Dear Colleagues, Students, and Friends of WGSS,

A warm welcome back to you all – I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break! We had a very busy fall with two very well-attended and thought-provoking talks by our Visiting Scholars (our third and final Visiting Scholar Lunchtime Lecture will take place in February; learn more on page 3) and exciting events on campus and throughout the Boston area.

As usual, WGSS has a full roster of activities and courses for this Spring. Our course offerings include Intro to WGSS; Sex, Gender, and the Law; Gender and Reproductive Justice; and a new course on Feminist Resistance taught by yours truly. In addition, we have numerous cross-listed courses and, for our grad students, great offerings here on campus and at the Graduate Consortium over at MIT.

Spring is always extra busy for WGSS, because it is women’s history month (well, every month is women’s history month over here…) and we have our annual symposium, always a SRO event. This year the theme is “Feminist Resilience: Structures and Strategies for Troubled Times” and we once again offer a unique symposium experience where scholars engage with activists and journalists in an intense and gratifying one-day event. Please look at page 4 to see our current line-up of speakers and stay tuned for more details.

March also brings the annual Women Take the Reel Film Festival where Boston area universities and colleges collectively offer up an array of feminist films from around the world. WGSS is proud to be working with the Department of Cultures, Societies, and Global Studies and a host of other partners in screening the Kenyan film Rafiki on March 13th, followed by a talk-back with the filmmaker, Wanuri Kahiu. Rafiki – the love story of two young Kenyan women – has been winning awards around the globe and we are simply thrilled to be able to host this film and its brave filmmaker. In addition, our very own Moya Bailey will be offering a one-credit pop up course on the film and its reverberations for undergrad and grad students. More info available on this exciting opportunity on page 3. Do follow #RafikiSyllabus on social media channels to find out more.

As always, make sure you check out the Signs website (http://signsjournal.org) to see what’s happening over there – we’ve got lots of open access materials and interviews and information on feminist scholarship around the world. And don’t forget to land on our Feminist Public Intellectuals Project to listen to interviews with feminist luminaries and short takes on books that occupy the feminist imagination (http://signsjournal.org/feminist-public-intellectuals-project/). If you’re a grad student interested in working with Signs, please get in touch! We’ll be hiring for next year soon…

As always, in sisterhood and solidarity –

Suzanna Walters
Professor and Director, WGSS Program
Fall 2018 Recap

WGSS Visiting Scholar Lunchtime Lecture Series

Lauren Wilwerding

In October, Visiting Scholar Lauren Wilwerding gave a talk entitled “Old Maids to Single Women: Culture, Rhetoric, Plot.” She uncovered how Victorians worked out the roles appropriate to a large population of single women in journalism, conduct books, and life writing, a specific plot emerged for unmarried women focused on the choice to pursue meaningful work over marriage in literature.

Anna Piela

In her talk “For the Love of God: Comparing Narratives of British and American Muslim Women Who Wear the Niqab,” Visiting Scholar Anna Piela discussed themes arising from research she has conducted with 35 niqab-wearing women in the UK and US. She also addressed a plethora of meaningful issues in their narratives, including how Islamophobia plays out differently in the US and the UK.

Intro to Women’s Studies Magazine Launch

Over the course of the Fall 2018 semester, Professor Moya Bailey’s Intro to WGSS class created their own magazine of content, featuring articles and art about feminism and the various intersections of identity. Their work culminated in a launch party in December, which featured showcases of their accomplishments. Congratulations to the whole class for your success! Find their amazing work here: https://issuu.com/moyabailey/docs/unlearn_wgss_magazine. An archive of past Zines are also available on the WGSS website.
Upcoming Events

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM**
**VALENTINE’S DAY TALK WITH LAURA ESSIG,**
**AUTHOR OF LOVE INC.**
310 Renaissance Park
Celebrate V-Day the feminist way! Laurie Essig, author of *Love, Inc.*, will give a talk on her new book, which invites readers to wipe the fairy dust out of our eyes and see romance for what it really is: an ideology. Essig is Professor and Director of Women’s, Gender, and Feminist Studies at Middlebury College. Books will be available for purchase.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM**
**VISITING SCHOLAR LUNCHEONTIME LECTURE WITH ZAHRA LOTFI,**
**“GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE: AN INCREASE IN HONOR CRIME IN AFGHANISTAN”**
Curry Student Center, Room 340
In this talk, Lotfi will discuss the meaning of honor for men and women in Afghanistan, gender roles in Afghani families, and how honor crime is increasing according to social, cultural, and religious norms by examining three cases of honor violence. Lunch will be served.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM**
**RAFIKI SCREENING AND TALKBACK WITH FILMMAKER**
ISEC Auditorium
On March 13th, there will be a screening of the Kenyan film *Rafiki*, followed by a talkback with filmmaker Wanuri Kahiu, moderated by Professor Moya Bailey. The talkback will begin at 6:15 pm in ISEC Auditorium. The screening is limited to 100 people, so be sure to arrive early to reserve your seat. You are invited to attend the discussion even if you are unable to attend the screening. Check out the pop-up course on Rafiki on page 7!

**FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM**
**2019 ANNUAL WGSS SYMPOSIUM “FEMINIST RESILIENCE: STRUCTURES AND STRATEGIES FOR TROUBLED TIMES”**
Cabral Center
This symposium will focus on the hidden premises and ideological biases of Resilience Studies. We will promote an active dialogue between scholars and activists in a broad discussion of the contours of a feminist praxis of resilience. Register at: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/feminist-resilience-structures-strategies-for-troubled-times-tickets-55236163853](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/feminist-resilience-structures-strategies-for-troubled-times-tickets-55236163853).

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**
**FEMINISMS UNBOUND: “QUARE ARE WE NOW: THE TIME & PLACE OF BLACK QUEER AND TRANS STUDIES”**
MIT Building E51 Room 095
Come join WGSS Faculty Member Moya Bailey, and 4 other boston-based gender studies professors in this roundtable event. A conversation about the genealogies and futures of black queer and trans studies across geographic and disciplinary borders, join in the discussion that can help us take stock of the contradictory and complicated cultural moment we are in.
Resilience is a fraught concept. Resilience Studies is in vogue in the academy, where resilience is promoted as a desirable attainment and positive value. But resilience is often used in ways that reinforce racialized and gendered representations of the strength expected of marginalized communities and individuals. Ideologies that promote self-empowerment can distract us from identifying institutional harms and seeking structural solutions. This symposium challenges mainstream perceptions of resilience and offers a feminist critique of resilience narratives while helping us imagine varieties of alternative feminist responses to vulnerability.

Even as the current championing of resilience deserves scrutiny, women have long carried a disproportionate burden in moments of social crisis, and women have been on the front lines of strengthening community resilience in response to both chronic stresses and slowly emerging disruptions, including climate change, democratic instability, and crises of public health, in ways rarely attended to in Resilience Studies. We will look at how feminist social movements have modeled creative modes of leadership, and we will examine best practices for the expansion of feminist networks of resilience.

This interdisciplinary symposium will focus on the hidden premises, obfuscations, and ideological biases of Resilience Studies. Participants will consider how gender figures in thinking about resilience and how feminists engage social movements, digital spaces, and broader communities, noticing that women—often women of color—are consistently leaders in these spaces. Throughout the day, we will promote an active dialogue among scholars, activists, and community organizers in a broad discussion of both the limitations of resilience as a value and the contours of a feminist praxis of resilience.

Women's Leadership on Climate, Energy, & Health
Moderator: Jennie Stephens
Featuring: Shalanda Baker, Stephanie DeCandia, Laura McTighe, Tania Rosario-Mendez

Unpacking the Resilience of Patriarchy
Moderator: Lori Lefkovitz
Featuring: Moya Bailey, Jessica Valenti

Imagining (Real) Feminist Resilience
Moderator: Suzanna Walters
Featuring: Didi Delgado, Leigh Gilmore, LA Kauffman
Program News

GCWS Graduate Student Conference: “Interrogating Self-Care: Bodies, Personhood, & Movements in Tumultuous Times

This bi-annual, interdisciplinary conference features the work of graduate students from all fields centering on topics of activism, repression, and marginality through the lenses of gender and/or sexuality. The Conference also features a keynote address by Soraya Chemaly, author of “Rage Becomes Her: The Power of Women's Anger”. The Conference takes place on March 29 & 30th at 6pm at MIT and is free and open to the public. To register, visit: https://www.gcws.mit.edu/student-conference-registration.

Kara Swanson Awarded The History of Women in Science Prize

In November, WGSS Executive Committee member and Professor of Law Kara Swanson was awarded the Margaret W. Rossiter History of Women in Science prize for best article on the role of women in science from the History of Science Society, for her article titled, “Rubbing Elbows and Blowing Smoke: Gender, Class, and Science in the Nineteenth-Century Patent Office”. The article was written while Dr. Swanson was a part of a joint Northeastern University and Uppsala University working group on Bodies and Embodiment, sponsored by NU Humanities and spearheaded by WGSS’ own Professor Linda Blum.

