

# WOMEN'S STUDIES

*The Newsletter for the Women's Studies Certificate Program and  
The Center for the Study of Women and Society*

**FALL 2016**

**THE  
GRADUATE  
CENTER**  
CITY UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW YORK



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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Colleagues, Students, Alumni, and Friends,

This has been a whirlwind year as we set up to inaugurate our new Master's Program in Women's and Gender Studies, welcoming the first **13** students this fall! The program was officially approved in August 2015 by the New York State Department of Education, after yeoperson work by Linda Martin Alcoff in finalizing the proposal, picking up the work of Victoria Pitts-Taylor, Patricia Clough, and Nancy Miller. My job was to get the new courses approved by the Advisory Committee and the Graduate Council, and to review the applications with the help of Michelle Fine and Nancy Miller. We are very excited about our first cohort and our new teachers: Saadia Toor, who taught Global Feminisms this past spring; and Matt Brim and Cynthia Chris, co-editors of *WSQ*, who are co-teaching *Feminist Texts & Theories* this fall. Meanwhile, we have had a steady stream of inquiries about the MA program—not only from New York, but from overseas, as far as Denmark, Taiwan, and Turkey! Please encourage anyone interested to like our Facebook page: Master's Program in Women's and Gender Studies, to check out our website: [www.gc.cuny.edu/womensgenderstudies](http://www.gc.cuny.edu/womensgenderstudies), and to attend our Open House on Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 4-6!



Our regular programming for the Certificate Program has continued as usual, with many thanks to Elizabeth Small for 24 years of devotion to the Women's Studies department and to our College Assistants, Julia Fuller and Heather Denyer, who were indispensable in carrying out the multiple tasks of this office. We are proud to note that in 2016, *seven* students graduated with doctoral degrees and Women's Studies Certificates! We distributed awards to four deserving students as well (see p.10). I am also delighted to announce that Bill Kornblum and the family of Sue Zalk have generously donated funds so that we can continue to offer these awards. Please join us in thanking them for their support!

Our Speakers' Series brought another wide variety of excellent presenters. We were honored to welcome such impressive scholars as Ruth Milkman to lecture on gender and labor; Tithi Bhattacharya, on revisiting social reproduction; and Leigh Gilmore, on testimonial politics and Black Lives Matter. Additionally, we celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of CLAGS and Women Writing Women's Lives! This year promises to be no different, as we have already programmed over 15 great events. We hope to see you there!

*Hester Eisenstein, Acting Coordinator of the Women's Studies Certificate Program and the Master's Program in Women's and Gender Studies; Director of the Center for the Study of Women and Society; Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies, Queens College and the Graduate Center.*

# WOMEN'S STUDIES CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

## FALL 2016 COURSES

*The Certificate in Women's Studies is available to students matriculated in the Ph.D. programs at The Graduate Center. Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary approach to research and scholarship that draws on various disciplines, while challenging disciplinary boundaries. The aim of the program is to offer critical reflection in the experience of both women and men in terms of gender, sexuality, race, class, ethnicity, and nation. Students are prepared to teach courses and to do research in Women's Studies and related critical approaches to the disciplines, such as those developed in Queer Studies, Postcolonial Studies, and Cultural Studies. Besides focused course work and guidance in research, Women's Studies offers participation in a wide range of graduate student and faculty activities, including lecture series and forums. Students are also invited to participate in the research programs and seminars at the Center for Women and Society at The Graduate Center. Visit our website, [www.gc.cuny.edu/womensstudies](http://www.gc.cuny.edu/womensstudies), for full course descriptions.*

### **Feminist Texts and Theories:**

Professors Matt Brim and Cynthia Chris

### **Global Feminisms**

Professor Hester Eisenstein

### **Barbarism**

Professors Meena Alexander and Feisal Mohamed

### **Space and the Material Culture of Privacy in**

### **Early Modern Literature**

Professor Martin Elsky

### **The Theory and Practice of World Literature**

Professor Peter Hitchcock

### **The Transamerican Historical Imaginaries**

Professor Dalia Kandiyoti

### **Notebooks and Other Irregular Accountings**

Professor Wayne Koestenbaum

### **Postwar Women Writers and Intellectuals**

Professor Nancy K. Miller

### **Scandalous Hybrids: Illegitimate Genres and**

### **Children in Early Modern Texts**

Professor Tanya Pollard

### **Problems in Posthumanism**

Professor Karl Steel

### **Toni Morrison: Novels and Essays**

Professor Michele Wallace

### **Thinking in Pieces: Pascal, Dickinson, Wittgenstein**

Professor Joshua Wilner

### **Feminist Theory**

Professor Domna Stanton

### **Gender Theory for Historians**

Professor Dagmar Herzog

### **Love, Marriage, and Motherhood in U.S. History**

Professor Kristin Celello

### **Bio Politics**

Professor Paisley Currah

### **Social Welfare Policy**

Professor Janet Gornick

### **American Political Thought**

Professor Ruth O'Brien

### **"Challenging" Constructs: Theoretical and Epistemological Contestations in Social Inquiry**

Professor Michelle Fine

### **Emotion, Affect, and Space**

Professor Setha Low

### **Issues in Contemporary Theory: The Psyche and the Social**

Professor Patricia T. Clough

### **Food, Culture, and Society**

Professor Barbara Katz Rothman

### **Global Inequality: Measurement, analysis and political implications**

Professor Blanko Milanovic

### **Social Welfare Policy and Planning I**

Professor Mimi Abramovitz

### **Social Welfare Policy and Planning II**

Professor S. J. Dodd

# FACULTY INTERVIEW

## MICHELLE FINE

Distinguished Professor of Social Psychology and Urban Education at the Graduate Center; founding faculty member of the Public Science Project research institute, designed by and with community based organizations.

