




**2016-  
2017  
ANNUAL  
REPORT**



**CONSORTIUM  
FOR GRADUATE  
STUDIES IN  
GENDER,  
CULTURE,  
WOMEN, AND  
SEXUALITY  
(GCWS)**

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Boston College \* Boston  
University \* Brandeis  
University \* Harvard University  
\* MIT \* Northeastern University  
\* Simmons College \* Tufts  
University \* UMass Boston

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# **GCWS Board of Directors**

## **Boston College**

Caroline Bicks, Department of English

## **Boston University**

Catherine Connell, Department of Sociology

## **Brandeis University**

Aliyyah I. Abdur Rahman, Departments of English, African and Afro-American Studies, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

## **Harvard University**

Genevieve Clutario, Departments of History and History of Literature

## **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

Sandy Alexandre, Department of Literature

## **Northeastern University**

Berna Turan, Departments of Sociology and International Affairs

## **Simmons College**

Jo Trigilio, Departments of Philosophy, Women's and Gender Studies, and Graduate Program in Gender and Cultural Studies

## **Tufts University**

Sabina Vaught, Department of Education

## **University of Massachusetts, Boston**

Chris Bobel, Department of Women's and Gender Studies,

## **2016-2017 Board of Directors, Co-Chairs**

Sabina Vaught, Education, Tufts University, Senior Co-Chair

Jo Trigilio, Philosophy and Women's and Gender Studies, Simmons College, Junior Co-Chair

## **GCWS Program Manager**

Andi Sutton

# 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

# 2016-2017 Courses

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

*Fall and Spring Semesters: Tuesdays 5:30-8:30 PM*

*September 3, 2016 – May 9, 2017*

Taught by Sue Lanser, Professor of Comparative Literature and English, Brandeis

## **Contesting Sex and Gender, Making Early Christianity**

*Fall semester: Wednesdays 5:00-8:00 PM*

*September 7, 2016 – December 7, 2016*

Taught by Bernadette Brooten, Professor of Christian Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Brandeis University

Karen King, Professor of Divinity, Harvard University

## **Feminist Inquiry**

*Spring semester: Mondays 6:00-9:00 PM*

*January 30, 2017 – May 8, 2017*

Taught by Jo Trigilio, Director of Gender and Cultural Studies, Simmons College

Caroline Bicks, Associate Professor of English Literature, Boston College

## **Feminism and Islam**

*Spring semester: Wednesdays 1:30-4:30 PM*

*February 1, 2017 – May 10, 2017*

Taught by Aliyyah I. Abdur-Raman, Associate Professor of English, African and Afro-American Studies, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Brandeis University

Berna Turam, Associate Professor of Sociology and International Affairs, Northeastern University

## **Changing Life: Genes, Ecologies, and Texts**

*Spring semester: Wednesdays 5:00-8:00 PM*

*February 1, 2017 – May 10, 2017*

Taught by Peter Taylor, Professor of Critical and Creative Thinking, University of Massachusetts Boston

Mary Baine Campbell, Professor of English, Brandeis University

### **Student comment:**

**“I appreciate that it is a consortium course and thus brings together students from many schools. Also the class size is great – enough people to not be daunting but small enough to feel like you can get to know everyone in the class. Finally, it being co-taught is a strength. It's great to see good scholarship and scholarly disagreement modeled regularly.”**

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

*FALL AND SPRING: Tuesdays, 5:30 – 8:30 PM*  
*September 13, 2016 – May 9, 2017*

This workshop will provide intellectual and practical guidance for students at any stage in the dissertation process. Class sessions will be structured with four primary goals:

- To address challenges in the conception and completion of a dissertation;
- To explore the methodological and theoretical issues attendant on discipline-based and interdisciplinary feminist research;
- To foster the professional development of participants; and
- To provide a structure of group work, hands-on exercises, and peer review that will help students move most effectively through their own projects.

Flexibly shaped to meet the needs of its participants, the dissertation workshop will entail minimal reading assignments so that the majority of the students' time can be directed to their own projects. The class will provide a forum for working out problems of conceptualization and structure, the use of evidence, the development of individual chapters, techniques for effective research, drafting and revising, and preparing abstracts. We will also discuss and practice techniques for presenting conference papers, publishing articles, and preparing for the academic job market.

## Faculty

**Sue Lanser** is Professor of Comparative Literature and English, and Professor and former chair of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, at Brandeis University. She has written or edited five books and published over fifty essays in disciplinary and interdisciplinary journals. She has extensive experience in teaching research seminars, directing dissertations in several disciplines, and serving as an editor or editorial consultant for journals and presses. Her most recent monograph, *The Sexuality of History*, received the Joan Kelly Award for the year's outstanding book in women's history/feminist theory.

# Contesting Sex and Gender, Making Early Christianity

*FALL: Wednesdays 5:00-8:00 PM*  
*September 7, 2016 – December 7, 2016*

Religion has been and remains a critical site both for constructing and for contesting sex/gender identities, roles, and sexualities. Women's relationship with religion has been particularly fraught. We will examine early Christian and contemporaneous texts through different lenses, drawing upon: feminist biblical interpretation and hermeneutics, literary and legal theory, anthropology, historical-critical studies, theology, lesbian-feminist theory, transgender studies, rabbinic, and classics. We will give special attention to critical theories of religion in gender/feminist studies, emphasizing the plural possibilities, contestations, and instability of religious texts. We will introduce various resources for critically engaging constructions of sex/gender/sexuality of both "orthodox" and "heretical" materials in conversation with Greek, Roman, and Jewish materials. The aims are to promote analytic reading strategies that engage the constructed, contested, and multi-perspectival character of varied religious materials and to discuss both the limits and the possibilities that this material offers for imagining a more expansive sphere for human flourishing today.

## Faculty

**Bernadette J. Brooten**, Kraft-Hiatt Professor of Christian Studies and Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and of Classical Studies, and Chair of Religious Studies at Brandeis University, is founder and director of the Brandeis Feminist Sexual Ethics Project. She has written *Women Leaders in The Ancient Synagogue: Inscriptional Evidence and Background Issues* (1982) and *Love Between Women: Early Christian Responses to Female Homoeroticism* (1996), for which she received three awards; and has edited *Beyond Slavery: Overcoming Its Religious and Sexual Legacies* (2010).

**Karen L. King** is the Hollis Professor of Divinity at Harvard University in The Divinity School. Her publications include *The Gospel of Mary of Magdala: Jesus and the First Woman*

*Apostle; What is Gnosticism?; The Secret Revelation of John; Images of the Feminine in Gnosticism* (ed.); and *Women and Goddess Traditions in Antiquity and Today* (ed.).

## Student comment:

"The instructors and the syllabus seemed very deliberate about the application of particular methodological approaches to the study of ancient texts that really brought the material alive and highlighted their relevance for the contemporary moment."

"Other courses I've had in Divinity School around sex + gender tend to remain fairly 101. And this course pushed my feminist and queer thinking."



# Feminist Inquiry

*SPRING: Mondays 6:00-9:00 PM*  
*February 1, 2017 – May 10, 2017*

How are feminists to construct methods of inquiry that give voice to the multiply located perspectives of marginalized subjects and communities without replicating the masculinist, racist, classist conceptual structures and methodologies that constitute traditional Western epistemologies? Feminist Inquiry is a seminar designed to investigate the methodological approaches and conceptual frameworks that inform feminist theorizing, critical analysis, and research across a range of disciplines. We will examine the types of questions asked, the assumptions that serve as foundation, the frameworks that structure the method of inquiry, and the values and power relations inherent in particular approaches. The seminar considers questions of feminist epistemology such as epistemologies of ignorance, knowing others, intersectionality, and the construction of the knowing subject. Most of the course will be organized around a series of topics that include, but are not limited to: pathologized bodies, the construction of biological sex, sexuality and race, and gender as performance/spectacle. Each week, we'll focus on media from different disciplines (for example, a medical case study, a memoir, a performance) and consider how each genre raises different questions and allows for alternative modes of feminist inquiry.

