

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 13, SPRING 2014

WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM

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**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

A Revolutionary Moment

Women's Liberation in the late 1960s and early 1970s

March 27-29, 2014
at Boston University

Activists

Poets

Filmmakers

Scholars

Including
Geena Davis
Susan Faludi
Demita Frazier
Linda Gordon
Marge Piercy
Kathie Sarachild
and many more...

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BOSTON
UNIVERSITY



A Revolutionary Moment

Women's Liberation in the late
1960s and early 1970s

March 27-29, 2014
BOSTON UNIVERSITY

In March our conference entitled “A Revolutionary Moment: Women’s Liberation in the late 1960s and early 1970s” brought to campus close to 700 registrants (and an outstanding group of 50 student volunteers) for an intellectually exciting and often emotionally powerful examination of the multifaceted women’s liberation movement of those years. Over a 2 ½ day period attendees could choose from among 50 panels on topics ranging from “Religion, Spirituality, and Women’s Liberation” to “Competing Narratives about Sexuality and its Social Construction,” to “The Legacy and Lessons of Working-Class Feminism: Brooklyn’s National Congress of Neighborhood Women.”

The conference also provided 3 full evenings of films of and about the movement, including many important films rarely seen, as well as a production by Boston University’s College of Fine Arts School of Theatre of Ntozake Shange’s choreopoem “For colored girls who have considered suicide when the rainbow is enuf,” including a talk-back with the cast. Poet/novelist Marge Piercy provided a stirring invocation to the conference

entitled “The War on Women is Part of a Larger War” and also participated in a roundtable called “A Revolution of Poets,” in which poets and anthologists read and discussed poetry of the era. Keynote addresses were given by historians Sara Evans and Linda Gordon. Most conference sessions were videotaped, and videos are being uploaded to the conference website (www.bu.edu/wgs/conference2014) as they are ready. The website also provides a complete listing of conference events, conference biographies of all speakers, and conference papers that have been submitted to date by speakers.

The size, depth, and breadth of the conference would not have been possible without funding from Boston University’s Center for the Humanities and from many Boston University departments, programs, schools, and offices, as well as from Radcliffe’s Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America. The conference appears to have been successful in stimulating new thinking and fostering new connections among those who study this period.

PRAISE FOR: “A REVOLUTIONARY MOMENT”

Not only did the conference bring together such a fabulous group of people, the conference itself felt like a revolutionary moment-- one in which people came together to remember the 1970s, critically engage feminism at that time, and think about how we can continue the work that radical women and men were doing at that time. I'm so very delighted and grateful I was able to be a part of this event!

The uniting of old and young feminists, refueling for future struggles, and in the moment strategizing as a community were wonderful. Plus, it was so much fun!

Words fail me. Truly. I've been trying all week. (ok, I had to sleep for an entire day, bet you did more.) How profound it was. How much fun it was. How useful it was --for me, a lot, but for the young women, a gazillion times more. How heart-tugging, thinking of what we are in now. Good grief, all that hope....a few of the many words that all add up to thank you so very very much on every front possible-- personally, politically etcetc xoxox

A week later I am still uplifted from the conference. It was an amazing and valuable occasion; thank you for your work making it happen.

The uniting of old and young feminists, refueling for future struggles, and in the moment strategizing as a community were wonderful. Plus, it was so much fun!

Thank you so much for organizing this sprawling, international, multi-tendency feminist love-and-think-fest! It felt great to be there! I also learned so, so much.

Thank you for the best organized and most interesting conference I have ever attended. I am not exaggerating. And everyone is making the same assessment.

At the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians this past weekend I saw several women I met at the conference in Boston, including some familiar faces in the audience at my panel. I thought you might enjoy knowing that your work has helped to spark new friendships and an ongoing conversation about the legacy of women's liberation.

Thank you for the invigorating conference experience this last weekend! I feel as if I learned a lot from both papers I heard and the experience as a whole. As someone who is writing a dissertation on feminism in the 1970s, it was exciting to witness such conversations, many of which were extensions of those had during the movement.

