



# GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

ISSUE TWO | 2015-2016

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the annual newsletter of the Department of Gender and Women's Studies. The end of the year always brings a sense of great accomplishment. On Monday May 16th, our graduating students in the Gender and Women's Studies major and minor, the LGBT minor, and the Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality will receive their degrees at what is always a highlight of the year – the department graduation ceremony (see pages 2-3). Congratulations to our graduates - we applaud and honor your excellent work during your time at Berkeley.

The department wrapped up a great series of events with a half day symposium on the Human and Non-Human, and with the presentation of our Honors students' senior theses (see page 3). Our faculty participated in a large number of prominent public and academic events around the world this year, and our students garnered many awards. Together, our faculty, lecturers, staff and students continued to make the department a welcoming and vibrant intellectual community at the cutting edge of scholarship and activism in intersectional and transnational gender and sexuality studies.

This past year, gender and sexuality have been at the core of many pressing national and international challenges from the role of women in mitigating climate change as debated at the 21st Conference of the Parties in Paris to a recent spate of state bills aimed at restricting the rights of transgender people to use public restrooms that match their identity. Research, teaching, and activism around gender and sexuality, in relation to other dimensions of power, such as race, class, citizenship and disability, remain as pressing as ever.

Here at the University of California, Berkeley, the campus has been embroiled in a series of high profile sexual harassment scandals. These scandals have threatened the reputation and functioning of our university and betrayed the public's trust during a time of budget crisis. But most important, they have revealed a campus in which for far too long, egregious violations of the rights of others, often by those in positions of power, have been allowed to persist. Survivors have not been adequately protected and very little has been done to work across the campus from within our core mission of teaching and research to address the pervasive nature of the problem.

Faculty and students of the department of Gender and Women's Studies have continued our longstanding efforts to draw attention to these problems, to work with others on campus to support survivors, and to recommend long-term solutions to central campus. This year, we have organized events, talked to the press and members of the public, and joined with other feminist faculty and allies across campus to push for lasting change. As ever, our extraordinary students have led the way in organizing student events related to gender, race, disability, citizenship, and sexual harassment and sexual violence. We have also continued to advocate for a requirement that all students at Berkeley, regardless of their discipline or gender identity, take at least one academic class that looks in depth at topics in intersectional gender and sexuality, including how to understand the phenomenon and history of and responses to campus based sexual harassment and violence. In academic year 2016-17, we will be hosting a major conference continuing this work.

For those returning to campus in Fall 2016, we look forward to seeing you again in August. For all our alumni and friends, you are welcome to join us at any time. I would like to thank our staff, Vernessa Parker, Jeannie Imazumi, Althea Grannum-Cummings, Gillian Edgelow, and Perla Pinedo for their exceptional service, as always, to GWS. We are pleased to welcome Perla Pinedo, our Academic Personnel Specialist, who joined the team in January. And thank you also to DEWGS student Tenzin Paldron, who, along with Gillian Edgelow, produced this newsletter.

Despite its current challenges, Berkeley is a great public university, and that still means everything. We have committed and brilliant students and a growing broader community of friends and alumni, and together we will continue to fight for the combination of access and excellence that is Berkeley. I have no doubt that the future will be a better place because of you. Thank you for all that you do, and have a great summer!

- Charis Thompson , Chancellor's Professor and Chair

## BACHELOR OF ARTS

### MAJORS

Elizabeth Akkerman  
 Cynthia Contreras  
 Heather Courtney  
 Claudia Echeverria  
 Lorja Fogel  
 Julia Glick  
 Andrew Godar  
 Karla Janet Cruz Godoy  
 Emily Kuo  
 Chloe Naghmeh Majdipour  
 Amanda Martinez-Caballero  
 Aleida Moreno  
 Jasmin Moreno  
 Eleanor (Annie) Olea

Norma Perez  
 Aisling Peterson  
 Elizabeth Reimer  
 Jessica Reyes  
 Kelsey Riley  
 Jeanette Rios  
 Seleny Rodriquez  
 Taylor Romine  
 Jinoh "Kahn" Ryu  
 Courtney Sarkin  
 Claude Torres  
 Karen Valenzuela  
 Meghan Walsh

### MINORS

#### **Gender & Women's Studies**

Elvina Diana Fan  
 Ellen Gregory  
 Caroline Q. Murphy  
 Louise Min Yue Tan  
 Kendra Elizabeth Verga

#### **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexuality & Transgender Studies**

Katrina Ilse Craton  
 Rebecca Arianna Dizon  
 Janis J Hatchl

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

### **with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender & Sexuality**

Heather Rastovac Akbarzadeh  
 PhD in Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies  
 Performing (Trans)National Iranianness: The Choreographic Cartographies of Diasporic Iranian Dancers and Performance Artists

Manuel R. Cuellar  
 PhD in Spanish and Portuguese  
 Imagining a Festive Nation: Queer Embodiments and Dancing Histories of Mexico

Alani Rosa Hicks-Bartlett  
 PhD in Romance Languages and Literatures, and Medieval Studies  
 Vows and Violence in the Medieval and Early Modern Chivalric Romances of France, Italy, and Spain

Ianna Hawkins Owen  
 PhD in African American Studies  
 Ordinary Failures: Toward a Diasporan Ethics

Ragini Srinivasan  
 PhD in Rhetoric  
 After New India: Realisms, Diasporas, Anglophonisms

Rochelle L. Terman  
 PhD in Political Science  
 Backlash: Defiance, Human Rights, and the Politics of Shame

Anna Elena Torres  
 PhD in Jewish Studies  
 With an Undone Shirt (Mit a tseshpilyet hemd): Anarchism Modernism and Yiddish Literature

## GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES

# COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS DEAN SPADE

"...power is not simply about certain individuals being targeted for death or exclusion by a ruler, but instead about the creation of norms that distribute vulnerability and security."

Dean Spade, *Normal Life*



Dean Spade is an associate professor at the Seattle University School of Law. In 2002 he founded the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, a non-profit collective that provides free legal help to low-income people and people of color who are trans, intersex and/or gender non-conforming and works to build trans resistance rooted in racial and economic justice. He is the author of *Normal Life: Administrative Violence, Critical Trans Politics and the Limits of Law* (Duke University Press, 2015).

2016 GWS  
SENIOR  
HONORS  
THESES

### Julia Glick

Today I'm Going to Test You:  
Oppositional Cyborgs and  
Automated Anxiety in *Ex Machina*

### Emily Kuo

Aliens as "Others": Reading Race,  
Exogeneity, and Homosociality in *District 9*

### Chloe Majdipour

The Face of School Shooters: Masculinity,  
School Shootings, and the FBI

### Aisling Petersen

Rewriting and Reworking *Nothing Sacred*  
*Will Hold: Queering Hybridity in the X-Files*

### Kahn Ryu

The Queer Aesthetics of Self-Destruction:  
The "Cosmetic Surgery Monster" on South  
Korean Television Show *Martian Virus*

### Courtney Sarkin

Breast Cancer, Bodies, and Boundaries:  
Queering Solutions for Equitable  
Healthcare

# HUMAN/NONHUMAN

COLLOQUIA SERIES  
FEBRUARY 24 – MAY 2 2016

SUPPORTED BY THE  
CHAU HOI SHUEN  
FUND IN GENDER &  
WOMEN'S STUDIES



Photo by  
Carla Phillips

**Vanessa Agard-Jones, Assistant Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Yale University**

*"Chemical Kin/Esthesia"*

A political anthropologist doing research on gender, sexuality, and environmental concerns in the Caribbean, Dr. Agard-Jones presented "Chemical Kin/Esthesia," a paper experimenting with ethnography at a molecular scale. It considered bodily-material entanglements with the pesticide on two registers: first, as "chemical kinesthesia:" the always-partial, rarely verifiable ways that this pesticide is understood to move across porous boundaries in Martinique's human and nonhuman body ecologies, and second, as "chemical kinship:" the articulation of a narrative about contamination, accountability, and communities of chemical injury inspired by the pesticide's circulation in the bodies of people both powerful and marginalized.

Following a chemical through bloodstreams and bone marrow, soil and

sediment, Dr. Agard-Jones' work calls attention to the intimate ways in which Caribbean bodies are connected to commodity chains, to uneven relations of post/colonial power, and thus to world systems. She is currently writing a book about pesticides, (sexual) politics, and postcoloniality in Martinique.



**Banu Subramaniam, Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

*"Other Worldly Tales: The Phantasmogoric Lives of Naturecultures"*

Trained as a plant evolutionary biologist, Dr. Subramaniam seeks to engage the social and cultural studies of science in the practice of science. Spanning the humanities, social sciences, and the biological sciences, her research is located at the intersections of biology, women's studies, ethnic studies and postcolonial studies.

Her talk explored the worlds of science and religion in contemporary India. In

contrast to other religious fundamentalisms, Hindu nationalism embraces science as an important and critical tool of religion. Scientific and religious practices in contemporary India are inextricably interconnected and as a result show a "syncretic pragmatism" in the processes and practices of both institutions.

