

# GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES

ISSUE EIGHT  
2022-2023

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY



# CHAIR'S MESSAGE



The last year has been tumultuous, at every scale. The globe is embroiled in war and threats of war, the right for people to control their own bodies is under attack around the US and the globe, the value of the pursuit of knowledge is increasingly called into question, and the inequity-fueled climate

catastrophe bears down on all of it. Yet in all this change, one thing that remains clear is the value of a transnational, intersectional, gender lens in grappling with it. Whatever else this year throws us, we know that thinking like a feminist will help us, and our students, understand its underlying dynamics. And if we were ever unsure we were doing a good job at doing this work, we can thank the Governor of Florida for recognizing it, when on his way to banning all spending on diversity, equity and inclusion at Florida's public campuses, he singled us out as the center of gender study. We'll take it!

Our faculty have been engaged in fantastic work this year. Professor Courtney Desiree Morris published her first book, *To Defend this Sunrise: Black Women's Activism and the Authoritarian Turn in Nicaragua*, to great acclaim. Professor Paola Bacchetta oversaw the long overdue translation of Gloria Anzaldúa's classic *Borderlands/La Frontera* into French. Professors Mel Chen and Eric Stanley were each nominated to prestigious chairs on the Berkeley campus. Many of our faculty members are doing important service work for the campus, running Media Studies (Professor Moallem), Disability Studies (Professor Chen), and working as Associate Dean (Professor Nelson). The Faculty Highlights below describe all this and more in greater detail.

The Department is also changing and growing internally, in wonderful ways. Professor Courtney Morris was awarded tenure. Professor Elora Shehabuddin joined our faculty from Rice University's Transnational Asian Studies and the Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality. And next year, Professor Dora Silva Santana will join the Department from Gender Studies at John Jay College, CUNY. We are delighted to be growing and welcoming so many wonderful new members to our community.

**'If you want to do things like gender ideology, go to Berkeley'**

**- Governor Ron DeSantis of Florida, May 15, 2023**

Two years ago, our treasured colleague Professor Trinh T. Minh-ha retired. This year, as the pandemic has simmered down, we had the chance to mark that transition with a beautiful and illuminating symposium devoted to her films and scholarship. Our graduation was also a terrific event, graced by the presence of State Senator Nancy Skinner, who gave an inspiring address urging our graduating seniors to not only speak truth to power, but to seize it to better the world. Sadly, this is the last graduation that will be organized by Student Services Advisor, Althea Grannum-Cummings, who has decided to retire after over three decades supporting the study of gender on our campus. We will miss her, but we hope to honor her work by continuing in her tradition of creating one of the most vibrant graduation ceremonies on campus.

I hope the newsletter finds all of you well, and fighting for a better world. Please keep in touch.

