



Newsletter

2020-2021



Boston University

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program

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A Message From The Director



Cati Connell
WGS Program Director

A Message from the Director:

I write to you all from the end of a difficult academic year, one in which many of us—faculty, students, and staff alike—are experiencing unprecedented levels of burnout and exhaustion. Despite the many layers of crisis that we have collectively experienced during this year, the WGS community continues to find ways to show up for and support each other in ways that make me proud to be a part of it.

Most recently, WGS students and faculty came together for a student listening session, facilitated by the CAS Antiracism Initiative (CASARI) and Q, the BU student queer activist collective. The purpose of this session was to receive students' testimonies and learn more about what we can do better to support and affirm them and to engage more deeply with antiracist and anti-oppression pedagogy in our classes. In that session, we were challenged to address classroom practices embedded in white supremacy, cisnormativity, heteronormativity, and colonial logics. I firmly believe that we have a responsibility to immediately address the harm these practices engender and commit to interrupting these dynamics in our future work as a program.

As the director, I apologize and take responsibility for this failure of leadership and I want to share some steps we have taken or will be taking to address these problems. First, over the summer we will be collecting resources on classroom inclusivity and anti-oppression pedagogy, then second, we will be using these materials as the foundation for a yearlong pedagogy series that address the concerns raised in the listening session. Third, we are in the process of developing templates for a pre-semester survey on names, pronouns, and accessibility needs; a mid-semester evaluation form to gather feedback; LGBTQ terminology guides and more. Fourth, we wanted to begin this work prior to the onset of the Summer I session, so I have developed and shared a [faculty training](#) on mispronouncing, misgendering, and deadnaming students. Fifth, we will be stepping up our efforts to both hold antiracism events and workshops in the program and to participate in similar programming across campus and in our communities.

This year we launched a WGS Faculty Salon, in which faculty share a brief description of new or early research projects to get feedback from an interdisciplinary panel of scholars of gender & sexuality. This series has been very well-attended and generative for all involved; we will be carrying it on into the 2021-2022 academic year, alongside the rest of our programming. Although we put our seminar series on hold for this academic year, we will be re-launching it in the coming academic year. In the meantime, we organized or co-sponsored a number of other events this year, including a screening of [Publik Private](#), a bilingual performance piece on historical gender expansive figures, the ["Queer Art of Reading,"](#) an event featuring QTPOC storytelling, a screening and conversation featuring the film [All We've Got](#), and a talk from Dr. Sabrina Strings entitled, ["Fatphobia as Misogynoir: Gender, Race, and Weight Stigma"](#) among others (see [p. 5](#) for a full list!).

I am very happy to say that we were able to fund, at least in part, every application for a WGS research grant from both faculty and graduate students. We also created two \$4,000 fellowships to support graduate students through the coming summer. For undergraduates, we continued the Sarah Joanne Davis Award program, which recognizes WGS minors who have demonstrated excellence in gender and sexuality scholarship through course papers, activism, leadership, artistic creation, publication, political engagement, or other initiatives. See [p. 17](#) for more on the winners of our summer fellowships and Sarah Joanne Davis awards.

This academic year, we welcomed new faculty affiliates [Louis Chude-Sokei](#), [Shannon Peters](#), [Eva Garrett](#), [Megan Elias](#), and [Deanna Klepper](#). Our own Prof. Saida Grundy was recently honored with the [CAS Neu Family Award for Excellence in Teaching](#) in recognition of her outstanding contributions to Sociology & WGS teaching. Check out [p. 20](#) for a full list of this year's accomplishments by WGS faculty and community members! We also bid a fond farewell to WGS core faculty member, professor of Political Science, and former dean of CAS, Gina Sapiro, who retired at the end of the academic year. Gina was instrumental in the growth and expansion of WGS that we have all benefitted from so greatly; see [p. 15](#) for reflections on Gina's leadership and best wishes from her WGS colleagues.

I like to conclude every year with my deepest thanks and appreciation for our WGS faculty and staff. Many thank yous to our Program Coordinator Liv McCargar, as well as our Social Media and Media Outreach Coordinator Lauren Hagy. Thank you to Sandy McEvoy for serving as our Director of Graduate Studies and to Susanne Sreedhar for serving as Director of Undergraduate Studies. Thanks to all of the WGS faculty who come to meetings and events, teach our courses, mentor our students, offer research expertise and raise the program's profile with their work, and bring diversity and richness of experience to our program. Thanks most of all to our students for your intellectual excellence, your energy, enthusiasm, and creativity, and for all you do to make WGS, CAS, and Boston University a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable community for all.

Cati Connell
WGS Director



Co-Sponsored Events

Events made in collaboration with WGS 2020-2021

Women, Power, & Property: The Paradox of Gender Equality Laws in India

October 7, 2020 from 1:30-3:00 pm

Quotas for women in government have swept the globe. Yet we know little about their capacity to upend entrenched social, political, and economic hierarchies. Property and Power seeks to explore this issue within the context of India, the world's largest democracy. Assistant Professor of Global Development Policy Rachel Brulé uses cutting-edge research design and extensive field research to make connections among political representation, backlash, and economic empowerment. Her findings show that women in government catalyze access to fundamental economic rights: property rights. Women in politics also have power to support constituent rights at critical junctures, such as marriage negotiations, sparking integrative solutions to intra-household bargaining. In this groundbreaking study, Brulé shows how quotas can operate as a crucial tool to foster equality and benefit the women they are meant to empower.

Islam, Race, and COVID-19: A Conversation

October 29th, 2020 4:30-5:45pm

Dr. Donna Auston discusses how Black Muslims in the US, by virtue of their multiply marginalized social location, have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the “pandemic of white supremacy”—and how Black Muslim activists have organized and mobilized resources on behalf of their communities in response to both crises.



Publik Private Film Screening and Q&A with Eppchez

October 26, 2020 at 7 pm

This bilingual work grapples with the past, bearing witness to gender-non-conforming historical figures, La Monja Alferéz and the Publik Universal Friend. Puppetry and poetics lift up the lives of these trans ancestors in an exhilarating conversation honoring their genders and refusing to look away from their transgressions. Eppchez is a Quaker, Cuban, and Jewish theatre artist and musician working out of the West Philly artist collective Panorama. Kilachand co-curricular.

Discussion with Eppchez

October 27, 2020 at 7 pm

This bilingual work grapples with the past, bearing witness to gender-non-conforming historical figures, La Monja Alferéz and the Publik Universal Friend. Puppetry and poetics lift up the lives of these trans ancestors in an exhilarating conversation honoring their genders and refusing to look away from their transgressions. Eppchez is a Quaker, Cuban, and Jewish theatre artist and musician working out of the West Philly artist collective Panorama. Kilachand co-curricular.

Nonbinary Art in the Age of COVID-19

October 28, 2020 at 5 pm

Eppchez will discuss such topics as: recognizing gender diversity in history; creating art in the age of COVID-19; performing non-binary roles; history and Latinx performance; whiteness in queer white identity; and LGBTQ-focused community theater.

Queer Art of Reading

October 29, 2020 from 8-10 pm

Featuring Athena Vaughn, Chastity Bowick, Jen Love, Kaamila Mohamed, and Tre'Andre Valentine, it's a night to uplift BIPOC Trans life and spirit. It will start with a historical view of reading as has been depicted in media. Student involvement is highly encouraged and time will be allowed for question and response towards the end of the program.

Working Against Domestic and Sexual Violence in Muslim Communities: A Conversation

February 17, 2021 5:00PM-6:30PM



WORKING AGAINST Domestic and Sexual Violence in Muslim Communities: a conversation

What are the barriers to effectively addressing gender-based violence in Muslim communities? How do systems of power and privilege affect which victims are (and aren't) believed and protected? Who gets access to services, information, and safety and how can access be expanded? How can those working against domestic and sexual violence center the Islamic value of mercy? A discussion with Juliane Hammer about her book, *Peaceful Families: American Muslim Efforts against Domestic Violence*.

