

the department of
WOMEN'S *studies*

AT THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY, COLUMBUS, OHIO

A Message from the Chair

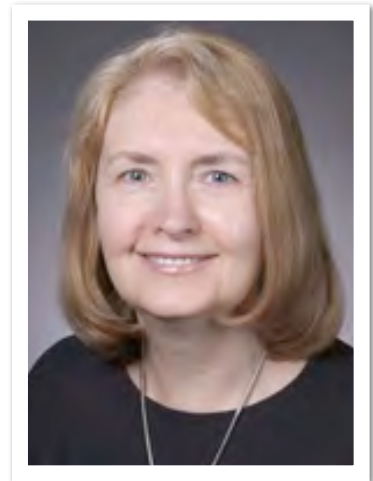
In May 2010, the Women's Studies faculty voted to change our name to the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and by the end of October the change was approved by all levels of The Ohio State University curricular committees, including the Board of Trustees. Why the change, and why now?

When Women's Studies was founded as an inter-discipline, programs—and later departments—emphasized “women” as a way of naming the subjects and intellectual perspectives that had been neglected by traditional disciplines. However, in recent years many programs and departments that began as Women's Studies have changed their names in recognition of the expanded intellectual breadth of scholarship and teaching that these programs and departments perform now. While Gender Studies is a common variant, or Women's and Gender Studies, our department has opted for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies to more accurately reflect the scope of knowledge our faculty produce and teach.

Women's Studies as a field has increasingly recognized that the study of gender and sexuality are central to research on women and girls. Feminist scholars also insist that studies of gender and sexuality should not focus solely on “women” but have important lessons to offer for understanding social relations of difference very broadly. In fact, many of our faculty examine the sexual politics of gender in society, considering religious movements, political theory and philosophy, transnational politics, and histories of the family, to name a few. Therefore, the name change reflects the fact that as a department we no longer just study “women.” Our hope is that the name change will illustrate effectively our contemporary approaches to theory and research.

The decision of the Women's Studies faculty to change our name has been long in the making.

During the last two years, the Women's Studies faculty have held numerous discussions about the possibility of a name change. The current process of conversion from academic quarters to semesters has entailed a long and careful review of



our curriculum which very clearly confirmed what we have known for quite some time now: gender and sexuality are integral to all that we do.

Including “sexuality” in the department's title also points toward the national norm of housing sexuality studies in women's and gender studies programs and departments. This is due to the fact that feminist critical approaches to gender, women, and social difference treat sexuality as a core feminist concern and a core feminist methodology. Indeed, since Women's Studies became a department at Ohio State several faculty lines have been designated as sexuality positions. The addition of these faculty members has firmly reinforced our national leadership in the sub-field of feminist sexuality studies. Sexuality is not peripheral to our research or teaching at OSU and currently exists as a foundation to our undergraduate and graduate curricula.

In the coming months, we will be changing our name on our web site and all of our documents and publications, including the Newsletter. We hope that our alumni and friends will find this change as exciting and energizing as those of us who are currently in the Department.

Professor Jill Bystydzienski



Stacia Kock, Undergraduate Advisor



Andi Cavins, Office Associate



Jean Royal, Administrative Associate



Lexie Beer, Program Coordinator

Department of Women's Studies Staff

Stacia Kock, our Undergraduate Advisor, meets with majors and minors for course planning, career opportunities and community experiences and is always looking for more ways to connect with the community. She is also in the final year of completing her dissertation and is in her third year as advisor. Our Office Associate, Andi Cavins, provides support to faculty, students and staff regarding departmental tasks while managing office procedures. Andi joined the staff in March of 2010 after serving as a Student Associate at the Multicultural Center and is completing her bachelor's degree in Women's Studies this year. Our Administrative Associate, Jean Royal, provides all of our finance, human resources, and administrative support. Jean joined us in April of 2010 after serving as Administrative Associate in the College of Arts and Sciences. Lexie Beer, our Program Coordinator, focuses on admissions and recruitment, enrollment, scheduling and programming. She joined us in November of 2009 after serving as an Intercultural Specialist in the Multicultural Center.

A Year Abroad in Review by Prof. Cricket Keating



From December 2009 until July 2010, my family and I lived in Sri Lanka, where I was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Peradeniya. I have lived and studied in Sri Lanka for several years, including a year as a Junior Fulbright Scholar while I was in graduate school, but this was the first time I was able to bring my family with me. They loved it, as I hoped they would!