Dr. Subramaniam's talk explored how mythological narratives, preternatural tales, and ghostly apparitions mingle effortlessly with animist traditions as well as the material, experimental, and institutional practices of technosciences. This emerging "syncretic pragmatism" challenges us to move "beyond the human" to consider how "other worldly" non-human, non-material, and non-modern lives are deeply intertwined with modern science and technology. Ultimately to understand contemporary technoscience in India, we have to move beyond the natural world and cultural worlds to make visible new phantasmogoric naturecultural worlds. She is the author of *Ghost Stories for Darwin: The Science of Variation and the Politics of Diversity*.

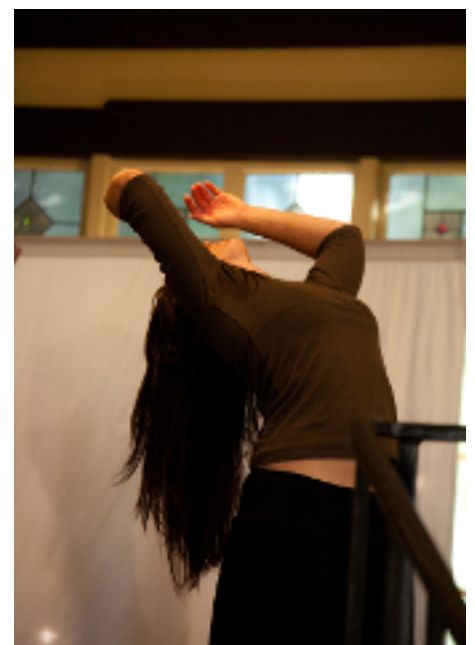


Photo by Genevieve Schiffrar

CO-PRESENTED BY GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES AND THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SEXUAL CULTURE

A series of four individual talks followed by an all-day symposium, the *Human/Non-human* lecture series featured recent work from a number of interdisciplinary fields and practices into conversation around historical and contemporary questions of human definition and its contingencies.



**Eunjung Kim,**

**Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Syracuse University**

*"Why Do Dolls Die?: Passivity, Disability and Garbage in the Uncanny Valley"*

What category-shifts do objects go through in a neoliberal world dependent on the expendability of objects and on the individuality of persons? Through the films *Lars and the Real Girl* and *Air Doll*, Kim explores passivity as a response to the unmodifiable aspect of object beings. As human-shaped objects that would not, by themselves, accommodate humanness, they necessitate a new sociality for recognition and a new mode of disposal to disguise their permanent presence. Reflecting on the dolls shifting from life to corpse and to garbage, Dr. Kim's talk explored intricate connections between nonhuman bodies and disability and how their proximity enacts anti-ableist ethics, specifically regarding the temporal expectation of care.

Her research interests include historical, cultural, transnational factors that shape disabled women's experiences; disabled women's anti-violence activism; humanitarian exchanges between the U.S. and South Korea; the politics of cultural representations of disability, gender, and sexuality; transnational disability studies theories; and asexuality representations.

## HUMAN/NONHUMAN SYMPOSIUM SPEAKERS

*Borders and Migrating Toxins: Industrial Contamination as Settler Colonialism in an American Indian Community* by Elizabeth Hoover, Manning Assistant Professor of American Studies (Brown University)

*The Politics of Form and Force* by Trinh T. Minh-ha, Professor of Gender & Women's Studies and Rhetoric (UC Berkeley)

*Transing Sex/Gender, Race, and Species in Late Nineteenth and Early 20th Century Science and Speculative Fiction* by Susan Stryker, Associate Professor of Gender & Women's Studies (University of Arizona)

*Biological Soil Crusts: The Secret Marriage that Holds the World in Place* by Barbara Barnes, Continuing Lecturer of Gender & Women's Studies (UC Berkeley)

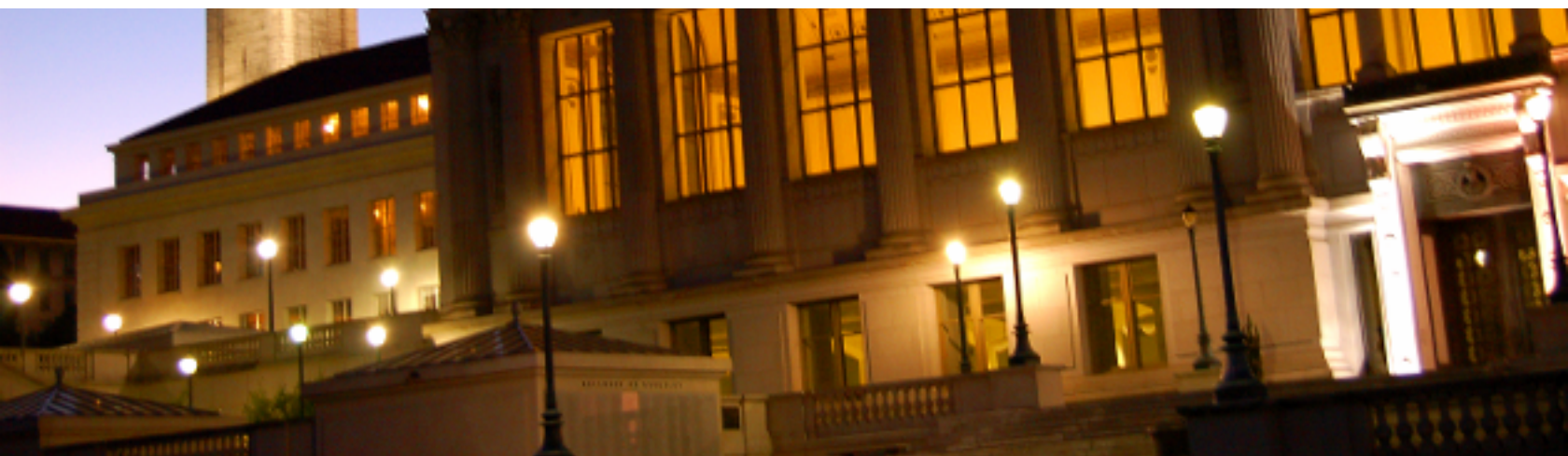
She is currently working on the book, *Curative Violence: Rehabilitating Disability, Gender, and Sexuality in Modern Korea*.



**Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison**  
*"Super Fly"*

In her talk "Super Fly", Dr. Allewaert proposed that eighteenth-century tropical archives that circulate till this day indicate a taxonomic and mythological discourse that emerges at the same moment as biopolitical discourses, that takes up its key problems (the body, life, organization), but that reroutes biopolitical modes of

form, organization, and resistance. She develops this argument from an analysis of the stories inspired by the St. Dominguan maroon Makandal who, after 10 years of speeches that white creoles deemed horrifyingly eloquent as well as a poisoning campaign that turned the plantation into a revolutionary ecology, was finally caught and condemned to burn at the stake. Before being executed, he prophesized that he was transforming into a mosquito so as continue his attack on a scale at once material yet not entirely humanly perceptible. Drawing on eighteenth-century Anglo-European accounts of Makandal and tropical insects as well as later Afro-American variations on the story, Dr. Allewaert argues that the taxonomic category of the insect and the mythologies it proliferated emphasize partiality rather than form or unity. As such, the insect and insect resistance challenge biopolitical accounts of the body. She draws on this mythology to build a post-biopolitics for the present. Dr. Allewaert is the author of *Ariel's Ecology: Personhood and Colonialism in the American Tropics, 1760-1820*.



## All gender restroom (noun):

- a room containing one or more toilet stalls in a public building.

*The re-designation of the Barrows Hall 6th floor restroom as “all gender” in December 2015 was one of the results of a settlement reached between unionized graduate student grievants, their lawyers, and UC Labor Relations. Before the settlement was reached, all 6th floor units (Gender and Women’s Studies, African American Studies, Center for Race and Gender, Center for the Study of Sexual Culture, Beatrice Bain Research Group) had already autonomously and unanimously endorsed the re-designation of the restroom as an all gender facility.*

Although the struggle for an all gender restroom on the 6th floor in particular and across campus more broadly has a long history, the campaign for all gender restroom access has accelerated over the last two years for a number of reasons, including:

- In the summer of 2014 the UC Student Workers Union (UAW 2865) fought for and secured historic new contract language with the University that guarantees GSIs access to all gender restrooms within a reasonable distance from their workplaces;
- In September 2014 UC President Janet Napolitano has called for the conversion of single-stall restrooms across the UC system to “all gender” designations as a first step toward making restrooms on UC campuses safer and more accessible to everyone;
- Student activism has underscored the immediate need for all gender restrooms through direct actions (“shit-in” occupations of binary gender restrooms, the circulation of a “pee-tition,” and a stickering campaign relabeling restrooms, for example), emphasizing that the proposed changes at the system-wide-level have gotten mired in bureaucracy.

