



2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

# CONSORTIUM FOR GRADUATE STUDIES IN GENDER, CULTURE, WOMEN, AND SEXUALITY

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 in Gender, Culture, Women, and  
 Sexuality (GCWS)**

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**Annual Report Compiled by:**  
 Stacey Lantz, Program Manager

## **GCWS Board of Directors**

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### **GCWS Program Manager**

Stacey Lantz



# GCWS and COVID-19

In March 2020, COVID-19 dramatically impacted campuses and academic environments across the country and around the world. The GCWS staff, board, faculty, and student organizers worked swiftly and efficiently to switch to a model of online learning. These changes were necessary for the health and safety of the students and faculty directly involved with our programming but also for the health and safety of their communities and loved ones. Though these changes were challenging, the event organizers, students, faculty, and board members adapted to ensure that GCWS was able to provide the high quality, engaging, and interdisciplinary work that we are known for.

Our spring courses (The Politics of Madness: Gender, Postcoloniality, and Psychiatry Through Film and Theory; Women in South Asia: Religion, Gender, Culture, and Sexuality; and Workshop for Dissertation Writers in Women's and Gender Studies) shifted to an online format. All courses met for live online discussions in addition to contributing to discussion boards and forums outside of class time.

Our event calendar was greatly impacted. Much of our Women Take the Reel film festival was outright cancelled as it was already underway during March 2020 and there was not enough time to switch multiple schools and events to an online film festival platform. Our graduate student event, Technologies of Resistance: Towards Feminist Futures Symposium, was originally scheduled for April 2020 and was rescheduled for the Fall 2020 semester in the hopes that we could bring speakers and community together at that time. As it became increasingly clear that it would not be possible to host in-person events in the Fall 2020, this event was reimaged into four distinct webinars which were held in the Summer 2020. All but one of the original panelists were able to participate. Lastly, our third Feminisms Unbound panel, The Neoliberal University and Academic Feminism, was cancelled and postponed to the Fall 2020 semester. It was successfully rescheduled for September 2020 as a remote webinar.

GCWS planned a microseminar for Summer 2020 – Black American Women: From Slavery to #MeToo – taught by Dr. Linda Chavers (Harvard). This microseminar was shifted to a synchronous online format. This microseminar received over 50 applications from across all nine member institutions, which is more than any microseminar in the past has ever received. After leading the first lecture, Dr. Chavers was diagnosed with COVID-19 and hospitalized. We made the joint decision to cancel the rest of the microseminar. It is our intention to offer the microseminar to completion in Fall 2020. We will first offer the opportunity to the students who were originally accepted and then to students who applied but not accepted.

This year (2019-2020), we asked each member institution to re-sign a 5-year Memorandum of Agreement to support the work and mission of the GCWS. Only about half of the contracts were returned prior to switching to a remote work environment. The Program Manager worked with the appropriate offices and staff on each campus to have the rest of the contracts signed electronically. When campuses reopen, these contracts will be signed by the MIT Provost as the host institution. The GCWS Program Manager and Board of Representatives are grateful that each university has recommitted to the GCWS and look forward to offering interdisciplinary courses, events, and community in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies field for 2020-2025.

## The Mother Board & Past Faculty

The ‘Mother Board’ consists of the six founders, feminist faculty who conceptualized and brought the GCWS into existence: Carol Hurd Green (BC), Joyce Antler (Brandeis), Alice Jardine (Harvard), Ruth Perry (MIT), Laura Frader (NEU), and Christiane Romero (Tufts). We continue to rely on their institutional knowledge, insight, and expertise in feminist scholarship as the GCWS evolves. We draw on the Mother Board and other past faculty members as we continue to respond to the changing needs and opportunities within the field of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

## GCWS Mission Statement

The Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality housed at MIT brings together feminist scholars and teachers from nine Boston area institutions for the purpose of advancing interdisciplinary, intersectional feminist scholarship and teaching in the areas of women’s, gender, and sexuality studies. The consortium is committed to the following:

- Exploring the intersections of power and identity, including but not limited to gender, race, ethnicity, class, physical ability, nationality, religion, and language
- Cultivating collaborative intellectual communities across fields and disciplines
- Supporting innovative pedagogical practices
- Contributing to the professional development of students and faculty
- Providing a sustainable model of institutional collaboration

In line with the history of women’s studies, GCWS relies on shared expertise, wisdom, and vision to work toward a more just and equitable future for all people.

### Student comment:

“Dissertation Workshop exceeded my expectations on every count. Writing a dissertation is difficult and isolating and this course was helpful in several regards. There was a community of students and the leadership of Professor Zippel which provide support throughout the year. We used Slack to foster camaraderie and as an accountability platform. I benefited from everyone’s tenacity and dedication to their studies. We had a lot of fun and the professor kept us focused and on track.”

## 2019-2020 Courses

### **Workshop for Dissertation Writers in Women's and Gender Studies**

*Fall and Spring semesters: Wednesdays 5:30-8:30 PM*

*September 4, 2019 – April 6, 2020*

Kathrin Zippel, Department of Sociology, Northeastern University

### **Feminist Inquiry**

*Fall semester: Thursdays, 3:30-6:30PM*

*September 5, 2019 – December 19, 2019*

Chris Bobel, Associate Professor, Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, UMass Boston

Sonia Hofkosh, Associate Professor, Department of English, Tufts University

### **Revolutions in Family, Gender, and Sexuality**

*Fall semester, Fridays, 9:00AM-12:00PM*

*September 6, 2019 – December 13, 2019*

Karen V. Hansen, Professor, Department of Sociology and Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies & Director of Women's Studies Research Center, Brandeis University

Marilynn S. Johnson, Professor, Department of History, Boston College

### **Women in South Asia: Religion, Gender, Culture, and Sexuality**

*Spring semester: Tuesdays, 3:00-6:00PM*

*January 28, 2020 – May 5, 2020*

Ayesha Irani, Assistant Professor, Department of Asian Studies, UMass Boston

Harleen Singh, Associate Professor, Programs in South Asian Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Brandeis University

### **The Politics of Madness: Gender, Postcoloniality, and Psychiatry through Film and Theory**

*Spring semester: Thursdays, 1:00-4:00PM*

*January 30, 2020 – April 30, 2020*

Emilie Diouf, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Brandeis University

Emily Fox-Kales, Clinical Psychologist, Department of Psychiatry, Harvard University

#### **Faculty comment:**

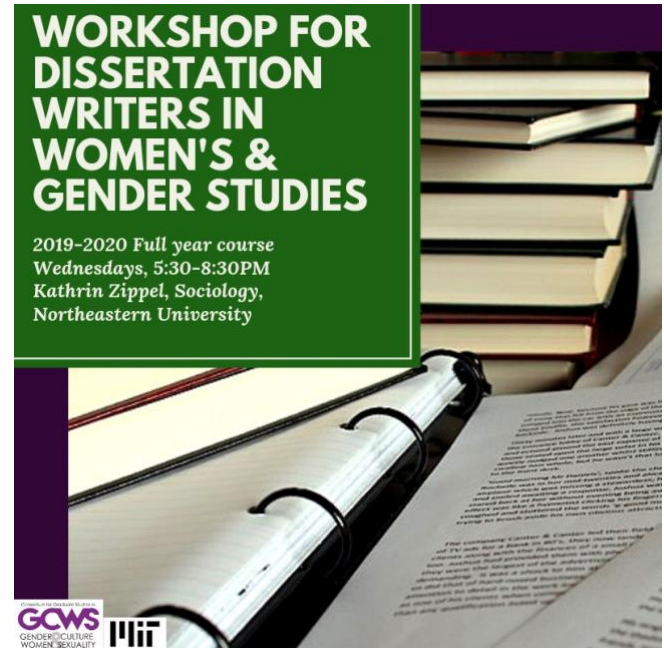
**"I truly enjoyed working with my co-instructor on this course. We complemented each other remarkably well in terms of our areas of expertise and worked well together on grading and other aspects of student supervision. I would certainly consider teaching again with the GCWS, either this course or another course all together."**

## Workshop for Dissertation Writers in Women's and Gender Studies

*Fall and Spring semesters:  
Wednesdays 5:30-8:30 PM  
September 4, 2019 – April 29, 2020*

The workshop will provide dissertators in interdisciplinary women's and gender studies a collaborative environment to pursue their writing goals. We will use different formats: Students will present work-in-progress and receive peer review. We will have some readings and guest speakers to discuss challenges in writing a dissertation and preparing publications, as well as methodological and theoretical issues of interdisciplinary feminist research. We will also discuss and practice techniques for presenting conference papers, publishing articles, and preparing for the academic job market. The workshop has several goals:

1. to address challenges in the conception and completion of a dissertation;
2. to explore the methodological and theoretical issues involved in discipline-based and interdisciplinary feminist research;
3. to learn about and practice writing and editing techniques such as story boarding, reverse outlining, and to discuss how to convert chapters to publishable articles;
4. to address disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and broader audiences without losing one's (feminist) voice;
5. to establish a regular writing routine with accountability and peer encouragement.



### Faculty comment:

**"I loved teaching this workshop. The students were highly engaged. I learned so much about their work and process and it was eye-opening to me! Additionally, the students adapted very quickly to the online nature, I believe this was due to the fact that they had already built up a very tight community."**

### Faculty

**Kathrin Zippel** is Professor of Sociology at Northeastern University. She has published on gender politics in the workplace, public and social policy, social movements, welfare states, and globalization in the United States and Europe. Her book, *The Politics of Sexual Harassment in the United States, the European Union and Germany*, (Cambridge University Press) won several awards.

Her current research explores gender and global transformations of science and education. In her

book, *Women in Global Science: Advancing Careers Through International Collaboration* (Stanford University Press), she argues that global science is the new frontier for women, providing both opportunities and challenges as gender shapes the dynamics and practices of international research. She directs a NSF- funded interdisciplinary network analysis to study the diffusion of ideas on gender equity interventions among U.S. Universities.

Zippel is a co-chair of the Social Exclusion and Inclusion Seminar at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies Harvard University and was a residential fellow at the Women and Public Policy Program at the Harvard Kennedy School. She served as co-PI of Northeastern's National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation grant. She held a Humboldt Research fellowship at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne and the Ludwig-Maximilians-University in Munich; was a guest at Radboud University, Nijmegen, the WZB Social Science Research Center in Berlin, and the European University Institute in Florence. Zippel received a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and was a post-doc at the European Union Center of New York at Columbia University.



