

Newsletter

2019-2020



Boston University

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program

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A Message From The Director



Cati Connell
WGS Program Director

I never imagined I would be wrapping another year as WGS director under the present circumstances; it's a bit strange to celebrate our accomplishments under such somber and uncertain conditions. Still I remain proud of everything this community has been a part of throughout the year, even throughout this period of stress, sadness, and physical distancing from each other. At the moment, I'm particularly proud of how the faculty came together to [support the Black Lives Matter movement and to recommit to centering antiracism](#) in our Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. This is a much bigger and multifaceted undertaking than any formal statement could stand in for, but we hope that this letter serves to both articulate our position and to remind us of the ongoing work we must do to uphold these values.

This year's WGS & GenSex seminar series, Decolonizing Sex, Gender, & The Body, included a stellar line up of interdisciplinary and intersectionality-minded scholars. We learned about Native Hawaiian women's experiences and epistemologies in the pursuit of indigenous self-determination from [J. Kēhaulani Kauanui](#). [Elijah Edelman](#) offered a radically coalitional and decolonial framework for the pursuit of trans justice. [Vrushali Patil](#) demonstrated how race and sex differences were socially produced through the political economies of slavery and colonialism. Finally, we considered how the development of colonial masculinities and the ecological effects of their emergence. We hope that next year we will be able to hear from [Ari Heinrich](#) on transgender cyborgs and climate change in postcolonial Taiwan and from [Anne Fausto-Sterling](#) on gender, sex, and the body, as their talks were cancelled in the wake of the pandemic.

WGS also hosted a scholars of color luncheon in the spring, sponsored by the [BU Office of Diversity & Inclusion](#) and featuring the co-editors of *Counternarratives from Women of Color Academics: Bravery, Vulnerability, and Resistance*, [Manya C. Whitaker](#) and [Eric Anthony Grollman](#). We also co-sponsored [their public talk with contributors Alessandra Bazo Vienrich and Robbin Chapman](#) later that evening with the Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexualities, moderated by our own Saida Grundy.

In addition, we co-sponsored a number of events across campus, including talks from [Deva Woody-Davis on Black feminist pragmatism](#), [Tomomi Yamaguchi on right-wing revisionism in Japan](#), and [Jane Baxter on the emergence of childhood studies in archeology](#).



We held parties to celebrate the recent book publications of two of our own WGS faculty, Max Greenberg and Lida Maxwell. We toasted Lida's book, [Insurgent Truth: Chelsea Manning and the Politics of Outsider Truth-Telling](#), in November and Max's book, [Twelve Weeks to Save a Life: At-Risk Youth in a Fractured State](#) in January. Both parties were very well-attended and so much fun – I invite you to be in touch if you'd like your work profiled in the coming year! We are likely looking at a year of virtual celebrations and events, but that won't stop us from celebrating your many accomplishments.

This academic year, we welcomed new faculty affiliates Danny Erker, Derek Anderson, Kyle Gobrogge, Luis Menéndez-Antuña, and Paula Austin. Our graduate certificate program continues to grow and diversify across disciplines and areas of study, and our minor numbers remain steady despite the changes introduced by the new Hub model for general education.

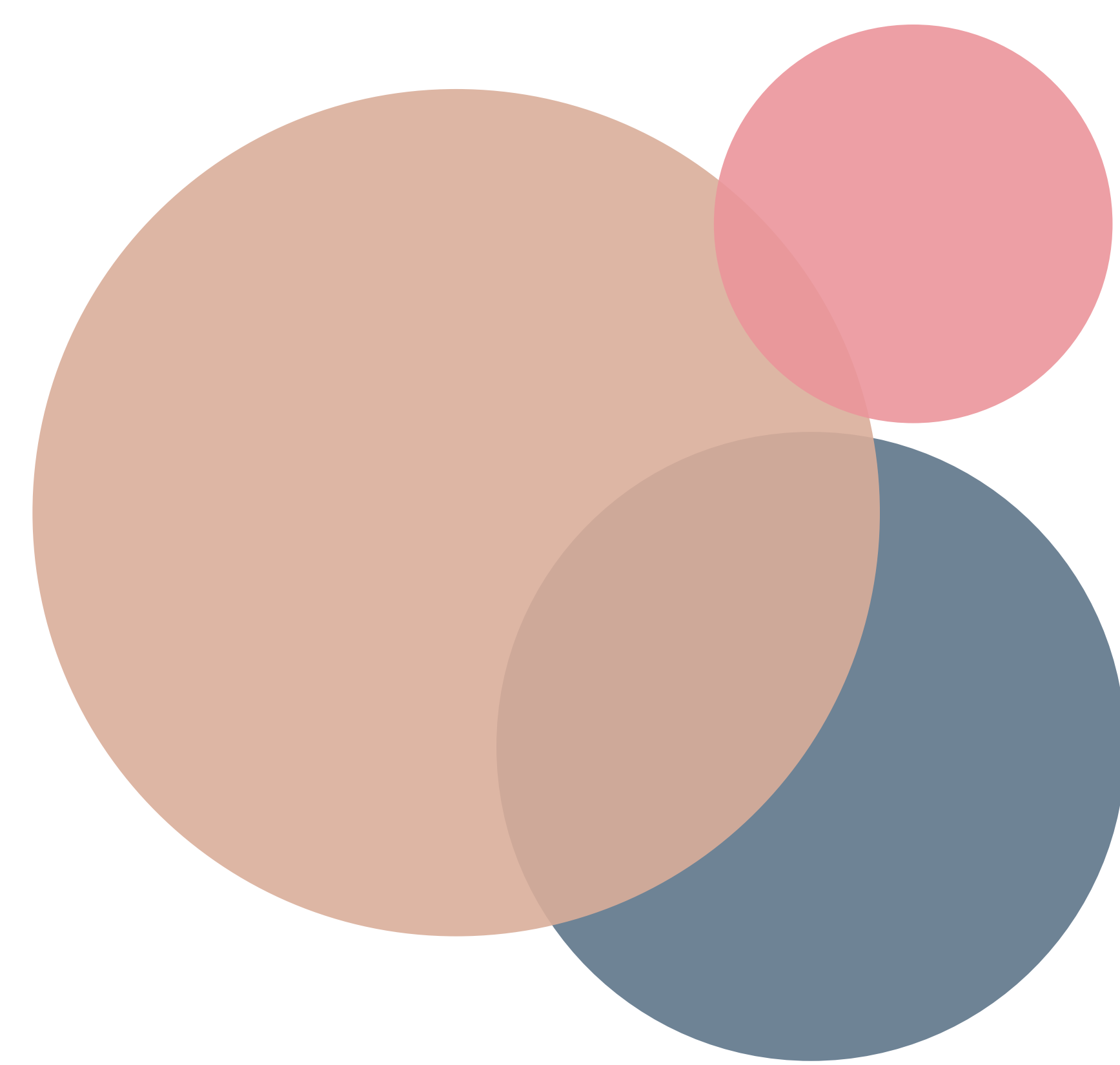
Congratulations to this year's WGS minor and certificate graduates and to our Sarah Joanne Davis award winners (see our [Awards and Recognitions starting on page 15](#)). Check out the [Faculty Spotlight starting on page 17](#) for announcements and congratulations regarding publications and professional accomplishments from our WGS community!