JULIANE HAMMER, PhD
Univ. of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

NADIAH MOHAJIR, MPH
HEART: Women and Girls

LANCE LAIRD, ThD
BU Medical Center - Moderator

February 17, 2021 5-6:30 PM (EST)
Register to join us via Zoom:
bit.ly/BU-Peace-Talk

Photo: the Patti Cadby Birch Moroccan Court at the Metropolitan Museum

Organized by the Boston University Department of Religion and the Health Humanities Project, with support from the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, School of Public Health, Boston Medical Center Domestic Violence Program, and the Arts & Sciences Core Curriculum. Funded by the NEH Distinguished Teaching Professorship.

For more information, contact ka@bu.edu.

**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

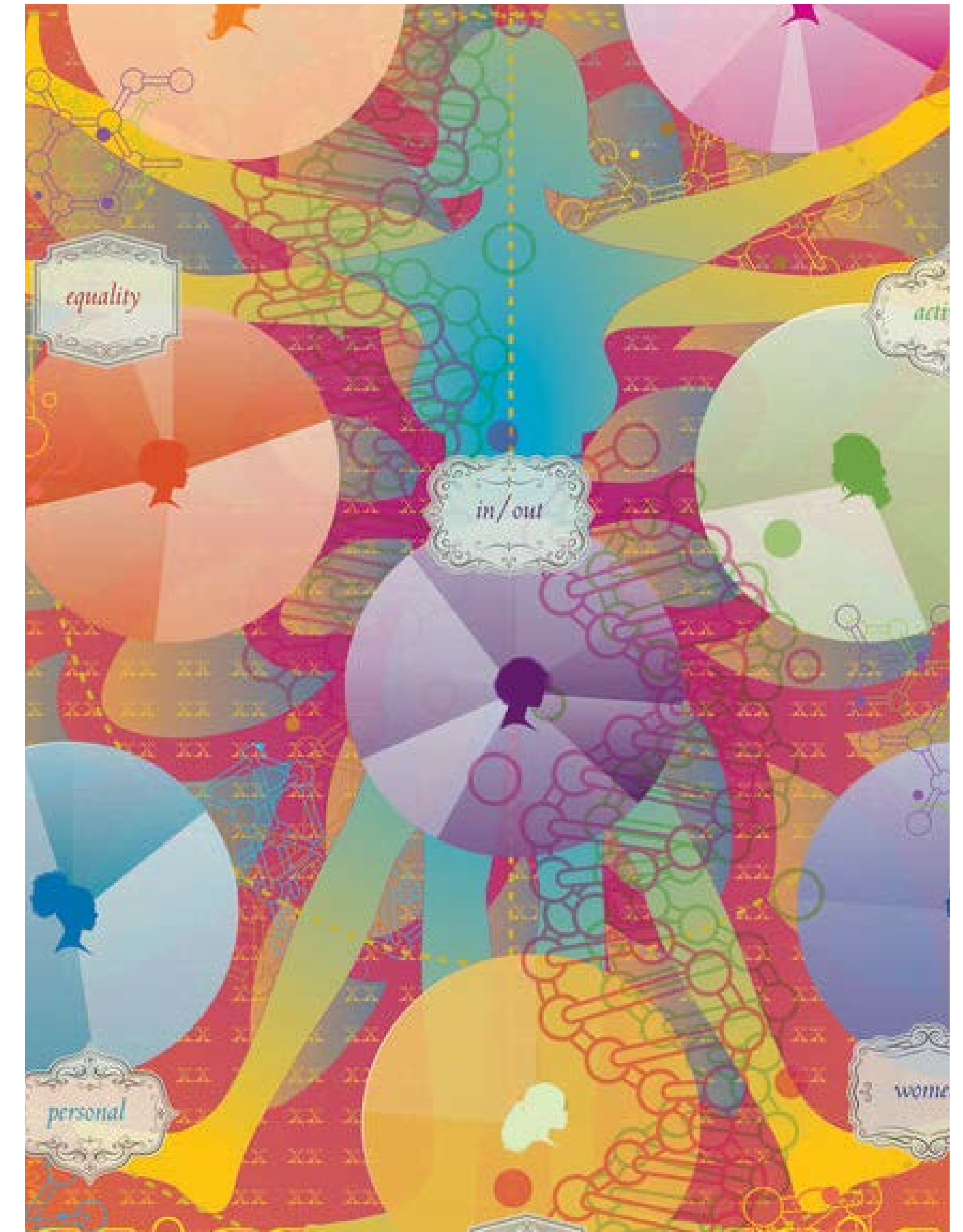
All We've Got: Post-Screening Film Discussion

February 11, 2021

Stronger Sisterhood: Representing Intersectional Identity

February 25, 2021 at 6pm

Unbound Visual Arts (UVA) is pleased to announce this exhibition, which is curated by Paige Moreau of the Springfield Museums, that aims to explore the multidimensional and intersectional identities of women. This curated exhibit will be available in the Unbound Visual Arts Virtual Exhibition Gallery 24 hours a day through March 31, 2021. The exhibit with 30 works of art includes paintings, photographs, mixed media, videos, and sculptures. Moreau states that her “goal for this exhibit is in part to raise awareness about intersectional feminism. A term that at first glance may seem lofty, intersectional feminism at the core is the recognition of the multitude of female-identifying people’s experiences and a call to honor those experiences in the fight for equity among humans.” The ten artists represented are Linda Clave, Joanne Desmond, April Jakubec Duggal, Sara Gately, Brooke Jones, Maia Monteagudo, Nilou Moochhala, Diane Sheridan, Mary Vannucci, and Andrea Zampitella (text courtesy UVA’s Executive Director John Quatrale’s press release). The Artists Panel on February 25, 2021 will explore the themes of this exhibit.



Stories of Resilience: Our Stories Matter

Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 6 pm

A program on March 4th at 6pm on Zoom is related to Unbound Visual Arts’ exhibit: “Stronger Sisterhood: Representing Intersectional Identity.” The presentation is about intersecting lives of women in Massachusetts and beyond who have made their name in the course of history. Both the Exhibit and Panel are supportive of BIPOC-related initiatives! The program is presented by Janine Fondon, Bay Path Assistant Professor and Chair of Undergraduate Communication aided by project scholars, Dr. Demetria Shabazz, and Dr. Lucie K. Lewis. This event is co-sponsored by the Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program (WGS) at Boston University, and the Gender & International Development Initiatives of the Brandeis Women’s Studies Research Center (GaIDI/WSRC).

Fatphobia as Misogynoir: Gender, Race, and Weight Stigma

April 2, 2021 12:00-1:30pm

Romance Studies Virtual Conference: Mobility/Mutability

April 17, 2021

Join the conference at 12:30 for a keynote address by Dr. Leonard Cassuto from Fordham University. Dr. Cassuto will speak on the changing nature of graduate education, academia, and the job market in a (post) COVID-19 context.

Fatphobia as Misogynoir: Gender, Race, and Weight Stigma



featuring:
Sabrina Strings
Associate Professor of Sociology
University of California, Irvine

Author of: *Fearing the Black Body: The Racial Origins of Fat Phobia* (NYU Press 2019)
featured on NPR, KPFA, and WYHC and on must read lists in
Ms. Magazine, Colorlines, and Bitchmedia
Essence Magazine's 50 Books We're Dying to Toss Into Our Summer Totes

04.02.21 • 12:00–1:30 pm
Zoom

sponsored by:
BU Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program; Department of Sociology; African American Studies Program; and American and New England Studies Program

Boston University
WGS
undergraduate minor
graduate certificate



Community Events

Events of Interest to WGS from 2020-2021

Zoom Webinar: Dr. Emily Bernard, author of Black is the Body

September 22, 2020 from 7:00-8:30 pm EDT

Please join us for a webinar hosting Dr. Emily Bernard, acclaimed author of *Black is the Body: Stories From My Grandmother's Time, My Mother's Time, and Mine*. Bernard will read an excerpt from her book, follow day a keynote speech and a Q&A session. The focus of the keynote speech will be on fostering interracial dialogue and empowering women through storytelling.

How We Fight For Our Lives with Saeed Jones

September 29 from 7-8 pm

Saeed Jones is the author of *How We Fight For Our Lives*, winner of the 2019 Kirkus Prize for Nonfiction. His memoir is a stunning coming-of-age piece about a young, black, gay man from the South as he fights to carve out a place for himself. Moderated by Dean of the School of Communication at Northwestern University E. Patrick Johnson.