## Feminist Inquiry

*Fall semester: Thursdays, 3:30-6:30PM  
September 5, 2019 – December 19, 2019*

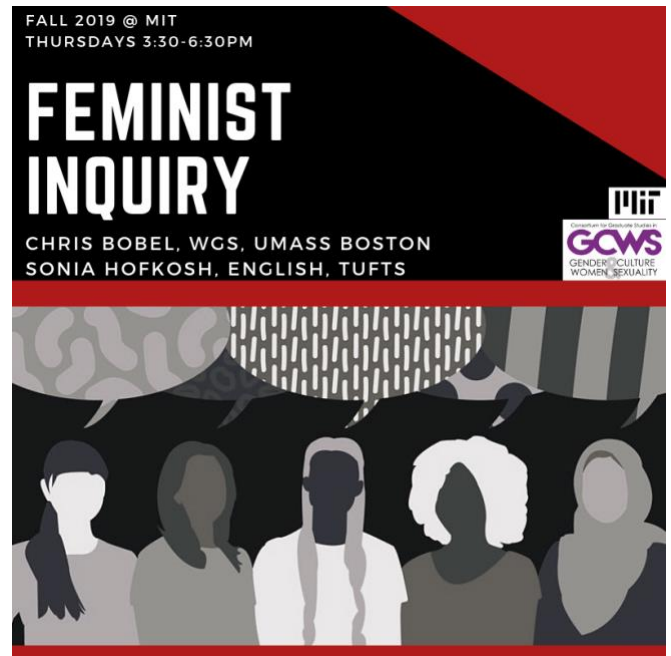
This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of ways of feminist thinking, knowing, listening, and speaking in the interest of producing scholarship that instigates change. Together we will grapple with feminist approaches, theories, and epistemologies that form the intellectual bases necessary to conduct feminist research both within and across the disciplines.

Given the range and diversity of feminist inquiry, the course will not attempt to survey the field but will instead offer an opportunity to look closely at a carefully curated selection of key writing—some influential, ‘classic’ articulations and some more current, ‘cutting edge’ work that takes up, contests, or reformulates the questions that shape feminist scholarship, a body of knowledge that continues to evolve in new directions, addressing a variety of urgent issues even as it probes its own history.

### Faculty

**Chris Bobel** is Associate Professor of Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her scholarship lies at the intersection of social movements, gender, health, embodiment, and a new area---trauma and grief. Her most recent monograph is the book *The Managed Body: Developing Girls and Menstrual Health in the Global South*.

**Sonia Hofkosh** is Associate Professor of English at Tufts University, where she teaches 19th Century Anglophone literature, Feminist Science Fictions, and the intersection of literary, visual, and material culture. She is the author of *Sexual Politics and the Romantic Author*, co-editor of *Romanticism, Race, and Imperial Culture 1780-1834*, and editor of a forthcoming volume on Mary Wollstonecraft and the persistence of feminism.

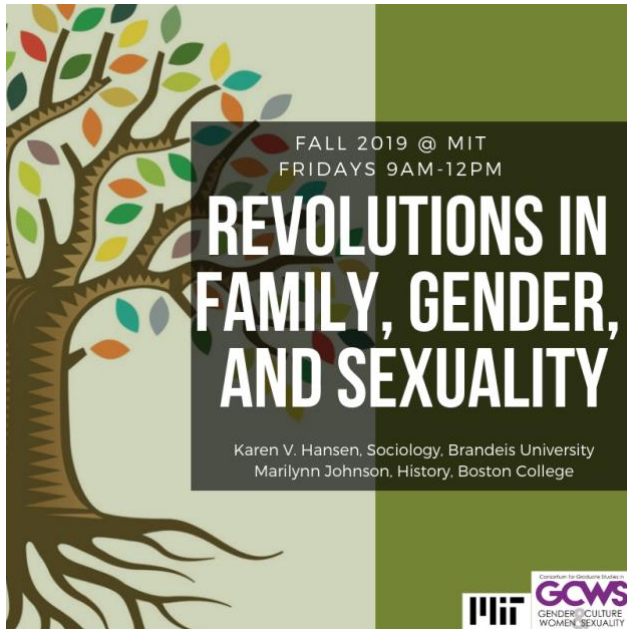


### Student comment:

“I really appreciated hearing such a range of perspectives and insight into how other disciplines discuss or address the topics we read about. I also liked that the syllabus was similarly a range of approaches to feminist inquiry, written by writers coming from different fields as well.”

## Revolutions in Family, Gender, and Sexuality

Fall semester: Fridays, 9:00AM-12:00PM  
September 6, 2019 – December 13, 2019



This course examines the intersecting transformations in the meanings and possibilities of kinship and family life. Bringing history and sociology into conversation, the seminar grounds its inquiry in the United States, from the colonial period to the present. Through this lens, we will explore crucial interactions between economic and political structures and changing notions of gender, sexuality, caregiving, work patterns, and relationships between family members. Taking an intersectional approach, we will examine families over time and across groups, considering how gender, race/ethnicity, class, and sexuality shape their dynamics. We will explore dominant family ideologies and practices but also alternative forms--from the Oneida community's experimentation with

Christian communism and group marriage in the mid-nineteenth century to twenty-first century marriage equality and "equal regard families."

### Faculty

**Karen V. Hansen** researches the intersection of kinship, community, and inequalities. At Brandeis University she is Professor of Sociology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Director of the Women's Studies Research Center. Her most recent book is *Encounter on the Great Plains: Scandinavian Settlers and the Dispossession of Dakota Indians, 1890-1930*.

**Marilynn S. Johnson** is Professor of History at Boston College where she teaches modern US urban and social history. She has published several books including, most recently, *The New Bostonians: How Immigrants Have Transformed the Metro Area Since the 1960s* (2015). She now directs a digital history project called Global Boston, which explores and documents immigration history in greater Boston.

### Student Comment:

"The course brought together historical in-depth and sociological debates which was a very inspirational way of understanding change in American family as well as its intersection with race and class."

## Women in South Asia: Religion, Gender, Culture, and Sexuality

Spring semester: Thursdays, 3:00 – 6:00PM  
 January 28, 2020 – May 5, 2020

This course examines women in South Asian history through the intersections of women's lives with religion, colonialism, and postcolonial culture. Using historical, literary, and anthropological lenses the course will consider how various institutions of authority—patriarchy, religion, and the state—have shaped and continue to reshape gender in South Asia, and how women, in turn, resisted, interpreted and negotiated their position in society. Women continue to be a sign of South Asia's "backwardness," but serve simultaneously as a symbolic upon which ideas of modernity are debated. Thus, how women are imagined is often at the core of how nationhood is defined and desired in South Asia.

Adopting a chronological (ancient to modern South Asia) and theoretical approach built on examples from literature, film, religious scripture, theological commentaries, and colonial history, this course will explore the following themes: the representation of women in religious texts; the comparative constructions of women and their roles across South Asian cultural traditions; women and the caste system; the goddess traditions, and the question of political and social empowerment; gender segregation; devotion and desire; conceptions of male honor and female chastity, with reference to bride-burning and prostitution; rites of passage, e.g. those relating to puberty, marriage, and widowhood; reformism in the colonial period and its impact on women; and women, nationalism, and fundamentalism.

### Faculty

**Ayesha Irani** is Assistant Professor of Asian Studies at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. Her forthcoming monograph, *The Muhammad Avatāra: Salvation History, Translation and the Making of Bengali Islam*, examines the role of vernacular translation in the Islamization of Bengal.

**Harleen Singh** is Associate Professor of South Asian Literature and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis University. She is the author of *The Rani of Jhansi: Gender, History, and Fable in India* (2014). She teaches courses on the Novel from South Asia, Indian Film, Immigrant Literature, Colonialism, and Postcolonial Feminist Theory.



### Women in South Asia: Religion, Gender, Culture, & Sexuality

Spring 2020 Tuesdays 3:00-6:00PM  
 Harleen Singh, Literature & WGS, Brandeis  
 Ayesha Irani, Asian Studies, UMass Boston



### Student comment:

**"The faculty team were extremely inspiring and their enthusiasm for the topic and the support of their students shines through constantly. They were always available and happy to help to work on whatever I needed and I am very happy I was able to learn from them this semester."**

## The Politics of Madness: Gender, Postcoloniality, and Psychiatry Through Film and Theory

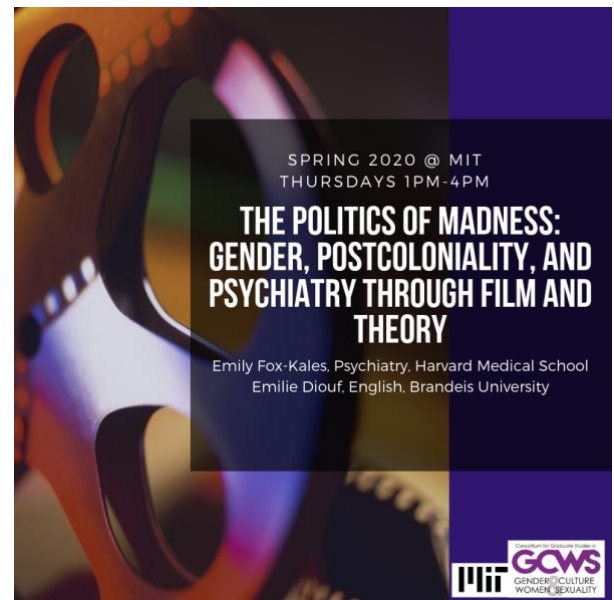
Spring semester, Thursdays 1:00-4:00PM  
January 30, 2020 – April 30, 2020

This course will bring together conceptual tools from postcolonial African literature and theory, clinical psychology, and feminist film studies. We will ask how diagnostic categories become gendered, and how women's psychosexual development might be thought of in cross-and trans-cultural terms. Specifically, by putting into dialogue media representations and scholarly analyses from two culture zones, the US and Africa, we will investigate the clinical issues surrounding trauma, spirit possession, hysteria, and body image disturbances as well as colonialism and its impact on African psychiatric discourse. Key questions we will address include: How does the practice of psychiatry in two different cultures both perpetuate and destabilize patriarchal narratives of the woman's psyche? And how might such interrogations in turn enable intersectional approaches to social policy and clinical practice? Our aim is to enable an interdisciplinary conversation about psychopathology in relationship to gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, diaspora, and postcoloniality.

### Faculty

**Emily Fox-Kales** is a clinical psychologist who specializes in the history and treatment of eating disorders in the Department of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. She has also served on the faculty of Northeastern University teaching feminist media studies and is the author of *Body Shots: Hollywood and the Culture of Eating Disorders*. Emily has served as the Film Editor for the journal *Gender and Psychoanalysis*. Currently, she is also a Visiting Scholar at the Women's Research Study Center at Brandeis University.

**Emilie Diouf** is an Assistant Professor of English at Brandeis University. She specializes in Anglophone and Francophone postcolonial African literatures and film with an emphasis on gender, feminist theory, trauma and cultural memory. Her publications have focused on the interdisciplinary study of the relationship between narrative, trauma, and humanitarianism. She is currently working on a book that examines testimonial narratives of political violence and forced displacement by women writers from Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda. It investigates how these writers use trauma testimony to bring to the fore the psychosocial effects of gendered violence across the enmeshed histories of political violence across the Great Lakes Region. The book ultimately seeks to highlight strategies of narrative witnessing that problematize the humanitarian mechanisms set in place to address gendered violence in the region.



