Reflections on 'Black Feminist Materialism: Reading Leith Mullings' with Professor Davis

Emma Banks, Kayla Reece, and Maithreyi Rajeshkumar

We write this piece together, as collaborators, deep in the midst of our own summer reading project. These are our reflections on the course we all took in Spring 2023; Black Feminist Materialism: Reading Leith Mullings with Professor Davis, and what it inspired in us, the questions it made us ask, and how it began to shape our intellectual, social and political trajectories. As we look back on the semester, Reading Leith Mullings was an important turning point. None of us had prior training in anthropology before the seminar, so the class served as an introduction to the discipline, making anthropology relevant and specific to our everyday lives as a community of students of various geographies.

But it also did more than this. Dr. Davis’ teaching on the work of Dr. Leith Mullings struck a chord at the intersection of Anthropology and Women & Gender Studies, as well as turning the gaze onto ourselves, asking us why we want to do research and repositioning our political commitments, and our place in our communities. As we traced Mullings’ intellectual genealogy, which included W.E.B. Du Bois, Walter Rodney, Amilcar Cabral, and Eleanor Leacock, we began to map our own intellectual origins and trajectories--an integral exercise in developing our own academic and political projects, contextualizing our research in real-world experiences and personal anecdotes. It was a privilege to hear from Dr. Davis and our classmates about why and how they do research, and how they implement feminist methodologies and pedagogies in a discipline that has historically been mired by racism and its subsequent justifications of slavery, settler-colonialism, segregation, and eugenics. It was even more special for us that Dr. Davis, a student/mentee and colleague of Dr. Mullings herself, continued Leith’s intellectual tradition by teaching her work. We can now count both Dr. Mullings and Dr. Davis as points along our own personal and intellectual genealogies.

Spending the entire semester with Dr. Mullings's work was a gift that empowered us; allowing our work and insights to evolve. In other words, it gave us the license to explore new perspectives, without fear of judgment or failure. Each week, Davis asked one of us to share a song rooted in Black movements (we still have the playlist now), we shared our notes and thoughts on a Google drive, researched together, shared food and ate. There was plenty of laughter, and also some tears.

Continued on Page 8
Since 1977, the Center for the Study of Women and Society has promoted interdisciplinary feminist scholarship. The center’s research agenda focuses on the intersectional study of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and transnational engagement with justice. The Center co-sponsors the Women’s Studies Certificate Program and most notably, hosts the only stand-alone Women’s and Gender Studies Master’s Program in New York City.
As I sit reflecting about the past year, I am faced with duplicitous thoughts. Of course, I continue to be horrified at the state of local, national, and international injustices. It is challenge for people to be warriors of justice when each day often brings new news of another front which requires our collective attention and organizing. There are wars, and threats of war, policies that seek to oppress knowledge, climate shifts and daily assaults on our lives.

But I also relish in knowing there are joys to behold at the Center for the Study of Women and Society (CSWS). One of the highlights of 2023 was teaching the course “Reading Leith Mullings: A Black Feminist Materialism for the 21st Century.”

The cover story shares the reflections of three WGS students who took the class alongside PhD students. Honestly, it was a highlight of my teaching career, thus far, to share the work of my mentor and friend, Leith Mullings.

In thinking about joy, I want to say “thank you” to the amazing CSWS staff. Eileen Liang-Massey, who was our APO for six years, has gone on to pursue other dreams including writing a children’s book. We wish you well, Eileen! Then Natalie Ruby served as the Interim APO. She is now pursuing her PhD in English at UC Berkeley! Congratulations! Our good fortune continues as we welcome Majella Sheehan as our new APO! Welcome Majella!

Another joy is welcoming of our incoming class (see page 14). We are delighted you have chosen the WGS MA Program as your intellectual home. We look forward to being in community with you! You join a stellar group of current students and graduates who you can read about on pages 4-6.

It is so much easier to face the world when you get to be in community with amazing faculty. The Women’s and Gender Studies faculty are incredibly accomplished, and you can see the wealth of intellectual, disciplinary, and political commitments they bring to our program on pages 9-11.

We are so excited about our upcoming events for this fall, which includes a conversation with one of our own graduates, Marcelle Karp!

In Solidarity,
Congratulations 2023 Graduates!