It was quite extraordinary. The sheer scope was pretty stunning, as was the fact that there were no major disruptions and the event did not disintegrate into one of the usual genres of unproductive disputation. There were some of the old fissures but they didn't derail the proceedings. That alone is a tremendous accomplishment. There was so much to see and do that I only managed to digest a small slice, but for me, one of the most valuable aspects was the presence of so many historians-- the older folks of my generation, and the younger cohort that is now scouring the archives. I was excited about the way the historical narratives are becoming more complicated, corrected, and deepened. So, BRAVA!

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Women’s liberation was a radical, multi-racial feminist movement that grew directly out of the New Left, civil rights, anti-war, and related freedom movements of the 1960s. Its insight that the personal is political, its intentionally de-centralized structure, and its consciousness-raising method allowed it to grow so fast and with such intensity, that it swept up the liberal feminist organizations like NOW in a wildfire of change.

I think the first thing we have to do is challenge the idea that women’s liberation was white and middle class. This gets linked to all sorts of other things about being anti-sex and anti-motherhood. But what we know is that women’s liberation erupted in every facet of the 1960s freedom movements.

As an expression of the New Left, women’s liberation was inspired very directly by the models of Black Power and anti-colonial revolutions, models that often had different meanings, I would argue, for white women and women of color.

To acknowledge that conversations about race were difficult is altogether different from claiming that there were no such conversations.

— Sara Evans

”

EXCERPTS FROM CONFERENCE TALKS

I’ve spent a lot of time and energy in my life trying to make sure no girl or woman ever has to go through what I did when I was 18 and had to abort myself and almost bled to death or the terrors and pain I shared with other women when I was helping them get abortions during the times it was illegal. We are losing this battle. We are not countering the guilt-based propoganda of the anti-choice people with a defense that moves women.

Somehow we need to recapture that sense of enthusiasm and the exhilaration of being active in history, capture it in some new form. But one of the reasons that it is hard to keep any movement going now is the economy. In the 60s I could work part time and have a great deal of time for politics. Only the 5% or so has that freedom now. People work two jobs to survive in poverty or near it.

But we must also understand that the attempt to take away a woman’s control over her body is part of a larger attempt to take away any real control over the lives of most of the population. Now corporations and the very wealthy 1% control elections. Now the media are propaganda machines and the only investigative reporting is on Comedy Central or the web. The powers that be have granted certain social rather than economic gains. We’ll have legalized marijuana and gay marriage in every state while unions are being crushed and the safety net of the New Deal and the Johnson era are being abolished one law at a time. We have some social gains and many economic losses. The real earning power of working people diminishes every year. We are losing the power battle.

— Marge Piercy



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One of the things we need to recognize is that the feminism that started in the late 1960s that we call women's liberation was the largest social movement in the history of the United States. Its accomplishments are really, truly breathtaking, and you understand that best when, if you are an older person like me, you're in a conversation with a younger person and understand how they can't even imagine some of the aspects of what our lives were like before this movement.

It was not only the largest movement, but, I would argue, in some ways the most open movement in American history because it made it possible for all kinds of people to create little projects that served their own position and their own needs. Whether or not they articulated what we might call feminist theory, they were in fact subverting some of the oldest structures of domination in human history.

I do want to point out, because there are people here who are not historians and they don't teach this in the schools, that the Montgomery bus boycott was organized by women and that it was organized by women who came together to fight both sexism and racism because they came together inseparably in the experience of black women.

This was a very, very radical movement and so, naturally, the backlash against it has been extremely strong and extremely virulent.

— Linda Gordon

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Interested in watching more video footage from the conference?
Visit our website at:

<http://bit.ly/1pbztx1>



The **WGS Graduate Certificate Program** was launched with great success. In the fall, Carrie Preston (English) served as the Director of Graduate Studies, and Ashley Mears (Sociology) took over as DGS for the spring semester. Profiles of the new program appeared in *BU Today*, *The Buzz*, and the *Law School Newsletter*. Six students officially registered for the Certificate, with another ten expressing interest. Erin Murphy (English) taught the first iteration of WGS 801, the required seminar on theory and methodology. The WGS Graduate Symposium Series, an optional series of events intended to build a cross-disciplinary community amongst graduate students in the program, kicked off on October 9 with a lecture (framed as a practice job talk) by AMNESP graduate Patricia Stuelke: "The Sex Wars and The Politics of Affective Solidarity." There were over 30 people in attendance at the Center for Gender, Sexuality,



