

WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES NEWSLETTER

A message from the Director...



Dear Colleagues, Students, and Friends of WGSS,

I am excited to welcome you to the fall semester in my role as Acting Director of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program for 2017-2018 while our Director, Suzanna Walters, is on sabbatical. For those who don't know me, I've been a faculty member at Northeastern since 2001, and as of this year, I'm proud to be appointed in WGSS as well as in English. I'm joined as a new addition to the standing WGSS faculty by Professor Libby Adler of the Northeastern School of Law.

As you'll see in the interviews (page 3) conducted by Sarah Ruth, the new WGSS co-op student and Program and Editorial Assistant, Libby and I are both longtime members of the NU WGSS community. In spring 2017, I had the pleasure of teaching the Introduction to WGSS to a group of almost forty undergraduates: activists and artists, engineers and English majors—all committed to gaining a deeper understanding of how gender and sexuality interact with other aspects of identity and lived experience. Please take a moment to read some of their research and opinion pieces in *Nevertheless*, the 'zine students wrote, edited, and designed as the final project for the class.

Their voices are inspiring—and we need inspiration badly now. I'm sorry to be greeting you at a moment when hatred and bigotry are filling our public spaces. As I write, Heather Heyer, a thirty-two-year-old resident of Charlottesville, Virginia, has just been killed while protesting the gathering there of neo-Nazis and other white supremacists; many other brave protesters were injured as well.

At such a moment, we may ask what we can do as WGSS students, faculty, staff, and alums to work against hatred and white supremacy and for equality and racial justice. Social justice depends on knowing as well as doing, and the WGSS program continues to generate and share crucial knowledge about gender, sexuality, and identity, and to provide opportunities to come together to put that knowledge into practice.

For example, our fifth annual WGSS Symposium, which will take place in the spring semester, is on the all-too-timely topic "Gender and the Rise of the Global Right." Mark your calendars now, and stay tuned for details of the international roster of speakers who will join us at the Cabral Center at the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute on March 23rd, 2018.

Meanwhile, students interested in WGSS can choose from a wide range of courses this fall. For information on our upcoming spring courses, see page 7. Please also watch this space for upcoming fall events (see page 6 for details), including lunchtime talks by two of the three 2017-2018 visiting scholars whom we are excited to welcome this year. For more about them and their work, see page 4. And please get in touch with me or Kiki Samko, the WGSS Program Coordinator, if there are events or activities that you think we should know about!

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Laura Green".

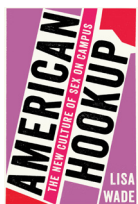
Laura Green
Professor and Acting Director, WGSS Program



SPRING '17 EVENTS SUMMARY

Book Talk: Lisa Wade's *American Hookup*

Lisa Wade, sociology professor at Occidental College, spoke at Northeastern in February to share research from her recently-published book, *American Hookup: The New Culture of Sex on Campus*. Wade engaged students in a discussion about the myths and anxieties surrounding college hookup culture, drawing on personal interviews as well as historical research.



Visiting Scholar Presentation: Leanne Trapedo Sims

In February, WGSS Visiting Scholar Leanne Trapedo Sims presented her research on a creative writing program in Hawaii's women's prison. Having taught in the prison herself, Sims was able to speak from personal experience and explain the context in which the women were writing. She showed video of their performances and shared copies of the anthologies they had produced over the years.



Book Talk: Peggy Orenstein's *Girls & Sex*

Peggy Orenstein, author of New York Times bestsellers *Waiting for Daisy* and *Cinderella Ate My Daughter*, spoke at Northeastern in March about her most recent book, *Girls & Sex: Navigating the Complicated New Landscape*. Her talk centered around questions of how sex and sex education reproduce gendered inequalities for girls in the U.S., bringing up examples like the "orgasm gap" and responses to the National Survey of Sexual Health and Behavior.



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



The WGSS Program held its fourth annual Women's History Month symposium on Friday, March 17 on the topic, "No Turning Back: The Past, Present, and Future of Reproductive Justice." The daylong event brought together scholars and activists working towards reproductive justice for a discussion of the present challenges facing the movement, access to care, the difficulty of securing funding for reproductive justice work, and much more.

Dean Uta Poiger of the College of Social Sciences & Humanities opened the symposium with a reflection on the current political situation.

"I think we're all deeply worried about the moment we're living in, both nationally and internationally," Poiger said, "and we're here to think through the terms of what coalition-building needs to be done."

