

THE CONSORTIUM FOR GRADUATE STUDIES IN GENDER, CULTURE, WOMEN, AND SEXUALITY ANNUAL REPORT

2018-
2019

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



Consortium for Graduate Studies in

GCWS

GENDER & CULTURE
WOMEN & SEXUALITY

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Boston University

Anthony Petro, Departments of Religion and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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Tufts University

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University of Massachusetts, Boston

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

2018-2019 Board of Directors, Co-Chairs

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Anthony Petro, Department of Religion and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Junior Co-Chair

GCWS Program Manager

Stacey Lantz

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:

“Dr. Bobel was an amazing instructor – she’s open to helping us learn in all kinds of ways and also adapts and changes as the course goes on. She’s a brilliant example of a life-long learner and has been really, really wonderful.”

2018-2019 Courses

Workshop for Dissertation Writers in Women's and Gender Studies

Fall and Spring semesters: Thursdays 5:30-8:30 PM

September 6, 2018 – May 2, 2019

Fall instructor: Sandy Alexandre, Associate Professor, Department of Literature, MIT

Spring instructor: Sindiso Mnisi Weeks, Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy of Excluded Populations, School for Global Inclusion and Social Development, UMass Boston

Understanding Pornography

Fall semester: Mondays 3:30-6:30 PM

September 10, 2018 – December 10, 2018

Emily Rothman, Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences, Boston University

Sarah Leonard, Associate Professor, Department of History, Simmons University

Feminist Inquiry

Fall Semester, Tuesdays 5:00-8:00 PM

September 11, 2018 – December 11, 2018

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

Gendering U.S. Immigration Policy: Sociopolitical, Theological, and Feminist Perspectives

Spring semester: Fridays 9:00AM – 12:00 PM

January 31, 2019 – May 9, 2019

The Reverend Dr. Choi Hee An, Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Practical Theology, Boston University

Philip Kretsedemas, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, UMass Boston

Gender and Food

Spring semester: Tuesdays 4:00-7:00 PM

January 29, 2019 – May 7, 2019

Carole Biewener, Professor, Departments of Economics and Women's and Gender Studies, Simmons University

Laura Miller, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Brandeis University

Faculty comment

“Team-teaching with Dr. Sarah Leonard was one of the most rewarding experiences of my career. We come from substantially different disciplines which has the potential to lead to moments of disconnect between us, but somehow it really does serve to make the course, the discussions, and interactions with students more rich.”

Workshop for Dissertation Writers in Women's and Gender Studies

*Fall and Spring semesters: Thursdays 5:30-8:30 PM
September 6, 2018 – May 2, 2019*

The main goal of this dissertation workshop will be to teach students three specific skills to help them become not only better writers of their own work but also better readers of scholarly work besides their own. My philosophy is that good writing and reading skills go hand in hand.

Skill #1: How to listen attentively and generously.

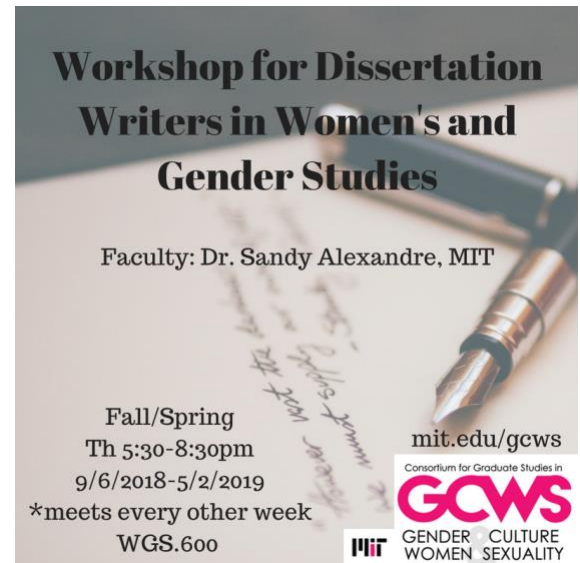
Too often when graduate students are in the throes of working on their own projects, the ability to think beyond that specific focus gets stunted. To prevent that kind of perceptual atrophy, I plan to teach students how to listen on behalf of the development of projects that are not their own. I want the way students listen to their peers to offer evidence that they wish their peers' scholarly pursuits well. This kind of attentive-generous listening will allow students to be more capacious and flexible in their thinking overall. I also think it is a skill that teaches students how to be collegial—and collegial in a way that truly counts—as they prepare to become contributing members of academic institutions and other organizations.

Skill #2: How to parse a research topic into its literature review, problem statement, and methodological approach. Such parsing prepares the written research work for compelling, rigorous, suggestive and satisfying analysis.

Skill #3: The art of asking germane, pointed, and chapter-provoking questions. The way to gain this skill will require that students hone their ability to interpret and synthesize the ideas that their peers present via written chapters and during class discussions.

Faculty

Sandy Alexandre is Associate Professor of American Literature at MIT. She is a former Board member of GCWS, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture*, and *Tulsa Studies in Women's Literature*. Her first book examined the relationship among the history of lynching violence, ecocriticism, environmental racism, and nature writing in African-American literature. Her current manuscript in progress traces a trajectory from the condition of enslaved blacks being treated as chattel to their status as consumers, inventors, and curators of the things they ultimately incorporate into their individual and collective experiences of freedom. (taught Fall 2018 semester)



The flyer features a background image of a fountain pen and a notebook with handwritten notes. The text on the flyer includes the workshop title, faculty name, dates, and logos for MIT and GCWS.

Workshop for Dissertation Writers in Women's and Gender Studies

Faculty: Dr. Sandy Alexandre, MIT

Fall/Spring
Th 5:30-8:30pm
9/6/2018-5/2/2019
*meets every other week
WGS.600

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Sindiso Mnisi Weeks has served as a senior researcher in the Centre for Law and Society at the University of Cape Town (UCT). In her role at UCT, she worked on the Rural Women's Action-Research program. This program combines research, advocacy, and policy work on women, property, and governing authority under customary law. She also taught African Customary Law as a senior lecturer in UCT's Department of Private Law. In 2013-2014, she was a resident scholar at the University of New Hampshire School of Law, where she held a fellowship for the completion of a book. Mnisi Weeks has published in academic and popular media on customary law, women's rights, cultural rights, governance, participatory democracy, dispute management, and the South African constitution. As a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford, she researched the tensions between living customary law(s) and South African state law. Prior to Oxford, she clerked for the Deputy Chief Justice of the Constitutional Court of South Africa, Dikgang Moseneke. Her current work focuses on the pursuit of justice and human security in indigenous courts by poor women and men living in rural South Africa. (taught Spring 2019 semester)

Understanding Pornography

*Fall semester: Mondays 3:30-4:30 PM
September 11, 2018 – December 11, 2018*


Expressions, images, and narratives labeled "obscene" and "pornographic" can be deeply charged. Pornography appears in a broad range of historical periods, geographical areas, and cultural contexts, and it is often influential in the way people define, think about, and understand sexuality. Both feminists and non-feminists from a range of disciplines, and outside the academy, have taken up the topic of pornography, producing dynamic debate but little consensus. Some have attended to the links between pornography and key concepts of personal autonomy, bodily integrity, and civil society. Others have set out to describe and analyze what pornography is and has been—its formal elements, proximity to other genres and media forms, and development over time. Still others have fought vociferously over it, some claiming that it degrades and distorts minds and societies, others seeing within it opportunities for subversion and resistance. Thus scholars work to investigate, describe, contextualize, analyze, and regulate pornography.

