Diving into the archives

In honor of the 40th year of the Center for the Study of Women and Society (CSWS), which we marked in 2017, the Center is revisiting its archives. Our many office filing cabinets contain forty years of feminist history at CUNY—a record of conferences, speakers, theoretical innovations, student work, and the Center’s broader engagement with the feminist community in NYC and across the globe. To mark the significance of our history, this issue of the newsletter resurrects a header design created by Archie Ferguson which was used by the Center through the first decade of the millennium. We would also like to enlist your help in understanding the vast history we are uncovering: on page 13, we have displayed two photos found in our archives. We need your help identifying the people, places, and events represented by these photographs! Please write to us at csws@gc.cuny.edu if you recognize any faces.

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CSWS director Dána-Ain Davis with Deborah Thomas, Bianca Williams, and R. L’Heureux Lewis-Mccoy (left to right) after our final book salon of the Spring 2018 semester. At this event, we celebrated the publication of Dr. Williams’ book, *The Pursuit of Happiness: Black Women, Diasporic Dreams, and the Politics of Emotional Transnationalism.*
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 are planning for the fall 2018 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 matters. 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 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.

The Center had an exciting year in 2017/2018. We hosted Book Salons in collaboration with the Feminist Press, CLAGS, and a number of academic programs at the Graduate Center. Most importantly, we celebrated the graduation of our first cohort of MA students and gave awards to three PhD Students! Please join me in congratulating Elise Bragard, Melanie Chin, Stephanie DeBise, Dana Glaser, Victoria Phil Sorensen, Ching-Kang (Ken) Wang, and Sarah Ward who all earned their MA’s in Women’s and Gender Studies. We are also pleased to announce that Sumru Atuk, Sonia Sanchez, and Danica Savonick were awarded PhD dissertation and travel grants.

We are so proud that in addition to our courses students have the opportunity to be in dialogue with activists and scholars throughout the year. This upcoming semester, we are pleased to host three Book Salons with Linda Alcoff, Alyshia Gálvez, and Meena Alexander. In addition, our guest speakers will include Maya Little and Katherine ﬂbett. Finally, we will host a first-ever collaborative event with the Barnard Center for Research on Women: an evening with Roxane Gay!

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.

Dána-Ain Davis

CONTACT US

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DÁNA-AIN DAVIS
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Assistant Program Officer:
EILEEN LIANG
eliang@gc.cuny.edu
LATEST NEWS

Congratulations to the 2017-2018 MA Graduates in Women's & Gender Studies!

Elise Bragard
For her thesis titled: “It’s Like They’re Right There Next to You”: Maintaining Girls’ Camp Friendships via Mobile Media. Elise will be entering the Applied Developmental Psychology PhD Program at Fordham University in the Fall.
Advisor: Kathleen M. Cumiskey

Melanie Chin
Advisor: Julia Wrigley

Stephanie DeBiase
For her thesis titled: Queer Repurposed Artifacts: The State of New York City’s Contemporary West Village Bars. Stephanie is currently the Academic Affairs Assistant and co-advisor for the LGBTQ+ Alliance at LIM College.
Advisor: Matt Brim

Dana Glaser
For her thesis titled: Who Is It For? Personal Writing and Antagonistic Readers. Dana will be entering the PhD Program in English at the University of Chicago in the Fall.
Advisor: Nancy K. Miller

Victoria Pihl Sorensen
For her thesis titled: Dolls Who Speak: Sex Robots, Cyborgs & the Image of Woman.
Advisor: Peter Hitchcock

Ching-Kang (Ken) Wang
For his capstone project titled: A Critical Assessment of the Internship at the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, which detailed his internship at the United Nations.
Advisor: Matt Brim

Sarah Ward
Advisor: Blanche Wiesen Cook
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Carolyn G. Heilbrun Dissertation Prize

Danica Savonick
PhD Candidate in English

Dissertation Title: "Insurgent Knowledge: The Poetics and Pedagogy of Toni Cade Bambara, June Jordan, and Adrienne Rich in the Era of Open Admissions"

Faculty and Student News

Professor of Sociology Barbara Katz Rothman has been awarded a 2018–2019 Fulbright–Saastamoinen Foundation Distinguished Chair in Health Sciences, which will take her to Finland over the next two academic years to research and lecture on the social consequences of prenatal testing for metabolic and other fetal "disorders and anomalies."

