions. Medieval institutions sought to restore the cultural and symbolic power of nature to conform bodies toward (re)production. In what I term "trans natures," I outline four concepts that repeatedly occur in medieval writing on nature: creation, inclination, dislocation, and transformation. Occurring in a variety of texts such as alchemical treatises, dream visions, and pharmacopoeia, these concepts originated a medieval discourse that contended with the valuation of productive bodies as extensions of nature. *Chronic Bodies* shows how medieval authors looked to the logic of "trans nature" to imagine alternative ways of being embodied in the world beyond (re)productive modalities and temporalities. Following Donna Haraway and Jemima Repo's critiques of bio-capitalism's vise-grip on embodiment, I challenge premodern constitutions of a "natural" body to show how nature was an embodied, temporal schematic made manifest through (re)production. *Chronic Bodies* considers how premodern ideas of nature interface with modern concerns made possible by transgender studies and disability studies about body autonomy, (re)productive justice, and labor ethics. This work engages with ideologies of gender and embodiment across periods (in medieval and early modern writing), across genre (literary, medical, and scientific traditions), and across time (premodern and modern conceptions of gendered embodiment).

My approach to teaching is informed by trans inclusive, anti-racist, queer, and feminist pedagogies which prioritize student-centered creation and transformation. I like to think of the classroom as a "DIY" space. The work of DIY is characterized by dis-alienation, political intervention, and alternative media through self-publishing (zines, distributed information pamphlets, and independent presses) and collaborative communication (lyrics, art installations, etc.). As I tell my students, "DIY" does not mean "Do It Yourself" in the sense of isolated work; rather, it is a process of equipping the self with the tools needed to enact a creative vision. It is the practice of creating without the aid of professionals and with limited or differently sourced resources. As a trans literary scholar I am fascinated by and indebted to this underground textual moment.

I am teaching the following courses in the fall:

- EN122 Medieval Worlds (Topic: Through the Body) - we will approach medieval literature through the body, reading texts that trouble the male/female and animal/human binaries, engage with categories of "naturalness", and highlight the porosity and fluid nature (sometimes literally!) of the medieval body.
- EN220 Reading in REM - this course focuses on dream literature, broadly construed, and the texts we will read will take up questions of materiality and spectrality, of reality and imagination, and of time and space. Lots of room to explore gender/sexuality in dreamscapes!
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I am not 100% certain yet about the spring, but I believe I am slated to teach EN360 Arts of Gender, which is cross listed with WGS, and will have a topical approach!

In the future, I am looking forward to teaching cross listed courses on Transgender Literature, and an upper-level theory course on Queer/Trans Studies. I'm also hoping to get involved in the Queer Histories course that Anthony Petro is writing up as well as topical courses that think about the body and nature, gender/sexuality and time, and anything on premodern gender/sexuality and embodiment.

Awards and Recognition:

Faculty Spotlight

WGS is an interdepartmental program with faculty members spanning many disciplines, and every year we like to celebrate our members' professional accomplishments.

Japonica Brown-Saracino (she/her)

My 2021 American Journal of Sociology article, "The Afterlife of Identity Politics: Gentrification, Critical Nostalgia, and the Commemoration of Lost Dyke Bars", received honorable mention for the 2022 Jane Addams Award for Best Article from the American Sociological Association's Community and Urban Section.

This month I was interviewed on WBUR's Radio Boston about lesbian bars. <https://www.wbur.org/radioboston/2023/05/18/lgbtq-nightlife-bar-inclusive>

Jennifer Cazenave (she/her)

In Spring 2023, I published an essay in Nexus titled "An Ethics of Radical Visibility" on disability representation in archives. That semester, I also gave a talk at the annual SCMS conference on disability as a missing picture in postwar home movies. During the 2022-2023 academic year, I also participated in BU's inaugural Inclusive Pedagogy Institute.

