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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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VISIT US AT THE
GRADUATE CENTER’S WEBSITE:
GC.CUNY.EDU/WOMENCENTER

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Dear Colleagues, Students, Alumni, and Friends,

The Center for the Study of Women and Society is pleased to send you this second newsletter for the Academic Year 2017/2018! First, we should congratulate Stephanie DeBiase, the first of the 2016 cohort to graduate in January 2018. We look forward to cheering on those who plan to graduate in spring 2018.

Fall 2017 was an exciting year with all of the events we sponsored. We collaborated with the Graduate Center Library to present "ZINES as Creative Resistance." We were also one of several sponsors of the Reproductive Health Act Public Forum coordinated by State Senator Liz Krueger’s office. The MA students attended a free screening of the acclaimed film Chavela at the Film Forum. Several students also took advantage of a professional training seminar with Prof. Wendy Lutrell, which covered such issues as applying for PhD Programs. Finally, at a student’s request, we initiated the “Conversations Series” during which students have the opportunity to engage with a scholar-activist.

As always, the Center hosts visiting scholars. You can read about Nokuthula Hlabangane from The University of South Africa on page 4.

This semester you can expect even more exciting programming. In February, we will inaugurate our Salon Series. This series features an author of a newly published book in conversation with one or two interlocutors. Our first Salon is with historian, Deirdre Cooper Owens, author of Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology. In March, we will host a Salon with Bianca Williams discussing her new book, The Pursuit of Happiness: Black Women, Diasporic Dreams, and the Politics of Emotional Transnationalism. Then, in May, please join us for a conversation with Valerie Francisco, the author of The Labor of Care: Filipina Migrants and Transnational Families in a Digital Age.

We are so happy to welcome Justin Brown, the new director of the Center for LGBTQ Studies, who is featured, on page 6.

We look forward to seeing you!

Dana-Ain Davis

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CONGRATULATIONS TO WGS STUDENTS AND FACULTY!

Congratulations are in order for several of our Women’s and Gender Studies MA students, as well as our Women’s and Gender Studies faculty! Both Katia Henrys and Irem Kilic have recently had papers accepted for conference presentations. We would also like to note that WGS faculty member, Alyson Cole, is now one of the new editors for *phiLOSPHIA: A Journal of Continental Feminism.*

Irem Kilic earned her BA in Philosophy in Turkey and is a second year Masters student in the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at the Graduate Center, CUNY. She is interested in gendered violence, and early and forced child marriage in Turkey. Her paper “The Child Marriage Problem at the Bridge between East and West” has been accepted for presentation at the Sexual and Gendered Violence – 1st Global Conference in Vienna, Austria.

Katia Henrys has a background in Clinical Psychology and practiced as a psychologist in Haiti before working on her Masters in Women’s and Gender Studies at The Graduate Center. Her focus in the program will complement her practice with more theory and research. Katia’s paper was successfully accepted to the 8ème Congrès International des Recherches Féministes dans la Francophonie (8th International Congress on Feminist Research in the Francophone Region). There, she will present her work, “What is sacrificed? Balancing activism, work–life, and motherhood in Haiti,” and “Towards a psychology rooted in Haitian reality,” at two colloquies.

Prof. Alyson Cole and Prof. Kyoo Lee are the new co-editors of *phiLOSPHIA* for the 2018–2023 term! Both Cole and Lee bring valuable experience to the journal. They have collaborated on many other projects, including a Mellon-funded faculty seminar and graduate teaching at CUNY. They have journal experience as guest editors of a special issue of Women’s Studies Quarterly (WSQ), Safe (2011), and both are on the WSQ editorial board. Cole is also on the editorial board of *International Journal of Criminology & Sociological Theory.* Currently, Lee is serving as an Associate Editor of *Derrida Today* and on the editorial board of Open Humanities Press; from January 2018, she will join the Advisory Board of *Simone de Beauvoir Studies.*
VISITING SCHOLARS

**Nokuthula Hlabangane** is currently a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology at The University of South Africa (UNISA).

Nokuthula Hlabangane is an African(ist) scholar whose research lies in engaging in the philosophy of knowledge and their attendant politics. In 2012, Nokuthula received a PhD from the University of the Witwatersrand, with her thesis: *The Political Economy of Teenage Sexuality in the Era of HIV/AIDS: A case of Soweto*. She is currently a grant-holder of the UNISA Vision Keepers Programme, which is aimed to grow the next generation of black scholars. As an African(ist) scholar who has had the fortune of straddling the divide between those traditionally studied by anthropology and being trained in the discipline, Nokuthula is acutely aware of the stated and unstated politics of research.

