

WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM



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**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

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(Various Contributors)

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Professor Carrie J. Preston
Program Director

The Boston University Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program had a big year in 2015/16! I am happy to report on the exciting growth of the program, new initiatives, and valuable opportunities for our students and faculty.

The WGS Program initiated a Senior Teaching Fellowship (STF) to be awarded to one of our Graduate Certificate Students each semester. The STF will have the opportunity to teach a course in vy area of research and will thereby gain valuable teaching experience, earn an extra semester of funding, and contribute to the diversity of the WGS curriculum. Talia Vestri Croan won the WGS Program's inaugural Senior Teaching Fellowship with vy proposal for "Why Marry?: The History, Fantasy, and Reality of Married Sexuality." This course will be offered as a special topics seminar in the fall. Talia is a doctoral candidate in English and has completed the requirements for a WGS Graduate Certificate. We welcome vy contributions to the semester's exciting course offerings.

WGS named its first group of **Core Faculty**, professors who have devoted a quarter of their teaching and service responsibilities to the Program. For most, this new assignment is merely a formal recognition of the time and energy they were already generously devoting beyond their commitments to their departments. Still, the creation of the Core Faculty will provide the program with some much-needed stability for course planning and a central group to oversee curriculum development and program growth. I thank our inaugural Core Faculty members for their remarkable service:

Cati Connell (Sociology), Cheryl Knott (Anthropology), Erin Murphy (English), Anthony Petro (Religion), Virginia Sapiro (Political Science), Susanne Sreedhar, (Philosophy), Keith Vincent (MLCL), Karen Warkentin (Biology)

The WGS Program awarded research grants to three faculty, Cati Connel, Kim Icreverzi, and Susanne Sreedhar. Cati conducted interviews with military servicemembers for vy project about shifts in the gender and sexual culture of the military in the post-Don't Ask Don't Tell context. Kim traveled to Kyoto, Japan to deliver a paper entitled "The Aspiration of Somnambulant Labor in Contemporary Japanese Cinema." Susanne presented vy paper, "Bi-Fragility," at the Central Division meeting of the American Philosophical Association in Chicago in March. We are delighted to be able to support these important projects and provide some additional funding to our faculty.

This year, we welcomed six new faculty affiliates who hail from different departments, divisions, and schools: Leslie Brody (Psychology), Lynn O'Brien Hallstein (CGS Humanities), Lee Monk (English), Jennifer Row (Romance Studies), and Christopher Schmitt (Anthropology). We welcomed **Vrinda Varma**, a Fulbright-Nehru Grantee from Kerala India to our community as she researches the construction of women's identities and food narratives.

The WGS Program recognized the remarkable achievements of our students at our annual **Awards Ceremony** on April 28, 2016. The Sarah Joanne Davis Prize was awarded to Sarah Boone and Nicole Rizzo with Dana Barnes earning an honorable mention. Andrew Garcia won the WGS Paper Prize, and Melanie Kirsh received the WGS Research Award. Congratulations! Please read the profiles of our prize-winners below.

Once again, the WGS Program offered a series of fantastic events that contributed a great deal to the Boston University community and beyond. We organized a lunch discussion with **Kimberly Mutcherson** on the topic of "Reproductive Justice in the Era of Marriage Equality" for our graduate students. We brought **Sam Jay** to campus to share his stand-up comedy, an event organized by Barbara Gottfried for my course WS 356: Women & Comedy in America. In collaboration with the Law School, we brought the award-winning legal scholar **Martha Ertman** to speak to WS 102 An Interdisciplinary Introduction to Gender & Sexuality Studies and other groups on campus. Ertman discussed my new book, *Love's Promises: How Formal and Informal Contracts Shape All Kinds of Families*, a fascinating mix of legal case studies and memoir, including a discussion of my own "Plan B" family. We organized a panel, "**Putting Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Learning to Work,**" which featured recent graduates of the program discussing how they have applied Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies in their careers. WGS and the **Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies** sponsored an event, *Black Lives Through the Arts*, at the Brattle Theater in Cambridge that brought the visual artist and filmmaker Shikeith, musicians Seychelle Dunn and Adrienne Baker, Slam Poet Lenelle Moïse, and other scholars and artists to celebrate racial diversity and artistry. Our program and the Gender and Sexuality Studies Group worked together to organize yet another remarkable Sedgwick Memorial Lecture, featuring **Roderick Ferguson** speaking on "The Diasporas of Black Queer Art." We co-sponsored other events relevant to gender and sexuality across the campus.

The WGS Program continues to function as an interdisciplinary center for research, teaching, and outreach related to gender and sexuality. I thank all the faculty, students, and administrators who supported our work this past year and look forward to the next one!

