

THE WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM'S Spring 2020 Newsletter

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A warm welcome back to you all – I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday break! 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 Feminist Resistance. 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 (See page 4).

Spring is always extra busy for WGSS, because March 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 **"#Feminism: Gender and the 2020 Election"** and we once again offer a unique experience where scholars engage with activists and journalists in an intense and gratifying one-day event. We're thrilled to be offering a keynote by **Zerlina Maxwell**, pundit extraordinaire on MSNBC and other venues. Please see page 2 for more details and make sure to put March 19th on your calendar!

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. We are thrilled to be screening a new documentary on the Lesbian Herstory Archives in New York called **"The Archivettes."** This will be held March 11 at 7:00 pm, over pizza, and a discussion with the filmmaker Megan Rossman will follow. See more on page 3.

And look out for our **visiting scholar lunchtime lectures** – they're always fascinating and thought-provoking events and a good way to connect with feminist scholars from around the Boston area. You can read more about these on page 3.

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 if you needed reminding: this is an election year. It's hard to imagine a more consequential one. Please – get involved. Make calls, text texts, knock on doors, help register voters, join volunteer events... just don't sit on the sidelines. Because the patriarchy isn't going to smash itself.

As always, in sisterhood and solidarity –
Prof. Suzanna Walters



Annual WGSS Spring Symposium: #Feminism: Gender and the 2020 Election



Join the WGSS program and the Northeastern Humanities Center for our seventh annual Women's History Month Symposium on **Thursday, March 19** in the Cabral Center. This year we turn our focus to the ballots, and discuss how women have shaped and continue to shape the electoral landscape with **#Feminism: Gender & the 2020 Election**. Here we are: 100 years after women gained the right to vote and decades after second wave feminism exploded on the scene, and still sexist double standards are applied to candidates, still nowhere near equal representation in local and national government, and still no woman president. Feminism is seemingly everywhere – from the Women's Marches to the righteous rage of #MeToo and #TimesUp – and yet gender inequity and hate continue to pervade civic life.

This upcoming election is arguably the most consequential in recent memory. Expert panelists will consider how gender and feminist activism should inform our thinking about the upcoming elections. We will look at how feminists might engage social movements, digital spaces, and broader communities in trying to effect social change. Panels will invite conversations about new forms of media in the hands of feminist activists, historical perspectives on gender and electoral politics (in celebration of the anniversary of suffrage), mainstream media coverage of elections through the lens of gender, and leveraging the unprecedented visibility of women (particularly women of color) in both electoral and grassroots politics. We will promote an active dialogue among scholars, activists, journalists, and community organizers in a broad discussion of both the limitations and potentials of electoral politics for enacting substantive feminist transformations.

The day begins with a keynote speech by Zerlina Maxwell of MSNBC and Sirius XM and continues with panels on **#MakingFeminisms: Organizing Resistance Online and IRL** (Katherine Grainger of Civitas Public Affairs Group and Supermajority, Catherine Knight Steele of UMD College Park, and feminist media maker Carmen Rios) and **#StillWePersist: Organizing Resistance on the Streets and On the Hill** (Tamar Carroll of RIT, Duchess Harris of Macalester College, and Amanda Renteria of Emerge America). Check-in begins at 9:00 am and breakfast will be served. The day kicks off at 10:00 am with Maxwell's keynote, followed by lunch with an activist bent and panels after lunch. A reception will follow. Contact wgss@northeastern.edu for more information and to request any accommodations. Be sure to register at feminismgender2020election.eventbrite.com by March 12 to reserve your free seat! You don't want to miss this critical examination of gender and electoral politics.

Co-Sponsored by: College of Arts, Media, & Design; School of Law; School of Public Policy & Administration; John D. O'Bryant African American Institute; Programs in Africana Studies, Human Services, and Politics, Philosophy, & Ethics; Departments of Communication, English, History, Journalism, Political Science, and Sociology & Anthropology

Pictures from last year's event: "Feminist Resilience: Structures and Strategies for Troubled Times"

#Feminism: Gender and the 2020 Elections

7th Annual Women's History Month Symposium

March 19, 10:00 am-5:00 pm
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. We will gather together activists, organizers, journalists, and academics in conversation over the course of the day, including a keynote from Zerlina Maxwell.

Women Take the Reel Film Festival: "The Archivettes"

March 11, 7:00 pm
325 Behrakis Hall

The Women Take the Reel Film Festival is an annual roving film festival sponsored by the Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality that takes place throughout Women's History Month at various universities throughout the Boston Area. Northeastern will screen "**The Archivettes**" by Megan Rossman. This documentary feature explores the Lesbian Herstory Archives, the world's largest collection of materials by and about lesbians, and how this group came together to combat lesbian invisibility and create "a place that says yes." The screening will be followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker, Megan Rossman. Pizza and refreshments will be served.