## Faculty

**Jo Trigilio** is the Director of the Graduate Program in Gender and Cultural Studies at Simmons College, where they hold a joint appointment in the departments of Women's and Gender Studies, and Philosophy. Trigilio has a special interest in the intersection of theory and practice, specializing in oppression/liberation theories, including feminist and gender theories, race theories, sexuality theory, and queer theory. Trigilio is currently leading The Boston Dyke March History and Archive Project.

**Caroline Bicks** received her PhD in English Literature from Stanford University (1997). She is associate professor of English at Boston College and is on the faculty of the Bread Loaf School of English. She specializes in early modern drama, gender theory, the history of science, and girlhood studies. She is the author of *Midwiving Subjects in Shakespeare's England* (Ashgate, 2003); co-editor of *The History of Women's Writing, 1500-1610* (Palgrave, 2010); and co-author of *Shakespeare, Not Stirred: Cocktails for Your Everyday Dramas* (Penguin, 2015).

### Student comment:

**“The fact that it draws students from different colleges and disciplinary backgrounds – that makes for a lively and interesting discussion. The syllabus is varied and interesting too.”**

# Feminism and Islam

SPRING: Wednesdays 1:30-4:30 PM  
February 1, 2017 – May 10, 2017

The fundamental debate about Islam, whether in the academy, the media, or the public sphere, is whether or not Islam is compatible with democracy, civil society, nationalism, secularism and so on. In sharp contrast to this ongoing debate is general consensus about the “gender problem” in Islam. This predominant view casting Islam as an “excessively patriarchal religion” not only essentializes Muslim women as victims and Muslim men as oppressors but also reduces the so-called “Muslim world” to an inherently static condition of patriarchy. Within feminist theory, religion is a highly debated issue with regard to women’s empowerment and emancipation. But Islam is specifically singled out among other monotheistic religions with regard to its presumably inherent qualities that undermine women’s equality, freedom and power. The main goal of this course is to explore the ways in which Islam, as a religion; ways of life and politics may (dis)advantage Muslim women, their lives and gender dynamics. And, concomitantly, we examine how Muslim women give meaning to religiosity and negotiate its various expressions within and across different cultural, national, and political contexts.

## Faculty

**Aliyyah I. Abdur-Rahman** is Associate Professor of English, African and Afro-American Studies, and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis University. She is the author of *Against the Closet: Black Political*

*Longing and the Erotics of Race* (Duke University Press, 2012). Her areas of teaching and research include American and African American literature and culture, critical race theory, gender and sexuality studies, and multiethnic feminisms.

**Berna Turam** is Associate Professor of Sociology and International Affairs at Northeastern University. She is the author of *Between Islam and the State: The Politics of Engagement* (Stanford University Press, 2007), and *Gaining Freedoms: Claiming Space in Istanbul and Berlin* (Stanford University Press, 2015) and the editor of *Secular State and Religious Society: Two Forces at Play in Turkey* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012). Her research interests include the interplay between government and the city and ordinary Muslim people, state in particular, and religion and politics in general. Gendering political processes and interactions, she does an intersectional analysis of religion, space and gender.

### Student comment:

“Amazing instructors. Offered very different perspectives but collaborated well and represented the diversity of what we were learning. Sometimes it felt like we were watching a panel discussion – two excellent experts in their field discussing relevant topics – so interesting! I learned *so much*.”

# Changing Life: Genes, Ecologies, and Texts

*SPRING: Wednesdays 5:00-8:00 PM*  
*February 1, 2017 – May 10, 2017*

In this course you will develop your abilities to expose ways that scientific knowledge has been shaped in contexts that are gendered, racialized, economically exploitative, and hetero-normative. The class will be structured through four projects that concern:

1. Interpretation of cultural dimensions of science;
2. Climate change futures;
3. Genomic citizenry; and
4. Students' plans for ongoing practice.

The projects will also draw attention to topics such as museum display, science fiction, internet-mediated discourse, and will involve close reading and literary analysis of texts, whether in science, social studies of science, or science fiction.

The projects will be undertaken in a Project-Based Learning format that allows students to shape their own directions of inquiry, skill development, and collegial support. Students' learning will be guided by individualized bibliographies co-constructed with the instructors, the inquiries of the other students, and a set of tools and processes for literary analysis, inquiry, reflection, and support. By the end of the class, you will have 1) charted a path into an ever-growing body of work on the interpretation of sciences in contexts, to which feminist, anti-racist, and other critical analysts and activists have made significant contributions, and 2) formulated a personal plan for ongoing inquiry that troubles the boundaries of knowledge production in the academy and sciences. Students from all fields and levels of preparation are encouraged to join the course; advanced study in the sciences or literary analysis is not required.

## Faculty

**Peter Taylor** is a Professor at UMass Boston, where he directs the Critical and Creative Thinking Graduate Program and its Science in a Changing World track. He has co-taught four times for GCWS on Gender, Race, and Science using a Project-Based Learning format. His books *include Unruly Complexity, Taking Yourself Seriously,* and *Nature-Nurture? No.*

**Mary Baine Campbell** is Professor of English at Brandeis University; she also teaches in Comparative Literature and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. She has prepared

two former GCWS courses and twice been a member of the GCWS Board of Directors. Her books include *The Witness and the Other World: Exotic European Travel Writing, 400-1600* and *Wonder and Science: Imagining Worlds in Early Modern Europe.*

### Student comment:

**"I like many things. First, the way in which the course links different perspectives without a clear boundary. Also, the demanding enrollment, because we continue thinking during the full week about class issues."**

# Breakdown of Student Participants for all GCWS Courses

## By Institution

Boston College	6
Boston University	14
Brandeis University	14
Harvard University	15
MIT	3
Northeastern University	4
Simmons College	8
Tufts University	1
UMass Boston	9
Total Enrollment	74

## By Discipline

African and African American Studies	1	Humanities	1
American and New England Studies	1	Humbert Humphrey Fellowship Program	1
American Studies	1	Law	1
Anthropology	4	Mechanical Engineering	1
Committee on the Study of Religion	1	Mental Health Counseling	1
Counseling Psychology	1	Near Eastern and Judaic Studies	2
Creative Practice	1	Organizations and Social Change	1
Critical and Creative Thinking	1	Political Science	1
Cultural Anthropology	1	Religion	3
Divinity	2	Religion, Politics, and Ethics	1
English	9	Romance Languages	1
Gender/Cultural Studies	8	Romance Studies	1
Global Inclusion and Social Development	1	Social and Behavioral Sciences	2
Heller School for Social Policy and Management	6	Sociology	7
Hispanic Language and Literature	1	Theological Studies	7
History	2	Women's Studies in Religion	1
History of Science	1	Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	12

# Breakdown of Faculty Participants for all GCWS Courses

## **By Institution**

Boston College	1
Boston University	0
Brandeis University	4
Harvard University	1
MIT	0
Northeastern University	1
Simmons College	1
Tufts University	0
UMass Boston	1

Total Teaching Faculty 9

## **By Discipline**

African and Afro-American Studies	1
Comparative Literature	1
Critical and Creative Thinking	1
Divinity	1
English	4
International Affairs	1
Philosophy	1
Religious Studies	1
Sociology	1
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	3

# 2016 – 2017 Microseminars

In 2016-2017, GCWS launched a pilot program for the academic year: graduate level micro-seminars in topics in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. These micro-seminars 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 provided students and instructors the opportunity to delve into ideas not covered in existing courses at their home institution. Seminars were open to member institution graduate studies, seniors in WGS or a related major, and to faculty. Seminars met for two hours, once a week at Boston College, Tufts University, Harvard University, and MIT.