**Degree:** PhD, Social Psychology, Teachers College, Columbia University

**Recent Publications:** *Working Method: Research and Social Justice*, with Lois Weis; *Charter Schools and the Corporate Makeover of Public Education: What's at Stake?*, with Michael Fabricant; *Muslim American Youth: Understanding Hyphenated Identities Through Multiple Methods*, with Selcuk Sirin.

**Select Awards:** A Fulbright Fellowship, The Willystine Goodsell Award, 2007; The Social Justice Award at Columbia University, 2008; Inaugural Fellow for the American Educational Research Association, 2009; The 2010 Social Justice and Higher Education Award; The 2011 Kurt Lewin Award for scholarship, and The 2012 Henry Murray Award, both from the American Psychological Association.

**WS:** Michelle, your teaching covers several areas, including social psychology, women's studies, and urban education. How do diverse theoretical approaches tie together in your work?

**Fine:** I am trained in traditional psychology, teach in the only Critical Psychology program in the country, and have been immersed in critical race, feminist and educational studies. My first job at Penn was at an Ed school. I've long been interested in interrogating a kind of structural history and the embodied consequences of injustice, asking always when do people resist? The conditions under which people blame victims, seek structural explanations, and/or internalize a kind of epistemological violence that is said about them. In communities under siege, we chronicle what Jessica Ruglis and I called "circuits of dispossession and privilege": that is, the ways in which resources, opportunities, and recognition are differentially distributed to young people in marginalized communities. We work with communities to document the impact of dispossession, but also the forms of resistance that are collectively engaged. Theoretically, I draw from socialist feminism, critical race theory, and queer studies. Lois Weis and I have developed a framework that we call "critical bi-focality," which invites particularly social scientists to examine social issues through a multi-scalar lens of history, structures/policies and lives and not separate those. Because psychology tends to hyper-focus upon individuals and ignore history and structures; other disciplines privilege history and structures and ignore people. Since I've often worked with the most marginalized young people, and always find them kind of vibrant and quirky, funny, and pissy, it's clear to me that an over-determined story of oppression is not how people live lives. I don't want to romanticize resilience without attending to the structural context in which folks live.

**WS:** You have been actively involved in fighting for social justice and human rights for over twenty years. Can you discuss a particular example of personal significance that inspired you?

**Fine:** I've been very involved in "critical participatory action research," where we take seriously the fact that people who have experienced injustice understand the origins and consequences and should be at the table in crafting research on injustice. Critical PAR challenges the assumption that academics alone are "experts" and instead we braid delicately the wisdom and struggles in communities, what Buventura de Sousa Santos would call "ecology of knowledges" to generate research of use to challenge neoliberal frameworks on social issues. My mother was the youngest of eighteen, a Polish, Jewish immigrant. She and my dad came to this country separately, each at the age of seven. When my dad went out and sold plumbing supplies, she stayed home and held the depression and sadness. I was her youngest, watching her in bed, pretty much in love with the very sad stories that lay in her. So I've always known that narratives of progress are tithed to narratives of silencing and marginalization. So whether trying to theorize how 9/11 War on Terror and Islamophobia affect Muslim-American youth, or documenting the conditions of women in prison, we commit to research that documents both structural violence and radical possibilities, to borrow from my old friend Jean Anyon; interested in the kind of magical possibilities that happen in that hell, but I most particularly want folks who live those experiences to be co-researchers. We create a space where together we share "an ecology of knowledges" and develop what Sandra Harding calls "strong objectivity."

**WS:** You are a Distinguished Professor and often work closely with students in developing research and publications. Can you explain how you began to engage students in this capacity?

**Fine:** I think it's an important feminist commitment that our research derives from and alongside communities. As a consequence of that, my students and I grow ideas around this table in my office. And a lot of ideas get circulated around this table, that are not just mine and not just the students, and not just the community's, but new and amazing things... So the notion of collective knowledge feels like the gift that we can bring to the academy, challenging the notion of singular or grand truths born out of detachment. We're more interested in collective engagements born in "contact zones." So students are raised on that theoretical frame/ethic of precarious solidarities as well, which runs contrary to the neoliberal individualism in the academy. We are a public university – this is our obligation and for us, our desire. Students who graduate from the critical psychology program get great jobs, edited so I'm not too worried.

**WS:** You have dedicated years towards working both to enrich scholarly discussions on topics of pressing social concern and standing in the trenches, yourself, to fight against injustices. What advice would you give to our students?