Carrie Preston will take on the role of WGS Program Director starting in July, 2014.

and Activism. The second event of the semester was a Pedagogical Workshop hosted by Carrie Preston that focused on syllabus development and incorporating gender into different types of classes from the small seminar to the large introductory survey. Eight graduate students attended, and there was a lively discussion of each student's syllabus in progress. In the spring, the WGS Graduate Symposium Series continued with a screening of Bernardo Bertolucci *Last Tango in Paris* (1972) in advance of Sedgwick Memorial Lecturer Lauren Berlant's discussion of the film. Three graduate student papers were circulated for writing workshops on works-in-progress, and another student delivered a practice conference presentation. Students agreed that all of the Symposium events were a valuable complement to their work for the WGS Graduate Certificate and to their degree programs more generally.

WS 801: THEORIES AND METHODS IN WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES



Erin Murphy (right) leads her Theories and Methods in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies seminar. The course is a requirement for completing the graduate certificate. Photos by Cydney Scott, source: BU Today

The first graduate course ever offered by Boston University's Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program made its debut fall semester, 2013. **WS 801: Theories and Methods in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies**, was taught in this, its first outing, by Erin Murphy, Associate Professor of English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Since both the readings for the class and the seminar participants represented an array of disciplinary perspectives, the course offered a unique opportunity to consider central issues in the study of gender and sexuality. Readings included both classic texts on gender and sexuality (Rubin, Lorde, Anzaldua, MacKinnon, Haraway, Scott, Foucault, Butler, Sedgwick) and current trends in the field. In order to enhance the interdisciplinary frame of the course, four of the classes were facilitated by a pair of professors discussing the same topic from different disciplinary vantage points. These included "How Bodies Matter" with Karen Warkentin (Biology) and Catherine Connell (Sociology), "Family Matters" with Deborah Belle (Psychology) and Murphy (English), "Issues in Quantitative Research" with Virginia Sapiro (Political Science) and Claudia Olivetti (Economics), and "Making History" with Arianne Chernock (History) and Murphy (English). Other guests included professors Anthony Petro and Gina Cogan from Religion. The course drew students from across BU including PhD candidates from Romance Studies, English, Philosophy, Religion, Sociology, American Studies and Theology, an MFA candidate studying painting, and another pursuing a Masters of Sacred Theology. One student was a MA/MPP student from Brandeis University. Responses to the course were universally favorable, with students stating that they found the opportunity to work across disciplinary boundaries both challenging and invaluable. The course will be taught each academic year going forward. Carrie Preston, Associate Professor of English and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, will teach the course when it is next taught, spring semester, 2015.

SPOTLIGHT ON: BRENDA MCSWEENEY



Brenda Gael McSweeney with BU Grad and WGS staff Lavanya Madabusi at the Opening Reception of the exhibit

Boston University's UNESCO/UNITWIN (University Twinning) Network on Gender, Culture and Development based at the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program (WGS) was pleased to co-sponsor a photo exhibition on the evolution of the roles and rights of women in Burkina Faso from the 1970s to present.

