

# WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES NEWSLETTER

A message from the Director...



## Dear Colleagues, Students, and Friends of WGSS,

Happy New Year, and welcome to the spring 2018 semester! Though the weather is off to a cold and snowy start, we have plenty of events to look forward to as we wait for the light and the warmth to come back to New England.

We have said goodbye to the fall 2017 semester's WGSS Program and Editorial Assistant, co-op student Sarah Ruth, and are happy to welcome Courtney Langdell, an English major, as our spring co-op in these positions. You can find out more about Courtney on p. 7. She will be in the office Monday – Friday, 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. Feel free to stop by 261 Holmes Hall and introduce yourself!

With the help of members of the WGSS Executive Committee and Program Coordinator Kiki Samko, I have spent much of the past semester gathering speakers for the upcoming WGSS Symposium on Gender and the Rise of the Global Right. I'm proud to say we now have a fantastic lineup of twelve scholars, lawyers, and community researchers from all over the United States and beyond it as well, who will be presenting on March 23rd in the beautiful ISEC space on campus. Please see p. 4 for more details on panels and speakers. All are welcome at the symposium, and it is not necessary to attend for the entire day. Free registration is required. We hope to see you there!

We are also excited about the upcoming residency of Canadian novelist and filmmaker [Shani Mootoo](#). Her recent novel *Moving Forward Sideways Like a Crab* was shortlisted for the Lambda Literary Award, and her film *And the Rest Is Drag* will be screened on March 14th along with another of her short films, *Güerita & Prietita*; more details on p. 6.

WGSS students and faculty remain active in forwarding public and scholarly agendas of gender justice and equality. See p. 3 for an account of INAF/POLS major Maggie King's

attendance at the 2017 Detroit Women's Conference. WGSS minor Nolan Tesis, SSH'17, is continuing his work with the Arcus foundation by crafting a docu-series with *Tenth Magazine* that will profile Arcus fellows on their home campuses and feature the work they are doing and what inspires them to do it. WGSS affiliate faculty Professor Liz Bucar (Religious Studies) whose book *Pious Fashion* appeared in fall 2017, wrote about Islamic women's fashion choices for the [Los Angeles Times](#), and WGSS Executive Committee member Professor Kathrin Zippel's book *Women in Global Science* was the topic of a panel discussion at the fall 2017 meeting of the Social Science History Association.

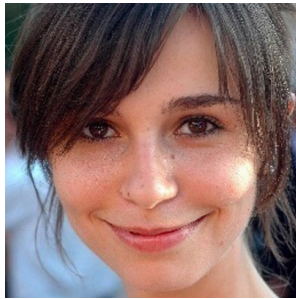
Now that 2018 has arrived, we can look forward to this year's midterm elections, which will give us an opportunity reject the anti-woman, anti-immigrant, and white supremacist agendas and politicians that target women and sexual minorities of all races, ethnicities, and nationalities. If you are eligible, *please register and use your vote!* If you have any questions about your eligibility—perhaps, for example, you are a student and don't know what state you can vote in—there are many campus organizations that will be happy to 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—as well, of course, as our wonderful WGSS minor. 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,

Laura Green  
Professor and Acting Director, WGSS Program



# FALL '17 EVENTS SUMMARY



**VISITING  
SCHOLAR  
CAMILLA  
GAIASCHI**

In October, Camilla Gaiaschi, Visiting Scholar from the University of Milan, gave a standing-room only talk, "Same Jobs, Different Chances: Women's and Men's Advances in Medical Careers". Her seminar delved into the mechanisms and reasons behind vertical segregation among physicians, incorporating data from health organizations in Italy.



**VISITING  
SCHOLAR  
KRISTA  
MIRANDA**

In November, Visting Scholar Krista Miranda presented her research on constructing bodily wholeness in dance theatre. The presentation focused on the work of Claire Cunningham, a Scottish dance-theater artist. She examined the interconnectivity between disability and sexuality in performance art.