Warmest wishes,

Carrie J. Preston

Director
Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program

A NOTE FROM

THE DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

The graduate certificate program continues to grow and thrive; in 2015-2016, more than 30 graduate students were enrolled in the program! In the fall, we held a mixer event for our certificate members as well as a pedagogical workshop where we worked on syllabi and course development and discussed the latest feminist pedagogical debates, including accessibility, Title IX statements, trigger warnings, and different approaches to queering the classroom. This spring, nine students enrolled in our WGS 801 foundation course, "Theories and Methods in WGS," including our visiting Fullbright scholar, Vrinda Varma. The projects our certificate students are working on are truly breathtaking in excellence, innovation, and scope. I'm excited to watch as these projects develop over the course of our students' tenure at BU and beyond!

This year, we also graduated two WGS certificate earners: Leanne Maxey and Hannah Simpson. Congratulations to Leanne and Hanna - we look forward to watching as your careers develop and accomplishments pile up!

We are planning several exciting events for the upcoming academic year, including more pedagogical workshops and social events. If you have ideas about what kinds of support or events you'd like to see us develop, please be in touch with me! We want this program to be responsive to student needs and to help our certificate students take advantage of the various WGS related resources in the area. We welcome feedback; to that end, we'll be implementing exit interviews with graduating students in the next academic year to track the program's strengths and weaknesses and improve accordingly. We also welcome input from faculty and advisors; we hope for our graduate certificate program to continue to grow, flourish, and adapt in the years to come.

Our university's participation in the Boston area GCWS (newly re-minted as Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality) continues to benefit our graduate students, who, in the last year, took courses in the consortium, participated in its dissertation workshops, and attended its many events. For more on GCWS events in the upcoming year, see <http://web.mit.edu/gcws/>.

Looking forward to another great academic year and to meeting the new graduate certificate members who join our ranks!

— *Cati Connell*

Director of Graduate Studies
Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program





MEET VRINDA VARMA!

FULBRIGHT-NEHRU DOCTORAL FELLOW 2015-16

Vrinda Varma is a Doctoral Fellow at Sree Sankaracharya University of Sanskrit, Kerala, India, and is a Fulbright Nehru Doctoral Research Fellow at the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program at B.U. Vrinda is an Assistant Professor of English at Sree Kerala Varma College, Thrissur, Kerala, India.

Vrinda is currently working on her doctoral dissertation that studies the construction of women's identities in relation to food narratives. Her work is primarily focused in her home state of Kerala, where she examines how narratives of food (de)construct, maintain and perpetuate gendered identities for women. Vrinda's primary materials for study include earliest women's magazines in Kerala including various ethnographic sources. Her work in this area was most recently published as a chapter, "The Food-Woman Connection: Is Food Really a Woman's Thing?" in *Making Sense of Food: Exploring Cultural and Culinary Identities* published by Inter-Disciplinary Press, Oxford.

Vrinda is a published author of an English course book series for school children and has translated The Panchatantra (five books of animal fables) from Malayalam to English for young readers. Her areas of interest include Food and Food Culture, Food and Gender Roles, Food History, Culinary Writing, Magazines and Readership, and Young Fiction. As a pet project, Vrinda is collecting archival data on the food history and foodways of Kerala, which she hopes to bring out as a book.

Read more about the WGS Visiting Scholars here:

WWW.BU.EDU/WGS/PEOPLE/VISITING-FACULTY/

2016 AWARDS FOR WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES



From left to right: Dana Barnes, Andrew Garcia, Sarah Boone, Nicole Rizzo, and Melanie Kirsh

SJD AWARD WINNERS :

Sarah Boone

Changes in Transgressive Potential: The Plot of Remarriage and the Unruly Woman Outside of Screwball and Romantic Comedy

Nicole Rizzo

Sensationalism of Female Sexuality in Oscar Wilde's *Salome*

SJD AWARD RUNNER-UP

Dana Barnes

The Negative Elements Affiliated with Legalization of Prostitution in the United States

WGS RESEARCH AWARD WINNER:

Melanie Kirsh

"This is Proof that this is Not a Phase": Experiences of LGBTQ+ Students with Mental Illness at Boston University Navigating Identities & Issues in the University Environment.