This course explores what scholars working primarily in the United States have said about the pornographic and the obscene. As a class, we will work to understand how pornography has been defined historically and in various cultures, how it is produced and consumed and by whom, the impacts of pornography consumption on individuals, families, communities, and societal norms, and—importantly—how pornography interacts with the multiple forms of oppression and expression, based on race, class, national identity, gender and sexual identities. Students can expect readings and topics from various disciplines, including history, literature, media studies, public health, and other social sciences.

Faculty

Sarah Leonard is Associate Professor and Chair of History at Simmons College. She is the author of several articles situating pornography in historical context. Her book *Fragile Minds and Vulnerable Souls: The Matter of Obscenity in Nineteenth-Century Germany* was published in 2015 by University of Pennsylvania Press.

Emily Rothman is a Professor of Community Health Services at the Boston University School of Public Health. She is a federally-funded researcher with expertise in partner violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.



Understanding Pornography

Fall 2018
M 3:30-6:30pm
9/10/2018-12/10/2018
WGS. 640

Faculty:
Dr. Sarah Leonard,
Simmons College
Dr. Emily Rothman,
Boston University

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Student comment

“The teaching team was dynamic and thoughtful in their presentation of the material. Their insight into the present-day issues at stake in relation to pornography was both important and enlightening. They were both enthusiastic and well-versed in the topics at hand.”

Feminist Inquiry

Fall semester: Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00 PM
 September 11, 2018 – December 11, 2018



The aim of this seminar is to expose, interrogate and complicate feminist theories, epistemologies and methodologies that form the intellectual bases necessary to conduct feminist research. Given the ambitiousness of this goal and a commitment to interdisciplinarity, the course will NOT serve as a survey course, but rather, a carefully curated sampling of key works—some old, some newer—that shape feminist scholarship. In this course, we will, collectively explore ways of feminist thinking, knowing, listening and speaking in the interest of producing knowledge that instigates change. The course is organized around very broad conceptual categories—a sorting that will no doubt frustrate as much as it reveals the impossibility of establishing boundaries in such an urgently evolving and sincerely contested field of study and action.

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. Chris is co-editor (with Samantha Kwan) of *Embodied Resistance: Challenging the Norms, Breaking the Rules*, and author of *The Paradox of Natural Mothering*, *New Blood: Third Wave Feminism and the Politics of Menstruation* and the forthcoming *The Managed Body: Developing Girls and Menstrual Health in the Global South*. Chris is currently completing a co-edited collection (again with Samantha Kwan) titled *Body Battlegrounds: Transgressions, Tensions, Transformations*, and she is serving as lead editor of *The Palgrave Handbook of Critical Menstruation Studies*.

Student Comments

“Dr. Bobel was very dynamically engaged in offering different ways to learn the material and to assist when concepts and documents weren’t clear. The student interactions were very interesting, informative, and engaging. We developed a good class dynamic and Dr. Bobel assisted in that.”

“The greatest strengths of this course are the ways in which it is taught and the environment in which we spoke and treated one another. As discussion leaders, it put faith in the student’s ability to teach, and it paid off! I also liked how frank, honest, and supportive everyone else was in the course.”

Gendering U.S. Immigration Policy: Sociopolitical, Theological, and Feminist Perspectives

Spring semester: Thursdays, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
January 31, 2019 – May 9, 2019

This course uses theories of gender to explore sociopolitical, ethical and theological perspectives on immigration policy, with a focus on the U.S. The course begins with an overview of global developments in the feminization of migration and ethical and policy dilemmas that are specific to the current era. The rest of the class is divided into two halves. The first half takes a closer look at the contemporary gender dynamics of U.S. immigration (accounting for the intersecting effects of gender, race, sexuality, class and colonial/postcolonial power dynamics). The second half of the course focuses on ethical and theological perspectives on immigration policy, with an emphasis on feminist perspectives; and uses these perspectives to re-frame the issues at stake in immigration policy.



Faculty

The Reverend Dr Choi Hee An is Clinical Associate Professor of Practical Theology and Director of the Anna Howard Shaw Research Center. Her scholarship focuses on practical theology, gender and multiculturalism and postcolonial studies. Her most recent book is *A Postcolonial Self: Korean Immigrant Theology and Church* (2015, SUNY).

Philip Kretsedemas is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts-Boston. His current research focuses on the rights of asylum seekers who have been persecuted due to family membership. His most recent book is *Immigration Policy in an Age of Punishment* (co-edited with David Brotherton; 2018, Columbia University Press).

Student comment:

“I really appreciated learning from the other students in the course and hearing about their own disciplinary perspectives and their research, so the model of drawing students from a variety of universities and disciplines was great. I also appreciated the interdisciplinary nature of the course, and how the readings and lectured drew from different disciplinary backgrounds.”

Gender and Food

Spring semester, Tuesdays 4:00-7:00PM
January 29, 2019 – May 7, 2019

Food is more than a means of sustenance; it mediates social relations, transmits cultural values, underlies a great deal of economic activity, and both shapes and reflects gender identities, norms, and ways of being. In this course students will explore the complex and often contradictory interplay of gender and food in the corporeal, socio-cultural, and material domains. Using insights from feminist, sociological, anthropological and political economy studies, the course considers how notions of masculinity and femininity have been associated with food production, distribution, and consumption historically and in contemporary societies. We will examine the changing political economy of food due to processes of industrialization, globalization and the transition from a colonial to a neoliberal world order. Topics covered include cultural framings of “fatness” and the role of media in shaping gendered tastes and food habits; changing relations and practices of domesticity and family feeding; global and domestic inequalities in access to food; work relations of paid in-home and restaurant cooks; global value chains and gendered divisions of labor as they intersect with racial, national, and class hierarchies; and efforts to achieve progressive social change through engaging with the food system.



Student comment

“There were rich and valuable mentorship opportunities with faculty members that offer perspectives, sources, and feedback that otherwise is difficult to access when taking classes within ones own department or discipline; fostering of a respectful and generative classroom dynamic that values the input of all course participants.”

Faculty

Carole Biewener is a Professor of Economics and Women’s and Gender Studies at Simmons University. Her current research addresses the political economy of food. Prior publications address the genealogy of the term “empowerment,” social economy projects in the United States and Canada, debates at the intersection of poststructuralist feminism and postmodern Marxism, and the French Socialist government’s financial policies in the 1980s.

Laura Miller is Associate Professor of Sociology at Brandeis University. Her research focuses on the intersection of cultural and economic factors within industries, and their relationships with social movements. Her current project examines the history of vegetarian cookbooks in order to trace changing meanings attached to the advocacy of vegetarianism.