## MAKING THE WGSS MINOR WORK FOR YOU

In November, WGSS hosted a five-person panel to cover the WGSS minor, and how it can lead to successful, fulfilling careers. Panelists included Evan Chartier, Assistant Director of Leadership & Intercultural Programs at Northeastern University; Danielle Duke, Hanne Larsen, and Nolan Tesis, all current and former WGSS minors; and Firuzeh Shokooh Valle, Visiting Assistant Professor at Clark University, and WGSS Graduate Certificate holder from Northeastern.



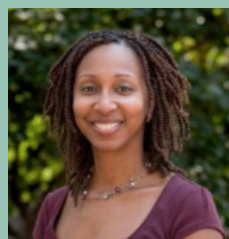
## WGSS CO-SPONSORED EVENTS



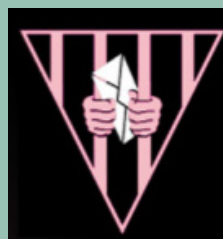
Franchesca Ramsey gave a talk, moderated by Moya Bailey, titled "Seeing Color: Exploring Whiteness in a Racialized World" as the keynote event of Peace and Social Justice Week 2017.



Internationally acclaimed artist Tim Miller performed "Rooted", a solo performance featuring stories of family trees and the hidden LGBT histories that live among the branches.



Adia Harvey Wingfield, Professor of Sociology at Washington University, gave a talk entitled "Professional Work in a Post-Racial Era: Black Health Care Workers in the New Economy".



Andrea J. Ritchie, Robyn Maynard, Simone John, and Monica James, National Organizer of Black and Pink, were panelists for "Invisible No More: Black Women and Police Violence."

# Family Reunion in Detroit

## by Maggie King



*Third-year International Affairs and Political Science major Maggie King had the chance to attend the Detroit Women's Convention. Below is her essay on the experience.*

Imagine your perfect family reunion. Surrounded by people you love, catching up on what's new, and sharing your joys and passions. Rowdy conversation at the dining room table, disagreements softened by shared love for one another. People of all ages coming together to celebrate the bonds that connect them. Now imagine this times 5,000. This is how I felt at the Women's Convention in Detroit hosted by the Women's March. Here I was with all of the women, men, and gender non-conforming people who marched together on January 21st, 2017, representing 50 states and a diverse range of backgrounds, back together for our first family reunion.

As with many family reunions, our weekend began with a recognition of our ancestors, led by the Native women whose land we were occupying. Over the course of three days, my 5,000 family members and I sang, cried, and supported one another. We cheered for Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congresswoman Maxine Waters, Rose McGowan, the organizers of the Women's March, and so many more. We listened intently to plenaries on topics such as intersectionality, resistance organizing, and taking the movement from resistance to action.

Spread out between dozens of breakout sessions, my family and I learned from experts on topics such as reproductive justice, environmental justice, racial justice, inclusivity, and women's representation in political office. People pushed themselves out of their comfort zones, engaging in difficult conversations. The session on "Confronting White Womanhood" filled up out the door. Twice.

As true of any family reunion, the weekend was not void of disagreement. Conversations over the best path for the future of our country were filled with passionate and diverging opinions. But as with all disagreements between people who love one another, at the end of the day we were always connected by our common goal: making the world a more equal and just place.

The Women's Convention in Detroit was the most successful family reunion I have attended. My new family and I walked away with actionable steps to meet our goals and a deepened connection with one another. The process will not be fast, or easy, or simple. But after my weekend in Detroit, I know that I will never go at it alone.



# SPRING 2018 SYMPOSIUM: GENDER & THE RISE OF THE GLOBAL RIGHT

Friday, March 23rd  
10:00am-4:15pm

Interdisciplinary Science & Engineering Complex Atrium and Auditorium Room 102

Free registration required by March 9th at <https://genderandriseofglobalright.eventbrite.com>

Registration and breakfast begin at 9:15am

The rise of right-wing movements across the world has significant impact on gender and sexual identities. The appeal of right-wing, authoritarian, and nationalist movements to “tradition” and “shared values” often resuscitates patriarchal social formations and ideologies oppressive of women and sexual minorities. Such movements also foment fear of and hostility toward racial, national, ethnic, or sexual “others.” In presentations and conversations through the day, twelve speakers will bring the lenses of feminist theory and practice to bear on areas of the world including Colombia, El Salvador, the Philippines, Russia, and Turkey, among others; repressive political rhetorics including neoliberalist rhetoric in India and anti-Muslim rhetoric in the United States; gendered violence; European anti-gender movements; and displaced and refugee subjects.

