Grant from New York Women's Foundation engages students in research on reproductive justice

The Center for the Study of Women and Society received a generous grant from the New York Women's Foundation to support research and learning opportunities for our students under the theme of reproductive justice. Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) Masters students integrated these themes into their Research Methods Course in Spring 2019, which was taught by Center Director Dána-Ain Davis. In the course, students worked with Ancient Song Doula Services, a Brooklyn-based collective that provides doula services and support to communities of color under the lens of reproductive justice. Students collected and analyzed quantitative and qualitative data about the organization's work, using an array of feminist methods to understand the impact of reproductive justice work in New York City. Ancient Song Doula Services provided a field-site and real data for students to apply various methods, and students were able to give back by supporting the organization with their project outputs.

These included analyses of who the organization had provided their services to, research into the history of the organization, and the collection of narratives of previous doula clients that the organization can use to raise awareness about the impact of their work. To supplement their participation in this project, students in the Research Methods course received a travel award to attend the Civil Liberties and Public Policy (CLPP) Annual Conference, "From Abortion Rights to Reproductive Justice: Building the Movement for Reproductive Freedom," at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts.

"That's something I love about [CUNY]... the eagerness to combine academia with activism, to climb out of the ivory tower and to have an actual impact on the community..."
-Mio Proepper, Women's and Gender Studies MA student

WGS MA Student Isatou Bittaye-Jobe (center right) on a panel about the intersection of immigration and reproductive justice at the CLPP conference in April 2019.
Dear Colleagues, Students, Alumni, and Friends,

Welcome back! We, at the Center for the Study of Women and Society, hope you had a fruitful summer! I am delighted to send you the latest issue of the newsletter from the Center for the Study of Women and Society to tell you what we have accomplished this past year, and what we are planning for the Fall 2019 semester. The Women’s and Gender Studies program at the Graduate Center, City University of New York, is a vibrant program. Our students take courses that offer a critical understanding of how gender and sexuality matter. Through our relationships with PhD programs, such as Anthropology, Comparative Literature, English, History, Sociology, Psychology, Earth and Environmental Sciences, Political Science, Philosophy, as well as the Master of Liberal Studies (MALS) program, students are in dialogue with a world-class faculty.

We are delighted to grant two different degrees and certificates: the MA in Women’s and Gender Studies and the Women’s Studies Certificate for PhD students. During the 2018-2019 school year we awarded Certificates in Women’s Studies to six graduating PhDs. We also conferred MA degrees in Women’s and Gender Studies to eight of our students. You can read about their thesis projects and internships in this newsletter. We also received a grant from the New York Women’s Foundation to support student research and presentations related to reproductive justice. See the Spotlight on page one for details!

We are so proud that in addition to our degree programs and courses, students have the opportunity to be in dialogue with activists and scholars throughout the year. This upcoming semester, we are pleased to host exciting events with scholars like Cherríe Moraga, Esther Newton, and Mia White.

Please take a closer look at what we are up to this coming year. I wish you the best for an exciting and challenging school year.
CONGRATULATIONS
2019 MA Graduates in Women's & Gender Studies!

ASPEN CHRISTIAN
Thesis: Intergenerational Teenage Motherhood: Memory and Material Culture
Advisor: Dána-Ain Davis

OLIVIA DUNBAR
Thesis: Refusing White Privacy
Advisor: Rupal Oza

GOOGIE KARRASS
Thesis: “The Least Sexually Confident Women in the World”: International NGOs and
the Racialized Politics of Obstetric Fistula
Advisor: Dagmar Herzog

IREM KILIC
Thesis: Paradoxical Feminist Stances in ‘New Turkey’: Reconceiving the Relationship
between NGOs and the State in the Case of KAMER
Advisor: Dagmar Herzog

EMILIE KRISTINE KRUMSVIK
Thesis: Gender Affirmative Monopoly: Who is "Trans* Enough" to Receive Gender
Affirmative Treatment In Norway?
Advisor: Dagmar Herzog

TYLER MORSE
Thesis: HEARING/s: Will in the Carceral Archive
Advisor: Michelle Fine

NAOKO OHRI
Thesis: Sexual Harassment of Professional Women: Joan Williams's The Wintering and
Her Apprenticeship with William Faulkner
Advisor: Matt Brim

KAYLA MARIE RODRIGUEZ
Thesis: Black Amerinquent
Advisor: Rupal Oza
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Carolyn G. Heilbrun Dissertation Prize

DR. MADISON PRIEST
PhD in English

Dissertation: The Woman We Don’t Want to Be: The Anti-Heroine in American Women’s Modernisms

Certificate Program Graduates

Congratulations to the PhD Students who graduated in 2018-2019 with a Certificate in Women’s Studies!