Single-gender restrooms are highly policed spaces where restroom users that do not appear to conform to assumptions of binary gender identity are subject to harassment, threat and violence. According to UCLA School of Law’s William Institute’s recently published study, “Gendered Restrooms and Minority Stress: The Public Regulation of Gender and its Impact on Transgender People’s Lives” (Herman 2013):

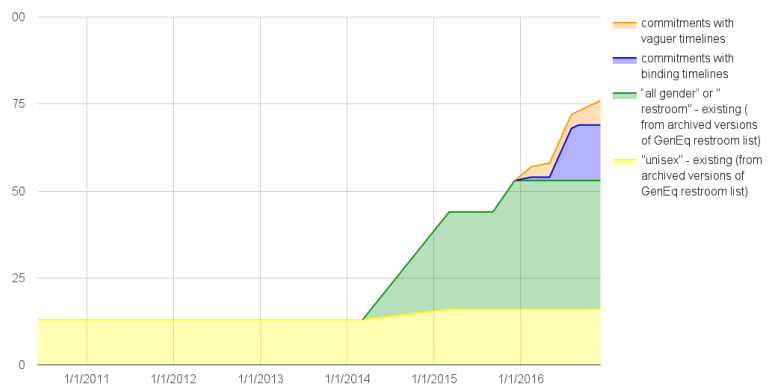
- 25% of African American respondents have been denied access to at least one gender-segregated public restroom in Washington, DC, along with 18% of their counterparts who also experienced denial of access. (71)
- “68% of respondents reported experiencing at least one instance of verbal harassment in gender-segregated public restrooms,” with black and Latin@ respondents at the highest rates. (72)
- “Eight respondents (9%) reported experiencing at least one instance of physical assault in gender-segregated public restrooms.” (73)

Many of the institutions that shape our adult lives perpetuate myths of biological gender fixity and in so doing, continue to dictate the manner in which we organize our lives. In continuing

to conflate terms like sex and gender, insisting on their overdetermination and/or refusing self-determination, we contribute to the maintenance of a system responsible both for individual duress and also for the epidemic of murders of trans women of color in 2015. The question we must never stop asking ourselves is whether some bodies matter more than others.

GWS Newsletter Editor Tenzin Paldron asked me why I chose to be involved in the struggle for all gender restrooms. The short of it is that I saw a flyer made by Dr. Amanda Armstrong (at the time a PhD candidate of Rhetoric, union steward, and member of the 2014 contract bargaining committee) which was circulated by the UAW advising me of my right to an all gender restroom and instructions on how to file a grievance to secure this right and so I did. I would strongly recommend that anyone, regardless of gender identity, who is actively GSI-ing and has a bit of time, to file a grievance to keep up the pressure on UCLR and the university administration.

According to a graph made by organizer, union steward, and PhD candidate of mathematics Clare Stinchcombe, our campus had 13 “unisex” restrooms and 0 “all gender” ones in March of 2014, and in December of 2015 had 16 “unisex” and 37 “all gender,” with 16 more with binding timelines for September 2016.



The impact of union bargaining, grievance filing, and organizing at the student, faculty, and staff levels is clear. If we are to take seriously African American freedom struggle activist Fannie Lou Hamer’s historic words “Nobody’s free until everybody’s free” then it is incumbent upon us take action now to make this basic human function safer and *unremarkable* for all. To refuse to take action on this issue is not a neutral stance: it is the explicit re-entrenchment of exclusionary practices that put particular bodies at risk and refuse sanctuary to people in one of their most vulnerable positions: using the restroom.

*Ianna Hawkins Owen is a PhD candidate in African American Studies with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender and Sexuality at the University of California, Berkeley.*



## JUDITH LEE STRONACH BACCALAUREATE PRIZE

GWS graduate **Jessica Reyes** is a 2016 winner of the prestigious Judith Lee Stronach Baccalaureate Prize. Jessica's project entitled, WINGS (Working to Inspire and Nurture Growth and Sustainability), is a community based program located in East Los Angeles designed to help the children of currently and formerly incarcerated parents by providing them with a network of support and community. Professor Juana María Rodríguez will serve as her faculty mentor for this dynamic approach to addressing the multi-dimensional needs of this under-served community.



A native of Los Angeles, Jessica Reyes has already amassed considerable experience impacting the lives of others. Currently an intern at the MultiCultural Community Center, part of the Biology Scholars Program, and a student Researcher for the Maternal Child Health Careers Research Initiative, Jessica also serves on the Chancellor's Council on Students of Color and Multicultural Engagement.

The Judith Lee Stronach Baccalaureate Prize is one of the most competitive prizes offered by our campus. It supports intellectual and creative projects that raise awareness of issues of social consciousness and contribute to the public good, by helping students fund their "dream" projects for an entire year.

(This is the second time that a GWS student has won this competitive University Prize. Marco Antonio Flores, won the Stronach Prize in 2012.)

This year I've been continuing to work on two on-going projects: A study of breast cancer in its personal, political, cultural and medical manifestations in contemporary South Korea, and an examination of why women without children were all-but-invisible in South Korea before this new millennium. You can read an article from the first topic in *Medical Anthropology*, "Cancer, Stress, and Ironies of Cancer Understanding in South Korea" (winter 2016). I also worked with the eminent South Korean anthropologist Cho Haejoang to write a chapter on gender and social change in contemporary South Korea for a *Routledge Handbook of Modern Korean History* (2016). As the Chair of the Center for Korean Studies I've had a wonderful year hosting a series of speakers who focus on a wide range of aspects of Korea.



**LAURA C. NELSON**  
LCNELSON@BERKELEY.EDU



**CHARIS THOMPSON**  
CHARIS@BERKELEY.EDU

Highlights of my research this past year included being an invited speaker at the International Summit on Gene Editing, co-hosted by the National Academies of Science, Britain's Royal Society, and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, in Washington DC in December, and delivering the annual Stephen Straker Memorial Lecture at the University of British Columbia, Canada, in March.

## OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT INSTRUCTOR AWARD



DEWGS scholar **Thea Gold** won the 2016 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor (OSGI) Award, which honors UC Berkeley GSIs for their work in the teaching of undergraduates. OSGI recipients are nominated from within their teaching department.

Thea is a doctoral candidate in the department of Theater, Dance and Performance Studies, with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender and Sexuality. They work on questions of disability and performance.

"Thea is absolutely exceptional in her capacity to connect and empathize with students, and uses that ability to help them learn difficult material in a deep way. Students report how much they appreciated the way he opened class with meditation, enabling them to settle and open and really talk about the material. I can't think of a more deserving recipient of the award, embodying the Department's commitment to empathetic, challenging and rigorous pedagogy."

GWS Professor Leslie Salzinger

## BEATRICE BAIN RESEARCH GROUP (BBRG)

**YUN LI**

**CHAU HOI SHUEN**

**SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE**



My program is about the fate of female migrant workers in China. I intended to do research on their sexuality based on the first hand materials that I gathered in the self-writing workshops I organized together with workers in Guangzhou. Then I found class is a more important issue, to them as well as to China. I have almost finished a paper, "A Middleclass Misidentification: Self-Identification in the Autobiographical Narratives of Contemporary Chinese Female Migrant Workers," which is about the identity of female migrant workers. I am working on another paper, "Labor, Alienation and Aesthetics: Perspectives from Chinese Female Worker Poets," which is about female worker poets' aesthetic response to alienation/reification caused by their unique experiences as workers.

*Yun Li is Associate Professor of English at South China University of Technology, where she has served as Director of the Institute of Gender Studies. She is the author of *Reconstructing Feminine Subjectivity in the Horizon of Negative Dialectics* (2012) and translator of *Prometheus Bound: The Mythic Structure of Karl Marx's Scientific Thinking* (2014). In 2015 her essay, *Post-Subject Ethical Impasse: On the Theme of Loss in Alice Monro's "Runaway"* appeared in the *Journal of Contemporary Foreign Literature*.*

**JAYATI LAL**

**SCHOLAR IN RESIDENCE**



Being at the BBRG this year has enabled me to begin work on a new project on the transformation of middle class gender identities via new technologies of the self in various sites of consumer culture in urban North India.

I've also been working on two journal articles that I presented at conferences during the year. *Sidewalk Feminism: Towards a New Politics of Space, Embodiment and Materialism in Indian Feminism*, which was presented at the National Women's Studies Association meetings in November, examines the politics of some recent feminist campaigns in India and argues against the tendency to read them as either 'post' or 'neoliberal' feminisms.

### GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES DEPARTMENT

#### STUDENT AND ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS

-GWS major Sy Jordan has been awarded a 2016 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship, working with Prof. Charis Thompson.

-GWS major Kahn Ryu Park's final paper for GWS 102 Transnational Feminisms was published in the Berkeley Student Journal of Asian Studies, 5th edition (2015).

-GWS minor Alexa Aburto has been awarded a Mellon Mays Fellowship for the graduating class of 2018.

-Laura Cahier (GWS visiting student from France) was accepted to the Humanity in Action program in Sarajevo.