WGS PAPER PRIZE:

Andrew Garcia

Beyond Telos: Female Subjectivity in *Sweetie* and *Angel at my Table*

2016 AWARDEE PROFILES

SJD AWARD WINNERS:

Nicole Rizzo shared the **Sarah Joanne Davis Prize** for her essay, "Sensationalism of Female Sexuality in Oscar Wilde's *Salomé*" written for Carrie Preston's EN/WS 326 Arts of Gender/Performing Gender course. The paper skillfully demonstrates the ambiguity and ambivalence in Wilde's *Salomé*. Nicole points out that this ambiguity is centered on the dance scene and sexualization of Salomé, but also that the text allows for a remarkable diversity of theatrical and cinematic interpretations. Although Salomé could be presented along a wide spectrum from innocent victim to femme fatale, Nicole convincingly argued that most interpretations tip toward the extremity of sensationalism. The paper was extensively researched and beautifully written with impressive and creative readings of both theatrical productions and cinematic versions of *Salomé*. Nicole is a student in the Honors College, an English major, and a WGS minor who also received an award from the BUCH this year.

Sarah Boone, CAS '16, a psychology major and WGS minor, received the Sarah Joanne Davis Award in 2016 for her essay, "Changes in Transgressive Potential: The Plot of Remarriage and the Unruly Woman Outside of Screwball and Romantic Comedy." In it Sarah argued that the conventions of these comedic genres have been appropriated in more subversive ways by films in other, more "serious" genres as a way of appealing to a female audience and defying the expectations of femininity. The essay then goes on to consider *Gone Girl* (2014), the highly rated blockbuster directed by David Fincher from the novel by Gillian Flynn and observes how, in this suspense-thriller, the screwball remarriage plot is used more transgressively to critique the very institution of marriage, while the lability of gender expression in current film emphasizes the performativity of gender and the unruly potential of every woman, not just the screwball heroine. Sarah will attend graduate school in psychology in New York, beginning in the Fall of 2016.

Dana Barnes won an honorable mention award for her paper "The Negative Elements Affiliated with Legalization of Prostitution in the United States." In the paper she shares many of the complexities of the debate concerning the legalization of prostitution in comparison with contrasting models abolishing the system of prostitution. This is one of the central feminist debates of the contemporary period of time.

WGS RESEARCH AWARD WINNER:

Melanie Kirsh won the WGS Research Award for "This is Proof that this is Not a Phase": Experiences of LGBTQ+ Students with Mental Illness at Boston University Navigating Identities & Issues in the University Environment." Melanie's original research examines the relationships between mental illness, LGBTQ+ identities, and university life amongst her peers at Boston University. Guided by Sociology Professors Liah Greenfeld and Cati Connell (also a Core Faculty member in WGS), Melanie interviewed nine BU undergraduates, polled sixteen other students, and met with four staff members. Her research probes student experiences of mental health care at BU, revealing both excellent and less desirable outcomes. She also considers why many students forgo care. In the end, she concludes that explorations of diverse gendered and sexual identities thrive at BU and other universities. Yet, mental health concerns and emotional suffering are pervasive and particularly troubling for non-normative students.

WGS PAPER PRIZE:

Andrew Garcia received the award for a distinguished paper written for a course in the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program. Andrew wrote this paper in a class on the films of Jane Campion taught by Deborah Swedberg. His subject is a comparison of the main female characters in two of Campion's films: *Sweetie* and *An Angel at my Table*. Both movies focus on mentally troubled female characters trying to find a happier place in life. In his interpretation, Andrew argues that Campion does not depict the women characters, Kay, in *Sweetie*, and Janet, in *An Angel at my Table*, as recovering their mental health in a predictable way, by imagining them achieving goals of marriage or career success. Instead, Andrew argues that Campion depicts Kay and Janet finding a happier subjectivity by letting go of the idea of a clear goal-oriented life, by embracing uncertainty. Andrew's interpretation is intellectually rigorous and his writing style is complex and sophisticated. Congratulations, Andrew, for producing this impressive piece of work!

STAND-UP COMEDY WITH **SAM JAY**

Samaria [Sam Jay] Johnson, one of “40 Hot Queer Women in Comedy” listed on the afterellen website, came to BU on November 19, 2015 to visit with students in Barbara Gottfried’s “Women and Comedy” classes and perform her stand-up act.

Sam Jay, who got her start at the Comedy Studio in Boston and now works out of L.A., answered students’ questions about how she got started as a stand-up, how she crafts her comedy, what she finds funny and why, and what makes for good stand up comedy. Later, over a quick meal at Mei Mei’s, she mentioned how impressed she was with students’ understanding of comedy—which they had garnered from the previous 10 weeks of reading about the history of women in comedy, women performing stand-up, the politics of stand up, and the ways in which stand-up allows the comedian to defy the expectations of femininity and transmute aggression and constraint into humor.

Pictured below: Professor Barbara Gottfried with Sam Jay



Sam Jay’s bio notes that being female, African American, and a lesbian has allowed her to stand out in a male dominated industry. But it is more how she takes these experiences and makes them not only funny but relatable, that currently propels her career. Witty, candid, and raw, her comedy addresses issues of race, gender, class, sexuality, and politics, provoking audiences by pushing their thinking even while her sets retain the feel of a barroom conversation with a chummy, funny friend.