Nokuthula will be working with Professor Linda Alcoff for six months on how to navigate the nexus between anthropology and philosophy. She will be visiting from November 2017 through February 2018.

**Ouarda Larbi Youcef** is currently a full-time professor at The University of Abd El Hamid Ibn Badis.

Ouarda Larbi Youcef obtained her BA in English from the University of Abd El Hamid Ibn Badis in 2008, and in 2010, she obtained her MA degree in ESP and Didactics. She is currently a fifth-year doctoral student in the department of English for Specific Purposes in Human and Social Sciences at The University Djilali Liabes in Sidi Bel Abbès. Her primary research focuses on gender differences in Learning Styles Preferences, and her doctoral dissertation is on the Re/misrepresentation of gender, male and female, in both colonial and post-colonial literatures. Her aim is to show that oftentimes the representation given of gender, especially during the colonial period, was a distorted image and subsequently a matter of sharp criticism.

Ouarda had the pleasure of visiting The Graduate Center from November 20th, 2017- November 30th, 2017 to utilize our library’s resources.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Award Winners

SUE ROSENBERG ZALK TRAVEL AWARD

SUMRU ATUK
PhD Candidate in Political Science

Dissertation Title: "Politics in Femicide: 'Woman' Making and Woman Killing in Turkey"

KOONJA MITCHELL MEMORIAL PRIZE

SONIA SANCHEZ
PhD Candidate in Critical Social Psychology

Dissertation Title: "Toward Complex Solidarities: Lessons from Migrant Justice Organizing at the Intersections of 'Multiple Struggles'"
What have you been working on, and how has entering CLAGS been?

Coming into the position of CLAGS was kind of a little bit of a different process for me having been a graduate student at the Grad Center.

My doctoral degree is from the Critical Social Personality Program, and my work has primarily focused around health, health-related concerns, specifically LGBT youth of color and health disparities, and health inequities broadly. I focus on trying asset-based interventions and development, and doing program evaluation work. When I was in graduate school, I took time off. I moved to Austin [TX] for two years, and ran an LGBT youth service agency. It is one of the only ones that was independent, exclusively for LGBT youth, in the country.

I mostly worked with LGBT youth of color, and the agency had a broad set of services – we had health education programming, we provided supportive work to getting people into housing, we had a food pantry, and a sister health center that provided all our direct health care services, so it was really cool getting into that. But I was like “I gotta come back and finish this degree.”

So I came back to complete the degree, and while I was doing that I started working at the CUNY Institute for Health Equity, which is based at Lehman [College]. I was an Executive Research Associate, and then the Deputy Director. So, I was there for a few years.

And then I came to CLAGS – it was one of those things you get an email of announcements and I was like “I don’t know, should I apply?” thinking I’m way too junior. I thought, “Oh there are probably tons of other people that are a better fit.” I thought, “Well, what can I lose?” So, I applied, went through the process, and ended up here.

I had attended CLAGS events off and on as a graduate student, but I didn’t go into the concentration because I was actually in a health concentration.
INTERVIEW WITH
JUSTIN T. BROWN

What would you like to share with students and the community about CLAGS?

One of the things that has always been our strength is our programming. We offer so many events - not just for the GC community, but for the greater community. All our programs are open to the public. For instance, last semester we planned sixteen events! As we develop our programming for the future, we want to get feedback from students...I think that is really important. So, anything that students can do to help provide or generate ideas, or would want to get involved with CLAGS, please, please, let us know. We always love volunteers!

I'd also like to help promote our students' work. For example, maybe we could host a presentation of students' work. It could be for a job talk or to present on their research and receive feedback...things that could be helpful as they move into the next phase of their careers. CLAGS would also like to be a site for MA students' fieldwork or internships, if that is possible, through their MA programs.

The other thing I would like to share is that we also offer fellowships. Some of them are for non-academics and others are for advanced professionals. We also have student fellowships that do not require that you be in the concentration, but are generally open to graduate students. These are the kinds of supports that people should be aware of.

Do you have any dates when people can apply for the fellowships or awards?

Many of the deadlines tend to be in the fall. We do have a few in the spring. We have a Fellowship Coordinator who can provide that information, but we need more exposure and to encourage students to apply.

Great, I'll wrap it up by asking one more question.

Obviously, you have touched upon several goals that you have for the Center and hope for in the future. Is there anything else you are working on?