- Leslie Salzinger, Chair of GWS

# SENATOR NANCY SKINNER

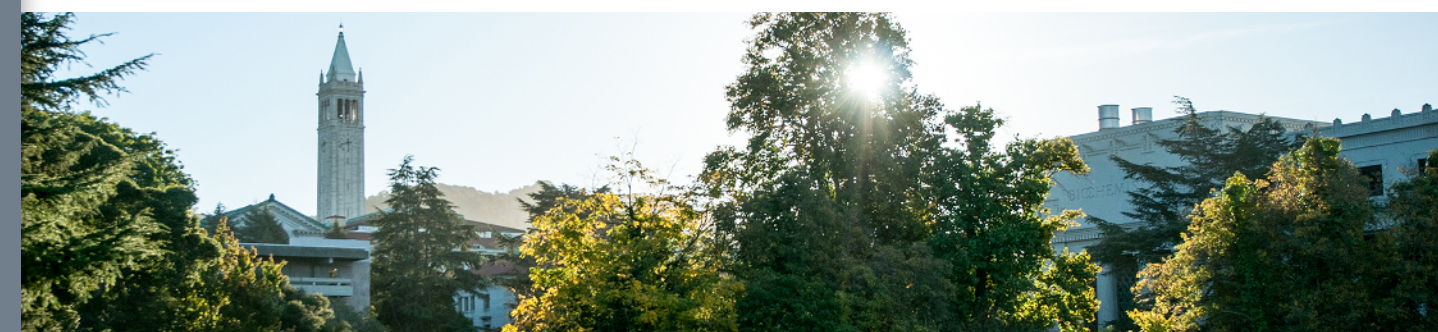
## 2023 Commencement Speaker

GWS was thrilled to welcome California State Senator Nancy Skinner as this year's Commencement Speaker, on May 16th. A social justice advocate, clean energy and climate change trailblazer and accomplished legislator, Nancy Skinner was first elected to the state Senate in 2016 after completing three terms in the state Assembly. Senator Skinner currently serves as chair of the



Senate's Budget and Fiscal Review Committee and of the California Legislative Women's Caucus. Skinner has authored groundbreaking laws including the Fair Pay to Play Act, making California the first state to give college athletes the right to earn money from their name, image, and likeness; SB 1421, opening up police misconduct records for the first time in 40 years; and SB 1437, overhauling California's unjust felony murder rule. While in the Assembly, she authored AB 153, requiring Amazon and other internet retailers to collect sales tax; AB 1014, the first in the nation gun violence restraining order otherwise known as 'red flag' law; and AB 1930, giving college students access to federal food assistance, which has now been copied by most every state in the country. In 2021, Skinner led the successful campaign to make California the first state in nation to make free school meals available to all public school children.

Skinner began her public service in 1984 as the first and only student elected to the Berkeley City Council. On the council, Skinner introduced the nation's first Styrofoam ban and co-founded an international association, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, which now includes 2,500 local and regional governments in over 125 countries. Skinner's work at ICLEI led to the initiation of the Cities for Climate Protection program, which engaged hundreds of cities worldwide to take action to stop climate change. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley, having earned both a BS and an MA.



# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

## PAOLA BACCHETTA

Professor Bacchetta oversaw, for Aunt Lute Press, the translation into French of Gloria Anzaldúa's *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, and wrote the French edition's Preface entitled "Francophonie Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza de Gloria Anzaldúa." Aunt Lute is the press that originally published the book in English. The French translation was released in Paris by Cambourakis Press in Fall 2022. Professor Bacchetta published two additional book chapters internationally. One is in French: "Réflexions sur les discours, les pratiques et les stratégies des femmes de droite face au féminisme, ou comment réinventer un avenir féministe," in *Femmes contre le changement*, edited by Camille Cleret, Tuana Gomes Silva and Soenn Mabo (Paris: Editions Sciences Politiques, 2023). Another is in Portuguese: "Circulações Anzaldúanas Na Ilha Da Tartaruga E Na França: Alguns Elementos Para Uma Historiografia Densa E Uma Contextualidade-Histórica Densa" in *Estudos Em Decolonialidade E Gênero*, edited by Caroline Marim, Susana de Castro (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: Pindorama, 2022). Professor Bacchetta gave keynotes for conferences on decolonial queer archiving and on sexuality and right-wing formations, both in France. She gave invited talks on decolonial

translation, and on queers and/in right-wing in the U.S., India and France. At the end of summer 2022, Professor Bacchetta completed six months of fieldwork on sexuality and colonialism in Morocco, France, Cameroon and Brazil, financed by a Fulbright Scholars award and a Mellon



grant. With colleague Dr. Sandeep Bakshi (Université de Paris-Cité and LARCA) she co-won the France-Berkeley Fund grant to support a project on *Decolonial Queer Archiving* for 2022-2024. She continued to work with colleagues internationally (Belgium, Palestine, Kashmir, U.S., Morocco, Argentina) on a collective project on *Bridging Materialist and Decolonial Feminisms*. She also continues to co-direct the *Decolonizing Sexualities Network*. For more information and access to Professor Bacchetta's publications, interviews, talks, see:

<http://berkeley.academia.edu/PaolaBacchetta>

## MEL Y. CHEN

Professor Chen has participated in a number of events this year. In October 2022, they spoke on "Intoxication, Disability and the Question of Indistinction" at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. They also spoke on "The Queer and the Eerie", an event at the Biennale Arte di Venezia, where they discussed topics of life and death matterings through the politics of queerness and the eerie, race, sexuality, and gender. This year, Professor Chen became the director of the Disability Studies program at the University of California, Berkeley. They also published "Death to Death / Life by Cuts" in popular magazine *e-Flux*.