Sam Jay’s performance was followed by a reception in the WGS Sitting Room. Everyone appreciated the chance to observe and interact with a stand-up comedian up close and personal—a great time was had by all.

— *Barbara Gottfried*

Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies
Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program

WGS'S UNESCO/UNITWIN NETWORK INTER-COUNTRY COOPERATION!



This academic year, inter-country cooperation between Partners of the UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & Development was a main feature of our work – visit our UNITWIN site! Two Founding Coordinators, Prof. Asha Mukherjee at Visva Bharati University in West Bengal and Dr. Arvinder Ansari of Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) University in New Delhi, played key roles for Brazil's Labrys volume *Indian Feminism*. Professor Mukherjee, Department of Philosophy & Religion and Founding Director, Women's Studies Centre at Visva Bharati is Editor and contributed the Introduction and "Indian Feminism: Dynamics and Challenges". Dr. Ansari, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology/JMI shared "Muslim Women's Activism in India: Negotiating the Customary Laws and Feminism." Links [here](#).

For International Women's Day 8 March 2016, Boston University's Dr. Shahla Haeri, a Founder of our Network, made a special presentation at Jamia Millia Islamia celebrations at the invitation of Dr. Arvinder Ansari. Faculty and students exchanged views on priority issues facing women in Iran and India, following a screening of Shahla's documentary film.

Social scientist Scholastique Kompaoré pursued conversations with the Interim Emperor in Burkina Faso. Her [Interview de l'intérim de Naaba Saaga](#) is available as an e-publication in which she shares the remarkable story of the interim leader of the Mossi people, chosen at age 11 – unusual since she was both a child and female! Naaba Saaga challenged traditions that governed her life and reinforced poverty in the village – then conveys hopes for the future. The English translation by BU's Cassandra Fox is forthcoming in the recently launched WGS UNITWIN Occasional Paper series. Scholastique is a Founding Member of the UNESCO/UNITWIN Equality Burkina team. Below: photograph of the Interim Emperor taken by BU's UNITWIN Director, Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney during the initial interview that she and Scholastique had for their *Women of Vision: Burkina Faso* research.



Shahla 3rd from lt. & Arvinder 2nd from rt. in Delhi



MORE ON THE BU-ANCHORED UNITWIN AT:

[HTTP://WWW.BU.EDU/WGS/NETWORKS/UNESCO-UNITWIN-AT-BU/](http://www.bu.edu/wgs/networks/unesco-unitwin-at-bu/),
[UNITWIN.BLOGSPOT.COM/](http://unitwin.blogspot.com/) AND [EQUALITYBURKINA.BLOGSPOT.COM/](http://equalityburkina.blogspot.com/)

UNESCO/UNITWIN Director at WGS/BU:
Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney

uniTwin

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



On February 10th, 2016 WGS sponsored an exciting panel of WGS alumni sharing their thoughts and experiences about how they put the knowledge and expertise they gained from the WGS program to use in their careers after they graduated. BU undergraduates, especially WGS minors, benefited from the opportunity to hear from and speak to the four BU alumni how they applied their WGS background to their careers.

Bridget Daley graduated from BU with a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology and a Minor in Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. While at BU she served as the Volunteer Coordinator at the Center for Gender, Sexuality and Activism and was an intern in a local union as well as Massachusetts Jobs with Justice. After graduation she began working as an organizer for *Fight \$15*. She is now the lead organizer for the campaign outside of Boston and organizes in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

Nai Collymore-Henry graduated from Boston University with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations. Prior to joining MassNOW, Nai served as an intern with Boston City Councilor At-Large Ayanna Pressley where she interacted with Boston residents and constituents and assisted office staff. While attending Boston University, she served as one of the co-directors of the Center for Gender, Sexuality and Activism. Nai is currently the Policy and Operations Manager of Mass NOW where she advocates for women and girls across the state of Massachusetts.

Lauren Mullins is a 2014 graduate of Boston University's College of Arts and Sciences with a degree in Political Science and International Relations. Since graduating from BU, Lauren has worked as a legislative aide for Assistant Minority Whip State Representative Paul K. Frost.

Kathryn Saloom is a 2013 graduate of Boston University's College of Arts and Sciences with a degree in International Relations and a double minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Spanish. For the past two years she has worked for the local global health nonprofit, Partners for Health, to provide a preferential option in health care for the poor.