Contact [wgss@northeastern.edu](mailto:wgss@northeastern.edu) with requests for accessibility services.

## PANELS & PANELISTS:

### *Authoritarianism and Gender*

Kevin Moss, Middlebury College

L. Cole Parke, Political Research Associates

Betul Eksi, Northeastern University, and Elizabeth Wood, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Josen Masangkay Diaz, University of San Diego

### *Gendered Violence and Displacement*

Susan Church, Demissie and Church

Serena Parekh, Northeastern University

Elizabeth Swanson, Babson College

### *Governmentality and Gender*

Mieke Verloo, Radboud University

Helena Alviár, Universidad de los Andes; Northeastern University School of Law and Harvard Law

Rupal Oza, Hunter College

Fatema Ahmad, Muslim Justice League

# S I G N S



*Signs* has a special issue forthcoming this spring, “Displacement”, guest edited by Serena Parekh (Northeastern University) and Denise Horn (Simmons College).

## WHAT HAPPENED

HILLARY  
RODHAM  
CLINTON

*Signs’* most recent Short Takes was on *What Happened* by Hillary Rodham Clinton, with responses by Susan Bordo, Ana Marie Cox, Daisy Hernández, and Dana Nelson. Check it out at <http://signsjournal.org/what-happened/>.



*Signs* released their latest “Ask a Feminist” with Lisa Wade and Michael Kimmel on “toxic masculinity,” available for viewing at <http://signsjournal.org/kimmel-wade-toxic-masculinity/>.

## CALL FOR GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

*Signs* is seeking applications for editorial assistant positions for 2018-19. Candidates should have computer, research, and editing skills, along with a knowledge of the field of women’s and gender studies. Strong candidates will have well-developed written English skills, previous office experience, and the capacity for attention to detail. The positions last the entire academic year and require a commitment of 10 to 20 hours a week. Please note that these positions are only for those graduate students holding graduate assistantships for the coming academic year. Applications are due March 1st. See <https://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/wgss/position/> for details!

# SPRING into the season with upcoming WGSS events!



JANUARY 30, 12-1 PM

## THREATENING WHITENESS: ISLAM'S CHALLENGE TO AMERICAN WHITE SUPREMACY

346 Curry Student Center

WGSS visiting scholar Megan Prince Goodwin considers how contemporary American whiteness is threatened by Islam and Muslims—particularly Muslims of color. Lunch will be served.

MARCH 14, 6 PM

## FILM SCREENING AND DISCUSSION WITH FILMMAKER SHANI MOOTOO

10 Behrakis

WGSS will screen visiting distinguished writer Shani Mootoo's documentary *And the Rest is Drag* along with her narrative *Güerita & Prietita* as part of the 'Women Take the Reel' film festival. Mootoo will be in residence at Northeastern during the week of March 12 and will lead a discussion after the screening. Visit [www.northeastern.edu/cssh/wgss/](http://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/wgss/) event for a schedule of all related events.

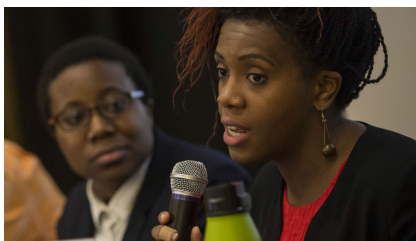


MARCH 23, 10:00AM-4:15PM

## SPRING 2018 SYMPOSIUM: GENDER & THE RISE OF THE GLOBAL RIGHT

Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering Complex  
Room 101 and 102

The annual WGSS Women's History Month symposium will focus on the theme "Gender and the Rise of the Global Right." Free registration is required. For registration and more information, visit <https://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/wgss/2018-annual-wgss-symposium>.