## **Microseminar Topics**

### **Fall Semester**

#### **Sex Panics and Social Control**

Wednesdays 5:00-7:00 PM

September 21, 2016 – October 19, 2016

Faculty: Catherine Connell, Assistant Professor of Sociology, Boston University

Meets at: Boston College

#### **Who Can Play? Race, Gender, Sports, and Bodies**

Tuesdays 7:00 – 9:00PM

October 18, 2016 – November 15, 2016

Faculty: Jo Trigilio, Director of Gender/Cultural Studies and Senior Lecturer of Philosophy and Women's and Gender Studies, Simmons College

Meets at: Tufts University

### **Spring Semester**

#### **A Reading with the Author: *Compulsory: Education and the Dispossession of Youth in a Prison School***

Fridays 10:00– 12:00 PM

February 3, 2017 – March 10, 2017

Faculty: Sabina Vaught, Associate Professor of Education, Tufts University

Meets at: Harvard University

#### **Critical Menstruation Studies**

Wednesdays 6:00 – 8:00 PM

March 22, 2017 – April 19, 2017

Faculty: Chris Bobel, Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies, UMass Boston

Meets at: MIT

# Sex Panics and Social Control

Wednesdays 5:00 – 7:00 PM

September 21, 2016 – October 19, 2016

Meets at: Boston College

Public anxieties over teenage sex parties, HIV “bug chasers,” and ritual sexual abuse in daycare are all forms of sex panic, which center on disruptions of the established norms of appropriate sexual behavior that threaten to transform social order and mores. They often entail false or exaggerated claims about the phenomenon at hand that are then used to justify more stringent punitive and surveillance practices against the marginalized. Scholars argue that such panics, seemingly about protecting child welfare, public health, or national security are actually about the regulation of gender, sexuality, race, and class and the maintenance of privilege. In this seminar, we will examine a number of case studies of sex panics from the US, UK, and Canada to investigate their various motivations, discursive constructions, and consequences. This is an interdisciplinary course that includes scholarship from and will be relevant to students interested in sociology, anthropology, education, media studies, philosophy, cultural studies, political science, and American Studies; it also includes journalism and documentary film.

## Faculty

**Catherine Connell** is Assistant Professor of Sociology, WGS Affiliated Faculty at Boston University, and is also Director of Graduate Studies for the BU Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program. Her work focuses on the intersections of gender, sexuality, and work & occupations. She is the author of *School’s Out: Gay and Lesbian Teachers in the Classroom* (2014, UC Press). Her work has been published in *Signs*, *Gender & Society*, and *Women’s Studies Quarterly*, among other outlets.

### Student comment:

“While I have some opportunities to take courses outside my discipline at my institution, they largely ignore gender, sociology, and/or queer theory. It was great to have this focus on queer theory and have students from varied backgrounds.”

## Who Can Play? Race, Gender, Sports, and Bodies

*Tuesdays 7:00 – 9:00 PM*

*October 18, 2016 – November 15, 2016*

*Meets at: Tufts University*

This seminar will explore the role that sports play in understanding gendered, raced, and sexed bodies in the U.S. The world of sports produces concepts and images of embodiment that effect institutionalized gender and race relations, and in turn, sexism and racism continue to structure the world of sports. Do biological differences between male and female bodies justify "separate and different, but equal" treatment in sports? How is binary biological sex to be understood in a sports world complicated by anabolic steroids, intersexed individuals, and trans people? Why was it considered socially inappropriate for U.S. white women to run track in the 1940's while U.S. black women became international track stars? How are the characteristics of heavy musculature, strength, toughness, and resilience associated with gender bias in conceptions of leadership? This micro-seminar includes topics and concepts that would be relevant to students interested in gender studies, trans studies, race studies, embodiment theory, and sports theory.

### **Faculty:**

**Jo Trigilio** is Director of the Graduate Program in Gender/Cultural Studies at Simmons College and Senior Lecturer of Philosophy and Women's and Gender Studies. She is also Co-Chair of the Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (GCWS). Dr. Trigilio specializes in oppression/liberation theories, including feminist, gender, sexuality, race, and queer theories, with an interest in the intersection of theory and practice. Dr. Trigilio is politically active in the queer community of Boston and is currently leading the Boston Dyke March History and Archive Project.

### **Faculty comment:**

**"I appreciated the flexibility afforded by not focusing on assessment. This was such a collaborative seminar—teaching and learning alongside students."**



## **A Reading with the Author: Compulsory: Education and the Dispossession of Youth in a Prison School**

*Fridays 10:00 – 12:00 PM*

*February 3, 2017 – March 10, 2017*

*Meets at: Harvard University*

This micro-seminar will be organized around a collective reading of the instructor's newly released ethnography, *Compulsory*. *Compulsory* is a critical ethnography of one state's juvenile prison school system in which the author explores state constructions of race and gender power. Seminar participants will consider the specific questions of juvenile incarceration, compulsory state education, and critical ethnographic research tools. Particular attention will be paid to the use of feminist methodologies and theories in the book, with an eye toward their use in seminar participants' own scholarly inquiry. This seminar will be relevant to students who are interested in critical qualitative feminist research, prison, education, and/or theories of race and gender.

### **Faculty:**

**Sabina Vaught** is Associate Professor in the Department of Education, Director of Educational Studies, Chair of Education, and Director of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Tufts University. Dr. Vaught is also Co-Chair of the Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (GCWS). Dr. Vaught's scholarship examines the state institutional contexts and dynamics of race, gender, schooling, and power. Her research is grounded in critical race and feminist theories.

### **Student comment:**

**"The interaction between students and professor was one of the best parts of the class. Material was engaging, presented in different formats, and each participant brought a unique and interesting point of view."**

## Critical Menstruation Studies

*Wednesdays 6:00 – 8:00 PM*  
*March 22, 2017 – April 19, 2017*  
*Meets at: MIT*

*Newsweek's* April 29, 2016 cover story on menstrual activism signaled a historic shift. A few months earlier, *Cosmopolitan*, *NPR* and the *Huffington Post* all dubbed 2015 “The Year the Period went Public.” Indeed, very recently, we have seen an unprecedented diversity of menstrual-positive expressions—from the artistic to the practical, the serious and the playful, local and the global. In this seminar, we will regard menstruation as a way to make sense of political, social, medical, and biological processes, and the recursive work embedded in its social construction. Critical menstrual studies are premised upon menstruation as a category of analysis, asking how systems of power and knowledge are built upon its understanding, and furthermore, who benefits from these social constructions. In general, we will explore this question: what knowledge is gained when menstruation emerges as a dynamic category of analysis? Students in this seminar will explore the extant literature as well as iterative questions germane to this emerging and rapidly proliferating subfield. This micro-seminar includes topics and concepts that would be relevant to students interested in body studies, gender and health (especially through the lenses of medicalization, biopolitics, global development, and neoliberalism), and feminist activism.

### **Faculty comment:**

**“The students were highly engaged and wonderful. They participated eagerly and rigorously, across a range of disciplinary and degree backgrounds.”**

### **Faculty:**

**Chris Bobel** is Associate Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Her scholarship lies at the intersection of social movements, gender, health and embodiment, or how feminist thinking becomes feminist doing at the most intimate and immediate levels. She is the author of *The Paradox of Natural Mothering* and *New Blood: Third Wave Feminism and the Politics of Menstruation*, and co-editor of *Embodied Resistance: Breaking the Rules, Challenging the Norms*.