Breakdown of Student Participants in all GCWS Courses

By Institution

Boston College	3
Boston University	9
Brandeis University	2
Harvard University	3
MIT	0
Northeastern University	9
Simmons College	4
Tufts University	6
UMass Boston	13
Total Enrollment	49

By Discipline

American Studies	3	Law and Diplomacy	1
Anthropology	1	Public Health	2
Children's Literature	1	Public Policy	1
Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance	2	Religion	2
Drama and Dance	1	Social and Behavioral Studies	1
English	5	Social Work	2
Entrepreneurship	1	Sociology	14
Gender and Cultural Studies	3	Teacher Education	1
Global Governance and Human Security	1	Theatre	1
History	2	Transnational, Cultural, and Community Studies	2
International Education Policy	1	WGS	1

Breakdown of Faculty Participants in all GCWS Courses

By Institution

Boston College	0
Boston University	2
Brandeis University	1
Harvard University	0
MIT	1
Northeastern University	0
Simmons College	2
Tufts University	0
UMass Boston	3
Total Teaching Faculty	10

By Discipline

Community Health Services	1
Economics	1
History	1
Literature	1
Practical Theology	1
Public Policy of Excluded Populations	1
Sociology	2
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	2

2018-2019 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

Spring 2019 Semester

Queer Terror: Life, Death, and Desire in the Settler Colony

Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 PM

March 19, 2019-April 23, 2019

Faculty: Heike Schotten, Associate Professor of Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies, UMass Boston

Meets at: MIT

Summer 2019 Semester

Feminist Data Ethics

Wednesdays, 12:00-2:00 PM

July 10, 2019 – August 7, 2019

Faculty: Karl Surkan, Lecturer, Women's and Gender Studies, MIT

Meets at: MIT

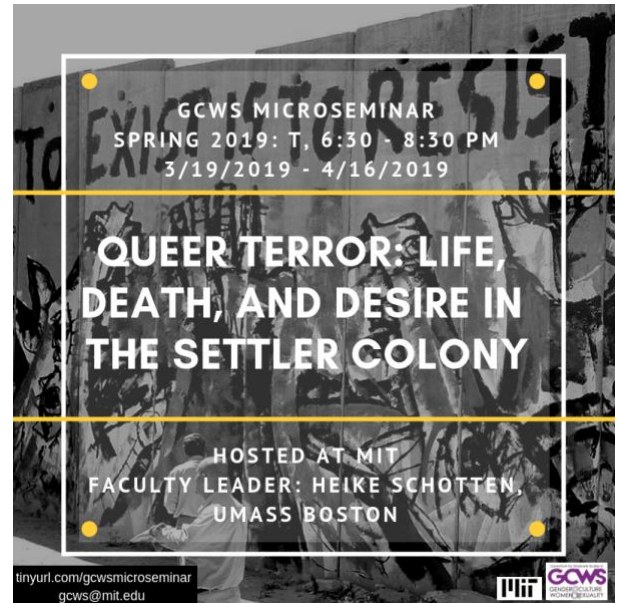
Queer Terror: Life, Death, and Desire in the Settler Colony

Tuesdays 6:30-8:30 PM

March 19, 2019 – April 23, 2019 (skip April 9, 2019)

Meets at: MIT

How does moralism operate at the very heart of US imperialism and settler colonialism? How does this moralism seep into and absorb the categories of life and death itself, constituting a distinct form of biopolitics? How does the seemingly rational and commonsense sanctity surrounding the “value of life” in US “terrorism” discourse reflect our nation-state’s commitment to erasing indigenous people(s) and anti-colonial resistance? And how and why does queer theory aid in the project of detecting and overcoming all of these hierarchical moralisms? In this microseminar, we will engage the recent book *Queer Terror: Life, Death, and Desire in the Settler Colony* (Columbia UP: 2018) and the primary texts that sustain its inquiry in order to address some of these questions.



Faculty

C. Heike Schotten is Associate Professor of Political Science and an affiliated faculty in Women’s and Gender Studies. Her research interests lie at the various intersections of queer theory, Nietzsche studies, biopolitics, the War on Terror, and liberatory critical theory. Drawing on each of these areas, her research theorizes the various meaning of and possibilities for liberation within the specific contexts of U.S. imperialism, U.S. settler colonialism, and historically still-hegemonic Euro-American constructs of knowledge and knowing.

Student comment

“Thank you to Heike Schotten for a very rich and life-giving microseminar. I’m converted to queer terror.”

“It was phenomenal and helped develop my own thoughts. Heike is a phenomenal instructor and scholar.”

Feminist Data Ethics

Wednesdays 12:00-2:00 PM
July 10, 2019 – August 7, 2019
Meets at MIT

In an era marked by a rapid increase in the flow of information, sometimes called the Information Age, there is a pressing need to consider the ethical implications of new technologies and their impact on how we receive and transmit various types of data: medical, genetic, financial, personal. Data is being generated in many ways from our physical bodies, and this form of “datafication” has far-reaching ethical implications. From our credit records to our FitBits to our electronic health records, massive amounts of information are being collected and collated, resulting in what John Cheney-Lippold describes as a blurring of self and information in his book *We Are Data*. In this seminar, we will consider intersections with feminist thought and the ethics of information, particularly as they apply to issues of health and data privacy and security, and the veracity of news. To what extent does the individual have a right to information or to access data? When is that right mitigated by public health interests, national security interests, or privacy interests? Can sharing information be harmful, and under what circumstances? Should data sharing be regulated and how might this impact democratic ideals and the freedom of speech? Examples may include a consideration of the return of genetic data to medical study participants, BRCA variant data sharing, FDA and EPA warning labels, HIPAA protections and their relationship to sensitive medical data (reidentification), tracking of consumer spending, election polling, digital manipulation of images, “fake news,” digital or social media harassment and moderation, spreadability of social media memes and status updates, hashtag campaigns, and hacking.

Faculty

Karl Surkan has been teaching in the Program in Women’s and Gender Studies at MIT for the past 12 years. His research interests include new media activism and online social movements, intersections of bioethics and science and technology studies, feminist media studies, technology studies, queer/trans politics and representation, reproductive technologies, and most recently wearable technologies and epatient communities and health activism.

GCWS Summer 2019
Microseminar

FEMINIST DATA ETHICS

- What rights does an individual have to information or data access?
- When might those rights be mitigated by public health, national security, or privacy interests?
- Should data sharing be regulated? How might this impact democratic ideals and freedom of speech?

Discuss this and more at our first summer microseminar.
Learn more and apply on our website!

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JULY 10 - AUGUST 7
12-2PM @ MIT

Breakdown of Student Participants in all GCWS Microseminars

By Institution

Boston College	0
Boston University	5
Brandeis University	4
Harvard University	3
MIT	3
Northeastern University	2
Simmons College	2
Tufts University	1
UMass Boston	6
Other	3
Total Enrollment	29

By Discipline

African and African American Studies	1	Health Communication	1
Anthropology	2	International Affairs	1
Business Administration	1	International Relations	2
Diplomacy	1	Philosophy	1
Education	1	Political Science	3
Educational Leadership and Policy	1	Social Policy and Management	2
Electrical Engineering and Computer Science	2	Social Work	1
English	2	Sociology	3
Gender/Cultural Studies	2	Sustainable International Development	1
		WGS	1

2018-2019 Workshops, Events, and Initiatives

Feminisms Unbound

Feminisms Unbound is currently in its fifth 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. Each of the three discussions was hosted at MIT. Over 180 people attended the series in 2018-2019, including faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, as well as members of the public.

This year, GCWS welcomed a new team of event organizers, all of which are affiliated with a member institution. The new 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 and Chair of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at UMass Boston.