Cati Connell (she/her)

- Publication: Connell, Cati. 2023. A Few Good Gays: The Gendered Compromises of Military Inclusion. University of California Press.
- SSSP Division of Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Outstanding Book Award for A Few Good Gays: The Gendered Compromises Behind Military Inclusion
- Publication: Connell, Cati. 2022. "Queer Social Control and the Homonormative Bargain: Sexual Harassment in the Era of Open LGBT Military Service." Social Problems. DOI: 10.1093/socpro/spac024
- BU Center for the Humanities Henderson Senior Fellowship (Spring 2022)

Joanna Davidson (she/her)

- Published coedited volume: Opting Out: Women Messing with Marriage around the World (Rutgers University Press, Nov 2022)
- Received BU's Metcalf Award for Excellence in Teaching (2023)

Sean Desilets (he/him)

- Published: "Paul's Mediation" was accepted for publication in the Journal of Religion. It's a media-theory approach to Saint Paul's letters.

Shelly DeBiasse (she/they)

- Published: DeBiasse MAS, Peters S, Baderha, B. Dress codes for dietetics programs: A discourse analysis. Feminism & Psychology. 2022; online first October 9, 2022.
- Published: DeBiasse MA, Branham A, McFarland N. Experiences of LGBTQ-identifying students, interns, and practitioners of dietetics. Journal of Critical Dietetics. 2022;6(2):7-23.
- Published: DeBiasse MA, Burt KG, Branham AK, Breeding Z. IDEA: Let's design, conduct, and report research with diversity and inclusion in mind. Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. 2022;122(1):30.

Petrus Liu (he/him)

- Published: Published: *The Specter of Materialism: Queer Theory and Marxism in the Age of the Beijing Consensus* (Duke UP, 2023).
- Honors: The Gitner Award for Distinguished Teaching, Boston University, 2023
- Presented: “The Specter of Materialism.” Keynote Address, the Department of English’s Fourth-Year Ph.D. Student Colloquium, University of Pennsylvania. April 13, 2023.
- Presented: “Everything, Everywhere, All at Once and the Politics of Asian American Cultural Representation.” Boston University, April 10, 2023.
- Presented: “The Specter of Materialism.” Penn State University, Apr. 7, 2023.
- Presented: “The Specter of Materialism.” University of Virginia, Mar. 22, 2023.
- Presented: “New Books in East Asian Literature: The Specter of Materialism.” Boston University, Feb. 22, 2023.
- Presented: “Queer/Trans of Color Circuits and the Global Imaginaries of Racial Capitalism.” UC Davis, Feb 11, 2023.

Linda C. McClain (she/her)

Publications:

The ALI Principles of Family Dissolution: Addressing Family Inequality Through Functional Regulation, in *THE ALI AT 100: ESSAYS ON ITS CENTENNIAL* (Andrew S. Gold & Robert W. Gordon eds., Oxford Univ. Press, 2023) (chapter co-authored with Professor Douglas NeJaime, Yale Law School)

Household Intimacy Outside of Marriage: Family Pluralism in the Novels of Anthony Trollope, 72 *WASH. UNIV. J. OF LAW AND POLICY* __ (forthcoming 2023) (with Allison Anna Tait)

Common Good Liberalism for Polarized Times, __ *HARV. J. OF LAW AND PUBLIC POLICY* __ (forthcoming 2023) (invited symposium article on ADRIAN VERMEULE, *COMMON GOOD CONSTITUTIONALISM*) (with James E. Fleming)

Ordered Liberty After Dobbs, 35:2 *J. OF THE AMER. ACADEMY OF MATRIMONIAL LAWYERS* 623 (2023) (invited article for symposium, “Constitutional Issues in Family Law, Part II”) (with James E. Fleming)

Obergefell, Masterpiece Cakeshop, Fulton, and Public-Private Partnerships: Unleashing v. Harnessing “Armies of Compassion” 2.0?, 60 *FAMILY COURT REVIEW* 50 (2022) (invited piece for “Special Issue: Foster Care, Same-Sex Couples, and the Constitution”)

Title IX and the Challenges of Educating for Equality,” 103 *BU L. REV. ONLINE* 1 (2023) (Symposium—Title IX at 50: Learning from the Past and Looking to the Future), <https://www.bu.edu/bulawreview/files/2023/02/MCCLAIN-Final.pdf>