I am really committed to trying to think through the educational elements of CLAGS. That's my big thing, interdisciplinary offerings. We have the certificate program and ways to provide support to graduate students. But I would like to work more collaboratively with departments and degree programs.

If I can say that, after being here for three years, one of the major accomplishments was that we found a way to provide supportive opportunities to graduate students and that we built our course offerings...I would really like to do that. Our research and programming have historically been pretty strong, and now we need to focus more on educational opportunities. That is really my goal.

That's awesome, we're excited for all of the students.

Let's see! I have my fingers crossed!

For more information, please visit CLAGS: The Center for LGBTQ Studies at the following:

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Room 7115
New York, NY 10016
Phone: (212) 817-1955
Fax: (212) 817-1567
Email: clagsinfo@gmail.com
TOPICS IN WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES: SEXUALITY
JUAN BATTLE
M 4:15 – 6:15
3 CREDITS

TOPICS IN WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES: MIGRANT AND IMMIGRANT NYC
MARGARET CHIN
T 2:00 – 4:00
3 CREDITS

TOPICS IN WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES: INTRODUCTION TO LESBIAN & GAY QUER STUDIES
MATT BRIM
TH 4:15 – 6:35
3 CREDITS

RESEARCH METHODS IN WOMEN’S & GENDER STUDIES
DANA-AIN DAVIS
W 11:45 – 1:45
3 CREDITS

The Black Radical Tradition
Robyn Spencer
M. 2:00 – 4:00, 3 credits

Ravens, Race, and Gender
Charles Mills and Sylvanchen
M. 4:15 – 6:15, 3 credits

Early Modern Trans History
Will Fisher
T. 11:45 – 1:45, 2 or 4 credits

History of Literary Criticism
Charity Scribner
T. 2:00 – 4:00, 3 credits

Social Reproduction
Cindi Katz
T. 4:15 – 6:15, 3 credits

Problems in French Literary History:
The Novel
Donna Stanton
T. 4:15 – 6:15, 2 or 4 credits

Black Listed: African American Writers and the Cold War Politics of Integration, Surveillance, Censorship, and Publication
Cathy Davidson, Shelly Eversley, and Allison Guess
T. 6:30 – 8:30, 2 or 4 credits

Sociology of Disability
Barbara Katz Rothman
T. 6:30 – 8:30, 3 credits

The Hidden Curriculum of Gender and Sexuality in Schools: A Critical Race Theory Perspective
Sherry Deckman
T. 6:30 – 8:30, 3 credits

Critical Perspectives on Childhood and Pedagogy
Wendy Littrell and Anita Gupta
W. 4:15 – 6:15, 3 credits

Somatic Auten
Talia Schaffer
M. 11:45 – 1:45, 2 or 4 credits

Taking Back the Land: Black Social Movements in the Americas and the Caribbean
Mammary Prosper
M. 11:45 – 1:45, 3 credits

Edith Wharton: Texts and Contexts
Hildegard Hoeller
M. 2:00 – 4:00, 2 or 4 credits

Philosophy of Feminism: Gender and the Body
Linda Alcoff
M. 2:00 – 4:00, 3 credits

Missing! Marginal! Misrepresented! This course draws on various bodies of scholarship – across the humanities and social sciences – to interrogate the complex subject of sexuality. Because students will be exposed to (and contribute from) a wide variety of perspectives on the subject, this course is appropriate for students in the traditional social sciences (e.g. sociology, anthropology, psychology, urban education, and history) as well as more contemporary ones (e.g. women’s studies, race studies, American studies, cultural studies, lesbian and gay studies).

Over the course of the twentieth century, New York City has witnessed two major waves of immigration: from the Irish, Italian and Jewish immigrants who arrived at the turn of the twentieth century to the Chinese, Jamaican and Mexican immigrants who now constitute the majority of the city’s immigrant population. New York City has also been on the receiving end of the great migration of African Americans. Together, these successive waves of newcomers and their children have changed the socioeconomic, political and cultural landscape of the city. We will examine migration across a diverse spectrum; distinguishing between forced and voluntary migration, “classic” issues of immigration, immigrant adaptation - assimilation and incorporation/integration; social mobility - the labor market, race and ethnic relations, gender and the family, transnationalism and the second generation. Throughout the course, we will use NYC experiences to highlight how these immigration and migration streams have transformed the city in the past and the present.