## Breakdown of Student Participants for all GCWS Microseminars

### By Institution

Boston College	6
Boston University	6
Brandeis University	3
Harvard University	2
MIT	5
Northeastern University	3
Simmons College	9
Tufts University	6
UMass Boston	5
Total Enrollment	45

### By Discipline

American Studies	1	English	4
Anthropology	4	Gender and Culture Studies	8
Applied Math	1	Global Inclusion	2
Biology	1	Human Services	1
Counseling	3	International Affairs	1
Criminology	1	Maternal & Child Health	1
Curriculum & Instruction	1	Mechanical Engineering	1
Education	4	Sociology	4
Electrical Engineering & Computer Science	1	WGS	6

# 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 and Gender 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 2016-2017 prize was awarded to the following student:

Sarah Leventer, Boston University

“Queering the ‘McConaissance’: Matthew McConaughey and Hollywood’s Conditional Courting of Diversity”

This year’s prize committee included:

- Sandy Alexandre, Associate Professor of Literature, MIT
- Genevieve Clutario, Assistant Professor of History, Harvard University

# 2016-2017 Workshops, Events, and Initiatives

## Feminisms Unbound

The GCWS hosted the third year of Feminisms Unbound. 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 was to foster conversations and community among Boston-area feminist intellectuals and activists. The series, in its open configuration, endeavored to allow the greatest measure of engagement across multiple disciplinary trajectories, and a full array of feminist investments. All four discussions were hosted at MIT. Over 100 people attended the series, including faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, as well as members of the public. The series continues to be a success and will be continuing to the 2017-2018 academic year.

The event organizers, GCWS affiliated faculty **Kimberly Juanita Brown**, Assistant Professor of English and Africana Studies, Mount Holyoke College, **Lisa Lowe**, Professor of English and American Studies, Tufts University, and **Jyoti Puri**, Professor of Sociology, Simmons College, programmed four topic-based discussions in this series:

### Black Women and the Carceral State - September 14, 2016

- Sarah Haley, Assistant Professor of Gender Studies and African American Studies, University of California, Los Angeles
- Aneeka A. Henderson, Assistant Professor of Sexuality, Women's, and Gender Studies Department, Amherst College
- Kelli Moore, Assistant Professor of Media, Culture, and Communications, New York University
- Moderated by Kimberly Juanita Brown, Assistant Professor English and Africana Studies, Mount Holyoke College

### Sexual Collisions: Reflections on Empire, Terror, and Violence - October 26, 2016

- Eng-Beng Lim, Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Dartmouth College
- Gayatri Gopinath, Associate Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University
- Aisha M. Beliso-De Jesús, Associate Professor of African American Religions, Harvard Divinity School

- Ben Carrington, Associate Professor of Sociology and African and African Diaspora Studies, University of Texas, Austin
- Moderated by Lisa Low, Professor of English and Humanities, Tufts University

Trans/Multi/Mediations - February 15, 2017

- Sasha Costanza-Chock, Associate Professor of Civic Media, MIT
- Sarah J. Jackson, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, Northeastern University
- Thomas A. King, Associate Professor of English, Brandeis University
- Moderated by Jyoti Puri, Professor of Sociology, Simmons College

Graduate Student Roundtable - April 12, 2016

- Leena Akhtar, PhD Candidate, History of Science, Harvard University
- Channon Miller, PhD Candidate, American Studies, Boston University and Women's and Gender Studies Predoctoral Fellow, MIT
- Asimina Ino Nikolopoulou, PhD Candidate, English, Northeastern University
- Ryan Weberling, PhD Candidate, English, Boston University

**Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender Culture Women & Sexuality**

# Feminisms Unbound

**FEMINISMS UNBOUND: a GCWS event series at MIT featuring discussions on feminist concerns, theories, and practices in our contemporary moment**

<p><b>Black Women and the Carceral State</b>          Wednesday, September 14th: 5:30-7:30 PM          Building E51 Room 095, MIT</p> <p><b>Sarah Haley</b>, Assistant Professor          Gender Studies &amp; African American Studies          University of California, Los Angeles</p> <p><b>Aneeka A. Henderson</b>, Assistant Professor          Sexuality, Women's &amp; Gender Studies          Amherst College</p> <p><b>Kelli Moore</b>, Assistant Professor          Media, Culture, and Communication          New York University</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Kimberly Juanita Brown</b>, Assistant Professor,          English and Africana Studies at Mount Holyoke College</p>	<p><b>Sexual Collisions: Reflections on Empire, Terror, and Violence</b>          Wednesday, October 26th: 5:30-7:30 PM          Building E51 Room 095, MIT</p> <p><b>Eng-Beng Lim</b>, Associate Professor          Women's, Gender, &amp; Sexuality Studies, Dartmouth College</p> <p><b>Gayatri Gopinath</b>, Associate Professor          Social &amp; Cultural Analysis, New York University</p> <p><b>Aisha Beliso-De Jesus</b>, Associate Professor          African American Religions, Harvard Divinity School</p> <p><b>Ben Carrington</b>, Associate Professor          Sociology and African &amp; African Diaspora Studies          University of Texas, Austin</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Lisa Lowe</b>, Professor of English and Humanities,          Tufts University</p>	<p><b>Trans/Multi/Mediations</b>          Wednesday, February 15th: 5:30-7:30 pm          The Moore Room, Building 6 Room 321, MIT</p> <p><b>Sasha Costanza-Chock</b>, Associate Professor          Civic Media, MIT</p> <p><b>Sarah J. Jackson</b>, Assistant Professor          Communication Studies, Northeastern University</p> <p><b>Thomas A. King</b>, Associate Professor          English, Brandeis University</p> <p>Moderator: <b>Jyoti Puri</b>, Professor of Sociology,          Simmons College</p>	<p><b>Graduate Student Roundtable</b>          Wednesday, April 12, 2007          The Moore Room, Building 6 Room 321, MIT</p> <p>The final event of the <i>Feminisms Unbound 2016-2017</i> year will be a roundtable of current GCWS doctoral students. Students will present their research as the culminating event of the series.</p> <p>Participants: <b>TBD</b></p>
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**For more information:**  
<http://web.mit.edu/GCWS>

This GCWS initiative is intended 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.

**Event series organizers:**

<b>Kimberly Juanita Brown</b> Assistant Professor of English and Africana Studies Mount Holyoke College	<b>Lisa Lowe</b> Professor of English and American Studies Tufts University	<b>Jyoti Puri</b> Professor of Sociology Simmons College
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## **Black Women and the Carceral State**

*Feminisms Unbound*

September 14, 2016: 5:30-7:30 PM

This roundtable considered the totality of the carceral state, from the vantage point of black women's histories, testimonies, experiences and creative works. Black women's fraught relationship to the state has often existed invisibly within the intersectional axes of marginalization, and been submerged beneath the specter of race, class, gender, and sexuality. Three interdisciplinary scholars gathered to ponder all of the mechanisms of the prison system, from its long historical trajectory to literary and visual representations. The event provided a far-reaching discourse on the frameworks of restriction and containment that impact black women and the lives they attempt to control.

Roundtable discussion participants:

**Sarah Haley**, Assistant Professor of Gender Studies and African American Studies, University of California, Los Angeles.

Sarah Haley's research focuses on black feminist analyses of the U.S. carceral state from the late nineteenth century to the present, black women and labor, and black radical traditions and organizing. She received her PhD in African American Studies and American Studies, and her research has been supported by a number of organizations including the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, the Ford Foundation, The Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, and Princeton University's Center for African American Studies. She has also worked as a paralegal for the New York Office of the Federal Public Defender and as a labor organizer with UNITE-HERE. Her writing has appeared in *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* and *Souls: A Critical Journal of Black Politics, Culture, and Society*. Her first book, *No Mercy Here: Gender, Punishment, and the Making of Jim Crow Modernity*, examines the lives of imprisoned women in the U.S. South from the 1870s to the 1930s and the role of carcerality in shaping cultural logics of race and gender under Jim Crow. She is working on a book that examines the relationship between domesticity and the rise of mass incarceration in the late twentieth century.

**Aneeka A. Henderson**, Assistant Professor of Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies Department, Amherst College.

Through an analysis of late 20th and early 21st century fiction, film, music, and art, Professor Henderson's book manuscript, *Wedding Bell Blues: Race, and the Modern Marriage Plot* unmask how black women's bodies and family formation are politicized and made public by popular discourse and government regulation

of the so-called private sphere. Broadly, her work constructs a new paradigm for interrogating the fraught relationship between black female subjectivity and the institution of marriage as well as understanding the social forces shaping late 20th and early 21st century fiction and culture.