**Fine:** It is an astonishing opportunity to work and learn at The Graduate Center, where we are bathing in a sea of very smart and very dedicated folks, who are committed, body and mind, to social issues, deep debate, serious dissent and praxis. And we have enough chutzpah to think that maybe we can make a contribution, either to tell a story that hasn't been told, to challenge the lies that are being told, or to provoke a radical imagination of what could be. I chose to be at this university because we are swimming in a seas against the neoliberal tide: the national tide, the fiscal tide, the New York State tide, the academic tide... but we're swimming with really good partners; in this building doing outstanding critical work that contests disciplinary borders and commits to public scholarship with an attitude!



# FACULTY INTERVIEW

## DAGMAR HERZOG

Distinguished Professor of History and Women's Studies, Graduate Center.

**Degree:** Ph.D. Brown University

**Recent Publications:** *Sexuality in Europe: A Twentieth-Century History*; *Sex in Crisis: The New Sexual Revolution and the Future of American Politics*; *Sex after Fascism: Memory and Morality in Twentieth-Century Germany*

**Awards:** John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship (2012); fellowships from the Shelby Cullom Davis Center for Historical Studies at Princeton University, the Ford Foundation, the School of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the Social Science Research Council, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**WS:** *Dagmar, you are a Distinguished Professor in History, and your particular focus has been sexuality historically and today; in Europe and the U.S. How has your research on the past helped reconsider issues of gender and sexuality here and now, as in your recent work?*

**Herzog:** Sexuality is never just about itself. There are all kinds of other issues - race, religion, disability, etc. - that are getting processed as well when people talk about sex. On the other hand, sexual issues are often also very intense and vulnerable-making for people, and it turns out to be extraordinarily easy to manipulate people emotionally and politically via discussions of sex.

What we can learn from studying sexuality historically is just how changeable ideas and behaviors are. What was considered appropriate or normal or good (in the eyes of God, or of the neighbors, or of those self-appointed experts, the doctors), but also what was considered anxiety-producing and - not least - what was considered sexually thrilling and gratifying has clearly varied considerably across time and place.

**WS:** *You consider the intersections of psychoanalysis and social sciences through history. For example, your recent book looks at the historical developments of sexual liberation and backlashes over the course of the twentieth century in Europe. How has this interdisciplinary approach helped you evaluate history differently than other history scholars?*

**Herzog:** I tend to be drawn to topics that are morally complicated and in which passions run high and there are not necessarily easy answers. We need to understand more fully how backlashes against sexual freedoms are often carried by popular movements, and also how sometimes liberal arguments have been problematic, even if only unintentionally so. Whether the subject is prostitution, pornography, sexual orientation and expression, or contraception and abortion: interdisciplinary work at the intersection of the social sciences, arts and humanities, and in psychoanalysis, medicine and public health, has helped me make better sense of human ambivalence and conflictedness.

**WS:** *Your work has connected religion, politics, and sexuality quite often. In fact, you were invited to speak on The Daily Show to rebut a Conservative Christian leader, Scott Lively's assessment that Nazis were homosexual. One can't help but think here of the current political climate of this country, particularly in light of the June events in Orlando. What would be your next chapter if you were to add one to your 2008 book?*

**Herzog:** Within the US, the present shows us a contradictory mixture of rising rates of acceptance of sexual diversity and of varieties of gender nonconformity - broad support for gay marriage, for example, and growing commitment, also at the highest levels of government, to trans rights - with horrifyingly high rates of hate crimes and repellent expressions of prejudice against LGBTQ individuals and against racial and ethnic minorities. We also need to wonder why attacking women's reproductive self-determination is such a popular move for politicians these days. And another question concerns how it can be that the most loopy, ludicrous, and mistaken ideas (e.g. about the sexuality of the Nazis) can have shockingly real consequences. An example would be right-wing American religious spokespeople's encouragement of punitive legislation against same-sex-desiring individuals in nations of the global South. If I were to add another chapter, these are the puzzles I would address.

**WS:** *Finally, as we prepare to welcome our inaugural cohort of 13 MA students in Women's and Gender Studies, while we bid farewell to seven new doctors, graduating with Women's Studies Certificates, what words of encouragement would you like to offer them?*

**Herzog:** We are living through an era of the "geopoliticization of sex." A tremendous array of public policy challenges these days - both domestically and internationally - involve issues of gender and sexuality. There has never been a greater need for sophisticated clear thinking about these matters. The new MA wonderfully combines traditional academics with development of practical skills. There are tremendous opportunities for individuals with expertise in women's and gender studies to do good and important work in so many different areas of human existence. Graduates of this program will make major contributions.



# LABOR, LAND, SOCIAL REPRODUCTION

## WOMEN'S SPEAKERS SERIES SPRING 2016

Our *Gender and Sexuality Lecture Series* continued for the seventh year, offering an eclectic assortment of new feminist scholarship to the public. This year was dedicated to addressing the theme of "Labor, Land, and Social Reproduction."

First and foremost, we were honored to celebrate the **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Women Writing Women's Lives*** on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The all-day event hosted by Professor Emerita Dorothy O. Helly commemorated the significant work of this Biography Seminar based in the New York metropolitan area. The group first began meeting in 1990 and represents a wide range of feminist perspectives and a variety of professional backgrounds. To date, WWWL includes approximately seventy members engaged in writing book-length biographies and memoirs.