Visiting Scholar Applications (AY 2019-2020) are now open!

The Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) program at Northeastern University hosts a group of 1-3 competitively selected scholars from the U.S. and abroad for a period of one academic year. The program is open to scholars of all disciplines and ranks who have obtained their terminal degree and who would enjoy working in an interdisciplinary environment that encourages critical feminist exploration addressing intersections of gender, sexuality, race, class, nation, religion, and a wide range of social justice issues. To apply, visit: https://cssh.northeastern.edu/wgss/position/northeastern-university-wgss-visiting-scholars-ay-2019-2020/.

WGSS and Signs Welcomes New Co-Op, Charlotte Mokdessi

Charlotte is a 4th year International Affairs major, with minors in WGSS and Sociology. She is a recipient of the UGRCE Award for the spring, a grant which allows undergraduate students to conduct research which contributes to their field of study. Her research interests include gendered outcomes in social media professions and the reproduction of traditional tropes of women in sexualized images on social media platforms. She is the Program Assistant for WGSS and the Editorial Intern for Signs for the 2019 Spring and Summer 1 cycle.
Signs awarded the CEJL Phoenix Award for Significant Editorial Achievement

The Phoenix award is given to “journals that have launched an overall effort of revitalization or transformation within the previous three years.” The Phoenix Award is given to “the most improved journal,” and honors both “significant editorial change” and “change in design and other aspects of the journal’s publication.” Amongst other initiatives started since Signs came to Northeastern, the innovative work of the Feminist Public Intellectuals Project, which is available to the public online, has been recognized by this award.

New Short Takes: Charlene A. Carruthers’s Unapologetic

Short Takes: Provocations on Public Feminism, an open-access feature of Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, offers brief comments from prominent feminists about a book that has shaped popular conversations about feminist issues. Short Takes is part of the Feminist Public Intellectuals Project. Check out the newest Short Takes on Unapologetic by Charlene A. Carruthers (right), with reviews by Kai Green (top) and WGSS Professor (bottom) Moya Bailey.

Call for Graduate Assistants for AY 2019-2020

Graduate assistants work with the Editor-in-Chief, Deputy Editor, and Managing Editor on manuscript acquisition and production and on research related to journal operations. Signs has openings for graduate research assistants who will work on these as well as various online initiatives, including the Feminist Public Intellectuals Project. Please note that these positions are only for those graduate students holding graduate assistantships for the coming academic year. These positions are for the full academic year and require a commitment of 10 to 20 hours/week.

Contact Suzanna Walters for more information at: s.walters@northeastern.edu
Upcoming Courses

Summer 2019 WGSS Courses

**WMNS 1103: Intro to WGSS**
Professor Margot Abels  
MW 1:30-5:00 pm  
NUpath Difference/Diversity, Societies/Institutions

**INPR 2183 | Rafiki | Professor Moya Bailey**

This one-credit course will provide students with: a primer on the politics of sexuality in Kenya, the controversy surrounding the film, an introduction to Wanuri Kahiu's work, and a larger discussion of queerness in the African Diaspora. Students will produce blog posts in response to class readings and discussions and attend all events associated with Wanuri Kahiu's visit.

**PHIL/WGSS 1271: Sex in Judaism, Christianity, & Islam**  
Professor Liz Bucar  
MTh 1:30-3:10 pm  
NU Path Difference/Diversity, Ethical Reasoning

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Fall 2019 WGSS Courses

**WMNS 1103: Intro to WGSS**
Professor Margot Abels  
MWR 10:30 – 11:35 am  
NUpath Difference/Diversity, Societies/Institutions

**WMNS/HIST/SOCL 2303: Gender & Reproductive Justice**
Professor Margot Abels  
T 11:45-1:25 pm, R 2:50-4:30 pm  
NUpath Difference/Diversity, Societies/Institutions

**WMNS/AFAM/ENGL 3900: Topics in Gender & Black Lit: Feminist Futures**
Professor Moya Bailey  
MWR 1:34-2:40 pm

**WMNS/ENGL/AFAM 2455: American Women Writers**
Professor Carla Kaplan  
MW 2:50-4:30 pm  
NUpath Difference/Diversity, Interpreting Culture

**WMNS/SOCL 7100: Queer Theory**
Professor Moya Bailey  
M 5:00-8:30 pm

For more information and information on cross listed courses and affiliated electives, check our website, [https://cssh.northeastern.edu/wgss/undergraduate/courses/](https://cssh.northeastern.edu/wgss/undergraduate/courses/)