**Kelli Moore**, Assistant Professor of Media, Culture, and Communications, NYU

Kelli Moore examines the role of media technology in the production of legal and political knowledge. She is at work on a monograph that about courtroom mediation that examines the role of the image in facilitating the performance of witness testimony in domestic violence cases. She earned her Ph.D. in Communication at the University of California, San Diego. Kelli is a former University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellow in Rhetoric at Berkeley. Her work can be found at *Anglistica*, *Reviews in Cultural Theory*, and *Feminist Surveillance Studies* (Duke University Press, 2015).

Moderated by:

**Kimberly Juanita Brown**, Assistant Professor of English and Africana Studies, Mount Holyoke College.

Kimberly Juanita Brown's research gathers at the intersection of contemporary black diasporic literature, critical race theory and visual culture studies. Her book *The Repeating Body: Slavery's Visual Resonance in the Contemporary* (Duke University Press) examines contemporary representations of slavery that emphasize the repetition of black women's corporeal practices in the aftermath of the event of slavery. She is currently at work on a second project examining images of the dead on the cover of the *New York Times* in 1994. Tentatively titled *Their Dead Among Us: Photography, Melancholy, and the Politics of the Visual*, this project explores the photographic dispossession of the body of the other and the patterns of exclusion engendered by these ocular practices.

## **Sexual Collisions: Reflections on Empire, Terror, and Violence**

*Feminisms Unbound*

October 26, 2016 5:30-7:30PM

In the wake of the mass shootings in Orlando, the police shooting deaths of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, the murder of Jo Cox and the post-Brexit anti-immigrant practices, and the persistence of antiblack, anti-Muslim, and homophobic violence worldwide, we must address the urgent intersection of gender and sexuality with racialized state and non-state terror. This roundtable brought together queer and feminist scholars of race, diaspora, performance, and religion to reflect on these intersections, focusing particular attention on the



gendered and sexualized dimensions of contemporary crises within racial capitalism, such as: masculinity and the militarization of policing; gender, race, and incarceration; the gendered criminalization of immigrant and diasporic religions; and queer responses to policing and the “war on terror.”

Roundtable discussion participants:

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

Eng-Beng Lim works in performance and cultural studies, Asian/American studies, postcolonial/diaspora studies, and queer/transnational studies, and he is currently teaching the *Orlando Syllabus*, a course addressing the emergence of ‘toxic masculinity,’ mass violence, racism and homophobia in the aftermath of the shootings in Orlando, Florida. He is the author of *Brown Boys and Rice Queens: Spellbinding Performance in the Asias* (NYU, 2014), which received awards from the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies at CUNY Grad Center, and the Association for Asian American Studies.

**Gayatri Gopinath**, Associate Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University

Gayatri Gopinath works at the intersection of transnational feminist theory, queer diaspora studies, and postcolonial studies. Her book, *Impossible Desires: Queer Diasporas and South Asian Public Cultures* (Duke UP, 2005) examined queer contestations of normative figurations of family, nation, culture, and territory in a range of literature, film, music, and visual culture of South Asian diaspora. Her current book project, *Unruly Visions: The Aesthetic Practices of Queer Diaspora*, elaborates queer diasporic aesthetic responses to war, displacement, and colonial violence by artists and writers from South Asia, the Middle East, the Caribbean, Central Asia, and across various global “souths.”

**Aisha M. Beliso-De Jesús**, Associate Professor of African American Religions, Harvard Divinity School

Aisha M. Beliso-De Jesús is a cultural and social anthropologist who has conducted ethnographic research with Santería practitioners in Cuba and the United States since 2003. Her award-winning book, *Electric Santería: Racial and Sexual Assemblages of Transnational Religion* (Columbia UP, 2015) details the transnational experience of Santería, in which racialized and gendered spirits, deities, priests, and religious travelers remake local, national, and political boundaries and actively reconfigure notions of technology and transnationalism. Her publications include articles in *American Ethnologist*, *Cultural Anthropology*,

and *Signs: A Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. Her current work explores the policing of Afro-Latino religious communities.

**Ben Carrington**, Associate Professor of Sociology and African and African Diaspora Studies, University of Texas, Austin

Ben Carrington is a sociologist whose work analyzes the reproduction of race and masculinity within contemporary UK and US societies, with special attention to how ideologies of race shape—and are themselves shaped by—cultural forms, practices and identities and how popular culture is often a key site of both cultural resistance and domination. He examines the mass media, music, and sport to understand key sociological dimensions of everyday life such as personal and communal identity and nationalistic identification and dis-identification. He is the author of *Race, Sport and Politics: The Sporting Black Diaspora* (Sage, 2010), and coeditor of several important volumes on race, culture, and gender.

Moderated by:

**Lisa Lowe**, Professor of English and Humanities, Tufts University

Lisa Lowe works in the fields of comparative literature, comparative colonialisms, and the cultural politics of race and migration. She has authored books on orientalism, immigration, and globalization. Her most recent, *The Intimacies of Four Continents* (Duke UP, 2015), is a study of settler colonialism, transatlantic African slavery, and the East Indies and China trades. With Jack Halberstam, she coedits the book series, *Perverse Modernities*, for Duke University Press.

### **Trans/Multi/Mediations**

*Feminisms Unbound*

February 15, 2017 5:30-7:30 PM

This roundtable hosted scholars and activists who intervene in the racialized, gendered, and queer aspects of our thoroughly mediated worlds, perspectives, subjectivities, and selves. These participants write and reflect critically on media forms, working within and across multiple modalities, ranging from the conventional to the digital and the emergent. Setting their work further apart is that these participants use media forms creatively, purposing and repurposing them to call on their transformational capacities in the service of vulnerable communities and social movements.

Roundtable discussion participants:

**Sasha Costanza-Chock**, Associate Professor of Civic Media, MIT

Sasha Costanza-Chock is a scholar, activist, and media-maker. They are a Principal Investigator at the MIT Center for Civic Media ([civic.mit.edu](http://civic.mit.edu)), creator of the MIT Codesign Studio ([codesign.mit.edu](http://codesign.mit.edu)), and a Faculty Associate at the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard Law School. Sasha's book, *Out of the Shadows, Into the Streets: Transmedia Organizing and the Immigrant Rights Movement*, was published by the MIT Press in 2014. They are a board member of Allied Media Projects ([alliedmedia.org](http://alliedmedia.org)), and a worker/owner at Research Action Design (RAD.cat), a worker-owned cooperative that uses community-led research, transformative media organizing, technology development, and collaborative design to build the power of grassroots social movements.

**Sarah J. Jackson**, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies, Northeastern University

Sarah Jackson studies the role of media and technology in national conversations about social movements. Her recent work considers the evolution of the #Ferguson hashtag, #BlackLivesMatter, and other online interventions about race and policing. She is lead author on a collaborative book project on the Twitter activism of black, feminist, and queer counterpublics.

**Thomas A. King**, Associate Professor of English, Brandeis University

Thomas King co-chairs the interdisciplinary minor in Creativity, the Arts, and Social Transformation (CAST) and was a founder of the minor in Sexuality and Queer Studies (SQS). King is author of *The Gendering of Men 1660-1750*, vol. 1: *The English Phallus* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2004) and *The Gendering of Men 1660-1750*, vol. 2: *Queer Articulations* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2008). He recently adapted and directed Caryl Churchill's *Drunk Enough to Say I Love You?* (Artists' Theater of Boston at Aeronaut

Brewery, 2015; remounted at Brandeis University's Merrick Theatre, 2016). He is currently writing *The Subject at the End of the Voice*, which explores erotic and affective subjectivity in early modern and eighteenth-century England in relation to the divisions of speaking across disparate geographical, racial, generic, and bodily registers.