Panel discussions were moderated by Northeastern faculty members and approached the topic of reproductive justice from four different angles. The panels were: "Without Apology: Historical and Cultural Contexts," "Undivided: Reproductive Justice and Social Change," "Unbound: Reproductive Justice and Legal Impediments," and "On the Ground: Activism and Health Praxis."

The panelists included prominent figures such as Katha Pollitt, columnist for *The Nation*; Loretta Ross, founder of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, whose organization coined the term "reproductive justice" in 2003 to broaden the conversation on reproductive rights beyond abortion; Dázon Dixon Diallo, President and CEO of SisterLove Inc., a non-profit focused on the impact of HIV/AIDS and reproductive oppression on women world-wide; and Susan Yanow, a longtime reproductive rights activist. Scholars from Boston University, Middlebury College, UMass Boston, and elsewhere shared a diverse array of research on topics ranging from exploitative breastmilk purchasing programs to legal impediments to having an abortion. The symposium closed with a question and answer session during which panelists shared ideas about how reproductive justice organizations can attract more funding and how academics and activists can better collaborate. For a full recap of the day and list of panelists and moderators visit <https://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/wgss/past-symposia/>. Stay tuned to the WGSS website for more information about next year's event, which will focus on "Gender and the Rise of the Global Right" and take place Friday, March 23 in the Cabral Center at the John D. O'Bryant African American Institute.

2017-2018 WGSS TEAM

THE WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM (WGSS) IS PLEASED TO INTRODUCE TWO NEW FACULTY LINES TO THE PROGRAM, AS OF JULY 1, 2017.

PROFESSOR LAURA GREEN



Laura Green is the newly appointed Associate Dean for Teaching, Learning, and Experiential Education in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH); Professor of English; and a long-time WGSS executive committee and affiliated faculty member. Professor Green will also serve as acting director of the WGSS program during Professor Suzanna Walters' sabbatical for the 2017-2018 academic year. Prof. Green is an associate editor for *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. She is a noted scholar of Victorian-era literature, author of two books, and the former chair of the English department. In 2015 she was awarded the Northeastern Research Development Initiative Award. WGSS is thrilled at the new addition, as Prof. Green has been a valued member of the WGSS team for many years, including teaching the Introduction to WGSS course last spring. Look for an in-depth interview on the WGSS website coming soon!



PROFESSOR LIBBY ADLER

Libby Adler,
Professor of Law, is
another long-time
WGSS executive



committee and affiliated faculty member. Adler received her JD from Northeastern in 1994 and has kept busy since then tackling today's pressing women's, queer, and family issues. She practiced law with the Massachusetts child support enforcement agency before going on to teach at the Harvard University School of Law as well as the University of Frankfurt. She is a co-editor of the textbook *Mary Joe Frug's Women and the Law* (4th ed.). Prof. Adler has taught Sexuality, Gender, and the Law for the WGSS program in the past to great acclaim among undergraduate students. She also served on the planning committee for the hugely successful 2016 WGSS symposium "Sex, Gender, and the Carceral State" and has participated in a number of WGSS panels and events. WGSS is excited to add Prof. Adler to the fold, as she brings a wealth of experiential knowledge, legal expertise, and passion for legal issues facing women and queer individuals today. Look for an in-depth interview with Prof. Adler on the WGSS website - coming soon!

2017-2018 WGSS TEAM

VISITING SCHOLARS

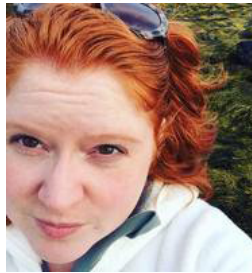
KRISTA MIRANDA

holds a PhD in Performance Studies from New York University where her work culminated in the dissertation "Playing with Your Parts: Dismantling Bodily 'Wholeness' Through Queer and Crip Performance," a study of the concept of "wholeness" and its coded meanings. While at Northeastern, she will work to turn her dissertation into a book, framing the project within an exploration of global discourses on "wholeness" and examining the differences between how the body is shaped discursively and how notions of bodily wholeness and fragmentation play out in practice. Miranda has held research and teaching positions at NYU, Miami Dade College, Barry University, and Middlebury College.



CAMILLA GAIASCHI

received her PhD from the University of Milan in 2016, where her work focused on gender inequalities in Italian hospitals ("Women, work, and medicine"). While at Northeastern, she plans to work on a project surrounding gender inequalities in academic careers in the different fields of science, focusing on the mechanisms of vertical segregation and the gendered processes of selection in academia. Gaiaschi has held positions as a researcher at the Equal Opportunity Committee of the University of Milan, GENDERS (Gender and Equality in Research and Science) Research Centre at the University of Milan, Yellow Window in London, and the Second Welfare Research Lab in Milan and Turin, Italy. She is currently a consultant for the EU's technical board, working on education about ending violence against women. Gaiaschi has also worked as a freelance journalist.