This past year was a pivotal one in Sri Lankan politics because in May 2009 the Sri Lankan government defeated the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), which ended a 30-year civil war. While I was there, I had the opportunity to work with one of the most important feminist peace groups in the country, the Association of War Affected Women, and to meet with women in areas of the country that were particularly hard hit by the war. During the war, discourses and practices of gender liberation became deeply intertwined with discourses and practices of militarism, and one of the things that I'm very interested in exploring are the openings and closures

that the end of the civil war presents for women, in particular the former women combatants of the LTTE.

During my time in Sri Lanka, I also began a collaborative research project on personal law (those laws that govern such matters as marriage, divorce, and inheritance) with Dr. Carmen Wickramagamage, a feminist scholar in the Department of English at the University of Peradeniya. I am particularly excited about this project because of the work that feminists are doing to explore pre-colonial relational practices as rich sources for rethinking and recasting personal law in gender-just ways.

The University of Peradeniya is one of the most beautiful campuses in the world, set in the lush high hills in the middle of the island. This picture is of my daughter Maddie climbing a tree near my office building on campus. She was in heaven!



Recent Faculty and Student Publications

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Jill Bystydzienski. "Gender, Language, and Globalization." In *Language and Power*, ed. Birgit Brock-Utne and Gunnar Garbo. Michigan State University Press (2009).

Christine Keating, Claire Rasmussen, & Pooja Rishi. "Microcredit, Accumulation by Dispossession, and the Gendered Economy." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*. Vol. 1, no. 36 (Autumn 2010).

Linda Mizejewski. *It Happened One Night*. Blackwell Wiley (2010).

Linda Mizejewski. "Meryl Streep: Feminism and Femininity in the Era of Backlash." In *Acting for America: Movie Stars of the 1980s*, ed. Robert Eberwein. Rutgers University Press (2010).

Cathy Rakowski and Gioconda Espina. "Women's Struggles for Rights in Venezuela: Opportunities and Challenges." In *Women's Activism in Latin America and the Caribbean: Engendering Social Justice, Democratizing Citizenship*, eds. Elizabeth Meier and Nathalie Lebon. Rutgers University Press (2010).

Cathy Rakowski and Gioconda Espina. "Waking Women Up? Chávez, populism and Venezuela's 'popular' women." In *Gender and Populism in Latin America: Passionate Politics*, ed. Karen Kampwirth. Penn State University Press (2010).

Wendy Smooth. "African American Women and Electoral Politics: A Challenge to the Post-Race Rhetoric of the Obama Moment." In *Gender and Elections in America: Change and Continuity through 2008*, eds. Susan J. Carroll and Richard L. Fox. Cambridge University Press (2010).

Jennifer Suchland. "Is Postsocialism Transnational?" *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture & Society* (forthcoming).

Ruby Tapia et al. *Interrupted Life: Experiences of Incarcerated Women in the United States*. University of California Press; 1 edition (2010).

Mary Thomas. "The Identity Politics of School Life: Territoriality and the Racial Subjectivity of Teenage Girls in LA." *Children's Geographies* 7(1), 2009.

Rebecca Wanzo. "Proms and Other Racial Ephemera: the Positive Social Construction of African Americans in the 'Post'-Civil Rights Era." *Washington University Journal of Law and Public Policy* (forthcoming).

Shannon Winnubst. "Temporality in Queer Theory and Continental Philosophy." *Philosophy Compass* 5 (2), 2010.

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu. "Rethinking Global Sisterhood: Peace Activism and Women's Orientalism," In *No Permanent Waves: Recasting Histories of U.S. Feminism*, ed. Nancy Hewitt. Rutgers University Press (2010).

Judy Tzu-Chun Wu. "A Chinese Woman Doctor in Progressive Era Chicago," In *Women Physicians and the Cultures of Medicine*, eds. Ellen S. More et al. John Hopkins University Press (2009).

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Allyson Day. "Reading the Feminist Disability Memoir: The Critical Necessity for Intertextuality in Marya Hornbacher's *Wasted and Madness*." *Disability Studies Quarterly* (Forthcoming Summer 2011).

Kathryn Linder. "Students and Social Networking: Teaching Concerns and Suggestions." *Faculty Focus* (September 2009).

Kathryn Linder. "Tips for Effective Writing Groups." *Faculty Focus* (December 2009).