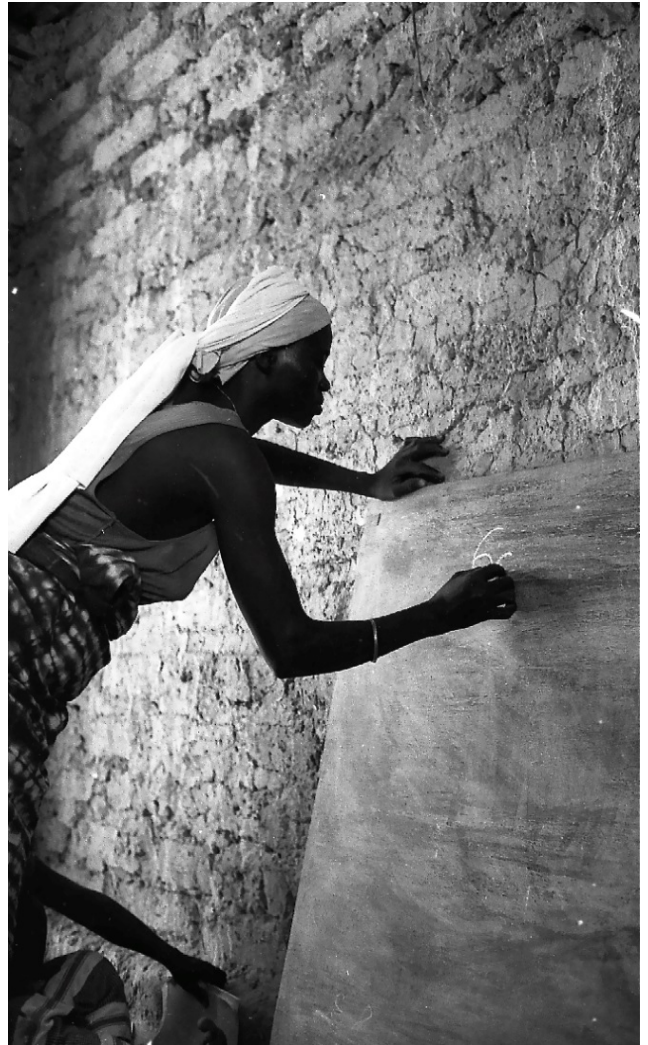
Launched on International Women's Day (March 8th) and held in conjunction with Women's History Month, the exhibit included a large collection of photos taken by **WGS Visiting Faculty Brenda Gael McSweeney** that tell the story of workload-lightening technologies that were introduced to Burkina Faso in the 70s, and their impact on female education and empowerment over the following decades. Brenda also incorporated this case study into her WGS seminars on Gender and International Development.

The exhibit, co-sponsored by the Friends of the Faneuil Branch Library and Unbound Visual Arts, and its accompanying Guide were based on decades of work and action-research of Brenda with Scholastique Kompaoré in Burkina, and were developed with Cassandra Fox. They shared an uplifting story of the evolution of women's roles and livelihoods in West Africa for the over 100 university colleagues, members of the local community, and political representatives in attendance.

More information about this women's education initiative can be found at:
www.equalityburkina.blogspot.com.



Above: A rural women's group leader expressing views in the 1970's (photo from exhibit)



Above: Woman attending functional literacy classes during time freed up thanks to the introduction of simple technologies (photo from exhibit)

THE SARAH JOANNE DAVIS AWARD

2014 WINNER: ELIZA BERG

The 2014 Sarah Joanne Davis Award goes to **Eliza Berg**, for “Everyday Uprisings: Women’s Rights Activism in Morocco.”

This work grows out of Eliza’s senior honors thesis project on women’s rights activism in the Middle East and North Africa, with a specific focus on Morocco. With the funding she won to do this work Eliza spent two weeks in Rabat, Morocco’s capital, staying with a Moroccan host family, taking Arabic lessons, and meeting with her interviewees who included members of prominent feminist organizations as well as younger activists involved in campaigns against sexual violence and street harassment. The paper she produced analyzes the political tensions, socio-cultural norms, and pressures that shape activists’ relationships with the government, each other, and Moroccan society. She compares the more longstanding feminist strategies with those of younger activists, finding that “while youth strategies and ideologies depart from those historically utilized by feminist organizations, they continue to refer to and rely upon the work of feminist activism in their social and political pursuits.” Eliza’s goal is “to continue building upon previous feminist scholarship by using a gender focus to critically analyze the current political, economic, and social transitions in the Middle East and North African region.” We applaud Eliza’s accomplishments and look forward to her future work in this area. Her work makes us confident for the future of feminist scholarship, along with feminist activism.

Congratulations, Eliza!

RUNNER UP: JULIA PERROTTA

The 2014 Sarah Joanne Davis Honorable Mention Award goes to **Julia Perrotta** for her paper on “The Evolution of Sexuality Education in the United States: How Peer Education is Changing How Teens Learn about Sex.”

As Julia points out, although “the Center for Disease Control has outlined standards for health education based on contemporary research supporting comprehensive sexuality education throughout grade school, students nationwide continue to receive inaccurate or ineffective abstinence-only sexuality education.” Happily, groups of teens across the country have begun peer-taught comprehensive sexuality education in their own classrooms and communities. “Following in the footsteps of youth-led movements of the 1960s and 1970s,” the student-led peer sexuality education movement has helped by “working at the grassroots level to create healthier communities.” Julia’s analysis is helpful (and hopeful!) in thinking about this issue.