MA student Katia Henrys was recently accepted to participate in the Public Science Institute on Critical Participatory Action Research in Summer 2018. She also presented work at the Congrès International des Recherches Féministes dans la Francophonie in August 2018.

MA student Googie Karrass earned a summer position as a Teaching Assistant to Cornell University anthropologist Sam Beck.
Faculty Publications

Professor Setha Low has been awarded the Athena Accolade City Award for her outstanding contribution to anthropology, space, place, ethnography, and qualitative methodology from the Centre for the Future of Places and the Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden. Her edited volume: Spaces of Security: Ethnographies of Securityscapes, Surveillance and Control (with Mark Maguire) will be published by NYU Press in 2019. She also edited The Routledge Handbook of Anthropology and the City (2018).

Professor Marnia Lazreg’s book Foucault’s Orient: The Conundrum of Cultural Difference from Tunisia to Japan was published in 2017. Prof. Lazreg also received an award for "Outstanding Achievements and Participation in Community Development" from the Society of Foreign Consuls in New York, and gave an address at the Hillary Rodham Clinton Center for the Empowerment of Women at Al Akhawayn University in Morocco.

Email us as csaws@gc.cuny.edu with your upcoming publications and announcements to be featured in the next newsletter.

The three publications below are the subjects of our Fall 2018 Book Salon series.

(See more on page 11.)
WGS MA students with Dr. Lynn Roberts at a Brown Bag Lunch Series event about reproductive justice in April. The Brown Bag Lunch series is held on Fridays for our MA students and includes films, professionalization workshops, and meetings with visiting activist-scholars to discuss pressing issues that cross-cut academia and activism.

Dr. Deirdre Cooper Owens (left) at our inaugural Book Salon, reading passages from her book, *Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology*. Interlocutors Dr. Jennifer Morgan & Dr. Sasha Turner (right) read along.

Dr. Valerie Francisco-Menchavez discussing her new book, *The Labor of Care: Filipina Migrants and Transnational Families in a Digital Age* about kinship, care, transnational families, and Filipina migrants with Dr. Premilla Nadasen and Lorena Sanchez-McRae in the Skylight Room.
SPRING 2018 RECAP

Dr. Valerie Francisco-Menchavez (a Women's Studies Certificate Program and GC alum!) with friends, family, and interlocutors after her Book Salon in May.

A packed room during the Women Writing Women's Lives/Dorothy O. Helly Works-in-Progress lecture in March. Dr. Heather Clark spoke about the pathologization of Sylvia Plath in biographies of the iconic writer and poet.

Center director Dána-Ain Davis introducing Dr. Bianca Williams and interlocutors in the Skylight Room in May. Dr. Williams' book explores emotional transnationalism and the interactions of race, gender, and class for Black American women who engage in Jamaican tourism.
Meet the incoming MA Students in Women's and Gender Studies!

Jozette Belmont recently graduated from CUNY Brooklyn College with a dual BA in Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies. As part of the CUNY Pipeline Program she conducted qualitative research based on queer women’s experiences with sex education to amplify the voices of a community that is often silenced. Her research examines how the social construct of gender impacts our understanding of biological sex categories, its influences on sex education, and the impact it has on queer women.

Kirsten Corneilson is a 2018 graduate of the University of Pittsburgh. In undergrad, they earned a BA with majors in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies (GSWS) and Fiction Writing, and a minor in French. They completed their GSWS capstone project on sexual expression in self-identified asexual people. Their most recent research project focused on the sexuality of minors and the social barriers to healthy sexual expression in underage populations. In this program, Kirsten intends to continue their research with a focus on trans-cis romantic and/or sexual relationships and the impact of gender transition on the relationship dynamics, particularly with regard to self-identified sexual orientation. In their free time, Kirsten enjoys writing fiction, going to concerts, and re-reading Harry Potter.