Feminisms Unbound Panel Discussions 2018-2019

The Time of the Border - October 3, 2018

- Dina Siddiqi, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Liberal Studies, New York University
- Emilie Diouf, Assistant Professor, English, Brandeis University
- Sony Coranez Bolton, Assistant Professor, Spanish, Amherst College
- Patricia Ybarra, Chair and Professor, Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, Brown University
- Moderated by: Faith Smith, Associate Professor, African and Afro-American Studies and English, Brandeis University

Ethnography: Fictions, Feminisms, and Vulnerability - November 28, 2018

- Shalini Puri, Professor, English, University of Pittsburgh
- Dia Da Costa, Professor, Educational Policy Studies, University of Alberta
- Lisa Biggs, Assistant Professor, Africana Studies, Brown University
- Shenila Khoja-Moolji, Assistant Professor, Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, Bowdoin College

- Moderated by Elora Chowdhury, Professor and Chair, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, UMass Boston

Quare Are We Now?: The Time and Place of Black Queer and Trans Studies - April 3, 2019

- Robert Reid Pharr, Professor, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Harvard University
- Moya Bailey, Assistant Professor, Cultures, Societies and Global Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Northeastern University
- Sean McGuffey, Associate Professor, Sociology & Director, African and African Diaspora Studies, Boston College
- Dora Silva Santana, Assistant Professor, Gender Studies, John Jay College – CUNY
- Moderated by Kareem Khubchandani, Mellon Bridge Assistant Professor, Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Tufts University

Feminisms Unbound: The Time of the Border

October 3, 2018

With "The Time of the Border" we mean to invoke, of course, the terrible urgency of our current moment: the distinct but also overlapping historical, geographical, and other contexts that bear on the displacements of our time; border-crossings that claim our attention and others that remain invisible; conceptual frameworks that have meaningful explanatory power, but also do harm. Panelists draw on their current research sites and concepts, using temporality as a way of convening these ruminations. For example, how does a sense of crisis shape our sense of time (acting before time runs out; exhaustion in the wake of a sense that time has run out)? How do notions of indigeneity shape and justify national conceptions of the past, futurity, or extinction? What are the limits and possibilities of thinking through different kinds of migrancy side by side; intimate genealogies of border-crossing; migrants' own conceptualization/theorization of the gains, losses and temporality of their situation?

The poster features a background image of a barbed wire fence. Text on the poster includes:

- 2018-2019
- GCWS FEMINISMS UNBOUND**
- THE TIME OF THE BORDER**
- Moderated by FAITH SMITH, BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY
- OCT 3 6:00-8:00 PM MIT E51-095
- Panelists: DINA SIDDIQI, NEW YORK UNIVERSITY; EMILIE DIOUF, BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY; SONY CORANEZ BOLTON, AMHERST COLLEGE; PATRICIA YBARRA, BROWN UNIVERSITY

 Logos for GCWS and MIT are at the bottom.

Roundtable discussion participants:

Dina Siddiqi, Clinical Associate Professor, School of Liberal Arts, New York University

Dina Siddiqi is Clinical Associate Professor at New York University's School of Liberal Studies. Trained as an anthropologist at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, Professor Siddiqi's research and publications are informed by an abiding interest in the transnational politics of gender, sexuality and Islam in Bangladesh. She serves on the editorial board of Routledge's Women in Asia Publication Series, is Chair of the South Asia Council (SAC) of the Association of Asian Studies (AAS), and on the Advisory Committee of the Saida Waheed Gender Initiative, Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS).

Emilie Diouf, Assistant Professor, English, 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, and trauma theory. She is interested in the interdisciplinary study of the relationship between narrative, trauma, and global human rights advocacy. She is currently working on a book project that examines the politics of mediating African women refugee experiences in global rights activism. The book analyzes testimonial narratives of women refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Northern Uganda, and Mali to identify the complex intertwining of social, political, economic, and cultural systems that over-determine the production and circulation of these women's traumatic experiences of displacement.

Sony Coranez Bolton, Assistant Professor, Spanish, Amherst College

Sony Coranez Bolton is an Assistant Professor of Latinx Literature and Culture in the Department of Spanish at Amherst College. He researches at the intersection of queer of color critique, disability studies, and ethnic studies. His first book, *Crippling Mestizaje: US Empire, Eugenics, Indigeneity, and Postcolonial Disability in the Hispanic Philippines* examines the ways that disability and Philippine indigeneities intersected in the Hispanic Philippines under US colonial rule during the early 20th century.

Patricia Ybarra, Chair and Professor, Theatre Arts and Performance Studies, Brown University

Patricia Ybarra, is Chair and Professor in the Department of Theatre Arts and Performance Studies at Brown. She is the author of *Performing Conquest: Five Centuries of Theatre, History and Identity in Tlaxcala, Mexico* (Michigan, 2009) and *Latinx Theatre in the Times of Neoliberalism* (Northwestern, 2017), and co-editor with Lara Nielsen of *Neoliberalism and Global Theatres: Performance Permutations* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012; paperback 2014). She is also the immediate past-president of ATHE and a founding member of ATHE's Latina/o Focus Group (now Latinx, Indigenous and Americas Focus Group).

Moderated by:

Faith Smith, Associate Professor, African and Afro-American Studies and English, Brandeis University

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.

Feminisms Unbound: Ethnography: Fictions, Feminisms, and Vulnerability

November 28, 2018

Many interpretations of feminist research practice maintain that knowledge is situated and coproduced between researcher and subject, thus always already implicated in difference, and best addressed through reflexivity and positionality. In producing oppositional knowledge, and knowledge for social transformation, feminist ethnographers concern themselves with how researchers, storytellers, and narrators are positioned within the text. They grapple with questions of polyvocality, representation and translation as well as with the staging of dialogic encounters, authorship, and the researcher's responsibility to respondents and to the research community as a whole. This roundtable reflects on how feminist ethnography can offer a richly chaotic terrain for undoing all cannons and for enabling an ever-contested, embodied, tentative, and unfolding co-creation with differentially situated knowledges and experience.

Can feminist praxis embrace an inherently anti-disciplinary vulnerability and refuse strictly bound notions, labels, frameworks, fields, or genres—including those assumed by invocations of ‘feminisms,’ ‘ethnography,’ or ‘research?’ Can notions such as solidarity and

responsibility, trust and hope, vulnerability and reflexivity serve a useful purpose in ethically navigating the forms of epistemic violence in which metropolitan academics are, and will always remain, complicit? How might we conduct research that is politically relevant to the lives of less powerful collaborators? And how might we create knowledge in a way that does not replicate unequal relations of power?

Roundtable discussion participants:

Shalini Puri, Professor of English, University of Pittsburgh

Shalini Puri is Professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh and works on the Global South with a focus on the Caribbean. Her research spans postcolonial studies, memory studies, feminism, Marxism, fieldwork, the public humanities, and the arts and everyday cultural practices. She co-founded the Pitt Prison Education Project. Puri is the award-winning author of *The Caribbean Postcolonial* and *The Grenada Revolution In the Caribbean Present*. Amongst her edited volumes are: *Theorizing Fieldwork in the Humanities: Methods, Reflections, and Approaches to the Global South* (2016, with Debra Castillo); *Caribbean Military Encounters* (2017, with Lara Putnam), and *The Legacies of Caribbean Radical Politics* (2011).

Dia Da Costa, Professor, Educational Policy Studies, University of Alberta

Dia Da Costa is Professor of Social Justice and International Studies in Education, Department of Educational Policy Studies at the University of Alberta. Her research analyzes the complex relationship of activism in contemporary India to state violence and development discourses. She is the author of *Politicizing Creative Economy: Activism and a Hunger called Theatre* (University of Illinois Press, 2016) and *Development Dramas: Reimagining Rural Political Action in Eastern India* (Routledge, 2009). Her recent research has moved toward the study of the ways in which South Asian communities in North America name, challenge, and reproduce state violence.

Lisa Biggs, Assistant Professor, Africana Studies, Brown University

Lisa Biggs is an Assistant Professor at Brown University in the Department of Africana Studies / Rites and Reason Theatre at Brown University. As an actress, playwright, and performance scholar, she is interested in the role of the arts in movements for social justice. Most recently, her scholarship has focused on the impact of theatre programs for women incarcerated in the U.S. and in South Africa.

