

Gender & Women's Studies

issue seven
2021-2022

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Laura C. Nelson

"In offering this newsletter, the Department recognizes the ways we all support one another, continuously, with effects of connection that resonate beyond physical temporal presence."

I am writing this two years to the day after the University stopped in-person classes as the new SARS-CoV-2 virus swept across the world, shuttering schools, stores, and offices. We have learned a lot since then. We have amazed one another with our resilience: I recently looked at my email archive from March 9, 2020, the last day of classroom instruction, and found I was offering to show my colleagues how to "do Zoom" for their next classes. In other words, how to shift from an instructor in the classroom to an instructor on the screen in 24 hours. I remember how generous students and instructors were with one another as we struggled to understand how to fit this new remote technology to feminist practices of learning. And we have kept on adapting, as circumstances shift, to our new realities. We have held graduation ceremonies online, held talks online, conducted faculty searches online, celebrated new births and new books online, and consoled one another online, all while also living in the real-life material and emotional effects of all of this. Two years and counting.

Like so many folks, most of us at GWS are exhausted, but we also are finding our work – individual and collective – a balm. You can read about our many exciting individual scholarly projects in this newsletter. Collectively, we have been clarifying our vision for the department's future as we celebrate our 30th anniversary, recognizing the accomplishments we build upon.

Courtney Morris has been spearheading the planning for our 30th anniversary celebration in Fall 2022 (slightly delayed, but we'll chalk that up to the pandemic). We'll be hosting a few panels to look back and look forward to what kinds of feminist inquiry might be most transformative in the coming years, and then we'll throw a party!

And that's not the only celebration this coming year. In the Spring we'll be honoring the distinguished intellectual and artistic career of Professor Trinh t. Minh-ha, a central figure in our department for many years, now Emerita, with a series of film screenings and a day of discussions on the impact of her work.

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COMMENCEMENT 2022

We are thrilled to welcome Caren Kaplan back to UC Berkeley as our commencement speaker, as we celebrate our 30th year as a department. Caren Kaplan is Professor Emerita of American Studies at the University of California at Davis. She joined the Women & Gender Studies Department at the University of California at Berkeley in 1992 as the newly established department's first full tenure-line professor and served as department chair as well as the director of the Beatrice Bain Research Group and the

include *Aerial Aftermaths: Wartime from Above* (Duke 2018), *Life in the Age of Drone Warfare* (Duke 2017), *Introduction to Women's Studies: Gender in a Transnational World* (McGraw-Hill 2001/2005), *Between Woman and Nation: Transnational Feminisms and the State* (Duke 1999), *Questions of Travel: Postmodern Discourses of Displacement* (Duke 1996) *Scattered Hegemonies: Postmodernity and Transnational Feminist Practices* (Minnesota 1994) as well as two multi-media scholarly works, *Dead Reckoning* and *Precision Targets*.

*First full-tenure professor
in the Department of
Gender and Women's
studies at UC Berkeley!*

Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality studies. While at UCB, Prof. Kaplan collaborated with Prof. Inderpal Grewal on several projects including a textbook for the gateway WGS course with an emphasis on transnational feminist cultural studies that became a classic in the field. In 2004, Prof. Kaplan moved to UC Davis to chair the newly formed PhD program in Cultural Studies and to facilitate the research group in Critical Military, Security, and Policing Studies. At UCD, Prof. Kaplan was affiliated with the Science & Technology Studies program and expanded her research to include cultural geography, landscape art, and military history. Selected publications

Caren Kaplan



UC-AFT WIN!



“#WeTeachUC”!

This was the hashtag used by members of UC-AFT (the union representing lecturers at the University of California) to organize members of our union over two-and-one-half-years of contentious contract bargaining with the University of California. And it's true: lecturers (faculty who are hired on temporary contracts) teach approximately 40% of the class units at UC Berkeley (Burrowoy & Johnson-Hanks, 2018). Although lecturers are required to have the same education, credentials, and expertise as tenure-track faculty, we do our jobs, and support the teaching mission of UC, with lower pay, lack of job security, and without the protections or promises of the tenure track. Lecturer jobs at UC, and at universities across the U.S., are generally structured as precarious “just-in-time” positions that let the university hire teaching faculty at the last minute and to lay them off at will and without justification. This model has allowed the institution to avoid their responsibilities toward employees and unsurprisingly, those of us classified as lecturers are more likely to live as women and people of color than tenured and tenure-track faculty (Zinshteyn, Oct. 5, 2021). This situation not only results in precarity for university faculty, but it also produces unstable learning conditions for students.