B Lee Aultman (Political Science)
Jessica Lewis (Social Welfare)
Heather Denyer (Theatre)
Simone Kolysh (Sociology)
Emily Crandall (Political Science)
Christine Choi (English)

The Women’s Studies Certificate Program trains GC students in disciplinary doctoral programs to apply feminist theory and methods to their work. Students take three core courses and two electives. Email us (csws@gc.cuny.edu) or stop by (Room 5116) to learn more!
Our MA students are always busy presenting at conferences, completing internships, and applying to PhD programs! Here is what some of our students have achieved this past year:

Current WGS MA student Jozette Belmont was a guest speaker at the Student Testimonies Panel at the 25th Anniversary Celebration of WGS, Kingsborough Community College. Jozette presented her paper, "Don’t Be Hysterical!: Women’s Sexuality in the DSM" at the Conference on Women and Gender at Seton Hall University and the SIGH Feminism is for Every(body) Conference, University of Albany. Jozette’s work will be featured in the forthcoming book, *Theory and Praxis: Women’s and Gender Studies at Community Colleges* by Dr. Heather Rellihan.

MA in Women’s and Gender Studies graduate Olivia Dunbar will begin a PhD in Cultural Studies in the Fall at Queen’s University, under supervision of Dr. Lisa Guenther. In addition to the regular funding package, Olivia also received a Dean’s Award for Creativity and Community.

MA in Women’s and Gender Studies graduate Irem Kilic completed a 10-month long internship with the UN Commission of the Status of Women New York the CSW/NY. During the internship, Irem wrote the UN Sustainable Development Goals “SDG 5—Gender Equality” section of "The 73rd Session of United Nations General Assembly Gender Mapping Report." The report is published with the aim of being used as an advocacy tool for Civil Society when making visits to the member states, both at the UN and nationally, to discuss strategies and plans to implement the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during the CSW 63.

MA in Women’s and Gender Studies graduate Googie Karrass will begin a PhD in Cultural Anthropology at the Graduate Center, CUNY, this Fall.

MA in Women’s and Gender Studies graduate Katia Henrys will begin a PhD in Psychology at the Graduate Center, CUNY, this Fall.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Faculty Publications

*Queer People of Color: Connected but Not Comfortable* (2018)

As individuals who historically have faced multiple forms of oppression, queer people of color often find themselves struggling to "fit in." What impact does this have on their sociopolitical involvement within their communities of color? Within the queer community? And to what effect? Based on one of the largest surveys to date of African American, Latina/o, Asian American, and Pacific Islander American LGB people, this book offers a unique angle through which to examine belonging, and its converse, within marginalized communities.


*Legally Straight* offers a critical reading of the legal debates over lesbian and gay marriage in the United States. The book draws on key judicial opinions to trace how our understanding of heterosexuality and marriage has changed. Upon closer inspection, it seemed that the cultural value of marriage was becoming tarnished and the trouble appeared to center on one very specific issue: reproduction.

*The Indecent Screen: Regulating Television in the Twenty-First Century* (2019)

*The Indecent Screen* explores clashes over indecency in broadcast television among U.S.-based media advocates, television professionals, the Federal Communications Commission, and TV audiences. Chris demonstrates that these clashes are significant battles over the role of family, the role of government, and the value of free speech in our lives, arguing that an uncensored media is so imperative to the public good that we can, and must, endure the occasional indecent screen.
SPRING 2019 RECAP

Dr. Michelle Fine (center) discussing her new book, *Just Research in Contentious Times: Widening the Methodological Imagination* with Limarys Caraballo (left) and Wendy Luttrell (right) in the Skylight Room.

CSWS SPRING BOOK SALONS!

Dr. Jillian Báez (left) discussing her new book, *In Search of Belonging: Latinas, Media, and Citizenship* with Arlene Davila (right) in the Skylight Room.
Jesse Rice-Evans (below right), a PhD student in the English program, discussed her new book in the Skylight Room. This event was a book launch for *The Uninhabitable* (right), as well as a chance to showcase the work of other members of the Graduate Center writing community, and featured: Sara Deniz Akant, Madeline Barnes, Chad Frisbie, Natasha Herring, and Kashema Hutchinson. The event was hosted by Zefyr Lisowski (below left).

Please send us your photos and recaps of events! Email: csws@gc.cuny.edu
Meet the incoming MA Students in Women's and Gender Studies!