Young African Men Living and Performing Blackness in the Diaspora

September 30 at 3:30 pm

Join to hear from Professor at the University of Ghana and President of the African Studies Association of Africa, Akosua Adomako Ampofo.

Cinema & Media Studies Program Project Cinema Film Series Fall 2020

October 5 - October 29

"Killer of Sheep", Dir. Charles Burnett (1978) on October 5 at 5:30 pm; "Black Girl", Dir. Ousmane Sembene (1966) on October 19 at 5:30 pm; "The Watermelon Woman", Dir. Cheryl Dunye (1996) on October 29 at 5:30 pm. WGS Faculty member Professor Japonica Brown-Saracino will moderate the Oct. 29 event.

Jarena Lee as Protestant Icon: A Conversation with Nyasha Junior and Catherine Brekus

October 8, 2020 at 3:00 pm

Nyasha Junior is a Visiting Associate Professor of Women's Studies and African-American Religions and Catherine Brekus is the Charles Warren Professor of the History of Religion in America

Conference on Gender and International Affairs: Feminist Foreign Policy

October 14, 2020 at 6 PM ET

What is feminist foreign policy and what is the goal when adopting such a policy? How is feminist foreign policy created and implemented, from the campaign trail to the White House? How does feminist foreign policy account for those who do not fall within a strict gender binary and ensure that they are also heard and cared for? What are the implications of a strong feminist foreign policy for inhabitants of countries who have adopted it and those in countries with which they interact?

CGSA Fall Open Mic Night

October 21, 2020 from 7-9 pm

Domestic Violence during COVID-19

October 29, 2020 from 6 pm - 7:30 pm

The CGSA and SARP are collaborating on an event for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, by holding lecture and panel series. The first event will be a formal lecture given by Dr. Bharti Khurana and Mardi Chadwick, from Brigham and Women's Hospital on the impacts of COVID-19 on Domestic Violence. They will be drawing on their experiences as professionals and presenting some of their research with the goal of raising awareness for domestic violence.

Stillness and Social Movement

November 19, 2020 from 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Taking our cue from activist organizing around statues and other monuments that has been at the center of movements for social justice here in the US and around the world, we invite your reflections on what it means to move, to be moved, and to be still, and how these can become resources for feminist and antiracist reflection and organizing. As some statues are torn down and disappear before our very eyes, some quietly deteriorate unseen and unheralded, raising questions about posterity, and about the extent to which movements for justice depend on visual representation: what, then, of the resources of opacity and abstraction? Recent protests convened nightly vibrate with energy as statues are made to move differently, countering a terrible decades-long visual sovereignty. In this way removal also prompts reflection on the ways in which subaltern creativity has long been fueled by ingesting rather than excising the objectionable element. Finally, how do these public forms convene us (publicly or otherwise) as mourners, as defenders of the republic, as newly independent, as agents of reparative justice?

Allies & Accomplices: Moving Beyond the Fear of Accountability

November 10 from 7-8 pm, November 12 from 7-8 pm

A two-part interactive training on overcoming barriers to showing up for social change. Open to the BU Community, limited to first 130 people to register. Participants will explore barriers, and tools for overcoming them, including helping folks to reconcile their marginalized identities with their privilege in order to align ourselves with positive social change. It will be led by Monae Roberts, Director of the UC Davis LGBTQIA Resource Center

Health Equity in 2020: Why Men and Positive Masculinities Matter

November 21, 2020 at 10 am EST

Men make more money, have more social and political power, and not face sexism, yet men live shorter and often sicker lives than women. Dr. Griffith will describe how this gender difference in life expectancy emerged in the 20th century and how addressing this paradox is key to improving the health of men and achieving health equity in the United States.

Redefining Self-Care with BU CGSA

December 2, 2020 from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm EST

Join the Center for Gender, Sexuality, and Activism at Boston University and the BIPOC Mental Health Collective to discuss what self-care really means and learn how to practice it effectively during the pandemic.

Women in Math inspired by Maryam Mirzakhani

December 9, 2020 at 3:00 pm EST

We will watch clips from the new film *Secrets of the Surface: The Mathematical Vision of Maryam Mirzakhani* directed by George Csicsery, followed by an inspirational panel. Panelists include George Csicsery, mathematician and journalist Erica Klarreich, founder of the Washington Experimental Mathematics Lab Jayadev S. Athreya, and SUNY Binghamton math professor Jenya Sapir. Moderated by Helene Barcelo, Deputy Director of the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute.

Feminisms Unbound: Global Protests

February 18, 2021 from 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

Unprecedented levels of global hardship and suffering in 2020 have been accompanied by stunning eruptions of people gathering on the streets and in public venues protesting systemic oppressions. From authoritarian regimes to white supremacy, police brutality to military occupation, caste discrimination to gendered and sexualized violence, economic inequality to policy failures, labor exploitation to health disparities, voluminous and vociferous crowds have peppered our visual landscape and living experience of the pandemic and illuminated the increasing urgency to co-imagine a different future. From Australia to Hong Kong, USA to UK, Brazil to Bangladesh people are marching – masked, undeterred and resistant-demanding attention and justice with bold messages like “Silence is Violence”, “I Can’t Breathe”, and “No Justice No Peace.” These messages and movements lay bare the asymmetries of privilege and oppression, the unevenness of growth and wellbeing, and simultaneously encourage a social transformation that takes seriously interdependencies of life, humanity, and ecology. We invite panelists to think through the lessons of their areas of research and expertise and to shed light on how they are thinking about the paradoxes and power of protests.

Diners, Dudes, & Diets: How Gender and Power Collide in Food Media and Culture

February 19, 2021 at 12 pm EST

The phrase “dude food” likely brings to mind a range of images: burgers stacked impossibly high with an assortment of toppings that were themselves once considered; crazed sports fans demolishing plates of radioactively hot wings; barbecued or bacon-wrapped...anything. But there is so much more to the phenomenon of dude food than what’s on the plate. This provocative book begins with the dude himself-- a man who retains a degree of masculine privilege but doesn’t meet traditional standards of economic and social success or manly self-control. In the Great Recession’s aftermath, dude masculinity collided with food producers and marketers desperate to find new customers. The result was a wave of new diet sodas and yogurts marketed with dude-friendly stereotypes, a transformation of food media, and weight loss programs just for guys. Emily J.H. Contois will speak on this recently published book during the event.

Annual Climate in Philosophy Lecture: Denise James

Friday, March 19, 2021 at 4 pm

Titled *We Expect Too Much and Too Little: A Black Feminist Pragmatist on the State of the Field*, Professor of Philosophy from the University of Dayton Denise James will give a lecture hosted by the BU Philosophy Department Climate and Diversity Committee.