I like to conclude every year with my deepest thanks and appreciation for our WGS faculty and staff. Our beloved Gabby Newton has moved on to serve as the Sexual Health Coordinator for the City of Baltimore (congrats again, Gabby!) and we have been so incredibly fortunate to have found a fantastic new program administrator in Olivia McCargar. Liv brought to our program many years of CAS administrative experience as well as training and expertise in web development and database design and a passion for gender and sexuality justice and scholarship. It's unfortunate that the pandemic didn't give her much time to settle in and get to know our community better, but Liv has been such an asset to this program already, especially as it pertains to handling pandemic-related program changes. I'm so grateful to have Liv as part of our team and look forward to another year or working alongside her. Thanks also to our work study student and social media outreach coordinator, Lauren Hagy for her second year of invaluable service to the program. Another thank you to Sandy McEvoy for serving as our Director of Graduate Studies and to Susanne Sreedhar for serving as Director of Undergraduate Studies. Finally, thank you 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. As we prepare for a new academic year, I take solace in being in such amazing company to weather its uncertainty and, as always, I encourage you to reach out if I can help support you in your continued professional and activist excellence.

Cati Connell
WGS Director

Decolonizing Sex, Gender, & The Body

WGS Program and GenSex Seminar Series 2019-2020



Decolonizing Traditions: Native Hawaiian Women and the Question of Feminism

September 13, 2019

J. Kēhaulani Kauanui

Wesleyan University



On The Violence of 'LGBT': Decolonizing Trans Studies

October 18, 2019

Elijah Edelman

Rhode Island College



Imperial Terroir: Toward A Queer Molecular Ecology of Colonial Masculinities

January 31, 2020

Rick Smith

Dartmouth College



Photo from Decolonizing Traditions: Native Hawaiian women and the Question of Feminism

The 2019-2020 seminar series focused on the various ways in which the legacy of colonialism has shaped and continues to shape our understandings of Sex and Gender, as well as feminism more broadly. Originally planned as a 5 part series, the pandemic forced us to cancel the last two events slated for March and April to close out the year.

Decolonizing Traditions: Native Hawaiian women and the Question of Feminism

This event unpacked the complex intersection of feminism and Hawaiian nationalist activism, recognizing that pre-colonial Hawaii had a robust egalitarian culture that has been subverted and suppressed by the US. There is no one solution all Native Hawaiians agree on for how to best move forward and heal from this, and Native Hawaiian women must wrestle with a legacy of egalitarianism that was eroded in response to the colonial threat before it was made manifest; a complex history with no clear path forward, and woefully little academic insight available, this talk investigated how the history and goals of Native Hawaiian nationalists and Native Hawaiian feminists can be at odds given this complicated relationship.

On The Violence of 'LGBT': Decolonizing Trans Studies

Recognizing that the 'LGBT' community is a loose collection of sexual and gender minorities with disparate and sometimes competitive needs and interests, this talk explored how Trans studies in particular show a structural disconnect between trans lives and the way we think and talk about LGBT people in general. This talk called for a rethinking- a decolonizing- of trans studies towards dynamic models of 'trans coalitional research.' By decolonizing trans studies in this way, we can disrupt any normative models of trans identities and practices, making room for the very wide and diverse range of trans lives, enriching the research with the benefit of real lived experience instead of stereotypical models and theory.

Imperial Terroir: Toward a Queer Molecular Ecology of Colonial Masculinities

Male violence is all too often framed as a biological inevitability, best explained by a socio-biological examination of human behavior. This is used by settler colonial states a kind of justification for colonial violence-- state violence is just human nature at scale. This talk takes queer and Indigenous critiques to question this inevitability as instead a consequence of historically-contingent processes, and therefore colonial masculinities are recent human inventions not tied to any essential human nature.

Fall 2019 Pedagogy Workshop



The workshop series focuses on helping doctoral students develop skills to further prepare them for teaching. After discussion with some of the students we agreed that one of the most critical components to effective teaching is developing a solid course syllabus. The November 20 workshop focused on how to create a dynamic and truly intersectional syllabus for your future courses. It was attended by students across the University including Theology, Anthropology, Sociology, Hispanic Language and Literatures, Social Work, the law school and Biology. We also discussed classroom dynamics and lecturing skills.



Max Greenberg Book Party



Max Greenberg presented his book *Twelve Weeks to Change a Life At-Risk Youth in a Fractured State*, giving us a deep dive into well meaning violence prevention programs that are distant and disconnected from the lived experiences of the children they are meant to serve. At risk youth are often only understood through obscuring layers of data and impersonal analysis, which leads to these ephemeral programs.



Max gave us a personal connection to the kids going through these programs as well as the administrators running them, providing some much needed context for how these programs actually affect the people they are meant to serve, telling a compelling story about how even social programs born from good data can be insufficient to accomplish the goals of reducing harm.

Small Grant Updates

From Shelly Debiasse:

Dear members of the WGS program at Boston University,

I want to thank the WGS program for graciously awarding us a small grant in the amount of \$400 to support our research project: "Giving Voice: Experiences of LGBT students, interns and professionals in dietetics". The award money has been spent to support our recruitment efforts for this project in the form of 4 \$100.00 gift cards. These gift cards will be raffled off at the end of the project (December 2020) to participants who agreed to take part in the semi-structured interviews and/or the survey used to collect data for the research project.

Our ability to secure participants for both the semi-structured interviews and the survey is essential to the success of this research project. In fact, as we are grounding our research project in Feminist Standpoint Theory, our ability to recruit a significant sample size for phase 1 of the research (semi-structured interviews) is essential as we will be using the emergent themes from this phase of the study to inform the constructs will be studying in phase 2 of this project (surveys).

Information regarding the experiences of LGBT students, interns and practitioners of dietetics is absent from the literature. Our research study is the first to actively seek out LGBT students, interns and practitioners of dietetics in order to give voice to their experiences as they navigate their studies, training and work in the profession. Given the novelty of our study, we are confident that our work will illuminate spaces with dietetics education, training and practice that must be consciously revised and restructured to ensure LGBT students, interns and practitioners are able to navigate the profession with the same ease experienced by those who identify with the majority within the field: gender binary and heterosexual.

Thank you again,
Shelly DeBiasse

Small Grant Updates

From Carmen Rowe:

I applied the \$800 grant that I received through BU's WGS small grants towards expenses related to attending the 2020 National Farmer's Union's (NFU) Women's Conference in San Diego, CA, which ran from January 19-21, 2020. I attended this conference as part of my dissertation research, specifically to conduct ethnographic observations at an event aimed at women farmers and to potentially recruit for interviews. My dissertation project is concerned with outcomes and experiences for women farmers, since women represent one of the fastest growing groups in this traditionally male-dominated occupation, and I am using the case of women farmers to contribute to broader literature on gender, work, and organizations, by exploring how success and retention for women in an increasingly less male-dominated field may be shaped by different organizational factors. As part of this focus, I consider how professional events and organizations aimed at women farmers may potentially contribute to success or retention, so I am attending events firsthand in order to observe what kind of information and support women farmers receive at these events.

