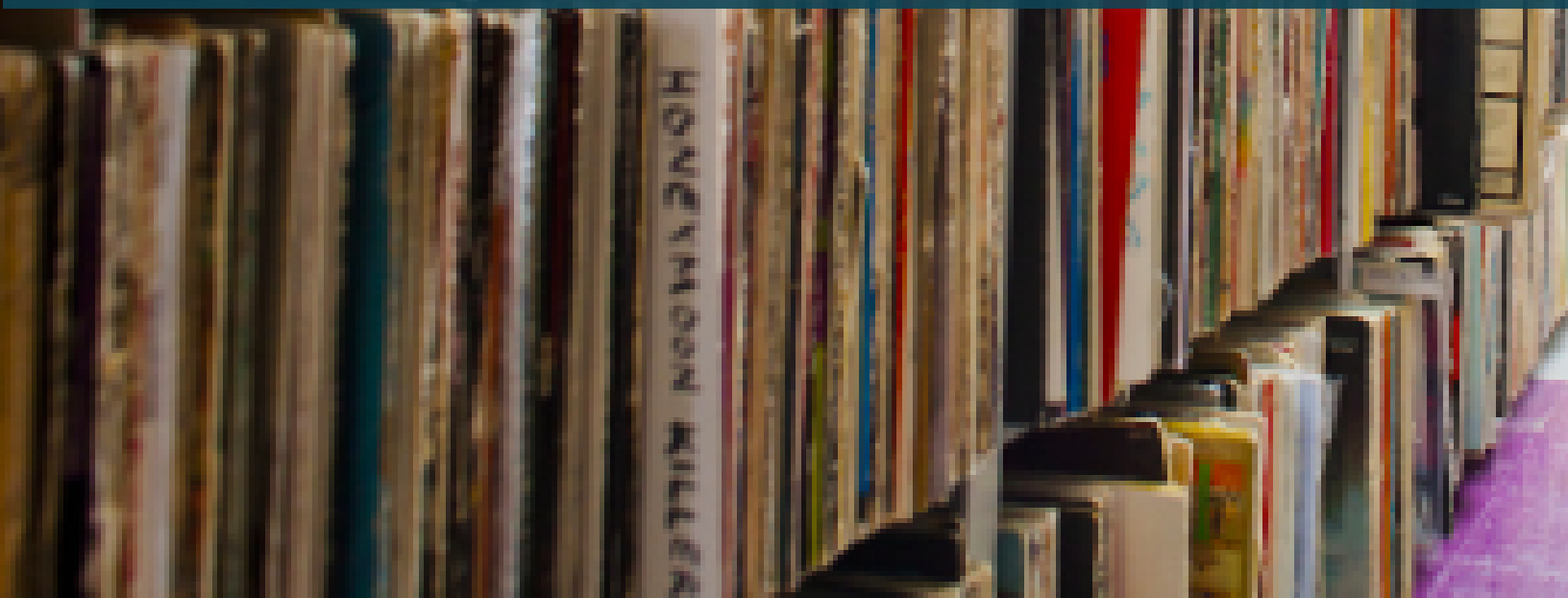




Gender & Women's Studies

Issue Six
2020-2021

University of California, Berkeley



Chair's Message

I hope this newsletter finds you well, with food in your fridge and a roof over your head. This has been an indescribably hard year. The spotlight on anti-Black violence has produced a profound shift in public awareness in this country but it also has been hard to bear witness as the incidents proliferate even while activists make some headway. The rise in anti-Asian violence, particularly as it reflects the xenophobia whipped up by the highest office in the land, is at once enraging and heartbreaking. The intensifying political attacks on transgender rights, particularly on transgender kids, instrumentalizes people's suffering to produce polarization. And the pandemic has ripped through our lives, upending plans, sundering friends and family, leaving a wake of losses of loved ones, fear, illness, economic damage, anxiety, and anger. As I write, Berkeley is eerily albeit joyfully stepping forward toward re-opening campus and holding an in-person fall semester, but simultaneously the pandemic is raging in other parts of the globe, right now scorching through India. We are all aware of the trauma and damage SARS-CoV-2 has wrought (and will continue to cause, until people everywhere



have the resources to protect themselves with vaccines and security from forced exposures), and I won't dwell on it, but honestly: I hope you are well.

Let me instead tell you what has been inspiring here at Cal GWS this year. For one thing, throughout this time, our incredible staff -- Althea Grannum-Cummings, Gillian Edgelow, Lauren Taylor, and Sandra Richmond -- have kept our operations running despite Covid-19 hitting home (literally), children tugging for attention as they engage in "distance learning," and Zoom administrative meetings that occupy hours and hours and hours of time. Our staff are irreplaceable, awe-inspiring people, and they have been

humane, professional, and even funny during this stressful time. This doesn't always count as newsworthy but in this context, it truly is. I am deeply grateful to them.