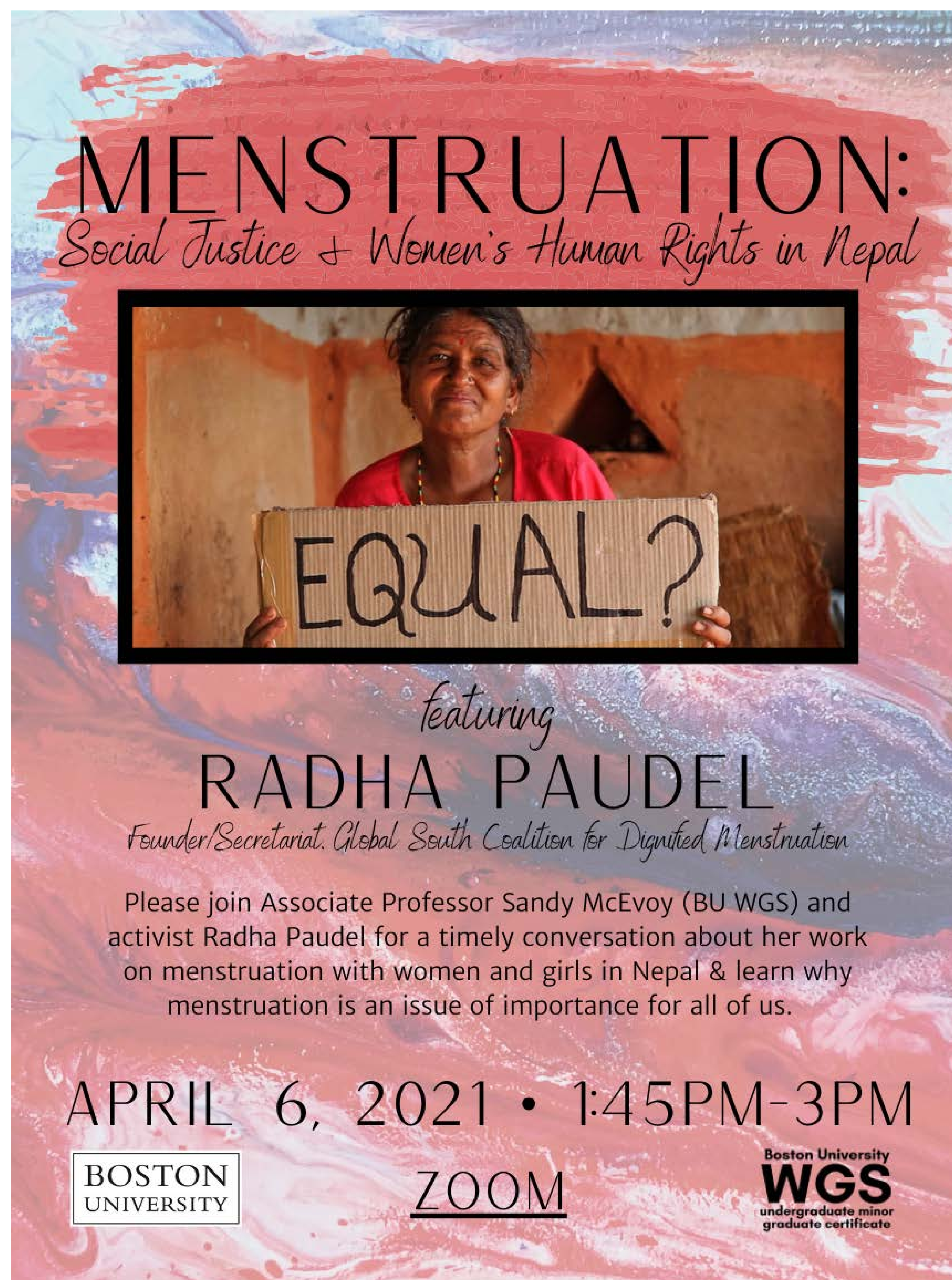
Radical Love Across Difference

April 9-11, 2021

By using a praxis of love to highlight the struggles toward liberation, we approach what bell hooks suggests is a culture of refusing systems of domination. The importance of expressing, maintaining, and transforming radical love, especially across differences is more pressing than ever. This conference seeks to explore the role radical love plays in health crises, climate change, racial justice, migration, economic justice, and further social justice movements through community and belonging, pedagogy and literacy, creative expression and storytelling, virtual life and presence, and further fields.

Invisible No More: Asian American Responses to Atlanta

March 26, 2021 from 6:00-7:30 pm



The Denial of Survivorship: Student Survivors of Color

April 14, 2021 at 6:00 PM EST

An HBCU and PWI Perspective centers the voices and perspectives of students and survivors of color who attend HBCU and PWIs in the movement to end campus sexual assault. By shifting the focus, we can undo the myth that sexual violence doesn't occur for these students or that an HBCU or PWI is handling sexual assault cases better. By making visible student survivors of color, with respect to their possible intersecting identity such as LGBTQIA, low-income, national origin, disability--we can provide the necessary support and resources. Panelists: Kesi Felton '21, Howard University, Livic Inoa '22, Simmons University. Moderated by Kenyora Parham, MSW, EROC Executive Director.

Sex Discrimination Knows No Bounds: A Discussion on the Importance of Legal Support

April 15, 2021 at 12:00 PM EST

Many students are unaware of what their rights are, have no-contact orders that were not upheld, or their school has committed a number of Title IX violations. Therefore, sometimes, students look into legal support and action. The purpose of this discussion would be to share about the history of the Equal Rights Advocates' ENOUGH program and NWLC's Legal Network, inform students of their rights, and with respect to real scenarios, provide students with some advice on what their options are. Panelists: Elizabeth Tang (Counsel for Education and Workplace Justice, National Women's Law Center), Harjit Kaur (Pro Bono Program Managing Attorney, Equal Rights Advocates), Shiwali Patel (Director of Justice for Students + Senior Counsel, National Women's Law Center), Brenda Adams (Senior Counsel, Education Equity + Litigation, Equal Rights Advocates). Moderated by Kenyora Parham, MSW, EROC Executive Director.

Small Grant Updates



From Bahar Aldanmaz

The grant fastens my data analysis process. I am conducting my interviews in Turkish, and I need to translate all the interviews after transcription. Also, there is no software available for transcribing an interview that is conducted in Turkish. With the support of WGS, I am working with an undergraduate student in Turkey who is helping me with the transcription of my interviews.

From Kristin Lacey

My dissertation, “The Ambition Revolution: Gender and the Pursuit of Success in Nineteenth-Century American Fiction,” examines how women paradoxically used the guise of femininity and domesticity to pursue otherwise inaccessible individual ambitions in American fiction. I used the generous WGS Small Grant to purchase books for research on my second chapter about marriage as a vehicle for ambition in Harriet Beecher Stowe’s often-overlooked novel *Pink and White Tyranny* (1871) and Frank Norris’s *McTeague* (1899). I am now working on my third chapter, which examines the complicated figure of the governess through Louisa May Alcott’s sensation novella *Behind a Mask* (1866) and William Makepeace Thackeray’s *Vanity Fair* (1848), which share remarkable similarities despite their geographical and temporal distance.

From Susanne Sreedhar

I was very grateful for the WGS research grant, which offset the cost of editorial assistance in the writing of a proposal and sample chapters for my second book, entitled *Hobbes on Sex*. These materials then earned me a contract with Oxford University Press.

Thanks, WGS!

From Courteney Smith

The generous research grant from the WGS Program allowed me to refine and further develop a seminar paper for publication and to create a framework of analysis that will form the theoretical underpinning of my dissertation. Because of WGS's support, I was able to purchase a year's subscription to the British Newspaper Archives. Through this subscription, I have accessed over 10,000 additional newspaper articles about women's suffrage and Welsh nationalism, including ones from the dozens of local and regional newspapers whose archives are otherwise inaccessible. This regional context meant I was better able to assess both how Welsh women consciously tried to produce themselves and how that production was understood by observers outside of London. Further, the copy of Lisa Tickner's *The Spectacle of Women: Imagery of the Suffrage Campaign* that this grant allowed me to purchase provided important context for the suffrage campaign's use of national identities outside of Welsh identity. This helped me to understand how nationalist propaganda fit into suffrage organizations' broader publicity campaigns and what value it added to the movement, as well as what challenges these approaches presented.

The WGS grant also enabled me to join the Nineteenth Century Studies Association and to participate in the *Scholars in Progress Seminar Series*. As part of this series of online workshops, I developed a publication plan for my research project, moving the project from a series of tangentially connected seminar papers to a coherent, original, and compelling narrative. The professional development this grant allowed me to access helped me to identify the most relevant journals to which to submit my article and connected me to a network of peers interested in gender, sexuality, and political representation in the long nineteenth century. This grant allowed me the intellectual space to shape and analyze my project through a number of different lenses, drawing on performance theory, art history, and literature in addition to history and gender theory. Developing and polishing this seminar paper into something suitable for publication helped me to better understand the ways in which gender and national identity are sometimes mutually constituted and to begin to illustrate the ways in which these ideas get repurposed for political or social campaigns. I will use this framework to continue to develop my dissertation project. I am incredibly grateful to the WGS Program for their generous support of my research.

UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & Development



*L to R: Marilyn Carr, Peg Snyder, Pamela Mboya, Brenda Gael McSweeney:
ATRCW/ECA, Addis (Circa 1975)
Photo: Collection of Marilyn Carr*

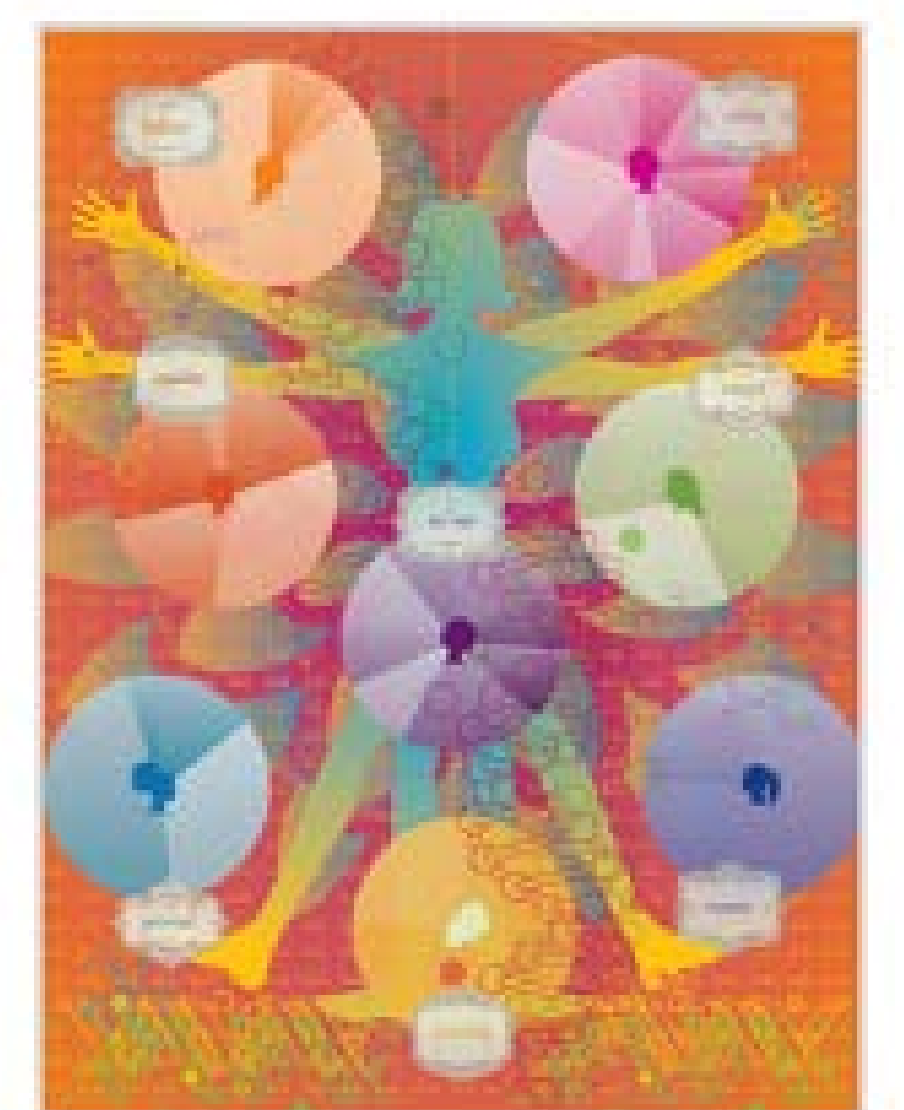
The BU/WGS-based UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & People-Centered Development proactively supports the work of academics at member universities and social activists in partner NGOs, promoting the transcontinental sharing of voices and interdisciplinary collaboration. The Network is now a global partnership of 13 universities and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in India, West Africa and Greater Boston. Here are several 2020-2021 illustrations.

We're delighted to announce a new series on our UNESCO/UNITWIN blog! Joining us in shaping and publishing our "Women & UN Origins" work is the Buenos Aires-based Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender led by Gloria Bonder. First in the series is an article by Margaret (Peg) Snyder entitled "THEY CAN MOVE US BUT THEY CAN'T STOP US: Surviving the Early Years of 'Women and Development' in the United Nations." The late Dr. Snyder, long affiliated with our BU/WGS-based UNESCO/UNITWIN Network, was Founding Director of UNIFEM (1978-89) and a co-founder of the African Centre for Women in 1971. Our latest in the series is an article by Marilyn Carr entitled "WOMEN, THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS: A STORY IN THREE PARTS." Dr. Carr carried out many other trailblazing UN functions! Here is the first series entry: <https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2020/07/announcing-our-new-origins-series-first.html>



*Photo: UVA website,
courtesy Prof. Fondon*

Our UNESCO/UNITWIN Network Affiliate, Unbound Visual Arts (UVA), sponsored several social justice-oriented exhibitions, including AAPI (Asian American and Pacific Islander) initiatives such as New Narratives: Reclaiming Asian Identity Through Story, as well as commitments of solidarity with AAPI communities and BLM. The focus of Stronger Sisterhood: Representing Intersectional Identity, organized by Executive Director John Quatralle and curated by Paige Moreau, was on "intersectional experiences" of women and "honoring" their "differences." In a related panel discussion entitled "Voices of Resilience -- Our Stories Matter," Prof. Janine Fondon (pictured) animated conversations with Scholars Dr. Demetria Shabazz and Dr. Lucie K. Lewis highlighting "the intersecting lives of women in Massachusetts and beyond who have changed the course of history." These talks resonated with WGS/UVA priority themes of anti-racist action and the Black Lives Matter movement. Source and more: <https://www.unboundvisualarts.org/stronger-sisterhood-representing-intersectional-identity/>



Nilou Mochhala, Singular Multiplexity, digital print, 24 x 18 inches,

Messages For Virginia Sapiro

Congratulations and Best Wishes for Her Retirement

Gina! Thank you so much for your unflagging support for and championing of WGS; your legacy in the program will be felt for decades to come. In my first or second year at BU, I remember ending up in an elevator with you and when you knew who I was, I was both flabbergasted and incredibly flattered. Of course you did--you were the dean when I was hired and an incredibly attentive and involved one at that!--but it made me feel like I wasn't just floating along in anonymity and that I was seen and supported. It was such a small moment, but it stuck with me for the decade since! And that's just a tiny example of the broad swath of support and influence that many of us have felt in your time here. We have been incredibly fortunate to have you at BU, in the college, and in the program! I hope we will continue to progress towards the vision you and Carrie set out for us, thank you for everything you have done to make that progress possible.

Cati

Dear Gina

Thank you for being so wonderfully supportive over the years - both of myself and WGS. I'm certain that there's so much more that you've done for all of us behind-the-scenes and I'm deeply grateful for that! Wishing you joy and fulfillment during this next stage.

Best wishes,

Cheryl Knott

Dear Gina,

You have offered more than a few phrases that showed me what leadership looks like: "It's just Gina." "The big cow eyes can be very useful." "Well, that part never gets easier, but you'll get better at it." "Sometimes they only need you to listen." "I never grew a thing I couldn't grow from a seed."

We will miss you, but we won't begrudge your time with precious growing things. I am grateful for all that you continue to teach me. May the soil be fertile, the roots strong, and the crop bounteous.

My best,

Carrie

Dear Gina,

I will always consider it a badge of honor that I was hired during your Decanal Reign. I have learned so much from your leadership style and savvy, even from a quiet distance, and especially from my avid reading of your Retirement Letters. Best wishes for a wonderful next chapter.

Warmly,

Joanna

Thank you, Gina, for all of it! You saw the good and the bad, and pushed through when needed. Thanks for all you have shared, and for helping "to make the case." I hope you get to enjoy yourself in this next phase!

Erin

The Mighty Gina-- you really had my back in a time when I needed it most. That changed the course of my life, or, I should say, had you not had my back my life would have drastically changed. I have always taken heed of the souls who have appeared in my life just when I needed them and I count you among them. It's a file of people who stay permanently on the hard drive of my heart because I remind myself that the spiritual debt requires me to be that person to someone else.

My entire family thanks you. You are the Unsinkable Molly Brown so far as I'm concerned-- just a courageous spirit who is undaunted by the fight and dogged in your principles. It may feel second nature to you, but in humanity? Far too rare. In higher ed leadership? Damn near mythical.

And no, I don't believe you will be particularly good at idle retirement, so I look forward to joining you in the fight in your next chapter ahead.

Saida Grundy

Thank you so much Gina for welcoming and including me in so many important conversations right off the bat! You truly made my transition to the BU community a wonderful experience and I'm glad I happened to get here before you were gone!! Well done on getting through this thing and I hope there's a LOT of recreation and leisure in your future!!

very best wishes,

Paula

Happy next "avatar" Gina!

