

THE WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM'S Fall 2019 Newsletter

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Contact Information

263 HOLMES HALL

617.373.4984

wgss@northeastern.edu

Dear Friends of WGSS –

I hope you all had fun and productive summers, and managed to keep hope alive in the midst of an ever more alarming political climate.

WGSS is off to its usual exciting start with two new visiting scholars this year: **Emily Hainze** and **Ivana Isailovic**. Read more about these scholars and their work on page 7. We have a number of new recruits to the gender studies team this year: we welcome two new feminist faculty to the WGSS executive committee, **Alicia Sasser Modestino** and **Heather Streets-Salter**. On a much sadder note, we got the news that our wonderful faculty affiliate – **Sarah Jackson** of Communication Studies – has left Northeastern to take up a position at the University of Pennsylvania. We will miss her greatly but congratulate her on this achievement and wish her the best in her new position.

As many of you know, our signature event in WGSS is our annual women's history month Symposium. This year, our topic will be **#Feminism: Gender and the 2020 Elections**. **It will be held this year on March 19th at the Cabral Center**. Please make sure you put this in your calendars now! And if you can work this into your syllabi we would be very appreciative: it's a great way to introduce students to feminist scholarship and activism and, needless to say, helps to secure a good showing.

We have a great line-up of courses this year, including a new 5000-level course (grad and advanced undergrad) that I will be teaching in the Spring on **"Feminist Resistance"**. This course will look at feminist theoretical interventions and how those theories do (or sometimes do not) line up with and influence social movements for gender equity and liberation. The course is triple-listed with WGSS, Sociology, and History – please spread the word on this and other courses that we offer. See page 4 for details.

Citizens: we are at the precipice and have a seriously consequential election coming up. There are record numbers of women running in the Democratic primary, and we have an opportunity to reject the anti-woman, anti-immigrant, and white supremacist agendas and politicians that target women and sexual minorities of all races, ethnicities, and nationalities. If you are eligible, please make sure you are registered and use your vote! If you have any questions about your eligibility, many campus organizations can help, such as NU College Democrats, NU College Republicans, and Generation Citizen. Student groups such as the Feminist Student Organization (FSO) and NU Pride, along with many others, can help keep you informed about pressing issues for our communities. Please use your voice and your vote to keep moving us forward—and remember to tell your friends and colleagues about opportunities for learning and teaching in the WGSS program.

**In solidarity and resistance –
Prof. Suzanna Walters, Director**



Feminist Resilience: Structures and Strategies for Troubled Times

The 2019 annual women's history month symposium was held on March 15, 2019 in the Cabral-Center with the theme of *Feminist Resilience: Structures and Strategies for Troubled Times* and saw over 100 audience members over the course of the day's three panels, made up of speakers



from academics to organizers and activists to journalists and authors, from Northeastern and beyond. The first panel, "Women's Leadership on Climate, Energy, & Health" featured topics of sustainability and the convergence of feminism and environmental activism. The second panel, "Unpacking the Resilience of Patriarchy", was a conversation between Northeastern faculty member **Moya Bailey** and noted feminist author **Jessica Valenti**, who dissected the ways in which the Internet plays a role in maintaining patriarchal structures and the resilience of racist, sexist tropes. The panelists also mentioned ways in which the Internet can be a tool of resistance. The final panel, "Imagining (Real) Feminist Resilience", was the perfect culmination of the day's events, with

panelists suggesting ways in which we can construct a feminist resilience that considers cultural and political dimensions of society and is inclusive to people of all identities. Through resistance like activism and political organization to testimonial acts of resistance and storytelling what constitutes feminist resilience is ever-growing.

Women Take the Reel Film Festival

This year, WGSS partnered with the Department of Cultures, Societies, and Global Studies and many other departments to bring filmmaker **Wanuri Kahiu** from Kenya to Northeastern to screen her critically-acclaimed film *Rafiki*. The film enjoyed a commercial release in the United States several weeks later, so Northeastern audiences were treated to a sneak peek of the movie. The screening was a huge success, filling the ISEC auditorium with viewers who stayed for a Q&A with the filmmaker, facilitated by **Professor Moya Bailey**.