Moderated by:

**Jyoti Puri**, Professor of Sociology, Simmons College

Jyoti Puri works at the crossroads of sociology, sexuality and queer studies, and postcolonial feminist theory. Her book, *Sexual States: Governance and the Struggle against the Antisodomy Law in India*, was recently published by Duke University Press (February 2016). She has also published books,

including *Woman, Body, Desire in Post-colonial India* (Routledge 1999) and *Encountering Nationalism* (Blackwell Publishers 2004), as well as articles, chapters, and journal special issues on sexuality, state, gender, and nationalism. She is a co-editor for the journal, *Foucault Studies*.

### **Graduate Student Roundtable**

*Feminisms Unbound*

April 12, 2017 5:30-7:30 PM

The final event of the Feminisms Unbound 2016-2017 year was a roundtable of current GCWS doctoral students who are participating in the GCWS Workshop for Dissertation Writers in Women's and Gender Studies. The Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality has, since its inception, facilitated the production of numerous doctoral dissertations, all concerned with the transnational structures of power and resistance shaping the contemporary world. Students presented their research as the culminating event of the series.

Roundtable Discussion Participants:

"From Rape Trauma Syndrome to PTSD"

**Leena Akhtar**, PhD Candidate, History of Science, Harvard University

Leena Akhtar is a graduate student in the Department of the History of Science at Harvard University. Her scholarly interests focus on the history of medicine and mid to late 20th century psychiatry, particularly trauma psychiatry. Her dissertation is about the impact of Second Wave feminist activism on understandings of rape survivors, and trauma survivors more broadly, in the 1970s.

"Migrant Mothers: Intersecting Burdens, Resistance and the Power of Interethnic Ties"

**Channon Miller**, PhD Candidate, American Studies, Boston University and Women's and Gender Studies Predoctoral Fellow, MIT

Channon Miller is a PhD candidate in the American and New England Studies program from Hartford, Connecticut and alum of Trinity College (CT). Her dissertation, "Migrant Black Mothers," draws on documentary evidence and original ethnographic research to explore the lived realities of native and foreign-born black mothers in the contemporary moment. She asserts that they forge interethnic ties as a means of challenging the intersecting oppressions of race, gender and class and its amplification in the "post-racial" context.

"Senses and Sights of Dispossession: Contemporary Tales of the Black Diaspora and the Global South"

**Asimina Ino Nikolopoulou**, PhD Candidate, English, Northeastern University

Asimina Ino Nikolopoulou is a Visiting Lecturer at Tufts Experimental College and a PhD Candidate in English at Northeastern University. Prior to this she completed a Masters in American Studies at Columbia University as a Fulbright Scholar. Her dissertation "Senses and Sights of Dispossession: Contemporary Tales of the Black Diaspora and the Global South," examines the affective underpinnings of citizenship and belonging in literary texts, visual art, and media representations curated by women of color.

"One World, One Life ': Modernist Fiction and the Politics of Federation"

**Ryan Weberling**, PhD Candidate, English, Boston University

Ryan Weberling is a doctoral candidate in the English department at Boston University, where he is also completing a graduate certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. His dissertation, "One World, One Life': Modernist Fiction and the Politics of Federation," considers how writers such as Oscar Wilde, Virginia Woolf, and Salman Rushdie responded to the emergence of liberal federalism as a mode of governance and structure of feeling.

# Making Feminist Fitna! Islamic Feminist Disruptions

October 22, 2016

12:00 – 9:00 PM

MIT

This was a half-day event bringing together local Muslim feminists and allies from academia, activists, and art spaces to share, discuss, and celebrate Islamic feminist thought. The major goal was to expose a wide range of people, particularly undergraduate and graduate students, to ideas not often heard in Muslim spaces or in media portrayals of the Muslim community. The event consisted of panel discussions, a keynote roundtable, and a breakout community discussion on women in Muslim spaces. Following the community discussion was an open-mic with performances from Muslim women artists and event participants to engage in storytelling of feminist struggles.

Featured panelists and presenters include:

- **Dr. Kecia Ali**, Department of Religion, Boston University
- **Saadia Yacoob**, Department of Religion, Williams College
- **Dr. Zahra Ayubi**, Department of Religion, Dartmouth College
- **Dr. Elora Chowdhury**, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, UMass Boston
- **Naila Baloch**, Associate Chaplain and Muslim Advisor, Middlebury College

**Saturday October 22nd**

# MAKING FEMINIST FITNA!

## ISLAMIC FEMINIST DISRUPTIONS

A half-day event bringing together local Muslim feminists and allies from academia, activist and art spaces to share, discuss and celebrate Islamic feminist thought.

**SCHEDULE:**  
12-5:30 panels and breakout group  
W20 Lobby (W20-208)  
7-9:00 open mic  
W20 Mezz (W20-307)

**FEATURING:**

<b>DR. KECIA ALI</b> Dept of Religion, BU	<b>DR. ELORA CHOWDHURY</b> WGS, UMass Boston
<b>SAADIA YACOUB</b> Dept of Religion, Williams College	<b>NAILA BALOCH</b> Associate Chaplain and Muslim Advisor, Middlebury College
<b>DR. ZAHRA AYUBI</b> Dept of Religion, Dartmouth College	

Limited Space! Register Today at: <http://tinyurl.com/fitnaMIT>

#fitnaMIT

Co-sponsored by:  
Women's and Gender Studies (WGS)  
Middlebury Community Equity Office (MCEO)  
Center for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women & Sexuality (CGCS)

Chair of Arts  
Scholar to the Institute  
Center for International Studies (CIS)  
Office of International Activities (OIA)  
MIT Muslim Student Association (MSA)

Additional co-sponsorships are listed on the event registration page.

## A Teach-In: Standing Rock Protests and Protective Actions

October 28, 2016 12:30 – 7:00 PM &  
October 29, 2016 10:30 – 5:30 PM  
Tufts University

This two-day teach-in considered a range of issues related to the Sacred Stone Camp protests and protections in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux against the Dakota Access Pipeline. There were a number of panels and discussions. The event was open to graduate and undergraduate students, university staff and faculty, and the public.

Panel topics included:

- Waking Up Colonized
- History of Protest and Resistance
- Sovereignty and Sacred Space
- Settler Colonialism and Law
- Supporting Indigenous Voices & Movements with Social Media
- Women, Health, and Healing
- Water Rights: Considering Multiple Contexts

Speakers featured:

- **Megan Ireland**, Oneida Nation, Protester
- **Kandi Mossett**, Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara – North Dakota Indigenous Environmental Network
- **Thomas Abowd**, American Studies/Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora/Anthropology, Tufts University
- **Dr. Cutchu Risling Balday**, Hupa, Karuk, Yurok, Assistant Professor of American Indian Studies, San Diego State University
- **Dale Turner**, Anishinaabe/citizen of the Temagami First Nation in northern Ontario, Canada, Associate Professor of Government and of Native American Studies, Dartmouth University
- **J. Kehaulani Kauanui**, Kanaka Maoli, Professor of American Studies and Anthropology, Wesleyan University

**PROTEST!**  
Resistance, Solidarity, Transformation

FREE & Open to the Public

**A Teach-In:  
Standing Rock Protests  
& Protective Actions**

Friday, October 28th & Saturday, October 29th

Terrace Room, Paige Hall 12:30 PM - 7 PM  
Crane Room, Paige Hall 10 AM - 5 PM

This two-day Teach-In will consider a range of issues related to the Sacred Stone Camp protests and protective actions in solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux and against Dakota Access Pipeline.