Several CUNY faculty members presented glimpses into their current significant contributions to the field of gender studies, starting with **Samantha Majic**, an assistant professor of political science at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Her presentation on September 28<sup>th</sup> delved into the complexities of "Sex Work & Social Movement Politics in the United States." She discussed the connections between gender and American politics, as related to sex work.

We co-sponsored two fantastic faculty talks with *The Center for LGBTQ Studies, CLAGS*. The first talk on October 6<sup>th</sup> featured **Matt Brim**, a *WSQ* co-editor and Associate Professor of Queer Studies in the English department at the College of Staten Island. Brim spoke about his recently published book, *James Baldwin and the Queer Imagination*, which covers Baldwin's relationships with some of the most prominent lesbian thinkers of the twentieth century. Brim argues that Baldwin's failure to portray lesbians can seem unremarkable, except that the author went to pains in his fiction to create wide and nuanced spectrums of sexuality... but never lesbianism. The second talk on November 12<sup>th</sup> was GC Professor **Paisley Currah's** talk, "Are Transgender Politics Feminist?"

Currah, Professor of Political Science at Brooklyn College and The Graduate Center, is the founding co-editor of *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly*. His talk, "Are Transgender Politics Feminist?" asked: Can a movement organized to contest the legal, medical and social constructions of gender also advance a feminist politics centered on improving women's lives?

Throughout the year, we also cosponsored three events with the *Society for the Study of Women in the Renaissance*. First, on September 17<sup>th</sup>, **Eleanor Hubbard** of Princeton University spoke on "Women without Men: Sailors' Wives in Early Modern England." The talk covered her new research on English seafaring communities circa 1570-1630, when sailors and their families first grappled with the opportunities and risks associated with global travel and long separations. Another invited guest from Princeton University, **Wendy Heller** spoke on October 8<sup>th</sup> about "Women's Voices in 17<sup>th</sup>-Century Venice." She discussed themes from her award-winning book, *Emblems of Eloquence: Opera and Women's Voices in Seventeenth-Century Venice*, the first major study of gender and sexuality in Italian baroque opera. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, **Patricia Akhimi** of Rutgers University delivered a talk entitled, "Gender & Travel Discourse: Early Modern English Women's Travel and Travel Writing." For this event, she discussed her recent research into early modern English women's experiences and accounts of travel. On February 18<sup>th</sup>, medieval and Renaissance art scholar, **Penny Jolly** of Skidmore talked on "Dressing Renaissance Bodies: Metaphors and Meaning."

**Alicia Andrzejewski**, Enhanced Chancellor's Fellow in the English Department at the GC spoke on March 17<sup>th</sup> about "Queer Pregnancies in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*." Editor of the Ashgate Press Series, "Women and Gender in the Early Modern World," **Abby Zanger** spoke on April 14<sup>th</sup> about "Ashgate's Early Modern Women."

In the spring semester, our focus shifted to Asia, with highlights including **Tithi Bhattacharya's** April 20<sup>th</sup> talk on "Revisiting Social Reproduction." A professor of South Asian History at Purdue University, Bhattacharya is a longtime activist for Palestinian justice.

Professor Emerita, **Joan Mencher** has been working in South India since 1958. On April 18<sup>th</sup>, she returned to the GC to talk about "Women in Agriculture, in the Context of Ongoing Climate Change and the Corporate Take-over of Food Systems." She discussed the situation these women face at the present time, when apart from the hazards of climate change and the departure of many males from rural areas to seek employment, agricultural land is being appropriated by Indian states and corporations.

Another highlight of the spring semester was organized by Professor Emerita **Susan O'Malley**, who is Chair of NGO for the Commission on the Status of Women's New York Branch. "Empowerment of Women and Sustainable Development" on March 14<sup>th</sup> offered eight events presented by The NGO Committee on the Status of Women.

Two of our visiting scholars offered public lectures as well. **Tinka Tabea Schubert**, a researcher at the Community of Researchers on Excellence for All (CREA) at the University of Barcelona, Spain, spoke on March 8<sup>th</sup> about the role of social movements in the struggle against gender violence in Spanish universities, and the success of these movements in achieving political and social impact. On February 29<sup>th</sup>, **Anneke Smelik** of Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands, offered a lecture on wearable technology. She argued that it does not merely involve technological innovation, but also needs to change towards a more sustainable system of production and consumption.

Finally, *CUNY Fashion Studies* offered an all-day conference on April 14<sup>th</sup> in the research and pedagogy of fashion studies and material culture. Scholars, students, librarians, curators, and archivists explored the challenges and perspectives of interdisciplinary work in their fields.