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But in the fall of 2021, the jobs of non-tenured UC teaching faculty became slightly more stable and better paid when UC-AFT reached an agreement with the university on a new contract ensuring increased job security for starting lecturers, raises in pay, and some of the benefits necessary to survive including parental leave. The faculty and staff in the Gender and Women's Studies Department at UC Berkeley fully supported the contract negotiations, as Department Chair Laura Nelson ensured members of the department were kept informed and Berkeley Faculty Association Co-Chair Leslie Salzinger worked for broad support among tenured faculty. Indeed, as a department, we recognize that the two-tiered faculty system— non-tenure-track and tenure-track — is a symptom of the ways in which institutions of higher education globally have embraced neoliberal ideology, which valorizes individualism and the notion that the free market is the best way to distribute resources in and around society, at the expense of any sense of what we owe to each other in building economies and institutions. Indeed, university reliance on lecturers is a trend that has grown since the 1970s hand-in-hand with systematic reductions of public funding for higher education, and alongside systematic cuts to public funding for many public institutions (Burrowoy & Johnson-Hanks, 2018).

Change is never easy, even for those who ask for it — perhaps especially for those who ask for it — but in GWS, we are hopeful that the new UC-AFT contract will hopefully alter the “gig” nature of university lecturing and force the UC to reinvest in its teaching mission for the sake of both faculty and students.

Burrowoy, M. and Johnson-Hank, J. (Feb. 4, 2018). *Second-Class Citizens: A Survey of Berkeley Lecturers*. UC Berkeley Academic Senate.

https://academic-senate.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/divco_on_ugc_lecturer_survey_report_w_encl.pdf

Zinshteyn, M. (Oct. 5 2021). UC workforce churn: Why a quarter of lecturers don't return each year. *Cal Matters*. <https://calmatters.org/education/higher-education/2021/10/uc-workforce-lecturers/>

BARBARA BARNES

Continuing Lecturer



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Paola Bacchetta | Professor



During this period, Professor Bacchetta worked towards a next book on Colonialism and Sexuality. She taught two courses on the topic, one for undergraduate students (required for the LGBT Minor) and one for graduate students (elective).

She published two articles:

(1) "Femmes de Droite: Discours, pratiques, stratégies, effets, et la re-imagination d'un avenir féministe" ("Right-Wing Women: Discourses, Practices, Strategies and Re-Imagining Feminist Futures") in *Actes du Colloque, Femmes de Droite*, 2022, Paris, Presses Sciences Politiques. It is based

on her keynote talk at an international conference on right-wing women and feminist solutions.

(2) "Créer nos archives, transmettre nos histoires de lesbiennes et queers racisé-e-s" ("Creating Our Archives, Conveying Our Histories of Lesbians and Queers of Color") with Nawo Crawford and Ghiwa Sayegh, summer 2021, in the journal *Assiégés*. It reflects upon Dr. Bacchetta's project with Nawo Crawford of constructing a lesbian of color archive in France.

Bacchetta won several awards:

- (1) University of Chicago in Paris grant for a conference on "Decolonial and Queer of Color Archiving: Engaging Concealed Pasts"
- (2) Andrew Mellon Foundation Grant for research in Morocco towards her next book
- (3) The Strategic Institutional Partnership Grant (UC Berkeley & Ghent University, Belgium) for the project "Bridging Materialist and

Decolonial Approaches."

Thanks to a Fulbright Grant, she will do research towards her book in Brazil in spring-summer 2022.

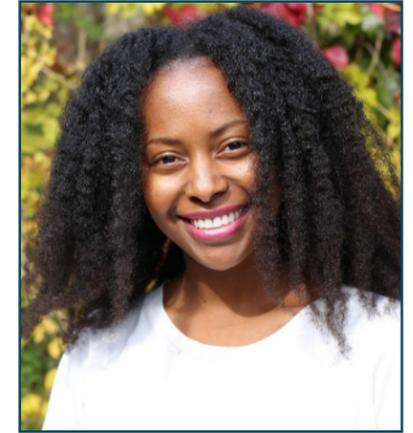
She also co-authored two articles in popular journals: (1) "The UC System's Policing Expansion Belies Its Stated Commitment to Racial Justice," with Robin D.G. Kelly and David Goldberg, *The Nation*, May 10, 2021

(2) "In Solidarity with French Academics Targeted by the Republic," with Azeezah Kanji and David Palumbo Liu, *Al Jazeera*, April 12, 2021.