— *Diane Balser*

Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies
Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program



MIND THE GAP

Masculinity and the Gender Divide

Copyright Material
Love's Promises
How Formal and Informal Contracts Shape All Kinds of Families



THE 6TH ANNUAL
EVE KOSOFKY SEDGWICK MEMORIAL LECTURE IN GENDER + SEXUALITY STUDIES



THE DIASPORAS OF BLACK QUEER ART



MAR 18, 2016



THEATRE NOHGAKU

IN RESIDENCE AT BU Theatre Nohgaku is an international performance group devoted to sharing the beauty of the classical Japanese noh drama with English-speaking audiences.
MARCH 26-31, 2016



AFTER THE WRATH OF GOD

AIDS, SEXUALITY, & AMERICAN RELIGION
ANTHONY M. PETRO



Carol Queen (PhD) is a sex-positive sociologist and the founding director of the Center for Sex & Culture in San Francisco as well as Staff Sexologist at Good Vibrations. She has written twelve books, including *Real Live Nude Girl: Chronicles of Sex-Positive Culture* and *The Leather Daddy and the Femme*, for which she won a Firecracker Alternative Book Award. Her most recent book is *The Sex & Pleasure Book: Good Vibrations Guide to Great Sex for Everyone*. She travels extensively to give workshops and lectures.

SEX-POSITIVITY:
A KEY TOOL IN
DISMANTLING
RAPE CULTURE

THE (LESS THAN DIVINE)
COMEDY OF THE
(BIO)POLITICAL

PROFESSOR CARY WOLFE, RICE UNIVERSITY



THURSDAY APRIL 14TH, 5:00-7:00PM
FULTON HALL AUDITORIUM (ROOM 511), BOSTON COLLEGE

THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES



February 26, 27
Jacob Sleeper Aud.

2015-2016 WGS
EVENT COLLAGE

WGS PEDAGOGICAL
WORKSHOP

NOVEMBER 3RD
4:30PM - 6:30PM
WGS Sitting Room, Suite 102
704 Commonwealth Avenue

SPOTLIGHT ON: WGS FACULTY

ANTHONY PETRO

I was on leave this past year, during which time I gave several talks based on my book *After the Wrath of God: AIDS, Sexuality, and American Religion* (Oxford, 2015) and started working on some new research projects. Most recently, I returned from the ONE Archives in Los Angeles, where I worked with the Sheree Rose/Bob Flanagan Collection (and unexpectedly ran into Sheree Rose!). This research will inform a new book project, provisionally called *The Queer Arts of American Religion*, which examines how queer and feminist artists have mobilized religious images and ritual in their work since the 1960s. Additionally, I published a piece on religion and critical disability studies that is forthcoming in Kent Brintnall's edited collection *Embodied Religion*.



ARIANNE CHERNOCK

Arianne Chernock was a visiting faculty member at King's College London in 2015-16. She used her time in London to research and write a book, tentatively titled "The Right to Rule and the Rights of Women in Victorian Britain." She presented material from this project at the University of York and at the Society for Court Studies in London. She looks forward to returning to the classroom in the fall of 2016.

ASHLEY MEARS

I spent the fall semester on parental leave to care for my newborn daughter, Nola, while living in Budapest and getting to know the Gender Studies Department at Central European University. There I gave a talk in October about the book I'm working on, *Very Important People: The Labor of Conspicuous Consumption*, about gendered status signals among the new elite in global luxury spaces. Last year I also gave talks in departments at UC Irvine, Toronto, Emory, and at Uppsala University in Sweden. I've been co-editing a Special Issue of the *Socio-Economic Review* on "Elites, Economy, and Society," and I had research articles appear in two sociology journals, *Poetics*, and the *American Sociological Review*. A paper I co-authored with my BU and WGS colleague, Cati Connell, was published in the winter issue of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, in which we present a theory of display work to account for why women earn *more* money than men in fields involving the sexualized display of the body, such as fashion modeling. By the year's end, I learned I was elected Chair of the ASA Section on Consumers and Consumption, which was a big honor.





BARBARA GOTTFRIED

This past year, Barbara Gottfried's course "Women and Comedy" and her long-standing interest in contemporary stand-up led to an invitation from Emerson College's School of the Arts Dean Robert Sabal to attend a luncheon and panel on "Comedy and Campus Culture: Who's Laughing Now," and become a "friend" of Emerson's new BFA in Comedic Arts. The resultant network has led to faculty collaborations with others whose focus is comedy at Emerson, Brandeis, and UMass, Amherst and the opportunity to present "The Jewish Feminist Legacy of Lenny Bruce" Fall at "Comedy

and the Constitution: The Legacy of Lenny Bruce" a Fall 2016 conference at Brandeis celebrating its acquisition of his papers.