# CROSSINGS: SPECIES, MEDICINE, AFFECT WOMEN'S SPEAKERS SERIES FALL 2016

**Friday, September 9, 2016, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., The Segal Theatre**

Ménage à Twang in Concert

*Co-sponsored with The Center for LGBTQ Studies, CLAGS.*

**Thursday, September 15, 2016, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Room 9207**

FRANCESCA CANADE SAUTMAN, French, Hunter College and The Graduate Center/CUNY:

“Offstage Direction: French Women and the Reshaping of the Renaissance Theater”

*Cosponsored with the Society for the Study of Women and Society, SSWR.*

**Monday, Sep 19, 2016, 6:30pm – 8:30 p.m., Rooms C204/C205**

“Trans Bodies, Trans Selves: Panel on Trans History”

*Cosponsored with The Center for LGBTQ Studies, CLAGS.*

**Wednesday, September 21, 2016, 6:30–8:00 p.m., Room C205**

ALEXANDRA JUHASZ, Film, Brooklyn College/CUNY:

“Affect Bleeds in Feminist Social Networks”

**Monday, October 17, 2016, 4:00-5:30 p.m., Room 9205**

JULIA VAN HAAFTEN Women Writing Women's Lives:

*A Dorothy O. Helly Works-In-Progress Lecture.*

*Cosponsored with The Leon Levy Center for Bibliography, The Graduate Center's PhD Programs in History and English, MA Program in Liberal Studies, MA Program in Women's and Gender Studies, The Center for the Humanities, and The Feminist Press.*

**Monday, October 17, 2016, 6:30–8:00 p.m., Room 9204**

KINNERET LAHAD, Assistant Professor of the NCJW Women and Gender Studies Program, Tel-Aviv University in Israel:

“Wasting the Best Years of Their Lives?” Single Women and the Commodification of Time”

**Thursday, October 20, 2016, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Room 9207**

ROYA BIGGIE, PhD Candidate in English, Graduate Center/CUNY:

“Inter-Elemental Sympathies and Cross-Species Compassion: Caring for the Hybrid Body in *Titus Andronicus*”

*Cosponsored with the Society for the Study of Women and Society, SSWR.*

**Tuesday, October 25, 2016, 4:00-7:00 p.m., Room 9204**

MA Program Open House for Prospective Students

*RSVP to [esmall@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:esmall@gc.cuny.edu) by October 1<sup>st</sup>.*

**Friday, October 28, 2016, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Room 9207**

ANNE BARNHILL and JESSICA MARTUCCI, Medical Ethics and Health Policy, University of Pennsylvania:

“Public Health Skepticism and Respect for Women's Voices”

*This event is part of the Sue Weinberg Lecture Series. Cosponsored with the New York Society for Women in Philosophy, SWIP.*

**Wednesday, November 2, 2016, 6:30pm – 8:30pm, The Segal Theatre**

Film screening: “3 to Infinity: Beyond Two Genders” with Director Q&A

*Cosponsored with The Center for LGBTQ Studies, CLAGS.*

**Tuesday, November 15, 2016, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Room 9206**

JEAN HALLEY, Associate Professor of Sociology at the College of Staten Island/CUNY:

“Horse Crazy: Girls and the Lives of Horses”

**Thursday, November 17, 2016, 6:00–7:30 p.m., Room 9205**

PATRICIA AKHIMIE, Assistant Professor of English, Rutgers University-Newark:

“Gender & Travel Discourse: The Travels of Lady Catherine Whetenhall (1649-1650)”

*Cosponsored with the Society for the Study of Women and Society, SSWR.*

**Friday, December 2, 2016, 4:30-6:30 p.m., Room 9204**

SUSAN BRISON, Professor of Philosophy, Dartmouth University:

“Why Rape is Not Sex Minus Consent”

*This event is part of the Sue Weinberg Lecture Series. Co-sponsored with the New York Society for Women in Philosophy, SWIP.*

**Friday, December 9, 2016, 12:00–2:00 p.m., Room 9204**

Women's Studies Student Awards Presentation.

*RSVP to [esmall@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:esmall@gc.cuny.edu) by Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>.*

*Please Note: All events take place at The Graduate Center/CUNY, 365 Fifth Ave., NY, NY. They are free and open to the public.*

# STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Certificates of Completion

Natascia Boeri, *Sociology*

Hillary Caldwell, *Environmental Psychology*

Jennifer Chmielewski,

*Social Personality Psychology*

Jonathan Kwan, *Philosophy*

## 2015-2016 WSCP Graduates

Akissi Britton, *Anthropology*

Nancy Hoch, *English*

Luisanna Sardu, *Comparative Literature*

Tselake Melaku, *Sociology*

Taylor Owen Ramsey, *Political Science*

Denise Vigani, *Philosophy*

Livia Arndal Woods, *English*

## **WOMEN'S STUDIES CERTIFICATE PROGRAM AWARD WINNERS**

**2015-2016**

*Nina E. Fortin Dissertation Proposal Award*

**EMILY BROOKS**

Doctoral Candidate in History

Dissertation Title: "'Wayward Minors,'

'Prostitutes,' and 'Sexual Delinquents':

Gender and Policing in 1940s New York"



*Carolyn Heilbrun Dissertation Prize*

**ANNE CRANSTOUN**

Doctoral Candidate in English

Dissertation Title: "Ceasing to Run Underground: 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Women Writers and Hydrological Thought."

*Sue Rosenberg Zalk Award*

**ABIGAIL KOLKER**

Doctoral Candidate in Sociology

Research Project:

"Exclusion, Exploitation, and Resistance: A Comparative Study of Filipino Caregivers in New York and Tel Aviv."

Abby also received the Provost's Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Award.