Our students have also been amazing. By and large, they've been committed to getting the most out of remote learning. Many keep their cameras off in class, but a few show up visually, and most are "there" in spirit. As you well know, the topics we address in our courses are often nuanced, troubling, and - for some - bring up traumatizing memories. It's not easy to build a classroom space that can hold all that in person; by Zoom, it is a real achievement. Our faculty do what we can to make explicit class agreements about respect, confidentiality, and taking care in discussions, but it is the students who really form the classroom communities. I've heard from my fellow faculty, and I've myself experienced, that students have been particularly sensitive to one another's needs during these three semesters (four, if you count summer) of screen-based learning.

(continued on page 15)



Sandy Richmond

**Excellence in
Management Award**

2021

The Berkeley Staff Assembly's annual Excellence in Management Award recognizes managers who led their teams and team members to meaningful accomplishments in the past year. This year's award theme, "Leading in Difficult Times," highlights leadership that demonstrates and encourages resilience, inclusiveness, compassion, adaptiveness, work-life balance, and well-being/morale.

Staff in the AGES Administrative Cluster (Gender and Women's Studies, African American and African Diaspora Studies, and Ethnic Studies) nominated Director of Administration, Sandy Richmond, for this award. Here are some highlights from the nomination:

- Sandy's humane approach to management exhibits the epitome of leadership. Leading by example, she inspires the team to not only be better employees, but better human beings.
- Her management style has been transparent, honest, steadfast and consistent in gathering and disseminating accurate information to the departments. This has been critical during this challenging year.

Congratulations Sandy on this well-deserved recognition!

2021 Commencement Speaker - Inderpal Grewal

TUESDAY, MAY 18TH @ 4pm
VIRTUAL EVENT

GWS is honored to welcome Inderpal Grewal as our 2021 Commencement speaker. Dr. Grewal is a Professor in the Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Yale University. She is also Professor in the Ethnicity, Race and Migration Studies Program, the South Asian Studies Council, and affiliate faculty in the American Studies Program. Professor Grewal is the author of *Home and Harem: Nation, Gender, Empire and the Cultures of Travel* (Duke University Press, 1996), *Transnational America: Feminisms, Diasporas, Neoliberalisms* (Duke University Press, 2005), and *Saving the Security State: Exceptional*

Citizens in Twenty-First century America (Duke University Press, 2017). With Caren Kaplan, she has written and edited *Gender in a Transnational World: Introduction to Women's Studies* (Mc-Graw Hill 2001, 2005) and *Scattered Hegemonies: Postmodernity and Transnational: Feminist Practices* (University of Minnesota Press, 1994). With Victoria Bernal, she has edited *Theorizing NGO's: States, Feminism and Neoliberalism* (Duke University Press, 2014).

Her ongoing projects include essays on gender, violence and counterinsurgency in India, and a book project on masculinity and bureaucracy in postcolonial India.

View our commencement here:
http://womensstudies.berkeley.edu/news_story/gws-2021-commencement/



Senior Capstone Papers

Ang ating mga 'bagong bayani': The Roots and Neglect of Pilipinx Mothering by The Imperialist Definition - Sofia Cruz

"The Erasure of Sex Workers' Contributions Across Activist Movements" by Hannah Stark

Aging is Inevitable, but is Suffering? - Tasmia Hussain

The Gentrification and Appropriation of the Online Sex Industry: Only Fans and the Construction of an Online Whorearchy, by Rachel O. Park

Party, Privilege, and Power: An Examination of the Inequality and Power Dynamics in the UC Berkeley Greek System - Maddie Young

The Ongoing Importance of Consent Education in Primary and Secondary Schooling - Mary Margaret Bivens

A Night At The Freak Show: Power, Representation, & Othering - Sam De Hart

The Violence Against Women Act of 1994: The Implications of a Carceral Approach to Ending Violence Against Women - Oona Frauenfelder

In The Ejection Box: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Womxn's Water Polo: An Intersectional Analysis of Structural and Internalized Inequalities in NCAA Division I Women's Water Polo at University of California Colleges - Claire Sonne

The "Wasian" Equation: Intergenerational Identity Power Dynamics of Mixed Asian-American/White Families in the Bay Area - Shayna Mabanag

"Not Like Other Girls": How Teenage Girls in America Have Been Trained to Enforce Dichotomies Within Themselves - Flora ElmColone

Hollinger, Jones Family Tree: Trauma Edition - Naomi Smith

The Policing of Motherhood: Latinx Mothers in The Child Welfare System - Ana Rodriguez

Queerness as Commodity: Queer Enterprise in the Virtual Era - Anthony Lee Ayal

Breaking Cycles of Intergenerational Trauma: Motherhood and The Queer, First Generation Filipino/a/x Community - Vethea Cole

An Ethnographic and Historical Analysis of the Positionality and Mental Health Outcomes of First-Generation Punjabi American Students in the University of California System from 2014 to 2020 - Rubel Dehal

Chosen Bodies: How and Why Sexual Violence Inflicted on Women was Used to Destroy Armenianness during the Armenian Genocide - Lilly Sarafian

Culture and Community: Implications on Domestic Violence within South Asian Immigrants - Maria Dossani

Understanding Lesbianism Outside of the Gender Binary And the Intersections Involved - Cedar Casper

Capitalism is not healthy for children and other living things. COVID has made it devastatingly clear that an economy organized around profit rather than sustenance endangers our very lives. Access to food, shelter and care have all become increasingly precarious, and the feminized, racialized people responsible for providing them are stretched to the breaking point. Working parents are between a rock and a hard place, and waged “essential workers” – from nurses to grocery cashiers – are paid in applause, appreciation, and minimum wage. The scholars in this series respond to our unstable, indefensible times.

