

DEPARTMENT OF
**WOMEN'S, GENDER
AND SEXUALITY STUDIES**

WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER



A visit from Professor Beverly Guy-Sheftall



#BelieveWomen National Walkout



WGSS Feminist Fest



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



IN THIS ISSUE

3	Message from the Chair, Shannon Winnubst
4	Graduate Additions
6	Faculty & Staff Accomplishments
8	Undergraduate Accomplishments
9	Graduate Accomplishments
9	Alumni Accomplishments
10	2018 Highlights
11	Support the Department

On the cover:

Professor Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies at Spelman College in Atlanta, visited campus to discuss gender, sexuality and art with artist Mickalene Thomas. [pg. 10]

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



The Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies continues to thrive and flourish across campus and beyond. In these times of ongoing assault on the rights of marginalized groups, we continue to bring the transformative work of our vibrant feminist studies department into and beyond the classroom. As you will find in these pages, we continue to garner awards across the university and nation for innovative and committed pedagogy, critical and creative research, and excellence in leadership. We also continue to build new modes for courses, especially exciting developments in online instruction, and fresh avenues for community engagement, including activist work and presentations in local high schools.

This past summer, I finally went on The Ohio State University's famous "Roads Tour," which took two busloads of faculty and undergraduates all across northwest and central Ohio, visiting a variety of local businesses and service organizations. I was overwhelmed by how much the people of the state of Ohio love this university! The tour energized me about our mission in WGSS as part of this flagship state university. Given that the midterms in Ohio show that the state seems to be turning more and more red, our pedagogical mission in the department intensifies: I remain confident and committed to bringing the transformative pedagogies and research of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies to the greater state of Ohio, the entire nation, and the world.

As I just learned at the recent meeting of the National Women's Studies Association, WGSS continues to grow rapidly as a field across the nation. More doctoral programs are launching, bringing the number to 21, and more and more undergraduate institutions are committing to departments in WGSS. Ohio State's department remains a leader in the field, cultivating these kinds of exciting research programs in our doctoral students: black women's sexuality, including popular memoirs and handbooks on surviving sexual assault; historical research in archives of early trans activists in Chicago; transnational theorizing of race in Eastern Europe, U.S., and India; analysis of resistance through performance and rituals in Guatemala; constructions of Jewish masculinity and sexuality in popular culture; girls incarceration in urban India; human rights in Puerto Rico; and an exploration of young queer women's social practices in urban Mumbai. We must continue to grow, however, in order to keep this longstanding, amazing department at our very best. I know there are a million good causes asking for money these days, but I am making the plea to consider a donation to the WGSS Department at Ohio State. Through both our research and the immense scale of our pedagogical reach, we are helping to build a more feminist future for all of us.

Serving as the chair of this remarkable space on campus is truly an honor. I hope you enjoy a sampling of our activities, aspirations, and achievements. Please let us know whenever you are on campus! Most of all, I hope you all enter 2019 with renewed commitments to sustaining feminist communities here at Ohio State and wherever you live.

Professor Shannon Winnubst, Department Chair

GRADUATE ADDITIONS

This year, the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies welcomed 10 lovely graduates into the graduate program:

- 1 Ray Buckner**, a recent graduate of Occidental College with a BA in politics, is currently pursuing their MA with the department. Their research explores the intersections of phenomenology, queer theory, qualitative methodology and Buddhist philosophy.

Mary Byrne is a PhD student and Distinguished University Fellow in the WGSS department. Her research interests involve digital activist subjectivity and neoliberal ideologies.
- 2 Peyton Del Toro** recently graduated from Michigan State University with a BA in English Literature and a minor in Chican@/Latin@ Studies. Currently pursuing her MA as a graduate enrichment fellow, her research with WGSS focuses on subjectivity in queer Chicana literature and how Spanglish functions as a queer language.
- 3 Char Harrison** is an MA student with WGSS. Receiving their BA in journalism and French from the University of King's College in Nova Scotia, their research involves epistemic injustice in court cases involving trans litigants, particularly focusing on workplace discrimination cases.
- 4 Heather Holliger** is a PhD student who previously received an MFA in creative writing from George Mason University and a BA in women's and gender studies from American University. Her work studies feminist creative writers' strategies for disrupting dominant representations of sexual violence and the female body in visual and narrative culture.
- 5 Shannon Morrison** is pursuing her MA with the department. Receiving her PhD in educational philosophy from Ohio State, as well as her MA in educational psychology, philosophy, and public policy, her research with WGSS explores feminist approaches in addressing policy and educational barriers that prevent underrepresented groups from pursuing and remaining in aviation careers.
- 6 Jena Robertson** is a recent graduate of the University at Albany, SUNY with a BA in WGSS and public policy. Now pursuing her MA at Ohio State as a graduate enrichment fellow, her work focuses on finding links between health policy and black women's poor health outcomes, including low birth weight, high infant mortality and premature birth.