*Koonja Mitchell Memorial Award*

**WEN LIU**

Doctoral Candidate in Critical Social

Psychology

Research Project: "The Emotional Politics of Migrant Labor: Domestic Caregivers and the Case of Israel"



**UPCOMING AWARD DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15, 2016.**

**THE SUE ROSENBERG ZALK AWARD:** THE SUE ROSENBERG ZALK TRAVEL AWARD WILL BE AWARDED TO A STUDENT ENROLLED IN THE WOMEN'S STUDIES CERTIFICATE PROGRAM TO TRAVEL TO AN ARCHIVE, LIBRARY, OR OTHER SOURCE IN ORDER TO COMPLETE THEIR RESEARCH.

**KOONJA MITCHELL MEMORIAL PRIZE:** THE KOONJA MITCHELL MEMORIAL PRIZE OF \$500 WILL BE AWARDED TO ANY PHD CANDIDATE AT THE GRADUATE CENTER WORKING ON A DISSERTATION CONCERNED WITH SOCIAL JUSTICE.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO SUBMIT, CONTACT ELIZABETH SMALL, ESMALL@GC.CUNY.EDU; OR VISIT THE CSWS WEBSITE: [WWW.GC.CUNY.EDU/WOMENSCENTER](http://WWW.GC.CUNY.EDU/WOMENSCENTER).



# MA STUDENTS & VISITING SCHOLARS

## MEET THE FIRST CLASS OF STUDENTS OF OUR M.A. PROGRAM IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES!

Elise S. Bragard

Solange T. Castellar

Melanie D. Chin

Stephanie Debiase

Dana R. Glaser

Afiya Grant

Kerry M. Hassler

Irem Kilic

Kayla F. Morse

Victoria Pihl Sorensen

Dhipinder K. Walia

Ching-Kang Wang

Sarah Ward

## CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN AND SOCIETY'S VISITING SCHOLARS:

**DR. LAURA FLORES ANARTE** of The Pablo de Olavide University, Spain, pursued studies in gender issues related to the U.S. welfare state, under the super-vision of Miriam Abramovitz, Professor of Social Welfare. She was recently awarded the prestigious Rosario Valpuesta Research Prize in Law and Feminist Studies for her essay, "Reproductive Assistance Measures in Spain: Commodification of Motherhood or Women Empowerment," *Tirant lo Blanc*, forthcoming.

**DR. NOKUNTHULA HLABANGANE** of The University of South Africa pursued studies in teenage sexuality and the political functions of anthropological writing under the supervision of Linda Martín Alcoff, Professor of Philosophy. Recent publications include "From Object to Subject: Deconstructing Anthropology and HIV/AIDS in South Africa" in *Critique of Anthropology* volume 34, no. 2 (2014) and "Teenage Sexuality, HIV Risk and the Politics of Being 'Duted': Perceptions and Dynamics in a South African Township" in *Health Care for Women International* vol. 35, nos. 7-9 (2014).

**DR. ANNEKE SMELIK** of The Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands, pursued studies in crafting wearables, a new field that integrates fashion and technology, under the supervision of Professor Eugenia Paulicelli, Director of the Concentration in Fashion Studies. She recently published *Thinking Through Fashion: A Guide to Key Theorists*, I.B. Tauris & co., ltd., 2015, co-edited with Agnes Rocamora.

**DR. NATALIE SNOYMAN** of The Stockholm University, Sweden pursued studies in fashion under the supervision of Professor Eugenia Paulicelli, Director of the Concentration in Fashion Studies. Her dissertation is entitled, "In to Stay: A Survey of Costume Design and Early Color Film Technology."

## Calls for Submissions:

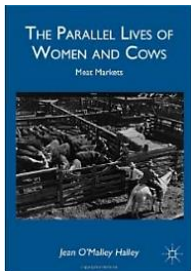
- *WSQ*: "Precarious Work," Special Issue, co-edited by Alyson Cole and Victoria Hattam, deadline: 9/15/16. For more information, visit <http://www.feministpress.org/wsq/current-call-papers>.
- *Annual Convention of the Northeast Modern Language Association*, Baltimore, MD, March 23-26, 2017: "Translingual and Transcultural Competence: Toward a Multilingual Future in the Global Era." Submit abstracts (250-300 words) by September 30, 2016. More information on the convention here: <https://www.cfplist.com/nemla/Home/cfp>.
- *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* invites submissions for a special issue titled "Displacement," slated for publication in spring 2018. Deadline for submissions: September 15, 2016. For details, visit: <http://signsjournal.org/for-authors/author-guidelines/>.
- *PMLA*: "Cultures of Reading" coordinators Evelyne Ender and Deidre Lynch, deadline: 11/7/2016. For more information, visit [www.mla.org/publications/pmla](http://www.mla.org/publications/pmla).
- *Journal of Feminist Scholarship*, deadline: rolling. For more information, visit <http://www.jfsonline.org/>.

# WSCP STUDENTS AND ALUMNAE SPOTLIGHT



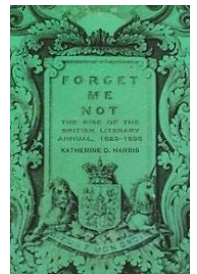
**ELENA COHEN**, along with Gideon Orion Oliver, filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the City of New York, NYPD Commissioner William Bratton, and two police officers, claiming assault and battery, violations of Fourth Amendment and First Amendment rights, and other injuries following the NYPD's use of the Long Range Acoustic Device ("LRAD") sound weapon against protesters and journalists. Ms. Cohen and Mr. Oliver are asking that the NYPD conduct proper testing and adopt proper standards, training, and supervision for LRAD use and operation. The case has received heavy media attention, including coverage by *The New York Times*, *Reuters*, *Gothamist*, *Common Dreams*, *The Daily Mail*, and *RTNews*.