Shenila Khoja-Moolji, Assistant Professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, Bowdoin College

Shenila Khoja-Moolji is Assistant Professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at Bowdoin College. Her work examines the interplay of gender, race, religion, and power in transnational contexts, particularly in relation to Muslim populations. Dr. Khoja-Moolji is the author of *Forging the Ideal Educated Girl: The Production of Desirable Subjects in Muslim South Asia* (University of California Press). The book combines historical and cultural studies analyses with ethnographic work to examine the figure of the 'educated girl' in colonial India and postcolonial Pakistan. Her work has appeared in *Signs*, *Feminist Theory*, *Comparative Studies of South Asia and the Middle East*, *Gender and Education*, and *Feminist Media Studies*, among others.

Moderated by:

Elora Chowdhury, Professor and Chair, Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies, UMass 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).

Feminisms Unbound: Quare are We Now?: The Time and Place of Black Queer and Trans Studies

April 3, 2019

Since the “Black Queer Studies in the Millennium” conference at UNC Chapel Hill in April 2000, and the Black Queer Studies anthology that followed, black queer and trans studies has grown into a dynamic and interdisciplinary discourse. The field is especially reflexive, continually drawing attention to its genealogies in black feminisms—feminisms emerging in the academy, activism, artmaking, quotidian life, and untenable archive. Attending to the biopolitical governance of racial capitalism, scholars demonstrate how black bodies, genders, and sexualities are made flesh, made ambiguous, made surplus as they are enslaved, incarcerated, and killed. At the same time, black queer and trans scholarship gestures toward forms of freedom, sensation, and pleasure—kink, ecstasy, funk, sugar, honey, love, joy, erotics, wealth, sweet, house—that provide some respite from the enduring violence that plagues black life.

In this cultural moment, media publics are starting to recognize how vulnerable black queer and trans lives are; the founders of Black Lives Matter, queer women themselves, call upon us to honor all black life—trans, undocumented, disabled. The hopeful global resonance and solidarities that accompany this movement are accompanied also by xenophobic backlashes in South Africa, Brazil, and India. Black trans and queer folks are also achieving unparalleled media visibility on shows such as *Pose*, *RuPaul’s Drag Race*, *Orange is the New Black*, *Master of None*, films such as *Moonlight* and *Tangerine*, and music from Janelle Monae, Frank Ocean, Big Freedia, and Kehlani.

This roundtable features a conversation about the genealogies and futures of black queer and trans studies across geographic and disciplinary borders, conversations that can help us take stock of the contradictory and complicated cultural moment we are in.

Roundtable discussion participants

Robert Reid Pharr, Professor, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Harvard University

Robert Reid Pharr is Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Harvard University. A prominent scholar of race and sexuality studies, his most recent book is *Archives of Flesh: African America, Spain, and Post-Humanist Critique*.

Moya Bailey, Assistant Professor, Cultures, Societies, and Global Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Northeastern University

Moya Bailey is an Assistant Professor of Cultures, Societies, and Global Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Northeastern University. Her work focuses on marginalized groups' use of digital media to promote social justice as acts of self-affirmation and health promotion. She is interested in how race, gender, and sexuality are represented in media and medicine. She currently curates the #transformDH Tumblr initiative in Digital Humanities. She is also the digital alchemist for the Octavia E. Butler Legacy Network.

Sean McGuffey, Associate Professor, Sociology and Director of African and African Diaspora Studies, Boston College

Sean McGuffey is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of African and African Diaspora Studies at Boston College. His research primarily highlights how race, gender, sexuality and social class both constrain and create the choices survivors pursue in the aftermath of trauma. He is the recipient of three American Sociological Association awards: the 2006 Sally Hacker Award, a 2009 "Best Research Article Award," and a 2016 "Distinguished Article Award." In 2016 he also received the Kimberlé Crenshaw Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems. He has lead and served on the boards of multiple non-profits addressing racial justice and LGBT rights.

Dora Silva Santana, Assistant Professor, Gender Studies, John Jay College - CUNY

Dora Silva Santana is a black Brazilian trans woman warrior, scholar, activist, artist, story teller of experiences embodied in language and flesh. She is an Assistant Professor of Gender Studies at John Jay College – CUNY and holds a PhD in African and African Diaspora Studies by the University of Texas at Austin. Her most recent work has been published in the *Transgender Studies Quarterly*—TSQ—The Issue of Blackness under the title "Transitionings and Returnings: Experiments with the Poetics of Transatlantic Water," and another article has just been accepted for the TSQ Issue Trans in Las Americas, whose title is "Mais Viva! Reassembling transness, blackness and feminism".

Moderator

Kareem Khubchandani, Mellon Bridge Assistant Professor, Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality, 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).

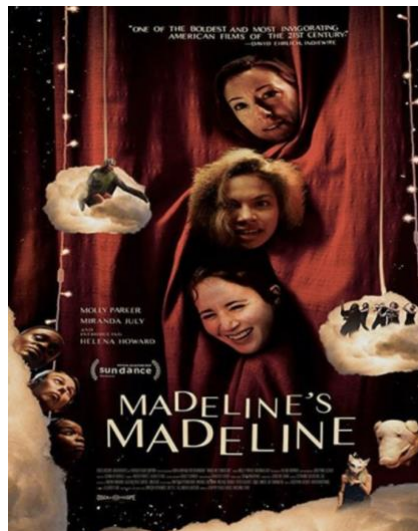
Women Take the Reel: A Film Festival Celebrating Women’s History Month

March 1 – March 31, 2019

This annual film festival, now in its ninth 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. This year, over 500 people attended at least one of the film screenings.



<p>FRIDAY, MARCH 1</p> <p>MATANGI/ MAYA/MIA</p> <p>6:30PM Bartos Theatre MIT</p> 	<p>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6</p> <p>CALL HER GANDA</p> <p>2PM Dowling Hall Room 745A Tufts</p>	<p>THURSDAY, MARCH 7</p> <p>LEFT ON PEARL</p> <p>12:30PM Lieberman-Miller Lecture Hall Brandeis WSRC</p> 
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<p>THURSDAY, MARCH 7</p> <p>ROLL RED ROLL</p> <p>6:30PM Bartos Theatre MIT</p> 	<p>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13</p> <p>RAFIKI</p> <p>4:30PM 102 ISEC Northeastern</p> 	<p>THURSDAY, MARCH 14</p> <p>MADELINE'S MADELINE</p> <p>7PM Bright Family Screening Room Emerson</p>	<p>FRIDAY, MARCH 15</p> <p>RAFIKI</p> <p>6:30PM Bartos Theatre MIT</p>
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<p>TUESDAY, MARCH 19</p> <p>ALL ABOUT NINA</p> <p>7PM Bright Family Screening Room Emerson</p> 	<p>ALL UNIVERSITY SCREENINGS ARE FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!</p>	<p>THURSDAY, MARCH 21</p> <p>I AM NOT A WITCH</p> <p>7PM Bright Family Screening Room Emerson</p>	<p>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27</p> <p>ON HER SHOULDERS</p> <p>4PM University Hall 2-2330 UMASS Boston</p> 
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<p>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27</p> <p>K-2 & THE INVISIBLE FOOTMEN</p> <p>7:30PM UNIV 2-150 Lesley</p> 	<p>THURSDAY, MARCH 28</p> <p>WOMEN'S LIVES IN VIEW</p> <p>5:30PM Paige Hall/ Crane Room Tufts</p> 	<p>THURSDAY, MARCH 28</p> <p>THE RIDER</p> <p>7PM Bright Family Screening Room Emerson</p> 
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THURSDAY,
MARCH 28