### Student comment:

"I loved the breadth of readings that I've been exposed to while in this class. I appreciate that the class itself is entirely based on our interpretations and questions of the films and readings that we're assigned, it's up to us to put in the effort to ensure the conversations are productive."



## Breakdown of Student Enrollment for all GCWS Courses

### Institution data

|                         | Applied | Accepted | Completed |
|-------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Boston College          | 7       | 7        | 4         |
| Boston University       | 11      | 9        | 7         |
| Brandeis University     | 12      | 12       | 12        |
| Harvard University      | 8       | 6        | 3         |
| MIT                     | 6       | 4        | 0         |
| Northeastern University | 5       | 5        | 5         |
| Simmons University      | 8       | 8        | 7         |
| Tufts University        | 12      | 10       | 5         |
| UMass Boston            | 13      | 12       | 8         |
| Other                   | 4       | 3        | 2         |
| Totals                  | 86      | 76       | 53        |

### Disciplines of students who completed a course

|  |    |  |   |
|--|----|--|---|
| American Studies   | 4  | Near Eastern & Judaic Studies          | 1 |
| Anthropology   | 2  | Organizations in Social Change         | 1 |
| Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance | 1  | Philosophy                             | 2 |
| Criminology & Justice                                      | 1  | Policy & Global Studies                | 1 |
| Curriculum & Instruction                                   | 1  | Political Science                      | 2 |
| Design   | 1  | Religion                               | 1 |
| Divinity   | 1  | Sociology                              | 6 |
| English  | 13 | Social Public Policy                   | 2 |
| Expressive Therapy   | 1  | Special Education                      | 1 |
| Gender and Cultural Studies                                | 5  | Technology, Innovation, Education      | 1 |
| Global Inclusion & Social Development                      | 1  | Theology                               | 1 |
| History  | 3  | Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies | 5 |
| International Relations                                    | 1  |  |   |

## Breakdown of Faculty Participants in all GCWS Courses

### By Institution

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| Boston College          | 1 |
| Boston University       | 0 |
| Brandeis University     | 3 |
| Harvard University      | 1 |
| MIT                     | 0 |
| Northeastern University | 1 |
| Simmons University      | 0 |
| Tufts University        | 1 |
| UMass Boston            | 2 |
| <br>                    |   |
| Total Teaching Faculty  | 9 |

### By Discipline

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Asian Studies                             | 1 |
| English                                   | 2 |
| History                                   | 1 |
| Psychiatry                                | 1 |
| Sociology                                 | 2 |
| South Asian Literature                    | 1 |
| Women's, Gender, and Sexuality<br>Studies | 3 |

## 2019-2020 Microseminars

In 2016-2017, GCWS launched a pilot program for the academic year: graduate level microseminars in topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. They were popular and engaging for faculty and students alike during the pilot program and were thus extended this academic year.

Microseminars are five-week, un-graded, reading, writing, and discussion-based graduate seminars that explore feminist, queer, or other gender and sexuality related lines of inquiry. They provide students and instructors the opportunity to delve into ideas not covered in existing courses at their home institutions. Seminars are open to member institution graduate students, seniors in WGS or a related major, and to faculty. Seminars meet for two hours each week.

### Microseminar Topics

#### Fall 2019 Semester

##### **Sapphic TALES: Re-Making Sappho Through Comparative Media**

Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 PM

October 9, 2019 – November 6, 2019

Faculty: Vassiliki Rapti, Ludics Seminar Co-Chair, Harvard University

Meets at: MIT

#### Summer 2020 Semester (Cancelled)

##### **Black American Women: From Slavery to #MeToo**

Tuesdays, 1:00-3:00 PM

June 16, 2020 – July 14, 2020

Faculty: Linda Chavers, African & African American Studies, Harvard University

Held remotely via Zoom

## Sapphic TALES: Re-Making Sappho Through Comparative Media

Fall 2019

Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00PM

October 9, 2019 – November 6, 2019

Meets at: MIT

“Sapphic TALES” aims to become a lab of radical thinking and cross-pollination revolving around gender and female sexual fluidity apropos of Sappho. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in conversation with leading experts on Sappho and to “translate” her fragments into their own favorite medium and theoretical framework that will be displayed in a collective exhibition with the final “projects-translations.” Participants will think and walk alongside Sappho of Lesbos, the great female lyric poet of Antiquity. Whether seen as a feminist heroine, a queer role model, or as the first innovative female voice who stood up for herself and created the first school for young women, she has become a “field” in its own. This course will address these issues and the controversy surrounding her life and work through a close analysis of her fragments and their variegated reception over the centuries in various media. It will draw on the scholarship of noted Sappho scholars such as Claude Calame, Anne Carson, and Judith Butler and challenge participants to “translate” Sappho’s legacy into their own theoretical frame and medium.

### Faculty

**Vassiliki Rapti** is the Ludics Seminar Co-Chair at Harvard University. Dr. Rapti's publications and research interests center upon Modern Greek literature, avant-garde theatre and performance, especially surrealist drama and the poetics of play and games. She also extensively teaches on topics relevant to Greek literature, the reception of Greek tragedy, Greek mythology, Modern Greek poetry, comparative drama, literary theory, world drama and literature, and the Olympic Games as a major civilizing agent.

Sapphic TALES:  
Re-Making Sappho  
Through Comparative  
Media

A GCWS MICROSEMINAR WHICH AIMS TO BECOME A LAB OF RADICAL THINKING AND CROSS-POLLINATION REVOLVING AROUND GENDER AND FEMALE SEXUAL FLUIDITY APROPOS OF SAPPHO



Email  
gcws@mit.edu for  
more info or to  
apply

### Student comment:

“The course subject matter is different from anything offered in my undergraduate or Masters courses; it’s a wonderful combination of transmedia and creative writing that doesn’t exist in any program I’ve seen.”



## Black American Women: From Slavery to #MeToo

Tuesdays 1:00-3:00 PM

June 16, 2020 – July 14, 2020

Meets remote via Zoom, synchronous learning

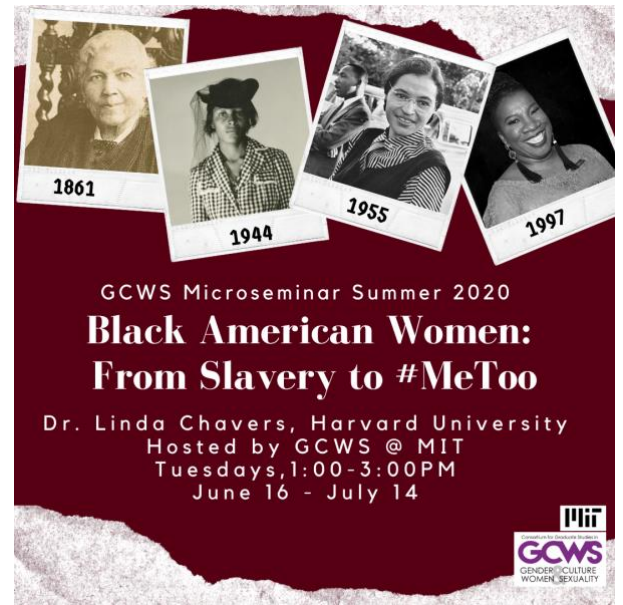
Note: This microseminar was cancelled after the first session as the faculty leader was diagnosed with COVID-19 and hospitalized. When possible, this will be rescheduled.

What would happen if we re-examined the history of American slavery? And by “re-examine” I mean tear it apart. What threads could we pull about gender, sex and power? This course employs Harriet Jacobs’s slave narrative, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, as a lens through which to engage in the current discourses around sexual harassment and assault in the #MeToo movement. Both texts involve navigating spaces of subjugation and patriarchal supremacy though one voice remains steadily outside the mainstream. We will also look at the intersections of race and gender that *Incidents* reveals and trace how these remain intact or not through today.

Though *Incidents* will serve as the primary text through which to read and discuss all other topics another important text will be Danielle McGuire’s *At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape, and Resistance--A New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to the Rise of Black Power*. Finally, the course will conclude with Gayl Jones’s work of fiction, *Corregidora*, and examine the legacies of sexual trauma. We will also perform cursory secondary readings on the current commentary on #MeToo. These primary and secondary readings are paired so as to read the contemporary with the past in real time.

### Faculty

**Linda Chavers** is the Allston Burr Resident Dean of Winthrop House and Assistant Dean of Harvard College and a Lecturer in the department of African and African American Studies at Harvard. She completed her PhD in African American Studies with a focus on literature in 2013 from Harvard University. She specializes in 20th and 21st century fiction and the written narratives of enslaved black women. Her dissertation examines interracial themes in the literature of Richard Wright and William Faulkner. She writes essays and memoir for various publications such as *Gawker*, *Dame*, *Elle*, *The Offing* and *Rumpus*.



## Breakdown of Student Participants in all GCWS Microseminars

Note: The Completed column only represents those who were in the Sapphic Tales microseminar.

### By Institution

|                         | Applied | Accepted | Completed |
|-------------------------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Boston College          | 4       | 3        | 0         |
| Boston University       | 12      | 7        | 1         |
| Brandeis University     | 10      | 4        | 2         |
| Harvard University      | 9       | 2        | 2         |
| MIT                     | 4       | 3        | 2         |
| Northeastern University | 3       | 2        | 0         |
| Simmons University      | 4       | 2        | 0         |
| Tufts University        | 4       | 4        | 1         |
| UMass Boston            | 9       | 4        | 1         |
| Other                   | 8       | 6        | 4         |
| Totals                  | 67      | 37       | 13        |

### By Discipline

|                         |   |   |   |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|
| Aero/Astro              | 1 | Global Inclusion and Social Development | 1 |
| American Studies        | 1 | Materials Science & Engineering         | 1 |
| Anthropology            | 1 | Performance Studies                     | 2 |
| Architecture            | 2 | Public Administration                   | 1 |
| Classical Studies       | 1 | Romance Studies                         | 1 |
| Divinity Studies        | 1 | Social Policy and Management            | 1 |
| English                 | 8 | Social Work                             | 2 |
| Gastronomy              | 1 | Sociology                               | 3 |
| Gender/Cultural Studies | 1 | WGSS                                    | 3 |

## 2019-2020 Workshops, Events, and Initiatives

### The Mother Board Writing Prize

In 2006-2007, the GCWS Board proposed an annual student support initiative: The Mother Board Writing Prize. The Prize commemorates the founders of the GCWS: carrying on the spirit of intellectual leadership that the Mother Board modeled when they created the GCWS in 1992. It is awarded annually for outstanding student research and writing in the field of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. All graduate students matriculated in GCWS member institutions and who have taken or are currently taking a GCWS seminar are eligible for this prize.