“Do not ever refer to my Lord Jesus Christ with pronouns:” Considering Controversies over Religiously-Motivated Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity, 38:1 *Journal of Law and Religion* (published online, Jan. 27, 2023), <https://doi.org/10.1017/jlr.2023.1>

Linda C. McClain (she/her) (Continued)

Blog posts and Media writings:

An Institute of One's Own: Polly Bunting's "Messy Experiment" of Helping Women Navigate Work-Family Conflict, JOTWELL (Mar. 23, 2022), <https://family.jotwell.com/an-institute-of-ones-own-polly-buntings-messy-experiment-of-helping-women-navigate-work-family-conflict/> (reviewing Maggie Doherty, *The Equivalents: A Story of Art, Female Friendship, and Liberation in the 1960s* (2021))

The "Independent Protective Force" of State Constitutions, from Goodridge to Planned Parenthood South Atlantic: Recalling Justice Brennan's Admonition, BALKINIZATION (Feb. 4, 2023), <https://balkin.blogspot.com/2023/02/the-independent-protective-force-of.html> (for 20th Anniversary Symposium)

Social Distance, Social Reproduction, and Dismantling "Latino Anti-Black Bias": A Comment on Tanya Katerí Hernández, *Racial Innocence*, BALKINIZATION (Dec. 15, 2022), <https://balkin.blogspot.com/2022/12/social-distance-social-reproduction-and.html> (also organized this book symposium)

Reasons to Doubt Whether "the Best Way Forward Is To Look Backward": Commentary on Adrian Vermeule's *Common Good Constitutionalism*, BALKINIZATION (July 12, 2022), <https://balkin.blogspot.com/2022/07/reasons-to-doubt-whether-best-way.html> (legal blog)

COVID-19 Hits Home: The Salience of Individual and Collective Grief for Legal Scholarship, BALKINIZATION (Feb. 3, 2022), <https://balkin.blogspot.com/2022/02/covid-19-hits-home-salience-of.html> (Symposium on Death and Legal Scholarship)

In First Nationwide Election Since Roe Was Overturned, Voters Opt to Protect Abortion Access, THE CONVERSATION (Nov. 9, 2022), <https://theconversation.com/in-first-nationwide-election-since-roe-was-overturned-voters-opt-to-protect-abortion-access-194140> (with Nicole Huberfeld)

Roe Overturned: What You Need to Know about the Supreme Court Abortion Decision, THE CONVERSATION (Jun. 24, 2022), <https://theconversation.com/roe-overturned-what-you-need-to-know-about-the-supreme-court-abortion-decision-184692> (with Nicole Huberfeld) (translated into French, Italian, and Spanish and selected for NOA ("News Over Audio") pilot program)

Losing Casey Would Be A Critical Blow to Gender Equality, THE HILL (May 15, 2022), Losing Casey would be a critical blow to gender equality | The Hill (with Rachel Rebouché)

What Would It Mean to Codify Roe Into Law – and Is There Any Chance of That Happening?, THE CONVERSATION (May 5, 2022), What would it mean to codify Roe into law – and is there any chance of that happening? (theconversation.com) (selected for NOA ("News Over Audio") pilot program)

Linda C. McClain (she/her) (Continued)

Conferences and panels:

Paper presentation, “What Shall be Orthodox in Polarized Times?,” Faculty Workshop hosted by Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy, March 9, 2023 (with Jim Fleming)

Lecture, “Constitutional Liberty (and Equality) After Dobbs?,” Boston University Academy (assembly for high school students and teachers), February 14, 2023

Panel moderator/co-organizer, Conference: “After Roe and Dobbs: Seeking Reproductive Justice in the Next 50 Years,” Boston University School of Law, January 26, 2023 (co-sponsored by BU School of Law and BU School of Public Health; inaugural event for new BU Law Program in Reproductive Justice)

Paper presentation, “Constitutional Liberalism Through Thick and Thin: Some Thoughts on Frank Michelman’s Constitutional Essentials,” January 25, 2023, webinar hosted by University of Luxembourg

Paper presentation, “Common Good Liberalism for Polarized Times,” at Symposium: Common Good Constitutionalism, Harvard Law School, Oct. 29, 2022 (co-sponsored by Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy and Harvard Federalist Society)