As of this writing, I have attended three professional conferences for women farmers (the 2019 Women in Sustainable Agriculture conference, the 2020 NFU Women's Conference, and the 2020 Women Managing the Farm conference), and the NFU Women's Conference was the second conference I attended. Of the three conferences I have attended so far, the NFU Women's Conference is the only one hosted by one of the three major national agriculture organizations, and as pointed out by a speaker at the conference, the Women's Conference is unique in that it has been in existence for decades, before the rise in formal attention to women farmers. That the NFU has been paying attention to women farmers for so long may reflect its political orientation relative to the other major agricultural organizations; one employee for the NFU that I spoke with at the conference mentioned to me that the NFU is the "most relatively liberal" of the three major agricultural organizations, as a "center-left" organization that historically advocated for women's suffrage and that currently advocates for climate change policy. Of the three conferences I have attended, this is the only conference that did not have breakout sessions, so I was able to observe all panels firsthand, though this meant fewer topics were covered. With that said, there was some overlap with topics covered at the other two conferences, most notably around mental health/stress, communication, and financial considerations.

From Susanne Sreedhar:

I was very grateful for the WGS research grant, which offset the cost of editorial assistance for a book chapter I wrote entitled "Marriage and the Family." This chapter is forthcoming in *The Routledge Handbook of Women and Early Modern European Philosophy*, edited by Karen Detlefsen and Lisa Shapiro (New York: Routledge,).

Thanks, WGS!

Small Grant Updates

From Xuyi Zhao:

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Xuyi Zhao. I am currently a second-year Ph.D. student in socio-cultural anthropology and a graduate certificate student in women's, gender, & sexuality studies. My major research interests include the family, gender and migration, as well as their interconnections with broader social change in China. I would like to use this opportunity to thank the selection-committee for granting me the research funds and report on how the funds were used for my research agenda.

I received a WGS small grant in the amount of \$500 in December 2019. The grant has enabled me to conduct in-depth interviews with ten highly-educated migrant women (aged between 21-27) in Beijing. The interviews are part of my preliminary research for my long-term Ph.D. project, which looks at the differential citizenship regime in China and its gendered implications for urban migrants. The evolution of a non-universal citizenship system comes to create differential gender domains in granting local citizenship to male and female migrants. Moreover, as the issues of citizenship become especially critical when migrants start to build a family, extended-familial resources are often mobilized differently by parents to support sons and daughters.

Drawing on a close examination of the household registration (hukou) system and internal migration in China, I look at how the non-universal citizenship system makes internal migration a family strategy that further generates a gendered division of labor and puts female migrants at an unfavorable position when they negotiate career development and family-making. Based on my interviews, there are some preliminary findings that can guide my further research design:

- Highly-educated migrant women face institutional discrimination when seeking state-sponsored jobs that can offer local citizenship (hukou), in comparison with their male counterparts.
- When considering marriage, migrant women tend to choose jobs that offer local hukou instead of jobs that pay higher, in order to support their husbands' career development and ensure their children can enjoy full citizenship rights.
- Most migrant women I interviewed agree that a balance between work and family is more important than their individual development after marriage, and are willing to sacrifice their careers to various degrees for the sake of the family.

These preliminary findings are critical in understanding how migration strategies interact with family and gender ideologies in China, which are particularly helpful for me to produce a stronger doctoral research proposal. Without the aid of the WGS grant, it would be impossible to conduct preliminary interviews at such an early stage in my Ph.D. program. This small project also contributes to the scholarship of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality more broadly by illustrating how the institution of the family works to strengthen gender inequalities in the context of internal migration, and how women view their roles as non-locals, professionals, wives, and (potential) mothers when making different life choices. Future fieldwork will be conducted among migrant communities in Beijing and Chengdu, China, in the summer of 2020.

UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & Development



Mousumi's football team with coach and Chandana Dey. Courtesy: Mousumi Murmu

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 interdisciplinary collaboration and the transcontinental sharing of voices. 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 2019-2020 illustrations.

We're delighted to announce a new series on our UNESCO/UNITWIN blog! In an effort to amplify grassroots voices in this phase of our UNITWIN, Founding Member Chandana Dey from West Bengal, India proposed a young women's forum. Chandana states "This initial idea came from my interest in a young all-girls' football team. The co-coach is Mousumi Murmu. I thought that it would be interesting to have dialogues with these young women- and perhaps this might lead to some gender awareness and skill building work. Mousumi has been taking computer programming classes, and she will soon be working with a Santal professor in Jadavpur University who works on discrimination. Mousumi's 'WhatsApp diary' (translated by me) makes interesting blog entries. Other UNITWIN partners might have similar stories to share." Here is the first entry in this young women's forum series, by Mousumi Murmu:

<https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2019/10/announcing-our-new-young-womens-forum.html>

Dr. Shahla Haeri's new book entitled *The Unforgettable Queens of Islam: Succession, Authority, Gender* was published in March 2020 by Cambridge University Press. Here is the book's announcement from the publisher, including most positive reviews & endorsements: <https://www.cambridge.org/us/academic/subjects/history/middle-east-history/unforgettable-queens-islam-succession-authority-gender?format=PB>.

Shahla, Founding Co-coordinator with Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney of our UNESCO/UNITWIN Network at BU in 2007, shared with us: "This book is about the extraordinary biographies of several Muslim women rulers and leaders who reached the apex of political systems of their times. Their stories illuminate the complex and challenging imperatives of dynastic succession, electoral competition and the stunning success they achieved in medieval Yemen and India, and modern Pakistan and Indonesia." (More at: <https://unitwin.blogspot.com/2020/05/shahla-haeris-unforgettable-queens-of.html>)



*Dr. Shahla Haeri
(Photo by Walter Crump)*

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



Gabby's Goodbye Party



In February our Program Coordinator, Gabby Newton, off to a new job in Baltimore. We celebrated with her before saying goodbye!



WS101 Poster Session



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 2019-2020 award winners:

Ina Joseph

for the outstanding paper

“OSHUN vs Beyoncé: Artistry and Intention in the Depiction of Yoruba Tradition”

PK Kaushik

for the outstanding paper

*“The Bidirectional Arrow:
A Review of the Understanding of the Relationship
Between Hormones and Gendered Behavior Over Time”*