The Department of Gender & Women's Studies - Spring 2021 Lecture Series:

SOCIAL REPRODUCTION IN/UNDER CRISIS

*Mondays 12-1:30pm PST on Zoom
full details at gws.berkeley.edu*

<p>JANUARY 25</p> <p>DEAN SPADE School of Law, Seattle University</p> <p>Social Reproduction in Public: The Role of Mutual Aid in Protest Occupations and Encampments</p>	<p>FEBRUARY 8</p> <p>MIGNON DUFFY Sociology, UMass Lowell</p> <p>Essential Work, Disposable Workers: What the COVID-19 Crisis Has Taught Us about Care and Social Reproduction</p>		
<p>FEBRUARY 22</p> <p>MAGGIE DICKINSON Interdisciplinary Studies, CUNY</p> <p>Reproducing Hunger in the Pandemic Era</p>	<p>MARCH 15</p> <p>TITHI BHATTACHARYA History, Purdue University</p> <p>Privatizing Care, Socializing Death: Social Reproduction under Covid and Austerity</p>		
<p>MARCH 29</p> <p>KHIARA M. BRIDGES School of Law, UC Berkeley</p> <p>The Dysgenic State: Environmental Injustice and Disability-Selective Abortion Bans</p>	<p>APRIL 12</p> <p>CINZIA ARRUZZA Philosophy, The New School</p> <p>Social Reproduction and Primitive Accumulation</p>		
<p>FRIDAY, APRIL 23 - Bringing it all Together</p> <table border="0"> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>Panel One 9:30 - 11:00am PST</p> <p>CINZIA ARRUZZA KHIARA M. BRIDGES DEAN SPADE</p> </td> <td> <p>Panel Two 12:00 - 1:30pm PST</p> <p>TITHI BHATTACHARYA MAGGIE DICKINSON MIGNON DUFFY NANCY FRASER</p> <p>Political & Social Science, The New School</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		<p>Panel One 9:30 - 11:00am PST</p> <p>CINZIA ARRUZZA KHIARA M. BRIDGES DEAN SPADE</p>	<p>Panel Two 12:00 - 1:30pm PST</p> <p>TITHI BHATTACHARYA MAGGIE DICKINSON MIGNON DUFFY NANCY FRASER</p> <p>Political & Social Science, The New School</p>
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Event Highlight

Decolonizing Sexualities Network: The Decolonial Café, 2021

During two weekends in March, 20th-21st and March, 27th-28th, 2021, the Decolonizing Sexualities Network (DSN) celebrated ten years of its existence by holding an international and interdisciplinary conference on Zoom called *The Decolonial Café*. The conference brought together about 35 panel presenters, including Berkeley DEWGS students - Elizabeth Lowe-Hunter, Tala Khanmalek, Akhil Kang and Huma Dar – and former Berkeley postdoc, P.J. Pietro, who had worked closely with some GWS faculty. The conference was co-organized by five people, including Professor Bacchetta from the Department of Gender and Women's Studies. She is also a co-coordinator of the entire DSN. The conference was co-sponsored by GWS with University of Paris VII in France, Kent University and Birkbeck College of London University in England. Panel topics included: Queers Combating Settler Colonialisms; QTPOC Arts, Literatures, Music, Film; QTPOC Analytics of Power: Intra-Queer; QTPOC Analytics of Power (two panels): Decolonial Circulations; QTPOC Survival, Healing and Thrival; Queer Islam - Scholarship and Community Activism; QTPOC Practices of Solidarity. For the access to the conference program and videos of presentations, see: <https://decolonizingsexualities.org/decolonialcafes>. For information on DSN including additional activities see: decolonizingsexualities.org

COMMUNITY NEWS

Former GWS Visiting Student Researcher Terje Toomistu's doctoral thesis "Embodied lives, imagined reaches: Gendered subjectivity and aspirations for belonging among waria in Indonesia" won the First Award in the field of Humanities at the Estonian National Contest for university students.



Decolonizing Sexualities Network
Decolonial Café 2021

Art by Tupilo Lea Arellano leaeastrella@ishglobal.net

Faculty Happenings



Professor Bacchetta with her GWS 220 - DEWGS dissertation writing class

Paola Bacchetta

Several areas of my work propose feminist and queer analyses of the kinds of relations of power that structure our present moment. For example, in “Decolonial Sexualities” in *Interventions: International Journal of Postcolonial Studies* (special issue) co-edited by Sandeep Bakshi, Suhraiya Jivraj, Silvia Posocco, 1-12 (Spring 2020), I offer concepts for thinking about current configurations of power at different scales: *situated planetarity, co-formations, co-productions* and *colonialism-and-race-amnesiac*. In my co-edited book *Global Raciality: Empire, Postcoloniality, and Decoloniality* with Sunaina Maira and Howard Winant. (New York: Routledge, 2020) we address racism in relations with coloniality, capitalism, gender, sexuality, and more. I also developed such analytics in talks, as in: (1) “Subaltern Queer Theorizations as Radical Excess” at International Congress, Federal University of

Bahia, Brazil, February 25, 2021; and my keynote (2) “Théorie-Assemblage: Notes sur une trajectoire féministe, dyke, queer, décoloniale et anti-capitaliste” at International Colloquium on Transnational Epistemic Dialogues, University of Chicago and University of Paris VII., March 25, 2021. See:

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

Highlights of the past year:

- Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award. For research on a book on colonialism and sexuality, field work in Brazil. Delayed because of covid-19.
- Invitation to give my Personal Papers to Archival Section, Stanford University Library. (Collection of my academic publications and personal papers on Hindu Nationalism).