Congratulations, Julia!

PUTTING WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES LEARNING TO WORK

A Panel Discussion with BU WGS Alumnae

What do a Community Relations Manager for Joseph Family Markets, Executive and Development Assistant at ArtsBoston, Social Worker at the VA Boston Healthcare System, and Senior Writer for Presidential messages at the White House have in common? They all studied in the WGS Program. Four recent graduates of our program, Carrie Titolo, Ramona Ostrowski, Alexandra Smith, and Sarah Sullivan joined faculty and students for the panel "Putting Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Learning to Work" on April 24th, 2014 in the Center for Gender, Sexuality, & Activism. All discussed how their WGS background informed their career choices, helped them engage with colleagues, maintain an activist orientation in their work and lives, and seek that ever elusive work-life balance.

Titolo previously worked for the nonprofit Susan G. Komen for the Cure fighting breast cancer, and she explained how her studies in the WGS program helped her bring her commitment to women and gender justice to her position in the for-profit sector as a Community Relations Manager. She plans inclusive events, shapes the atmosphere of the markets, and, in one memorable example, helped her colleagues understand and support a gender non-conforming employee. Ostrowski uses her WGS background to advocate that Boston theater companies stage plays that will challenge gender assumptions. She also works for a company that uses theatre to enact social change, Company One Theatre, where she creates playbills and dramaturgical statements that will reinforce the messages of the plays and develops programs such as talkbacks to help the audience learn. Smith, a licensed social worker, described how BU prepared her for graduate school. She has devoted her career to helping women veterans with severe problems such as homelessness, eating disorders, and drug and alcohol addictions. As a Senior Writer at the White House, Sullivan has the opportunity to use the critical reading and writing skills she developed in WGS courses and at BU more generally to shape President Obama's messages to the public.

WGS Program Director Deborah Belle moderated the panel, using a series of questions worked out in advance with the panelists to guide them in teaching us all about what the program had taught them. Current students were excited to learn of the diverse opportunities and applications for a WGS minor. A central theme of the discussion that followed the panel was how students, after graduation, could continue to do inspiring work based in concerns for women, gender, sexuality, and activism, could find the kinds of communities that had supported them at BU, and could get paid for their efforts. We all left feeling that these were tremendous challenges and that WGS Program alumna were meeting them in world-changing ways.



*From top to bottom:
Carrie Titolo,
Ramona Ostrowski,
Alexandra Smith, and
Sarah Sullivan*

SPOTLIGHT ON: W/GS FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DIANE BALSER, INSTRUCTOR

I participated in planning our program's 2014 women's conference, "A Revolutionary Moment: Women's Liberation in the 1960s and Early 1970s." There I presented a paper and chaired a forum titled "Women's Liberation's Revolutionary Potential." I am currently working to develop an internship program for students that will allow them to work in organizations for change and give them experience with women leaders.



DEBORAH BELLE, PROFESSOR

In addition to organizing the "Revolutionary Moment" conference, I did more research on gender schemas with Mikaela Wapman (CAS'14) using the old riddle about the father and son who are in a terrible car crash that kills the father. The son is rushed to the hospital; but the surgeon says, "I can't operate—that boy is my son!" How can that be? It has been great fun thinking about and sharing our results. I also published (with Joyce Benenson) "Children's social networks and children's well-being" in the Handbook of Children's Well-being and prepared "Gendered networks: Professional connections of science and engineering faculty," for publication in *Advances in Gender Research: Gender Transformation in the Academy*.



ELIZABETH BOSKEY, VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

This year I've been continuing to expand my focus on sexuality and health. In addition to continuing my work as the STD Expert at About.com, I published two articles in *Contemporary Sexuality* - "Social and Medical Transitioning Options for Gender Non-Conforming Children" and "Sexuality in the DSM 5: Research, Relevance, and Reaction". I also had the opportunity to present a three hour workshop titled "Two (Relationships) Are Better Than One? Relationship Issues Affecting Polyamorous Patients" at the Institute for Contemporary Psychotherapy in NYC and make my annual pilgrimage to the National Sex Education Conference, where I spoke on "The Risks and Pleasures of Oral Sex".