She continued to serve as Co-Coordinator with Dr. Sandeep Bakshi of the Decolonizing Sexualities Network.

She joined the Scientific Committee of the Berlin Biennial (Director, Kader Attia).

Patrice D. Douglass | Assistant Professor



During her first year on the Gender and Women's Studies faculty, Professor Douglass was on teaching leave and dedicated her time to writing, giving talks, and departmental service. She is currently completing her manuscript for her first book, tentatively entitled, *Engendering Blackness: The Ontology of Sexual Violence*.

She also completed a forthcoming contribution "Lynching Affect: Irresistible Identification, Sadism, and White Femininity," for a special issue of *Political Theory* on the work of philosopher David S. Marriott.

In addition to writing, Professor Douglass gave several talks this academic year, including:

- (1) a keynote lecture on the essays of Toni Morrison for the 21st International Literature Festival Berlin
- (2) a talk "Slavery, Violence, and Unbound

Sexual Viability," for the Wesleyan University Center for the Humanities "Consent & Subjection" lecture series,

(3) moderated a conversation between "Saidiya Hartman, Arthur Jafa, and Frank B. Wilderson, III" for the Walker Arts Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota

(4) chaired and participated in an invited roundtable "Irreconcilable Difference in Theorizing Feminism" at the 2022 MLA annual convention, sponsored by the Literary and Cultural Theory forum.

Additionally, she continues to serve as the co-chair for the Cultural Studies Association (CSA) working group on Black and Race Studies. In this role, she worked to structure presentation panels for the upcoming 2022 CSA conference in Chicago, IL.

What was the best thing you watched this past year?

Douglass:

"The best TV show I watched this year is the breakout show *Abbott Elementary* created by Quinta Brunson. The show strikes an incredible balance between light hearted humor and animating the structural realities of underfunded public education."

Mel Y. Chen | Associate Professor

This past semester Professor Mel Y. Chen had several new pieces commissioned and published in *Sex Ecologies*, a theoretical and art based compilation of revolutionary thinkers of our time focusing on the connections between eroticism, pleasure, ecology, and culture.

Another project Professor Chen is involved in, is a trans and two-spirit led research group based in UCLA's Center for the Study of Women. This group, *Just Research? Trans Futures in Health and Scientific Knowledge*, is a team that hopes to increase public university research resources dedicated to uplifting trans, two-spirit, gender-expansive, and intersex communities.

Additionally, they contributed to an exhibit centered on *Candice Lin: Seeping, Rotting, Resting, Weeping* for the Walker Art Center. The exhibit was an investigation into the links between colonization, sexism, and racism and was on display from August 2021 through January 2022.

Professor Chen is in their ninth year as director of the Center for the Study of Sexual Culture (CSSC) at UC Berkeley.



Leslie Salzinger | Associate Professor



While on sabbatical, Professor Salzinger had a piece published in *Feminist Theories* Volume 47 Issue 3 2021. It was a special issue on 'Gender and Capitalism'. The piece is entitled, "Seeing with the Pandemic: Social Reproduction in the Spotlight".

Additionally, Professor Salzinger co-authored an op-ed, titled "The Working Conditions of Lecturers are Learning Conditions of Students" for our own Daily Cal newspaper highlighting the need for a better lecturer contract.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Tessa Stapp | Honors in GWS

Cal Alumni Leadership Award
2018-2022

'22 American Association of
University Women
Scholarship

Laura C. Nelson | Associate Professor



Among the pandemic's many effects, it's made research abroad nearly impossible; because my own preferred research method is ethnographic, I've been rather stymied. Over the past year, however, I have taken the first steps into projects that don't require on-site fieldwork research in South Korea. Emerging from my earlier work on breast cancer, I've been reading about the medicalization of "stress" and thinking about how the concept of "stress" personalizes and individualizes systemic social and cultural pressures. I was also motivated by the murders last March in Atlanta to think what kinds of histories of global development and American military presence might have contributed to the migration paths that brought the spa workers from South Korea and China to Georgia, and how those flows

intersected with the emphasis on repressive sexuality and chastity in some of the local churches, producing a hazardous confluence. A piece I wrote on women in South Korea who resisted the pressure to get married will be appearing in a volume on marriage resistance. And I've been enjoying the return to in-person teaching.