BRENDA MCSWEENEY

At WGS I am Director of the UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & People-Centered Development, with university and nongovernmental partners in India, West Africa, and Greater Boston. Current WGS students and recent BU grads participate in the research, coordination of activities, and dissemination of results of this inter-regional Network (features and publication links at unitwin.blogspot.com and equalityburkina.blogspot.com). This year I launched an e-Occasional Paper Series of writings of Members and Affiliates of our UNESCO/UNITWIN Network, also related WGS website and Facebook pages. My ongoing action-research projects at WGS and as Resident Scholar at Brandeis University's Women's Studies Research Center focus on female education and livelihoods in Burkina Faso and Women of Vision-India. Illustrative results of these research, community activism and women's empowerment initiatives were incorporated into the permanent University Archive and Special Collections at the University of Massachusetts, Boston; while my West African women leaders photographs were juried into the "Context of Community" exhibition at The Harvard Ed Portal. I am Academic Advisor to BU/WGS's 1st Nehru-Fulbright Research Scholar, and serve on the Board of the Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender.



CAROLYN HODGES

I study topics at the intersection of anthropology, evolutionary biology, and human ontogeny. My current work focuses on factors affecting developmental variation in sex-typical characteristics of the body, face and voice. In 2016, I published an article on the relationship between facial development and testosterone in a population of male adolescents in Bolivia. I have two papers in review focusing on the associations between sex steroid hormones and immunity in this population as well. I presented

several conference papers: three posters on the relationships between facial morphology and hormones at the annual meetings of the Human Behavior and Evolution Society and the American Association of Physical Anthropology, as well as three papers on growth spurts at the Human Biology meeting. With several collaborators, I received an NSF Social Psychology grant to study perceptions of threat in voices among undergraduates and police officers. This study will begin in the fall.

CARRIE PRESTON

Associate Professor Carrie Preston published her book, *Learning to Kneel: Noh, Modernism, and Journeys in Teaching* (Columbia 2016). Check out the webpage with supplementary materials, pedagogical activities, and film clips: <http://sites.bu.edu/learningtokneel/> She served as the lead organizer for the annual meeting of the Modernist Studies Association in Boston in November 2015 and presented her paper, "Japanese Noh and Modernist Performance: Zeami and Yeats on Mimesis," as part of the proceedings. She also delivered a paper, "Ozu and Modernist Cinema," at the Modern Language Association Annual Convention in Austin, TX, in January. Preston's noh-inspired play, *Zahdi Dates and Poppies*, was premiered at the Tsai Performance Center in March. She presented a paper on the project, "Telling the Personal through a Universal Form: An Iraq Veteran's Story Told as Noh," at the Network of Ensemble Theaters Conference in Chicago in May. Preston delivered invited lectures at Rutgers University and Wake Forest University last fall. She presented the first piece of her new book project on audience participation in political theater, "Blackfaced at The Blacks: Lessons about Race and Gender from Jean Genet" to the New York/New Jersey Modernism Seminar at Rutgers University in April.



CATHERINE CONNELL

Dr. Catherine Connell is a qualitative researcher focused on the intersections of gender, sexuality, and work/organizations. Her recent book, *School's Out: Gay and Lesbian Teachers in the Classroom*, considers the experiences of gay and lesbian identified teachers in California and Texas. 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. Dr. Connell's current research project considers the legal and cultural ramifications of recent gender and sexual policy change in the US military, from the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell to the gender integration of the combat arms. Her work has been published in *Gender & Society*, *Signs*, and *Women's Studies Quarterly*, among other places. In addition to her research and teaching, Dr. Connell serves as the faculty advisor for Q, BU's Queer Activist Collective.

CHERYL KNOTT

Associate Professor of Anthropology, Cheryl Knott, published an article on Sexual Coercion in the International Encyclopedia of Primatology. She received grants from the National Science Foundation, the ARCUS Foundation, the Nacey Maggioncalda Foundation, the AZA Conservation Grants fund, the Conservation, Food and Health Foundation, the Disney Conservation Fund, the Ocean Park Conservation Fund, the American Society of Primatologists, the Holloman Price Foundation, the Bay and Paul Foundation, Sea World/Busch Gardens, the Woodland Park Zoo, Orangutan Outreach, Orangutan Republik, and the Leakey Foundation. In October 2015, she gave a talk on Palm Oil and Orangutans in Kalimantan, Indonesia at Woodland Park Zoo Partners Summit and was part of a panel discussion on The Gunung Palung Orangutan Conservation Program: Alternative Livelihoods at the Zoos and Aquariums Committing to Conservation Conference in Denver. In August, she will be an invited speaker at the Chimpanzees in Context conference in Chicago and presenting on Ecology and the Energetics of Reproduction in the Hominoids. She will also be presenting, or co-authoring, 11 podium and paper presentations at the International Primatological Society bi-annual Congress, also in Chiago.