MEGAN GOODWIN

received her PhD in Religion and American Culture from UNC Chapel Hill. Her work focuses on gender and sexuality, race, and contemporary American minority religions. A former Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow for Creative and Innovative Pedagogy in the Humanities, Goodwin will complete her first monograph, "Women and Children Last: Sex, Abuse, and American Minority Religions" while at Northeastern. The project explores late twentieth and early twenty-first century American perceptions of religious difference as sexual and racial danger. Another project she will undertake involves the operation of Islamophobia as an apparatus of white supremacy.

SIGNS GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

SIMON PURDUE



Simon, a PhD candidate in History, has questioned gender roles from a young age and has long considered himself a feminist. He views everything in life, specifically his field of history, through a gender-centric lens. His personal research focuses on women, migration, work, and health in the late nineteenth century. He looks forward to collaborating with scholars, gaining editorial experience, and engaging in WGSS literature during his time with SIGNS.

NAOMI DAROM



Naomi is a PhD candidate in Sociology and has previously studied graphic design and communications in Israel. She spent 12 years as a field reporter for Haaretz newspaper in Israel, and found herself continually drawn to topics relating to gender. She is interested in developmental effects of hypersexualization at a young age among both male and female children. She is eager to apply her journalistic experience to American gender issues.

EZGI DENIZ RASIT

Ezgi is a PhD candidate in Sociology and has previously studied International Human Rights law (IHL) in London. She has previously studied the impacts of IHL regulations on female victims of domestic violence in Turkey. Her current research focuses on intersections of gender, citizenship, and migration, and is based in feminist theory and methodologies. She is looking forward to contributing to the editorial vision and public visibility of SIGNS.



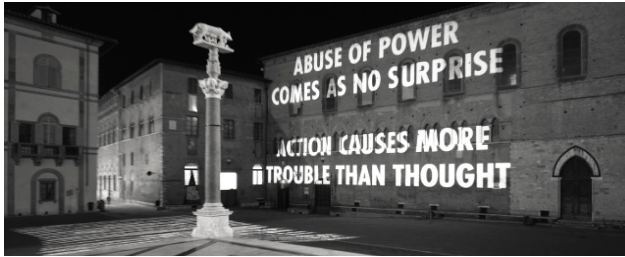
SARAH RUTH

Sarah is the co-op student with WGSS and SIGNS for fall 2017. She is a 4th year International Affairs & Environmental Studies student and hopes to pursue a career in diplomacy. She is interested in learning to apply feminist theories to her interdisciplinary studies.



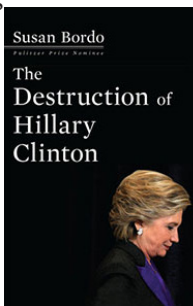
S I G N S

Signs most recently published the first issue of its forty-third year of publication, which features interdisciplinary articles on scientific definitions of sex, migration and mothers, the political history of abortion, women in hip-hop, antisurrogacy feminisms, and much more. The issue also features a set of Short Takes reflections by Soraya Chemaly, Susan J. Douglas, Sara Evans, Amy Richards, and Kimberly Springer on Andi Zeisler's *We Were Feminists Once*.



As *Signs'* third year at Northeastern draws to a close, the Feminist Public Intellectuals Project (FPIP) continues its success. FPIP was developed when the journal came to Northeastern, to make scholarly feminist perspectives on complex issues more accessible to the general public. The three branches of FPIP are Currents, essays on controversial topics within feminist discourse, which are accompanied by digital archives; Ask a Feminist, a series of interviews that seek to provide feminist scholars a platform to address pressing issues; and Short Takes, in which feminist academics, activists, and journalists respond to books that are shaping public discourse on feminism (the books' authors is invited to respond as well). All three branches of FPIP are freely accessible online, at SignsJournal.org. *Signs'* two most recent FPIP publications were both Short Takes covering two much-discussed books in the feminist world: *The Destruction of Hillary Clinton* by Susan Bordo, and *Unwanted Advances* by Laura Kipnis.

"If this is feminism, it's feminism hijacked by melodrama."
Unwanted Advances
Sexual Paranoia Comes to Campus
Laura Kipnis



Signs is also currently accepting submissions for the 2019 Catharine Stimpson Prize for Outstanding Feminist Scholarship, which recognizes work by emerging feminist scholarship. A special issue on "Displacement," guest edited by Denise Horn and Serena Parekh, is forthcoming in the spring, and *Signs* has recently closed submissions for a future special issue on "Gender and the Rise of the Global Right," coinciding with the topic of WGSS's spring symposium.