SELMA

7PM
McGuinn Hall
121 Auditorium
Boston College

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

Screenings of Films by GCWS Institutions

Boston College

Selma

Directed by Ava DuVernay
March 28, 2019 at 7:00 PM
McGuinn Hall Auditorium
Discussion to follow film

Brandeis University

Left on Pearl

Directed by Susan Rivo and Produced
by Rochelle Ruthchild
March 7th at 12:30 PM
Lieberman-Miller Lecture Hall
*Discussion with director Susan Rivo to
follow film*

MIT

MATANGI/MAYA/MIA

Directed by Stephen Lovridge
March 1, 2019 at 7:00 PM
Bartos Theatre
*Discussion with Ayesha Upchurch,
Harvard University to follow film*

Roll Red Roll

Directed by Nancy Schwartzman
March 7, 2019 at 7:00 PM
Bartos Theatre
*Discussion with director Nancy
Schwartzman to follow film*

Rafiki

Directed by Wanuri Kahiu
March 15, 2019 at 7:00 PM
Bartos Theater
*Discussion with director Wanuri Kahiu
to follow film*

Northeastern University

Rafiki

Directed by Wanuri Kahiu
March 13, 2019 at 4:30 PM
Interdisciplinary Science and
Engineering Complex
*Discussion with director Wanuri Kahiu
to follow film*

Tufts University

Call Her Ganda

Directed by P.J. Raval
March 6, 2019 at 2:00 PM
Dowling Hall
*Discussion with director P.J. Raval to
follow film*

Women's Lives in View

Directed by Jennifer Burton
March 28, 2019 at 5:30 PM
Paige Hall
*Discussion with director Jennifer
Burton to follow film*

UMass Boston

On Her Shoulders

Directed by Alexandria Bombach
March 27, 2019 at 4:00 PM
University Hall
Discussion to follow film

Additional Films by Other Participating Institutions

Emerson College

Madeline's Madeline

Directed by Josephine Decker

March 14, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Bright Family Screening Room

Discussion to follow film

All About Nina

Directed by Eva Vives

March 19, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Bright Family Screening Room

Discussion with Jamie Loftus, comedic consultant, and Eva Vives, director, to follow film

I am Not a Witch

Directed by Rungano Nyoni

March 21, 2019 at 7:00 PM

Bright Family Screening Room

Discussion with Rae Shaw, Assistant Professor, to follow film

The Rider

Directed by Chol  Zhao

March 28, 2019 at 7:00PM

Bright Family Screening Room

Discussion with Nancy Allen, Executive-in-Residence to follow film

Lesley University

K-2 and the Invisible Footmen

Directed by Iara Lee

March 27, 2019 at 7:30 PM

UNIV 2-150

Discussion to follow film

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 2018-2019 prize was awarded to the following student:

Teri Incampo, Ph.D., Theatre and Performance Studies, Tufts University

To Take a Knee: “Hands Up, Don’t Shoot,” kneeling, and other gestures of submission in Black Lives Matter protest performances

This year’s prize committee included:

- Freeden Blume Oeur, Sociology, Tufts University
- Anthony Petro, Religion and Women and Gender Studies, Boston University

The GCWS Website

In 2015-2016, the GCWS Board of Directors initiated a process to update and modernize the GCWS website with the goals to make information more accessible and easy to find for both students and faculty members. Over several years, the GCWS Board members surveyed individuals about specific website components and trajectories that website users took when on the GCWS website. This information was compiled and used to build a new website, which was completed in January 2019. The new website invites student and faculty alike to learn more about courses, events, and other GCWS initiatives. It can be found at www.gcws.mit.edu.

A Celebration of Authors

September 27, 2018

MIT R&D Pub

GCWS started the year with A Celebration of Authors, an event that promoted and featured books written by faculty members within GCWS member institutions. Faculty members who had published in 2015 or later were able to display, discuss, and sell 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. Over 25 authors were represented from all nine member institutions.

Books and authors included:

Anthony Petro – Boston University

After the Wrath of God: AIDS, Sexuality, and American Religion (2015)

Candice Delmas – Northeastern University

A Duty to Resist: When Disobedience Should Be Uncivil (2018)

Caroline Light – Harvard University

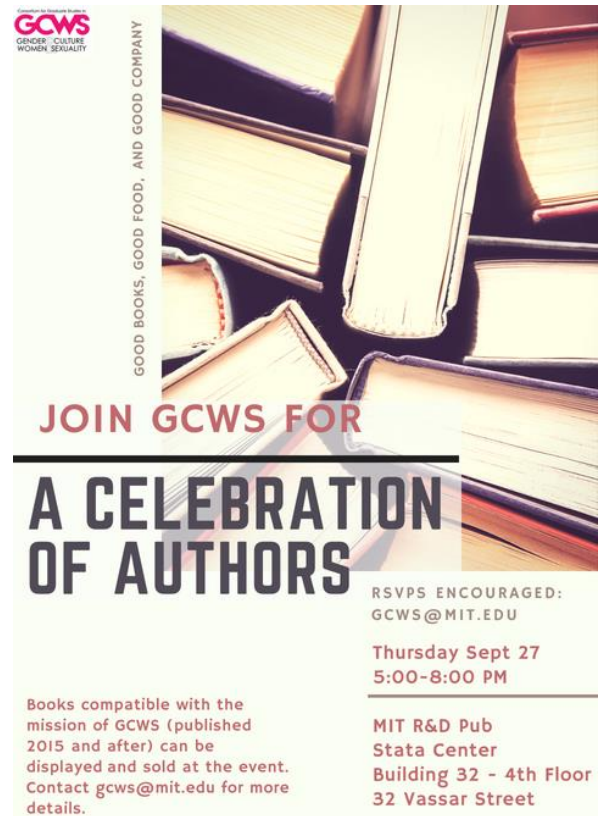
Stand Your Ground: A History of America's Love Affair with Lethal Self-Defense (2017)

Choi, Hee An – Boston University

A Postcolonial Self: Korean Immigrant Theology and Church (2015)

Chris Bobel – UMass Boston

The Managed Body: Developing Girls & Menstrual Health in the Global South (2018)



GOOD BOOKS, GOOD FOOD, AND GOOD COMPANY

JOIN GCWS FOR

A CELEBRATION OF AUTHORS

RSVPS ENCOURAGED:
GCWS@MIT.EDU

Thursday Sept 27
5:00-8:00 PM

MIT R&D Pub
Stata Center
Building 32 - 4th Floor
32 Vassar Street

Books compatible with the mission of GCWS (published 2015 and after) can be displayed and sold at the event. Contact gcws@mit.edu for more details.