CATHERINE CONNELL, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

My forthcoming book *School's Out: Gay and Lesbian Teachers in the Classroom* (November, 2014), focuses on the experiences of gay and lesbian identified teachers in California and Texas. In the book, I ask: how do gay and lesbian teachers grapple with their professional and sexual identities at work, given that they are constructed as mutually exclusive, even indeed as mutually opposed? *School's Out* explores how teachers struggle to craft a classroom persona that balances who they are and what's expected of them in a climate of pervasive homophobia. The book explores the tension between the rhetoric of gay pride and the professional ethic of discretion in the context of other complicating factors, from local law and politics to race and gender privilege.



GINA COGAN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

My biggest accomplishment was the publication of my book, *The Princess Nun: Bunchi, Buddhism, and Gender in Early Edo Japan*, in March 2014, from Harvard University Asia Center Press. I also gave a paper, "Hakuin, *The Lotus Sutra*, and *Filial Piety*," at an international conference on the Lotus Sutra, held in Tokyo, Japan, from May 28 to June 2, 2014. This paper was on a letter written by the famous 18th century Japanese Zen monk Hakuin to four young sisters who had copied the Lotus Sutra for the benefit of their deceased parents, and it discusses his authority as a male monk speaking to young lay women.

**BARBARA GOTTFRIED**, INSTRUCTOR

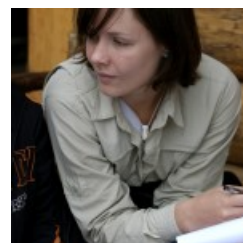
This year I designed a new course, "American Masculinities," which was approved for both Sociology majors and WGS minors, and filled within the first two hours of on-line registration for Spring 2014. The course focused particularly on the ways culture reproduces and articulates masculinities and the variety of ways individual men and boys express and understand their masculinity. I was also a member of the Planning Committee for our "Revolutionary Moment" conference and respondent for a panel on "Art and Literature;" and participated in the inaugural faculty retreat of the new joint CAS / COM major in Cinema and Media Studies. This summer I attended the 28th Symposium of the International Council for Traditional Music Study Group on Ethnochoreology in Korcula, Croatia which sparked new insights into the relationship of masculinities to dance in American culture vs. European dance traditions which I plan to develop further.

**JENNIFER KNUST**, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

My current works in progress include the following: "Jesus, an Adulteress, and a History of John 7:53-8:11" with Tommy Wasserman, *Routledge Dictionary of Ancient Mediterranean Religions*, "Who's Afraid of Noah, Ham, and Canaan? A Paranoid Reading of a Terrorizing Text," "Miscellany Manuscripts, the Dishna Papers, and the Christian Canonical Imaginary," "In Ritual Matters: Material Residues and Ancient Religions. *Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome*," and "The Rise of the Maccabean Martyr Cult: Belief and Practice in Christian Late Antiquity."

**SIOBHÁN MATTISON**, RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Presently, we are developing further studies to establish quantitatively the various contexts surrounding adoption in Taiwan, in order to provide evidence of if and how such variation affects health and social outcomes of adopted children. We continue to explore the effects of breastfeeding duration and its outcomes. Finally, we are preparing a field-based project that aims to expand previous findings among the Mosuo to explore the initial rise of socio-economic inequality and its impact on health and well-being alongside rapid market integration.



ASHLEY MEARS, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

In fall 2014, I was a research fellow at the Center for Gender and Sexuality at the University of Amsterdam. Currently I'm at work on a qualitative project on cultures of consumption among the new global elite, and the role of women in constructing the global VIP nightlife economy from New York, the Hamptons, and the French Riviera. This book, tentatively titled *The Global VIP Circuit of the New Gilded Age*, fills gaps in our knowledge on contemporary elites with rare ethnographic insights to analyze culture and stratification dynamics among the global "one percent," of crucial import in our current moment of escalating economic inequality. In the global VIP scene, I document how women's "bodily capital" is used by elite men as a symbolic resource to generate money, status, and social ties. I also explain women's participation in this system of traffic in women, where women experience ambivalent pleasures by belonging to a glamorous, yet structurally unequal, social world.

**ROBERTA MICALFÉ**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

I am currently working on an article about Turkish women political prisoners and also working on a collection of articles about 19th and 20th century Middle Eastern travel narratives. I am also an active member of the Turkish language teaching community. I am among the first group to receive ACTFL training toward Turkish oral proficiency testing and I received a summer grant to work on a Turkish language teaching aide.