What was your favorite piece of media this past year?

Nelson:

I've been watching dance performance on YouTube. One choreographer I'm enjoying recently is Yoann Bourgeois, but there are so many breathtaking performances that speak to the joys and challenges of embodiment. (I'm also really looking forward to a speaker/performer from Sins Invalid coming to my Gender, Sex, and Power class this Spring! Sins Invalid performances are also viewable online.)



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

Minoo Moallem | Professor

Professor Moallem continues to be the director of the Media Studies Program.

She published two major journal articles.

(1) "Gender, Race, and Religion: Islamophobia and Beyond," in *Meridians. Feminism, Race and Transnationalism*, 20:2 October 2021. This article focuses on anti-Muslim racism as a discourse that collapses race and religion and cannot be reduced to phobia. Instead, it is about a racial project of accumulation based on European superiority and how cultural racism upholds the European civilizational project.

(2) "The Figure of the Martyr in Iran-Iraq Postwar Movies. The Case of *Safar be Chazzabeh*." in *Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* Vol. 42, No. 1, 2022. She shows how movies continue to keep in circulation Islamic nationalism, primarily through the figure of the martyr. The martyr figure conveys a fictive yet affective time of the nation where death opens space for the continuation of life.

Professor Moallem also gave several talks and was part of a few virtual panels, including:

(1) a panel on "Transnational Feminist Practices Against War: 20 Years After," Organized by Rutgers University.

(2) A virtual talk on "Islamic Nationalism, Fundamentalism, and Transnationalism," Boğaziçi University, Turkey.



What was your favorite TV show or book this year?

Moallem:

I enjoyed watching two TV series. One is called "Ethos," a Turkish TV series (for which she was a discussant on a panel organized by the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at UC Berkeley). The other is called "My Brilliant Friend," an Italian TV series. Both TV series depict strong women protagonists and have solid narratives.

I also enjoyed reading a book of fiction in Farsi entitled *Jadoo* by the Iranian writer Farideh Golboo.

2022 Honors Theses

Not the Right Type of Latinx: How Central American Students Struggle to Find Community at UC Berkeley
by Allyza Quintanilla

Norm Washing: The social reconstruction of heteronormativity through pop culture and its role in delaying queerness's promise of liberatory ways of being
by Mike Adamick

Branching Assemblages: A multi-lens investigation into feminism's storytelling methods, and a critical proposal for engaging with our histories
by Tessa Stapp

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

CALEB DAWSON

PHD CANDIDATE IN THE DESIGNATED EMPHASIS IN WOMEN, GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

AWARDED A FELLOWSHIP WITH THE CENTER FOR EQUITY, GENDER, & LEADERSHIP AT THE HAAS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

AND

ABOLITION DEMOCRACY DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP IN THE BLACK STUDIES COLLABORATORY



MORE FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Courtney Desiree Morris | Assistant Professor



This year has been incredibly busy and very rewarding. After many years of hard work, I am thrilled that my book, *To Defend this Sunrise: Black Women's Activism and the Authoritarian Turn in Nicaragua*, will be published this winter by Rutgers University Press. As that work comes to a close I am excited to continue research on my new project in Mossville, Louisiana, which examines the racial politics of energy production in the Gulf South. In 2021 I received the Hellman Award and the Regents Junior Faculty Fellowship from the university to continue that work and I am looking forward to getting back down to Louisiana soon to do more research.

This year I began my term as the Vice Chair of Research and in that capacity I oversee the department's programming and research programs including the BBRG. We organized some really amazing talks and events that all offered timely

and thoughtful interventions in current debates on a range of critical issues. In the fall semester we held "After Atlanta," a roundtable discussion featuring Rhacel Salazar Parrenas, Laura Kang, and Mimi Thi Nguyen, who offered some deeply insightful and thought-provoking reflections on the March 2021 Atlanta spa shootings, which claimed the lives of eight people, six of whom were Asian women. The panel was moderated by our chair, Laura C. Nelson.