- Erudite Scholar in Residence Programme Award, Calicut University, Kerala, Government of the State of Kerala, India. (Delayed because of covid-19).

What's the best thing you watched this year?

The best things I watched and heard were the four days of transnational, transdisciplinary presentations at the Decolonial Café, a conference to celebrate ten years of the Decolonizing Sexualities Network. The talks are becoming available slowly on this website: <https://decolonizingsexualities.org/decolonialcafes>

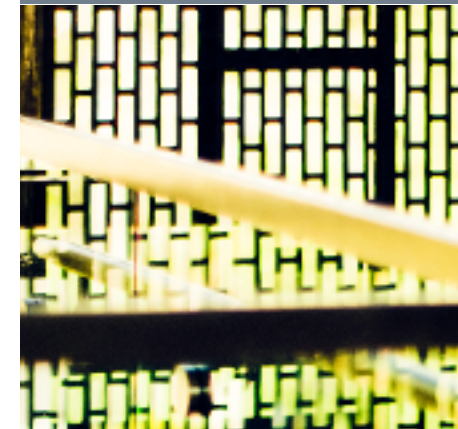
Mel Y. Chen

In their eighth year as Director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Culture (CSSC), Professor Chen produced an impressive collection of events: “#metooobehindbars: Queer/Trans Rebellion Across Prison Walls, a conversation with Alisa Bierria and Rojas” (October 2020); “Anticipatory Nostalgia: Queering the Hong Kong Handover - Carlos Rojas” (November 2020); “Queer Love on Barbary Lane: The Sexual Politics of Serial Gay Fiction in Armistead Maupin’s *Tales of the City* - Ramzi Fawaz” (April 2021); and “Becoming Ungovernable: Trans Life Against the State, Eric A. Stanley in conversation with Jemma DeCristo” (April 2021). At CSSC, Mel also co-planned an online gathering and collaborative futures workshop by and for graduate students in sexuality studies in May, 2021. Mel taught the “Queer Translation” graduate seminar in Fall 2020, and was on teaching leave in Spring 2021.

Mel also produced a variety of writing this year; two single authored essays are out, a consideration of wildfires, ‘nature,’ and artworks, “Fire and Ash,” In Sushmita Chatterjee and Banu Subramaniam, eds. *MEAT!: A Transnational Analysis* (Duke University Press, 2021), and an essay on the linguistics of animacy and transnational gender pronouns, “Animacy as a Sexual Device,” in Rusty Barrett and Kira Hall, eds. *Language and Sexuality: A Handbook* (Oxford University Press, 2021); a catalog essay, “The Gate and the ‘Unreachable,’” for Lin May Saeed’s solo exhibition, curated by Robert Wiesenberger at The Clark Institute, Williamstown, MA (2020); and two works responding to the Covid-19 pandemic: a symposium contribution to “Feminists Theorize COVID-19” in *Signs* at <http://signsjournal.org/covid/> (print forthcoming) and an article coauthored with Tim K. Choy, “Corresponding in Time,” for *ISLE: Interdisciplinary Studies of Literature and the Environment* (Special Cluster on Pandemics, 27:4 Autumn 2021).

What's the best thing you watched or read this year?

As for best things I've watched or read this year: *Atlantics* (2019); and Mikey, our 18 year old cat in his last year of life.



Minoo Moallem

This was a busy academic year administratively. I am finishing up my third year as Program Director of Media Studies. As a part of that work I organized and moderated a well-attended lecture series on *Media and Globalization* in Spring 2021 - featuring Bernice Yeung on "The Invisibilized #MeToos"; Deepa Kumar on "Terrorcraft: Empire, Racialization and the Media"; and Lisa Parks on "Mixed Signals: Media Infrastructures and Globalization".