**Panels and discussions will include:**

- Sovereignty and colonial law
- Women's health and healing
- Water rights and protection
- Histories of protest and resistance
- Hashtag activism

For more information:  
W: [tinyurl.com/StandingRockTufts](https://tinyurl.com/StandingRockTufts) @: [sabina.vaught@tufts.edu](mailto:sabina.vaught@tufts.edu)

Sponsored by the Department of Education and the Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Co-sponsored by:  
Office of the Chief Diversity Officer and Associate Provost, Department of Sociology, Consortium of Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora, The LGBT Center, Department of Anthropology, Lincoln Plaine Center at Tufts College, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, Center for the Study of Race and Democracy, Women's Center, Environmental Studies Program, Peace and Justice Studies, Pluriverse Initiatives, and The Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, & Sexuality (CGWS) at MIT

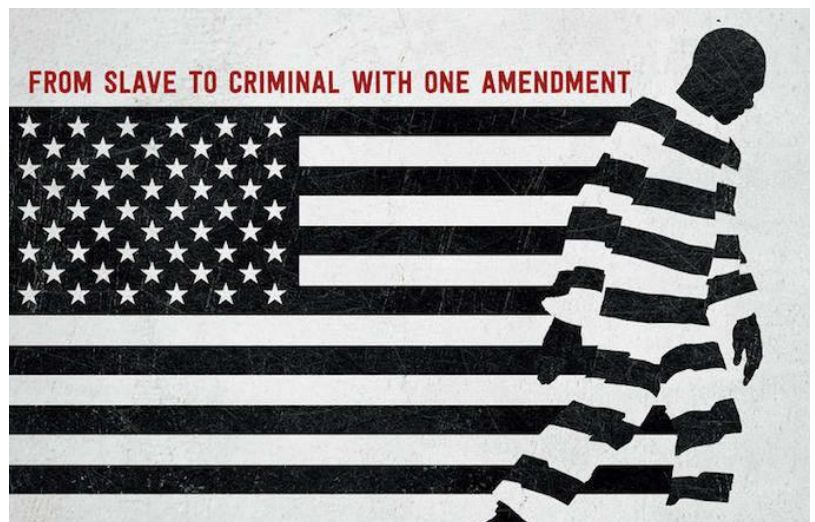
Tufts UNIVERSITY

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

March 3 – March 29, 2017  
THEME: Power and Access

This annual film festival, now in its seventh 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 were free and open to the public.





## Screenings of Films by GCWS Institutions

### Boston College

#### *No Mas Bebés*

Directed by Renee Tajima-Peña

March 16, 2017 at 7:00 PM

McGuinn 121 Auditorium

*Discussion with Sharlene Hesse-Biber, Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of the Women's Studies and Gender Studies Program at Boston College*

### MIT

#### *I3<sup>th</sup>*

Directed by Ava DuVernay

March 3, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Bartos Theatre, E15

*Discussion with Melina Abdullah, Professor and Chair of Pan-African Studies at California State University, Los Angeles, organizer with Black Lives Matter, and interviewee from the film*

#### *Jackson*

Directed by Maisie Crow

March 9, 2017 at 7:00 PM

*Discussion with film director, Maisie Crow followed film*

#### *Daughters of the Dust*

Directed by Julie Dash

March 17, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Campus Building 6 Room 120

*Discussion with Sandy Alexandre, Professor of Literature, MIT followed film*

#### *Kate Bornstein is a Queer and Pleasant Danger*

Directed by Sam Feder

March 24, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Campus Building 6 Room 120

*Discussion with film director, Sam Feder, followed film*

### Northeastern University

#### *Trapped*

Directed by Dawn Porter

March 16, 2017 at 5:00 PM

Behrakis Health Sciences Center Room 310

*Discussion with Jessica Silbey, Professor of Law – Northeastern and Brooke Foucault Welles, Assistant Professor of Communications Studies and Network Science – Northeastern University followed film*

### Tufts University

#### *Mothers of Bedford*

Directed by Jenifer McShane

March 16, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Tufts Women's Center

*Discussion with Sabina Vaught, Associate Professor and Chair of Education and Director of WGSS, Tufts University and Deirdre Judge, MA student in Educational Studies, Tufts University*

#### *Southwest of Salem*

Directed by Deborah Esquenazi

March 29, 2017 at 6:00 PM

Crane Room, Paige Hall

### UMass Boston

#### *I3<sup>th</sup>*

Directed by Ava DuVernay

March 6, 2017 at 4:00 PM

University Hall 2-2120

*Discussion with Professors Tahirah Abdullah and Andrea Leverentz followed film*

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

### **Emerson College**

#### ***Equity***

Directed by Meera Menon

March 16, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Bright Family Screening Room

*Discussion with producer and actor David Basche, Emerson '90 followed film*

#### ***Remedy***

Directed by Cheyenne Picardo

March 21, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Bright Family Screening Room

*Discussion with film director, Cheyenne Picardo, followed film*

#### ***Deprogrammed***

Directed by Mia Donovan

March 23, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Bright Family Screening

*Discussion with film director, Mia Donovan, followed film*

### **Lesley University**

#### ***Scheherazade's Diary***

Directed by Zeina Daccache

March 7, 2018 at 4:00 PM

Sherril Library Room 251

*Discussion with Nisha Sajjani, PhD, RDT-BCT, Associate Professor, Lesley University followed film*

# The Personal is Still Political: Challenging Marginalization through Theory, Analysis, and Praxis

March 31, 2017 and April 1, 2017  
MIT Campus

In 2017, the GCWS organized and convened a graduate research conference. This event took place on March 21, 2017 and April 1, 2017 on the MIT campus. The conference, organized by students from GCWS member institutions, provided an opportunity for graduate students from all disciplines to showcase their research and build a network of feminist intellectuals, participating as panelists, panel moderators, and event attendees.

It was well attended with high number of participants, volunteers, and attendees. Both local and national panelists presented their research. Registrants spanned our member institutions and extended beyond, including members of the public and community leaders as well as graduate students, undergraduate, and faculty. The event included panel presentations, a keynote panel by Dr. Julie Childers, Executive Director of Our Bodies, Ourselves, Eva Millona, Executive Director, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Ruth Garby Torres, Teaching Fellow at Harvard University, and Dr. Amy Den Ouden, Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (GCWS) at MIT presents:

## THE PERSONAL IS STILL POLITICAL: CHALLENGING MARGINALIZATION THROUGH THEORY, ANALYSIS, AND PRAXIS

This graduate student conference explores and examines the multiple ways in which the concept "the personal is political" is deployed through both scholarship and practice. The weekend includes a keynote panel of scholars and activists whose work speaks directly to this important feminist declaration.

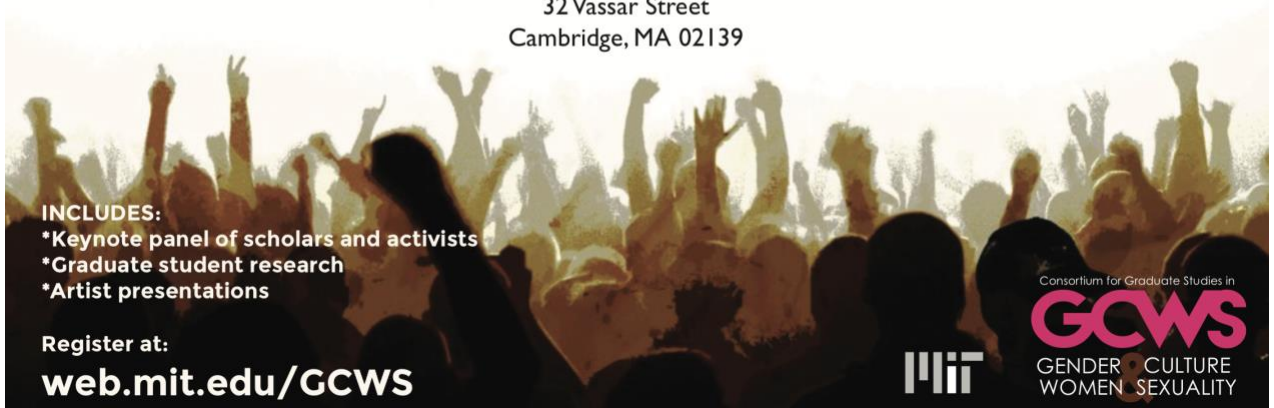
**MARCH 31 - APRIL 1, 2017**

**at MIT**

Ray and Maria Stata Center  
32 Vassar Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Questions?  
GCWS@mit.edu

Conference is **\*FREE\***  
and open to the public



INCLUDES:  
\*Keynote panel of scholars and activists  
\*Graduate student research  
\*Artist presentations

Register at:  
[web.mit.edu/GCWS](http://web.mit.edu/GCWS)



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

In the late 1960s, the statement “the personal is political” emerged as a central rallying cry for feminist activists. While salient before, it has become all the more urgent in light of the 2016 United States election results. Given this, the Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (GCWS) is hosting a graduate student conference, *The Personal Is Still Political: Challenging Marginalization through Theory, Analysis, & Praxis*, to investigate how this slogan has been, can be, or is now being mobilized as a concept for resistance by marginalized groups theoretically, analytically, and practically.