The course will be project-based, with students designing syllabi for queer studies classes they want to teach to students on CUNY campuses. There will be an emphasis on using Open Educational Resources (OER) for course texts, and part of the work of the course will be theorizing the act of “freeing” queer texts for working-class and working-poor students. In that vein, we will also focus on making the most of the queer labor that is already produced and undertaken within the CUNY system. Students will present on canonical and cutting-edge queer scholarship in order to survey the field, but always with an eye toward democratizing access to that work. For more information, please email Matt Brim at matt.brim@csi.cuny.edu.

This course aims to examine feminist critiques of knowledge, academic disciplines, and research methods. We will focus on how feminist scholars challenge current theories of knowledge and the methodologies employed in interdisciplinary research. We will ask how gender, critical race, decolonial and queer theory as well as movement politics shape the kind of research questions we ask and the types of material we use. We will explore a range of methods, including ethnography and oral history.
EVENTS

Book Salons

DEIRDRE COOPER OWENS
Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology
Featuring Jennifer Morgan (NYU) and Sasha Turner (Quinnipiac University)
Wednesday, February 14th
Skylight Room (9100), 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Deirdre Cooper Owens wrote Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology to reveal the historical connections of slavery to the development of professional American women's medicine. She explores how concepts like blackness, health, and biological sameness and difference were shifting as well as being defined by white medical men intent on advancing their careers and "fixing" women's ailments. As some doctors repaired so-called broken bodies, categories that confined black women to only being thought of as strong were cemented in antebellum medical thought and practice. Cooper Owens is an Assistant Professor of History at Queens College, CUNY.
Co-sponsored with the Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas & the Caribbean (IRADAC), the Feminist Press, and the PhD Program in History.

BIANCA WILLIAMS
The Pursuit of Happiness: Black Women, Diasporic Dreams and the Politics of Emotional Transnationalism
Featuring Deborah Thomas (UPenn) and R. L’Heureux Lewis-McCoy (CUNY)
Wednesday, March 21st
Skylight Room (9100), 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Williams traces the experiences of African American women as they travel to Jamaica, where they address the perils and disappointments of American racism by looking for happiness, friendship, and intimacy. Through their encounters with Jamaicans, the women construct notions of racial, sexual, and emotional belonging. While the women require a connection to Jamaica in order to live happily in the United States, their notion of happiness relies on travel, which requires leveraging their national privilege as American citizens. Williams’s theorization of "emotional transnationalism" attends to the connections between race, gender, and affect while highlighting how affective relationships mark nationalized and gendered power differentials within the African diaspora.
Co-sponsored with the PhD Program in Anthropology, IRADAC, and the Feminist Press.

VALERIE FRANCISCO
The Labor of Care: Filipina Migrants and Transnational Families in a Digital Age
Featuring Lorena Sanchez-McRae (MIGRANTE NYC) and Premilla Nadasen (Columbia)
Wednesday, May 2nd
Skylight Room (9100), 6:30 – 8:00 pm

Anchored in the experiences and lives of Filipina migrants and their families in the Philippines, the main objective of this book is to make visible all of the forms, roles and definitions of social reproductive labor and care work required in the maintenance of the transnational family; demonstrating just how many people are uniquely affected by migration and separation. A second aim is to critically explore current neoliberal moment under which families are forcibly separated and the reconfiguration of the functions, operations and definitions of family in and through the very neoliberal mechanisms that disperse them around the globe—labor migration and technology. Although a significant literature on transnational families exists, this book brings the scholarship up to date on the technological advances that enables intimacy for transnational family members. Additionally, the sociological analysis in this book delves into the emotionality that comes with care work in migration and separation. The transnational Filipino family, as the unit of analysis, shows that care work is shared between migrant and the family they left behind, albeit unevenly. Further, it considers the shifts in gendered work and expectations (for men and women) and it includes fictive kin and extended family to redefine the membership and function of a socially relative dynamic of “family.” Broadly, this book is about the labor of care engaged by families who are enduring and thriving in conditions of forced migration and separation.
Co-sponsored with the PhD Program in Sociology and the Feminist Press.
EVENTS

Featured Talks

**MATT BRIM**
"Poor Queer Studies Mothers"
Wednesday, February 28th
Rm C205, 6:30 - 8:00pm

In his talk, titled “Poor Queer Studies Mothers,” Brim will address the urgent problem of class stratification in higher education through the lens of a specific academic formation: queer studies. How might the field of queer studies be an exemplary site of intervention for redistributing resources and advancing “epistemic equality” in the academy? Further, how might queer studies at CUNY, an institution dedicated to educating the “working poor,” offer viable strategies for that queer-class intervention across higher ed? To answer these questions, Brim reflects on the pedagogical, disciplinary, and institutional opportunities created by the presence of a particular CUNY student population in his queer studies courses: “poor queer studies mothers”—those low-income and working-class women in queer studies courses at CUNY who are pregnant; who have children; who bring their kids to a queer studies class when child-care falls through; who live at home with—and become student-teachers of—their own mothers. Instructors who have experience teaching queer studies and women’s/gender studies at CUNY are especially encouraged to attend to share their expertise.
Co-sponsored with CLAGS.