Paper presentation, “Household Intimacy Outside of Marriage: Family Pluralism in the Novels of Anthony Trollope” (co-presented with Allison Anna Tait), Nonmarriage Roundtable, Washington University School of Law, September 29 & 30, 2022

“Can We Talk about Racism?,” a conversation about Who’s the Bigot?, hosted by Fordham Law School, Institute on Religion, Law & Lawyer’s Work, September 28, 2022 (with Tanya Katerí Hernández, author of *Racial Innocence: Unmasking Latino Anti-Black Bias and the Struggle for Equality*, and Maureen O’Connell, author of *Untying the Knots: Five Generations of American Anti-Catholic Blackness*)

Paper presentation, “Title IX and the Challenges of Educating for Equality,” for BU Law Review Online Symposium—Title IX at 50: Learning from the Past and Looking to the Future, September 23, 2022

Presentation on Anthony Trollope, *Can You Forgive Her?*, *The Big Read*, Trollope Society (UK), September 19, 2022 (virtual)

Panelist, *Roe and Dobbs: The Ripple Effects of the SCOTUS Ruling on Democracy and Our Futures*, online event hosted by BU Diversity & Inclusion and LGBTQIA+ Center for Faculty and Staff, July 12, 2022

Paper presentation, “Curiously Female Households: Ancillary Markets and Alternative Families in the Novels of Anthony Trollope” (co-authored with Allison Anna Tait), Family Law Scholars and Teachers Conference, Temple University Beasley School of Law, June 22 & 23, 2022

Paper presentation, “Curiously Female Households: Ancillary Markets and Alternative Families in the Novels of Anthony Trollope” (co-authored with Allison Anna Tait), Law, Culture & Humanities Conference, Emory University School of Law, June 16 & 17 2022 (virtual panel)

Presentation, “‘Conscience, Not Bigotry’ and Other Framings in Conflicts over LGBTQ Rights and Religious Liberty,” LGBTQIA+ Scholar Series, April 1, 2022 (virtual), cosponsored by BU LGBTQIA+ Center for Faculty and Staff and BU Law

Marie McDonough (she/her)

- Published a translated book: [Young Foucault](#): The Lille Manuscripts on Psychopathology, Phenomenology, and Anthropology, 1952–1955 by Elisabetta Basso (Columbia University Press, 2022)
- Presented: “Crip Graphism: Bande Dessinée and the Arts of Interdependency.” National Women’s Studies Association Conference (November 2022)
- Presented: “Partnering with Students with Disabilities: Informed Practices and Support Networks,” International Conference on Effective Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, American University of Beirut (March 2023)

Sarah Miller (she/her)

- Published: “Mean Girls and Tough Guys: Gender, Sexuality, and the Individualization of Anti-Bullying Efforts” in the edited volume, *The Sociology of Bullying: Power Status, and Aggression Among Adolescents*, edited by Chris Donoghue and published by NYU Press. Presented: “Growing Up Online in the Anti-Bullying Era” at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Los Angeles, August 7, 2022
- Supported the work of the LGBTQIA+ BU Student Task Force as the faculty advisor on their [report on the status of LGBTQIA+ students](#). These students’ advocacy instrumentally paved the way for the development of BU’s upcoming LGBTQIA+ Student Resource Center, along with a variety of other initiatives.

Ianna Hawkins Owen (he/him)

I was a recipient of the 2022 Mellon Emerging Faculty Leaders Award to support my second book project, *This Time Without Feeling: Reading Black Asexual Affects*; the 2022 Learn More Series Programming Grant to support the event “Against Heaven: A Reading by Kemi Alabi”; the 2022 Jewish Cultural Endowment, Boston University to support the lecture “Fierce as Death: Jewlia Eisenberg in Memoriam” by Dr. Jeremiah Lockwood and the performance “Bent Like a Question Mark” the by Gordon Lockwood duo, both events honoring the recently passed musician/scholar/lay cantor/queer anarchist Jewlia Eisenberg; and the 2023 Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program Faculty Matching Grant with junior undergraduate Sam Amado-Mejia for our collaboration on an anthology of open letters written by students to their loved ones about prison abolition. I delivered the Second Annual Asexuality Lecture, titled “To Be Free Is Very Sweet”: Blackness, Asexuality, Abolition,” for the Sarah Isom Center for Women and Gender Studies, University of Mississippi. My most recent article “More: Asexuality, Feedism, Cake,” *Social Text*, vol. 40, no. 2, was published in 2022. “Sweating Diaspora,” first chapter of my first book manuscript was the subject of response by Christina Sharpe (York University), for the American Studies for the Future Lecture Series here at BU.