Enjoy, ENJOY!!

With every best wish — Brenda

Gina – Among all the great work you did as Dean, creating the Task Force that made WGS and supporting the development of our program has been so important for so many people. For me, specifically, bringing me into the mix & creating an opportunity to integrate natural sciences into WGS had a huge impact on my quality of life at BU, on my career development, and on what I can now give to biology, WGS, BU, and the world more broadly. I am so thankful that you made that possibility exist, at BU and in the world. I wish you all the best for your retirement.

Karen Warkentin

Congratulations! It's the end of an era. We will miss you.

Roberta

Dear Gina,

Congratulations on this milestone! You will be very much missed at BU, but all of the work you have done - for CAS, WGS, Political Science and so much more - will endure for a very long time. I wish you many wonderful adventures and relaxing moments in the coming years. I will always appreciate the support you offered during your time at BU.

With congratulations,

Japonica

Gina,

A hearty congratulations on your well-deserved retirement. You have done so much for PO, WGS and CAS and I think it is a legacy for which you should be really proud.

Cheers!
Sandy

Congratulations on your retirement, Gina! It's been such a privilege to benefit from your work both in WGS and the administration during your time here at BU. I hope your retirement is as stimulating as your career (but with a lot more relaxing).

All my best,

Chris

Congratulations, Gina! Thanks for being such a supportive mentor and colleague. I assume this means more time in NH? Very jealous.

Warmly,

Arianne

Thank you for being such a supportive colleague. Political Science and WGS will not be the same without you, and I will miss my fellow Political Science feminist theorist! I wish you a perfect proportion of politics, baking, reading, feminist anger, writing, and farming in retirement.

Lida

Dear Gina,

Thank you for showing me the many places to look when I was a student in your classroom, and for your continued support as one of your colleagues in WGS. I am grateful for the opportunities I had to listen to your wisdom and learn from your experience.

Wishing you all good things in your retirement: health, happiness, joy, and many doggy tail wags!

Fondly,

Shelly

Dear Gina,

You and I started at BU the same year. It won't be the same without you. Thanks for all your efforts to make this a better place, and for your mentorship of me in particular.

All best,

Susanne

Gina,

The university, the college, the social sciences, the WGS program, and my own career bear imprints of your feminist leadership and vision. It's been a privilege to work at BU alongside your wisdom.

Ashley Mears

Awards and Recognition:

Sarah Joanne Davis Award Winners

The Sarah Joanne Davis Scholarship Award competition is conducted every year in WGS. The award is given to a Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies minor who has made a significant contribution by either writing a paper in one of their WGS courses, or to their community through activism, leadership, artistic creation, publication, political engagement, or other initiatives. We are delighted to announce the 2020-2021 award winners:

Anne Jonas

for the outstanding paper

*"One is not born, but rather becomes, a 'French Girl':
Gender, Race, and Genre in
American Francophilic Self-Help Literature"*

Honorable Mentions:

Isabelle Smith

for the outstanding paper

*"Intersectionality in Queer Studies: The Gap in
Understanding Spatial Queerness in the United
States for Black Lesbian Women"*

Sarah Feather

for the outstanding paper

*"Are the Feminists Taking Over? A Critical
Analysis of Sweden and Canada's Feminist
Foreign Policy"*

Please visit www.bu.edu/wgs/sjd for more information

Awards and Recognition:

WGS Certificate Completions

Every year we celebrate our grad students who have completed the WGS certificate at our end of the year party; while we can't gather in person, we are still very proud of the new certificate holders and can't wait to see their future work and accomplishments

Ken Alba

Ph.D., English

Nicole Correr

Ph.D., Religious Studies

Triss Ingels

Master of Sacred Theology

Kristin Lacey

Ph.D., English

Jihye Ma

Master of Divinity

Olivia Strange

Juris Doctor

Laura Tourtellotte

Ph.D., Anthropology

Awards and Recognition:

WGS Summer Fellowship Winners

This year we've offered any of our graduate certificate students a chance for a funded summer fellowship. Our winners have projects that exemplify the some of the best of WGS research on campus, and they will be sharing the results with us next year. We are delighted to announce our winners:

Sarah Hopkinson

Ph.D., English

Sarah will investigate the “colorful” chaos of Zora Neale Hurston’s many real and fictional gardens. Hurston’s investment in this cultivated space was, however, merely more than a personal ornamental pastime. Instead, Hurston’s gardens – gardens which repurpose trash as sculpture or vessel, that mingle subsistence with decoration, and which often speak or feel alive to the inner turmoil of its human caretaker – resist the ornamental turn in women’s gardening practices during the Progressive Era. Just as both Black and white women were learning the art of symmetrical planting and lawn cultivation to signify an emergent middle-class status, Hurston turned instead to the practices and ideologies of rural, Black folkways, embracing an aesthetic derived from the gardens of enslaved women, African-American syncretisms, and rural poverty. With this research, she will dig further into the gardens and gardening practices across Hurston’s many writings to illustrate how Hurston’s perspective towards the natural world formulates an important rebuke of the class-based environmentalism advocated under a politics of respectability.

Jordan Pickard

Ph.D., English

Jordan will continue their current research, which puts Leonora Sansay’s epistolary novel, *Secret History; Or, The Horrors of St. Domingo (1808)*, a semi-autobiographical work that documents its white bourgeois narrator’s experience in Haiti during the final years of the revolution, in conversation with Maria Lugones’ theory of the Colonial/Modern Gender System. Building on the work of recent scholarship on the *Secret History*, which has acknowledged both its importance as “one of the rare feminine voices bearing witness” to the Haitian Revolution and its failings as a work of proto-white-feminism, they intend to use Sansay’s narrative as an inroad to uncovering both the complex oppression Black women faced under the colonial regime and the opportunity the revolutionary moment provided them to subvert the heterosexist norms on which the colonial/modern gender system depends. The stories of real, revolutionary Black women—Sanité Belair, Marie-Jeanne Lemartinier, Défilée, and many others who have been written out of even the most triumphant narratives of the Haitian Revolution—haunt Sansay’s novel at every turn. Reading Sansay’s narrative of white colonial women as a gothic palimpsest, they will attempt to retrace the stories of Black women’s resilience that it tries—and, they would suggest, fails—to overwrite.

Awards and Recognition:

Faculty Spotlight

WGS is an interdepartmental program with faculty members spanning many disciplines, and every year we like to celebrate our members' professional accomplishments.

Joanna Davidson

- Published: Joanna Davidson, 2020. "The problem of widows," *American Ethnologist*, Vol 47, No. 1, pp. 43-57.
- Published: Joanna Davidson and Dinah Hannaford, eds. (forthcoming) *Opting Out: Women Messing with Marriage Around the World*, Rutgers University Press (Politics of Marriage & Gender Series).

Shelly DeBiasse



- Appointed as an Affiliate Faculty and Researcher, Boston University Center for Antiracist Research, Director: Ibram X. Kendi, PhD, Boston, MA (2020 – present)
- Published: Burt KG, Ruder LH, DeBiasse MA. We need data! The importance of collecting more and better data to achieve a diverse, inclusive profession. *The Digest*. (In press)
- Published: DeBiasse MA, Qamar Z, Burt KG. A social media intervention for dietetics professionals to increase awareness about racial/ethnic diversity and inclusion in dietetics: Black voices centered. *Journal of Critical Dietetics*. (In press)
- Presented a Webinar: July 6, 2020 "Diversity and Inclusion in Dietetics: Educators as Allies and Advocates" Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics/Nutrition and Dietetics Educators and Preceptors (NDEP) (with Katherine Burt, PhD, RDN, CUNY/Lehman College, NY)
- Presented: Food & Nutrition Conference and Expo (FNCE) 2020 NDEP Roundtable "Improving Diversity and Inclusion in Dietetics", October 18, 2020
- Moderated: Day of Collective Engagement: Racism and Antiracism, Our Realities and Our Role Boston University, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Boston, MA "Racism & Antiracism in the Clinical Medical Practice", June 24, 2020 star-636x636