The 2019-2020 prize was awarded to the following student:

Ateeb Gul, PhD candidate, Religion specializing in Islamic Studies, Boston University  
Paper title: *Early Muslim Responses to the Child Marriage Restraint Act 1929*

An honorable mention was also awarded to:

Marion Boulicault, PhD candidate, Philosophy, MIT  
Paper title: *Gender and the Measurement of Fertility*

This year's prize committee included:

- Freeden Blume Oeur, Tufts University
- Denise Horn, Simmons University
- Sandra McEvoy, Boston University

## Feminist Intellectuals Reception

*September 26, 2019*

*More than Words Bookstore, Boston*

Following our mission to build a feminist intellectual community across disciplines and institutions in the Greater Boston Area, GCWS hosted its annual Feminist Intellectuals Reception. This year we moved the event to the fall semester in order to welcome faculty back to the area and offer a social and engaging event to start the year. We hosted the event off-campus in order to provide a more social, inviting, and informal atmosphere. The GCWS Executive Committee, board members, and former faculty spoke at the event in order to inform attendees about the Consortium, benefits of participating, how teaching improved their pedagogy, and how to get involved.

This reception is normally hosted once a year in order to nourish conversation among the diverse faculty communities at our member schools. It is open to faculty from any discipline who do work or have an interest in how their work intersects with Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. This event was attended by more than 60 faculty members who represented all nine of our member institutions. The reception provided faculty the opportunity to make new research and teaching connections and foster existing connections.

Additionally, this event promoted and recognized books written by faculty members within GCWS member institutions. Faculty members who had published in 2015 or later were able to display and discuss their books. All books revolved around themes that were compatible with the mission of GCWS and focused on topics such as gender, sexuality, race, and class among others. More than 15 books and authors were recognized at this event. These books were also added to the list of publications, by title and category, on the GCWS website (<https://gcws.mit.edu/publications>).

**YOU ARE INVITED:  
GCWS FEMINIST INTELLECTUALS  
RECEPTION**

Start the 2019-2020 academic year with other feminist faculty from across the Consortium. Welcome old friends back from summer break and meet new faculty within and outside your discipline!

**THURSDAY 9/26/2019  
6:00-8:00PM  
MORE THAN WORDS BOOKSTORE  
(242 E BERKLEY STREET, BOSTON MA 02118)**

RSVP at [tinyurl.com/gcwsfacultyrsvp](http://tinyurl.com/gcwsfacultyrsvp) or to [gcws@mit.edu](mailto:gcws@mit.edu)

Please share this invitation with any colleagues you think would be interested. If you have recently published a book, please let us know so we can promote it at the event!

MORE INFO AT OUR WEBSITE: [GCWS.MIT.EDU](http://GCWS.MIT.EDU)





**Books and authors included:**

**Bettina Stoetzer – MIT**

*Ruderal Ecologies: Rethinking Nature, Migration, and the Urban Landscape in Berlin* in *Cultural Anthropology* 33(2), pp 295-323 (2018)

**Caroline Light – Harvard University**

*Stand Your Ground: A History of America's Love Affair with Lethal Self Defense* (2017)

**Chris Bobel – UMass Boston**

*The Managed Body: Developing Girls and Menstrual Health in the Global South* (2019)  
*Body Battlegrounds: Transgressions, Tensions, and Transformation* (2019)

**Cinzia Solari – UMass Boston**

*On the Shoulders of Grandmothers: Gender, Migration, and Post-Soviet Nation-State Building* (2018)

**Elora Halim Chowdhury – UMass Boston**

*Interdisciplinary Approaches to Human Rights* (2018)

**Gillian MacNaughton – UMass Boston**

*Economic and Social Rights in a Neoliberal World* (2018)

**C. Heike Schotten – UMass Boston**

*Queer Terror: Life, Death, and Desire in the Settler Colony* (2018)

**Jennifer Cazenave – Boston University**

*An Archive of the Catastrophe: The Unused Footage of Claude Lanzmann's Shoah* (2019)

**Laura Huang – Harvard University**

*Edge: Turning Adversity into Advantage* (2020)

**Leigh Gilmore – Wellesley College**

*Witnessing Girlhood: Toward an Intersectional Tradition of Life Writing* (2019)

**Lynne Byall Benson – UMass Boston**

*Moxie and a Good Sense of Balance: Nancy Drew and the Power of the Teenage Girl* (2018)

**Madeline Caviness – Tufts University**

*Women and Jews in the Sachsenspiegel Picture-Books* (2019)

**Meredith Reiches – UMass Boston**

*Reproductive justice and the history of prenatal supplementation: Ethics, birth spacing, and a 'priority infant' model in The Gambia in Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society (2019)*

**Myra Marx Ferree – Harvard University**

*Gender: Ideas, Interactions, Institutions (2014)*

**Sandra McEvoy – Boston University**

*Oxford Handbook of Global LGBT and Sexual Diversity Politics (2020)*

**Shoshanna Ehrlich – UMass Boston**


*Abortion Regret: The New Attack on Reproductive Freedom (2019)*

## Doing Feminisms in Troubled Times: Rage, Respectability, and Resistance

October 29, 2019  
Northeastern University

We live in troubled times, in a moment that has challenged what it means to do feminist work across intellectual fields and geopolitical spaces. Gender and sexuality studies programs and departments across the globe are facing increasing opposition, and have become key ideological sites upon which citizens and governments are waging political wars about free speech and the place of higher education in our world today. This panel engaged how we think about our political present using feminist methods. It focused on key issues of rage, respectability, and resistance, panelists critically addressed what it means to write scholarship focused on feminist methods, race, and/or xenophobia, in a moment of profound uncertainty for students and faculty who focus on gender and sexuality in work across academic disciplines. Are there norms of respectability that define feminist work in the academy today, and if so, how might we work against normative structures? What is the place of feminist rage to fight against critical issues that affect marginalized and excluded peoples? What forms of resistance might we engage to produce change in our current political climate?

The panel addressed a range of critiques of feminist and gender studies, from debates about triggers in the classroom to white supremacist condemnations of feminist, queer and anti-racist intellectual work. In discussion with the audience they discussed what it means to teach feminist scholarship today, and how we might utilize feminist and queer intellectual work to create substantive social and political change in a time of precariousness and unease.



DOING FEMINISMS IN TROUBLED TIMES:  
RAGE, RESPECTABILITY, AND RESISTANCE

A panel and discussion for WGS  
and feminist-minded faculty

October 29, 2019  
5-7pm

Northeastern  
College of Social Sciences and Humanities  
Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies

GCWS  
GENDER & CULTURE  
WOMEN & SEXUALITY


Northeastern  
College of Social Sciences and Humanities  
Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies

Moderated by Denise M. Horn, Simmons University

Saher Selod,  
Simmons University

Sarah J. Jackson,  
University of Pennsylvania

Carla Kaplan,  
Northeastern University



### **Panelists:**

#### **Sarah J. Jackson, Presidential Associate Professor, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania**

Sarah J. Jackson is a Presidential Associate Professor in the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania. She studies how media, journalism, and technology are used by and represent marginalized publics, with a focus on communication by and about Black and feminist activists. Her first book *Black Celebrity, Racial Politics, and the Press* (Routledge 2014) examines the relationship between Black celebrity activism, journalism, and American politics. Her new book *Hashtag Activism: Networks of Race and Gender Justice* (MIT Press 2020) focuses on the use of Twitter in contemporary social movements. Her work has appeared in the *Journal of Communication*, the *International Journal of Press Politics*, and *Feminist Media Studies*, among others. Jackson is frequently called on as an expert by local and national media outlets including NPR, PBS, the Associated Press, and the *New York Times*. A founding member of the Center for Critical Race and Digital Studies, Jackson also sits on the board of the Social Science Research Council's Disinformation Research Mapping Initiative. She was a Fall 2018 fellow in the Harvard Kennedy School Shorenstein Center for Media, Politics and Public Policy, a Faculty Associate at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society, and is a 2019 New America National Fellow. Before joining the Annenberg faculty, Jackson was an associate professor of Communication Studies at Northeastern University. She holds a Ph.D. in Mass Communication from the University of Minnesota and a M.A. in Communication from the University of Michigan.

#### **Saher Selod, Associate Professor, Sociology, Simmons University**

Saher Selod is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Simmons University. She joined the Department of Sociology in 2012 after completing her PhD at Loyola University Chicago. Her research interests are in race and ethnicity, gender and religion. Her research examines how Muslim Americans experience racialization in the United States. Her book *Forever Suspect: Racialized Surveillance of Muslim Americans in the War on Terror* (Rutgers University Press 2018) examines how Muslim men and Muslim women experience gendered forms of racialization through their surveillance by the state and by private citizens. She has published several articles in journals like *Sociology Compass*, the *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, and *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. She is currently on the editorial board of *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

**Carla Kaplan, Professor, English and Gender Studies, Chair of Editorial Board of *Signs: A Journal of Women in Culture & Society*, Northeastern University**

Carla Kaplan is a Professor of English and Gender Studies and the Chair of the Editorial Board of *Signs: A Journal of Women in Culture & Society*. Professor Kaplan has published five books, including the award-winning *Miss Anne in Harlem: The White Women of the Black Renaissance* and *Zora Neale Huston: A Life in Letters*, both New York Times Notable Books. She writes occasionally for the Los Angeles Times, the New York Times, and The Nation. Kaplan has been a resident fellow at numerous humanities centers and institutions, including the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York City Public Library, the W.E.B. DuBois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University, and the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities. She is a recipient of several most-prestigious research, teaching, and public service fellowships, including the Guggenheim and the National Endowment of the Humanities “Public Scholar” Award.

**Moderated by:**

**Denise M. Horn, Associate Professor and Chair, Political Science and International Relations and Women’s and Gender Studies, Simmons University**

Denise M. Horn is an Associate Professor and Chair of Political Science and International Relations and Associate Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies at Simmons University. She is the author of *Democratic Governance and Social Entrepreneurship: Civic Participation and the Future of Democracy* (Routledge 2013) and *Women, Civil Society and the Geopolitics of Democratization* (Routledge 2010). Dr. Horn is an International Relations scholar, whose work explores the relationship of civil society development to democratic growth, focusing on women’s transnational activism and trends in global development strategies, such as social entrepreneurship. She has facilitated workshops in social entrepreneurship and community development in Thailand, Indonesia and India. Her current research focuses on the effects of US and Japanese family planning aid in Southeast Asia. Dr. Horn is a 2014 Fulbright Senior Scholar, where she conducted seminars in Democratization and Human Rights at Universitas Andalas, in West Sumatra, Indonesia. In fall 2018, Dr. Horn was a Visiting Associate Professor at Osaka University, Osaka, Japan. She currently serves on the editorial board for *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, and is the current Chair of the Feminist Theory and Gender Studies section of the International Studies Association.