Anthony Petro (he/they)

Published a short essay about performance artist Ron Athey called “Playing Pentecostal,” *Religious Studies Review* 48:1 (2022): 35-39.

Finished (and hopefully soon forthcoming) an essay called “Judy Chicago’s Gender Trouble: Religion, The Dinner Party, and the Aesthetics of Literalism,” for a roundtable called “Gender Trouble at 30” for the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*.

Received a BUCH fellowship (for leave Fall 2023) to finish the full draft of my book, *Provoking Religion: Sex, Art, and the Sacred in the Modern U.S.*

Carrie Preston (she/her)

I published two chapters in edited volumes, one called “The Humanities of Migration and Health,” which appeared in *Migration and Health*, eds. Sandro Galea, Catherine Ettman, and Muhammad Zaman (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2022). The second chapter is called “Participation, Pandemic, and the Pucker in Taylor Mac’s *The Lily’s Revenge*,” which was published in *Taylor Mac*, eds. Sean Edgecomb & David Román (University of Michigan Press, 2022). I finished my new book, *Complicit Participation: The Liberal Audience for Antiracist Theater*, which is in production at Oxford University Press. I am the Principal Investigator on a Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar Grant titled, “US-Mexico and EU-Balkans Border Externalization Regimes: Ethics, Identities, and Impacts.” The grant provides \$250,000 for events, workshops, and collaborative, interdisciplinary research. I presented papers at the Modernist Studies Association Conference and the British

Christopher Schmitt (he/they)

Elected President of the American Association of Anthropological Genetics (AAAG). In his role as Vice President of the AAAG this past year, he organized a joint symposium with the American Association of Biological Anthropologists (AABA) called “Born Which Way?: Biological and Genetic Engagement in Sex, Gender, and Sexuality Research”, focused on countering biological/genetic essentialism in our scientific understandings of sex, gender, and sexuality. Sari van Anders joined as discussant. We are following up on this work by helping the AABA to craft a formal statement clarifying what biology can (and cannot) say about sex, gender, and sexuality to be disseminated nationally.

He was also invited by the National Geographic Society to their headquarters in Washington, DC, this past March to participate in their first ever Queer and Allies Explorer Meetup, where he gave a lightning talk on his research, a second talk on the unique risks faced by queer field researchers, and also worked with a group of over 20 other queer and allied National Geographic Explorers to provide action points for the organization to take to make fieldwork safer and more inclusive for LGBTQQIAA+ researchers, educators, and science communicators.

Karen Warkentin (they/them (ella))