In my own research work, my latest publications include: "Reflections on Doing Digital Humanities in the Context of the Middle East," edited by Larby Sadiki, Routledge Handbook of Middle East Politics, which came out in January 2020 and "Gender and Culture" in Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology, 2nd Edition, in December 2019, and A conversation with Mimi Thi Nguyen on transnational feminism published in Jadaliyya March 2021. I presented a number of papers both nationally and internationally including "Race, Religion, and Islamophobia", Feminist Approaches to Anti-Muslim Violence Workshop, UCLA, December 2019; "Persian Carpets: Nation as a Transnational Commodity," Book Reading, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, October 2019; "The Figure of the Martyr in Iran-Iraq War Movies," Death and Afterlives in the Middle East, September 2019, Brown University; The Bond: War, Trade and Consumption," Towards an Anti-War, Anti-Security State Politics of Feminism, Race & Empire Panel, Yale University, February 2019; "Race, Gender and Islamophobia," University of Ghent, Belgium, May 2019, and " L'énigme des femmes musulman," Ecole des Hauts Etudes en Sciences Sociales et Sophiapol (Université Paris Lumière) February 2019. More recently, I presented a paper: "Scopic Economy and the Spectacle of Labor," at the Precarious lives, Uncertain Futures Conference in Rome, in January 2020; and another paper "Woven Connectivities and Ecological Aesthetics," at the Substantial Motion Research Network, in February 2021.

I also spoke at two events hosted by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies: "Polarization on Demand: Netflix in Turkey" as the respondent (February 26, 2021) and "LGBTQ Rights in the Middle East" with Dr. Sa'ed Atshan (March 10, 2021). I also talked at a few student-organized events including "Women, Gender, and Identity in Modern Iranian Society," April 2021 for the Iranian Student Association, and a talk for MENA-RRC MENA Womxnhood Workshop on MENA feminism and academia, in October 2020.



Laura C. Nelson

When the pandemic closed campus last spring, I was halfway through the pre-production of the made-for-summer-online version of a course I've taught several times in person: GWS 130AC, "Gender, Race, Nation, and Health." This course looks at the multiple ways social inequalities and health inequalities shape and reinforce one another. Obviously, the course material speaks directly to the circumstances we have all been living through, and while it was not designed with the pandemic in mind, it is eerie how relevant the critical framework on "health" has been in illuminating structural injustices in this country as well as elsewhere. I worked with a fantastic GSI, Derrika Hunt, and we'll be offering the course again, with some updates given

what we've all learned this year, this coming summer. I also had the opportunity to design and debut a new course in the fall: GWS C180Y, "Gender, Sex, and Power." This course, offered as a Discovery Course (with administrative and some financial support from the campus, and two great GSIs: Jaskirat Hothi and Omi Salas-Santa Cruz), focused on learning from artists and activists whose work examines the intersection of sex, power, gender, as well as race, disability, and other intersectional forces that have clearly been illuminated by ignition last spring of outrage and protest against anti-Black and racist structures and cultures. The students and I were overwhelmed by the inspiring guests who lit up our Zoom screens throughout the

semester. I've also been working on two new projects, in addition to my ongoing research in South Korea (which has been hard to do in the pandemic!). One new project looks at how precarity and privilege shapes certain aspects of how people relate to "truth" and "falsehood"; in the other, I am exploring how to build communication relationships to bridge across political disagreements so that we can offer critical, feminist perspectives in formats that can reach people who think they wouldn't agree with us.

What's the best thing you watched this year?

The best thing I've seen this year: the documentary *Crip Camp*.



Courtney Desiree Morris



While on teaching leave this year, Professor Morris held a number of art exhibitions, including: "Exploring Passages Within the Black Diaspora" at The Photographic Center NW, Seattle,

WA (January 16 – March 22, 2020); "Conversations in Black" at the SF LGBT Center, San Francisco, CA (February 1-29, 2020); "How to Tread Lightly. st_age expanded" at the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza, Madrid, Spain (October 5 - December 13, 2020); and photographs from her series titled "Solastalgia," in the "AFTER LIFE (we survive)" multimedia presentation at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (November 9, 2020 - February 7, 2021). There is a lovely write up about this exhibit in the East Bay Express: <https://eastbayexpress.com/finding-place-holding-court-1/>

Morris also participated in interviews and conversations, including a panel discussion moderated by Thea Quiray Tagle on "Exploring Passages within the African Diaspora" (February 6, 2020); an interview with Yndia S. Lorick-Wilmot entitled "Talking Journeys of Belonging to Blackness" (May 2020); an article by Matthew Harrison Tedford at YBCA on "Art is a Powerful Tool for Envisioning a Less Complacent Future" (November 18, 2020); and "Artist Courtney Desiree Morris in conversation with Thea Quiray Tagle" at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts (December 21, 2020).

Leslie Salzinger

In recent years, I've been writing and teaching on the gendered and racialized character of capitalism, about the way the system both generates and relies on "difference." Reproductive labor, the often invisible, gendered and racialized work it takes to make people under capitalism, is central to that analysis. As the pandemic unfolded, that labor of care was both increasingly necessary and increasingly precarious, for caregivers and recipients alike. Despite the hardships, the ensuing crisis did have one benefit: from one day to the next, work that had been taken for granted could no longer be relied upon, revealing its value in ways that decades of anti-racist feminist advocacy had struggled to accomplish. In my writing and teaching this year, I have worked to raise, articulate and trace the consequences of that emerging understanding. During COVID, despite Zoom, gender studies' work seems more necessary than ever.

Highlights of 20/21 work focused on these issues:

"Seeing with the Pandemic: Social Reproduction in the Spotlight," *Feminist Studies* (forthcoming, Summer 2021).

"Gender and Political Economy." Crosstalk event for the Network for a New Political Economy at UC Berkeley (October 16, 2020).