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

Bailey Cummings

Juris Doctor

Jose Dominicci

Ph.D., Hispanic Language and Literatures

Brittany Hacker

Juris Doctor

Emmylou Manwill

Juris Doctor

Korine Powers

Ph.D., English

Chelsea Tejada

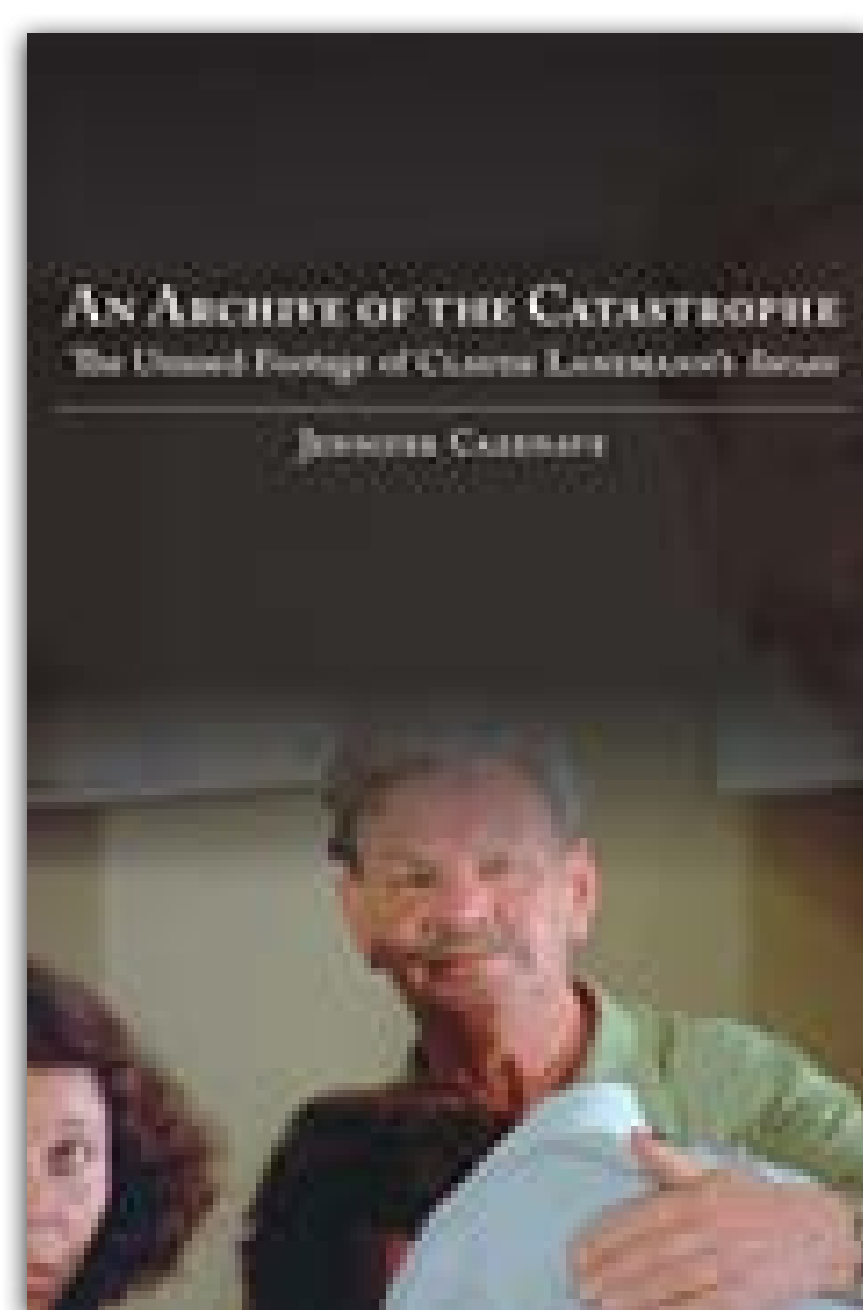
Juris Doctor

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.

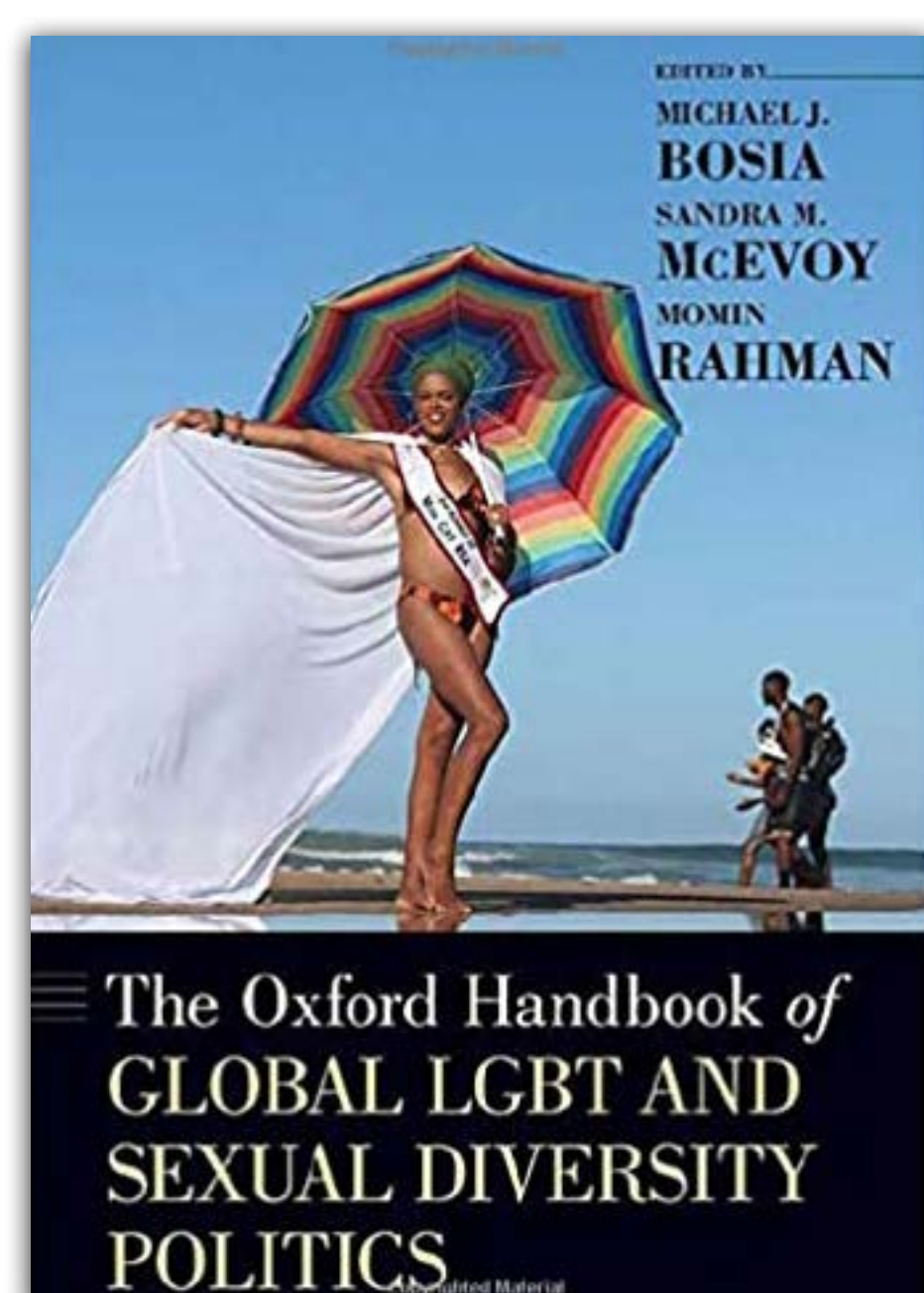
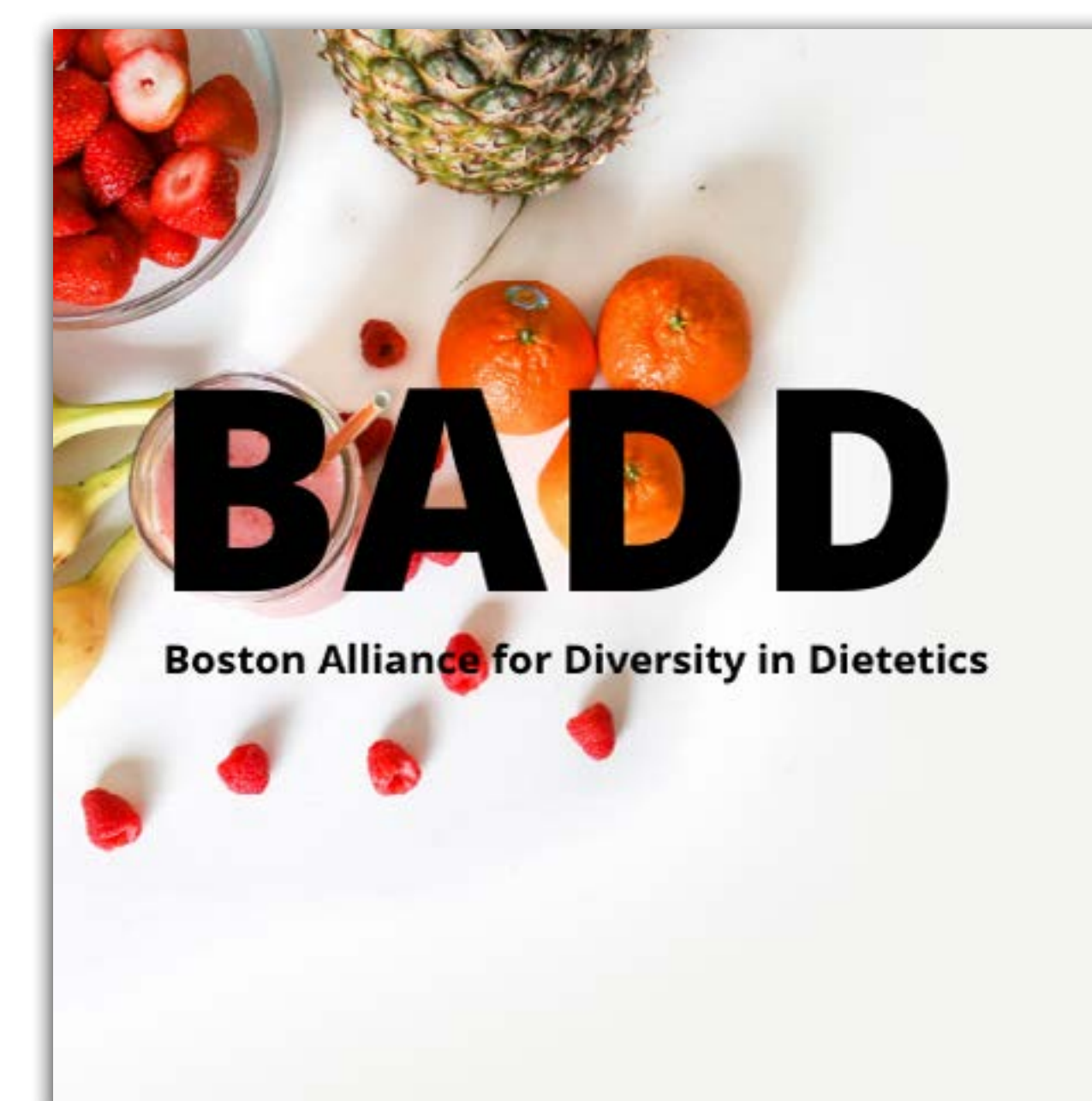
Jennifer Cazenave