## PATRICE D. DOUGLASS



During this academic year, Professor Douglass completed her book manuscript *Engendering Blackness: Slavery and the Ontology of Sexual Violence*, forthcoming in Fall 2024 from

Stanford University Press. In the wake of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* the United States Supreme Court decision—which overturned the landmark decisions in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*—she has begun thinking specifically about the racial underpinnings of abortion law. As such she published two articles on abortion, "Deterritorializing Abortion: Gender, Law, and Procedure," in the *Yale Journal of Law and Feminism* and "Against the Post and Prior To: Abortion, Dobbs, and Analytics of Raciality" in the *Journal of Legal Anthropology*. Additionally she published an essay, "Whither the Queer History of Slavery?" in the edited volume *the Cambridge History of Queer American Literature* and an article "Lynching Affect: Irresistible Identification, Sadism, and White Femininity," in the journal *Political Theology*. She also gave many invited lectures including a contribution to the American Studies Association presidential panel "History on Fire: A 25th Anniversary Roundtable for Scenes of Subjection", a talk on her article "Deterritorializing Abortion" at Yale Law School, a lecture on "Antiblackness and Gender for Minorities and Philosophy (MAP)" at Emory University, a keynote address at the conference *Reproduction of Possibility: A Colloquium on Black Critical Thought* at Columbia

University, a keynote address at the *Strategies of Critique: Care and Cure* conference at York University, and an invited lecture for the event series *Onyx Quarters* for the program in African and African American Studies at Stanford University. Lastly, she was invited to join the TM Literary and Cultural Theory executive committee of the MLA for a five year appointment.

## MINOO MOALLEM

Professor Moallem had a busy but fulfilling academic year teaching and directing the Media Studies Program, one of the largest majors at UC Berkeley. She organized numerous events to bring faculty specialized in film and media in the US and internationally to UC Berkeley for Media Studies lecture series. Minoo was invited to be the Annual McCoy Jones speaker at de Young Museum in honor of Women's History Month in March. She was also on several panels as a speaker, moderator, and discussant at Minnesota University, the Bioneers Conference in Berkeley, the Center for Bangladesh Studies, and the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at UC Berkeley. Professor Moallem published four new articles and book chapters based on her ongoing research projects, including



(continued on next page)

(cont. from previous page - Minoo Moallem)

"The Figure of the Martyr in Iran-Iraq Postwar Movies: The Case of Safar be Chazzabeh "in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*, May 2022; "Networks of Relationalities through the Lens of Material Culture" in *The Routledge Companion to Intersectionalities*, edited By Jennifer C. Nash, Samantha Pinto, 2023; and a roundtable essay for the *Berkeley Journal of Right-Wing Studies* on the rise of new rights movements transnationally. Minoo joined the Folklore graduate group to work with faculty and Ph.D. students focusing on relevant topics. She also contributed to several community events in the Bay Area, including a panel at *Golden Thread Production* (a local Theatre Group).

Favorite nature spot this year? I love hiking, and Tilden Park, especially UCB Botanic Garden, remains my favorite spot.