M.A. in Women and Gender Studies

Angela Boscarino
INTERNSHIP: "An Analysis of Feminist Care Networks in the Editorial Intern Position at Women's Studies Quarterly"
ADVISOR: Red Washburn

Marcelle Karp
THESIS: "The Queer Comedy Boom: The History of LGBTQ+ Stand-up Comedy"
ADVISOR: Matt Brim

Samantha Leyerle
THESIS: "The Queer Life of Lorena Hickok"
ADVISOR: James Wilson

Noah Souder-Russo
THESIS: "Uprooting Patriarchy: Meditations on Gender, Masculinities, and Healing Through Buddhist Practices"
ADVISOR: Jean Halley
Congratulations!
2023 Graduates

Women Studies Certificate Program

Maunia Arbabi
Ph.D. in French

DIS SENATION: Persian Francophone Women in Diaspora and the Literature of Exile-Reconstructing Self Through Writing
ADVISOR: Maxim Blanchard

Sedef Ozoguz
Ph.D. in Social Psychology

ADVISOR: Deborah Tolman

Sophie Riemenschneider,
Ph.D. in English Language and Literature

DIS SENATION: “Never Forget”: Embodied Absence and Extended Relations of Care After 9/11
ADVISOR: Nancy K. Miller

Madison Schindele,
Ph.D. in Musicology
Awards & Prizes  
2022-2023

Carolyn G. Heilbrun Dissertation Prize

Dr. Hilarie Ashton, Ph.D. in English
Dissertation: Unsung Heroines in Black and White: Sixties Girl Groups as Innovation and Inspiration

Abstract: Before the Beatles arrived in America, exploding open the intersection between pop music and the emerging genre of rock and in so doing, drawing heavily on the work of Black music and musicians, girl groups were powerfully enacting a kind of cultural rebellion in both of those genres. In contrast to the historical impulse to privilege a breathlessly incomplete white male lineage, "Unsung Heroines in Black and White: Sixties Girl Groups as Sonic Rock Rebellion" examines in closer, more connected spotlights the subversive creative work of the Black and working-class teenage girls in the Ronettes, the Chiffons, and the Shangri-Las. Across four chapters, "Unsung Heroines" shows how these singers subversively tucked grit, rebellion, sex, wit, and revenge into a genre—pop—thought of as sweet and nice and other things girls should be, and how George Harrison's infamous stolen Chiffons melody offers up a hidden homoerotic love narrative also taken from the Chiffons. Via a trio of new theoretical frameworks—the sonic feminine, the discovery narrative, and the sonic masculine—the project re-centers women's artistic transgressive genius against the restrictive tentacles of gender, race, and class norms. In its amplifying of women's transgressive genius, the sonic feminine particularly helps delineate and re-contextualize the ways in which each group took charge of their voices and their looks, giving voice and visual to rebellious and erotic feelings and attitudes that their female audiences also had and didn't always have a way to voice. Adapting the traditional tools of close reading and close listening, "Unsung Heroines" elucidates, with depth and complexity, the need for a constant reshaping of gendered histories we thought we knew.

Sue Rosenberg Zalk Endowed Fund Award

Maria Buitrago, M.A. Student in Digital Humanities
Project Proposal: "Women Peasants and Treasure Hunters in Western Boyacá, Colombia"

Abstract: Women Peasants and Treasure Hunters is a capstone project dedicated to documenting the lives of women residing in the emerald-producing municipalities of Colombia. Through the creation of a comprehensive digital archive that encompasses various sources such as interviews and artifacts, the project aims to amplify the voices of these women and shed light on their remarkable resilience in the face of an extractive and patriarchal economy. Both, women who were born in these rural areas but have migrated, as well as those currently residing in the region, have played a crucial and distinctive role in strengthening
Nicholas Rodrigo, Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology

Dissertation: *Wielding The Border: A genealogy of US-Mexico borderland practices and the purposes they serve from conquest to today*

**Abstract:** Since its formation, the US-Mexico border has been a vital mechanism in the development of the US racial capitalism, the security state, and violent modalities of social control. However, there is an enduring conceptual gap in the literature covering this historical development and contemporary case studies of the US-Mexico border. In his dissertation project titled “Wielding The Border: A genealogy of US-Mexico borderland practices and the purposes they serve from conquest to today”, Nick Rodrigo contends that bordering is a set of violent practices which enacts the border by way of a bandwidth of violently choreographed actions which are directly linked to broader statecraft projects such as capital accumulation, the division of labor by race/ethnicity, the expropriation of land and the expansion of the security state. To develop this theory, he has conducted four months of ethnographic research at the US-Mexico border in Tucson, recording over 170 hours of participant observations with several humanitarian organizations providing relief to undocumented migrants crossing the border and observing border enforcement infrastructure, as well as 35 interviews with organizers, lawyers, DHS personal and undocumented migrants that have crossed the border. To provide historical depth to this thesis he has incorporated archival research to identify how meaning structures have converted into grammars of action through the evolution of bordering institutions over the last 150 years. Through this archival research and in-depth ethnographic investigation, he locates the dynamism of violent bordering practices and how they have genealogically evolved, reproducing colonial power frameworks in contemporary statecraft practices, disciplining labor flows and allowing for the expansion of the security state.
We invited others into our space which further enriched our learning – CUNY scholars like Dr. Jeff Maskovsky (CUNY GC) and Dr. Maggie Dickinson (Queens College), Dr. Melanie Bush (Adelphi University) and others further afield who joined on Zoom such as Dr. Andrea Queeley (Florida International University) and Dr. Khaled Furani (Tel-Aviv University) – all of whom had been mentored by and worked with Mullings. Whilst we did not have the fortune to meet Dr. Mullings, who passed away in 2020, every Tuesday morning, her words, ideas and energy were brought into the room for us in deeply powerful ways.