Her book, *An Archive of the Catastrophe: The Unused Footage of Claude Lanzmann's Shoah* (SUNY Press, 2019) received an honorable mention for the Best First Book Award presented by the Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS).

Shelly Debiase

- She was promoted to Clinical Associate Professor March 2020
- She has received a \$10,000 grant to develop a program: Boston Alliance for Diversity in Dietetics (BADD). The mission is to increase the racial/ethnic, gender and ability diversity of the dietetics profession to reflect the US population by 2030.
- She also received a \$400 WGS small grant in April 2020



Sandy McEvoy

published a new book, "Oxford Handbook of Global LGBT and Sexual Diversity Politics"

Struggles for LGBT rights and the security of sexual and gender minorities are ongoing, urgent concerns across the world. For students, scholars, and activists who work on these and related issues, this handbook provides a unique, interdisciplinary resource.

In chapters by both emerging and senior scholars, the *Oxford Handbook of Global LGBT and Sexual Diversity Politics* introduces key concepts in LGBT political studies and queer theory. Additionally, the handbook offers historical, geographic, and topical case studies contextualized within theoretical frameworks from the sociology of sexualities, critical race studies, postcolonialism, indigenous theories, social movement theory, and international relations theory. It provides readers with up-to-date empirical material and critical assessments of the analytical significance, commonalities, and differences of global LGBT politics. The forward-looking analysis of state practice, transnational networks, and historical context presents crucial perspectives and opens new avenues for debate, dialogue, and theory.

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.

Roberta Micallef was selected as the 2020 faculty recipient of the Susan K. Jackson Award.

From Dean Scarloff's letter announcing her selection:

"You were selected for this award for your efforts to foster community in the World Languages and Literatures department. Your nominators praised your dedication to encouraging creative, worldly thought among your students through expert teaching as well as your extensive involvement in the intellectual and emotional growth of your department's student body, shown through your active outreach to curious students, your thoughtful advising, and your assistance with fellowship and internship applications. They also recognized your invaluable work as a mentor of CAS language instructors and a willing collaborator with faculty who span many different departments, programs, and ranks across the College."

Carrie Preston published the following pieces in 2019-20:

"Teaching 'Problematic' Yeats: Relevance without Recuperation," *International Yeats Studies* 4.1 (2020): 1-14.

"Gender and Sexuality," in *The New Ezra Pound Studies*, ed. Mark Byron (Cambridge University Press, 2019): 196-207.

["Fluidity," in Reading "The Waste Land" with the #MeToo Generation, *Modernism/modernity Print Plus*, Vol. 4 Cycle 4 \(Mar 4, 2019\).](#)

["Modernism and Performance: A Conversation with Carrie Preston," in *Modernism on the World Stage*, *Modernism/modernity Print Plus*, Vol. 4 Cycle 3 \(Oct 15, 2019\).](#)

"Blackfaced at The Blacks: Audience Participation in Jean Genet's Lessons on Race and Gender," *Modern Drama*, 62.1 (2019): 1-22.

"Sweeney Agonistes in Noh Mask: T. S. Eliot, Japanese Noh, and the Fragments of World Drama," *Neohelicon*, 46.1(2019): 97-113