## Feminisms Unbound

Feminisms Unbound is currently in its sixth year and continues to gain popularity as a panel series across the member institutions and the greater Boston feminist academic and activist communities. This series, organized by GCWS affiliated faculty, features debates that focus on feminist concerns, theories, and practices in this contemporary moment. The goal of Feminisms Unbound is to foster conversations and community among Boston-area feminist intellectuals and activists. The series, in its open configuration, endeavors to allow the greatest measure of engagement across multiple disciplinary trajectories, and a full array of feminist investments.

This year, we held two Feminisms Unbound panels and cancelled a third one due to COVID-19 in the Spring 2020 semester. The third Feminisms Unbound panel was rescheduled for September 2020. Over 100 people attended the two Feminisms Unbound panels that we held in 2019-2020, including faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, as well as members of the public.

The Feminisms Unbound series is curated by a faculty team, all of which are affiliated with a member institution. The current team includes **Kareem Khubchandani**, Mellon Bridge Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies and in the Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Tufts University; **Faith Smith**, Associate Professor of African and African American Studies and English at Brandeis University; and **Elora Chowdhury**, Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at UMass Boston.

### Feminisms Unbound Panel Discussions 2019-2020

Visual Cultures of Human Rights – October 8, 2019

- Aliyyah I. Abdur-Rahman, Associate Professor of American Studies and English, Brown University
- Brian Horton, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Brandeis University
- Joshua Williams, Assistant Professor Faculty Fellow of Drama, New York University
- Lily Mengesha, Fletcher Foundation Assistant Professor of Dramatic Literature, Tufts University
- Sandy Alexandre, Associate Professor of Literature, MIT
- Moderated by: Elora Chowdhury, Professor and Chair, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, UMass Boston

### Cyborg Manifestations – February 19, 2020

- Banu Subramaniam, Professor and Chair of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, UMass Amherst
- Eli Nelson, Assistant Professor of American Studies, Williams College
- Jina Kim, Assistant Professor of English Language & Literature and Study of Women & Gender, Smith College
- Kiran Asher, Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, UMass Amherst
- Mel Chen, Associate Professor of Gender & Women's Studies, Director for the Center for the Study of Sexual Culture, University of California, Berkeley
- Moderated by Kareem Khubchandani, Mellon Bridge Assistant Professor, Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Tufts University

### POSTPONED: The Neoliberal University and Academic Feminism

- Eng-Beng Lim, Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Dartmouth College
- Iyko Day, Associate Professor of English and Critical Social Thought, Mount Holyoke College
- Michelle Rowley, Associate Professor of Women's Studies, University of Maryland College Park
- Roderick Ferguson, Professor of Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Yale University
- Moderator: Faith Smith, Associate Professor of African & Afro-American Studies and English, Brandeis University

## Visual Cultures of Human Rights

October 8, 2019  
 MIT

Human rights discourse traditionally has been under the exclusive purview of legal studies, political science, and international relations. Increasingly, scholars in the humanities have entered the conversation, asking about the aesthetic, visual, and cultural renderings of human rights principles, rhetoric, and politics. A central tension in human rights discourse has been that of Euro-American civilizing missions citing the wretched conditions of racialized and minoritized populations as the legitimization to humanitarian interventions that frequently take the form of military, economic and other types of structural domination. Current discourses of human rights also make use of the language of moral superiority, protection, and benevolence. Paying close attention to the production and circulation of visual cultures, this forum invites critical perspectives on differential renderings of human lives, their political subjectivity and social desire.

We invite panelists to respond to the questions of how human rights narrations have evolved and been expressed through fictional imaginations in literature, film and visual culture. How can we conceptualize the ethico-politics of human rights in such a way that it cannot be reduced to humanitarian “right to intervene” in the affairs of others? What political interests drive state, civil society, and activist demands for censorship and representation over various narrations of human rights? How do literary, filmic, curatorial practices in museum and art exhibitions provide a space for critical reflection on human rights institutions and practice? How might memorializations and narrations have an immediate effect on the lifeworld of minority groups affected by human rights atrocities? While in the global intellectual arena, the scope of human rights seems only to justify a ‘crisis narration,’ rethinking its historical, aesthetic and political abstractions not only offers us a new avenue to imagine its many layers but can also provide us a productive scope to frame art, politics, agency and resistance.

2019-2020  
**VISUAL CULTURES OF HUMAN RIGHTS**  
 GCWS FEMINISMS UNBOUND  
**PANEL SERIES**  
 MODERATED BY  
**ELORA CHOWDHURY, UMass Boston**  
 Art by Ambreen Butt  
 "Daughter of the East"

October 8  
 6:00-8:00PM  
 MIT Building 4,  
 Room 237

Allyyah Abdur-Rahman,  
 Brown University

Brian Horton,  
 Brandeis University

Joshua Williams,  
 NYU

Lily Mengesha,  
 Tufts University

Sandy Alexandre,  
 MIT

Roundtable discussion participants:

**Aliyyah I. Abdur-Rahman, Associate Professor of American Studies and English, Brown University**

Aliyyah I. Abdur-Rahman is Associate Professor of American Studies and English at Brown University. A two-time winner of the Darwin T. Turner Award for Best Essay of the Year in *African American Review*, Abdur-Rahman has been awarded fellowships from the Ford Foundation, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the American Association of University Women, the Mellon Foundation, the W.E.B Du Bois Institute at Harvard University, and the JFK Institute at the Freie Universitaet, Berlin. Her scholarship has appeared or is forthcoming in *African American Review*, *GLQ*, *The Black Scholar*, *The Faulkner Journal*, *American Literary History*, *The James Baldwin Review*, among other scholarly journals and critical anthologies. Her first book, *Against the Closet: Black Political Longing and the Erotics of Race*, was published by Duke University Press. She is currently completing her second book, provisionally titled *Millennial Style: The Politics of Experiment in Contemporary African Diasporic Culture*.

**Brian Horton, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Brandeis University**

Brian Horton is a cultural anthropologist working at the intersections of queer studies, critical theory, popular culture, digital anthropology, and South Asian studies. His research projects broadly focus on sexual, gender, and racial minority subjects and the social worlds that they build at the interstices of recognition and discrimination. His current book project *Shimmers of the Fabulous: Reinventions of Queer Life and Politics in Mumbai* explores LGBTQ+ social and activist networks in Mumbai, analyzing how queer subjects seek out pleasure and fun amid moments of legal precarity and crisis. Dr. Horton's next project *Cannibalizing Race: Gossip, Rumor, and the Queer Life of Racism in Urban India* profiles African immigrants living in Mumbai, Delhi, and Bangalore. This project ties together Brian's scholarly commitments to queer studies with his interest in recent waves of migration from Africa to India. He considers the sexualized, chimerical, and queer fabulations that narratives of African migrants take on in South Asian popular culture and everyday gossip.

**Joshua Williams, Assistant Professor Faculty Fellow of Drama, NYU**

Joshua Williams is a writer, director, teacher and scholar currently serving as an Assistant Professor Faculty Fellow in the Drama Department at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. His academic research concerns the political figure of the animal in African theatre and performance. His articles, essays and reviews have appeared in *ASTR Online*, *Theatre Journal*, *The Johannesburg Salon*, *Theatre Survey*, *Performance Research*, *African Theatre*, *Modern Drama*, *Africa is a Country*, *HowlRound*, *Brittle Paper* and the *Los Angeles Review of Books*. He is also translating the complete plays of the Tanzanian playwright Ebrahim Hussein from Swahili into English for Oxford University Press. His own plays have been developed or produced at theatres across the country and abroad. [jdmwilliams.com](http://jdmwilliams.com)

### **Lily Mengesha, Tufts University**

Lilian (Lily) Mengesha is the Fletcher Foundation Assistant Professor of Dramatic Literature in Departments of Theatre, Dance and Performance Studies, and Race, Colonialism and Diaspora Studies at Tufts University. Her research focuses on questions of affect and spectatorship within the decolonial works of indigenous centered and feminist artists throughout North and Central America. This research has been supported by the MIT School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, the American Society for Theatre Research and the Cogut Center at Brown University. She is the co-editor of the 2019 special issue of *Women & Performance* on “Performing Refusal/ Refusing to Perform.” Her writing appears in *The Drama Review*, *Canadian Theatre Review* and *Women & Performance*.

### **Sandy Alexandre, Associate Professor of Literature, MIT**

Sandy Alexandre’s research spans the late nineteenth-century to present-day black American literature and culture. Her first book, *The Properties of Violence: Claims to Ownership in Representations of Lynching* (Mississippi 2012), considers how the history of American lynching violence helps us to understand how African-American literature engages matters concerning environmental racism, the American pastoral ideology, Black displacement, and the violence of inequality associated with property ownership. Alexandre is currently writing another book, *Freedom Things: Black Aspiration’s Tangibles After Slavery*, which explores the relationship between the history of chattel slavery and black desire. The book will take as its point of departure the premise that the former, enforced condition of black Americans as fungible merchandise can haunt, inform, and morally energize, to some extent, black desire and affinity for certain material objects. This book will explore how Black Americans create what Alexandre calls a “culture of significance” with material objects. Using literary analysis, studying material artifacts, and engaging the work of black collectors, Alexandre argues that such an improvised, curated, and eventually sacralized culture of subject-object relations constitutes an immanent critique of consumer capitalism. Overall, Alexandre’s work takes into serious account the ways in which an ecology—comprised of human characters, places, and inanimate things—is affected by and responds to the various instances of racial violence that mark the aggregate of U.S. history.

Moderated by:

### **Elora Chowdhury, Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Chair of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at University of Massachusetts Boston**

Elora Chowdhury is Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Chair of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at University of Massachusetts Boston. Her teaching and research interests include transnational feminisms, gender violence and human rights advocacy, narrative and film with an emphasis on South Asia. She is the author of *Transnationalism Reversed: Women Organizing Against Gendered Violence in Bangladesh* (2011), which was awarded the National Women's Studies Association Gloria Anzaldua book prize in 2012; and the co-edited volume (with Liz Philipose) *Dissident Friendships: Feminism, Imperialism and Transnational Solidarity* (2016). Currently she is working on a book project titled, *Transregional Filmscapes in South Asia: Borders, Encounters, Histories* (with Esha Niyogi De).



## Cyborg Manifestations

February 19, 2020  
 MIT

This panel invites scholars to consider the confluences between science and technology studies and gender and sexuality studies in their own research. Feminist, queer, and trans studies scholars attending to science, technology, environment, and disability are dismantling the rubrics of gender and body at the core of our fields in order to think more critically about the material conditions of living inside racial capitalism. For example: Donna Haraway’s cyborg troubles the distinctions between body and technology; Sylvia Wynter asks who can access categories of “man” and “human” under ongoing conditions of captivity; Kim Tallbear discusses indigenous epistemologies that trouble hegemonic distinctions between what is and is not alive; and Jasbir Puar implicates technological warfare in imperialist projects that disable nations and bodies. Science and technology studies not only turns us toward materiality, but also offers analytics to think through social and aesthetic phenomena: virtual, viral, cellular, toxic, and nuclear. Thinking at the interstices of machine and myth, flesh and data, and human, animal, plant, land, and spirit exposes more ways that bodies are governed, and imagines more possibilities for minoritarian subjects to steal away from surveillance. How are science and technology working to liberate and delimit gender and sexuality? How do empiricism and imagination work together? How do we facilitate interdisciplinary scholarship across the silos of the neoliberal campus?