Mullings’ commitment to advocacy anthropology left a strong impression on us all. Her words, “our understanding of the source of our oppression informs what we do about it” (Mullings, On Our Own Terms, 1997, p9) is a fundamental and concise articulation of how she believed knowledge production is intertwined with activism and social change. For Mullings, formulating a clear political commitment did not diminish academic worth, but instead strengthened and reinforced it. She was never embarrassed to have an agenda guided by her activist work. Her writing style – accessible, concise, never enigmatic – only made this all the more clear. Mullings employed a materialist feminist lens to discuss the structural and systemic inequities – historic and present day – which impact Black women's lived experiences, their health, education, and economic outcomes. Dr. Mullings' methods center around participatory community-based research, prioritizing qualitative data and the things that often go unsaid, unheard or unseen. Reading between the spaces was a skill in anthropological analysis we cultivated guided by her hand. Whilst she was focused intimately on the day-to-day lives of marginalized Black women in America, she was also embedded in an internationalist Black radical tradition, searching beyond the borders of the US for analysis, collaborative activism, and to understand the global transnational context of race, gender, capitalism, and imperialism. This desire to root racism in the historical, social, and economic specificity of the US, whilst also drawing links to global systems of race, racism and capitalism, is a thread that came up again and again. As she said, “The more persuasive perspective links racism to structures of power that emerge through processes of accumulation and dispossession within local and transnational contexts.” (Mullings, “Interrogating Racism”, 2005, p668)

By the end of the semester, we simply weren't ready to end our studies – so, we reached out to Dr. Davis and requested a syllabus for the summer. This became the foundation of our project, Cooking With Gas: a weekly reading group that meets to discuss social theory, cook and eat food inspired by the material. Encouraged by Mullings' commitment to collaborate throughout her academic career, we found in each other co-conspirators. Cooking With Gas is our own experiment in feminist knowledge production. We hope to bring half-baked ideas to the table, to be dissected and torn apart and eaten up and spit back out whole. We come hungry to the kitchen table and we leave full.
Accomplishments

Faculty News and Publications

Linda Alcoff was invited to be Spinoza Chair at the University of Amsterdam in late Spring 2023. She was also inducted into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Roslyn Bologh was just honored with an invitation, by a person who took their Capitalism, Culture and Crisis course in the Fall of 2021, to give a talk at NYU on "American Capitalism" to a group of Fulbright Scholars (18 scholars from around the world) at the Multinational Institute of American Studies, hosted by NYU Steinhardt.

Bologh also wrote the lead chapter, "Consciousness and Crisis Today" for the new book, The Centrality of Sociality.

Finally, Bologh was also honored to serve on the Committee of the Section on History of Sociology and Social thought, American Sociological Association, Annual Award for Best Article.


Queer Precarities in Higher Education looks at queer scholars pushing against institutional structures, and the queer knowledge that gets pushed out by universities. It provides insight into the work of, in and beyond academia as it is un-done in the contemporary (post)Covid moment, not least by queer academic-activists. This radical un-doing represents cycles of queer precarity, pragmatism and participation both situating and questioning the 'queer arrival' of institutionalized programmes and presences (e.g. queer and gender studies degrees, prominent and public feminist academics). In this book, the contributors push back against contemporary educational precarity, mobilizing queer insight and insistence; and push back against confinement of the University, socially and spatially. The collection brings together academic-activist perspectives to extend understandings of experiences of marginalization and inequality in higher education. It also documents the diversity of tactics with which queers negotiate and resist the various, shifting and interconnected forms of precarity and privilege found on the edges of academia. Contributors consider these issues from inside/outside academia and across career course, challenging the 'queer arrival' as emanating outward from the university to the community, from the academic to the activist, or from a state of privilege to a place of precarity.