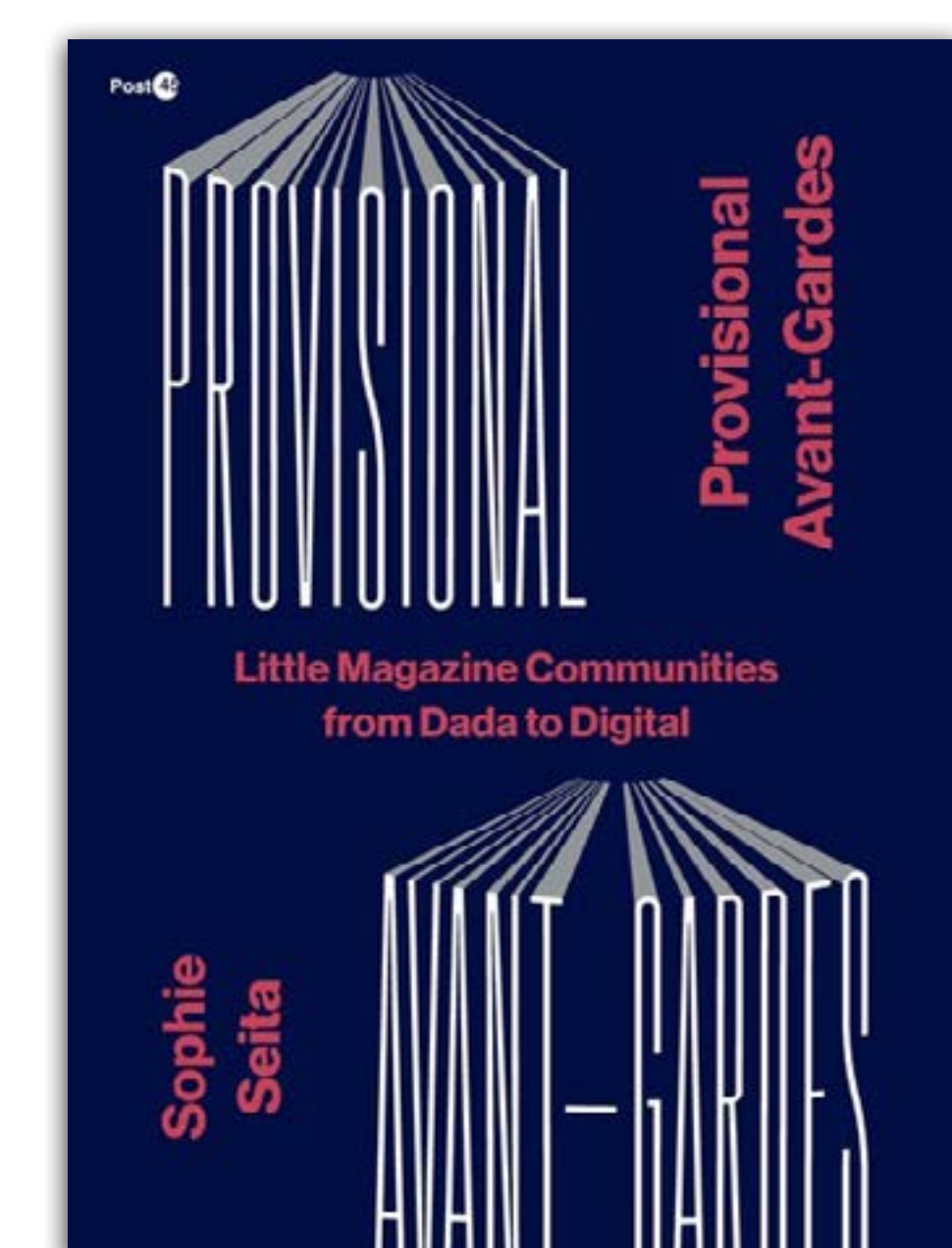
Sophie Seita

Publications:

- 1) *Provisional Avant-Gardes: Little Magazines from Dada to Digital* (Stanford University Press, 2019), academic monograph
- 2) *My Little Enlightenment Plays: A Lecture Performance* (Other Forms, 2019) a creative-critical piece
- 3) *My Little Enlightenment Plays* (Pamenar Press, 2020), full-length collection of 3 plays
- 4) 'Decals of Love, or, The One True Imposter', *Manifold*, 1 (2020) —an essay on on queer love poems

Awards:

Eccles Fellowship at the British Library, for *Lessons of Decal*, a book of creative non-fiction, 2020-2023
Visiting Fellowship, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, 2020.



Awards and Recognition:

Faculty Spotlight

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Susanne Sreedhar

Co-edited (with Eugene Marshall) *A New Modern Philosophy: The Inclusive Anthology of Primary Sources*, which came out with Routledge in 2019. She published two journal articles on gender and sexuality in the philosophy of Thomas Hobbes: "Hobbes on Sexual Morality" which appeared in *Hobbes Studies* and "The Curious Case of Hobbes's Amazons" which appeared in the *Journal of the History of Philosophy*. She served as the area editor in feminist philosophy, for the journal, *Ergo*. She was a member of the American Philosophical Association Committee on LGBT People in the Profession. She won an "Outstanding Mentor Award" from the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program and the "Neu Family Award for Excellence in Teaching."