### Roundtable discussion participants:

#### **Banu Subramaniam, Professor and Chair of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, UMass Amherst**

Banu Subramaniam is Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Author of *Holy Science: The Biopolitics of Hindu Nationalism* (University of Washington Press 2019); and *Ghost Stories for Darwin: The Science of Variation and the Politics of Diversity* (Illinois University Press 2014), Banu’s work seeks to engage the feminist studies of science in the practices of experimental biology.

**Eli Nelson, Assistant Professor of American Studies, Williams College**

Eli Nelson (Mohawk) is an Assistant Professor in American Studies at Williams College and Director of Fellowships at the Center for Black, Brown, and Queer Studies. He got his PhD in History of Science at Harvard University in 2018. He works on the history of Native science, critical Indigenous theory, Indigenous science fiction and futurism, and gender and sexuality.

**Jina Kim, Assistant Professor of English Language & Literature and of the Study of Women & Gender, Smith College**

Jina B. Kim is Assistant Professor of English and the Study of Women and Gender at Smith College. Her research and teaching interests emerge from the intersection of critical disability studies, feminist-of-color/ queer-of-color critique, and contemporary ethnic U.S. literature, and her manuscript-in-progress examines the discourse of public dependency in the literary-cultural afterlife of 1996 US welfare reform. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Signs: Journal of Women and Culture in Society*, *Disability Studies Quarterly*, *Lateral: Journal of the Cultural Studies Association*, *Disability Studies and the Environmental Humanities* (University of Nebraska Press), and *Asian American Literature in Transition* (Cambridge University Press).

**Kiran Asher, Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, UMass Amherst**

Kiran Asher is a biologist-turned-social scientist with three decades of field-based research on wildlife conservation, international development, and struggles for social change in Latin America and South Asia. Her publications include a monograph, *Black and Green: Afro-Colombians, Development, and Nature in the Pacific Lowlands* (Duke University Press, 2009). She is currently working on a book entitled *Fieldwork: Nature, Culture, and Gender in the Age of Climate Change*, which foregrounds the complex and contradictory intertwining of natural-cultural worlds, and the challenges these pose for 21st-century struggles for environmental and social justice. In 2021, she will return to India on a Fulbright-Nehru fellowship to understand the gendered effects on pastoral communities in Kutch as they rapidly integrate into the region's cash economy.

**Mel Y. Chen, Associate Professor of Gender & Women's Studies and Director for the Center for the Study of Sexual Culture, University of California, Berkeley**

Mel Y. Chen is Associate Professor of Gender & Women's Studies and Director for the Center for the Study of Sexual Culture at U.C. Berkeley. In Spring 2020, they are in residence as F.O. Mathiessen Visiting Professor of Gender and Sexuality at Harvard University, and in 2018-19 served as Robert Sterling Clark Visiting Professor at Williams College. Since their 2012 book, *Animacies: Biopolitics, Racial Mattering, and Queer Affect*, Chen has been working toward completing a book project concerning intoxication's role in the interanimation of race and disability in histories and legacies of the transnational 19th century as well as in current schemes of securitization. Elsewhere, Chen has published writing on slowness, agitation, gesture, inhumanisms, and cognitive disability and method. Chen co-edits the "Anima" book series at Duke, and is part of a small and sustaining queer-trans of color arts collective in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Moderated by:

**Kareem Khubchandani, Mellon Bridge Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies and the Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Tufts University**

Kareem Khubchandani is the Mellon Bridge Assistant Professor *in the* Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies and the Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Tufts University. He is currently working on a book project titled *Ishtyle: Accenting Gay Indian Nightlife* (U. Michigan Press), a performance ethnography of queer social spaces in Bangalore and Chicago. He has published in *Scholar and Feminist Online*; *Transgender Studies Quarterly*; *Journal of Asian American Studies*; *The Velvet Light Trap*; *Theater Topics*; *Theatre Journal*; *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies*; *Queer Dance* (Oxford UP); and *Queering Digital India* (Edinburgh UP).

**POSTPONED to Fall 2020: The Neoliberal University and Academic Feminism**

*Original date: April 1, 2020*  
 MIT

This panel takes its inspiration from our insistent critique of the academic corporation in which we find ourselves working today. Increasingly, our new colleagues are temporary and underpaid hires, who are nevertheless often expected to give service beyond teaching. Our senior administrators, compensated at the same levels as the corporate structure, are hired as much for their fundraising abilities as for their academic inclinations or interests. Juggling multiple jobs, our students are enmeshed in an aggregation of precarity that is not only financial: their protests of the institution's raced, gendered, sexed and classed inequities, for instance, are repurposed into website photographs designed to advertise the institution's openness to critique. Particularly as women, as queer, as trans, and as first-generation, the discomfort with an institution that is hostile to them is transformed into a burden to reform the institution. Does our activism and theorizing alleviate or intensify these inequities? How is the genealogy of such processes, which we often hear ourselves take for granted as deeply unethical, connected to the humanist values we espouse and teach? Some senior

administrative positions, such as Diversity Officers, for instance, are the result of our successful struggles to force the administration to be ethical. What if the neoliberal university is not, in fact, antithetical to our goals or practices as feminists and principled social actors in the institution? Finally, how might we think both critically and imaginatively about the temporal implications of the neoliberal university today and our place in it: the claim now made on all of our time; our conception of “free” time; our justification of time spent away from the institution’s demands; the disproportionate burden of time placed on some students, staff and faculty?

#### Roundtable discussion participants

#### **Eng-Beng Lim, Associate Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Dartmouth College**

Eng-Beng Lim is Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and author of *Brown Boys and Rice Queens: Spellbinding Performance in the Asias* (NYU, 2014). The book was recognized with two national awards, one by CLAGS (Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, CUNY Grad Center), and the other AAAS (Association of Asian American Studies). His fields of study are performance and cultural studies, Asian/American studies, postcolonial/diaspora studies and queer/transnational studies. He is currently working on a book project about megastructure and performance, and another on the visual cultures of "ethnocities." He is part of the Social Text editorial collective, MLA division for Drama and Performance, the International Standing Review Board of Hong Kong's Research Grant Council, among other professional appointments. At Dartmouth, he is part of the Steering Committees of GRID (Gender Research Institute at Dartmouth) and the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

#### **Iyko Day, Associate Professor of English and Critical Social Thought, Mount Holyoke College**

Iyko Day is Associate Professor of English and Critical Social Thought at Mount Holyoke College and Faculty Member in the Five College Asian/Pacific/American Studies Program. Her research focuses on Asian North American literature and visual culture; settler colonialism and racial capitalism; Marxist theory and queer of color critique. She is the author of *Alien Capital: Asian Racialization and the Logic of Settler Colonial Capitalism* (Duke, 2016) and she co-edits the book series *Critical Race, Indigeneity, and Relationality* for Temple University Press. Her current project examines nuclear colonialism in North America, Africa, and Asia and the aesthetics of racial capitalism.

#### **Michelle Rowley, Associate Professor of Women’s Studies, University of Maryland College Park**

Michelle V. Rowley is an Associate Professor in the Women’s Studies Department at the University of Maryland. Before joining the University of Maryland in 2006 she served in the Women’s Studies Department at the University of Cincinnati (2004-2006). She has also held a visiting appointment as a Benedict Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Carleton College. She has served on the editorial collective for *Feminist Studies* and is presently a member of the editorial board for *Expanding Frontiers* (University of Nebraska Press) and *Tout Moun: Caribbean Journal of Cultural Studies*. Her publications include “*When the Post-Colonial State Bureaucratizes Gender: Charting Trinidadian Women’s Centrality Within the*



*Margins*,” “*Where the Streets have no name: Getting Development out of the (RED)*.” “*Rethinking Interdisciplinarity: Meditations on the Sacred Possibilities of an Erotic Feminist Pedagogy*,” and “*Whose Time Is It?: Gender and Humanism in Contemporary Caribbean Feminist Advocacy*.” Her book is entitled *Feminist Advocacy and Gender Equity in the Anglophone Caribbean: Envisioning a Politics of Coalition* (Routledge, 2011). Her research interests address issues of gender and development, the politics of welfare, as well as state responses to questions of Caribbean women’s reproductive health and well-being, and rights for sexual minorities. She is presently working on a manuscript that examines queer representations of home and becoming in the English-speaking Caribbean. Her research interests address issues of gender and development, the politics of welfare, as well as state responses to questions of Caribbean women’s reproductive health and well-being, and rights for sexual minorities.

### **Roderick Ferguson, Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Yale University**

Roderick A. Ferguson is professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Yale University. He received his B.A. from Howard University and his Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego. An interdisciplinary scholar, his work traverses such fields as American Studies, gender studies, queer studies, cultural studies, African American Studies, sociology, literature, and education. He is the author of *One-Dimensional Queer* (Polity, 2019), *We Demand: The University and Student Protests* (University of California, 2017), *The Reorder of Things: The University and Its Pedagogies of Minority Difference* (University of Minnesota, 2012), and *Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique* (University of Minnesota, 2004). He is the co-editor with Grace Hong of the anthology *Strange Affinities: The Gender and Sexual Politics of Comparative Racialization* (Duke University, 2011). He is also co-editor with Erica Edwards and Jeffrey Ogbar of *Keywords of African American Studies* (NYU, 2018). He is currently working on two monographs—*The Arts of Black Studies* and *The Bookshop of Black Queer Diaspora*.

Ferguson’s teaching interests include the politics of culture, women of color feminism, the study of race, critical university studies, queer social movements, and social theory.

### Moderator

### **Faith Smith, Associate Professor of African and Afro-American Studies and English, Brandeis**

Faith Smith is an Associate Professor of African and Afro-American Studies and English at Brandeis University. Her research engages aesthetic strategies of writers and artists contending with the legacies of slavery and indentureship, feminist engagements with the state in the wake of globalization, and the resonance of archival histories of intimacy and loss in the present. She is completing “*Strolling in the Ruins: The Caribbean’s Non-Sovereign Modern in the Early Twentieth Century*,” a reading of the imperial present just before the First World War. Another project, “*Dread Intimacies*,” examines sovereignty, intimacy and violence in twenty-first-century fiction and visual culture.



## Higher Administrator's Celebration Dinner

*February 12, 2020*

*Tufts University Coolidge Room, Ballou Hall*

The Higher Administrator's Celebration Dinner is a longstanding tradition for the GCWS. This evening brings together Provosts, Deans, and other senior administrators from our member institutions. It provides an opportunity for us to thank them for their continued support, enthusiasm, and funding of the GCWS. This year, the Tufts Provost's Office hosted us at Ballou Hall in the Coolidge Room. This event brought together over 50 university leaders, administrators, and faculty from across our member institutions.