In the spring we launched *Feminism on the Edge*, a semester-long lecture series that commemorates the 30th anniversary of the founding of the department of Gender and Women's Studies at UC Berkeley while also reflecting on the department's history, its pivotal role in the field of feminist studies, the tensions and frictions that accompany the process of institutionalization, as well as the program's future trajectories. Toward that end we invited three alumni of the Designated Emphasis program to share their work. It was my pleasure to welcome back Professors Marlon Bailey, Sylvia Chong and Matt Richardson back to Cal for three incredible talks.

Finally, in addition to my scholarly work I am also a practicing visual and performance artist. In September 2021 I participated in a group exhibition, *Ark*, at the San Francisco Art Institute sponsored by the Svane Family Foundation. I also screened my short experimental film, *Sopera de Yemaya*, at the Frye Art Museum in Seattle as part of the film program for the exhibition, *Black Refractions*.

This spring, I was the conceptual designer and creative conductor of *bone black*: a ritual performance reading for the late black feminist writer and thinker, bell hooks/Gloria Jean Watkins (1952-2021) held at the Museum of the African Diaspora in San Francisco. I led a chorus of 14 live readers and 14 virtual readers in a polyphonic recitation of hooks' prolific body of work. More than 150 people gathered for this sold-out event. The reading was co-sponsored by GWS, the department of African And African Diaspora Studies and the Othering and Belonging Institute. I had a solo exhibition at the Black Music Incubator in Oakland and I will be part of two group exhibitions at Slash SF and the Fototeca de Havana in the fall.

Eric Stanley | Associate Professor

Professor Stanley had a book published this year. *Atmospheres of Violence* investigates the way invisibility and recognition are both forms of harm experienced by queer/trans individuals. This piece points us as readers, scholars, and activists towards other ways of thinking about an abolitionist future. Their book launch, hosted by The Othering and Belonging Institute, can be viewed on Youtube.



Stanley has spoken on several podcasts over the past year, including "Through the aim of ending it" episode on the *Millenials are Killing Capitalism* podcast and "Anti trans/queer Violence" on KPFA's *Against the Grain* podcast.



What music have you been listening to this past year?

Stanley:

- (1) *Golden Age of Hustlers* Performed by Justin Vivian Bond
- (2) *Read My Lips* Performed by Jimmy Somerville
- (3) *Light the Way* Performed by Star Amerasu

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

ALEX BROSTOFF

Awarded a PhD in Comparative Literature with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies - December 2021.

Assistant Professor in English at Kenyon College as of January 2022. As part of their *ASAP/Journal* guest editing for the past three years in collaboration with Lauren Fournier, Alex Brostoff edited a special issue on 'autotheory'. Co-wrote an editorial introduction to the issue with Lauren Fournier "Autotheory ASAP! Academia, Decoloniality, and 'I' ". The digital companion to this issue is "Transmedial Autotheories".



CONGRATULATIONS!

Trinh T. Minh-ha's latest film received the GOLDEN GATE PERSISTENCE OF VISION AWARD at the 2022 San Francisco International Film Festival.

bone black: a ritual reading for bell hooks



conducted by courtney desiree morris
6-8:30pm | April 13th, 2022
Museum of the African Diaspora



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

DEPARTMENT OF GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES PRESENTS:
SPRING 2022 LECTURE SERIES

FEMINISM ON THE EDGE

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16 (12PM)

MARLON BAILEY

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

"WHAT KIND OF RACIAL RECKONING IS THIS? BLACK LGBTQ PRACTICES OF CARE AMID SPATIAL MARGINALIZATION"

FRIDAY, MARCH 11 (12PM)

SYLVIA CHONG

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

"FIFTY SHADES OF YELLOW: FETISHISM AND THE POLITICS OF RACE AND CULTURE IN CRAZY RICH ASIANS AND #GOLDOPEN"

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27 (12PM)

MATT RICHARDSON

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SANTA BARBARA

"CREATIVITY AND BLACK FEMINIST KNOWLEDGE AT THE END OF THE WORLD"

In celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the Department of Gender and Women's Studies at UC Berkeley, all of the speakers in this lecture series are graduates of Berkeley's Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

Thank you to the Chau Hoi Shuen Foundation Fund for Gender & Women's Studies for supporting this series.