- Published: five papers on plastic hatching timing in treefrogs and a coral reef fish, with students and collaborators and a book chapter on methods for research in mechanosensory-cued hatching.
- Published: They have two book chapters in press describing their experiences in herpetology for general audiences: Warkentin KM. In press. Lessons in patience: Frog eggs, snakes, and rain. Invited anthology contribution for Crump ML (ed) Lost Frogs and Hot Snakes: Herpetologists' Tales from the Field. Cornell University Press. Warkentin KM. In press. From childhood curiosity to an egg-science career: Social and environmental effects on the development of an integrative biologist. Invited chapter for Arifin U, Caviedes-Solis IW, Poo S (Eds) Global Women in Herpetology <https://www.womeninherpetology.com>
- Honor: Elected as a Fellow of the Animal Behavior Society
- Honor: 2022 Keiser Distinguished Lecturer in the Life Science (Ohio Northern University, Ada, OH)
- Honor: 2022 Schuellein Lecturer in the Biological Sciences (University of Dayton, OH)
- Honor: Invited Plenary Speaker for Colombian Herpetology Congress (Cali, Colombia), Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute Fellows Symposium (Gamboa, Panama), Ontario Ecology, Ethology and Evolution Colloquium (OE3C, London, ON), Justin Schmidt Spring Symposium at University of British Columbia (Vancouver, BC)
- Presented: "Crossing boundaries, disrupting binaries: A queer perspective on the diversity of life" – presented at STRI Fellows Symposium, Keiser & Schuellein Lectures, McGill, OE3C
- Presented: "Tecnología simple y avanzada, invención y uso no autorizado: desarrollando métodos para investigar el comportamiento de embriones de ranas / Low tech, high tech, invention and off-label use: developing methods to study the behavior of frog embryos" – presented at STRI (bilingual talk, available online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WLy7ghpAgm0>), CCH (bilingual), BU and ONU (English only)
- Presented: "Development and mechanisms of adaptive embryo behavior" – presented at McGill, Bridgeport, Schmidt Symposium at UBC
- Presented: "Plasticity, modularity, and cross-sexual transfer: a nonbinary framework for sexual diversity" Invited talk for Royal Society Theo Murphy Meeting on Genetics and Evolution of Sexual Orientation. Cookham, UK.
- Presented: In addition, their students gave 5 additional conference presentations (co-authored with Warkentin) at the Animal Behavior meeting and Colombian Herpetology Congress.
- Public Outreach: Treefrogs, phenotypic plasticity, and linking gender & sexuality studies with biology. Animal Behavior Podcast interview with host Amy Strauss. July 2022. <https://theanimalbehaviorpodcast.buzzsprout.com/1540180/10891523-s2e6-karen-warkentin-on-treefrogs-phenotypic-plasticity-and-linking-gender-sexuality-studies-with-biology>

Farewell Note



Olivia McCargar
WGS Program Coordinator

I knew when I started with WGS in February of 2020 I would be staying for a relatively short time. The plan was two years to finish my Master's degree, to graduate, and move on from BU after nearly 10 years of service as an admin. I wanted my last couple years to be integrated with the community that had given me insight into myself as a (then closeted) queer person, and gave me my life-long passion for feminist and queer theory. I wanted to mentor students like myself, and I wanted to leave WGS better than I found it. When BU closed down the campus in March, I believed I would be home for a couple weeks but would soon return to seeing the faculty and students I had only briefly met over the previous few weeks. Plans, as it turns out, don't always hold up in reality.

My time with WGS has been marked with change most of all. I was still freshly out at work, still finding my way as a trans woman in what felt like a hostile world. I helped steer WGS through the switch to remote and then hybrid instruction and the myriad turbulences that arose from that, found myself writing and enforcing policies for COVID safety, all while starting my own virtual classes. By the time I started to get a handle on this new normal, it was time to change again--my classes were in person but masked, I came back to an eerily empty and often lonely campus, and had to once again help steer WGS into a fully in-person instruction model with the risk of COVID looming large over our heads, while helping Susanne ease into her new role as director. I feel like now, at the end of my time, I have finally learned the new normal. And now, having graduated, I find myself writing to say goodbye.

I want to thank Cati first, who brought me in to WGS and gave me a safe and wonderful home to finish out my time as an academic admin. I wish our time together had been less challenging and era-defining, but I am grateful for your leadership and mentorship through it all. And many thanks to Susanne, who has known me since I came back to BU in 2013 and for that entire time has been a wonderful friend, colleague, and mentor. Susanne has been supportive of me through my Master's, through my administrative career, through my transition, and so much more. I cannot begin to capture the amount of gratitude and appreciation I have for her personally and professionally.

I believe the future holds positive change for WGS after our time through the pandemic. We were barely keeping our collective heads above water but our students took the initiative and have brought light to how [underfunded and undersupported we have been for so long](#). I hope the efforts started this year will bear fruit soon, and I trust you all to bring my successor along. I might not have been able to leave WGS better than I found it as I had hoped, but I do believe the better is coming soon. I hope to visit you all in the future to see that made manifest.

You can find me at The Framingham Heart Study for what is planned to be the next few years, and always agitating for a better world for trans people in and around Boston.

Olivia McCargar
www.oliviamccargar.com
WGS Program Coordinator 2020-2023

Credits

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