-GWS major with LGBT Studies minor Jen Halliday was recently awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Halliday will begin her doctoral studies at UCLA this fall.

-GWS alum Matt Grigorieff (page 13) was recently published in the Journal for Critical Educational Policy Studies. His article advocated for the preservation of educational access and community services for underrepresented groups (i.e., individuals with disabilities) in the community college system.

*"BBRG provides a unique interdisciplinary and transnational intellectual space in which to work. Casual conversations at the GWS café and collegial feedback at the scholars' biweekly workshop have been intellectually stimulating and have guided revisions to several manuscripts-in-progress this year. I'm grateful to the faculty in GWS, Gillian Edgelow, and my BBRG colleagues for co-creating such a hospitable space."*

-Jayati Lal, BBRG Scholar In Residence

*Rethinking the Worker Subject: Social Reproduction and the Making of Women Factory Workers in Late Twentieth Century India*, which was presented in Delhi at an international workshop on 'Chronologies of Labour' in January, and in revised form at the BBRG Scholars Symposium on 'Gender Politics in Transnational Contexts' in March, looks at the entanglement of 'productive' and 'reproductive' labor in the construction of women as workers.

*Jayati Lal is an interdisciplinary scholar of gender, labor, and transnational feminism specializing in the political and cultural economy of contemporary India, with a particular focus on issues of class, citizenship, and postcolonial capitalism. She has held various fellowships and teaching positions in the U.S. and India, most recently in the Department of Sociology at American University.*



FACULTY  
SUMMER  
PICK!

*Undoing the Demos* by Wendy Brown (polemic that illuminates life in and around the University)

*The Hare with Amber Eyes* by Edmund de Waal (beautiful history told through things)

*Suitcase of Love and Shame* by Jane Gillooly (experimental film based on a trove of tapes from an illicit affair in the sixties)

-Professor Leslie Salzinger



## HAPPY RETIREMENT EILEEN!

Longtime GWS staff member Eileen Andrade retired in January 2016. Eileen worked at UC Berkeley for 15 years. She held numerous positions with the University including working in Molecular & Cell Biology and the L&S Dean's Office.

She started working in Gender and Women's Studies in January 2005 as the departmental manager. She anchored our department during our move to Barrows Hall, which she managed brilliantly. Overall she was untiringly kind and helpful, with a deep knowledge of Berkeley, and a profound commitment to service to all and to the thriving of the department.

When GWS clustered with African American Studies and Ethnic Studies in 2013 she moved into the Academic Personnel Specialist role for the three departments. She was instrumental in helping with the difficult and challenging period of reorganization and was a model for how to embrace change and challenges with grace and skill.

Eileen is enjoying her retirement in Vancouver, Washington in her new home with her son Enrique Eduardo and dog Pippin.

Many congratulations to Eileen on her retirement! We wish her the best and will miss her dearly.

Professor Rodríguez was awarded the Alan Bray Memorial Book Prize given by the GL/Q Caucus of the MLA for her book, *Sexual Futures, Queer Gestures, and Other Latina Longings*. This prize is given for an outstanding book in lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer studies in literature and cultural studies.

This is the second time that a Berkeley GWS member has been honored with this prize. In 2014 Mel Y. Chen's book *Animacies: Biopolitics, Racial Mattering, and Queer Affect* won this prestigious book award for queer studies.



### INTERVIEWS

NPR's Latino USA, Jan 29 2016

In this podcast, Professor Rodríguez is invited to talk about "Latinx: The Ungendering of the Spanish Language".

**JUANA MARIA RODRIGUEZ**  
**JUARODRIGUEZ@BERKELEY.EDU**

Faculty Spotlight, UC Berkeley Social Science Matrix, Dec 9 2015

In this article, Professor Rodríguez discusses statistics, queer theory, and mixed methodological approaches to the study of sexuality with DEWGS student Ragini Tharoor Srinivasan.

Beyond the Ivory Tower, Nov 30 2015  
Performance Studies graduate student, Miyuki Baker, interviews Professor Rodríguez for her innovative series that combines drawings with interviews to demystify the world of academic life.

### TALKS

Assembly Series Address, Washington University, March 24 2016

Professor Rodríguez will be the 2016 Washington University Distinguished Visiting Scholar and deliver a lecture entitled "The Women of Casa Xochiquetzal: Corporeal Encounters, Queer Feelings" as part of the prestigious Assembly Series at Washington University. In addition to her Assembly Series Address, Rodríguez will meet with faculty, hold a graduate research workshop, speak with undergraduate student groups, and attend a few select WGSS classes. Professor Rodríguez's lecture is sponsored by the Office of the Provost, and will be the first Assembly Series Address to be hosted by the Department of Women, Sexuality and Gender Studies as part of their Decentering the West Lecture Series.

Moderator, *In Conversation with Laverne Cox*, Dec 2 2015

Q & A session with Emmy-nominated actress, documentary film producer, and transgender rights activist Laverne Cox. Pauley Ballroom, UC Berkeley.

Panelist, American Studies Association  
October 25 2015

American Studies Association Panel on "The Miseries of Marriage: What Queers Lose When We Win" with Lisa Duggan, Chandan Reddy, Susan Stryker, Chantal Nadeau and Kevin Murphy. Moderated by Jason Ruiz. Toronto, Ontario.

## EDITOR'S REFLECTION by Tenzin Mingyur Paldron

As I write this, I have not been sure how to say anything meaningful. I am deeply involved with my dissertation and have spent a great deal of time physically away from the University. I enjoy people immensely, but I am not usually one for organized participation.

I have such gratitude for the rich learning opportunities Berkeley provides, but always felt a little question mark regarding the status of Gender and Women's Studies at Berkeley. Unsettled by this, I reached out to GWS in the autumn of 2014 to find out if there was any way I could help contribute to the Department, which led to this newsletter.

When interviewing scholars of Gender & Women's Studies, I make a note to ask about their first encounter with the discipline. I'm not sure why I do this; I suppose I think it is a good way to allow a story to emerge. I recently responded to an alumni survey for a girls' filmmaking program I participated in many years ago, before my gender transition. I think the last question asked was, "How would you describe the influence of the program on your life or career?" I remember laughing and writing, "I could give you a lot of credit right now!"



**TRINH T. MINH-HA**  
TRINH@BERKELEY.EDU

### New film released

*Forgetting Vietnam* (Digital film, 90mins)

The work was first featured as a film installation for the [inauguration of the Asia Culture Center](#) (ACC Creation) on Nov 25, 2015 in [Gwangju, Korea](#), where it will be on display for a minimum of three years (2015-2018), as part of the "Interrupted Survey: Fractured Modern Mythologies" exhibition.

The film had its festival premier

at the [Centre Pompidou's Cinema du Réel Film Festival \(Paris, France\)](#), in the International Competition, March 23, 25 & 26, 2016

Showed at the [Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival](#), April 23, 2016

And will show at:

-Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, San Francisco, May 12 & 13, 2016

-Charlottenborg Kunsthall, Copenhagen, Denmark, May 24, 2016

-Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark May 25, 2016

### New book published

*Lovecidal. Walking with the Disappeared* (New York: Fordham University Press, June 2016)

But then I answered the question in earnest, and I realized that my decision to study documentary film as an undergraduate was a direct consequence of completing that program. And that the program being based on a feminist framework gave me a very different introduction to filmmaking than most receive. Reading became a vital component to my film practice, and I felt enriched and intellectually challenged by postcolonial feminist scholarship. These studies led me to consider a doctorate, which provoked me to look for scholars whose work moved me. And that was how I found Berkeley.

So I could give GWS and feminist scholarship a lot of credit right now, for the trajectory of my life and career. But great teachers feel joy from a student's sincere dedication to learning; accomplishments and acclaim may come, but they happen much later. There will be years of hard work where few pay attention, much less offer support. And so I'm very grateful for departments like Gender and Women's Studies, Rhetoric, Ethnic Studies, Anthropology and others. Because they come equipped with people who are not only excellent and unique teachers, but also incredibly hard working investigators of their field. They cultivate the ground on which students like me are able to stand. And I cannot affix a value to that kind of stability, to that kind of perseverance.

### Two Retrospectives of her films

In [Buenos Aires, Argentina](#), at the [CineMigrante International Film Festival](#), Film and Education in Human Rights of Migrants, 15-23 September 2015.

In [Rio de Janeiro, Brazil](#), at the [Caixa Cultural](#), Oct 20- Nov 1, 2015. Gave two master classes Oct 24-25 and conducted discussions at films screenings.

### Article Published

"The Image and The Void," *Journal of Visual Culture*. Vol. 15, Issue 1 (on Visual Activism), April 2016

### Distinguished Lecture and Conference Keynotes

Distinguished Public Lecture and seminar with students and faculty at Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, organized by the Dept of Communication Studies in celebration of its 50th anniversary. March 4, 2016. Invited to be an affiliated member of the Feminist Media Studio.