**Margarita Artoglou** graduated from Fordham University’s Honors Program in 2018 with a BA in Communications and Media Studies and a minor in English. She completed and published her thesis titled, "Black Female Performers in a Pornified World: Defying Respectability Politics One Video at a Time" in the Fordham Undergraduate Research Journal. At CUNY Graduate Center, she hopes to continue her work on the representation of women and marginalized communities in the media. She currently works as a debate coach and English teacher.

**Clarisa González** is a 2017 graduate of Macaulay Honors College at CUNY City College where she studied modern languages with a concentration in French. As her thesis project, she analyzed the novel *Three Strong Women* by Marie N’Diaye through the lens of both American and French feminism. This paper, and the research it required, propelled her into the study of gender. Her hobbies include writing, drawing, and watching documentaries. She’s very excited to begin this new leg of her academic career at the Graduate Center.

**Alexandra (Alex) Johnson** graduated with a B.A. in Media and Communication from the University of Southern Maine in 2014, and again with a B.A. in Philosophy from SUNY Purchase in 2019. Her senior thesis work was in feminist philosophy, on the performativity of gender and the process of self-narration. She is planning on continuing her work in the study of narration through the Women's and Gender Studies program at CUNY, by examining the successes and failures of communicating gender and sexuality through literature. She lives upstate with her partner and her golden retriever, Elliot.
Jyun-Jie Yang (or Tyler) graduated from National Taiwan University in 2018, with dual degrees in Psychology & Sociology and a certificate of Women and Gender Studies. By participating in the legalization of same-sex marriage in Taiwan, Jyun-Jie found that many gender minorities are still on the margin of society. Jyun-Jie believes that multiple oppression is powerful force and wants to explore intersectionality among different bodies, genders and sexualities in daily life.

We also welcome: Joslyn Fesinstine

Jenny Rossberg graduated with a B.A. in English Literature from the College of William & Mary in 2017. She currently works as a publicist at Oxford University Press, volunteers with Planned Parenthood, embroiders, and reads oodles of queer fiction and graphic novels. She hopes this Masters in Women’s and Gender Studies will guide her toward incorporating her activism with her love of books, magazines, and digital media.

Natalia Spiegel is a transgender woman and a lesbian feminist. She has a background in law and education and graduated from Queens College in September 2018 with a B.A. in Women and Gender Studies. She is 65 years old and hopes to use the remainder of her life teaching and helping build the women’s liberation movement here in New York. She belongs to a group called National Women’s Liberation. She has loved to read her entire life and is also a writer of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction. She enjoys riot grrrl music.

Juwon Jun is an artist and filmmaker with roots in Seoul, Korea. She lives in Brooklyn, New York.
## FALL COURSES

### CORE COURSES FOR MA AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM STUDENTS

#### FEMINIST TEXTS & THEORIES
- **Prof. Jillian Báez**  
  M, 9:30 - 11:30 AM, 3 credits.

#### GLOBAL FEMINISMS
- **Prof. Rupal Oza**  
  M, 11:45 AM - 1:45 PM, 3 credits.

In this course students will consider significant classic and modern texts in the feminist tradition. The course will cover a series of feminist theories from the 19th to the 21st centuries, including Marxist, radical and liberal perspectives, and ranging from Black, Third World, lesbian and ecofeminist formulations to postmodern/poststructuralist views that question the existence of woman as a category. We will look at issues of race, class, sexuality, and disability in relation to feminist and womanist positions.

This course will explore the gender dynamics of racial, ethnic, and economic relations of power in domestic, international, and transnational settings. We will examine feminist scholarship produced by and about American women of color, women from the global south, and other social and political actors whose experiences and thinking have shaped contemporary ideas about gender, power, and international political economies. We will explore how both self-identified feminists and people who do not consider themselves feminists write about and understand gender, justice, human rights, tolerance, agency, imperialism, and other relevant topics. We will also examine how women and self-identified feminists practice solidarity across and within national boundaries, paying attention to the possibilities and constraints that shape transnational feminist activism. We will look at both empirical and theoretical texts from a range of academic disciplines.

### ELECTIVE COURSES IN WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES

#### Black America
- **Prof. Juan Battle**  
  M, 4:15-6:15 PM, 3 credits.

#### Critical Anthropologies of the US
- **Prof. Ida Susser**  
  W, 4:15-6:15 PM, 3 credits.

#### Colonality of Disaster
- **Prof. Yarimar Bonilla**  
  Th, 4:15-6:15 PM, 3 credits.

#### Race, Space, and Autonomy
- **Prof. Christopher Loperena**  
  Th, 4:15-6:15 PM, 3 credits.

#### II/Il/Il/le Aesthetics
- **Prof. Kandice Chuh**  
  M, 2:00-4:00 PM, 2/4 credits.

#### Migrations and the Literary: Decolonizing Borders in Theory and Practice
- **Prof. Peter Hitchcock**  
  W, 2:00-4:00 PM, 3 credits.