## COURTNEY DESIREE MORRIS



Professor Morris hosted several performance and academic events, including her artistry in "Orisha Wedding I" and the sequel "Orisha Wedding II", a queer re-imagining of the relationship between Shango and Oya, two

powerful deities in the Yoruba religion who control the elements of fire, thunder, lightning, wind, and storms. Professor Morris also hosted several exhibitions, including "Utopías Caribes" in Fototeca de Cuba, Havana; "Salt to Catch Ghosts" in Slash Art, San Francisco, CA; "The Indigo Project" in SOMArts, San Francisco; "Remedios: Repair, Remediation, Healing" in Centro de Creación Contemporánea de Andalucía, in Córdoba, Spain; as well as their forthcoming exhibition "Rabbit Hole" at the Berkeley Art Center. Professor Morris published the book *To Defend this Sunrise: Black Women's Activism and the Authoritarian Turn in Nicaragua* earlier this year. Her popular article "Stranger's Guide for "Acid Church," was nominated by the *American Society of Magazines* for the National Magazine Awards 2023.



## LAURA C. NELSON

After a Covid hiatus, I am planning to return once or twice this summer to Seoul, to restart two research projects that have languished with the pandemic: one on breast cancer in South Korea, and the other on the experiences of demographic gender imbalance and their cultural and social impacts there. I recently published one piece on the demographic research, telling the stories of South Korean women who avoided marriage and motherhood in the mid-twentieth century. ("Single Women's Invisibility in South Korea's First Decades," in Joanna Davidson and Dinah Hannaford, eds, *Opting Out: Women Messing with Marriage Around the World*, 2023.) I'm enjoying the return to in-person classes, and am - as always - learning a tremendous amount from students.

Favorite nature spot this year? My favorite nature spot: anywhere I can put my nose and eyes close to something in bloom.



## ELORA SHEHABUDDIN

In Summer 2022, Professor Shehabuddin presented papers at the Global History Colloquium at the Free University of Berlin and at Uttarsury in Dhaka. She also participated in a panel discussion on her new book and in the closing plenary of the *International Feminist Journal of Politics-Ewha Womans University Conference* "Remapping the Feminist Global: A Multi-vocal, Multi-located Conversation" in South Korea. In the fall, she spoke at the (hybrid) plenary session titled "Global Asia, Asian America, and Asian Studies in a Post-Pandemic World," at the Southwest Conference on Asian Studies, as well as on a roundtable titled "Pandemic Histories and Andolan Imaginaries" at the Annual South Asia Conference at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. In Spring 2023, Professor Shehabuddin participated in a session titled "Sisters in Resistance" at the Dhaka LitFest in Dhaka; gave a virtual talk at UC Santa Cruz on "Bangladesh, Third World Solidarity, and the Global Politics of Feminism"; and presented a paper on "Maryam Jameelah and US Feminism" in Salt Lake City. In addition, she was invited to speak about her new book, *Sisters in the Mirror: A History of Muslim Women and the Global Politics of Feminism*, at the University of Dhaka, University of Houston, the Institute for South Asia Studies (ISAS) at UC Berkeley, the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies. She served as a discussant at events organized by the journal *Agitate!*, by ISAS at UC Berkeley, and at the 2023 International Islamophobia Conference. Her ongoing work as



Associate Editor of the *Encyclopedia for Women and Islamic Cultures* and as a mentor to journalists through the project, "Decolonizing the Representation of Muslim Women in the Media: Training Next Generation Journalists," has been supported this year by Luce/ACLS Program in Religion, Journalism & International Affairs. Her ongoing work as Associate Editor of the *Journal of Bangladesh Studies* has received support from UC Berkeley's Abigail Hodgen Publication Award. She recently published an article titled "On the Politics of Visibility and Viruses," in *Histories of the Present*. Her book, *Sisters in the Mirror*, was selected as a 2022 Choice Outstanding Academic Title by the American Library Association and for the 2023 Coomaraswamy Book Prize by the Association for Asian Studies.

## ERIC STANLEY

Earlier this year, Professor Stanley published "In a Violent Year for LGBTQ People, These Are the Ways We Coped and Fought Back", an op-ed encompassing LGBTQIA+ news and cultural shift over 2022. In January 2023, they were also named Haas Distinguished Chair in LGBT Equity and continued to be affiliated with the Program in Critical Theory. In the Spring, they were a Scholar in Residence at Virginia Commonwealth University where they discussed the topics of their book "Atmospheres of Violence, Structuring Antagonism and the Trans/Queer Ungovernable," along with my film "Criminal Queers", visualizing a radical trans/queer struggle against the prison industrial complex and toward a world without walls.