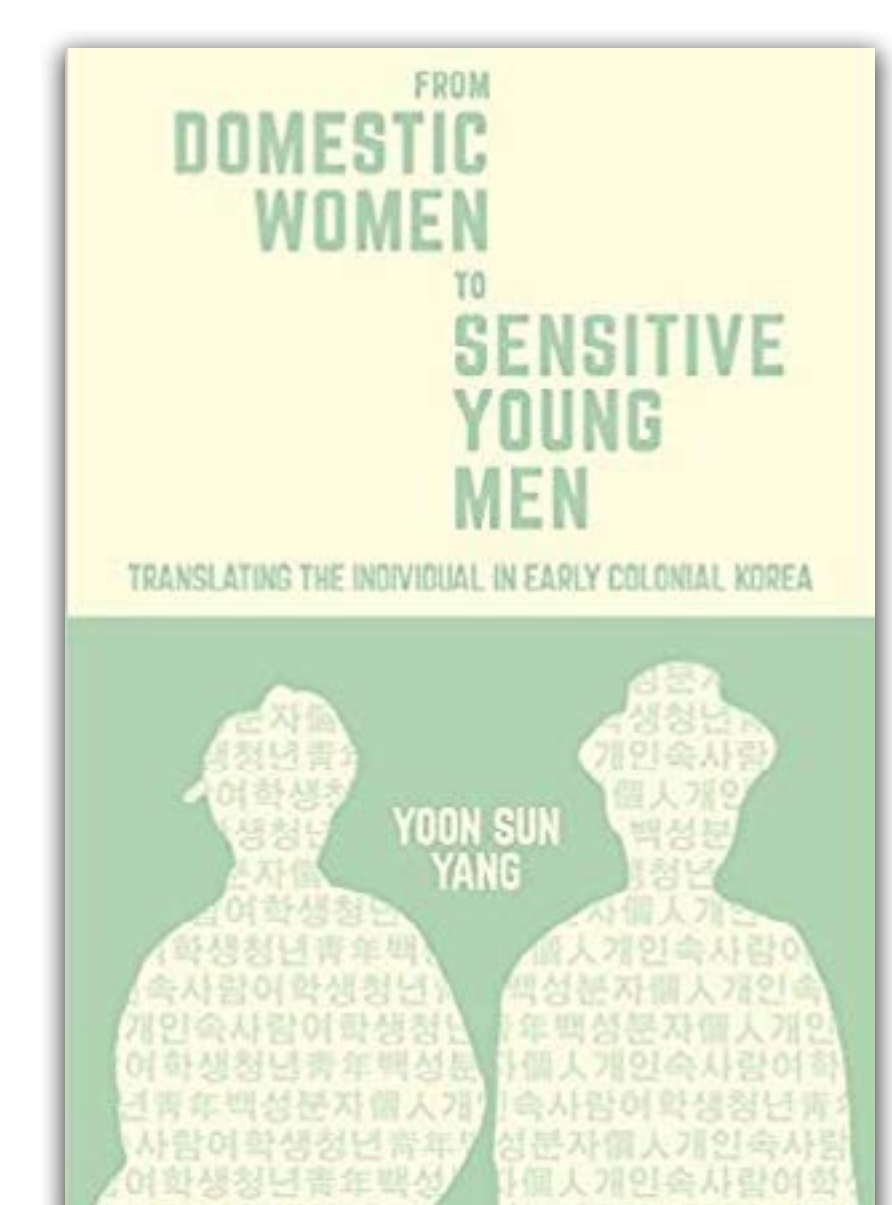
Prof. Karen Warkentin

Gave a series of talks bridging biology and gender & sexuality studies, including the [opening plenary address](#) for the Ecological Society of America meeting in Louisville, KY, on "All the variations matter: bridging disciplines and communities to study diversity in life history and sexual behavior" and a [plenary address](#) to the Brazilian Congress of Herpetology in Campinas, São Paulo, Brazil titled "Queering herpetology: on human perspectives and the study of diverse animals." Prof. Warkentin gave invited seminars "Different people ask different questions: a queer perspective on studying diversity in life history and behavior" at University of Toronto and at Brown University and was an invited speaker for a panel on "Embracing variation among humans: Perspectives on LGBTQ+ experiences in biology and academia" at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology Meeting in Austin, TX. At Boston University, Warkentin gave a keynote on "Benefits of human diversity for science: different people ask different questions" for the Underrepresented Minority Graduate Students Symposium, an Education and Teaching (EAT) Lunch Workshop for biologists on "Inclusive teaching: Sexual and reproductive biology for a gender-diverse student body" and a talk on "Intersex and the diversity of human sexual development" for Students for Reproductive Freedom. Warkentin developed a new 500-level Biology/WGS course addressing the diversity of sex, sexes, and sexual phenotypes. With biology students and collaborators, they published "How do red-eyed treefrog embryos sense motion in predator attacks? Assessing the role of vestibular mechanoreception" in the *Journal of Experimental Biology* (doi: [10.1242/jeb.206052](https://doi.org/10.1242/jeb.206052), highlighted in *Inside JEB* and shortlisted for the most outstanding JEB paper in 2019) and "The evolution of extended parental care in glassfrogs: does egg-clutch phenotype mediate coevolution between the sexes?" in *Ecological Monographs* (doi: [10.1002/ecm.1411](https://doi.org/10.1002/ecm.1411)). They also have a book chapter on "Research approaches in mechanosensory-cued hatching and the iterative development of playback methods for red-eyed treefrog embryos" in press in the edited volume *Biotremology: Physiology, Ecology, and Evolution* (Springer Nature).

Yoon Sun Yang

Publication) Her edited volume, *Routledge Handbook of Modern Korean Literature*, came out in April 2020. <https://www.routledge.com/Routledge-Handbook-of-Modern-Korean-Literature/Yang/p/book/9781138655041>

Award) Her monograph, *From Domestic Women to Sensitive Young Men: Translating the Individual in Early Colonial Korea* (2017) has been awarded the James B. Palais Prize by the Association for Asian Studies. <https://www.asianstudies.org/aas-2020-prizes/>



Please visit bu.edu/wgs/people/wgs-faculty/ for more information about our faculty members

Gendered Bullying in Art School

translation by Esther Ringhof



Esther Ringhof, a Danish exchange student doing a semester abroad here at BU, completed a paper on this topic for Max Greenberg's WS352: American Masculinities course. Following her work in class she brought it to the attention of a Danish news organization, Politiken, who did a full investigative story. Esther has provided us an english translation of the article below. You can find the original article in Danish on the [Politiken website](#).

By 2020, they are objecting: In the Northwest [of Copenhagen] there is a brilliant man's photo school. But behind the pale yellow walls is a story of bullying and harassment

In a complaint to the board of the photo school Fatamorgana, 32 students criticize the school principal Morten Bo for transgressive behavior towards the students. Three students have left school this year in protest to his behavior. Now the board has convened the three students for a meeting on the matter. Morten Bo writes to Politiken that he takes the criticism "deeply serious" but, he won't comment on it before today's board meeting.

From a white-painted studio on the second floor of Copenhagen's Northwest Quarter, Fatamorgana has hatched a large number of big names in Nordic photography over the years.

Each semester, the school sends its students through the needle eye to Danish as well as international art, film and photo education. Therefore, 25 students each semester are willing to pay DKK 27,500 to be taught at the private evening school.

If you say Fatamorgana, you must also say Morten Bo. The 75-year-old photographer founded the school in 1989, and since then, as a principal and head teacher, he has run it for values of unconditional "creative expression", "openness" and "confidentiality".

But behind the walls of the pale yellow storey house there is also another story. A story of harassment and transgressive behavior that shows that quite a few students don't experience Fatamorgana as an ingenious man's art school.

In late May, the school board received a letter signed by 32 current and former students at Fatamorgana. They criticized the school principal for the fact that many - primarily female - students have had “unpleasant, degrading, discriminatory and transgressive experiences with Morten Bo”.

“We have experienced degrading language towards women (for example, being called ‘bitches’, ‘bitches’ and ‘chickens’) to such an extent that it went beyond the classroom,” they write.

The signatories are calling on the school board to ensure that Morten Bo does not “embarrass” students in the future and punishes them by refusing to teach them when they come across him. The complaint comes after 3 of this semester’s 25 students left the school in protest over Morten Bo’s behavior as a teacher.

Morten Bo sits on the board himself and initially put the complaint on the agenda for a board meeting in August, where he himself had to attend. However, now the rest of the board has convened the students who have left school this semester for a meeting Thursday without Morten Bo.

“This is Morten Bo’s school”

With the present case, Fatamorgana now enrolls in a series of Danish art education programs, where management and teachers of their own students are accused of accepting and facilitating transgressive behavior in the name of art. The same was at the heart of the 2018 School of Writing and Arts Academy cases.

Politiken has repeatedly asked Morten Bo to address the students’ many criticisms. He did not want to be interviewed. Instead, he writes in an email to Politiken:

“I have received the full criticism and take it deeply serious. I have chosen to have Fatamorgana’s board review the matter first and will then make an opinion. I think this is the most constructive approach. I want everyone to be heard and I think that is the best possible solution for the school’s future. “

Morten Bo has also attached a response he gave two of the students in March when they complained about his behavior in connection with their resignation. Politics would like to ask him what he thinks about 32 students having experienced that he ignores students and verbally overfuses them, that he is speaking demeaning to students and has exposed students to profanity. He has not answered that.

The school’s director, Morten Nilsson, has not wanted to relate to the criticism of Morten Bo.

26-year-old Emilie Adelina Monies, who left the school in April in protest of Morten Bo’s behavior, hopes that the transgressive behavior at Fatamorgana will now stop.

“We are in 2020 and should have said goodbye to offending for a long time. I’m frightened that we have guest teachers at the school who say, “Oh, it’s still so bad”. They are adult people; a whole industry is educated at that school. I think it is deeply problematic that no one has said anything,” she says.

Fatamorgana is an evening school that receives the vast majority of its students’ user fees. In 2020, the school will receive DKK 271,000 from the City of Copenhagen under the Public Information Act.

Politics has seen the letter to the board and spoken to six of the students who have experienced transgressive behavior from Morten Bos. They come up with names. Subsequently, Politiken has spoken to five current and former students, confirming the quoted students’ stories.

Fatamorgana has no chairman of the board, but Politiken has contacted several members of the board of the photo school to ask why they have not acted on Morten Bos’s transgressive behavior, which has been going on for years. Board member Henrik Saxgren says:

“This is Morten Bo’s school, and he has asked his old students and teachers to sit on the board, and we do this to approve the accounts and keep an eye on the economy. But we neither hire nor dismiss”.

In this article, three students talk about how they experienced Morten Bo ignoring them after they criticized him and how they were harassed and verbally abused by him. Three other students say that Morten Bo has exposed them to abusive behavior.

Bitches and Chickens

One of the complaint's 32 signers is 23-year-old Othilia Leth. Three signatories have left the school in protest over Morten Bo's behavior, and she is one of them. Othilia Leth started at Fatamorgana in the fall of 2019. She had heard beforehand that Morten Bo is a tough teacher, so she was prepared to receive harsh criticism of her projects, she says.