<https://youtu.be/A4Q2li4y0v8>

Art and thinking for the present:

Novel: *Lost Children Archive* by Valeria Luiselli (Knopf, 2019)

Documentary: *Camperforce* (<https://youtu.be/kwaRoCCwzxc>) as an antidote to *Nomadland*

Experimental documentary: *El Palacio* by Nicolás Pereda (<https://vimeo.com/117041186>) as an antidote to *Roma*

Zoom events: Talks from The Franke Lectures in the Humanities at Yale on "The Value of Marx's Capital," and Verso and Haymarket Presses and so much more if you look around.



Eric Stanley

With over 100 anti-trans laws currently working their way through state legislatures, trans studies has, perhaps, never been more necessary. The larger context of this moment is the reignited attack on trans and gender non-conforming young people. This is a rehearsal of older tactics of waging a culture war against those positioned on the margins of the social world. Teaching and writing through a trans analysis is both more dangerous but also more vital if we are to hold space for those who are made to disappear. While indeed things seem bleak, I'm glad to be doing this work with such an amazing group of students, staff and faculty who gather under the banner of Gender and Women's Studies.

What's the best thing you watched this year?

The best thing I watched this year was probably Michaela Coel's series "I May Destroy You." I just started watching "Good Trouble" which is almost a perfect representation of the destructive emptiness that is neoliberalism. It's horrible, but I keep watching.

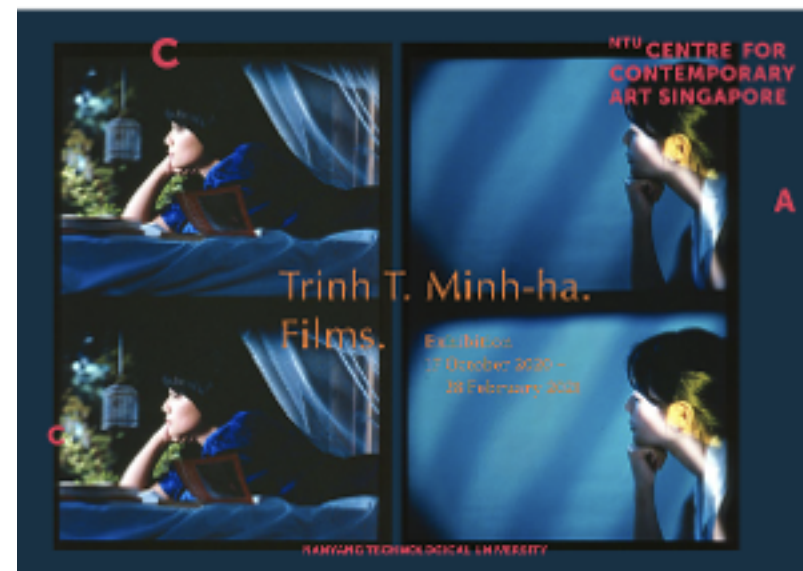
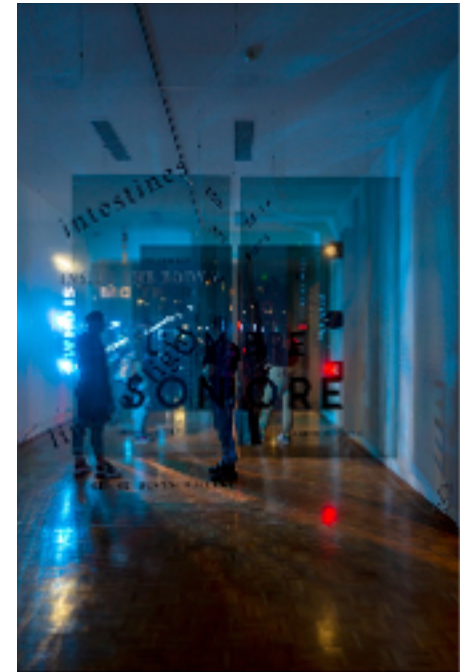
Trinh T. Minh-ha, Professor of the Graduate School

Since her retirement from teaching in July 2020, Professor Trinh Minh-ha has been at work on several creative projects, including a large art installation honoring the work of twelve women poets at Manifesta 13 in Marseille, France September – November 2020 ("*In Transit: Between and Beyond*", see photo 1).

In addition to the continuing demands for screenings and exhibitions, her work has been honored in several comprehensive **film retrospectives:** in **Korea** (Seoul International ALT Cinema Festival, August 2020); in **Denmark** (Terrassen film group, Cinemateket in Copenhagen, August 2020); in **Chili-Peru-Bolivia** (Aricadoc January 2021); in **Singapore** (NTU CCA, October 2020 – February 2021, see photo 2) and in an upcoming art biennale in **Norway** (Momentum 11- House

of Commons, June 2021). Several conferences focused on her films and books were organized by NTU CCA, gathering scholars from across East, Central and South Asia ("*Speaking/ Thinking Nearby*" Oct 2020; "*Mother Always Has a Mother*" Dec 2020; "*There Is No Such Thing as Documentary*" Feb, 2021) and a similar ten-days event will be held at RAM in Shanghai in October 2021).