Thirty years ago, Audre Lorde remarked, “the absence of [race, sexuality, class, and age] weakens any feminist discussion of the personal and the political.” We build upon this inclusive declaration to examine the diverse reach of state oppressions, violence, hegemonic intervention, and marginality in the contemporary moment. We also aim to explore modes of resistance to such repression. Some of the questions this conference seeks to address include (but are not limited to):

- How have intersectional approaches to praxis reshaped this concept as a useful tool for counter-hegemonic struggles?
- How do repressed groups and individuals enact or challenge “the personal as political” in their daily lived experiences?
- How is this concept relevant to linkages between academia, activism, and practice?

There were 11 panels and 41 student papers were selected and presented. The panels covered the following topics:

- Masculinity and Modernity: Studies in Transmasculinity and Homosexuality
- Performance as Praxis: Art & Representation as Modes of Resistance
- Methodology as Praxis: New Approaches to Intersectional Analysis
- Nasty Women: Feminist Acts of Resistance and Rebellion
- Forging Communities and Forming Nations
- Demanding Recognition: Disease, Disability, and the State
- Policing and Policy-ing the Body: Law and Legislation in the U.S.
- Telling our Stories: First-Person Narratives and Oral Histories
- Sexualizing Race/Racializing Sexuality
- Monitoring Maternity: Pregnancy, Abortion, and Reproduction
- Love’s Labor’s Lost: Affective, Reproductive, and Domestic Labor

The conference closed with a keynote panel by Dr. Julie Childers, Executive Director of Our Bodies, Ourselves, Eva Millona, Executive Director, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Ruth Garby Torres,

Teaching Fellow at Harvard University, and Dr. Amy Den Ouden, Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.

**Dr. Julie Childers**

Having joined this organization in the spring of 2016, Childers is leading OBOS forward as it enhances the quality and breadth of its online health content, strengthens its global partnerships, and works collaboratively with other women's health organizations in the U.S. to promote women's reproductive and sexual health. Prior to joining OBOS, Childers served as the vice president for sexuality education at the Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, where she led the effort against abstinence-only until marriage education and advocated for a comprehensive sexuality curriculum for middle-school students.

**Eva A. Millona**

Millona is Executive Director of the MIRA Coalition, the state's largest organization representing the foreign born, and co-chair of the National Partnership for New Americans, the lead national organization focusing on immigrant integration. She joined MIRA in 1999 and served as Director of Policy and Advocacy and as Deputy Director before becoming Executive Director in 2008, and she is now one of New England's most highly quoted immigration experts. Prior to MIRA, Millona directed the refugee resettlement program in Central Massachusetts. In her native Albania, she practiced civil and criminal law, serving on Tirana's District Court from 1989 to 1992, when she was the nation's youngest district judge ever appointed.

**Ruth Garby Torres (Schaghticoke)**

Torres is a teaching fellow at Harvard University, where she earned a Master's in Public Administration. The course that she teaches, "Nation Building: American Indians in the 21st Century," is a field-based research course, which focuses on some of the major issues Native American tribes and nations face as they seek to assert rights of self-determination. Elected to tribal council at age 16, Torres has been involved in Indian affairs within her home state of Connecticut for much of her life. Her tribe's reservation, established by the Colony of Connecticut, is one of the oldest in the U.S. Torres serves as chair of Connecticut's Native American Heritage Advisory Council and is a trustee of the Institute for American Indian Studies in Washington, Connecticut. Beyond the region, she has been an active participant on the National Congress of American Indians Federal Acknowledgement Task Force since 2003. Her chapter about the Schaghticoques' experience with the federal acknowledgment process is included in *Recognition, Sovereignty Struggles, and Indigenous Rights in the US: A Sourcebook* (2013), a volume edited by Amy Den Ouden and Jean M. O'Brien. Torres's chapter was a result of a co-presented paper with Dr. Den Ouden at the Native American and

Indigenous Studies Association annual conference in 2009. Both Torres and Den Ouden continue their collaborative research and are currently examining the history, development and implementation of Connecticut public policy as it impacts the state's tribes. Other collaborations include the Schaghticoke chapter in *Dawnland Voices: An Anthology of Indigenous Writing from New England*, edited by Siobhan Senier, in which Torres joined with Schaghticoke tribal elder Trudie Richmond as community editors for the volume.

**Dr. Amy Den Ouden**

A cultural anthropologist, Dr. Den Ouden is the author of *Beyond Conquest: Native Peoples and the Struggle for History in New England* (2005) and co-editor, with Jean M. O'Brien, of *Recognition, Sovereignty Struggles, and Indigenous Rights in the United States* (2013). For over a decade, she worked as a researcher and writer for the Golden Hill Paugussett and Eastern Pequot federal acknowledgment projects. Her ongoing collaborative research with Ruth Garby Torres (above) is focused on Indian policy and Native self-determination in Connecticut. Other recent collaborations include her work with Torres and Jennifer Weston (Lakota; Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe Language Department Director) to design and co-teach a course on Indigenous Women's Leadership and Self-Determination at UMass Boston, and co-organizing, with Katherine Sebastian Dring (Chairwoman, Eastern Pequot Tribal Nation) a panel entitled "Cultural Heritage, Historical Trauma, and the Space for Justice: Eastern Pequot Reservation Land and Its Significance in the 21st Century" for the Cultural Landscapes & Heritage Values conference at University of Massachusetts Amherst in 2015. Her recent essays include "Histories with Communities: Struggles, Collaborations, Transformations" in *Sources and Methods in Indigenous Studies* (2017) and "Recognition and Rebuilding" in *The World of Indigenous North America* (2014). Currently, Dr. Den Ouden's research focuses on gender violence, colonial law, and Indigenous rights in eighteenth-century southern New England.

## Breakdown of Student Participants

### Presenters by Institution

Boston College	0	Northeastern	2
Boston University	2	Simmons	5
Brandeis	6	Tufts	4
Harvard	5	Umass Boston	3
MIT	1	Other	24
		Total	52

### Presenters by Discipline

Anthropology	4	History, Anthropology, Science, Technology, and Society	1
Africana Studies	1	Latino Studies	1
American Studies	2	Law	3
Art Education	1	MBA	1
City and Regional Planning	1	MFA	1
Communication Studies	1	Public Policy	2
Cultural Anthropology	2	Slavic Languages and Literatures	1
Cultural Studies	1	Social Anthropology	1
English	5	Sociology	3
Gender and Cultural Studies	3	Spanish Linguistics	1
Global Governance and Human Security	1	Sustainable International Development	1
History	2	Theological Studies	2
History of Art and Architecture	1	Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	8

**Organizers by Institution**

Boston College	1	Northeastern	0
Boston University	3	Simmons	4
Brandeis	1	Tufts	2
Harvard	0	UMass Boston	5
MIT	1		
		Total	17

**Attendees by Institution**

Boston College	5	Northeastern	6
Boston University	14	Simmons	21
Brandeis	30	Tufts	5
Harvard	14	UMass Boston	18
MIT	20	Other	73
		Total	206





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