Hannah Simonetti is joining the department to pursue her PhD in WGSS. Earning her MA in ethnic studies from San Francisco University and BA in sociology from Willamette University, her research covers transracial transnational adoption identity development.
- 7 Allison Susor** recently received her BA in WGSS at Ohio State. She is returning to the department to pursue her MA degree, with the main focus of her research on the effect of policy on the lives of girls of color.
- 8 Anne Van** is a PhD student and university fellow in WGSS. Earning her MS in ethnic studies and women and gender studies from Minnesota State University, Mankato and her BS in psychology from University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, Anne's research focuses on racism and colorism against black women in United States beauty culture.



Not pictured:
Mary Byrne, Hannah Simonetti

FACULTY & STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Professor Cynthia Burack recently published her latest book, *Because We Are Human: Contesting U.S. Support for Gender and Sexuality and Human Rights Abroad*. The book looks at U.S. sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) human rights assistance programs, meetings by indigenous and transnational human rights advocates to support SOGI, and arguments against these programs on both sides of the political aisle.

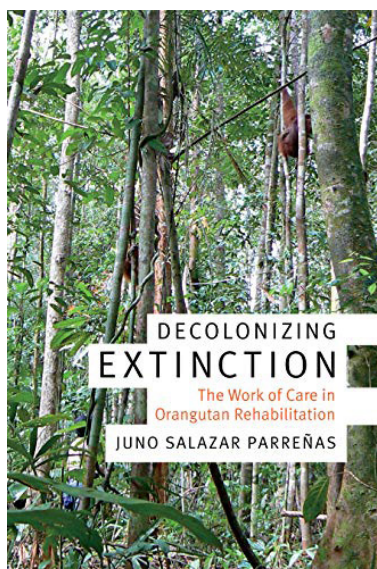


Lynaya Elliott, WGSS department manager, received the Distinguished Staff Award earlier this year. It is the most prestigious staff award the university offers, is given to 12 staff members each year and recognizes them for their hard work and impact at the university. She was recently honored during an Ohio State football game as one of the award recipients.

Guisela Latorre, associate professor of WGSS and Spanish & Portuguese, published the articles “Indigenous Images of Democracy on City Streets: Native Representations in Contemporary Chilean Graffiti and Muralism” and “The art of disruption: Chicana/o art’s politicized strategies for aesthetic innovation.”

Associate professor Treva Lindsey was featured on *Left of Black*, a webcast hosted by Duke University Professor Mark Anthony. During the episode, the two discussed Dr. Lindsey’s book, *Colored No More: Reinventing Black Womanhood in Washington, D.C.*, and black women in society and culture. She was also a guest on WOSU’s talk show, *All Sides with Ann Fisher*, to discuss hip-hop and culture, and she has published several feminist-thought, current-event articles this year in *Teen Vogue*, *POPSUGAR* and *Vox*.

Professor Linda Mizejewski received the Susan Koppelman Award for her co-edited book, *Hysterical! Women in American Comedy*. The award, named for feminist literary historian Susan Koppelman, is given annually by the Popular Culture Association, which aims to promote discussions, publications and scholars supporting the study of popular culture.



Juno Parreñas, assistant professor of WGSS and anthropology, authored her first book, *Decolonizing Extinction: The Work of Care in Orangutan Rehabilitation*. The book explores the lives of wildlife workers and endangered animals of the rehabilitation centers on the island of Borneo and traces ways

in which colonialism, decolonization and indigeneity shape their experiences. She was also recently featured on Austria’s Ö1 Radio to discuss her research.