Opening keynote lecture for the "Just Speak Nearby: The Politics and Practices of Art Writing" Symposium Art Writing organized by the University of CA, Irvine, April 21-22, 2016.

Opening keynote lecture for the "Camera as Cultural Critique: Juxtaposition, intervention and co-creation" International Conference and Workshop, organized by Visual Anthropology, Moesgaard Museum and the Dept of Culture and Society, Aarhus University, Denmark, May 25-27, 2016.

### Poetry Reading

Reading with five other poets at Intersection for the Arts' 50/50 Poetry Nights in celebration of its 50th Anniversary, Tenderloin Museum, San Francisco, October 13, 2015.



## D.E.W.G.S. SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT

*Q: I know it might seem far away now, but may I ask how you set on the path toward a PhD? From my own side, I could only imagine three or four vocations as a child, perhaps a dozen by high school. A PhD in Comparative Literature could seem quite specific and final, but your trajectory seems to have kept developing. Could you share something of what your doctoral studies mean to you, and the impact your capacity for translation has on how you think of research?*

I'm the first person in my extended family on both sides to get a PhD, and the only one to pursue work related to the arts. Getting this kind of degree never occurred to me until after I completed my BA in English at UC Berkeley. Everyone around me was pursuing professional fields like business, medicine, and law, and my first job out of college was as a sales and marketing consultant for the healthcare industry. It seems so random now, but having an office job led me to realize that I won't ever be satisfied doing something that's not related to literature. I knew I wanted to go further in my literary studies and also to be fluent in at least one other language, so a former professor suggested Comparative Literature instead of English. In 2003, I moved to Rio de Janeiro to teach English and started taking Portuguese language and Brazilian literature courses at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica. A year and a half later I moved back to San Francisco and started graduate school in the fall of 2005.

Many of us start doctoral programs with a good deal of uncertainty—about what the work will entail and what the end goal is supposed to look like. The most important thing my

doctoral studies offered me was opening my mind to an incredible array of readings and modes of thinking. Graduate school can be intimidating, but teaching undergraduates and having to develop and defend my ideas in the course of my research also strengthened my mental endurance and confidence in ways that have helped my work as a translator and my ability to discuss Clarice Lispector at public events and in interviews. After having dedicated two years to this complex work of literary translation—85 stories, over 600 pages, from one of Brazil's most important writers—I do think that certain translations should be considered scholarly work. *The Complete Stories* wouldn't count for tenure at most universities, though the decisions I made relied on literary interpretation and scholarship, alongside creative intuition. In many ways, the Lispector book offers a much greater contribution to literary scholarship and university courses than my dissertation on Elizabeth Bishop. I decided not to go on the academic job market immediately because I want to pursue more translation and writing work that doesn't fit within established guidelines of acceptable scholarship. If those parameters were more fluid, I might be more attracted to a career as a literature professor. I think the situation is changing, but it will still take some time.

*Q: Could you speak a little of your approach to translating Lispector? As a developing reader of her work I would venture to say she takes special care not to "give it all away." How did you carry over the concealment that is essential to her world?*

A large part of translating Clarice means recognizing that her power often lies in her jarring choices, so even if something seems strange or opaque, you need to do what you can to maintain the mystery of the original. For example, if she inserts a comma or semi-colon where it seems to trip up a sentence, I let it stand. Earlier translations smoothed over this kind of irregularity, either excising any odd punctuation and grammar or turning an unusual word choice into something more palatable. In "The Smallest Woman in the World," one of my favorite stories, the mock-heroic explorer Marcel Pretre studies an African pygmy woman while largely ignoring the fact that she is pregnant, naked, and a woman. But suddenly she laughs an unsettling laugh and Pretre smiles at her "without knowing exactly to what abyss his smile responded." Yet an earlier translator, Giovanni Pontiero, decided that "*abismo*" was too strange and changed it to "charm" instead of "abyss," as if a woman's smile ought to be charming and not terrifying, which misses the whole point of that exchange. Another story, "Such Gentleness," includes the curious line, "I never thought that the world and I would reach this point of wheat." I researched the phrase "*ponto de trigo*" to make sure it wasn't an idiom, asked all the Brazilians I knew, and

(continued on page 14)

**Katrina Dodson** completed a PhD in Comparative Literature with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender, & Sexuality from the University of California, Berkeley in the fall of 2015. She is the translator of *The Complete Stories* by Clarice Lispector (New Directions, 2015), awarded the 2016 PEN Translation Prize. She has written for *Guernica*, *McSweeney's*, and *The Millions*, and her translations have appeared in *Granta*, *Harper's*, *Lapham's Quarterly*, and elsewhere.

FACULTY  
SUMMER  
PICK!

Music: Lemonade, Beyoncé (A Visual Album)

Novels:

Sirena, Selena, by Mayra Santos-Febres

Shadow Tag, Louise Erdrich

The Farming of Bones, Edwidge Danticat

Corregidora, Gayle Jones

Films:

"What Happened Miss Simone?" dir. Liz Garbus

"Amy" directed by Asif Kapadia

"Tangerine" directed by Sean S. Baker and Chris Bergoch

-Professor Juana María Rodríguez

### Publications

Article entitled "The unintended consequences of equality within difference" published by Brown Journal of Public Affairs, Fall 2015.

### Keynote speaker

Keynote speaker at the Roots and Routes: Movement, Mobility and Belonging Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver BC, May 2016. Keynote Speaker at the 'Interdisciplinary Innovations in the Study of Religion and Gender', at Utrecht University, the Netherlands, February 2015.

### Invited Presentations and talks

Paper on "War Movies and Fractured Notions of Masculinity" at Duke university in October 2015. Presentation at sexualities and queer imaginaries conferences at Brown university. Paper on "Iranian Studies Encountering Queer Studies", Tufts University, March 2016. Presentation on "Islamic Nationalism and Transnationalism" for The Iranian Studies Program, Oklahoma University, April 2016.

### Conference Panels

Paper on "The Empire of Merchandise" at CASAR conference in Beirut, Lebanon, January 2016.

### Other panels:

Panel Chair, Fragmenting Empires, CASAR conference in Beirut, Lebanon, January 2016.

Presented and moderated a panel celebrating International Women's House, International House, UC Berkeley, March 2015.

Panelist, Reporting Islam, International House, UC Berkeley, April 2016. Commentator for Lila Sharif, "A Taste for Palestine", CRG Thursday Forum Series, March 2016.



**MINOO MOALLEM**  
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### COMMUNITY NEWS

2014-15 Woodrow Wilson Postdoctoral Fellow Lalaie Ameeriar's book entitled *Downwardly Global: Women, Work and Citizenship in the Pakistani diaspora* is forthcoming from Duke University Press. 2014-16 (mentee of Minoo Moallem)

GWS President's Postdoctoral Fellow Lila Sharif recently accepted a tenure track position at the University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign. (mentee of Minoo Moallem)

Leila Benhadjoudja recently accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Sociology at School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, at University of Ottawa. (mentee of Paola Bacchetta)

Alinaya Sybilla Lactao Fabros, PhD candidate in Sociology, received a Dissertation Fellowship from the American Association of University Women. (mentee of Leslie Salzinger)

Juliann Anesi (dissertation: *Trying Times: Disability, Activism, & Education in Samoa, 1970-1980*) has completed her first year as a UC President's Postdoctoral Fellow. (mentee of Mel Y. Chen)





*Q: Could you describe some highlights of your graduate studies, and your current goals around the intersection of sports and disability?*

As a graduate student in UC Berkeley's Graduate School of Education I have applied my foundational understanding of feminist theory, gained as an undergraduate

in the Gender and Women's Studies Department, with graduate studies in educational policy and cultural studies to critically examine California's educational policies that consequentially impact students with disabilities and others from underserved communities. In particular, I analyzed California's austerity policies that limited access to affordable education and community programs in the community college system that substantially stymied access for individuals with disabilities to participate in sport, health, and recreational opportunities. My long term aspiration is to promote, as recently mandated by the Office of Civil Rights, sport and health programs for the students with disabilities in educational institutions. This includes the struggle to include student athletes with disabilities into NCAA varsity

sports.

*Q: I read an interview with Berkeley's GradNews where you described the Gender and Women's Studies department as preparing you to "look at underserved groups and particularly apply that to the disability community." Do you have any thoughts on the factors that make GWS a conducive setting for this kind of learning?*

Originally, I had no intention of becoming a Gender and Women's Studies department student. After taking one GWS introductory course that broadened my perspective of feminist struggles being relatable to almost every oppressed group, I chose that major to develop the theoretical and practical tools to make change for the disability community that I deeply cherish. Foremost, the GWS major stressed the importance of Standpoint Epistemology by which the location of the oppressed (be it women, person with a disability, racial minority, etc.) leads to the emancipation of the marginalized group through valuing the voice of the oppressed. This conceptual framework is one that I use in my current academic studies, advocacy efforts for the disability community, and professional career.