**BRENDA GAEL MCSWEENEY**, VISITING FACULTY

My action-research projects at WGS and as a Resident Scholar at Brandeis University's Women's Studies Research Center focus on equal access to education for women and girls in Burkina Faso, and self-reliant livelihoods in West Bengal, India. Unbound Visual Arts, of which I am a founding member artist and Council Advisor, has shared the findings with academia, the political arena, and local communities through exhibitions. At WGS I lead the UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & Development with Indian, West African, and Boston area university and nongovernmental partners.

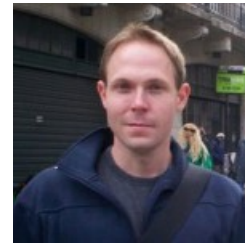
**CARRIE PRESTON**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

I was the guest editor for a special issue of the journal *Modernist Cultures* on "Modernism and Dance", where my "Introduction" and essay "Modernism's Dancing Marionettes: Oskar Schlemmer, Michel Fokine, and Ito Michio" were published. I delivered a paper entitled "Dancing Submission: A Movement Pedagogy for Feminist and Gender Theory" at the annual joint conference of the Society of Dance History Scholars and Congress on Research. I also received the de la Torre Bueno Award for my book *Modernism's Mythic Pose: Gender, Genre, Solo Performance*. I delivered an invited lecture at DramaNet, Institut f r Romanische Philologie/Peter Szondi-Institut, Freie Universit t Berlin, and also gave a paper entitled "Bertolt Brecht's Failed Teachings: *Der Jasager* and the *Lehrst ck*" at the MLA's Annual Convention. I presented on a panel about "The Locations of Theater" at the 2014 Mellon School of Theater and Performance Research at Harvard.



ANTHONY M. PETRO, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

I currently co-chair (with Lynne Gerber, UC-Berkeley) a five-year seminar called “Global Perspectives on Religion and HIV/AIDS” for the American Academy of Religion. In addition, I am developing a new project that examines the history of American Christian engagement with health and disability policy in the U.S. since the 1950s. I am also currently developing a new course on “Sexuality and American Religion,” so stay tuned for more information!

**ERIN MURPHY**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

This year, I delivered two conference papers: “The Genealogical Struggles of Paradise Regained” at the John Milton Conference in Murfreesboro, TN and “Erotic Origins: Aemilia Lanyer’s Passionate Temporality,” at the Renaissance Society of America in NYC, as well as an invited talk, “Fighting Words: Seventeenth-Century Women’s War Writing,” at the BU interdisciplinary colloquium on “Female Agency” in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. I also gave an invited lecture at Harvard on “Double Agents and Pious Frauds: Lucy Hutchinson and the ‘Identity Problems’ of the English Civil Wars.” With my co-editor, Catharine Gray, I completed the essay collection, *Milton Now: Alternative Approaches and Contexts*, which will be published this coming November. I am working on a new monograph, *Wartimes: Seventeenth-Century Women’s Writing and its Afterlives*, a project for which I won a Jeffrey Henderson Senior Research Fellowship from the Boston University Center for the Humanities, as well as a suite of essays on reproductive temporality in seventeenth-century England. I served as Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of English, co-organized the Faculty Gender and Sexuality Studies Group with Anthony Petro, and taught the inaugural class of the WGS Graduate Certificate’s core course, Theories and Methods.

**KAREN WARKENTIN**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

As a biologist, I study how environments affect development and behavior. My current research focuses on red-eyed treefrogs, whose embryos hatch prematurely to escape from predators and other dangers. I was awarded a 5-year grant from the National Science Foundation to examine how developmentally changing sensory and performance abilities and risk trade-offs combine to affect embryo behavioral decisions and hatching timing under different environmental contexts. At the intersection of biology, gender, and sexuality studies I am thinking about how current biological understandings of development, behavior, and sex may be useful to gender and queer theorists. As part of this, Alisa Bokulich, Carrie Preston, and I are organizing an interdisciplinary Boston Colloquium for Philosophy of Science examining “Diversity, Plasticity, and the Science of Sexuality.”



To read more about our faculty, please visit our website at:

www.bu.edu/wgs/community/faculty