

# Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Newsletter

## A message from the Director...



Dear Friends of WGSS –

It's hard to know what to say, standing here as we are on the edge of the post-election precipice. Like many of you, I am heading to DC for the Women's March and other associated protests and – like many of you – will continue to organize, agitate, educate in the hard years that are sure to come. I hope you all know that WGSS is both a place of refuge and a site of struggle and that we will do all we can to build feminist community and provide sources of solace and hope.

This semester – yet again! – WGSS offers new classes (Gender and Reproductive Justice; Gender, Sexuality, and the Law) that are filled, along with our regular roster of courses. As our minor grows exponentially and we continually expand our curricular offerings, WGSS proves the inestimable value of rigorous feminist scholarship – now more vital than ever before.

We have a fabulous line-up of events this semester – please check out the announcements in this newsletter and help us continue to garner big and vibrant audiences for our symposia, talks, and film events. These events – from teaching workshops on the current crisis to our annual symposium on reproductive justice to talks by major feminist public figures such as Lisa Wade and Peggy Orenstein – help sustain our community: please plan on attending as many of these as you can. In these perilous times, our shared commitments to forging different ways of being and challenging the normalization of misogyny and racism must by sheer necessity energize us and bring us together.

In sisterhood and struggle –

Suzanna

*Suzanna Danuta Walters*  
Professor and Director, WGSS Program  
Editor-in-Chief, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*

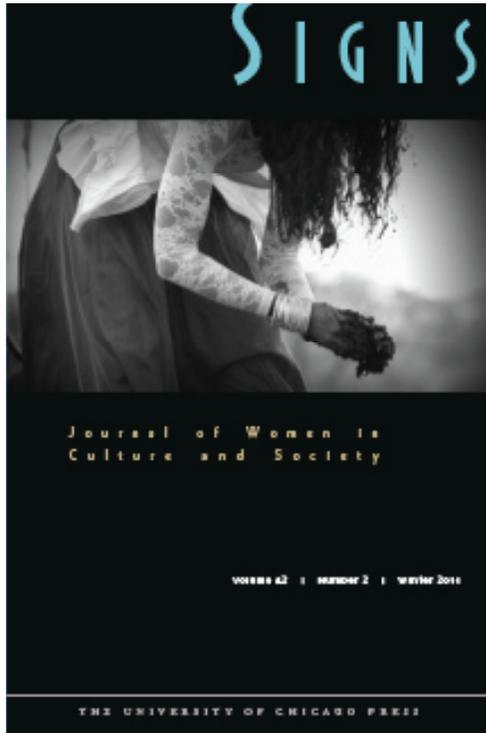


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# Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society



Fall 2016 marked the publication of Northeastern's first special issue of *Signs*, "Pleasure and Danger: Sexual Freedom and Feminism in the Twenty-First Century." The issue was made open access on the *Signs* website ([signsjournal.org](http://signsjournal.org)), a first for the journal, allowing many more readers to access the content than usual.

The Winter 2017 (vol. 42.2) issue of *Signs* is now out, along with accompanying open access features. "Short Takes" features Anne-Marie Slaughter's book *Unfinished Business: Women, Men, Work, Family*. "Currents" features Jack Halberstam on trigger warnings. These are accessible on the *Signs* website as well.

Other "Short Takes" currently online include Gloria Steinem's *My Life on The Road* and Irin Carmon and Shana Knizhnik's *Notorious RBG*; Rebecca Traister's *All the Single Ladies*; and Andi Zeisler's *We Were Feminists Once*. "Currents" most recent undertaking features Janell Hobson on celebrity feminism. "Ask A Feminist" features conversations between Angela P. Harris and Amy Farrell, WGSS executive committee member and Associate Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice, on gender and gun violence; and Susan J. Carroll and Suzanna Walters on Electoral Politics. Check them out! [signsjournal.org/feminist-public-intellectuals-project](http://signsjournal.org/feminist-public-intellectuals-project)