Samia Hesni

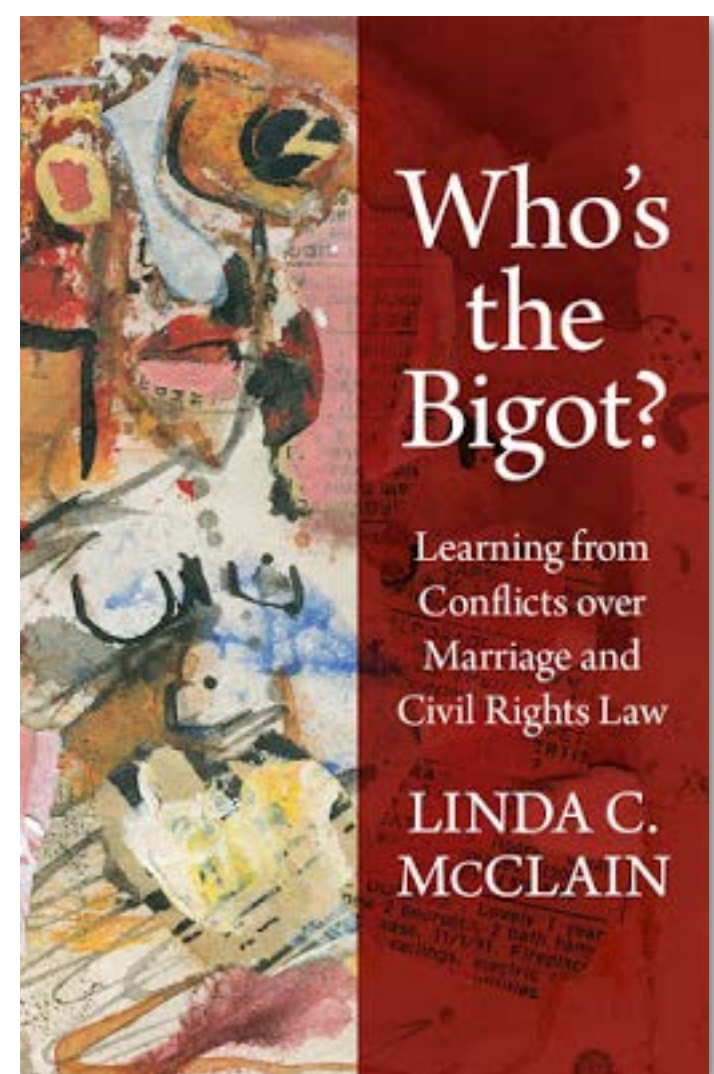
- Gave a keynote colloquium talk "at" the University of Michigan on social scripts
- Gave two talks at the Pacific American Philosophical Association on social scripts and lexical innovation
- Had multiple papers accepted at *Thought and Inquiry*
- Workshopped some papers at the USC Philosophy Academy conceptual foundations of conflict series, the UNC workshop on social and political philosophy of language, and a Cambridge social philosophy of language workshop

Petrus Liu

- Received a Harvard Radcliffe Fellowship for AY21-22 for my project on "The 'Specter of Materialism: Queer Theory and Marxism in the Age of the Beijing Consensus.'"
- Together with his Co-PIs (Paul Amar, UCSB and Lisa Rofel, UCSC), received a \$240,000 multi-year research grant from the Ford Foundation for the study of "Communications Gaps and Governance Solutions for China's Development Finance in the Global South."
- Published: A co-edited volume, *The Wandering Earth: Gender, Sexuality, and Geopolitics*, was published in 2020.
- Published: A research article, "Queer Theory and the Specter of Materialism," appeared in *Social Text* in December 2020.

Linda McClain

- Published: *A Woman's "Best Right" – To a Husband or the Ballot?: Political and Household Governance in Anthony Trollope's Palliser Novels*, 100 B.U.L. Rev. 1861 (2020)
- Published: *What Becomes a Legendary Constitutional Campaign Most? Marking the Nineteenth Amendment at One Hundred*, 100 B.U.L. Rev. 1753 (2020)
- Published: *Palmore v. Sidoti (1984): The Troubling Effects of 'Private Biases'*, in *Painting Constitutional Law: Xavier Cortada's Images of Constitutional Rights* 122-139 (M.C. Mirow & Howard M. Wasserman, eds., Brill/Nijhoff, 2021) (part of Brill's Legal History Library series)
- Published: *Bigotry, Civility, and Reinvigorating Civic Education: Government's Formative Task Amidst Polarization*, in *The Impact of the Law: On Character Formation, Ethical Education, and the communication of Values in Late Modern Pluralistic Societies* 109-126 (John Witte, H. Jr. & Michael Welker, ed., Leipzig, Germany: Evangelische Verlagsanstalt Press, 2021)
- Wrote: *A Radical, Subaltern Chorus: Saidiya Hartman's Album of Rebellious Young Black Women*, Jotwell (Feb. 26, 2021), <https://family.jotwell.com/a-radical-subaltern-chorus-saidiya-hartmans-album-of-rebellious-young-black-women/> (reviewing Saidiya Hartman, *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Social Upheaval* (Norton, 2019))



- With Gina Sapiro, organized webinar (hosted by BU School of Law and Department of Political Science), *The Centenary of the Nineteenth Amendment: New Reflections on the History and Future of Gender, Representation, and Citizenship Rights*, Boston University School of Law webinar, September 25, 2020
- In addition to the above, she wrote many op-eds and blogs discussing a wide range of issues intersecting gender parity, feminist goals, politics, and law
- Presented at a myriad of conferences and symposiums discussing her book *Who's the Bigot?: Learning from Conflicts over Marriage and Civil Rights Law* as well as touching on a variety of other WGS related topics.

Luis Menéndez-Antuña

- Awarded Wabash Grant for his project *Nurturing Queer Education: exploring the embodiment of queer life in theologically diverse settings*: <http://www.bu.edu/sth/prof-menendez-antuna-awarded-wabash-grant-to-nurture-queer-education/?fbclid=IwAR00BUWlZBQyUymvLIEEF1FRVgbValuLNOOnBvdopxf88tLbP6lxd7TUwuOg>
- Awarded Sabbatical Grant for Researchers: https://louisville-institute.org/our-impact/awards/sabbatical-grant-for-researchers/15549/?fbclid=IwAR1UJzHKYzHudDCqen-8aTLH0NdAb_LuIQWlx5nZgY0FOjmowgWtq8pjmP4