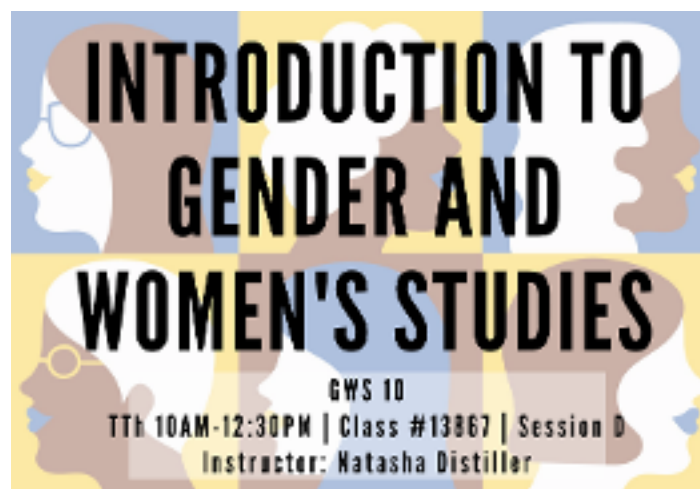
She has also been working intensively on a new two-hour film on rural China titled *What About China?* (Part I of the film was exhibited in Singapore). More recently, she was featured as one of the seven profiles for Distinguished Women at BAMPFA in the the 150W legacy project Celebrating 150 Years of Women at UC Berkeley <https://bampfa.org/news/bampfa-150-years-distinguished-women-berkeley>



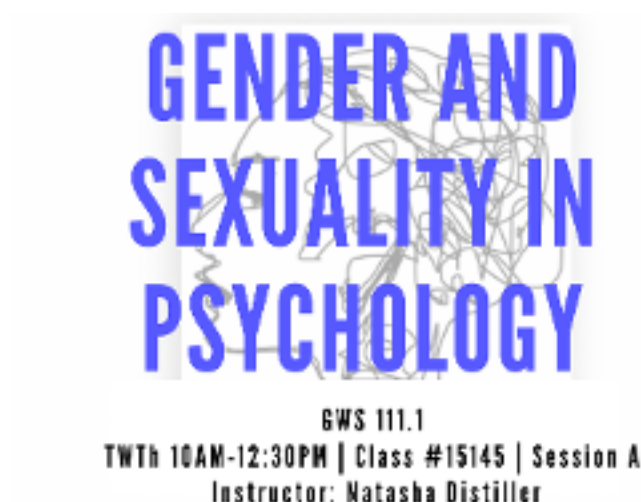
Summer 2021 Courses



Examines the role of gender in health care status, in definitions and experiences of health, and in practices of medicine. Feminist perspectives on health care disparities, the medicalization of society, and transnational processes relating to health. Gender will be considered in dynamic interaction with race, ethnicity, sexuality, immigration status, religion, nation, age, and disability, and in both urban and rural settings.

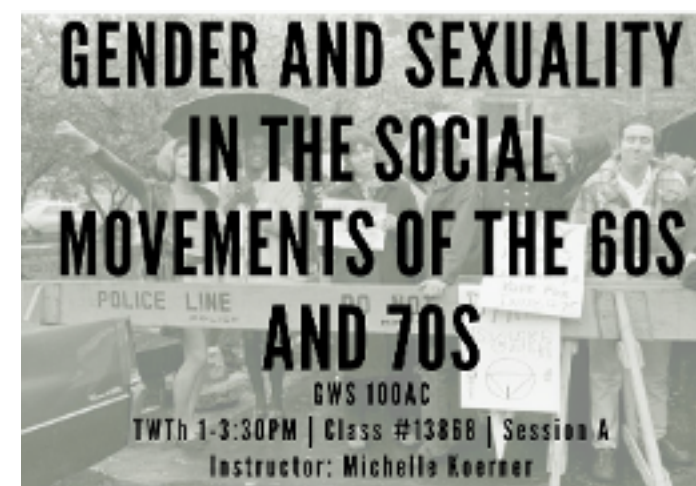


Introduction to questions and concepts in gender and women's studies. Critical study of the formation of gender and its intersections with other relations of power, such as sexuality, racialization, class, religion, and age. Questions will be addressed within the context of a transnational world. Emphasis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



In this class, we will explore the role of the psy disciplines (psychology, psychiatry, psychotherapy and psychoanalysis) in constructing modern categories of gender and sexuality, and how this created modern subjectivities. We will look at some transnational examples for comparison.

Our texts will include the various diagnoses for sexuality and gender “disorders”, critical readings from the nineteenth century through today, and documentaries and other films.



This summer session course offers students an opportunity to engage primary documents (archival video footage, manifestos, and small-distribution/underground press, zines and journals) produced by the political organizations and collectives associated both directly and indirectly with the Women's and Gay Liberation Movements of the late 1960s and early 1970s. Our primary focus in engaging these materials will be to trace genealogies of struggle at the intersection of economic, gendered, and racialized structures of oppression in U.S. culture. Our work will be guided by a series of critical questions about “liberating the past” that both challenge historicist notions of progress and encourage us to encounter past struggles as living histories that still speak to our catastrophic present. What do these historical movements have to teach the present? What methods and orientations are required of the present in order for the past to come alive?