Amanda Rossie. "Looking to the Margins: The 'Outsider Within' Journalistic Fiction" *The IJPC Journal* (Fall 2009).

ALUMNAE PUBLICATIONS

MinSook Heo. "Women's Movement and the Politics of Framing: The Construction of Anti-Domestic Violence Legislation in South Korea," in *Women's Studies International Forum* (2010).

Sarah (Smith) Rainey. *Love, Sex and Disability*. Lynne Reinner (March 2011).

Alumna at Work by Dana Textoris

When I first became a Women's Studies major, I didn't know what I'd eventually do with my degree. I just knew that I'd found a world of ideas that fascinated and challenged me.

But by my graduation day in March 2003, I did have a plan – and a dream job. I participated in the Women's Studies Peer Power program, delivering interactive presentations in middle and high school classrooms on dating violence, racism, body image, and other topics. I leveraged this experience to land the position of Education Coordinator for the ACLU of Ohio, designing and running a civil liberties education program for high school students.

From there things snowballed, leading from one dream job to the next. I moved to California, and discovered that all the papers I'd written for my Women's Studies classes made me a fantastic grant writer. Next I was hired as Development Director for the reproductive rights organization NARAL Pro-Choice California. During that time I teamed up with other progressive women to start Good Ol' Girls, a social and professional networking group for women on the rise (www.goodolgirls.org).

Today, I've come full circle. I'm back at the ACLU, now as Major Gifts Officer for the ACLU of Northern California, where I help donors act on their values. My world as a whole is made up of friends, organizations, ideas, and activities centered around a vision of fairness and equality. It's a life that entralls and fulfills me, and that I know I wouldn't have if I weren't a Women's Studies major.



Awards, Honors, and Accomplishments

STUDENTS

Victoria Genetin received a Ray Travel Grant, the Elizabeth D. Gee Grant from the Department of Women's Studies, and a Graduate Award in Latino/Latina Studies (GALaS).

Stacia Kock received the Alumni Grant for Graduate Research from the Graduate School.

Megan Kough is currently serving as President of the Graduate Student Employees Organization (GESO) for the academic year 2010-2011.

Kathryn Linder received 1st place in the Humanities at the Hayes Graduate Research Forum, and received an Elizabeth D. Gee Grant for Women's Studies research.

Sara Miga was a fellow for The Columbus Foundation as part of their Summer Fellowship Program.

FACULTY

Linda Mizejewski received the Harlan Hatcher College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Faculty Award in recognition of professors with exceptional records in teaching, research, in scholarship and service. She also received the Arts and Humanities Research Enhancement Grant for her recent research sabbatical project focusing on women and comedy.

Jennifer Suchland received a Coca Cola Critical Difference for Women grant used for summer travel to Moscow and Saratov, Russia where she conducted interviews on the topic of human sex trafficking for future publications.

Shannon Winnubst gave a lecture at the inaugural year of the Anzaldua Speaker's Series at the University of Texas - Pan American along with various other talks at colleges and universities.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S STUDIES OR RECEIVE OUR UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS? CONTACT US AT:

The Department of Women's Studies | The Ohio State University | 286 University Hall | 230 N Oval Mall
614.202.1021 phone | 614.292.0276 fax | www.womens-studies.osu.edu website | womstd.info@osu.edu email

Welcome To New Faculty and Students

DR. KIMBERLY SPRINGER

is a writer and scholar-activist interested in mass media, social movements, digital culture, politics, and the arts. She earned her bachelor's degree in Women's Studies and Sociology from the University of Michigan and her doctorate in Women's Studies from Emory University. From 1999-2001 she was the Williams College Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Women's and Gender Studies and Africana Studies and the Sterling Brown Visiting Professor in Africana Studies for 2009-2010. She spent the past seven years in the American Studies Department at King's College London in the UK. She joined OSU in the Fall of 2010 as Associate Professor of Women's Studies, specializing in feminist media studies.

Springer has written extensively on gender, race, sexuality, and digital culture for academic and popular press outlets, including Flow TV; *Meridians: feminism, race, and transnationalism*; *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*; *Ms. Magazine*; *Cercles: revue pluridisciplinaire du monde Anglophone*; and the *Journal of Women's History*. Her monographs and anthologies include *Stories of O: The Oprahfication of American Culture*, co-edited with Trystan Cotten (University Press of Mississippi, forthcoming); *Living for the Revolution: Black Feminist Organizations, 1968-1980* (Duke University Press, 2005); and *Still Lifting, Still Climbing: Contemporary African American Women's Activism*, ed. (New York University Press, 1999).