For the first few weeks she was happy with the lessons. But gradually, she saw how Morten Bo, as the primary teacher, criticized several of the female students' projects for being fragile and expressing a victim mentality. Morten Bo's language use is discussed in the letter to the Board of Directors.

That language was experienced by Othilia Leth in teaching.

"I started to get nervous and my stomach hurt when I went to school, because I always had to defend myself that I wouldn't be called a bitch," says Othilia Leth.

If only women appeared in a photo or video, Morten Bo could, according to Othilia Leth, refer to it as a "girl's work" and initially ask students to decide whether it as work has wider relevance.

24-year-old Olivia Scheibye talks about another episode. At a joint review, a student showed a project where she had photographed women wearing panties. Olivia Scheibye had helped her classmate by photographing herself.

She and others praised the project for its feminist message, after which Morten Bo stood in front of the viewer, so the pictures were projected on his step. Some students protested, Morten asked Bo to move.

"Then he looked down," says Olivia Scheibye.

"And then the picture changed to my naked body. Then he took the step ".

Morten Bo criticized the images for portraying women in a victim role.

The policy has spoken to three students present, who confirm that Morten Bo was standing in front of the projector, so it hit his step. Two remember he took the step.

Olivia Scheibye, like Othilia Leth, has left Fatamorgana this semester. She had also heard before she went to school that Morten Bo was a front-line teacher.

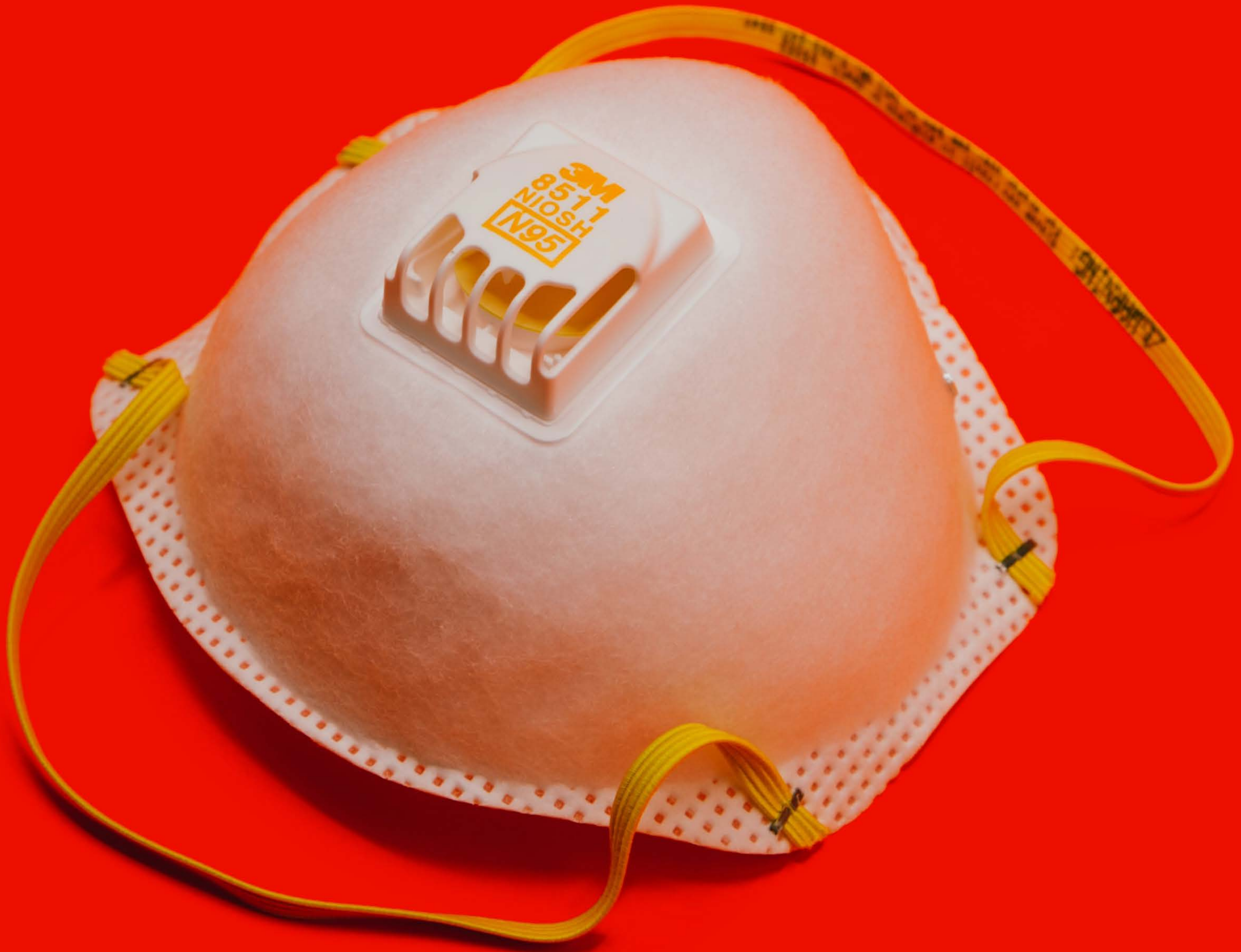
Why did you choose that school when you knew Morten Bo's reputation?

"I thought, 'How bad can it be?'" Says Olivia Scheibye.

"Along the way, I've been thinking that this school might just not be for me. But why should it not be for me just because I say or do not find myself ignored and called ugly things? I don't think it holds. "

Please visit <http://www.bu.edu/wgs/news/gendered-bullying-at-a-prestigious-art-school/> to read the full translation

Community Reflections on a Crisis



WGS is normally a community across many disciplines at BU that comes together regularly to do good work, celebrate our accomplishments and rally together against our failures. We are scattered even more than usual in the wake of COVID-19, straining our connections to one another in a time when we desperately want to stand together in solidarity with the renewed energy in anti-racism and other activist movements bolstered by recent protests. A tumultuous Spring and Summer, with an uncertain Fall semester ahead, we've invited community members to share their thoughts on these events, on this year, and how it has affected them.



Life in the time of a pandemic...

*Someone to talk to,
Neither here nor there.
Nobody's looking at you.
The city
Becoming
The lonely city.
You get so alone,
Mixed feelings-
Written on the body.*



Stuti Das (she/her/hers)
PhD Student
Department of Sociology

Taken sometime in May, when I had stopped counting the days, and the weight of time, which seemed more perceptible than ever, was made bearable only by the company of books.

April Pandemic

The sunrise strikes forsythia
to a yellow fever
over a swelling of myrtle,
a pale green gauze
 shrouds the weeping willow.

A poet said April
 is the cruelest month
 a century ago
at the end of another pandemic,
another war.

From quarantine window
I see nothing cruel
 in the spring morning.

Maybe coyotes howled in the night,
maybe it was the cry
 of my baby that was
in a fevered midnight, the wail
of the refugee baby,
the father asked me to take
home.

I want to know
what is real this morning,
 after fever.
We invented God
 and April
 and cruelty
and the idea that I am good
if I claim solidarity with the dead.

If the forsythia cared
 the black branches would refuse
 to brandish the air with flames this year.



Carrie J. Preston
English/WGS



Credits

Design and Copyediting by Olivia McCargar

Photo by Tim Mossholder on Unsplash (Cover Pages)

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