SPRING EVENTS

WGSS Lunchtime Lecture with Emily Hainze: "The Early Penal Feminist Imaginary"

February 11, 12:00-1:00 pm
159 Ryder Hall

Join the WGSS program for a talk with visiting scholar Emily Hainze. This talk examines the literary and artistic work produced through mandated educational programming in Framingham Reformatory for Women in Massachusetts and New York State Reformatory for Women in the first decades of the 20th century. White women prison reformers generated a large body of literary and artistic work that advocated for the expansion of a new prison system for white women, even though this system punished black women at a significantly higher rate.



Hainze explores this "penal feminist imaginary" through institutional case files, which document this artistic work, indexing the prison's institutional racism as well as incarcerated women's methods for writing within and against this carceral regime. Lunch will be served.

WGSS Lunchtime Lecture with Ivana Isailovic: "Family Law & Global Governance"

April 7, 12:00-1:00 pm
159 Ryder Hall

Join the WGSS program for a talk with visiting scholar Ivana Isailovic.

Ivana Isailovic is a visiting scholar in the WGSS program. She received her PhD in Law from Sciences Po Paris Law School. Her work, "Family Law as a Site of Global Governance," explores how family law doctrines and practices are de-

ployed to distribute resources globally based on gender, race, and citizenship. Lunch will be served.



WGSS Summer 2020 Course Offerings

Summer 1

WGSS & Crosslisted Courses

WMNS 1101 SEX, GENDER, AND POP CULTURE
TR 1:30-5:00
PROF. MARGOT ABELS

WMNS/PHIL 1271 SEX IN JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY,
AND ISLAM
MTWR 11:40-1:20
PROF. LIZ BUCAR

WMNS/HUSV 2800 SEXUAL ORIENTATION &
GENDER EXPRESSION
MW 1:30-5:00
PROF. MARGOT ABELS

Affiliated Electives

COMM 2304 COMMUNICATION & GENDER
COMM 3530 COMMUNICATION & SEXUALITIES
SOCL 1255 SOCIOLOGY OF THE FAMILY
SOCL 1260 GENDER IN A CHANGING SOCIETY

Summer 2

Affiliated Electives

COMM 2304 COMMUNICATION & GENDER
COMM 3530 COMMUNICATION & SEXUALITIES
ENGL 4060 TOPICS IN 20TH/21ST C. LITERATURE: INTRO
TO TRANSGENDER LITERATURE & CULTURE*
POLS 3309 LGBT ISSUES IN PUBLIC POLICY
SOCL 4520 RACE, CLASS, & GENDER

**This class can be used as a WGSS elective by emailing
wgss@northeastern.edu.*



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 of sharing resources and faculty, an ever evolving learning space is established where- in a new interdisciplinary understanding of research and teaching is discovered. The GCWS is a unique resource; there is nothing quite like it anywhere else in the nation! For more information about the GCWS and a full list of their courses, visit their website, <https://www.gcws.mit.edu/>!

S I G N S

Journal of Women in
Culture and Society

About *Signs*

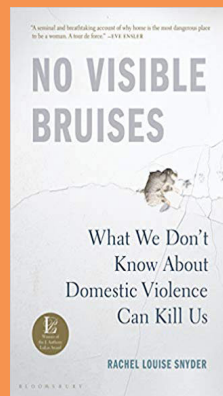
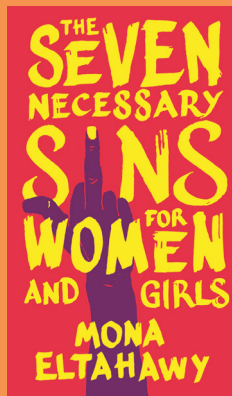
Recognized as the leading international journal in women's and gender studies, *Signs* is at the forefront of new directions in feminist scholarship. Challenging the boundaries of knowledge concerning women's and men's lives in diverse regions of the globe, *Signs* publishes scholarship that raises new 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

- Mona Eltahawy's *The Seven Necessary Sins for Women and Girls*
- Rachel Snyder's *No Visible Bruises: What We Don't Know About Domestic Violence Can Kill Us*



Ask a Feminist

- Eesha Pandit, Paula Moya, Carla Kaplan, and Suzanna Walters on Activism and the Academy
- Deborah Anker and Aziza Ahmed on Gender and Asylum Policy

Calls for Papers

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).

Apply to be a Graduate Assistant!

Signs will be seeking applications for Fall 2020/Spring 2021 graduate assistants beginning this spring. Email a.mazzaschi@northeastern.edu with any questions about the position or application process.



WGSS and *Signs* Welcome New Co-op, Kayleigh Birney

Meet Kayleigh Birney, an English major and Political Science minor and the current Editorial Intern and Assistant Programs Coordinator with *Signs* and WGSS. Kayleigh is a third-year undergraduate student at Northeastern University, originally from Houston, Texas. Her research interests include women and healthcare, with a specific focus on chronic illness and birth control/reproductive care.