SPRING '19 IN REVIEW

Other Events

Spring 2019 saw a successful talk by Visiting Scholar **Zahra Lotfi**, who shared her ongoing work on gender and violence in Afghanistan. The audience was a mix of Northeastern students, faculty, and community members at large and fruitful conversations were had by all. Northeastern also hosted a Valentine's Day event with **Laurie Essig**, author of *Love, Inc.*, by way of a grant from the **New England Humanities Consortium**. Essig's spirited presentation shed light on the wedding industrial complex and the insidiousness of Big Romance.



“Feminism: A Love Story”: Faculty Works-in-Progress with Suzanna Walters

*September 16th from 12:00-1:00 pm
909 Renaissance Park*



Join the Humanities Center and the Office of the Dean of CSSH for a talk given by WGSS Program Director, **Professor Suzanna Walters**, who will talk about her forthcoming book, *“Feminism: A Love Story”*. Lunch will be served. Contact g.fiorenza@northeastern.edu for RSVP and details.

“Doing Feminisms in Troubled Times: Rage, Respectability, and Resistance”

*October 29th, 5:00-7:00pm
Cabral Center*

The GCWS will host a faculty development event at Northeastern, featuring a panel discussion of faculty about their experiences teaching in feminist classrooms. A workshop component will follow the discussion, allowing feminist faculty to troubleshoot issues in their own classrooms and to discuss the best practices for pedagogy in feminist learning environments.



LOOKING AHEAD

#Feminism: Gender and the 2020 Elections

*7th Annual Women’s History Month Symposium
March 19, Cabral Center*



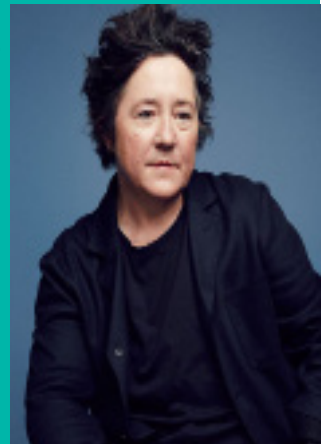
Save the date for the annual Women’s History Month Symposium. This year, we look forward to the 2020 elections and examine how feminist activism and organization has impacted politics and how it could transform the political landscape in the United States. Gathering together activists, organizers, journalists, and academics in conversation over the course of the day, we will explore

topics from hashtag activism to electoral politics to the women on the ground and in the trenches as the foot soldiers of grassroots campaigns.

Filmmaker Christine Vachon

October 23, 6:00-8:00 pm

Christine Vachon is an Independent Spirit Award-winning producer, a recipient of the Producer Award from the Gotham Independent Film Awards and director of the MFA program at Stony Brook University. Her company, Killer Films, has produced dozens of impactful and award-winning independent films. With her impressive body of work, Vachon has challenged the film industry to represent stories of lives that have, until very recently, been excluded from the cultural landscape. Vachon’s talk will be about independent film production and story and ethics in film.



Undergraduate Courses

WMNS 1103 INTRO TO WGSS
MWR 10:30 - 1:35
PROF. MARGOT ABELS

WMNS/AFAM/HIST 1225 GENDER, RACE,
AND MEDICINE
MR 11:45 - 1:25
PROF. MOYA BAILEY

WMNS/HIST/SOCL 2303 GENDER &
REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
T 11:45 - 1:25, R 2:50 - 4:30
PROF. MARGOT ABELS

WMNS/POLS/PHIL 3500 GENDER,
SEXUALITY, AND THE LAW
MW 2:50 - 4:30
PROF. LIBBY ADLER

WMNS/HIST/SOCL 5240 FEMINIST
RESISTANCE
T 3:30 - 6:50
PROF. SUZANNA WALTERS

** See our website for a list of all cross-listed and affiliated
electives.*

Graduate Courses

WMNS/HIST/SOCL 5240 FEMINIST
RESISTANCE
T 3:30 - 6:50
PROF. SUZANNA WALTERS

WMNS 7900 01 WOMEN IN SOUTH ASIA:
RELIGION, GENDER, CULTURE, AND
SEXUALITY*
T 3:00 - 6:00
PROF. AYESHA IRANI
UMASS BOSTON
PROF. HARLEEN SINGH
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