University of California, Berkeley

Department of Gender and Women's Studies
30th Anniversary
University of California, Berkeley

SUMMER SESSIONS

Gender in American Culture

GWS50AC | IN-PERSON | TWTW 1:00PM-3:29PM | CLASS #15330

SESSION D | INSTRUCTOR: BEN PAPAPOPOULOS

[late cancellation - we plan to offer this again next summer]

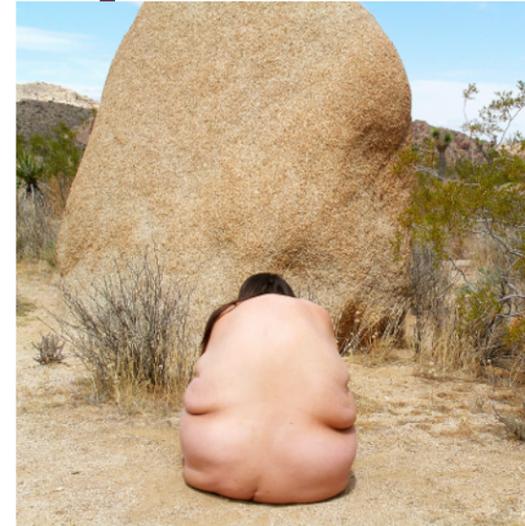
The language and gender subfield of linguistics emerged in the United States in the 1970s as a result of the Women's Liberation Movement. Since its inception, language and gender has largely been a tradition of discourse analysis, which explores the construction of normatively masculine speech and normatively feminine speech in conversation. While gender has been analyzed in other subfields of linguistics, the appearance of gender in language, or the precise ways that social gender identities are encoded in the grammar and lexicon of different languages (e.g. el amigo 'friend [M.]', la amiga 'friend [F.]' in Spanish), has been largely ignored, not to mention the expression of nonbinary gender identities. In critical social theories ranging over (white) feminist theory, Black feminist theory, queer theory, and decolonial theory, language is considered a category of hegemonic power and one of the primary tools used in the construction of social gender categories.

In this course, we will read gender theory with the intent to locate language, and we will read linguistic theory with the intent to locate gender, all the while constructing a new theory of gender in language which unifies the two. Students will read works spanning the fields of linguistics and critical sociology, write original analyses of these works focused on the interconnection of language and gender, and propose a final research project (theoretical or experimental) exploring nonbinary futures in languages they speak.



BODIES & BOUNDARIES

GWS129 | IN-PERSON | TWTW 10:00 AM-12:29 PM
CLASS #15296 | INSTRUCTOR: BARBARA BARNES
SESSION A | INSTRUCTOR: BARBARA A. BARNES



This summer session course examines gender and embodiment in interdisciplinary transnational perspectives. The human body is both a source of pleasure and is a site of coercion, which expresses individuality and reflects social worlds. Looks at bodies as gendered, raced, disabled/able-bodied, young or old, rich or poor, fat or thin, commodity or inalienable. Considers masculinity, women's bodies, sexuality, sports, clothing, bodies constrained, in leisure, at work, in nation-building, at war, and as feminist theory.

GENDER, RACE, NATION, & HEALTH

GWS130AC | ONLINE | CLASS #15297 | SESSION C
INSTRUCTOR: LAURA C. NELSON

This course 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.



This year we've welcomed Patrice Douglass to our faculty. You can read about her scholarship in her statement in this newsletter. In the fall we'll be joined also by Elora Shehabuddin, a scholar of transnational feminist politics, with a particular focus on Bangladesh and the East Bengal region of South Asia. With these appointments, alongside the still relatively-recent recruitments of Eric Stanley and Courtney Morris, our department is enriched with new ideas and energies. This renewal nourishes our feminist work that feels particularly urgent in the context of a troubling world.

We've been back in person since the start of the fall semester, and it's been great to be IRL with students! This experience has reinforced, for me, how our embodiment is part of our sociality. I get such pleasure out of seeing the fleeting details of the crinkling of the edges of people's eyes as they smile, and watching people turn their whole bodies to see one another when someone is speaking in a classroom. But it is also a reminder that our vulnerability to illness varies.