Latin America is one of the regions with the highest numbers of gender-based violence and femicide in the world. It is also the birthplace of several feminist movements that have put forth demands for justice and for deep societal change in favor of women's lives and community well-being. In this course we will examine the issue of violence against women and forms of resistance through the study of literature, film, art, music, and social media. We will explore feminist theories and practices emerging in Latin America, and historical foundations of patriarchal violence such as colonialism, slavery, and capitalism. The course is designed to provide an overview of the topic across Latin American countries.



Some earth system scientists describe the current moment as a time of “transition in planetary life with the ‘potential to transform Earth rapidly and irreversibly into a state unknown in human experience’ (Anthony Barnosky et. al. in Jason W. Moore, “Anthropocene or Capitalocene: Nature, History, and the Crisis of Capitalism”). These shifts are not distributed equally: the floods, droughts, hurricanes, resource wars, food shortages, and problems associated with the mushrooming production of garbage most severely impact the world's most socially marginalized humans (e.g., by gender, class, sexuality, race, and ability) and non- humans who live in the most exploited and disenfranchised places.

(Chair's message, continued from page 1)

We have 23 students graduating with a major in Gender & Women's Studies; the senior paper topics are listed in this newsletter. (pgs 3-4) Eleven graduating seniors went on to write an Honor's Thesis, and -- as usual -- they blossomed as scholars in the spring semester. We also have 6 students graduating with a minor in GWS, and 2 with a minor in LGBT studies. Doctoral students in our Designated Emphasis in Gender and Women's Studies (including the 4 completing their degrees this semester) bear the double load of supporting our pandemic-stressed undergrads as section instructors and as graders while diving into their own intensive educational missions, and they are doing this absent one of the greatest benefits of graduate school - the deep friendships that emerge walking out the door of a seminar room, when you and the student next to you continue the academic conversation in new directions. All our students have shown fantastic persistence and have fostered mutual support and I salute them -- but I know we will all be grateful to be back in person.

Like our staff and our students, our faculty have poured themselves into the project of keeping scholarship and community alive in these challenging times. I know they each have a space to update you on their activities here in this newsletter, but I want to highlight the fact that we, as a faculty community, have taken care to maintain consciousness of our students' strained circumstances while also providing the best learning experience we can during a global crisis. I'm awed by the efforts we've all made to make that happen. I also want to note that our unit-18 lecturers have been working without a contract since the last one expired early in 2020. The lecturers are pushing for more stability in employment, and we in GWS support their demands. Our lecturers are among the most beloved and most effective of our faculty, and we could not do what we do without them.

We are excited by the prospect of welcoming a new Assistant Professor in the fall, our third in four years! We held a successful search this past autumn for an expert in the scholarship of gender-based and sexual violence, and among the many impressive candidates for the position, Professor Patrice D. Douglass stood out for her innovative theoretical approach and her deeply moving, firmly grounded work in anti-Black violence as sexual violence. We are eagerly looking forward to her joining our community and adding her expertise in history, literature, cultural studies, and philosophy to our department.

I want to close by focusing on the fantastic line-up of speakers we featured this spring, in our "Social Reproduction in/under Crisis" series. Professor Leslie Salzinger, our Vice Chair for Research, invited six speakers to highlight the chronic failings of social reproduction under capitalism, and the acute crisis in social reproduction brought about in the pandemic. The series covered a range of topics, from the politics of mutual aid, to food insecurity, to transnational feminist resistance movements. The series culminated in two workshops, bringing the speakers into conversation with one another and with Professor Nancy Fraser. It was a timely and important focus to share with our communities. The talks were recorded, and are available to view on our website. (Look for "Past Events.")

Next year the department will be celebrating our 30th anniversary; we will keep you posted as to our plans. When I write the spring 2022 Chair's letter to update you, let's all imagine that I'll be able to just give you good news. And I assure you, that's what we all will be working towards, in our scholarship, in our activism, and in our work in the classroom. May you all stay safe and well in the meanwhile.

- Laura Nelson



In Memorium Janeen Irving

Janeen Irving, beloved GWS graduate, passed away suddenly on March 17, 2021. Janeen graduated from UC Berkeley in 2018. She was two months away from getting her MA in African American Studies at Columbia University and was working hard on her thesis. She lived in New Orleans at the time of her passing.

While many used she/her pronouns in reference to Janeen, note that Janeen used both "she/hers" and "they/them" pronouns to articulate the expansiveness of their being in the world.

Janeen leaves behind three children: Adjani and Jalil, both in their early 20s, and her eldest daughter who lives in Colorado.

Janeen had a sweet, beautiful and strong spirit, and will be missed.



SANDY RICHMOND

Director of Administration



GILLIAN EDGELOW

Research Program Administrator



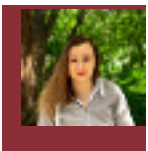
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Support our work!

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. Contributions will help support our small but vibrant department.

To give, visit 'Support Us' on the GWS website.

Contact the Chair to discuss possibilities for a major gift: lnelson@berkeley.edu

Thank you for supporting feminist studies at UC Berkeley!