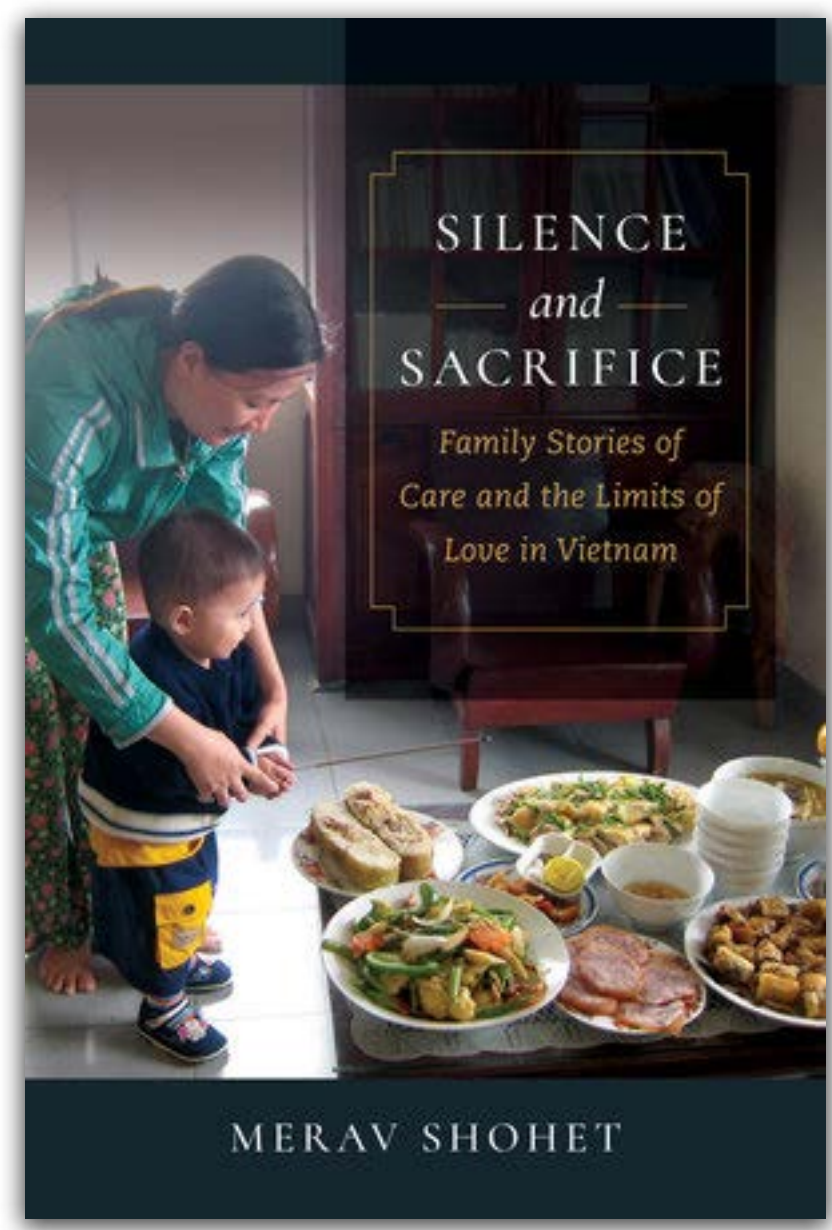
Takeo Rivera

- Interviewed by Al Jazeera for a feature they did on anti-Asian violence: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Un_ezSd3PNU&t=14m33s
- Featured on the Black Marxist podcast Real Sankara Hours on the subject: <https://soundcloud.com/realankarahours/rsh-85-king-konggodzilla-team-up-4122021>
- Co-organized and moderated an Asian American faculty panel on campus: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vzn4HVroeBg>
- Gave a talk at Massachusetts General Hospital on medical scapegoating, imperialism, and gender-based violence: https://hosting2.desire2learncapture.com/mgh/1/Watch/11662.aspx?fbclid=IwAR3kViYC7v4WjQOKJGp9lfcune0vHZlgMqMPpFxlly9FOVDv0Q5xw_AoFj4
- Moderated a discussion at the Center for Antiracist Research's Antiracist Book Festival, theoretically between Robert Jones, Jr. (aka Son of Baldwin) and Tommy Orange

Sophie Seita

- Won the Dover Art Prize for a video/performance piece, called *The Gracious Ones*
- Received funding from the British Council and Canada Council for the Arts for a speculative and performance-based research project about female, queer, BIPOC gardeners, in collaboration with Naomi Woo
- Selected for a British Library Eccles Fellowship for research on a book of queer-feminist essays
- Selected for Constellations artist development programme supported by UP Projects and Flat Time House (2020-2021), focussing on collaborative, socially engaged practice - asking ourselves how we can build trust and intimacy in a digital or socially distanced context and forge a community of promiscuous care

Merav Shohet



- Published her book *Silence & Sacrifice: Family Stories of Care and the Limits of Love in Vietnam*
- Wrote: Shohet, Merav. Beyond the Asylum: Mental Illness in French Colonial Vietnam. Claire E. Edington. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. *Journal of Vietnamese Studies* 16(2): 91-94.
- Awarded: INSPIRE (Innovation Stimulus Pilot in Renal) Award, BUSM/Boston Medical Center, Department of Medicine, Section of Nephrology: “Stigma Syndemics and End-Stage Kidney Disease in Disenfranchised Urban Communities Fighting COVID-19.” [with Dr. Insa Schmidt and Dr. Lauren Stern]
- Awarded: SSRC Rapid Response Grant on COVID-19 and the Social Sciences: “Stigma Syndemics and End-Stage Kidney Disease in Disenfranchised Urban Communities Fighting Covid-19.” [with Dr. Insa Schmidt and Dr. Lauren Stern]
- Awarded Boston University Center for the Humanities Fellowship to develop the project “Unmaking and Remaking Kinship and Questions of Care for Old/New Jews in Israel’s Transforming Kibbutz.”
- Awarded: Vietnam Studies Group, BU Center for the Study of Asia, BU Center for the Humanities, BU Department of Anthropology, BU Center on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs, & BU Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future grants to organize the symposium “Silences and Reverberations: Studying Historical and Contemporary Vietnam Into the Future” at BU (spring 2020, postponed due to Covid-19 to May 28, 2021 — re-secured grants from BUCH, CURA, Pardee, VSG).
- Presented: Stigma Syndemics and End-Stage Kidney Disease in Disenfranchised Communities Fighting COVID-19 (w/ I. Schmidt). Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) Annual Meeting. Virtual.
- Presented: Anxiety and Anxiety Disorders Discussant Comments. Society for Psychological Anthropology (SPA) Biennial Meeting. Virtual.
- Presented: Gossip and Silence, Discipline and Release in Market-Socialist Vietnam. Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Meeting. Canceled 2020, then became Virtual conference due to Covid-19.
- Co-organized the international workshop: Silences and Reverberations: Studying Historical and Contemporary Vietnam into the Future. Boston University, 28 May. Online due to COVID-19.
- Co-organized the session: Anthropological Approaches to Anxiety and Anxiety Disorders. SPA Biennial Meeting. 6-10 April, online due to COVID-19.
- Organized and Chaired the session: Silence, Solitude, and Social Change in Contemporary Asia. AAS Annual Conference. 22-26 March, online due to COVID-19.

Susanne Sreedhar

- Contracted by Oxford University Press for her second book titled *Hobbes on Sex*.
- Got a fellowship to be at the Newhouse Center for the Humanities at Wellesley College next year

Karen Warkentin

- Served as co-lead (with Judi Burgess) of BU’s strategic implementation process to plan for the forthcoming LGBTQIA+ Center
- Served on the CAS Diversity and Inclusion Action Team and as co-chair of the Biology Antiracism Committee
- Gave invited seminars “Different people ask different questions: a queer perspective on studying diversity in life history and behavior” at Purdue University and Rutgers University
- Gave seminars on “Proximate and ultimate causes of hatching plasticity” at Utah State University and Florida International University
- Published three biology papers, all with student first authors and Latin American collaborators, about their research on Neotropical frog embryos
- They also have a book chapter in press entitled “Queering herpetology: On human perspectives and the study of diverse animals,” based on their plenary talk for the Brazilian Congress of Herpetology.

Awards and Recognition:

Graduate Student Spotlight

WGS is an interdepartmental program with certificate candidates spanning many disciplines, and every year we like to celebrate our students' academic and professional accomplishments.

Laura Brubaker-Wittman

- Chosen as a finalist for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program to pursue fieldwork in Indonesia, on how humans and orangutans create relationships, specifically through the lens of feminist and queer science studies, focusing on the nature/culture divide, performativity, and multispecies entanglements. Her proposal was entitled, “*Intra-acting with Orangutans: A Multispecies Ethnography of Relationship Building in Borneo.*” It builds off the work she did last summer when she was awarded one of the WGS Summer Fellowships!

Laura Mayron

- Published a feminist geographies article in the Spanish and Portuguese Review for Fall 2020. Full publication link [here](#) and a direct link to her article [here](#).

Johnathan Norris

- Received a Foreign Language and Areas Studies (FLAS) Fellowship from the Africa Studies Center at BU to study Arabic this summer at Middlebury College
- Received a Critical Language Scholarship from the Department of State to study Arabic this summer (going to decline)
- Received \$30,000 through the David L. Boren Scholarship (National Security Education Program, Washington DC) to study Arabic and for preliminary fieldwork research in Jordan from Sept-July of this coming year.
- His paper was accepted for an upcoming conference on migration in Bulgaria:
- “Desiring Place: Exploring Emotion, Place-Making, and Racialized Encounters in Migration.” Between the Worlds: Migrants, Margins, And Social Environment. Sofia, Bulgaria.
- Presented a paper at a conference here at BU back in March: “Theological Islamophobia: Theorizing the Theological Underpinnings of Islamophobic Rhetoric in Charismatic Christianity and their impact on U.S. Politics.” Conference on Anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, White Supremacy and US Culture. Boston, MA.

Credits

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