Favorite nature spot this year: As for nature, they love the Yuba River.



## 2023 HONOR'S THESES

*Everywhere but here, anytime but now: temporal and spatial precarity in the lives of Filipino mothers working in the BPO industry*  
- Ella Amparo

*Silenced through Pathologization in Psychiatry and the Courtroom: The Depoliticization of Trauma as Violence Against Women*  
- Mae Donald

*woman, life, freedom, Queer, Trans. liberation: echoes of Azadi from deep within the invisible panopticon*  
- Yaas Farzanefar

*Beyond Borders and Binaries: Undocumented Women & the Radical Imaginings of an Abolitionist Queer Feminism*  
- Celia Serrato



## DEWGS STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

### Mihiri Tillakaratne

- ▶ Awarded a PhD in Ethnic Studies with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality
- ▶ Published journal article "Spilling the Tea: Aunty Discipline and the Queer Diasporic Child in D'Lo's To T, or Not To T?" in *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*
- ▶ Awarded Associate Editor position at *Lion's Roar* with a focus on finding Asian American voices to write for and feature

## STUDENT AWARDS

### Thaily Guzman-Jimenez

*Switzer-Wasserman Scholarship and  
The Estha M. Rodkey Scholarship*

### Kayla Pena Pham

*Phi Beta Kappa*

### Yaas Farzanefar

*Ibrahim Fellowship, Townsend Honors Fellowship*

### Ashley Lopez Valdez

*Sigma Kappa*

# 2022-2023 VISITING SCHOLARS

## BBRG - CHAU HOI SHUEN SCHOLAR-IN-RESIDENCE

JUN LI  
Cheung Kong School of Journalism and  
Communication, Shantou University, China  
*The tension between consumerism and activism:  
Feminists as prosumers in Chinese social media*

## BBRG SCHOLARS-IN-RESIDENCE

LISA ARELLANO  
Independent Scholar  
*History Makers*

ROBIN CLARK  
BBRG Scholar-in-Residence  
*Portrait of a Studio: Larry Bell and his Circle*

SARAH THORNTON  
BBRG Scholar-in-Residence  
*Uplifting Sagas: The Top Half of Women's  
Liberation*

## BBRG AFFILIATED SCHOLARS

ANNIE HIKIDO  
Assistant Professor of Sociology at Colby College,  
Maine  
*Postcolonial Placemaking: Black Women and the  
Intimacies of Township Tourism in South Africa*  
August to December 2022

HANANE KARIMI  
Associate Professor in Sociology, University of  
Strasbourg  
*A Paradoxical Condition of Femininity: the principle of  
religious neutrality applied to Muslim women in France*  
February to April 2023

HANIYEH B PASANDI  
Assistant Professor of Francophone Civilizations and  
Cultures, University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
*The Transversal Adventures of Francophone Middle  
Eastern Graphic Novels: A feminine creation*  
January to February 2023

## GWS FACULTY-SPONSORED SCHOLARS

CAROLINA GIRODANO BERGMANN  
Phd Candidate, Universidade Federal de Santa  
Catarina, UFSC, Brazil  
*Gender, Decoloniality and Intersectionality: deepening  
knowledge and relationships between themes*  
Faculty sponsor: Paola Bacchetta  
January to June 2023

JOHNNY E. GEORGE  
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and  
Economics, Meiji University, Japan  
*An examination of how Deaf artists reframe representations  
of Deaf culture and Japanese Sign Language (JSL) in media*  
Faculty sponsor: Mel Y. Chen  
April 2022 to March 2023

SARAH SEDDIG  
PhD Fellow, Danish Institute of International Studies,  
University of Copenhagen, Department of Anthropology  
*Bodies of Data. The Power of Female Technology in Sexual  
and Reproductive Health in Kenya's 'Silicon Savannah'*  
Faculty sponsor: Leslie Salzinger  
November to December 2022