WMNS 7900 02 THE POLITICS OF MAD-
NESS: GENDER, POSTCOLONIALITY, AND
PSYCHIATRY THROUGH FILM AND THE-
ORY*
R 1:00 - 4:00
PROF. EMILY FOX-KALES
HARVARD MEDICAL
SCHOOL
PROF. EMILIE DIOUF
BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

** These courses are taught the GCWS, located at MIT. Stu-
dents must apply for acceptance and complete registration
through the course numbers above. GCWS courses meet at
MIT and run on MIT's academic schedule.*

WMNS/HIST/SOCL 5240: Feminist Resistance with Professor Suzanna Walters

This course engages students in the study of a variety of forms of feminist resistance in recent history, emphasizing the United States in the context of cross-cultural examples. It examines key feminist texts and manifestos and studies feminist activism in coalition with other social movements. Students have the opportunity to identify and analyze unique features of gender-based activism in itself and in its intersections with other social movements, including movements and activism focused on race, class, sexuality, and physical ability. This course is a unique opportunity for graduate and undergraduate students alike to come together in a feminist learning environment with the editor-in-chief of the preeminent journal of feminist studies as the professor.



Spring 2020 Course Offerings



A CAKE COURTESY OF MARGOT ABELS' SUMMER 1 INTRO TO WGSS CLASS

Coming Spring 2020...

Visiting Scholar Lectures



Look out for the dates of the Visiting Scholar Lectures. Both WGSS Visiting Scholars, **Ivana Isailovic** and **Emily Hainze**, will be giving talks on topics

that will soon be announced. Check out their biographies on page 7 to find out more about their areas of interests. Make sure to check the WGSS website for forthcoming information on this event.



Job Posting: The GCWS is looking for a part-time **Program Assistant** to assist with a variety of tasks, some of which include: writing and publishing posts; creating images to be used across channels; coordinating a communications and social media calendar to ensure that our website, emails, and social media support each other and create a cohesive message; tracking metrics; monitoring conversations across social media channels and assisting with creating a social media style guide and marketing strategy. This job is open to both undergrad and graduate students.

Job Posting: Tufts University's Women's Center is looking for a part-time **Graduate Assistant** whose responsibilities would include: assisting with designing and facilitating programming/events, supervising undergraduate student workers, acting as a resource for people in the Center, and caring for the physical space.

For more information consult the WGSS website, www.cssh.northeastern.edu/wgss.

WGSS Opportunities



The Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (GCWS) is located at MIT and brings together students and teachers from nine different schools from around Boston. The goal of the Consortium is to come together under a similar devotion to interdisciplinary graduate teaching, research, and scholarship in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. The GCWS offers the opportunity to study under an educational model of representative and consensual governance in a collaborative environment. Through the act sharing resources and faculty, an ever evolving learning space is established wherein a new interdisciplinary understanding research and teaching is discovered. For more information about the GCWS and a full list of their courses, visit their website, www.gcws.mit.edu!

SIGNS

Journal of Women in
Culture and Society

About *Signs*

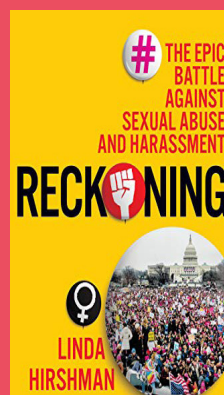
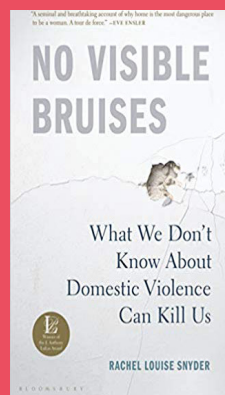
Recognized as the leading international journal in women's and gender studies, *Signs* is at the forefront of new directions in feminist scholarship. Challenging the boundaries of knowledge concerning women's and men's lives in diverse regions of the globe, *Signs* publishes scholarship that raises new questions and develops innovative approaches to our understanding of the past and present. What makes feminist scholarship published in *Signs* distinctive is not necessarily the subject of investigation or particular methods of inquiry but the effort to cultivate alternative research practices that further feminist, queer, and anti-racist goals of social transformation. *Signs* is published by the University of Chicago. Make sure to check out the *Signs* website, www.signsjournal.org, for access to new releases.