TIP OF THE FEMINIST CAP

WGSS extends a tip of the feminist cap to our affiliated faculty on their tenure and promotions, new publications, and other accomplishments.

APPOINTMENTS

LIBBY ADLER, School of Law, appointed in WGSS

LAURA GREEN, College of Social Sciences and Humanities, appointed in WGSS, appointed Associate Dean of Teaching, Learning, and Experiential Education in CSSH

BARBARA GUTHRIE, School of Nursing, appointed as Associate Dean of Graduate Education of Bouvé College of Health Sciences

GLORIA SUTTON, College of Arts, Media, & Design, promoted to Associate Professor with tenure

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

MOYA BAILEY, BROOKE FOUCAULT-WELLES, AND SARAH JACKSON published "#GirlsLikeUs: Trans Advocacy and Community Building Online" in *New Media & Society*.

KARA SWANSON published "Rubbing Elbows and Blowing Smoke: Gender, Class, and Science in the Nineteenth-Century Patent Office" in *Isis: A Journal of the History of Science*.

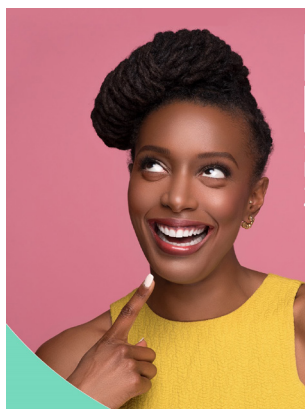
KATHRIN ZIPPEL published *Women in Global Science: Advancing Careers through International Collaboration* with Stanford University Press.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MOYA BAILEY co-convened the first Octavia Butler Studies Conference at the Huntington Library.

SUZANNA WALTERS, BROOKE FOUCAULT-WELLES, AND JENNIE STEVENS were awarded the Global Resilience Institute seed-grant for their research on women's roles in community resilience.

FALL back into the swing of things with WGSS autumn events!



September 26, 6:00-8:00 pm
KEYNOTE SPEAKER:
FRANCESCA RAMSEY
 Curry Student Center Ballroom
 Northeastern welcomes Franchesca Ramsey, actress, host of MTV's *Decoded*, and famous YouTuber. Her keynote talk is titled "Seeing Color: Exploring Whiteness in a Racialized World". This event is a part of Peace and Social Justice Week 2017.



November 13, 6:30 pm
MAKING YOUR WGSS MINOR WORK FOR YOU
 Center for Intercultural Engagement,
 Curry Student Center

Find out how a WGSS minor can help you after graduation. Hear from alumni, current students, and staff about how their academic pursuit of gender studies has impacted their career paths and studies. Pizza will be served.

October 4, 12:00 – 1:00 pm
WGSS VISITING SCHOLAR
LUNCHTIME LECTURE:
CAMILLA GAIASCHI,
UNIVERSITY OF MILAN
270 Holmes Hall

The WGSS program welcomes Camilla Gaiaschi (University of Milan) to present on her work-in-progress, "Same Jobs, Different Chances: Women's and Men's Advancement in Medical careers. Lunch will be served and guests will have the opportunity to ask questions after the lecture.



AND SAVE THE DATE FOR...

March 23, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
ANNUAL WGSS SYMPOSIUM: GENDER AND THE RISE OF THE GLOBAL RIGHT

John D. O'Bryant African American Institute

The fifth annual WGSS Symposium will address the rise of the Right in global politics, calling on feminist voices to critique and theorize across regions and disciplines. Speakers include Susan Bordo, among others. A reception will follow.



November 8, 12:00-1:00 pm
WGSS VISITING SCHOLAR
LUNCHTIME LECTURE: KRISTA MIRANDA, NYU
270 Holmes Hall

The WGSS program welcomes Krista Miranda (New York University) to present on her work-in-progress on the work of Claire Cunningham. Lunch will be served and guests will have the opportunity to ask questions after the lecture.