GWS  
ALUMNI  
PROFILE

**Matthew Grigorieff's** research, advocacy, and expertise has been internationally published and featured on local and national media outlets including KQED PBS, CBS, ABC, Comcast Sports Network, the LA Times, and cover of the San Francisco Chronicle; his efforts are focused on promoting social justice and the wellness of underserved communities with an emphasis on service to the disability community.

In partnership with UC Berkeley, Mr. Grigorieff has been instrumental for the research and design of a leading university model of health and athletic inclusion that brings together Individuals with and without disabilities; he also is a leading critic on educational reform policy within the California community college system and how such reduces access to community health programs for disabled and elderly populations. The inspiration for his advocacy and academic accomplishments started with his experience as a UC Berkeley Gender and Women's Studies undergraduate student that taught him how feminist struggles and frameworks could be applied in service to the disability community.

FACULTY  
SUMMER  
PICK!

"This year as bed-time reading I wrestled with *The Golden Compass: His Dark Materials* trilogy this year (by Philip Pullman); I enjoyed the provocation to think about other worlds and loved the main character, Lyra, but found the constant fighting a troublesome and tedious background.

My daughter is a big fan of *Zootopia*, and she suggests I nominate the theme song, "Try Everything" by Shakira. I like the theme of resilience in the face of failure and the idea of experimenting with new ways of being ourselves, so I'll go with that (although it will be obvious to all GWS majors that it focuses on individual agency and occludes social context, but hey -- it's a catchy pop song)."

-Professor Laura C. Nelson

DEWGS alumnus Mark Minch, PhD in Rhetoric (dissertation: *Return of the Indian: Bone Games, Transcription and Other Gestures of Indigeneity*) has had multiple offers in his job search.

For the time being, he has accepted a one-year Postdoc position at Tufts (associated with a Mellon Sawyer seminar titled, *Comparative Global Humanities: Colonialisms, Violence and the Conditions for the Human*), but is also in the process of accepting an Assistant Professor position. (mentee of Trinh T. Minh-ha)

Congratulations Mark!

## INTERVIEW WITH KATRINA DODSON

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

no one could say what it meant, so in the end, I left it up to the reader to decide what “point of wheat” could mean.

*Q) In an interview with Asymptote you note, “each translator is going to come with a different set of affinities.” What suggestion might you offer a new reader of Lispector who felt intimidated by her inscrutability?*

In Clarice Lispector’s first and only televised interview, in 1977, the year of her death, she talks about how there are university professors who don’t understand her and yet an unsophisticated teenage girl was able to comprehend her perfectly. Her writing is intellectually complex but also attempts to move beyond rational thought in a way that approaches mysticism. I’ve always found it difficult to interpret her writing in a scholarly way. In some ways it was a relief to translate her rather than try to construct an argument about her because I could piece together what she was doing and try to reproduce it instead of having to reduce it all to a rigid explanation. Her stories elude methodological analysis and challenge

this sort of approach with lines like, “Understanding is the proof of making an error,” from “The Egg and

the Chicken,” one of her most puzzling stories. I translated this story for myself years before I officially translated it for *The Complete Stories* because I wanted so badly to understand it. I’ve read it more times than I can count, and my understanding of it continues to evolve. This is to say that new readers shouldn’t worry too much about making perfect sense of it all. Let her words take you wherever they will, read them aloud like poetry, and always be ready to shake up your perspective on what it could mean.

*Q) What drew to you choosing the DEWGS emphasis? Any memories of the GWS Department you’d like to share?*

A friend from my Comparative Literature cohort had joined the DE a year before me and encouraged me to apply. I liked the idea of pursuing more of a gender and sexuality component in my work because I felt I had the interest but was somewhat underdeveloped in my thinking in those areas. I was most influenced by the dissertation workshop, which offered a lot of support during a time when I was quite isolated in my work, and also by my final semesters as a GSR at the Center for the Study of Sexual Culture (CSSC) under Director

**“LET HER WORDS TAKE YOU WHEREVER THEY WILL, READ THEM ALOUD LIKE POETRY, AND ALWAYS BE READY TO SHAKE UP YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT IT COULD MEAN.”**

Met Chen. At the CSSC, I coordinated lectures and a dissertation retreat while also translating Lispector. In both the workshop and my CSSC activities, I engaged with work that was extremely different from what I was used to seeing in literary studies, in terms of methodology, critical archives, and objects of study. Witnessing such a varying range of writing on gender, sexuality, and also race gave me a more substantial context for approaching these issues and made me better able to define what I found valuable in my own field to those outside of it. It felt exactly like what interdisciplinarity and intersectionality are meant to provoke.

DEWGS scholar Tala Khanmalek (PhD in Ethnic Studies and mentee of Paola Bacchetta) recently accepted a three year Postdoctoral Research Associate post at Princeton University’s Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies (2016-2019). Congratulations Tala!



**LESLIE SALZINGER**  
LSALZINGER@BERKELEY.EDU

Professor Salzinger is the author of “Re-Marking Men: Masculinity as a Terrain of the Neoliberal Economy,” the lead article for this spring’s issue of *Critical Historical Studies*. “Macro: Limning Power at Work,” co-authored with Teresa Gowan, is forthcoming in a volume on ethnographic methods, forthcoming with Oxford University Press.

Last spring she reviewed *For Love and Money* for *Contemporary Sociology*, and she recently participated in a lively discussion of Wendy Brown’s *Undoing the Demos* in the *Berkeley Sociology Forum*. Over the course of the last year, she has been invited, and agreed, to affiliate with UC Berkeley’s Program in

Critical Theory, as well as with the Berkeley Sociology Department.

This year, she has continued her service on the Final Selection Committee for the *Woodrow Wilson Women’s Studies Dissertation Fellowship*, as well as her work as the Secretary of the Berkeley Faculty Association.

On campus, she has been deeply involved in crafting feminist faculty responses to campus administrators’ failures to sanction sexual harassment, and in beginning to develop more just, democratic, and effective modes of response to the problem.



Photo by Tom Holdford

## MAKING FAMILIES CONFERENCE

A conversation bringing together the still-separate areas of transnational surrogacy, queer kinship, and reproductive justice. Hosted by Prof. Charis Thompson and Dr. Marcin Smietana, the line-up of speakers included (chronologically): Prof. Joshua Gamson, Prof. France Winddance Twine, Prof. Zakiya T. Luna, Prof. Laura Mamo, Prof. Kim TallBear, Dr. Michal Nahman, Prof. Sharmila Rudrappa, and Prof. Judith Stacey.

The conversations showed that queering kinship could mean much more than reproducing the hegemonic family types and hierarchies. At the same time, however, the conference made it visible that all families as well as all parties participant in their creation require respectability which should not be dependent on social hierarchy.

The event was organized by the Gender & Women's Studies Department and the Center for Science, Technology, Medicine & Society, with co-sponsorship from Ethnic Studies, African American Studies, the Center for Race and Gender, and the Center for the Study of Sexual Cultures. It was also the result of collaboration between GWS and ReproSoc (the Reproductive Sociology Research Group) at the University of Cambridge (UK), both hosting Marcin within the Marie Curie postdoc program of the European Union, directed by Prof. Charis Thompson and Prof. Sarah Franklin.

A broader video and blog account from the event are available at the website: [www.makingfamilies.eu](http://www.makingfamilies.eu), which will soon be followed by a journal publication.

The Department of Gender & Women's Studies and  
The Center for Science, Technology, Medicine & Society  
invite you to a symposium

### Making Families: Transnational Surrogacy, Queer Kinship, and Reproductive Justice

Friday, February 19, 2016 (9 am - 5 pm)  
170 Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley

In this open workshop, the speakers will discuss their work on how the borders and limits of reproduction are constituted, both in reproductive and inter-country politics. They will include questions about what transnational reproductive practices mean different national jurisdictions and transnational circuits, of and how queering kinship is possible, and how reproductive justice perspectives can be incorporated into practices such as egg donation and surrogacy.

**SPEAKERS**

Prof. Charis Thompson, UC Berkeley, Department of Economics  
Prof. Joshua Gamson, UC of San Francisco  
Prof. France Winddance Twine, UC Santa Barbara  
Prof. Zakiya T. Luna, UC Santa Barbara  
Prof. Laura Mamo, San Francisco State Univ.  
Prof. Kim TallBear, Univ. of Alberta  
Dr. Michal Nahman, Univ. of West of England, Bristol  
Prof. Sharmila Rudrappa, Univ. of Texas-Austin  
Dr. Marcin Smietana, UC Berkeley, Univ. of Cambridge  
Prof. Judith Stacey, New York Univ.

The event is free, open to the public, and admission is available.  
Please refer to the date of the event.

For more information: [www.makingfamilies.eu](http://www.makingfamilies.eu)  
mailto:charis.thompson@berkeley.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE  
EUROPEAN UNION  
Berkeley  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Co-organized by:  
Center for Race & Gender, Center for the Study of Sexual Cultures,  
Department of African American Studies, Department of Ethnic Studies

FACULTY  
SUMMER  
PICK!