## WGSS Program News

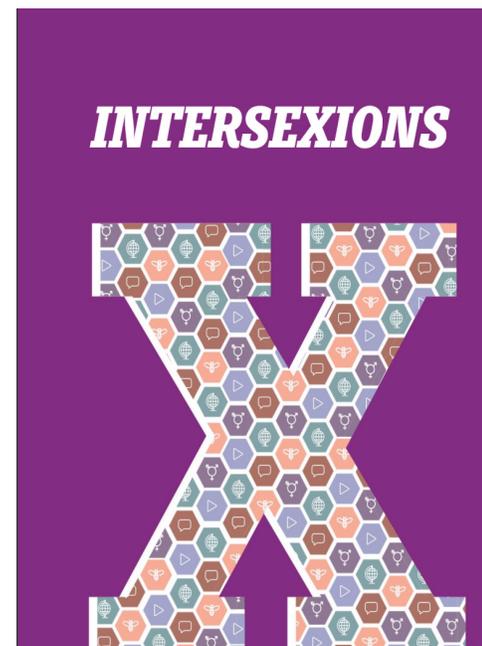
Join us in celebrating the Fall 2016 accomplishments of our faculty and students!

Nolan Tesis, English major and WGSS minor, was one of six students nationwide to be named a prestigious Arcus Fellow. The national fellowship was created to amplify LGBTQ leadership initiatives and support students who are passionate about bolstering programming and visibility for LGBTQ communities at their university.

Nicole Aljoe, Associate Professor of English and WGSS executive committee member, received an Outstanding Teaching Award through CSSH for her commitment to providing experiential learning opportunities.

Nina Sylvanus, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and WGSS affiliated faculty, published *Patterns in Circulation: Cloth, Gender, and Materiality in West Africa* (University of Chicago Press, 2016).

The Intro to WGSS course published a 'zine of their semester's work, which can be read on the WGSS website (<http://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/wgss>).



# Upcoming WGSS Events



## Jo Reger on “Making Music, Making Community: Lesbians, Feminism, & the Women’s Music Community”

January 25, 3:00-4:30 pm

Location: Raytheon Amphitheater, Egan Hall

The Sociology & Anthropology Department and WGSS invite you to a talk with Jo Reger, Professor of Sociology and Director of Women and Gender Studies at Oakland University. She is also the current editor of *Gender and Society*. Her work on US women’s movements has appeared in a variety of journals. Her current project examines the role of music in the second wave of US women’s movement. She will also present a workshop, “Publishing Tips for *Gender and Society*,” on January 26 from 3:00-4:30. Contact Joan Collins ([j.collins@northeastern.edu](mailto:j.collins@northeastern.edu)) to register for the workshop.

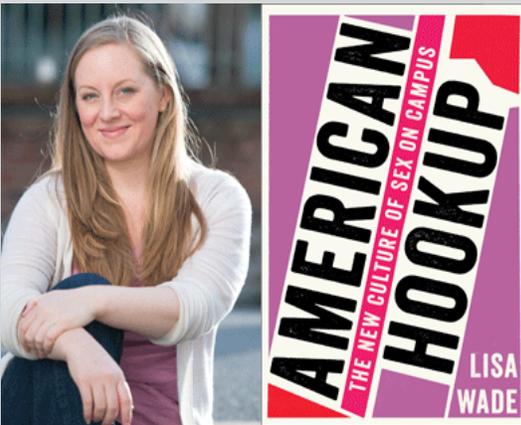


## Teaching Gender, Race, and Citizenship in the Time of Trump

January 30, 12:00-2:00 pm

909 Renaissance Park

WGSS and the Northeastern Humanities Center invite instructors of all ranks to participate in this workshop, which will kick off with 3 presentations by Profs. Moya Bailey (WGSS & CSGS), Chris Chambers (Sociology), and Rachel Rosenbloom (Law). The floor will then open for discussion on the sharp divisions between included and excluded subjects drawn by Donald Trump and his supporters and how this new cultural context may affect our teaching and research. Lunch will be served. RSVP to [i.chaparro@northeastern.edu](mailto:i.chaparro@northeastern.edu) by January 25.