## MONTH OF MARCH

### WOMEN TAKE THE REEL FILM FESTIVAL

#### VARIOUS LOCATIONS IN THE GREATER BOSTON AREA

The Woman Take the Reel Film Festival is sponsored by the GCWS. Screenings of films by women and non-binary artists will take place throughout March at various locations in the greater Boston area. A full calendar can be found at <http://wgs.mit.edu/women-take-the-reel/>.

DATE TBD

## END OF YEAR WGSS CELEBRATION

LOCATION TBD

An evening event celebrating WGSS minors and recognizing graduating students.



# SUMMER 1 WGSS COURSES

*WGSS affiliated electives will also be offered Summer I and II. Check the course page on our website for more details <https://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/wgss/undergraduate/courses/>.*

## WMNS 1101: SEX, GENDER, AND POP CULTURE

NUpath Difference/ Diversity, Interpreting Culture

TR 1:30-5:00pm

Professor Margot Abels

This course examines the ‘making’ of masculinities and feminities (and everything else in between) within popular culture. Through a variety of theoretical perspectives (but primarily through feminist cultural studies), we will explore representations of gender and sexuality in American film, television, and other cultural forms. We will study the work of media scholars in various genres to see what media production and reception can tell us about cultural constructions of gender and sexuality. The goal is for you to learn a different way of ‘seeing’ popular culture and your own relationship to it. Using feminist film theory, you will gain a better understanding of how a range of media construct, maintain, and challenge gender and sexuality norms.



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## HUSV/WMNS 2800: SEXUAL ORIENTATION & GENDER EXPRESSION IN PRACTICE & POLICY

MW 1:30-5:00 PM

Professor Margot Abels

Introduces students to efforts among social and nonprofit organizations working to reduce heterosexism, homophobia, and transphobia in institutions, communities, and the society as a whole. Discusses practice across the life span for social professionals (social workers, counselors, advocates, and educators) in varied settings such as criminal justice, mental health, adoption, adult day health, and residential programs.

## MEET COURTNEY LANGDELL, SPRING WGSS CO-OP

Courtney is a fourth year English major with minors in Writing, Business, and Law and Public Policy. Her past and current research focuses on the rhetoric of law, and its effect on policies regarding women. She's especially interested in the intersection of rhetoric, law, and human rights advocacy, and hopes her work will have an impact on future policy. She looks forward to working as the co-op for WGSS and *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*.



## WGSS PROGRAM CALL FOR VISITING SCHOLARS

Each year the WGSS program hosts 1-3 competitively selected scholars for a period of one academic year. The program is open to scholars of all disciplines who would enjoy working in an interdisciplinary environment that encourages critical feminist exploration addressing intersections of gender and sexuality with race, class, nation, religion, and a wide range of social justice issues. The WGSS program at Northeastern has a vibrant feminist community, an undergraduate minor, and a graduate certificate. WGSS also collaborates closely with the Graduate Consortium in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (GCWS) and is the current editorial home for the journal *Signs*. Scholars will have opportunities to collaborate and present on works in progress. More information and the full job posting can be found on the WGSS website: <https://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/wgss/people/visiting-scholars-program/>. Applications will be open January to March.

## NEW GCWS PROGRAM MANAGER

Meet Stacey Lantz, the new program manager for the Graduate Consortium in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (GCWS), located at MIT. She holds a Master's degree in Gender and Sexuality Studies, focusing on rape crisis work and intervention methods, from The George Washington University. She has worked with the Boston Area Rape Crisis Center, US Navy, and DC Rape Crisis Center. Stacey coordinated sexual assault prevention and education strategies to colleges, youth programs, and working professional in addition to leading a 24-7 crisis response team of advocates. Currently, she volunteers with the Boston Abortion Support Collective and Femmechanics, a cycling group for femme, trans, and women identified folks. Stacey is looking forward to collaborating with the GCWS member institutions to grow knowledge of and participation in the courses, events, and community.