#### Aesthetics, Decadence, Modernism, 1880-1930
- **Prof. Richard Kaye**  
  T, 6:30-8:30 PM, 2/4 credits.

#### Queer Literacy and Its Discontents (or Discovering Oppressive Power Brokers of Education)
- **Prof. Mark McBeth**  
  M, 4:15-6:15 PM, 2/4 credits.

#### Actors, Bodies, and Performance in Early Modern England
- **Prof. Tanya Pollard**  
  Th, 2:00-4:00 PM, 2/4 credits.

#### Just Places
- **Prof. David Chapin**  
  Th, 2:00-4:00 PM, 3 credits.

#### Sustainability and Democratic Processes
- **Prof. Susan Saegert**  
  W, 4:15-6:15 PM, 3 credits.

#### Interdisciplinary Topics in Law: Mothers in Law
- **Profs. Sara McDougall and Julie Suk**  
  M, 11:45 AM-1:45 PM, 3 credits.

#### Transformations of Modernity, 1940-Present
- **Profs. Karen Miller and Andrea Morrell**  
  Th, 4:15-6:15 PM, 3 credits.

#### Voices of the City: Accessibility, Reciprocity, and Self-Representation in Place-Based Community Research
- **Profs. Tarry Hum and Prithi Kanakamedala**  
  Th, 2:00-5:00 PM, 3 credits.

#### Writing the Self: From Augustine to AIDS and Beyond
- **Prof. Domna Stanton**  
  T, 4:15-6:15 PM, 2/3/4 credits.

#### Contemporary Feminist Theories
- **Prof. Jean Halley**  
  T, 6:30-8:30 PM, 3 credits.

#### Women and Film
- **Prof. Elizabeth Alsp**  
  T, 4:15-6:15 PM, 3 credits.

#### Gender, Sexuality, and Body Politics in the Middle East
- **Prof. Elhum Haghighat**  
  Th, 6:30-8:30 PM, 3 credits.

#### American Political Thought
- **Prof. Ruth O'Brien**  
  T, 6:30-8:30 PM, 3 credits.

#### Gender and Globalization
- **Prof. Hester Eistenstein**  
  M, 2:00-4:00 PM, 3 credits.

#### Social Welfare Policy
- **Prof. Janet Gornick**  
  T, 4:15-6:15 PM, 3 credits.

#### Criminology in Theory and Practice
- **Profs. Lynn Chancer and Michael Jacobson**  
  Th, 4:15-6:15 PM, 3 credits.
LYNN S. CHANCER

*After the Rise and Stall of American Feminism: Taking Back a Revolution*

Featuring Ida Susser and Beverly Watkins

Wednesday, October 16th

Skylight Room (9100), 6:30–8:00 pm

Lynn S. Chancer takes stock of the American feminist movement and engages with a new burst of feminist activism. This book takes the long view of the successes and shortcomings of feminism(s). Chancer articulates a broad agenda developed through advancing intersectional concerns about class, race, and sexuality. She advocates ways to reduce the divisiveness that too frequently emphasizes points of disagreement over shared aims. And she offers a vision of individual and social life that does not separate the "personal" from the "political." This book is about not only redressing problems, but also reasserting a future for feminism and its enduring ability to change the world.

*Co-sponsored with the Dean's Office for Master's Programs; the PhD Program in Sociology at the Graduate Center, CUNY; the Feminist Press; and the PublicsLab.*

DÁNA-AIN DAVIS

*Reproductive Injustice: Racism, Pregnancy, and Premature Birth*

Featuring Vanessa Agard-Jones and Lynn Roberts

Tuesday, November 5th

Skylight Room (9100), 6:30–8:00 pm

Black women have higher rates of premature birth than other women in America. This cannot be simply explained by economic factors, with poorer women lacking resources or access to care. Even professional, middle-class black women are at a much higher risk of premature birth than low-income white women in the United States. Dána-Ain Davis places racial differences in birth outcomes into a historical context, revealing that ideas about reproduction and race today have been influenced by the legacy of ideas which developed during the era of slavery.