## American Hookup: Book Talk with Author Lisa Wade

February 14, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Curry Student Center Ballroom

WGSS is talking about hookups this Valentine’s Day. Lisa Wade, author of *American Hookup: The New Culture of Sex on Campus* will read from her book and lead a discussion about hookup culture on college campuses, “the ubiquitous new culture of sex on campuses today”. Looking past the shock-value news reports and moralizing, Wade examines hookup culture, how it works, and what it reveals about privilege, power, and the future of sexuality in America. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Lunch will be served. RSVP to [wgss@northeastern.edu](mailto:wgss@northeastern.edu) by February 7.



## Visiting Scholar Lunchtime Lecture: Hawai‘i’s Women’s Prison and The Kailua Prison Writing Project: Inflections/Infections and other Misdemeanors

February 22, 12:00-1:00 pm

270 Holmes Hall, WGSS Conference Room

WGSS 2016-17 Visiting Scholar Leanne Trapedo Sims will give a talk about her work in Hawai‘i’s women’s prison and the Kailua Prison Writing Project. Sims is a PhD candidate in American Studies at the University of Hawai‘i Manoa. Lunch will be served. RSVP to [wgss@northeastern.edu](mailto:wgss@northeastern.edu) by February 15.

# Upcoming WGSS Events



## Film Screening of *Trapped* by Dawn Porter

March 16, 5:00 - 7:00 pm

Location TBD

For the 2017 Women Take the Reel Film Festival (a film festival celebrating women's voices sponsored by the GCWS and its member institutions), WGSS will screen *Trapped*, a documentary by Dawn Porter following the clinic workers and lawyers on the front lines of the battle to keep abortion legal and safe for millions of American women. The film will be followed by a panel discussion with Brooke Foucault Welles (Communication Studies & Network Science) and Jessica Silbey (School of Law) and pizza will be served. RSVP to [wgss@northeastern.edu](mailto:wgss@northeastern.edu) by March 9.



## WGSS Symposium - No Turning Back: The Past, Present, and Future of Reproductive Justice

March 17, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Cabral Center at the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute

Each March, in honor of Women's History Month, the WGSS program - with support from the Northeastern Humanities Center and other departments - sponsors a day-long symposium focusing on one central theme and featuring panels of speakers in dialogue with one another and their audience. This year's topic is "No Turning Back: The Past, Present, and Future of Reproductive Justice". This event is our attempt to bring into dialogue current debates around reproductive justice and to place those debates and political strategies in historical context. Join us for a day of panels on this theme and a discussion among panelists and audience about where we have come from and where we are headed. Read more about the day on page 5 of this newsletter.



When creating the panels, we strive for a mix of generations, of disciplines, of activists, academics, and public intellectuals. This year's panelists include Dázon Dixon Diallo, Katha Pollitt, Loretta Ross, and Rickie Solinger, as well as Nashira Baril, Khiara Bridges, Shoshanna Ehrlich, Laura Harrison, Kimberly Mutcherson, Kelly O'Donnell, Bayla Ostrach, Carly Thomsen, and Susan Yanow.

The event is free and open to the public and registration is required. We have a limited number of seats and have been known to "sell out" in the past, so act quickly to reserve your spot. Registration will open in mid-January. Visit [www.northeastern.edu/cssh/wgss/event-landing/annual-symposium](http://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/wgss/event-landing/annual-symposium) for more information and to register for the event. Please register by no later than March 3.



## Girls & Sex: Navigating from Shame and Regret to Integrity and Joy with Author Peggy Orenstein

March 29, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Curry Student Center, Room 318-322

New York Times best-selling author Peggy Orenstein will read from her latest book *Girls & Sex* and lead a discussion with the audience. Books will be available for purchase and the author will be available to sign books. This event is co-sponsored by WGSS, the Northeastern Humanities Center, the Office of Student Affairs, Bouve College of Health Sciences, and the Departments of English and Human Services. RSVP to [wgss@northeastern.edu](mailto:wgss@northeastern.edu) by March 22. Light refreshments will be available.