We are especially pleased to celebrate the renewal of our Memorandum of Agreement for 2020-2025 with all nine of our member institutions (Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Harvard University, MIT, Northeastern University, Simmons University, Tufts University, UMass Boston). Reviewing our policies and renewing the contractual agreement with each of these schools was a central focus on this academic year and we are looking forward to continuing our work in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies field with all of these institutions.

The speaking program included:

### WELCOME FROM TUFTS VICE PROVOST:

Kevin Dunn, Vice Provost and Associate Professor of English, Tufts University

### WELCOME FROM GCWS CO-CHAIRS

Freedeen Blume Oeur, Co-Chair, GCWS Board of Representatives, Professor of Sociology, Tufts University

Denise Horn, Co-Chair, GCWS Board of Representatives, Associate Dean of the Gwen Ifill College of Media, Arts, and Humanities, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Relations and of Women's and Gender Studies, Simmons University

### MOTHER BOARD REFLECTION

Ruth Perry, Member of the founding GCWS Mother Board & Ann Fetter Friedlaender Professor of the Humanities, Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Joyce Antler, Member of the founding GCWS Mother Board & Samuel J. Lane Professor Emerita of American Jewish History and Culture and Professor Emerita of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Brandeis University

#### MOTHER BOARD WRITING PRIZE WINNER 2019

"To take a knee: 'Hands up, don't shoot', kneeling, and other gestures of submission in Black Lives Matter protest performance" by Teri Incampo, PhD student, Department of Theatre & Performance Studies, Tufts University

#### ALUMNI REMARKS

Nicole Aljoe, Director of Africana Studies Program, Associate Professor of English & Africana Studies, Northeastern University

#### CLOSING REMARKS

Jyoti Puri, Hazel Dick Leonard Chair & Professor of Sociology, Simmons University

#### DINNER MC

Kareem Khubchandani, Mellon Bridge Assistant Professor of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Tufts University

## Brave Women of Color in Academics

March 2, 2020  
 MIT

The new co-edited anthology: *Counternarratives from Women of Color Academics: Bravery, Vulnerability, and Resistance* contains essays and creative works by 28 women of color academics who redefine what it means to be successful in academia, who stand up against injustice in academia despite the risks, and who leverage their positions in university to advance diversity and inclusion in higher education.

Academic bravery challenges the status quo, crosses boundaries and breaks new ground. In essence, being a brave academic entails refusing to prioritize self-serving interests at the expense of knowledge production and social justice. Rather than avoiding risky endeavors to protect one's position and status, a brave academic uses her position, status and expertise to effectively advance knowledge and equity, despite the risks.

More than 70 people—including faculty, university staff, graduate and undergraduate students—attended this event. The panelists explored the discourse that women of color are solely tokens and victims of marginalization in academe. Women of color academics have leveraged their professional positions to challenge the status quo in their scholarship, teaching, service, activism, and leadership. By presenting reflexive work from various vantage points within and outside of the academy, contributors documented the cultivation of mentoring relationships, the use of administrative roles to challenge institutional leadership, and more.

This event was a collaborative effort across member institutions and was cosponsored by:

- Boston College Lynch School of Education and Human Development
- Boston University Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- MIT Women's and Gender Studies
- Tufts Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
- UMass Boston Africana Studies Department
- UMass Boston Department of Anthropology
- UMass Boston Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

**BRAVE WOMEN OF COLOR IN ACADEMICS**

**MONDAY, MARCH 2 @ 4PM  
 MIT BUILDING 4, ROOM 370**

**A DISCUSSION BASED AROUND THE BOOK  
 COUNTERNARRATIVES FROM WOMEN OF COLOR ACADEMICS:  
 BRAVERY, VULNERABILITY, AND RESISTANCE**

**MODERATOR SAIDA GRUNDY  
 BOSTON UNIVERSITY**

**SPEAKERS**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>ERIC GROLLMAN</b><br>UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND      | <b>MANYA WHITAKER</b><br>COLORADO COLLEGE   |
| <b>ALESSANDRA BAZO VIENRICH</b><br>DAVIDSON COLLEGE | <b>ROBBIN CHAPMAN</b><br>HARVARD UNIVERSITY |

**GCWS** GENDER & CULTURE WOMEN & SEXUALITY

**Tufts UNIVERSITY**  
TUFTS UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

**BOSTON COLLEGE**  
Lynch School of Education and Human Development

**WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES**

**BOSTON UNIVERSITY**  
BOSTON UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM

**UMASS BOSTON**  
UMASS BOSTON AFRICANA STUDIES DEPARTMENT  
UMASS BOSTON DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY  
UMASS BOSTON DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

## **Panelists:**

### **Alessandra Bazo Vienrich, Visiting Assistant Professor, Sociology, Davidson College**

Alessandra Bazo Vienrich is Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology at Davidson College. Born and raised in Lima, Perú, Alessandra moved to North Carolina with her family when she was 12 years old. As an undocumented immigrant herself, she became interested in understanding and eradicating the inequalities undocumented immigrants in her community experienced. After pursuing bachelor degrees in Sociology and Not-for-Profit Management at Salem College, she began graduate school in Sociology at Lehigh University, where her master's thesis, "In College and Undocumented: An Analysis of the Educational Trajectories of Undocumented Students in North Carolina", was supported by the Strohl Graduate Summer Research Fellowship. In 2014 she became a doctoral student in the Sociology Department at the University of Massachusetts Boston, and spent the next 5 years as a student, researcher and instructor in the department. In July, 2019, she defended her dissertation, "DREAMs of College: In Pursuit of Higher Education While Undocumented", and joined the Sociology Department at Davidson College. Her current research agenda is motivated by the growth of the Latinx population in recent decades and the fact that Latinxs are now the largest ethnic minority group in the United States. She is particularly interested in how race/ethnicity, immigration status, and place, intersect to create social, political and educational experiences for undocumented Latinx immigrants. Her areas of expertise include immigration policy, immigrant education, immigrant youth and young adults, Latinx identity, race/ethnicity and migrant illegality.

### **Eric Grollman, Associate Professor, Sociology, University of Richmond**

Eric Grollman is an Associate Professor at the University of Richmond and a Black queer non-binary scholar-activist. With Dr. Whitaker, they are the co-editor of *Counternarratives of Women of Color Academics*. They are the founding editor of *ConditionallyAccepted.com*, which is now a career advice column for marginalized academics on *Inside Higher Ed*.

### **Manya Whitaker, Associate Professor and Chair, Education, Colorado College**

Manya Whitaker is an Associate Professor and Chair of Education at Colorado College. She is a developmental educational psychologist with expertise in social and political issues in education. Her courses include Urban Education, Diversity & Equity in Education, and Educational Psychology, among others. She researches the stability of teachers' diversity-related belief systems across time and settings, and how those beliefs can be intentionally disrupted and re-structured through teacher training. She is the author of *Schooling Multicultural Teachers: A Guide for Program Assessment and Professional Development*, *Learning from the Inside-Out: Child Development and School Choice* and co-editor of *Counternarratives from Women of Color Academics*. She is also the founder of *Blueprint Educational Strategies*, an education consulting business.

**Robbin Chapman, Associate Dean for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Harvard Kennedy School**

Robbin Chapman is Associate Dean for Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging at Harvard Kennedy School. She previously served as associate provost and academic director of diversity and inclusion, and lecturer in education at Wellesley College, and assistant associate provost for faculty equity at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 2016, MIT established the annual Dr. Robbin Chapman Excellence through Adversity Award to honor an MIT senior who has demonstrated excellence in leadership. Beginning July 2018, Chapman will serve a two-year term as Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer, sponsored by the Sigma Xi International Honor Society of Science and Engineering. Chapman earned her SM and her PhD degrees in electrical engineering and computer science from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she conducted research at the MIT Artificial Intelligence Laboratory and the MIT Media Laboratory. Her research interests include design and use of computational tools for learning in public spaces and frameworks and technologies for supporting scholar activism.

**Moderated by:**

**Saida Grundy, Assistant Professor, Sociology and African American Studies, Boston University**

Saida Grundy is a feminist sociologist of race & ethnicity and Assistant Professor of Sociology, African-American Studies and Women's and Gender Studies at Boston University. Her research to date has focused upon formations and ideologies of gender and racialization within the Black middle class—specifically men. Using in-depth interviews, her current work examines graduates of Morehouse College, the nation's only historically Black college for men. Quite simply, this work asks how, in light of an ongoing national climate and discourse about young Black men “in crisis,” the men of Morehouse experience racialization and the process of “making” manhood at an institution that frames Black male elites as the solution to the crisis and the rightful representatives of the racial agendas. Her current book, *Manhood Within the Margins: Promise, Peril and Paradox at the Historically Black College for Men*, is forthcoming with University of California Press and expands upon this work. Saida's research interests currently span examinations of masculinity and “social justice capitalism,” racialized rape culture, and bridging hegemonic masculinity theories to our understandings of campus sexual assault. Her work has been supported by the Boston University Center for the Humanities, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, the Social Science research Council, and the Andrew Mellon Foundation.



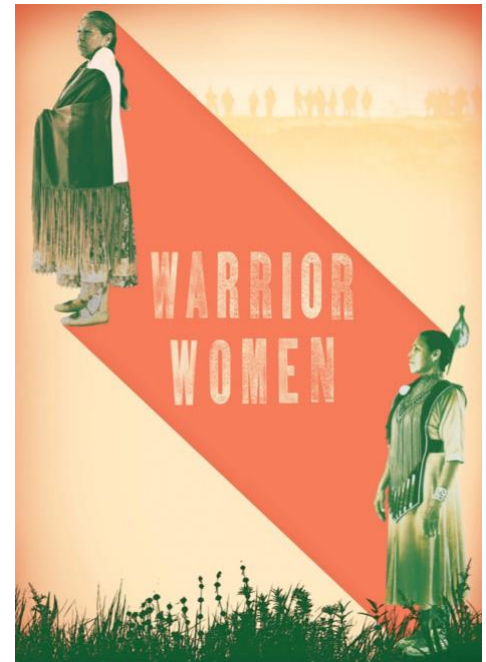
## Women Take the Reel: A Film Festival Celebrating Women’s History Month










*March 1 – March 31, 2020*

This annual film festival, now in its tenth year, is a collaborative effort among Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies departments involved in the Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (as well as select institutions/universities aligned with its mission) that features films directed by women and about issues relating to gender, race, sexuality, class, and/or feminism

The focus on intellectual investigation of these issues, as well as visibility for women directors, meant most films are accompanied by a Q&A and discussion with either the film director, producer, or a faculty member from the film screening’s host institution.