In the past few years **Yin-Ju Chen** has focused on the function of power in human society, nationalism, racism, totalitarianism, collective thinking or collective (un)conscious. Her recent projects also engage in the relations between cosmos and human behaviour. **See her latest work**, *Extrastellar Evaluations*, Wednesday May 11 - June 25 2016, Kadist SF, San Francisco.

Using a range of media including installation, sound, video, books and text, **Lani Maestro's** work is concerned among others, with questions of how we occupy space, how space occupies us, as well as how our space is occupied with and by others.

**Zanele Muholi** is a self-described visual activist and founder of Inkanyiso, a collective initiated in response to the lack of visual histories and skills training produced by and for LGBTI persons, especially artists (in the form of photography, film, visual arts and multi media)

**2 readings from Kelsey St Press** (nonprofit in Berkeley, CA)

*Nests & Strangers*, ed. T. Yu and Mg Roberts

*Premonitions*, Etel Adnan

-Professor Trinh T. Minh-ha

## 2016 SUMMER SESSIONS

How might the Zika Virus be a matter of reproductive injustice? What are the social determinants of global health disparities (largely embodied by economically poor women and children worldwide as the case of Zika outbreak illustrates)? How do gender and “race” intersect with differential global health policy responses furthering health disparities in the process? How

do the biopolitics of reproduction, reproductive morbidities, and maternal-newborn mortality and morbidities tie with structural adjustment policies, structural violence, commodification of women’s bodies, and poverty?

This course explores these questions to highlight how and why women across ethnic/“race”, class, social and national location are differently exposed to risk and have differential access to healthcare, social rights and responsibilities, and control over their lives. For example, recent global policy recognition that infertility is a major reproductive health problem also faced by women in the global South has concomitantly brought attention to the globalization of assisted reproductive technologies and surrogacy practices largely for the benefit of North Americans and Europeans. The potential stratified consequence of these technologies is evident in the postcolonial history of population control programs and the concomitant globalization of contraceptive technologies and medical experimentation on global South women’s bodies.

## Gender, Race & Global Health



Instructor: Fouzieyha Towghi  
Session D (July 5 - August 12)

## GENDER IN AMERICAN CULTURES “SHE IS NOT AMERICAN...OR IS SHE?” GENDER, RACE AND ETHNICITY IN AMERICAN IMMIGRANT CULTURES



GENDER AND WOMEN'S STUDIES 504C  
with: g-race | CCA 2000 | Laura Fantone, Mia Song Lecturer  
Why is it that certain female figures struggle to fit the label “American”? This course explores the forms of exclusion of people of color, focusing on gender minorities and their unequal participation American cultures. Starting from data on immigration and increased demographic diversity in the U.S. since the 1970s, the course will explore the forms of sexual, gender and racial stratification of immigrant women especially, complicating racial and gender binaries. Diversity within immigrant cultures will be examined in readings, films, sociological essays and comic books on Asian-Americanness, on the formation of Latina pan-ethnic communities and Black queer diasporas.

Instructor: Laura Fantone

Session D (July 5 - August 12)

Why is it that certain female figures struggle to fit the label “American”? This course explores the forms of exclusion of people of color, focusing on gender minorities and their unequal participation American cultures. Starting from data on immigration and increased demographic diversity in the U.S. since the 1970s, the course will explore the forms of sexual, gender and racial stratification of immigrant women especially, complicating racial and gender binaries. Diversity within immigrant cultures will be examined in readings, films, sociological essays and comic books on Asian-Americanness, on the formation of Latina pan-ethnic communities and Black queer diasporas.

Looking for recommendations  
for summer reading, watching,  
and listening?

Check out our department  
website for recent faculty  
publications, talks, and  
interviews:

[womensstudies.berkeley.edu/news/list](http://womensstudies.berkeley.edu/news/list)



# 2016 SUMMER SESSIONS

## VISUAL BODIES



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Instructor: Alani Hicks Bartlett  
Session A (May 23 - July 1)

This course approaches the study of sexual desires, pleasures, and subjectivities in relation to intersecting processes of identity formation such as gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, and class. Our theoretical texts provide a genealogy of 'queer' not only as an umbrella term of identification analogous to 'LGBT' but also as an instrument of critique. We will engage multiple methodologies in our interdisciplinary inquiry: black and transnational feminisms; postcolonial theory; queer theory; queer of color critique; ethnography; and visual cultural studies. Throughout this course, students will explore how the usage of queer as a verb denaturalizes socially and historically constructed classifications of sexuality that constitute and police boundaries of normality, community, and citizenship.

Training and instruction in expository writing in conjunction with reading literature. The readings and assignments will focus on themes and issues in gender and women's studies. This course satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement.



Instructor: Jessica Johnson  
Session D (July 5 - August 12)

Instructor: Barbara Barnes  
Session D (July 5 - August 12)



This course will focus on popular fiction and documentary films that tell stories about human love of nature in order to think about the ways in which human and nonhuman nature relationships are figured in American popular culture. We will explore how norms and narratives of gender, race, and sexuality are formed in historically meaningful and culturally specific ways through films in which nature is a prominent character. Reading will be taken primarily from new feminist materialisms and film studies.



Sherene H. Razack, *Dying from Improvement: Inquests and inquiries into indigenous deaths in custody*

Suad Amiry, *Nothing to lose but your life.*

Leila Abouzaid, *Return to Childhood: The memoir of a modern Moroccan woman*

Firoozeh Dumas, *Funny in Farsi*

-Professor Minoo Moallem

I've had an exciting, fortunate and very active year with students and colleagues, near and far. I had the pleasure of teaching "Women, Men, and Other Animals" with undergraduates from all over campus, as well as a co-taught graduate seminar on "The Fate of Nature in the Anthropocene" led by Carolyn Merchant and Anne-Lise Francois. I also taught my first freshman seminar entitled "University as Ecology" with a great group of students thinking about disability, nature, ecology, and feminism.

This freshman seminar was tied to a Spring "Human/Nonhuman" lecture series I organized as the department's Vice Chair for Research, copresented by GWS and the Center for the Study of Sexual Culture (which I direct). CSSC hosted an intensive weekend race and sexuality studies retreat for graduate students in February.

I've had the honor of giving lectures in places such as the University of Malaga, Spain; China Art Academy in Hangzhou, China; Cornell University; the annual Queer Theory Lecture at Duke University in honor of Eve Sedgwick; as well as my alma mater, the University of Illinois; some of these talks, as well as an archival research trip to London, pertain to a book project I am working on that examines how "slowness" came to have a relationship with developmental disability, using a framework that considers biochemistry (*Chemical Intimacies of Empire* is the tentative title).



**MEL Y. CHEN**  
MELC@BERKELEY.EDU

During this time, some new publications have appeared: "Queer Inhumanisms," a special issue of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, which I coedited with Dana Luciano; "Unpacking Intoxication, Racializing Disability," in *Critical Medical Humanities*; an interview in *Transgender Studies Quarterly*; and "The Reproduction in/of Disability and Environment" in *Worldviews: Global Religions, Culture, and Ecology*. The first book in the *Anima* series at Duke University Press which I coedit with Jasbir K. Puar: Neel Ahuja's *Bioinsecurities*.

Finally, this past year marks my enthusiastic taking-up of birdwatching, which I do with my beloved, Julia Bryan-Wilson, whenever possible, including on our travels to faraway places as well as in our own backyard!

DEWGS alumnus Keerthi Potluri, PhD in Rhetoric (dissertation: *Creative Destruction: Memory, Public Finance and the State in New York City*) accepted the ACLS Public Fellowship and is working at the Central Park Conservancy. (mentee of Trinh T. Minh-ha)

Congratulations Keerthi!

Hentyle Yapp DEWGS scholar (Performance Studies), just accepted a tenure track position at New York University (mentee of Mel Y. Chen)

Congratulations Hentyle!

## COURSE OFFERINGS

### FALL 2016

GWS 10: Introduction to Gender & Women's Studies (Barnes)

GWS 24: Freshman Seminar - Gender and Sexuality Studies for Guys\*: What would it look like? (Thompson)

GWS 40: Special Topics: Gender & Environment (Barnes)

GWS 50AC: Gender & American Culture (Agis)

GWS 102: Transnational Feminism (Bacchetta)

GWS 195: Senior Seminar (Chen)

GWS 126: Film, Feminism and the Avant-Garde (Trinh)

GWS 130AC: Gender, Race, Nation & Health (Nelson)

GWS 140/240: Feminist Cultural Studies - Objects and Commodities (Moallem)

GWS 210.2: Foucault (Coloniality, Racism, Sexuality) (Bacchetta)

GWS 236: Diaspora, Border & Transnational ID (Moallem)

LGBT 20AC: Alternative Sexual Identities & Communities (Asher)

LGBT C146A: Cultural Representation of Sex, Queer Literary (Asher)

LGBT 100.1: Literature and Sexual Identity: Postcolonial Sex (Poulomi, Saha)

LGBT 145: Interpreting the Queer Past: History of Sex (Abel)





**PAOLA BACCHETTA**  
PBACCHETTA@BERKELEY.EDU

#### AWARDS, HONORS

Co-Convenor, UCHRI Residency Group. "Queer of Color Formations and Translocal Spaces in Europe." With Fatima El-Tayeb (UCSD), Jin Haritaworn (York University, Canada).