Cinzia D. Solari – UMass Boston

On the Shoulders of Grandmothers: Gender, Migration, and Post-Soviet Nation-State Building (2017)

Elora Chowdhury – UMass Boston

Dissident Friendships: Feminism, Imperialism and Transnational Solidarity (2016)

Freedden Blume Oeur – Tufts University

1: *Black Boys Apart: Racial Uplift and Respectability in All-Male Public Schools* (2018)

2: *Unmasking Masculinities: Men and Society* (2018)

Heike Schotten – UMass Boston

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

Hillary Chute – Northeastern University

Why Comics? From Underground to Everywhere (2017)

Joyce Antler – Brandeis University

Jewish Radical Feminism: Voices from the Women's Liberation Movement (2018)

Julie Nelson – UMass Boston

Gender and Risk-Taking: Economics, Evidence, and Why the Answer Matters (2017)

Kathrin Zippel – Northeastern University

Women in Global Science (2017)

Lerna Ekmekçioğlu - MIT

Recovering Armenia: The Limits of Belonging in Post-Genocide Turkey (2016)

Leslie Wang – UMass Boston

Outsourced Children: Orphanage Care and Adoption in Globalizing China (2016)

Libby Adler – Northeastern University

Gay Priori: A Queer Critical Legal Studies Approach to Law Reform (2018)

Linda Blum – Northeastern University

Raising Generation Rx: Mothering Kids with Invisible Disabilities in an Age of Inequality (2015)

Natana J. DeLong-Bas – Boston College

1. *Islam: A Living Faith* (2018)
2. *Shariah: What Everyone Needs to Know* (2018)

Philip Alexander Kretsedemas – UMass Boston

Immigration Policy in the Age of Punishment: Detention, Deportation and Border Control (2018)

Ruth Rosenzweig – Brandeis University

Myths & Ms.: An Inter-Generational Play about Reincarnation and Abortion (2018)

Ruth Perry - MIT

Festschrift in Honour of Professor Janet Todd: A Life in Feminist Scholarship (2016)

Saher Selod – Simmons University

Forever Suspect: Racialized Surveillance of Muslim Americans in the War on Terror (2018)

Sarah Leonard – Simmons University

Fragile Minds and Vulnerable Souls: The Matter of Obscenity in Nineteenth-Century Germany (2014)

Susan Eisenberg – Brandeis University

1. *Stanley's Girl: Poems* (2018)
2. *We'll Call You if We Need You: Experiences of Women Working Construction, with a New Preface* (2018)

Suzanne Leonard – Simmons University

Wife, Inc.: The Business of Marriage in the Twenty-First Century (2018)

Feminist Intellectuals Reception

*February 11, 2019
 Remnant Café and Brewing*

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 to an off-campus location in order to provide a more social, inviting, and informal atmosphere. This reception is normally hosted once a year in order to nourish conversation among the diverse faculty communities at our member schools who do work in the field of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.



This event was attended by more than 50 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.

Institution	Attendees
Boston College	2
Boston University	2
Brandeis University	8
Harvard University	5
MIT	10
Northeastern	6
Simmons	3
Tufts	5
UMass Boston	8
Other	3
Total	52

Graduate Student Conference: “Interrogating Self-Care: Bodies, Personhood, and Movements in Tumultuous Times”

March 29-30, 2019
MIT Campus

In March of 2019, the GCWS hosted its seventh bi-annual graduate student conference. This conference, which took place on March 29th and 30th at the MIT Stata Center, was the most well attended conference to date. Student presenters came from across the United States and represented the majority of our member institutions. Registrants spanned our member institutions and extended beyond, including members of the public, local activist organizations, non-profits, and other community leaders in addition to graduate students, undergraduates, and professors. The conference started with a keynote address by Soraya Chemaly, director of Women’s Media Center Speech Project and author of the recently published *Rage Becomes Her: The Power of Women’s Anger*. This was immediately followed by a keynote performance by Porsha Olayiwola, the 2019 Boston Poet Laureate. Other conference events included panel presentations, film, performances, art installations, and workshops.



“The attention that the conference organizers and presenters paid to accommodating participants, made the space feel very welcoming and safe for me. As a person of color who is gender non-conforming, I don’t often feel that I can be my whole self in many environments. This conference was a unique experience for me and reminded me of what it feels like to occupy space as my whole self. I am very grateful for this experience.”

This conference was organized by twelve students from a number of GCWS member institutions. The ten students who brought this conference to life were Em Kelley (Brandeis), Alanna Prince (UMass Boston), Ashley Torres (UMass Boston), Grace Furtado (UMass Boston), Taylor Burns (Simmons), Annalise Chapman (Simmons), Marnie Murray (Simmons), Corrie Locke-Hardy (Simmons), Juanita Barrera

(Northeastern), Kyle Wholey (Northeastern), Rachel Molko (Northeastern)

Michelle Goldberg (Lesley) It brought scholars, artists, activists, and researchers together through a series of panels, workshops, film, performances, and speakers. The mix of attendees and presentation styles allowed for personal growth, rich dialogues, relationship building, and networking.

This two-day conference explored a number of questions and critiques around the concept of self-care. The conference was, in part, inspired by a quote from Audre Lorde's 1988 book, *A Burst of Light*, which reads "Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation and that is an act of political warfare." The concept of self-care, which arose through the activist practices specifically of marginalized groups, has been increasingly adopted and discussed by health care settings, non-profit organizations, commercial and marketing enterprises, and psychological approaches. National discourse around self-care has increased exponentially since the 2016 presidential election. Yet, few academics have explored the theory, implementation, and impacts of this concept. While many advocate for cultures and movements where we can embrace Lorde's philosophy as a radical act, others contend it has been co-opted through commodification, cultural appropriation, and self-indulgence.

The conference sought to explore the following questions:

- How can the practice of self-care benefit or hinder activism for social justice and/or life in the academy?
- What is the place of community-based care?
- What are the different modes of identity or power that allow an individual to have access to self-care?
- What are the social or cultural politics of self-care?
- How do questions of race and racism, disability, and gender impact the politics of self-care?

The conference hosted the following sessions, each 75 minutes in length:

- PANEL: Injecting Empathy into the Medical Model: Understanding Trauma and Diagnoses
- PANEL: Ethnographics of Gender, Labor, and Self-Care
- PANEL: Can You Buy It? Commercialization versus Activism
- WORKSHOP: Nurturing Self Care Practices through the Arts, Movement, and Reflection
- PANEL: The Paths We Walk: Studying the Impact of Gendered Violence
- PANEL: Fighting –isms from the Inside Out: Reclaiming Self-Love and Sexuality
- PANEL: Constructing Queer Spaces and Selves
- FILM AND DISCUSSION: Stories of Black Motherhood
- PANEL: Restorytelling: Finding and Creating Healing Narratives

- WORKSHOP: The Power of Time and Self-Care: Addressing Complexities of Procrastination
- PANEL: Through My Lens: Healing through Gendered Performative Art
- PANEL: Seeing Thru the Fumes of Toxic Masculinity
- PANEL: The Co-optation of Self-Care
- PANEL: Different Modes of Empowerment: Our Roles in Creating Power
- PANEL: Fighting Back and Demanding More: A Call for Wellbeing in Higher Ed

Schedule:

Friday March 29, 2019

“So grateful for all the movement-inspired, multi-sensory, & other non-hegemonic approaches to presentation!”