ELHAM SHAHSAVAR  
PhD Student in Social Anthropology, York University,  
Toronto  
*Reading Iraniannesses through contemporary Isfahan's  
Naqsh-e Jahan Square*  
Faculty sponsor: Minoo Moallem  
August 2022 to February 2023

ELENA VASILLIOU  
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellowship at  
University of Warwick, UK  
*Queer Interventions on Self-harm in Prison*  
Faculty sponsor: Eric Stanley  
May 2022 to December 2023

# SUMMER SESSIONS

## Introduction to Gender and Women's Studies

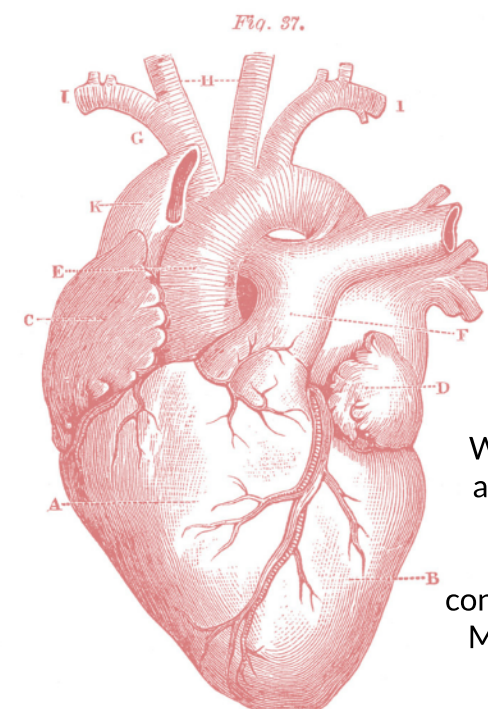
GWS 10 | Class # 14280 | Session  
D TTh 10AM-12PM

Introduction to questions and concepts in gender and  
women's studies. Critical study of the formation of  
gender and its intersections with other relations of  
power, such as sexuality, racialization, class, religion,  
and age. Questions will be addressed within the  
context of a transnational world. Emphasis of the  
course will change depending on the instructor.



## Gender, Women's Studies and Medicine

GWS 111.2 | Class # 15605  
| Session D TWTh 1-3:30PM



This course introduces students to the field of Gender and Women's  
Studies in the context of the history of western medicine. Gender,  
Women's Studies and Medicine is an interdisciplinary class that defines  
and analyzes race, gender and sexuality as sociocultural constructs and  
reviews the intersection of gender and ethics. The course introduces  
social issues of reproductive health, transgender care, and economic  
conditions and racial bias. Readings include excerpts from *How the Clinic  
Made Gender: The Medical History of a Transformative Idea*, by Sander  
Edra, *Killing the Black Body: Race, Reproduction, and the Meaning of  
Liberty* by Dorothy Roberts, and *Hunger*, by Roxanne Gay.

Althea Grannum - Cummings  
Student Services Adviser  
Retiring after 30 years in GWS  
Many Congratulations  
Ms. Althea!!



The Department of Gender & Women's Studies presents:

## FORM + FORCES: A CELEBRATION OF THE WORK OF TRINH MINH HA



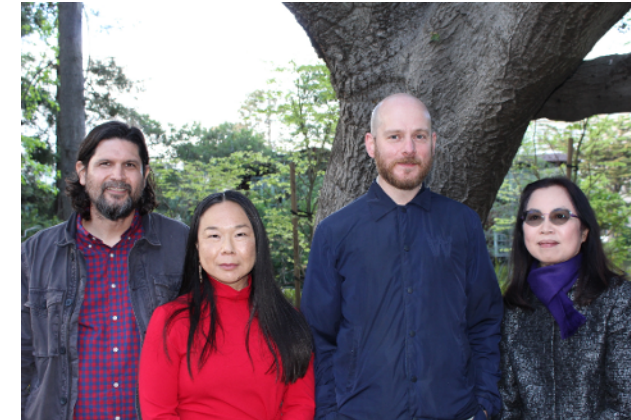
This symposium critically engages with the creative and scholarly work of acclaimed feminist filmmaker, writer, music composer and literary theorist Trinh Minh-Ha. The event will bring together more than a dozen scholars and artists to engage in deep conversation about the multiple interventions she has made in feminist scholarship on aesthetics, identity, poetics, displacement, and migration over the last 40 years.