**HEATHER DENYER** served as the College Assistant for CSWS and WSCP for the 2014-2015 year and the spring of 2016. She is a doctoral candidate in Theatre at the Graduate Center, working on a dissertation entitled, "Re-Defining Gender and Sexuality through New Francophone Theatre in Sub-Saharan Africa." This year she presented at the Africa Conference at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Brown University French Conference. She was awarded an Archival Research Grant and a Rose Lamonte International Research Grant to support her dissertation research in Benin, Burkina Faso, and Togo this summer and fall. She is also currently working on translations of new African plays, as well as several articles and a book chapter on female puppetry artists in West Africa. You can read her write-up of French theatre from her trip last fall at *Europeanstages.com* and her interview with playwright Heather Raffo at *Arabstages.com*.



**JEAN HALLEY** is Associate Professor of Sociology at the College of Staten Island, CUNY. She recently published "My Not-at-all-private Metamorphosis: On the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and Public School Spaces," and co-edited the volume that contains it: *The Culture of Class and its Economic Impact*, with Ramya Vijaya and Amy Eshleman. In 2015, she published *The Parallel Lives of Women and Cows*. She will be speaking as part of our Speakers' Series on November 15<sup>th</sup>! (See page 7.)

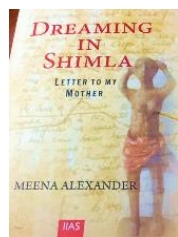
**KATHERINE D. HARRIS** is Associate Professor of English & Comparative Literature at San Jose State University. She published *Forget Me Not! The Rise of British Literary Annuals, 1823-1835*, Ohio University Press, 2015. She co-edited *Digital Pedagogy in the Humanities: Concepts, Models & Experiments*, with Jentery Sayers, Rebecca Frost Davis, and Matthew K. Gold. Other recent publications include "Marking the Body, Marking the Text: David Greetham's 'Archive Fever,'" *Textual Cultures* 9.1 (2015); "[Digital] Archive." *Johns Hopkins Guide to Digital Media & Textuality*, 2014.



**TANIA LEVEY** is Associate Professor of Behavioral Sciences at York College, CUNY. She recently published "'The World Turned Upside Down': Emotional Labor and the Professional Dominatrix. Sexualities," online March 4, 2015, and "A Constellation of Stigmas: Stigma Management and the Professional Dominatrix," *Deviant Behavior* 36(5): 347-367 (2015), both co-written with D. Pinsky.



Meet **BRENNA MCCAFFREY**, the new College Assistant for Women's Studies. Brenna is a second-year PhD student in the Cultural Anthropology program. She holds an undergraduate degree in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and does research on reproductive health, medical anthropology, transnational feminisms, and science and technology studies by examining abortion pill activism in Ireland and the European Union.



**MEENA ALEXANDER**, Professor of English, Graduate Center, Distinguished Professor of English, Hunter, CUNY  
*Dreaming in Shimla: Letter to my Mother*, Shimla: Indian Institute of Advanced Study, 2015

Written by prominent Indian poet Meena Alexander, author of acclaimed memoir *Fault Lines*, the volume of poetry was written while Professor Alexander was in residence at the Indian Institute of Advanced Study in Shimla. Some of these poems are set in the gardens of Rashtrapati Nivas and evoke the encircling landscape of Shimla. Professor Alexander will be poet in residence at the Ghetto Nuovo in Venice this coming year. As part of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, she will compose a cycle of poems inspired by the life and work of the 17<sup>th</sup>-century Jewish poet and scholar Sarra Copia Sulam.

**BARBARA KATZ ROTHMAN**, Professor of Sociology, The Graduate Center and Baruch College  
*A Bun in the Oven. How the Food and Birth Movements Resist Industrialization*, NYU Press, 2016

The food movement has seemingly exploded, but little has changed in the diet of most Americans; most births still happen in large hospitals, about a third result in C-sections, and the US does not fare well in infant or maternal outcomes. Rothman traces the food and the birth movements through three major phases over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the United States: from the early era of scientific management; to the consumerism of Post-WWII with its 'turn to the French'; to the late counter-culture midwives and counter-cuisine cooks. The book explores the tensions between the industrial demands of mass-management and profit-making, and the social movements working to expose the harmful consequences of industrialization, and make birth and food both meaningful and healthy.



**GAIL LEVIN**, Distinguished Professor of 20th-Century and Contemporary Art, The Graduate Center and Baruch College  
"Tracing an Erased Artist in Multiple Archives: Josephine Verstelle Nivison Hopper," *The Brooklyn Rail*, Oct. 5, 2015; "Threading Jewish Identity: The Sara Stern in Sonia Delaunay," *Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*, vol. 15, no. 1, (2016), Special Issue: Configuring and Contesting Jewish Identities in the Visual Field: pp. 88-108.