In July, Brim was also named the new Executive Director of CLAGS: The Center for LGBTQ Studies at the CUNY Graduate Center.
Dána-Ain Davis and Chiara Quagliariello co-hosted the first ever workshop of Black doulas and midwives across Europe and the first ever Racism and Reproduction Conference in Europe 15 June and 16 June. The conference was held at Campus Condorcet Aubervilliers.

Davis was also the recipient of the GC CUNY Alumni Award and a writing residency in Switzerland at the Brocher Foundation.


Grasso has also joined the faculty of the Biography and Memoir Program at the Graduate Center.

Jean Halley received a Master of Science in Education (MSEd) at the Mental Health Counseling Program at the School of Education at Hunter College of the City University of New York in May 2023.

Elhum Haghighat was an invited guest speaker for the 9th annual World’s Women’s Studies Conference. The event was held on 11 May 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand. The title of her talk was, "Woman, Life, Liberty: Young Women and Shaping the Political Landscape of Iranian Uprising."

Gail Levin's exhibition catalogue essay "Paul Jenkins: From America's Heartland to an International Journey" was featured as part of the Paul Jenkins exhibit at the Tampa Museum of Art in Tampa, Florida.

Levin also authored "Twenty Years Later, Looking at Art Made in Response to 9/11 in New York," a chapter in The Past and Future of the City.

Levin's "Between Two Worlds: Zhen Guo's Journey to Feminist Art" also was published in The Journal of Asian Arts & Aesthetics by the Tanian Art Museum & Ainosco Press.
Nancy K. Miller along with Tahneer Oksman and twenty-six contributors published *Feminists Reclaim Mentorship: An Anthology*. Drawing on their experiences in academia, creative writing, publishing, and journalism this group collectively strives for relationships that acknowledge the differences alongside the importance of common bonds. On May 4, Nancy K. Miller and Tahneer Oksman also hosted a panel discussion of their work at the Graduate Center--an event that also welcomed back CSWS alumni.

Barbara Katz Rothman received the 2023 Outstanding Scholarship Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSP) Health Advisors for her book *The Biomedical Empire*. 
Silvia Rivera Alfaro and Natalia Villarroel Torres are working on a Spanish Feminist Linguistics Repository and received one of the Provost Digital Innovation Grants.

Isabella Irtifa will be featured in the upcoming edition of The Sociological Review. Her book review on Greater than the Sum of Our Parts: Feminism, Inter/Nationalism, and Palestine will be published in the journal in early August 2023. The book traces in-depth the genealogies of how struggles of colonized groups are interconnected globally, weaving an intersectional feminist analysis of Israeli apartheid throughout. The book ultimately contends that oppressed peoples must unite in global intifada to both sustain the earth and create a world that is just.

Mariel Acosta Matos created (and now co-chairs) the Student-Parent Organization, a new DGSC chartered org.

Matos also organized the panel "The Fight for Abortion Rights in the Dominican Republic and the USA: Local and Diaspora Perspectives" as the chair of the Dominican Studies Group. Her report of the event was also published in the latest issue of The Advocate.

Matos also received a summer 2023 NYU Latinx Project’s Public Humanities Fellowship, to work on researching Latinx punk zines at ABC No Rio.

This coming Fall, Matos will present the paper "Por qué los anarquistas usan la X?: Anarchists’ Prefigurative Politics and Discourses on Inclusive Language" at the Gender-Neutral/Fair/Inclusive/Nonbinary/Non-sexist languages and their dis/contents conference at the University of Chicago Center in Paris, France.

Alexandra Tydings is going to be at the NWSA conference this fall, to give a paper: "Actresses, Intimacy, and Queering Consent."
Alumni News

**Elise Bragard ’19** completed her PhD in Applied Developmental Psychology from Fordham University in May. Her dissertation explored parental messaging about sex and adolescent girls’ sexual attitudes. She will begin a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Connecticut Health in June 2023.

**Melanie D. Chin ’18** works for the New York City Department of Social Services Human Resources Administration, where she assists in the process of making sure every New Yorker who lives within the five boroughs who is eligible for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) does not go hungry. She also works for the Queens Borough Public Library, where she mends books, processes lending materials, and assists with programs.

**Risa Cromer ’16**, will be publishing her book *Conceiving Christian America: Embryo Adoption and Reproductive Politics* (NYU Press) on September 5. The book is a feminist ethnography of the US antiabortion movement’s strategic inroads in the realm of assisted reproduction, based on her doctoral research conducted in the GC’s Department of Anthropology.