DEBORAH SWEDBERG

Deborah Swedberg, Lecturer in WGS and Managing Editor of *Studies in Romanticism*, created and taught a new course in Spring 2016 entitled "Jane Campion: a Girl's Own Story." The course was listed as a Special Topics class in WGS and was also offered in the Cinema and Media Studies Program as an elective on Auteurs. The class was a wonderful opportunity to study one filmmaker's whole oeuvre in depth, and the result was particularly inspiring for me and for the group of bright, engaged students that enrolled in the class. It was a special semester.

DIANE BALSER

I taught two seminars, WS 450 and WS 350, in which students for a semester were given internships with social change organizations, policy makers, Mass State Representatives and Senators; I worked closely with the students and the leaders of their respective offices. I also organized a panel "Putting WGS Learning to Work" with alumni of our program to share their thoughts and experiences about how they put the knowledge and expertise they gained from the WGS program to use in their careers after they graduated. Lastly, I led a workshop on women's issues and leaderships skills for non-governmental countries who were attending the 59th session of the Commission on the Status of Women whose purpose was to review the progress and challenges in implementing the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (20 years on).



ERIN MURPHY

This year I was honored to receive the Boston University Metcalf Award for excellence in teaching. I continued work on my book, "States of Exception: Seventeenth-Century Women's War Writing and its Afterlives." I gave a paper drawn from this project at the Renaissance Society of America in April entitled "Martyrdom, Military Mercy and the Execution of Charles Lucas: Wartime Death and Margaret Cavendish's Singularity. I also gave an invited lecture, "Rude Milton: Feminism, Queer Studies and the Politics of Reading," at the University of New Hampshire in February of 2016. In the fall, I was elected to the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women's Awards Committee.

GINA SAPIRO

During the past academic year I spent my first year not doing university administration in about 15 years. Having just finished an 8 year run as Dean of the College and Graduate School of Arts & Sciences I devoted most of the year to advanced a new research project on the history of higher education in the United States and developing a full set of courses to teach in 2016/17. I was awarded the International Society for Political Psychology Harold D. Lasswell Award for distinguished contributions to political psychology, and the American Political Science Association Frank Goodnow Award for distinguished service. I began a 3-year term as Chair of the American Political Science Association Committee on Professional Ethics, Rights, and Freedoms and was very happy to join the board of Shelter Music Boston, which presents monthly chamber music concerts in Greater Boston homeless shelters, delivering live classical music as a social service.



J. KEITH VINCENT

I was kept busy this year serving as chair of my home department and overseeing our name change to the Department of World Languages & Literatures. I am co-editing two volumes on the Japanese novelist Natsume Soseki, and a book manuscript on his close friend, the haiku poet Masaoka Shiki. I delivered five invited lectures in Boston, Chicago, Tokyo, Kyoto, and Walla Walla Washington, and published an essay on "Queer Reading and Modern Japanese Literature" in the *Routledge Handbook of Modern Japanese Literature*. I also completed a translation of *Devils in Daylight*, a short novel by Tanizaki Junichiro. It will be out next year from New Directions but you can pre-order it on Amazon today!



JAMIE SABINO

Jamie Sabino will be a co-principal investigator on a Planned Parenthood League of MA research project examining the effect of the state parental consent/judicial by-pass law which applies to young women under the age of 18 seeking an abortion. The project was selected for funding from the Society of Family Planning Research Fund. Ms. Sabino will be working with Alisa Goldberg (VP, Clinical Research and Training, PPLM and Director of Family Planning at Brigham and Women's) and Elizabeth Janiak (Director of Social Science Research, PPLM and Research Fellow at Brigham and Women's.)

JENNIFER KNUST

In 2016, my book *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Ancient Mediterranean Religions* finally came out! This co-edited volume offers a comprehensive, single-volume reference guide to the religious diversity of the ancient Mediterranean world, from the third millennium BCE to the seventh century CE. I also completed an essay for the volume *The Bible and Feminism: Remapping the Field* and another essay on attitudes toward marriage, adultery, and divorce among the earliest Christians. Meanwhile, I worked on completing two other books, which I expect to be finished this coming year, and presented papers on the study of the historical Jesus, the transmission of biblical manuscripts, the theory of religion and other topics.