*Co-sponsored with the Dean's Office for Master's Programs; PhD Programs in Anthropology, Environmental Psychology, and Critical Personality Social Psychology at the Graduate Center, CUNY; the Feminist Press; WSQ (Women's Studies Quarterly; IRADAC; and the PublicsLab.*
“If We Forget Ourselves, Who Will Be Left to Remember Us?”: A Conversation with Cherríe Moraga
Thursday, September 12th
Event Oval, The Diana Center, Barnard College
3009 Broadway, New York, NY 10027
6:30 pm

For the 2019 Helen Pond McIntyre ’48 Lecture, join Cherríe Moraga, the celebrated activist, writer, and co-editor of the influential anthology *This Bridge Called My Back: Writings by Radical Women of Color* (1981), for a reading and discussion of her new memoir, *Native Country of the Heart* (2019), a love letter to her mother and an intimate portrait of the U.S.-Mexican diaspora. She will speak to the issue of cultural amnesia in the United States and the recuperation of ancestral memory toward the radicalization of political consciousness and activism for the future.

Co-sponsored with the Barnard Center for Research on Women (BCRW); IRADAC; Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS); and the Provost’s Office of The Graduate Center, CUNY.

Love: A Blues Epistemology from the Undercommons
MIA WHITE
Wednesday, September 18th
Skylight Room [9100], 6:30–8:00 pm

How can we humans, planners, designers, educators of all kinds, truly make a more just society? What does it take to build and sustain movements in the millions? It takes the spatial practice of abolition and simultaneously understanding these labors as the love we ultimately seek and must make. These spatial practices are found in our “undercommons”– those spaces inhabited and produced by we, black people, indigenous peoples, queers and poor people.

Co-sponsored with the PhD Programs in Critical Personality Social Psychology and Earth and Environmental Sciences at the Graduate Center, CUNY; the Public Science Project; IRADAC; the Africana Studies Certificate Program; the PublicLab/Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS); and the Graduate Center Library.
My Butch Career: A Reading with Esther Newton
Friday, October 4th
Proshansky Auditorium, 4:00–6:00 pm

During her difficult childhood, Esther Newton recalls that she “became an anti-girl, a girl refusenik, caught between genders,” and that her “child body was a strong and capable instrument stuffed into the word ‘girl.’” Later, in early adulthood, as she was on her way to becoming a trailblazing figure in gay and lesbian studies, she “had already chosen higher education over the strongest passion in my life, my love for women, because the two seemed incompatible.” In My Butch Career Newton tells the compelling, disarming, and at times sexy story of her struggle to write, teach, and find love, all while coming to terms with her identity during a particularly intense time of homophobic persecution in the twentieth century.

Co-sponsored with the Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies (CLAGS); the Center for Human Environments; and the PhD Program in Anthropology at the Graduate Center, CUNY.

FILM SCREENING: Decade of Fire (2019)
Directed by Vivian Vázquez Irizarry and Gretchen Hildebran
Wednesday, November 20th
Segal Theater, 5:30–8:00 pm

Co-sponsored with the Gotham Center; Women Writing Women’s Lives; and the Center for the Humanities.

WOMEN WRITING WOMEN’S LIVES- Dorothy O. Helly Lecture:
JANICE NIMURA on "Sister Doctors: Elizabeth & Emily Blackwell"
Monday, October 21st
Room 9204/9205, 4:00–5:30 pm

Co-sponsored with The Leon Levy Center for Biography; the Feminist Press; the PhD Program in History; the PhD Program in English at the Graduate Center, CUNY; the MA Program in Liberal Studies; and the Center for the Humanities.
with Margaretta Jolly & Nancy Miller  
Tuesday, December 3rd  
Skylight Room [9100], 6:30pm - 8:00 pm

*Sisterhood and After* is the first book-length history of the 'second wave' of the UK Women's Liberation Movement from the 1970s onwards. It is powered by uniquely in-depth oral histories, and in this way, illustrates the important connection between oral history practice and feminism in the British context. The book explores key debates and trends in theoretical work, and uses individual and collective memories to cast new light on prominent and less well-known women activists, on iconic women's movement actions and campaigns and on feminist critiques of gender and power.

*Co-sponsored with the Feminist Press; WSQ: Women’s Studies Quarterly; the PhD Programs in English and Comparative Literature at the Graduate Center, CUNY.*

SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN IN THE RENAISSANCE

**Pocahontas: A Brave and Resourceful Woman**  
KAREN ORDAHL KUPPERMAN  
September 19th  
Rm. 9204  
6:00 - 7:30 pm

**Isabella’s Feminist Ethics in Measure for Measure**  
CRISTINA ALFAR  
October 24th  
Rm. 9204  
6:00 - 7:30 pm

**Between Philogyny and Misogyny: Venetian Diplomates and the Tudor Queens**  
FABIO BATTISTA  
November 21st  
Rm. 9204  
6:00 - 7:30 pm
Attendees at a talk by Jesse Rice-Evans on her book, The Uninhabitable.