Friday, April 28, 2023  
Toll Room, Alumni House

9:00 - 9:30 am	Welcome Remarks	Leslie Salzinger, Chair, Gender & Women Studies, UC Berkeley Trinh T. Minh-ha, Distinguished Professor of the Graduate School, UC Berkeley
9:30 - 11:00 am	Keynote:	Jyoti Mistry, The Wordsmithing of Trinh T Minh ha's Film Forms
11:15 - 12:30 pm	Panel I:	<b>Woman, Native, Other</b>
	Moderator:	Patrice D. Douglass, Gender & Women's Studies, UC Berkeley
	Panelists:	Minoo Moallem, Gender & Women's Studies, UC Berkeley Mark Minch-de Leon, English, UC Riverside Vivian Chavez, Public Health, San Francisco State University
12:30 - 1:45 pm	Lunch Break	
1:45 - 3:00 pm	Panel II:	<b>Lovecidal: Walking with the Disappeared</b>
	Moderator:	Paola Bacchetta, Gender & Women Studies, UC Berkeley
	Panelists:	Litia Perta, Art, UC Irvine Mike Sperlinger, Theory and Writing, Oslo National Academy of the Arts Giancarlo Cornejo Salinas, Cinema & Media Studies, University of Southern California Krista Lynes, Communication Studies, Concordia University
3:15 - 4:30 pm	Panel III:	<b>Elsewhere, Within Here: Immigration Refugeeism and the Boundary Event</b>
	Moderator:	Michael Dalebout, Rhetoric, UC Berkeley
	Panelists:	Latipa, Media & Cultural Studies, UC Riverside Lisa Min, Asian Studies Division, Yonsei University Laura Fantone, Anthropology & Social Change, California Institute of Integral Studies
4:30 pm	Closing Remarks	

Co-Sponsored by the Townsend Center for the Humanities  
University of California, Berkeley

## Scenes from Form + Forces...



### Aylin Sanchez | Newsletter Editor

Hello all,

First off, thank you all so much for taking the time to read this year's edition of the department newsletter. It has been such an honor to give back to the department I love and cherish so dearly.

My name is Aylin Sanchez, and I am a third-year at UC Berkeley studying Business Administration. Throughout the school year, I am also a work-study student for the Department of Gender and Women's Studies for two years now alongside my amazing co-workers and fellow faculty.

I truly couldn't have wished for a better department to work for. From the incredibly talented and intelligent faculty I have the privilege of serving, to my amazing co-workers, the GWS department truly is one of a kind. Despite being a sophomore, being on campus for the first time after a year of remote learning made my first days extremely difficult. It was thanks to my incredible employers Gillian Edgelow and Althea Cummings however that I was not only able to find employment, but also an incredible support system here at Cal. I couldn't thank you all enough.

As I enter my final year at Cal, I look forward to continue working at the department and I hope to see you all at the GWS Cafe! Cheers!





thank you for reading...



SANDY RICHMOND  
*Director of Administration*



GILLIAN EDGELOW  
*Research Program Administrator*



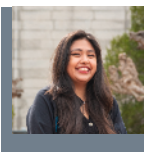
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## Support our work!

Your donation could make it possible for a student to attend a conference to present their work, to cover transportation costs for an undergraduate interning at a local non-profit agency, or to help bring a feminist scholar from the Global South to campus to speak to our students. Even small contributions will help support our small but vibrant department.

To give, visit 'Support Us' on the GWS website. Contact the department Chair to discuss possibilities for a major gift: [lsalzinger@berkeley.edu](mailto:lsalzinger@berkeley.edu).

Thank you for supporting feminist studies at UC Berkeley!