**Naoko Ohri ’19** teaches Women’s and Gender Studies and English Academic Writing at several universities in Tokyo, Japan. She was a keynote speaker at the World Women’s Forum held by StarIcon Conferences on the 8-9th in March, 2023 in Paris, where she made a presentation, "Sexual Harassment in Professional Training: William Faulkner’s Precarious Mentorship and Joan Williams’s The Wintering."

**Livia Arndal Woods ’16** is currently an Associate Professor of English at the University of Illinois at Springfield and is excited to announce the October 2023 publication of *Pregnancy in the Victorian Novel* with the Ohio State University Press. A book talk at the Graduate Center is tentatively scheduled for 4pm on Friday, October 27.
Maddie Albanese is joining the program after completing their MA in English and American Literature at NYU, during which they wrote their thesis on the social and cultural nature of hauntings in Shirley Jackson's *The Haunting of Hill House* and in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. Maddie specializes in queer and Gothic literature as well as lesbian pulp fiction. Approaching the liminal and the ghostly through literature, Maddie's work draws from inhumanisms, monster studies, queer theory, and history. Writers such as Djuna Barnes, Virginia Woolf, and Ann Bannon inform Maddie's research on the place of the monstrous within society. Maddie currently studies the intersection between the queer and the Gothic to explore the lives and representations of societal "others" more broadly, overturning the misconception that stories of the outsider are "lost." Maddie hopes to continue their research on queerness and gender within the WGS program and to expand their scope from literature to the world of the social.

*If you could put on one event or bring one person to speak at the Center for the Study of Women Society, who or what would that be?* Alison Bechdel, whose comics and graphic memoirs are the perfect site for the exploration of reading cultures among queer people and give insight into lesbian lives across decades.

Autumn Bad Heart Bull-Clark's professional journey is deeply rooted in personal experience, having gone through the foster care system herself. Determined to make a positive impact, Autumn wasted no time after aging out and joined Alameda County as a dedicated foster youth advocate, tirelessly championing the rights and well-being of Transitional Age Youth (TAY). The commitment to empowering vulnerable youth extends beyond their work in Alameda County. Prior to relocating to New York from the Bay Area, CA, Autumn actively engaged in advocacy efforts, fighting for the rights and support of young individuals affected by domestic violence and human trafficking. In addition to advocacy work, Autumn finds solace and inspiration in exploring diverse cultures through travel. She embraces the enriching experiences that come with venturing to various destinations, and has had the privilege of immersing herself in the beauty and wonders of places like Japan. Furthermore, Autumn treasures precious moments spent with her beloved son, Levi, an adorable Pomeranian companion who brings joy and warmth to her life. Autumn's unique blend of personal experiences, professional dedication, and appreciation for cultural exploration make them a truly remarkable individual, poised to make a lasting impact on the lives of others.

*If you could put on one event or bring one person to speak at the Center for the Study of Women Society, who or what would that be?* I would put on an event on the topic of Missing indigenous women across the United States.
New Students

L’or Malotra-Gaudet is a human from raised in Brooklyn, having lived across south and Central BK in their youth, they relocated to Manhattan to complete their bachelor’s degree at Columbia University’s Barnard College with a double major in Gender and Sexuality Studies and Urban Studies, three minors (in race and ethnic studies, sociology, and Africans studies), as an Athena Scholar (through the Athena Center for Leadership Studies).

They chose their first job in construction- and asset management with the hopes of being able to learn the masters tools to dismantle unaffordable house (they now side with Audre Lorde on that question). While working towards that goal, they completed a Masters Degree at night through NYU’s Schack Institute for Real Estate.

Raised by the generosity of their family and community, L’or is passionate about accessible scholarship and wealth redistribution. They regularly clean, stock, and source materials for community fridges across the 5-Boroughs.

On a personal note, they have 2 adopted rabbits: Wilbur and Write, whose names are only accidentally related to the famous flying Wright Brothers. They are also: a member of Alpha Chi Omega, crossed at the Theta Psi chapter, a former Peer Health Educator at Barnard’s Wellness Spot, and a few other community-and activism-themed groups in Brooklyn. L’or and their partner prefer long train rides to flights, and wish that the Acela cars moved as quickly as they are able to in Europe.

If you could put on one event or bring one person to speak at the Center for the Study of Women Society, who or what would that be? I would like to amplify an up and coming academic (like my beloved friend Dr. Andrea Adomako, on faculty at the NYU English department)

Amaranta Martínez Martínez was born and raised in the south of Mexico City. She studied Communication Studies in the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México where she first got interested in gender sensitive journalism. In 2017 she participated as a visiting student in the Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in an exchange program that allowed her to deepen her knowledge in gender issues, specifically in Japanese society. She is a Fulbright grantee for the 2023 cohort and with this scholarship she will study issues regarding femininity and sexual and reproductive health rights.