Her writings on black feminism, film, and sexuality have appeared in a number of edited volumes, including *Yes Means Yes!: Visions of Female Sexual Power and a World Without Rape*, eds. Jaclyn Friedman and



Jessica Valenti (Seal Press, 2009); *Feminist Television: A Reader* (Oxford Television Studies), eds. Charlotte Brunson and Lynn Spigel (McGraw Hill and Open University Press, 2nd edition, 2007); *Interrogating Postfeminism: Gender and the Politics of Contemporary Culture*, eds. Diane Negra and Yvonne Tasker (Duke University Press, October 2007); *Black Power Studies: Rethinking the Civil Rights and Black Power Eras*, ed. Peniel Joseph (Routledge, 2006); and *Reel Knockouts: Violent Women in Film*, ed. Martha McCaughey and Neal King (University of Texas Press, 2001).

Her work also extends to media production, including new media, academic consulting for documentary film, radio production, and new media. She has been a columnist and blogger for *Shiny Shiny: a Girl's Guide to Gadgets*; *Sexing the Political: an online journal of Third Wave Sexuality*, and *PopMatters: an international magazine of cultural criticism*. Her radio productions include scriptwriting and associate producing for the Peabody Award-winning "Will the Circle Be Unbroken: A Personal History of the Civil Rights Movement in Five Southern Communities"; producer for WAMC Northeast Public Radio's "The Good Fight: a Look at Progressive Activism" (RTNDA's Murrow Award for Best Regional Series 2001); and guest on NPR's The Tavis Smiley Show reading her essay, "Talking White," from *When Race Becomes Real: Black and White Writers Confront Their Personal Histories*.

Her current research focuses on the transferral of 1960s and 1970s social movement values through the television producer Norman Lear's sitcoms; the rehabilitation of U.K. reality TV star Jade Goody; and the black presence in the television show *Mad Men*.

NEW M.A. STUDENTS

SIERRA AUSTIN
Wilberforce University
Representation/3rd Wave

HYEJIN KIM
Hanyang University
Northeast Asia

MEREDITH LEE
Mt. Holyoke College
Sexuality/Transgender

ELIZABETH LEMONS
Ohio State University
Religion and Gender

LAUREN STRAND
Ohio State University
Transnational Feminisms

NEW PH.D. STUDENTS

ANDREA BREAU
Ohio State University
Sexuality, Race, Class

DEBANUJ DASGUPTA
University of Akron
LGBTQ Immigration

DENISE FULLER
Arizona State Univ.
Race Representation

TANEEM HUSAIN
Ohio State University
Muslim Diasporic Youth

KATE LIVINGSTON
Univ. of Cincinnati
Policy and Adoption

KIMBERLY MCKEE
Kings College-London
Korean Adoption

ANINDITA SENGUPTA
Javavpur University
Southeast Asia

2010 Major Events and Programs

ELIZABETH D. GEE LECTURE

In April 2010 Dr. Nel Noddings inaugurated the Elizabeth D. Gee Distinguished Lecture in Ethics series. Her lecture, "Care Ethics in the 21st Century," addressed the increased attention that has been focused on care ethics in the last twenty-five years. Using material from her new book, *The Maternal Factor: Two Paths to Morality*, she discussed recent debates and promising ideas for the further development of care ethics today. Dr. Noddings is the Lee Jacks Professor Emerita of Education at Stanford University. She is very well known for her promotion of the ethics of care--the argument that caring should be a foundation for ethical decision-making. Her works on this topic include *Caring: A Feminine Approach to Ethics and Moral Education* (1984); *Women and Evil* (1989); *The Challenge to Care in Schools: An Alternative to Education* (1992); *Educating Moral People* (2002); and *Starting at Home: Caring and Social Policy* (2002). The Elizabeth D. Gee Distinguished Lecture in Ethics is given in honor of the late Dr. Elizabeth D. Gee and celebrates Dr. Gee's enduring legacy as a scholar and an educator, especially her commitment to interdisciplinary collaboration and fostering dialogue within the academic and local

communities. Dr. Elizabeth Gee was a Senior Research Associate in Women's Studies at OSU in the early 1990s and a nationally recognized expert in education, moral conflicts faced by women in professional lives, dispute resolution, health and legal ethics, and women's rights in the United States and abroad.