# WGSS Annual Spring Symposium



Beginning in March 2014, the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program began sponsoring an annual day-long symposium in honor of Women's History Month. Working with the Northeastern Humanities Center, the first spring symposium developed out of the work of the Humanities Center-sponsored collaborative research cluster on the theme of sexual citizenship, "From Patriarchy to Pussy Riot: Gender, Sexuality, and Global Citizenship." Now, four years later, the event has grown and become a tradition for the program. Our symposium is unique in its structure: none of our panels run concurrently and each panelist is in dialogue with one another and the audience. Our audience is comprised of faculty, graduate, and undergraduate students from Northeastern and other Consortium schools as well as members of the public. Join us Friday, March 17, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm in the Cabral Center. Registration is required, as seating is limited, but tickets are free and the event is open to the public. A reception will follow. For registration details, visit <http://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/wgss/event-landing/annual-symposium>.

## No Turning Back: The Past, Present, and Future of Reproductive Justice

Equality under law and basic personal freedom—the right to control choices about one's own health and body—has been an ongoing struggle for women over time and across the globe. With the new administration, abortion retains its place in the American political system as one of the most divisive issues despite women's health being at stake. The GOP Platform explicitly states the desire of the Republican party to curb access to reproductive rights, and vice-president Pence has long been one of the most vociferous anti-choice politicians, vowing to overturn Roe as soon as possible. Many state governments have enacted legal measures that block access to abortion and other health services or mandate that women receive incorrect and misleading information. The shift in government and the ongoing attacks on abortion service providers and their capacity to provide safe healthcare for women means that we are entering one of the most anti-choice and misogynist times in recent memory. The struggle for reproductive justice continues to animate activists and theorists around the globe – to protect what little we currently have and to forge productive and wide-ranging social justice strategies. This daylong symposium - creatively engaging both on-the-ground activism and more academic understandings - is our attempt to bring into dialogue current debates around reproductive justice and to place those debates and political strategies in historical context.

2017 speakers include: Nashira Baril (Birth Sanctuary Boston), Khiara M. Bridges (Boston University School of Law), Dázon Dixon Diallo (SisterLove, Inc.), Shoshanna Ehrlich (University of Massachusetts Boston), Laura Harrison (Minnesota State University Mankato), Kimberly Mutcherson (Rutgers University Camden Law School), Kelly O'Donnell (historian), Bayla Ostrach (Boston University), Katha Pollitt (writer, *The Nation*), Loretta Ross (Five Colleges Women's Research Center), Rickie Solinger (historian), Carly Thomsen (Middlebury College), and Susan Yanow (reproductive health consultant).

# WGSS Courses Summer 2017



## Introduction to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WMNS 1103)

Instructor: Margot Abels  
Summer 1, MW 1:30-5:00 pm

Intro to WGSS is an interdisciplinary course introducing key themes in gender and sexuality studies. Students have the opportunity to learn core concepts that inform our understanding of how gender and sexuality are socially constructed and experienced in every-day life.

This key course provides a base knowledge of frameworks in queer studies, women's studies, masculinity studies and allied areas that will support WGSS students in the rest of their coursework. Intro also counts as a core comparative study of cultures requirement and a level one humanities course and has the NUPath designations of Engaging Differences & Diversity and Understanding Societies & Institutions.

## Co-op Student: Ben Simonds-Malamud



Ben is a second-year English major and Graphic Design minor. He loves cooking, eating, spending time with his cat siblings (he has four), and reading books or watching documentaries about anything relating to labor history, liberation movements, food, and/or cats. At Northeastern, Ben has participated in campaigns for economic and environmental justice with the Progressive Student Alliance, Huskies Organizing with Labor, and DivestNU. He is thrilled to be working for Signs and WGSS, which he sees as two beacons of feminist hope for the dark and trying times ahead.

Ben can be found in the WGSS program office, located at 261 Holmes Hall during the work week. We are thrilled to have him join the Program and Journal staff for Spring and Summer 1 2017. He will be with the program through the end of June 2017. Be sure to stop by and say hello.