Michela Demelas is an Intern at Emergency USA and a columnist for La Voce di New York. She helps the non-profit organization in fundraising and public relations, and she reports news from the UN Headquarters for the Italian newspaper. She was born in Sardinia, Italy, and she obtained her Bachelor’s degree in International and Diplomatic Affairs from the University of Bologna in 2017. After living in Spain, she moved to New York in order to continue her studies in gender equality and women’s rights.
**WELCOME**

**Mio Proepper** studied theatre studies at the University of Leipzig, Germany where she earned her Bachelor of Arts with a thesis on the emancipatory potential of queer-feminist pornography. Afterwards, she started a Master program in education, where her central interest has been the impact of social background, race and gender on (academic) careers. In addition to her academic work, Mio is engaged in several political education associations and progressive sexual education. Moreover, she volunteers in a shelter for abused women and is a huge admirer of feminist fiction. Mio is coming to NYC on a Fulbright Scholarship and will join the Women's and Gender Studies Master for two semesters.

**Isatou Bittaye-Jobe** is a feminist and human rights advocate with a decade of experience in community organizing and civic empowerment focusing mainly on girls’ and women’s rights. She currently works with Women Deliver as a Youth Engagement Intern. Isatou has interned at various non-profits, including the YWCA of the City of New York and Ms. Foundation for Women. Prior to moving to the U.S., Isatou served as the Senior Program Officer at the National Council for Civic Education of The Gambia. Isatou earned her BSc. in Political Science from the University of The Gambia and her Master’s in International Studies from National Chengchi University in Taiwan with a thesis on Women’s Political Participation and Representation in Rwanda and The Gambia.

**Samantha Weiss**, or Sam(my), tries to be the change she wants to see in the world. As a graduate of The New School and Brooklyn Law School, she has maintained a lifelong obsession with radical self-honesty, complexities, reconciliations, contradictions, (in)visibility, and what makes us different and what makes us the same. Entering CUNY’s Graduate Center's Women’s and Gender Studies Program is her adventure, her liberation, and her response to Virginia Woolf’s "Angel in the House." She hopes to one day contribute to some sort of canon of knowledge, and she cannot wait to sit around a table with all of you.

**Unnati Patel** is a 2018 graduate of William Paterson University. In their undergraduate studies, they earned a BA with majors in English Literature and Women’s and Gender Studies (WGS). For their WGS capstone project, they focused on the different methods of containment and vilification of queer sexualities over the past few centuries. In this program, Unnati intends to continue their research with a focus on sexual expression, queer relationships, and their presence in literature. In their free time, Unnati likes to work on puzzles, listen to podcasts, and find and read books with positive representations of queer identities.
# FALL COURSES

## CORE COURSES FOR M.A. AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM STUDENTS

### FEMINIST TEXTS & THEORIES

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 key global debates in contemporary international feminism. Many if not most of the issues focused on by modern (second wave) Western feminism have run up against cultural, political, and/or economic obstacles in the form of cultural barriers, opposing standpoints regarding colonialism and its aftermath, and other differences of philosophy and perspective. Are women’s rights a universal claim or a Western-inflected tool of cultural and political domination? How do feminists around the world view issues of religious fundamentalism, reproductive freedom, female genital cutting, sexual objectification of women, political participation for women, lesbian and gay rights, trafficking in women and girls, veiling for women and girls, and violence against women? We will examine these issues in an international frame, asking questions about the aspiration to universalism and the effects of economic globalization, and looking at the possibilities for, but also the barriers to, international feminist solidarity.