JENNY ROW

I was awarded a 2016-2017 Solmsen Fellowship at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and will be completing my book manuscript tentatively titled "Queer Velocities: Time, Sex, and Biopower on the Early Modern Stage." I was also awarded Mellon funds to organize a research group on "Premodern Temporalities" with the Mellon Consortium for the Study of the Premodern World at the University of Minnesota. As an invited speaker at the UPenn "Geographies of Intimacy" symposium in February, I presented a talk on butts, curvaceousness and early modern maps. At the annual Society for the Interdisciplinary Seventeenth Century French Studies (SE17), I was elected to the board as a member-at-large and I presented a talk on queer time and speeds in the 17th century. I also submitted two articles: one for a special issue of *ASAP/Journal* on "Queer Form" called "The Adapted Anality of Versailles: Othoniel's *Les Belles Danses*" about early modern dance forms, bodily discipline, and anal beads, and one for *Exemplaria* called "Chronobiopower and Queer Time in Early Modern France."



KAREN WARKENTIN

Karen Warkentin was promoted to Full Professor and received the 2015 “Mentor of the Year” award from the BU Graduate Women in Science and Engineering student group. She spent her fall 2015 sabbatical as well as summer 2016 at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama, mentoring students and conducting field research for her 5-year NSF project on “The Development of Adaptive Embryo Behavior”. She and seven of her undergraduate and PhD students gave presentations at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology meetings in Portland Oregon. She gave a plenary address to the Brazilian Herpetological Congress, in Gramado, Brazil, and another to Studying Vibrational Communication: 1st International Symposium on Biotremology in San Michele all’Adige, Italy, as well as five invited seminars at universities and research institutes. With students and collaborators, she published papers in *Functional Ecology*, *Journal of Experimental Zoology*, and *Journal of Experimental Biology*. Her research program and JEB paper received substantial media attention.



LINDA C. MCCLAIN

This year, I completed two textbooks: *Contemporary Family Law* (West, 4th ed. 2015) (with Douglas E. Abrams, Naomi R. Cahn, and Catherine J. Ross) and *Gay Rights and the Constitution* (Foundation Press, 2016) (with James E. Fleming, Sotirios A. Barber, and Stephen Macedo). I was awarded a Laurance S. Rockefeller Visiting Faculty Fellowship at Princeton University’s University Center for Human Values, where I will be in residence during my 2016-2017 sabbatical, working on a new book on past and present controversies over interracial, interfaith, and same-sex marriage. I published several articles and

book chapters, including “The Family, the State, and American Political Development as a Big Tent: Asking Basic Questions about Basic Institutions,” 48:2 *Polity* 224 (April 2016) and “Civil Marriage for Same-Sex Couples, ‘Moral Disapproval,’ and Tensions between Religious Liberty and Equality,” in *Religious Freedom and Gay Rights: Emerging Conflicts in the United States and Europe* (Timothy Samuel Shah et al. eds., Oxford University Press, 2016). I presented work in conferences at Claremont McKenna College, Duke, and Northeastern. In April, 2016, I gave a guest lecture, “On Marriage Controversies: Feminist Legal and Gender Analyses,” in WGS 801. My work on the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was cited in *Barber v. Bryant*, the recent federal district court opinion enjoining as unconstitutional Mississippi’s H.B. 1523 (the “Protecting Freedom of Conscience from Discrimination Act. In June 2016, I was elected to membership in the American Law Institute.

SHAHLA HAERI

For the year 2015-16, I was awarded a short-term senior grant from the American Institute of Pakistan Studies. I started my research in London, where I interviewed the sister of the late Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and several prominent members of her cabinet for my forthcoming book, tentatively called, *Muslim Women’s Paths to Power: From Bilqis to Benazir* (2017). In London, I also gave a talk at the Legatum Institute. I gave the keynote at the Social Sciences Expo 2016 in Islamabad. In Lahore, Pakistan I gave two talks and screened my video documentary: *Mrs. President: Women and Political Leadership in Iran*. From Pakistan I traveled to Delhi, India where for the International Women’s Day, I gave a talk and screened my video documentary at the Jamia Millia Islamia University. I ended my research trip in Tehran, Iran, where I have a private talk on the same topic of my book. I also published an article: “In the Garden of the Sexes: of Men, Women, Gaze, and Hair.”





SUSANNE SREEDHAR

Susanne Sreedhar published “Locke, the Law of Nature, and Polygamy” in the *Journal of the American Philosophical Association* (with Julie Walsh). She gave a number of presentations, including “Hobbes on the Representations of the Amazons” at the Renaissance Society of America, and “‘Means to an End’: The Rhetorical Subordination of Women in Early Modern Political Philosophy” at University of New Hampshire. She was the 2015 honorary faculty inductee to the BU chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. And

last but not least, she taught her very favorite class, The Philosophy of Gender and Sexuality, to a fantastic group of undergraduate students.

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