Visiting Professor-Researcher. École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS). Paris, France. Spring 2015.

#### BOOK UNDER CONTRACT

*Co-Motion: Situated Planetarities, Co-Formations and Co-Productions in Feminist and Queer Alliances* (Duke University Press).

#### CO-EDITED BOOK PUBLISHED

*Femminismi Queer Postcoloniali: critiche transnazionali all'omofobia, all'islamofobia e all'omonazionalismo.* With Laura Fantone. Verona, Italy: Ombre Corte, 2015.

#### ARTICLES, BOOK CHAPTERS

"Queer of Color Formations and Translocal Spaces in Europe." With Jin Haritaworn, Fatima El-Tayeb. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*. Vol. 33 (5), 769-778. (October 2015).

"Décoloniser le Féminisme: Intersectionnalités, Assemblages, Co-Formations, Co-Productions" *Cahiers du CEDREF*. (January 2015).

"QTPOC and Urban Space in France, Germany and The Netherlands." With Fatima El Tayeb, Jin Haritaworn. In *Decolonize the City*, edited by Noa Ha et. al. Berlin, Germany: Unrast, 2015.

#### ACADEMIC TRANSLATION (French to English)

"Key Concepts For Decolonialism in France" by Houria Bouteldja. *Critical Ethnic Studies Journal*. Inaugural issue. (2015).

#### CONFERENCE KEYNOTES

"Décoloniser la Sexualité." 7th International Conference on Francophone Feminist Research, University of Montreal. August 26. 2015

"Décoloniser Queer." Annual Conference on Queer Studies. Institut d'Études Politiques. Paris, France. March 2 2015.

"Réflexions sur la sexualité et la decolonialite." Conference on Colonial and Decolonial Struggles in France. Université du Havre, France. November 30. 2015

"Les luttes antiracistes en France et l'articulation des rapports sociaux multiples de pouvoir." Conference on Anti-Racism Movements. Université de Paris VII. Paris, France. September 20 2015.

#### SELECTED TALKS

"Planetarités Situées." International Conference, Epistemologies of the Souths. EHESS and Collège International de Philosophie. Paris, France. November 26-28 2015.

"Queerphilia, Queerphobia and Islamophobia." San Francisco State University. October 14.

"Tendances, débats et enjeux de l'intersectionnalité dans les études féministes." Institute for Social Sciences, Free University. Brussels, Belgium. May 4 2015.

"Avoiding Deadly Encounters: Reflections on Decolonial Feminist and QTPOC Solidarities." University of Kent. Britain. March 18 2015.

"Corps postcoloniaux genrés dans les imaginaires dominants et résistants." EHESS. Paris, France. February 2 2015.

KPFA RADIO Interviewer and Interviewed. Police Brutality and Racism in France. With Amal Bentounsi, Soraya Tlatli. October 26 2015.

FACULTY  
SUMMER  
PICK!

#### Books

Graphic novel: Roz Chast, Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?: A Memoir.

Fiction: Chang-Rae Lee, On Such A Full Sea.

#### Film

White Dog; The Clouds of Sils Maria.

DEWGS alumnus Hyaesin Yoon, PhD in Rhetoric and mentee of Trinh T. Minh-ha (dissertation: *The Biopolitics of Memories in Transnational Circuits: Lifted Tongues and Pet Clones*; book in progress: *Prosthetic Memories*), who was visiting scholar in Gender and Women's Studies in 2015, is teaching as Assistant Professor in Gender in the Humanities at Central European University, Hungary.

Congratulations Hyaesin!

-Professor Mel Y. Chen

## IN MEMORIUM

Beloved staff member Farnaz Stosik passed away suddenly on April 22, 2016. Farnaz provided computer and network support for the Social Science Division in the College of Letters & Science and worked with GWS for many years. Gender & Women's Studies was one of her first assignments when she joined UC Berkeley 21 years ago, and continued to work with the Department until her passing.

She was beloved, brilliant, and known for her dry sense of humor and calm and kind spirit. She was a resident of Albany, and emigrated to the US from Iran when she was 16 years old. She is survived by her son Andrew, a freshman at UC Davis, and by her sister. She will be deeply missed, both professionally and personally.



## LECTURER SPOTLIGHT

### JACASHER

*Q) What question or set of questions guide you in building a syllabus?*

Often, students encounter LGBT studies for the first time at the University. It's an opportunity to lay down a shared, critical vocabulary and also requires me to remember that, for many folks, this is the first time they will be encountering these topics in the classroom.



*Q) Could you describe for us what is different about teaching an American Cultures course? What do you enjoy about it, and what are some learning curves or challenges, if any?*

I've had different experiences with AC courses. While I've taught LGBT 20AC and GWS 100AC and both are larger than my other courses, I find that the discussion sections that accompany LGBT20AC are vital to the success of the students. I believe that working with graduate students in a smaller, more intensive setting allows students to be more engaged with the material. My sense is that my courses with discussion sections translates to less attrition, more interactive lectures, and fewer people taking the course pass/not pass. Those are things that I value as a teacher. So, for me, the breadth of the AC course is nicely complemented by the addition of discussion sections--especially in a field where students have little preparation upon entering the University.

*Q) What is the one of the most memorable moments from your introduction to the field of gender and women's studies and feminist theory?*

My classroom introduction occurred during the first semester of my first year of college at UC Irvine. I was taking Humanities Core, which was a very large, team-taught,

lecture course. Professors from different disciplines explained their fields, lectured, and assigned readings throughout the year-long course. When Women's Studies was introduced, I remember suddenly feeling like the questions that I had voiced in my life around gender, desire, race, and class were not outliers. The idea that there was a discipline where these concerns were central, were serious, and were pursued was such a relief to me. Coming from a largely rural, small town, I felt like I wasn't the "only one" who was concerned about these things. My introduction the field also coincided with the confirmation of Clarence Thomas to the Supreme Court and Professor Anita Hill's testimony about his sexual harassment of her. The black feminist response to that moment shaped my introduction to the field of Gender and Women's Studies.

*Q) Were there any obstacles you had to face while getting your phd, that you could share?*

I am the first person in my family to attend college, so while my family was generally supportive, they don't necessarily understand my work. While I always knew that I wanted to go to graduate school, I was afraid to stop working and attend graduate school full time, so I got my Master's while I was staff at the University. I wasn't ready to make the leap to full-time until it was time to think about the Ph.D. My home campus (UC Riverside) was very supportive with wonderful faculty, so my coursework and the program there were, in short, excellent. I decided to have children while writing my dissertation and was away from my home campus. I also taught while trying to write, so all of those things meant that I needed more time to complete my Ph.D after finishing coursework. Those are all "obstacles" in the sense that the Ph.D. assumes a certain kind of student/scholar without enough consideration of the different needs of doctoral students.

*Q) Is there anything you can share about your research interests?*

I continue to be interested in the figure of the "kept boy" as a counterpart to the "self-made man," a structuring anxiety that haunts representations of masculine individualism. My research examines the identification of masculine subjects with femininity and racialized, itinerant bodies, focusing upon insinuations of preferential treatment, exposures of masculine dependency, and figures found in close proximity to men and women of means—figures of artists, young boys, and political and social climbers.



### BARBARA BARNES CONTINUING LECTURER

#### Research Interests

- ▶ Gender and sexuality studies
- ▶ African American literature
- ▶ Visual culture
- ▶ 19th- and 20th-century American literature

### AYSE AGIS CONTINUING LECTURER

#### Research Interests

- ▶ Comparative (post-colonial) modernisms / modernities
- ▶ The novel
- ▶ Gender and narratives of national identity
- ▶ Transnational labor and indigenous peoples



**CONGRATULATIONS  
CLASS OF 2016!**

# ALMA MATER MEMORIES

# CONTACT US

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.

## SUPPORT GWS AT BERKELEY

### MAKE A GIFT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES

Contact the Department Chair to discuss possibilities for a major gift: [charis@berkeley.edu](mailto:charis@berkeley.edu)

Thank you for supporting feminist studies at UC Berkeley!

### EVENTS MAILING LIST

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## FACULTY ADMINISTRATION



### CHARIS THOMPSON

Chancellor's Professor and  
Chair



### MEL Y. CHEN

Associate Professor and  
Vice Chair for Research



### PAOLA BACCHETTA

Associate Professor and  
Vice Chair for Pedagogy



## SEE YOU AT THE GWS CAFE!

Join us Thursday afternoons during the semester for the GWS Café, a weekly open house for all in the GWS community. Sign up for our mailing list to receive announcements.