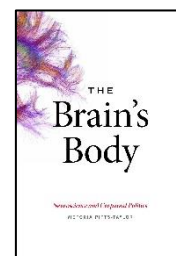


**EUGENIA PAULICELLI**, Professor and Director of Fashion Studies; Professor of Italian Studies & Comparative Literature, The Graduate Center and Queens College.

*Rosa Genoni. La Moda è una cosa seria. Milano Expo 1906 e la Grande Guerra*, bilingual edition, Deleyva, 2015  
Rosa Genoni (Tirano 1867-Varese 1954), was a founding mother of transnational feminism, of peace activism, and Made in Italy when it was only being imagined. She was the first woman to be awarded the International Jury Prize for her dress designs at the Universal Exposition of Milan held in 1906. Genoni achieved international recognition as a result of her opposition to World War I. She was the Italian delegate at the 1915 International Women's Conference in The Hague. This cultural biography, the first historical and analytical essay in a bilingual edition, reconstructs the life and career of Genoni.

**VICTORIA PITTS-TAYLOR**, Professor and Chair of Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Wesleyan University; former Director of the Center for the Study of Women and Society and Coordinator of the Women's Studies Certificate Program  
*The Brain's Body. Neuroscience and the Corporeal Politics*, Duke University Press, 2015

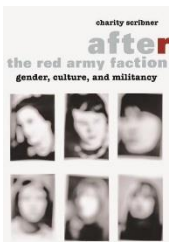
Pitts-Taylor brings feminist and critical theory to bear on new development in neuroscience to demonstrate how power and inequality are materially and symbolically entangled with neurobiological bodies; how the brain interacts with and is impacted by social structures, especially race, class, gender, sexuality, and disability; and how those social structures shape neuroscientific knowledge. She moves beyond debates over nature/nurture to address the politics of plastic, biosocial brains, and highlights the inextricability of nature and culture, showing why using feminist and queer thought is essential to understanding biosociality.



**CHARITY SCRIBNER**, Associate Professor of Comparative Literature, The Graduate Center and Laguardia Community College

*After the Red Army Faction: Gender, Culture, and Militancy*, Columbia University Press, 2014

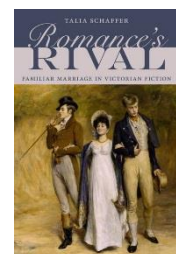
*After the Red Army Faction* maps out a cultural history of militancy and introduces "postmilitancy" as a new critical term. As Scribner demonstrates, the most compelling examples of postmilitant culture don't just repudiate militancy: these works investigate its horizons of possibility, particularly on the front of sexual politics. Scribner focuses on German cinema, offering incisive interpretations of films by Margarethe von Trotta, Volker Schlöndorff, and Fatih Akin, as well as the international box-office success "The Baader-Meinhof Complex." These readings disclose dynamic junctures among several fields of inquiry: national and sexual identity, the disciplining of the militant body, and the relationship between mass media and the arts.



**TALIA SCHAFFER**, Professor of English, The Graduate Center and Queens College.

*Romance's Rival: Familiar Marriage in Victorian Fiction*, Oxford University Press, 2016

The most popular plot of the dominant genre of the 19th century – the marriage plot in the Victorian novel – actually functions differently than formerly assumed. The marriage plot works to problematize romantic marriage (the new, controversial practice of marrying a person for whom one felt passionate love) by setting it in competition with familiar marriage (the older model of marrying a trustworthy comrade). In weighing two suitors, female characters could essentially decide what kind of life, what kind of person, she wanted to be. *Romance's Rivals* addresses the history of the novel; covering hundreds of novels over centuries, it aims to rethink the history of female subjectivity through the crucial mechanism of the marriage plot.



Women's Studies Certificate Program  
 Center for the Study of Women and Society  
 MA Program in Women's and Gender Studies  
 The Graduate School and University Center  
 The City University of New York  
 365 Fifth Avenue  
 New York, NY 10016

WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER  
 Fall 2016



**UPCOMING EVENT HIGHLIGHTS**

*For a full listing of events with times and locations, please visit [www.gc.cuny.edu/womenstudies](http://www.gc.cuny.edu/womenstudies).*

**Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>: ALEXANDRA JUHASZ, "Affect Bleeds in Feminist Social Networks"**

**Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>: KINNERET LAHAD, "Wasting the Best Years of Their Lives"**

**Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>: MA Program Open House**

**Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>: SUSAN BRISON, "Why Rape is Not Sex Minus Consent"**

**Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>: Women's Studies Certificate Program Student Award Ceremony**

CUNY Students, Faculty, and Staff can now share research, scholarship, and creative work for free! Visit: <http://academicworks.cuny.edu/>

**AWARD DEADLINES**

**The Sue Rosenberg Zalk Award and The Koonja Mitchell Memorial Prize:  
 November 15, 2016**

**The Nina E. Fortin Memorial Fund Dissertation Proposal Award The  
 Carolyn G. Heilbrun Dissertation Prize:  
 May 4, 2016**

*For further information and to submit, contact Elizabeth Small, Advanced Placement Officer of the at the Graduate Center Women's Studies Office: 212-817-8905, [esmall@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:esmall@gc.cuny.edu); or visit the CSWS website: [www.gc.cuny.edu/womenscenter](http://www.gc.cuny.edu/womenscenter).*