If you could put on one event or bring one person to speak at the Center for the Study of Women Society, who or what would that be? Yásnaya Aguilar, a mixed linguist, translator and activist for human rights of indigenous people in Mexico.
New Students
Welcome!

Priyanka Ray (she/her) is a Bengali lesbian raised in New Jersey and currently living in Brooklyn. She graduated from Boston University in 2020 with a degree in English Literature. Since graduating, Priyanka has worked as a publicist at Beacon Press, a non-profit publisher of nonfiction books with a social justice focus. Priyanka’s academic interests lie at the intersection of race, gender, and disability in the 19th through 21st centuries, autobiography and women writing illness, and queer studies and theory. Lately, she has also been interested in the history of women mystics. In the future, Priyanka hopes to continue working with feminist oriented nonfiction works through academic publishing. In her free time, Priyanka enjoys roller skating at skate parks throughout the city.

If you could put on one event or bring one person to speak at the Center for the Study of Women Society, who or what would that be?  Mel Y. Chen

Golnaz Salehkarimi is honored and thrilled to be a graduate student in the MA Program in Women’s and Gender Studies at the Graduate Center. She is from Iran and was born and raised in Tehran. She studied philosophy in her home city and is interested in research and writing. She began her career as a translator and essayist focusing on continental philosophy and critical theory, and history and theory of art. She has worked for numerous Iranian journals and publications. During years of study and work, she developed a deep interest in the feminist theories and theories of intersectionality between gender, race, and class. She enjoys reading, writing, and teaching.

If you could put on one event or bring one person to speak at the Center for the Study of Women Society, who or what would that be? an event to raise awareness about how systematic injustice against women and LGBTQ+ in developing countries could be relevant to feminists across the world, especially those in developed countries.
New Students
Welcome!

Hannah Salzer lives in Brooklyn, NY and teaches elementary school at The Packer Collegiate Institute. Before teaching, they worked in arts administration. They hold undergraduate degrees in English and American Studies from Wesleyan University. Their research interests include queer theory and literature, power and consent, transmasculinity, queer childhood, and psychoanalytic theory. They enjoy writing poetry, rock climbing, and going to the beach.

If you could put on one event or bring one person to speak at the Center for the Study of Women Society, who or what would that be?
I would invite Avgi Saketopolou to speak about their two recent publications: Sexuality Beyond Consent: Risk, Race, and Traumatophilia and Gender Without Identity (co-authored with Ann Pellegrini).

We also welcome:
Erin Penoyer-Gerbino
Kirty Singh
CORE COURSES FOR M.A. AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM STUDENTS

FEMINIST TEXTS AND THEORIES
Prof. Paisley Currah
T 11:45-1:45 PM, IN-PERSON, 3 CREDITS

This course will explore the work of reading, writing, and publishing feminist texts and theories, emphasizing the historical context and means of production of feminist scholarship. Topics will include inquiries into various feminist presses, writing and media collectives, women's studies journals, and digital archives (such as the Kitchen Table/Women of Color Press, the Feminist Press, the Combahee River Collective, Triple Jeopardy, Hijas de Cuauhtémoc, off our backs, Feminist Theory, Meridians, WSQ, GLQ, TSQ, feminista illumiyi, equalityarchives). The course will also demystify the work of submitting to and editing for an interdisciplinary journal of women's, gender, and sexuality studies.

GLOBAL FEMINISMS
Prof. Saadia Toor
T 6:30 - 8:30 PM, IN-PERSON, 3 CREDITS

With the rise of authoritarian regimes around the world, what insights do feminist movements and theorizing offer? What are the fault lines between different forms of feminisms? How do liberal feminist ideals and principles intertwine with an imperial agenda? What are the links and divergences between Islamophobia and racism? Who should be the arbiter of “equality,” “fairness,” and “human rights”? What ethical questions shape the practices of feminism and feminist politics both domestically and internationally? What is the relationship between modes of production, political economy, and gender politics? What are the possibilities and limits of a transnational feminist politics? What are the material conditions/structural factors which enable and/or undermine transnational feminist solidarity? This course grapples with some of these questions in the wake of rapid world altering changes.