**SOPHIE MARIÑEZ**
"Women Building Châteaux in Early Modern France: Mademoiselle de Montpensier and her Self-Construction Strategies"
Thursday, March 8th
Rm 9205, 6:30 - 8:00pm

Dr. Sophie Mariñez is an Associate Professor of French and Spanish at Borough of Manhattan Community College (CUNY) and the author of Mademoiselle de Montpensier: Writings, Châteaux, and Female Self-Construction in Early Modern France (Brill/Rodopi, 2017), which is based on the dissertation she completed in the PhD Program in French at the Graduate Center.

This monograph examines female self-construction strategies through the interplay between writing and the symbolic import of châteaux. This book is the recipient of an NEH award, two PSC-CUNY grants, the Marandon Fellowship, the Carole & Morton Olshan Dissertation Fellowship, and the 2010 Carolyn G. Heilbrun Dissertation Prize awarded by the Women’s Studies Certificate Program.
Co-sponsored with the PhD Program in French.

**SARA FARRIS**
"Islamophobia in the Name of Women's Rights"
Wednesday, April 24th
Rm 9206, 6:30 - 8:00pm

Sara R. Farris is Associate Professor in Sociology at Goldsmiths, University of London. She is the author of In the Name of Women’s Rights. The Rise of Femonationalism (Duke, 2017) and Max Weber’s Theory of Personality. Individuation, Politics and Orientalism in the Sociology of Religion (Brill 2013).

In this talk, Sara R. Farris will discuss some of the themes laid out in her new book, In the Name of Women’s Rights: The Rise of Femonationalism (Duke University Press, 2017). Farris’s book explores the ways in which feminist ideas are often exploited by anti-Islam and xenophobic campaigns. She coins the term “femonationalism” to describe the practice and claims that, by characterizing Muslim men as oppressors and by emphasizing the need to rescue Muslim women, these anti-Islam groups use gender equality to justify their prejudice.
Co-sponsored with the PhD Program in Sociology.
EVENTS

WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES
MA STUDENT PROGRAMS
CONVERSATION SERIES

FILM SCREENING: Out in the Night
Thursday, March 15th
Rm. 9204, 6:00 – 8:00pm

RADICAL REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE WITH LYNN ROBERTS
Friday, April 27th
Rm C205, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Wednesday, February 14th
Slam Precarious Work
Martin Segal Theater
4:00 – 6:00 pm

Inspired by Kathi Weeks’s article in the issue, “Down With Love,” we will stage a late afternoon performance of anti-love letters to work, precarity, and whatever else those gathered want to disavow on February 14th. Resembling more of a poetry slam than an academic panel, a variety of artists, activists and scholars will perform. The prose and poetry will be followed by a performance by Lady Aye, “sweetheart of the sideshow.”


Co-sponsored with The PhD/MA Program in Political Science; The Humanities Center, GC; The Women’s and Gender Studies Program, GC; The Politics Department, New School for Social Research; WSQ; Feminist Press; SPTSA.

Thursday, February 15th
Katherine Goodland
"If fires be hot, knives sharp, or waters deep, / Untied I still my virgin knot will keep. / Diana, aid my purpose!": Virginity as Autonomy in Shakespeare’s Pericles"
Rm. 9207, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Thursday, March 15th
Cristine Varholy
"Out of Bounds: Female Spectacle in the Shakespearean City"
Rm. 9205, 6:00–7:30pm

Monday, March 19th
Heather Clark
"P(lothography: Sylvia Plath and Her Biographers"
Rm. 9204/9205, 4:00 – 5:30 pm

Thursday, April 19th
Alix Cooper
"Family Matters: Gendering the Labor of Early Modern Science"
Rm. 9205, 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Friday, May 11th
Annual Celebration of CUNY Gender Scholars and Scholarship
Rm. 5318.05, 2:00 – 4:00 pm