Feminist Public Intellectuals Project

The Feminist Public Intellectuals Project seeks to engage feminist theorizing with pressing political and social issues via open-access, online-first initiatives. Check out some recent releases below!

Short Takes

- Rachel Snyder's *No Visible Bruises: What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us*
- Linda Hirshman's *Reckoning: The Epic Battle Against Sexual Abuse and Harassment*



Ask a Feminist

- Deborah Anker and Aziza Ahmed on Gender and Asylum Policy
- Byllye Avery and Susan Reverby on the History and Future of Abortion

Calls for Papers

Special Issue: Rage

This special issue will consider our rage as a global, complex phenomenon that mandates interdisciplinary and inter-sectional analysis. The deadline for submissions is September 15, 2019. Sarah Haley (UCLA), Carla Kaplan (Northeastern), and Durba Mitra (Harvard) will serve as guest editors of the issue.

2021 Catharine Stimpson Prize for Outstanding Feminist Scholarship

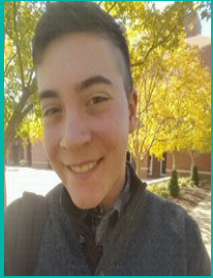
Named in honor of the founding editor of *Signs*, the Catharine Stimpson Prize is designed to recognize excellence and innovation in the work of emerging feminist scholars. Feminist scholars in the early years of their careers (fewer than seven years since receipt of the terminal degree) are invited to submit papers for the Stimpson Prize. The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2020.

Special Issue: Rethinking "First Wave" Feminisms

Inspired by the 2020 centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment, this special issue seeks to rethink "first wave" feminisms in a heterogeneous and expansive way—by pushing geographic, chronological, and ideological boundaries and by broadening the definition of whom we usually think of as early feminists. The deadline for submissions is September 15, 2020. The issue will be guest edited by Susan Ware (Schlesinger Library) and Katherine Marino (UCLA).

Meet the Team

Signs Graduate Assistants



Galen Bunting

is currently a PhD student in the English Department. He is looking forward to understanding the publication process and is

excited by *Signs'* commitment to centering the margins in thinking and doing intersectional feminism.



Rachel Molko

is currently a PhD student in the English Department. She is eager to learn about the kind of work that goes into running a

journal and to gain exposure to nuanced and impactful contributions to the WGSS field on the frontlines.



Giorgia Shields

is a new member to the Northeastern Graduate program and will be pursuing a doctoral degree in Sociology. She is enthusiastic

about joining the *Signs* team, both in an effort to gain insight into the academic publishing process and further align herself with the journal's push toward public engagement and open-access content.

Welcome to our Visiting Scholars!

Each year, the WGSS Program offers research associate positions to scholars interested in studying issues related to women, gender, and/or sexuality within the social sciences and humanities. We are excited to introduce this year's two scholars! Check out the WGSS website, www.cssh.northeastern.edu/wgss for more in depth bios!

Emily Hainze

Emily received her PhD from Columbia University in Comparative Literature. In this upcoming year, she plans to continue writing and revising her work, "Incorrigible: Writing from the Early Women's Prison in the United States," which draws on an array of texts in order to document women's imprisonment and to re-imagine social difference and social intimacy in a modernizing United States. Emily is very excited to join the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality studies program for more conversations about interdisciplinary feminist scholarship and is especially looking forward to the Program's annual symposium in the



Ivana Isailovic

Ivana received her PhD in Law from Sciences Po Paris Law School. In this upcoming year, Ivana has proposed working on "Family Law as a Site of Global Governance," which will explore how family law doctrines, discourses, and practices are deployed to distribute resources and privileges globally based on gender, race, and citizenship and how family law perpetuates and is shaped by nation state building projects and neoliberal policies. Ivana is excited to continue her work with WGSS and looks forward to the upcoming year in a program "that values the diversity of critical voices, which is so crucial in the current political context."



Caroline Lowder

Summer 2/Fall 2019 Editorial Intern and Program Assistant for Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society and the WGSS program

Caroline is a third year English and Media Studies major at Northeastern with minors in Graphic Design, Writing, and Ethics. Her desired area of study is housed within the topic of general rhetoric, specifically research involving the impacts of visual and digital communication.