ARIZONA: WHY SHOULD WE CARE?

This interdisciplinary Forum was held in response to recent anti-immigration legislation in Arizona and nationally. The Department of Women's Studies collaborated with the Difference and Identity Studies Collective at OSU (DISCO) and the Multicultural Center to host a forum for the OSU Community to engage in dialogue around anti-immigration legislation. Graduate students posed as immigrant officers to portray the nature of the reform in Arizona and beyond.



WSGA Update

In 2010 the Women's Studies Graduate Association completed and participated in a number of awesome activities furthering the pursuits of the Department's graduate students. **In April, students spearheaded a symposium hosted by the Department** entitled, "Contemporary Interdisciplinary Scholarship on Gender and Sexuality," with keynote speaker Jasbir Puar. The symposium drew presentations from universities nationwide, allowing our graduate students the opportunity to present and to hear from attendees with a wide range of interests. Fabulously, graduate students were both able to organize and participate in an event of this caliber at our own institution. Graduate students also were able to meet and greet bell hooks during a visit to Ohio State. In 2010, we had an outstanding group of graduating students. Seven of our masters students graduated, going on to PhD programs, non-profit work and other agencies. The graduates are: Andrea Breau, Skylar Bre'z, Tracey Fox, Taneem Husain, Lindsay Robertson, Brendan Shaw, and Jessica Winck. We also had five PhD graduates: Dong Li Isbister completed her degree in Winter; Sue Brennan completed her degree in Spring; and Anne Mitchell, Christina Holmes and Shannon Cochran all completed their degrees in Summer. Congratulations and well wishes go out to all!

A Year with bell hooks Begins with Awe



In autumn 2010, the Department of Women's Studies in partnership with the College of Arts & Sciences, the Kirwan Institute, the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and the Women's Place hosted the internationally recognized feminist social critic bell hooks as a Scholar in Residence. She will be back on campus in May 2011 for

the second part of her residency. The theme for the residency is: Keeping It Real: The Practice of Diversity.

One of the most widely read scholars in the world, bell hooks has written 35 books and innumerable essays and articles. Her work is used in university curricula across the United States and the world. Bridging the lines between academic and non-academic audiences, she is an unusually powerful voice on college campuses, in so far as she speaks to all constituencies: undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, staff, and the broader community.

Professor bell hooks spent two weeks on the Ohio State campus that were full of group and individual meetings with

faculty, students, staff, and residents of Ohio from as far as Dayton and Cleveland. On October 20, she engaged in a conversation focused on race and gender with Prof. Shannon Winnubst and an audience of 700 people. She gave two seminars on her current work to Women's Studies faculty and graduate students, participated in two dialogues on Questioning Our Identity with John Powell of the Kirwan Institute on Race and Ethnicity, and delivered a 40th Anniversary Lecture for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion on Identity and Popular Culture. She also met in small groups with Women's Studies majors and minors. Students and faculty alike were both awed and engaged by her direct, accessible style.

We look forward to more engaging and meaningful conversations with bell hooks during her return to OSU in May of 2011!



Our Wonder Woman by Kati McGinnis

When I enrolled in Ohio State University, I fully anticipated the opportunities to achieve my academic goals at such a fine university. What I did not anticipate, however, was finding a home in the Department of Women's Studies. After the first week of classes, I realized that I had found just that. During my two years in the department, I received unparalleled support from the Women's Studies faculty and staff. Amazingly driven and exceptionally talented faculty guided my studies, rekindled my academic desire, and awoke my inner feminist.

In addition to introducing an extensive study of feminist pedagogy and gender representation literature, the faculty and staff encouraged me to write and research where my interests lie. Two departmental writing awards, a second place finish at the Denman Research Forum, and a publication in the inaugural edition of *Occulus* later, I know my achievements are due to such unfailing support and inspiration of the Women's Studies department. I owe a special thanks to Professors Guisela Latorre, Linda Mizejewski, Linda Bernhard, and Rebecca Wanzo for going the extra mile for my education and my future.

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and department programs

DEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS

- women's studies professional development fund (627690)
- women's studies department (306738)
- Max Rice Jr. & Sarah Smith fund (313141)
- graduate student support (311584)
- Elizabeth Gee distinguished lecture in ethics (313218)

WOMEN'S STUDIES RESEARCH PROJECTS

- Elizabeth D. Gee small grants endowment (602449)

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDY

- Mildred Munday scholarship (645073)

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