All films are free and open to the public. This year, eleven films at eight institutions were scheduled to be screened. Due to COVID-19 and massive event cancellations and postponements, only two films were screened.



|   |  |  |   |   |
|---|--|--|---|---|
| <p>TUESDAY, MARCH 3</p> <p><b>KNOCK DOWN THE HOUSE</b></p> <p>5 PM<br/>Lieberman-Miller<br/>Lecture Hall<br/>Brandeis</p> |                               | <p>THURSDAY, MARCH 5</p> <p><b>FEAR NO GUMBO</b></p> <p>6:30 PM<br/>Bartos Theater<br/>MIT</p>                     |   | <p>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11</p> <p><b>THE ARCHIVETTES</b></p> <p>7 PM<br/>325 Behrakis Hall<br/>Northeastern</p>                             |
|    | <p>THURSDAY, MARCH 12</p> <p><b>WARRIOR WOMEN</b></p> <p>6:30 PM<br/>Bartos Theater<br/>MIT</p>                |                                   | <p><b>ALL UNIVERSITY SCREENINGS ARE FREE &amp; OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!</b></p>          |   |
| <p>THURSDAY, MARCH 19</p> <p><b>PARIAH</b></p> <p>12 PM<br/>Devlin Hall 010<br/>Boston College</p>                        |                               | <p>THURSDAY, MARCH 19</p> <p><b>GREENER GRASS</b></p> <p>7 PM<br/>Bright Family<br/>Screening Room<br/>Emerson</p> |    | <p>FRIDAY, MARCH 20</p> <p><b>DYKES, CAMERA, ACTION!</b></p> <p>7 PM<br/>Main College<br/>Building C-103<br/>Simmons<br/>University</p> |
|   | <p>TUESDAY, MARCH 24</p> <p><b>CUNNINGHAM</b></p> <p>7 PM<br/>Bright Family<br/>Screening Room<br/>Emerson</p> | <p>THURSDAY, MARCH 26</p> <p><b>PRIVATE VIOLENCE</b></p> <p>6 PM<br/>UH 2-150<br/>Lesley</p>                       |  | <p>MONDAY, MARCH 30</p> <p><b>HALF THE HISTORY SHORTS ON WOMEN IN AMERICAN HISTORY</b></p> <p>7 PM<br/>Tisch 304<br/>Tufts</p>          |

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

**WHERE THE PAVEMENT ENDS**

7 PM  
Bright Family  
Screening Room  
Emerson



## Screenings of Films by GCWS Institutions

### Boston College

#### **Pariah**

Directed by Dee Rees  
March 19, 2020 at 12:00PM  
CANCELLED

### Brandeis University

#### **Knock Down the House**

Directed by Rachel Lears  
March 3, 2020 at 5:00PM  
*Discussion with the WSRC Feminist  
Film Forum Group followed film*

### MIT

#### **Fear No Gumbo**

Directed by Kimberly River Roberts  
March 5, 2020 at 6:30PM  
*Discussion with Kimberly Rivers-  
Robert, director followed film*

#### **Warrior Women**

Directed by Christina D. King &  
Elizabeth Castle  
March 12, 2020 at 6:30PM  
CANCELLED  
*Discussion with Beth Castle, director,  
scheduled to follow film*

### Northeastern University

#### **The Archivettes**

Directed by Megan Rossman  
March 11, 2020 at 7:00PM  
CANCELLED  
*Discussion with Megan Rossman,  
director, and Suzanna Walters,  
Program Director WGSS at  
Northeastern, scheduled to follow film*

### Simmons University

#### **Dykes, Camera, Action!**

Directed by Caroline Berler  
March 20, 2020 at 7:00PM  
CANCELLED  
*Discussion with Caroline Berler,  
director, scheduled to follow film*

### Tufts University

#### **Sneak Peek: Half the History Shorts on Women in American History at Tufts**

Directed by Jennifer Burton and Ursula  
Burton  
March 30, 2020 at 7:00PM  
CANCELLED  
*Discussion with Jennifer Burton,  
director, scheduled to follow film*



## **Additional Films by Other Participating Institutions**

### **Emerson College**

#### **Greener Grass**

Directed by Jocelyn DeBoer and Dawn Luebbe

March 19, 2020 at 7:00PM

CANCELLED

*Discussion with Maria Corrigan, Associate Professor of Media Studies and Comedy at Emerson, scheduled to follow film*

#### **Cunningham**

Directed by Alla Kovgan

March 24, 2020 at 7:00PM

CANCELLED

*Discussion with Alla Kovgan, film director, and Alissa Cardone, Associate Professor of Dance at Boston Conservatory, scheduled to follow film*

#### **Where the Pavement Ends**

Directed by Jane Gillooly

March 31, 2020 at 7:00PM

CANCELLED

*Discussion with Jane Gillooly, director, scheduled to follow film*

### **Lesley University**

#### **Private Violence**

Directed by Cynthia Hill

March 26, 2020 at 6:00PM

CANCELLED

*Discussion with Monisha Rios, disabled Army vet, autoethnographer, human rights advocate, and activist, scheduled to follow film*

## Technologies of Resistance: Towards Feminist Futures

*Original date: April 4, 2020*

*MIT*

Every year, graduate students from all our member institutes organize a spring event for their peers. This year, nine students organized an interdisciplinary symposium of four panels and over sixteen speakers. Speakers represented academia, activism, and community organizations. Due to COVID-19, this event was re-conceptualized and rescheduled to the summer of 2020. Instead of a one-day symposium, four separate webinars on the same topics and with the same panelists were held. Panels were hosted by Zoom webinar and were held on July 30, August 27, and September 3.

**TECHNOLOGIES OF RESISTANCE: TOWARDS FEMINIST FUTURES PANEL SERIES**

**Panels include:**

- Archiving for Feminist Futures: Ensuring Feminism and Resistance Stay Alive
- EcoFeminisms: Rethinking our interdependencies with the planet
- Pedagogies of Resistance: Sharing Knowledge As A Political Act
- Technology as Political Resistance

**MORE INFO AND REGISTRATION AT**  
[TINYURL.COM/FEMINIST\\_FUTURES](http://TINYURL.COM/FEMINIST_FUTURES)

**GCWS GRADUATE STUDENT EVENT**

Consortium for Graduate Studies in  
**GCWS**  
GENDER & CULTURE  
WOMEN & SEXUALITY  
MIT

The students who conceptualized and organized this symposium include Di Wu (MIT), Taylor Burns (Simmons), Annalise Chapman (Simmons), Corrie Locke-Hardy (Simmons), Arushi Mittal (Harvard), Myriam Amri (Harvard), Galen Bunting (Northeastern), Laetitia Della Bianca (Brandeis & University of Lausanne, Switzerland), Rose Wang (Tufts).

Imaginarities around technologies as tools for utopian futures or grim dystopias have proliferated in the past decade and have come to frame how we imagine the possibilities of tomorrow. By technologies, we mean collective tools of mediation that reorganize the world in different ways. We want to take seriously the notion of technologies; first by cracking open the definition of technology in order to encompass different forms and ask what it means to render technologies plural and more expansive. Second, by noting the sphere of currently present technologies and asking how can we divert and subvert them for radical possibilities? Third, by looking at how feminist theories and praxis have produced their own sets of technologies and how they help us enact futurities.

And so, through this process we aim to reclaim technologies to resist current systems of oppression and reimagine our collective but diverse futures as opposed to a single utopia or dystopia.



The purpose of resistance is to reimagine our collective futures and not to just oppose existing systems. While it seems like the world is going in one direction and all groups of people need to undertake the same journey towards one common goal, it is only naive to assume that with our global diversity we can achieve one common vision. Who will define this vision or future? Hence, it is important to acknowledge that we might have multiple futures, but they can all be rooted in the feminist values of respect, empowerment and equity. Why do we talk about futures in the first place? Because without a guiding star, we can be lost in tough times. Because having a dream makes it easier to get through the times of despair and uncertainty.

### **Webinars included:**

#### **Ecofeminisms: Rethinking our interdependencies with the planet**

**Webinar date: July 30, 2020**

This panel seeks to critically engage with heritage from environmental justice and ecofeminisms by asking questions such as: In the current time of environmental crisis, how can we build affective solidarities with the planet? What lessons can we learn from past debates and how to move toward sustainable feminist futures without essentializing human beings, nature, or technologies?

- Natali Valdez, Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, Wellesley College
- Banu Subramaniam, Professor and Chair of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, UMass Amherst
- Amy Agigian, Associate Professor of Sociology, Suffolk University
- Heidi Hutner, Professor of Sustainability and English, Stony Brook University

Over 200 people registered for this webinar and approximately 130 attended. This event was streamed live to the GCWS Facebook account and recorded for use by future graduate students and faculty.

#### **Technology as Political Resistance**

**Webinar date: July 30, 2020**

This panel will discuss how media and technology is deployed, negotiated and redressed in activism. Engaging technologies such as hackathon, civic media, data and computation, the panelists will share their stories of making technology work for feminism, freedom, and justice.

- Alexis Hope, Designer and Researcher, MIT Media Lab
- Lü Pin, Feminist Voices

- Catherine D'Ignazio, Assistant Professor of Urban Science and Planning, MIT
- Vanessa Rhinesmith, Associate Professor for digital HKS, Harvard

Over 200 people registered for this event and over 100 people attended. This event was streamed live to the GCWS Facebook account and recorded for use by future graduate students and faculty.

### **Pedagogies of Resistance: Sharing Knowledge as a Political Act**

**Webinar date: August 27, 2020**

This panel will reflect and discuss means to implement conscious pedagogies of resistance, or critical pedagogy in the classroom and beyond. both in and out of the classroom. Panelists will share how they draw on the political through their teaching, in the subjects they teach, or the methodologies they utilize.

- Kat Tanaka Okopnik, The Dictionary of Social Justice
- Laura Nelson, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Northeastern University
- Brooke Foucault, Associate Professor of Communication Studies, Northeastern University
- Brandy Williams, Graduate Researcher in Early Modern Critical Race and Gender Studies, University of Maryland at College Park

Over 280 people registered for this event and over 140 people attended. This event was streamed live to the GCWS Facebook account and recorded for use by future graduate students and faculty.

### **Archiving for Feminist Futures: Ensuring Feminism and Resistance Stay Alive**

**Webinar date: September 3, 2020**

This panel will focus on the ways that archiving can ensure that feminism and resistance do not get erased from history. Looking to independent press can provide an insight into certain aspects of the archiving process.

- Mona Tousain, Director, NeuroBoston
- Dawn Stahura, Research & Instruction Librarian, Salem State University
- Cierra Michele Peters, Print Ain't Dead
- Thanh "Nu" Mai, Vanguard Zine

Over 150 people registered for this event and over 90 people attended. This event was streamed live to the GCWS Facebook account and recorded for use by future graduate students and faculty.

## **THINGS TO CIRCLE BACK AROUND ABOUT**

- Motherboard prize winner and committee

# MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Boston College

Boston University

Brandeis University

Harvard University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Northeastern University

Simmons University

Tufts University

University of Massachusetts - Boston

## GCWS

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