When Berkeley campus recently decided to drop the mask mandate, GWS faculty pushed for the requirement to remain in classroom spaces in order to ensure that students who were themselves particularly vulnerable to severe illness, or who had people in their circle of care who were vulnerable, would feel safer coming to learn in person. We, in our department, felt that doing what we could to protect the most precarious among us, and to recognize that our circles of care are what make resilience possible – and that those circles of care -- particularly for people who are made precarious through the structures and cultures of hate and inequity that trace race, gender, sexuality, ablism, religion, age, class – are likely to extend beyond the walls of legal “family.” (University policy limited work exceptions to requests based on a narrow definition of “family” and “care.”) Our efforts failed, but our students have demonstrated their respect and concern for one another by continuing to wear masks in the classrooms.

In offering this newsletter, the Department

(Chair's message cont. from pg. 2)

recognizes the ways we all support one another, continuously, with effects of connection that resonate beyond physical temporal presence. If you are reading this, you are part of our community. Maybe you were a student here; maybe you majored or minored in Gender and Women's Studies, or minored in LGBT studies, or got a PhD with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Or perhaps you have taught in our department, or were a visiting scholar. It is important to stay conscious of the fact that we all gain so much from being together. As professors, we deepen our understanding of the issues we focus on as we think about how to teach complex ideas, and we learn from the perspectives, insights, and knowledge of our students. As scholars, we learn from one another when we take the time to read one another's writing, or ask, “What are you working on these days?” So much work, thought, and care goes into what we “do” in our department, much of it hidden from the surface. Behind the scenes we all – students, staff, faculty, alums – are engaged in grounded praxis to make this a better world. I'm often amazed, but never surprised, when I ask someone in our community what they've been up to recently. The scholarly, creative, and activist projects are varied and inspiring. (Next time you find yourself with a GWS community member, ask them – and share what you've been doing as well! We are resources for one another's momentum.)

'll close by recognizing the labor and expertise of our amazing staff: Sandy Richmond, who keeps our department as well as the departments of African American Studies and Ethnic Studies sailing smoothly in all weathers; Althea Grannum-Cummings who is absolutely our heart and soul and archive; and Gillian Edgelow, whose quiet professionalism is behind every successful talk, visiting scholar welcome, café day, and so much more. In the spring we were able to hire two new staff members, Uilani (Lani) Hunt and Jose Padilla, to fill our empty seats in personnel issues; they are off to a strong start. We are lucky to be colleagues with such incredible people, and I am deeply grateful.

- Wishing all of us a year of good living.



GENDER & WOMEN'S STUDIES

Departmental Anniversary
1991-2021

TESSA STAPP | NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Hello all,

My name is Tessa Stapp, I am a fourth-year graduating with an honors distinction in Gender & Women's Studies, and I have had the privilege of editing this years department newsletter.

Nearly four years ago, I came home from my opening shift at Starbucks and realized my enrollment period had opened while I was at work. I panicked. I scrolled through the course catalog and enrolled in the first three classes I found that sounded like they might fulfill a requirement and piqued my interest. One of those classes was GWS 104, Feminist Theory, with Barbara Barnes.

I had no idea that numbers correlated to upper or lower divisions. Thus, I was a first semester freshman in an upper-division feminist theory course. When we went around the room introducing ourselves, I conveniently didn't mention my year after hearing that a majority of the students were third years. Then I spent the semester nervously avoiding making eye contact with Barbara and being awestruck by how accurately my classmates understood dense texts. That course set me on the path to Gender and Women's Studies.

This past semester, I have had the honor of working with Barbara Barnes on my honors thesis for GWS. Her input has been instrumental in creating Branching Assemblages, a piece that interrogates linear time and negotiates new ways to create meaning in feminism. As the newsletter nears printing, I am wrapping up my thesis. I could not have thought of a more meaningful final project than walking down memory lane, compiling information about my favorite academics and the fantastic events our department has led.



thank you for reading...



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JOSE PADILLA
Academic Personnel Analyst



TESSA STAPP
Newsletter Designer and Editor

Support our work!

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

To give, visit 'Support Us' on the GWS website. Contact the department Chair to discuss possibilities for a major gift: lcnelson@berkeley.edu.

Thank you for supporting feminist studies at UC Berkeley!