SPRING COURSES WGSS AND CROSSLISTED

UNDERGRADUATE

WMNS 1103
Introduction to WGSS

WMNS/HIST/SOCL 2303
Gender and Reproductive Justice

WMNS/HIST 2373
Gender and Sexuality in World History

WMNS/PHIL/POLS 3500
Sexuality, Gender, and the Law

AFRS/WMNS 1185
Gender in the African Diaspora

SOCL/WMNS 1255
Sociology of the Family

SOCL/WMNS 1260
Gender in a Changing Society

COMM/WMNS 2304
Communication and Gender

INTL/WMNS 2480
Women and World Politics

HUSV/WMNS 2800
Sexual Orientation & Gender Expression in Practice and Policy

HUSV/WMNS 3580
Sexual Violence: Counseling, Programs, and Policy

CRIM/WMNS 4010
Gender, Crime, and Justice

SOCL/WMNS 4523
Sexualities

GRADUATE

WMNS/SOCL 7100
Queer Theory: Sexualities, Genders, Politics

GCWS

WMNS 7615
Feminist Inquiry

WMNS 7900 01
Special Topics in WGSS: Resistance in Feminist Queer Theatre/ Theory

WMNS 7900 02
Women in Contemporary US Science

UPCOMING WGSS COURSES

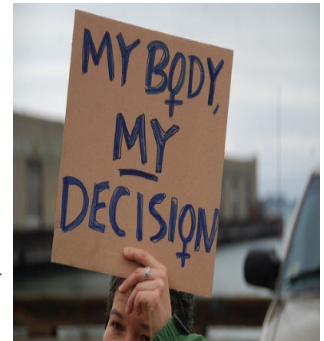
Look for these courses in spring of 2018!

GENDER AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE (WMNS/HIST/SOCL 2303)

Instructor Margot Abels

NUPath Societies & Institutions, Difference & Diversity

Dive into the social, legal, and economic barriers standing in the way of access to reproductive health care worldwide. This multidisciplinary course integrates race theory, legal theory, sociology, human rights, and feminist theory as lenses through which to examine reproductive issues.



GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN WORLD HISTORY (WMNS/HIST 2373)

Instructor Bridget Keown

NUPath Interpreting Culture, Difference & Diversity

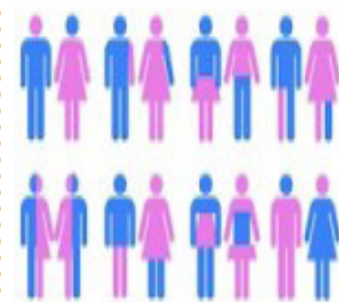
This course examines world history since the 1800s through lenses of gender, sex, and sexuality. Topics covered include work, welfare, art, culture, violence, war, activism, and the influence of different global conditions on the concept of "identity".

SEXUALITY, GENDER, & THE LAW (WMNS/PHIL/POLS 3500)

Professor Libby Adler

NU Path Societies & Institutions, Ethical Reasoning

In this seminar students examine real legal cases to study the history of rights of women and sexual minority groups. Topics addressed include the definition of sexuality and gender in US law, the impact of legal discourses on national attitudes towards gender and sexuality, the role of jurisprudence in shaping "liberatory" gender politics, and the limits of legal reform in attaining sexual and gender rights.



QUEER THEORY: SEXUALITIES, GENDERS, POLITICS (WMNS/SOCL 7100)

Professor Moya Bailey

This interdisciplinary graduate seminar examines key texts and debates to learn the history and evolution of the term "queer". Foundational texts will be applied to current debates and dilemmas to investigate modern-day political strategies.

*This course is open to advanced undergraduates with instructor approval

GRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES

Explore a multitude of graduate-level opportunities with WGSS!

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN WGSS

Students enrolled in a Northeastern University master's or doctoral program can gain enhanced competency in women's, gender, and sexuality studies through this certificate program which consists of a minimum of four graduate courses. This interdisciplinary program focuses on feminist theoretical frameworks, methodologies, issues, and topics, then applies concepts to individual disciplines. For more information visit: <https://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/wgss/graduate/certificate/>



MASTERS IN PUBLIC HEALTH CERTIFICATE

Students currently enrolled in the Northeastern University MPH Program can earn a tailored certificate in WGSS through completing a minimum of 5 graduate courses. This program is specifically designed to aid MPH students in tackling urban health issues where gender and sexuality are important factors. For more information, visit <https://www.northeastern.edu/cssh/wgss/graduate/certificate/wgss-certificate-mph-option/>

THE CONSORTIUM FOR GRADUATE STUDIES IN GENDER, CULTURE, WOMEN, & SEXUALITY (GCWS)

Students can choose to take GCWS courses to count towards their Graduate Certificate. The GCWS is interdisciplinary and comprised of scholars and professors from nine universities across Boston. Courses aim to take a practical approach to feminist theory with consideration for divisions of race, class, culture, ethnicity, and sexuality.



UPCOMING GCWS COURSES:

Resistance in Feminist Queer Theatre/ Theory
WMNS 7900 01

Feminist Inquiry
WMNS 7615

Women in Contemporary US Science
WMNS 7900 02