#### JILLIAN BáEZ AND NATALIE HAVLIN

**T 9:30 - 11:30**

3 CREDITS

### GLOBAL FEMINISMS

**HESTER EISENSTEIN**

**M 2:00 - 4:00**

3 CREDITS

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## ELECTIVE COURSES IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Instructor</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Philosophy of Race</td>
<td>Prof. Charles Mills</td>
<td>M, 6:30-8:30PM</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decolonial Feminisms</td>
<td>Prof. Serene Khader</td>
<td>Th, 11:45-1:45PM</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies</td>
<td>Prof. James Wilson</td>
<td>Th, 6:30-8:30PM</td>
<td>3 credits, Cross-listed with MALS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Geopoliticization of Sex: Histories and Theories</td>
<td>Prof. Dagmar Herzog**</td>
<td>T, 2:00-4:00PM</td>
<td>3 credits, **Permission required: <a href="mailto:dherzog@gc.cuny.edu">dherzog@gc.cuny.edu</a>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing the World: Multiple Modernities, Women, and the Archive</td>
<td>Prof. Meena Alexander</td>
<td>M, 11:45-1:45PM</td>
<td>2/4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian Fascism</td>
<td>Prof. Eugenia Paulicelli</td>
<td>Th, 2:00-4:00PM</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings in 19th Century US Women’s History</td>
<td>Prof. Kathleen McCarthy</td>
<td>M, 6:30-8:30PM</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renaissance Sex</td>
<td>Profs. Mario DiGangi and William Fisher</td>
<td>T, 11:45-1:45PM</td>
<td>2/4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Post-War Women Writers</td>
<td>Prof. Nancy Miller</td>
<td>Th, 4:15-6:15PM</td>
<td>2/4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Readings in African-American Literary/Cultural Criticism</td>
<td>Prof. Eric Lott</td>
<td>Th, 4:15-6:15PM</td>
<td>2/4 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender and Crime</td>
<td>Prof. Jayne Mooney</td>
<td>Th, 6:30-8:30PM</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology of Crime and Punishment</td>
<td>Prof. Lynn Chancer</td>
<td>Th, 4:15-6:15PM</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Economy &amp; Social Change</td>
<td>Prof. Roslyn Bologh</td>
<td>M, 6:30-8:30PM</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrative Inquiry</td>
<td>Prof. Colette Daitie</td>
<td>Th, 4:15-6:15PM</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geographies of Race and Ethnicity</td>
<td>Prof. Patricia Price</td>
<td>T, 4:15-6:15PM</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disability, Culture, and Society</td>
<td>Profs. Joseph Strauss and Julia Miele Rodas</td>
<td>W, 2:00-5:00PM</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Environmental Psychology of Care</td>
<td>Profs. David Chapin and Tomoaki Imamichi</td>
<td>Th, 11:45-1:45PM</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-Between Worlds &amp; Traditions: Rereading the “Crónicas de Indias”</td>
<td>Prof. Raquel Chang-Rodriguez</td>
<td>W, 6:30-8:30PM</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race, Nation, and Narrative</td>
<td>Prof. George Shulman</td>
<td>TBA, 4 credits</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Critical Methods</td>
<td>Prof. Michelle Fine</td>
<td>Th, 4:15-6:15PM</td>
<td>3 credits</td>
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</table>
**EVENTS**

### Book Salons

**LINDA ALCOFF**  
*Rape & Resistance*  
Featuring Alyson Cole and Rupal Oza  
Wednesday, September 12th  
Skylight Room (9100), 6:30–8:00 pm

Sexual violence has become an intense topic world-wide, instigated by the courage of survivors coming forward. Yet the media reports do not always lead to greater understanding when they portray the problem as caused by individuals by cultural ‘others.’ Effective resistance needs better public discourse. This book contributes to this in two ways: First, it assesses the problems in the public domain, and maps out concrete corrective strategies. Second, it addresses the real complexity of our experiences of violation. This book addresses that complexity, showing how it can augment our understanding and actually expand the capacity of our resistance.

**ALYSHIA GÁLVEZ**  
*Eating NAFTA: Trade, Food Policies, and the Destruction of Mexico*  
Featuring Alexandra Delano Alonso and Melissa Fuster  
Tuesday, October 16th  
Skylight Room (9100), 6:30–8:00 pm

Mexican cuisine has emerged as a paradox of globalization. Food enthusiasts throughout the world celebrate the humble taco at the same time that Mexicans are eating fewer tortillas and more processed food. Today, Mexico is experiencing an epidemic of diet-related chronic illness. The precipitous rise of obesity, diabetes, and metabolic disease—all attributed to changes in the Mexican diet—has resulted in a public health emergency. In her gripping new book, Alyshia Gález exposes how changes in policy following NAFTA have fundamentally altered one of the most basic elements of life in Mexico: sustenance. Mexicans are faced with a food system that favors food security over subsistence agriculture, development over sustainability, market participation over social welfare, and ideologies of self-care over public health. Trade agreements negotiated to improve lives have sometimes failed, resulting in unintended consequences for people’s everyday lives.