SPECIAL TOPICS: LOCATING BIPOC QUEER VOICE & COLLECTIVE AGENCY: SOCIAL MOVEMENTS, POLITICAL DISRUPTIONS, & INTERSTITIAL SPACES
Prof. Justin Brown
Th 6:30-8:30 PM , Hybrid Asynchronous, 3 CREDITS

Locating BIPOC Queer Voice & Collective Agency: Social Movements, Political Disruptions, & Interstitial Spaces will provide students a cross-sectional analysis and exploration of BIPOC queer folks’ role(s) within sociopolitical change movements over time. Initially, students will be introduced to foundational social-activist frameworks and practice orientations that span various perspectives from queer studies, decolonial black emancipatory feminism, community psychology, and youth studies. This course will be grounded in critical readings and research. Students will move through the material examining times of constriction and expansion in social change as well as inclusionary and exclusionary moments of collective embodied existence within larger movements for Black and Brown queer folks. Students will engage with activist organizing perspectives and trouble these strategies through intersectionality-framed, critical analysis. As an extension of this course, students will identify potential theories of change associated with various movements and contrast their associated constructs to explore social-activist organizing evolution. Furthermore, this class with center participation and its possible linkages to BIPOC queer values, ideals, and identities. Students will also look at how social change impacts institutions and systems across varied geopolitical spaces. This course will require students to apply the knowledge and information gathered to imagine the centering BIPOC queer voice and collective agency in future sociopolitical movements.
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<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Professor</th>
<th>Days/Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction to Gender and Sexuality Studies</td>
<td>Prof. James Wilson</td>
<td>M 6:30-8:30</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life Writing, 1600-1800: Personal and Political Histories</td>
<td>Prof. Carrie Hintz</td>
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<td>The Culture of Fashion: Theories and Practices</td>
<td>Prof. Eugenia Paulicelli</td>
<td>Th 4:15-6:15</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
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<td>Alternative Families in Early Modern England</td>
<td>Prof. Maria Digangi</td>
<td>M 11:45-1:45</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
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<td>American Social Institutions</td>
<td>Prof. Karen Miller</td>
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<td>Social Policy &amp; Socio-Economic Outcomes in Industrialized Countries</td>
<td>Prof. Janet Gornick</td>
<td>T 4:15-6:15</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
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<td>Film Histories and Historiographies</td>
<td>Prof. Leah Anderst</td>
<td>M 4:15-6:15</td>
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<td>Introduction to Mass Violence in the Modern Era</td>
<td>Prof. Elissa Bemporad</td>
<td>M 6:30-8:30</td>
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<td>Early Modern Embodiment</td>
<td>Prof. Domna Stanton</td>
<td>T 4:15-6:15</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
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<td>Race and Psychoanalysis</td>
<td>Prof. Amber Musser</td>
<td>T 11:45-1:45</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afro-Latinx Literature and Culture</td>
<td>Prof. Melissa Castillo-Planas</td>
<td>W 11:45-1:45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Issues in Birth and Procreation: Public Health Perspectives</td>
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<td>T 6:00-7:50</td>
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<td>Foreign Bodies / Forbidden Sexualities</td>
<td>Prof. Nathalie Etoke</td>
<td>Th 4:15-6:15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black America</td>
<td>Prof. Juan Battle &amp; Allia Abdullah-Matta</td>
<td>T 2:00-4:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability: History and Theory</td>
<td>Prof. Dagmar Herzog</td>
<td>T 4:15-6:15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memoir/Illness/Graphic/Grief</td>
<td>Prof. Nancy Miller</td>
<td>TBD T 4:15-6:15</td>
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<td>The Culture of Fashion: Theories and Practices</td>
<td>Prof. Eugenia Paulicelli</td>
<td>Th 4:15-6:15</td>
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<td>Film Histories and Historiographies</td>
<td>Prof. Leah Anderst</td>
<td>M 4:15-6:15</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
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<tr>
<td>Introduction to Mass Violence in the Modern Era</td>
<td>Prof. Elissa Bemporad</td>
<td>M 6:30-8:30</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
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<tr>
<td>Social Policy &amp; Socio-Economic Outcomes in Industrialized Countries</td>
<td>Prof. Janet Gornick</td>
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<td>Early Modern Embodiment</td>
<td>Prof. Domna Stanton</td>
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<td>Madame de Stael and Napoleon</td>
<td>Prof. Helena Rosenblatt</td>
<td>Th 2:00-4:00</td>
<td>In-Person</td>
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Jazz Jacobson has spent fourteen of her sixteen summers on Fire Island. It's just an hour from Manhattan but feels like a world away, where Jazz thrives in the absence of the social hierarchies and pressures of high school. Most of all, it's the place where she's reunited with her best friend, Macy Whelan. This summer starts out strong when the cute new boy on the island seems to like Jazz (hello, first boyfriend?). But it's hard to focus on her own crush when Macy's still obsessing over her hookup from last summer, Max Cooper.