Keynote address by Soraya Chemaly, Director of Women’s Media Center Speech Project and Author of *Rage Becomes Her: The Power of Women’s Anger*

Keynote performance by Porsha Olayiwola, Artistic Director of MassLEAP, 2014 Individual World Poetry Slam Champion, 2015 National Poetry Slam Champion, and 2019 Boston Poet Laureate

Saturday March 30, 2019

Session A:

- PANEL: Injecting Empathy into the Medical Model: Understanding Trauma and Diagnoses
 - Audre Lorde’s *Inheritors: Alcoholics Anonymous and the Work of Integrity* by Brenden O’Donnell, Brandeis University
 - *Betrayal of the Body: Medical Diagnosis as Trauma* by Audrey Ryan, Lesley University
 - *Student Clinics at the Intersection of “Healthcare” and “Self-care” in the Management of Weight Loss and Depression* by Kathleen Higgins, MIT/Harvard
 - Moderator: Freeden Blume-Oeur
- PANEL: Ethnographics of Gender, Labor, and Self-Care
 - *(In)security State: Care Compassion, and Civil Society in Pakistan* by Salwa Tareen, Boston University
 - *Flying Under the Radar: Women’s Marginalization on Physical Science Faculties* by KT Doerr, UTexas - Austin
 - *Inequality in Transnational Academic Mobility* by Shunan You, Northeastern University
 - *Interrogating Self-Care in Organisational Ethnography* by Ea Utoft, Northeastern University
 - Moderator: Chris Bobel

- **PANEL: Can You Buy It? Commercialization versus Activism**
 - Cultural Appropriation of Sage and the Effect on American Indian Activists by Deplina Thomas, Diné Tribe, Arizona State University
 - The Politics of Bath Bombs, Matisse DuPont, Simmons University
 - Moderator: Corrie Locke-Hardy

Session B:

- **WORKSHOP: Nurturing Self Care Practices through the Arts, Movement, and Reflection**
 - By Lani Sol, Healing House Wellness
- **PANEL: The Paths We Walk: Studying the Impact of Gendered Violence**
 - “We Study Our Pain”: Research as Radical Self-Care by Kate Price, UMass Boston
 - Gun Control Advocacy as Self-Care: Teaching, Gender, and the Culture War Over Firearms by KT Doerr, UTexas - Austin
 - Understanding “Patriarchy” and “Dowry System” as Root Causes of Sex Trafficking of Women in India by Resham Sethi, Brandeis University
 - Moderator: Annalise Chapman
- **PANEL: Fighting –isms from the Inside Out: Reclaiming Self-Love and Sexuality**
 - Combatting Colorism through Radical Self-Love: The Journey of the Black Woman in the U.S. by Ajai Scott, Brandeis University
 - From Self-Care to Communal Care: Sex Workers’ Networks of Support by Lauren Levitt, University of South Carolina
 - Reclaiming Sexuality and Pleasure as Power and Resistance by Carla Rosinski, Lesley University
 - Finding the “Self” in Self-Care: Challenging the Neoliberal “I” in Favor of the Collective “We” by Marnie Murray and Julia Chille, Simmons University
 - Moderator: Michelle Goldberg

Session C:

- **PANEL: Constructing Queer Spaces and Selves**
 - “It’s Why I Wake Up in the Morning”: Ethical Tensions in Subjectivity and Self-Care for the U.S. Queer Activists by Elizabeth Handschy, University of Iowa
 - Cyber-care: Exploring the Vectors of “Self-“ (and) “Care” in Indian LGBTQIA+ Cyberspace by Zoey Martin-Lockhart, University of Illinois- Chicago
 - Safe Spaces: Protection, Care, and the Queer Midwest by Charlie Curtis, University of California – Irvine
 - Shenpa, Dating, and Buddhist Alternatives to Self-Care by Ray Buckner, Ohio State University

- Moderator: Anthony Petro
- **FILM AND DISCUSSION:** *Stories of Black Motherhood*
 - Tariana Little, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
 - Fatima Dainkeh, YW Boston Racial Justice Senior Coordinator
- **PANEL:** Restorytelling: Finding and Creating Healing Narratives
 - Punk Ain't Dead: Identity Formation Through DIY Erotica, Internet Tutorials, and Cybersex in the 21st Century by Galen Bunting, Northeastern University
 - The Need for a Narrative: Navigating Survivors' Spaces of Storytelling
 - Art + Mindfulness as a Catalyst for Community Building by Semente, University of Texas – Austin
 - Zines for Love: Collective Healing through Creating Art by Taylor Burns, Simmons University
 - Moderator: Corrie Locke-Hardy

Session D:

- **WORKSHOP:** The Power of Time and Self-Care: Addressing Complexities of Procrastination
 - By Nicole Rinier, Brandeis University
- **PANEL:** Through My Lens: Healing through Gendered Performative Art
 - Pedagogies of Flesh: Tattooing as Black Feminist Self-Making by Chantanenice Kitt, University of Texas at Austin
 - “Drag is What I Do; Trans is Who I Am”: Femininity, Artistry, and Activism as a Trans Drag Queen by Haley Petersen, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill
 - Lavender, A Spoken Word Performance by Phillip Scruggs AKA Wyld the Bard, Arizona State University
 - Moderator: Annalise Chapman
- **PANEL:** Seeing Thru the Fumes of Toxic Masculinity
 - The Care of the Disordered Self: Dualism, Consumerism, and the Bulimic Double Bind by Nick Solla, Tufts University
 - Toxic Masculinity and Personal Hygiene by Willa Barnum, Simmons University
 - On (Afro)Pessimism: *All That Man Is?* by Dan Moorin, University of Massachusetts Boston
 - Moderator: Juanita Barrera

“The keynote address and poetry performance was phenomenal and was the most insightful information I gathered about self-care.”

Session E:

- **PANEL:** The Co-optation of Self-Care
 - Artist featuring work at the conference, Barbara Ayala Rugg Diehl, Brandeis University
 - Changing the Language of Self-Care by Britt Mahrer, Lesley University

- Self-Care: The Continued Production and Protection of White Femininity by Catherine Ferland, Simmons University
- Moderator: Marnie Murray
- PANEL: Different Modes of Empowerment: Our Roles in Creating Power
 - Community Psychology and Feminist Perspectives to Girls’ Participation in Organized Physical Activity by Mariajosé Paton, University of South Carolina Columbia
 - Narratives of Dis-ease by Feminist “Wounded Storytellers”: Self-care as an Agent of Culture Shift by Vassiliki Rapti, Emerson College
 - The Road to Recognition by Leena Maqsood at University of Massachusetts Boston
 - Moderator: Juanita Barrera
- PANEL: Fighting Back and Demanding More: A Call for Wellbeing in Higher Ed
 - “I Don’t Need to be Told Things are Shitty, *I Know*”: Self-Care Among LGBTQIA+ Students in Eastern Canada by Sara Nason, St. Thomas University
 - Identifying the Invisible: A Method of Community Mental Health Awareness and Resources to Create an Unspoken (or Spoken) Support System for University Students by Alicia Britton, Boston University
 - Drawing Her Powers Up from the Deep: Black Women Graduate Students and Self-Care by Justice Hamilton, Temple University
 - Moderator: Michelle Goldberg

Participation Totals

Keynote Speakers	2
Presenters	42
Conference Organizers	10
Conference Volunteers	9
Conference Attendees (not otherwise associated with another role)	189
Total	252

Presenters

Boston College	0
Boston University	3
Brandeis University	5
Harvard	2
MIT	0
Northeastern University	3
Simmons University	6
Tufts University	1
UMass Boston	3
Other Institutions	19
Total	42

Attendees

Boston College	9
Boston University	21
Brandeis University	13
Harvard	5
MIT	18
Northeastern University	9
Simmons University	5
Tufts University	5
UMass Boston	8
Other	77
Total	189

So grateful this was free and open to the public! I had an amazing time and everybody I talked to have agreed this was the best energy we have ever felt from conferences. Thank you!!

Over 290 people registered for the conference via our online form. The attendee count is based on our check-in lists. Many people registered the day of the conference and there were likely more in attendance than listed here.

Organizers

Boston College	0
Boston University	0
Brandeis University	1
Harvard	0
MIT	0
Northeastern University	3
Simmons University	4
Tufts University	0
UMass Boston	3
Other	1
Total	12

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