**MEENA ALEXANDER**  
*Atmospheric Embroidery*  
Featuring Kimiko Hahn and Patricia Spears Jones  
Tuesday, November 13th  
Skylight Room (9100), 6:30–8:00 pm

At the heart of Meena Alexander’s eighth volume of poetry *Atmospheric Embroidery* is the poem cycle ‘Indian Ocean Blues,’ a sustained meditation on the journey of the poet as a young child from India to Sudan. There are poems inspired by the drawings of children from war torn Darfur and others set in New York City in the present or in India—the suicide of a Dalit student and the gang rape of a young woman in Delhi. There are poems of love and poems of war. These sensual lyrics of body, memory, and place evoke the fragile, shifting nature of dwelling in our times. Meena Alexander will read from her book and enter into conversation with scholar Kimiko Hahn and poet Patricia Spears Jones, on questions of race, migration, memory, bodily violation, and writing as a woman of color in New York City.
EVENTS

ROXANE GAY
in conversation with KATIA D. ULYSSE
Thursday, November 8th
Proshansky Theater, 7:00PM

Roxane Gay, award–winning author of Hunger: A Memoir of (My) Body (2017), Difficult Women (2017), and Bad Feminist (2014) and Katia D. Ulysse, Haitian poet, essayist and author of Drifting (2014), among other works, will join us for a reading and conversation in the Critical Caribbean Feminisms series. Following the reading, Gay, Ulysse, and BCRW Associate Director Tami Navarro will discuss various forms of writing (including novels, memoir, and social media interventions) and examine how these create space for conversations around and advocacy for social justice.


PUBLIC SCIENCE PROJECT
Statues & Resistance in the Southern Academy: Civil Disobedience and the Racialized Limits of Freedom of Expression
Racial Justice Higher Education Award: MAYA LITTLE
Thursday, September 20th
Rm. 6304.01, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

TALK
Riveruse: Water, Gender, and Resource in Early–Modern France
KATHERINE IBBETT
Friday, September 21st
Rm. 4202, 5:00 – 7:00 pm

WOMEN’S STUDIES QUARTERLYLY
Launch Party for the BEAUTY Issue
JILLIAN BÁEZ and NATALIE HAVLIN
Tuesday, October 9th
Skylight Rm. [9100], 6:00 – 8:00 pm

WOMEN WRITING WOMEN’S LIVES
Writing the Women’s Movement: American Feminism 1963–1991
ALIX KATES SHULMAN and HONOR MOORE
Monday, October 15th
Rm. 9206/9207, 4:00 – 5:30 pm
EVENTS

SOCIETY FOR STUDY OF WOMEN IN THE RENAISSANCE

Gender, Race, and Orality in Aphra Behn’s Othello
MILES P. GRIER
Thursday, September 20th
Rm. 9204, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Accused/Accusing: Rape, the Female Appellor, and Measure for Measure
PENELOPE GENG
Thursday, October 18th
Rm. 9204, 6:00 - 7:30 pm

Women in Combat? The Ambivalent Discourse of Female Militancy in Renaissance Italy
GERRY MILLIGAN
Thursday, November 15th
Rm. 9204, 6:00-7:30pm

From the archives...
Do you recognize someone? Were you at the event?

EMAIL US
csws@gc.cuny.edu
MA students in conversation with Dr. Lynn Roberts

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN AND SOCIETY
THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN WOMEN'S STUDIES
THE MASTER'S PROGRAM IN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

THE GRADUATE CENTER, CUNY
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NEW YORK, NY 10016
(212) 817–8896

WOMEN'S STUDIES NEWSLETTER
FALL 2018

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