Jazz can't believe how cold and mean Max is to Macy. But when Macy starts to seriously act out, Jazz begins to see that she knows only one side of the story . . . and that she has to help her friend before something terrible happens. Boundaries are crossed and the edge of sanity is tested in Marcelle Karp's debut novel, which celebrates the complicated dynamics of female friendship and the heartbreaking ache of first love.

### The Shadow of My Story: Violence and a Family that Refused to Remember

Jean Halley in conversation with Dr. Ozlem Goner

Wednesday, October 4th, 6:00-7:30 PM, In-Person: CUNY Graduate Center, Room 9206/7

Jean Halley's memoir *The Shadow of My Story: Violence and a Family that Refused to Remember* is about Halley's growing up and coming of age in Wyoming and Montana in the final decades of the twentieth century. In *The Shadow of My Story*, Halley describes her childhood by starting with her adult life and moving back in time much like the story unfolded in her consciousness. It is an account of the ways in which one is reconstructed through memory. Particularly in the case of traumatic, forgotten and repressed memory, Halley explores how experience changed her, both when it happened, and again as she remembered, and reexperienced it. She recounts how her family refused to acknowledge, to recognize, to remember both the gender-based violence in the family, and the racist violence family members perpetrated outside. The Shadow of My Story is a chronicle of survival and a meditation on the meaning and impact of memory.
Upcoming Events

Society for the Study of Women in the Renaissance

Alicia Andrzejewski: Ophelia’s Rue: Shakespeare in Post-Roe America

Thursday, September 21st, 6:00-7:30 PM, on Zoom Webinar

What can Shakespeare’s plays tell us about abortion and bodily autonomy in a post-Roe America? In this talk, Alicia Andrzejewski attends to how characters like Ophelia “bring down flowers” in Shakespeare’s plays to remind us that people have sought early and late term abortions across time, and that this search is represented in the most canonical of authors, of texts. She puts Shakespeare’s plays in conversation with early modern medical texts and receipt books, interviews with herbalists and abortion doulas, and her personal experience with herbal abortifacients to think through Ophelia’s “rue”—her isolation, her sadness, her only hope to end an unplanned pregnancy. Andrzejewski argues that the desperate, panicked search for information, the dark vials containing the promise of a different life, and the communities that harbored and disseminated this knowledge transcend time— and that these “historical touches across time,” to use Carolyn Dinshaw’s phrase, are particularly important in a post Roe v. Wade world, when pregnant people will be forced to turn to the kinds of remedies available before the medicalization of abortion.

Linda Austern: Lady Music: Figuring ‘A Matron Among Other Arts’ in Early Modern England

Thursday, October 19th, 6:00-7:30 PM, on Zoom Webinar

Continuing an age-old practice, sixteenth- and seventeenth-century English thinkers personified music as a woman, which overlapped with Latin learning and with residual archaic-English conventions to grant female or male gender to certain inanimate nouns, of which music must be recognized as one. This, in turn, intersected with ancient bodily metaphors for creativity that ultimately complicated facile gender binaries, encouraging men to speak of their musical processes in terms of female reproductive processes and bodily nurture and ultimately empowering women musicians.

Jessica Goethals: The Courtesan and her Bandit: Love, Lies, and Literature in Baroque Italy

Thursday, November 16th, 6:00-7:30 PM, on Zoom Webinar

RSVP to our events here: https://bit.ly/CSWSEventbrite
Paisley Currah, "Sex is as Sex Does"
Moderated by Red Washburn and Joshua Sealy-Harrington

Grace M. Cho "Tastes Like War"
Moderated by Hosu Kim

Linda Villarosa, "Under the Skin: Understanding Race & Racism in US Health"
Moderated by Dána-Ain Davis

Toni M. Bond, "GLoosening Our Tongues: Black Women, Sexuality, and the Church"
Moderated by Dána-Ain Davis
Year in Review
Spring 2023

Rupal Oza, "Semiotics of Rape: Sexual Subjectivity and Violation in Rural India"
In Conversation with Linda Martin Alcoff and Dina Siddiqi

Red Washburn, "Irish Women's Prison Writing: Mother Ireland's Rebels, 1960s-2010s"
In Conversation with Ailbhe Smyth and Roseleen Walsh

Feminists Reclaim Mentorship: A Reading and Conversation
Moderated by Nancy K. Miller and Tahnee Oksman
Professor Davis introducing Naka Ekua Brew-Hammond and Abi Ishola-Ayodejina, author of Patience is a Subtle Theif

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