Wendy Smooth, associate professor of WGSS and political science, received the Larry M. Lewellen Award. The award is awarded annually to faculty, staff, administrators and community members rendering exceptional service to graduate students at the university. Smooth was also recently appointed as Associate Dean for Diversity,

Equity, and Inclusion for the College of Arts and Sciences. The position includes working with college leadership, administrative staff and academic departments to develop, coordinate and advise on diversity and inclusion within the college.



Best of Luck to Professor Jill Bystydzienski!

Dr. Jill Bystydzienski has been a professor with WGSS for 12 years and the chair of the department for 9 years. Throughout her time with us, she has taught topics on contemporary theory and globalization, and taken a number of advisees under her wing who sought to research women in STEM. Her areas of focus include advancement for girls and women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields, and women, gender and politics internationally and globally. She also recently won the Harlan Hatcher Arts and Sciences Distinguished Faculty Award, an award given to professors with exceptional records in teaching, research and service. Dr. Bystydzienski still maintains a status of faculty emerita with the department.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication to the department, Dr. Bystydzienski! We'll miss you and we wish you nothing but the very best!

Jennifer Suchland, associate professor of WGSS and Slavic and East European studies, organized “Naming (In)Justice: Rights and Resistance across Queer Migrations and Trafficking.” The day-long event consisted of a symposium featuring several guest panels and discussion of topics such as the policing of mobility and sexuality, structural racial and gendered violence, and the struggles for the abolition of borders, prisons and colonialism. The event also included a zine workshop, where participants learned about using zines as a form of activism and social protest and how to make them.

Shannon Winnubst, chair of WGSS, gave a lecture as a part of the Arts and Humanities Inaugural Lecture Series this year. During her talk, titled “Doors: An Object Lesson in Race and Sexuality,” she discussed her recent project that explores spaces, particularly doorways, as symbols of racial injustice and gendered domesticity.



UNDERGRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

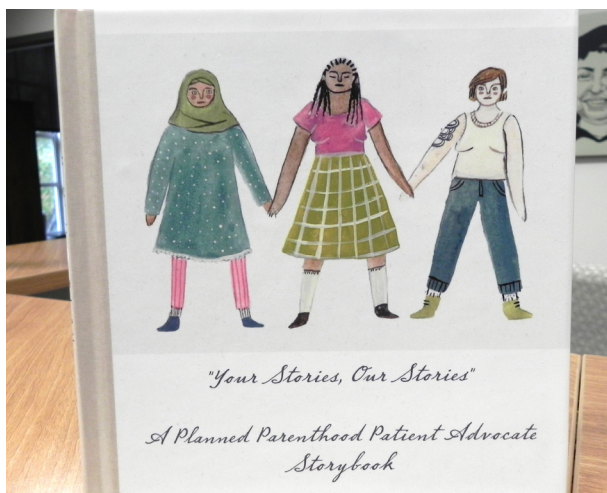


WGSS Students Receive Columbus Foundation Summer Fellowships

Students **Mason Hickman** and **Imani Harris** both received 2018 Columbus Foundation Summer Fellowships. The fellowship program annually provides undergraduate students, graduate students and recently graduated students an opportunity to work with nonprofit organizations in central Ohio for the betterment of the community.

Mason, a WGSS and political science double major, worked with the Equality Ohio Education Fund, managing and supporting the organization's social enterprise for the duration of the fellowship. The program aims to achieve fair treatment and equal opportunity for Ohioans through advocacy and education, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Imani, an English major and WGSS minor, worked with the King Arts Complex to administer the organization's Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) youth summer academy. The academy allows K-12 students to learn more about multiple disciplines through project-based learning.



Students Create a Book About Planned Parenthood Patients' Stories

This spring, the department's "Reproductive Rights and Justice" class put together a book weaving the stories of Planned Parenthood patients. The class, 4189.01S, taught by **Dr. Mytheli Sreenivas**, is a service-learning course where students have the opportunity to work with organizations that focus on reproductive health, policies, activism and legal contexts. The students put the book together by documenting handwritten statements from both first-time and long-time patients about why they came to Planned Parenthood. The art for the book was done by Madison Safer, an illustrator from New Hampshire.

GRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



This year, we celebrated several graduate students who received their degrees. **Caroline Bennett, Tess Cumpstone, Lirika Demiri, Jaclyn Serpico** and **Anthony Tenney** graduated with their MA degrees, while **Sierra Austin, Andrea Breau** and **Sara Rodríguez-Argüelles Riva** earned their PhDs.

Deja Beamon, PhD student, was one of three students to win the annual Dana Greenblatt Feminist Media Award. Her current research explores black/white biracial women identity, and she plans to continue her research by traveling to Museum of Modern Art in New York City to study the work of Adrian Piper, a conceptual artist known for manipulating space with her body and displaying the complexity of identity through her work.

Shannon Morrison, MA student, organized the first annual Conference on Diversity in Aviation with The Ohio State University Center for Aviation Studies. The conference aims to help educators and professionals develop policies and programming with awareness of diversity and inclusion, covering a variety of topics such as implicit bias, creating more inclusive classrooms and managing challenging conversations.

Each year, our graduates have the opportunity to present their research at various conferences and other venues, including the National Women's Studies Association Conference, where they can present their research, moderate panels and network with other scholars from across the nation. Here is a list of their presentations from this year's conference in Atlanta:

- **Deja Beamon**: "Staging Futures and Poetic Flights" and "Temporalities of Feminist and Anti-Racist Imaginaries in Contemporary Ethnic Fiction"
- **Jon Branfman**: "Jewish Feminisms 1970-2018" and "Female Masculinities and Revolutionary Potentials: A Conversation with Jack Halberstam at the 20-Year Anniversary 'Female Masculinity'"
- **Kristen Kolenz**: "The State and Spaces of Inclusion/Exclusion"
- **Juwon Lee**: "Re-imagining Belonging in Asia and Asian American"
- **Tatsiana Shchurko**: "White Feminist Queer Crip Trans*: Meditations on Anti-Blackness and Race"

ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Luster Singleton, who received his BA and MA in women's studies, recently became the outreach coordinator for Mozaic. Mozaic is a wellness program with Equitas Health that provides wellness resources and community space for transgender, gender nonconforming, and nonbinary people of color between the ages of 13 and 29. The program partners with local organizations and activists to serve the community and reduce the disproportionately high rates of HIV among transgender and gender nonconforming youths of color.

Julia Applegate graduated with her MA in women's studies at the university. Now the director of the Center for LGBTQ Health and Equity at Equitas Health, she recently co-hosted the annual Transforming Care: LGBTQ & HIV/AIDS Health Equity Conference. With the combined work of Equitas Health and the Ohio AIDS



Coalition, the conference brings together hundreds of academics, activists, community members, and health and social service professionals together each year since 2016 to discuss health disparities affecting the LGBTQ and HIV/AIDS community.

Sonnet Gabbard, PhD, recently became a public relations and communications consultant with Conmitto, which works to improve technological and digital experiences through marketing, graphic design and technical support.

Anindita Sengupta, who received her PhD with the department, is now teaching as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Connecticut. She teaches courses such as Gender and Sexuality in Everyday Life and LGBTQ Sexualities, Activism, and Globalization.

2018 HIGHLIGHTS



1 WGSS Feminist Fest!

Once a year, department faculty, staff and students take a break from preparing for finals to get together, celebrate their accomplishments from the year, eat good food and catch up before summer break. This year, we went a little less formal and a little more carnival style! Department members and friends came to play carnival games, enter the party raffle, sing along to an awesome feminist playlist and eat sliders and other finger foods.

2 #BelieveWomen National Walkout

In addition to maintaining academic discussions in the classroom, WGSS also participates in activist actions and events that support marginalized populations and fighting for human rights. In the wake of Supreme Court nominee Judge Brett Kavanaugh's hearing, faculty, staff and students gathered in front of the Thompson Library for the #BelieveWomen National Walkout to support Dr. Christine Blasey Ford and survivors of sexual assault across the country.



Professor Neda Atanasoski, associate professor of feminist studies and director of critical race and ethnic studies at the University of California Santa Cruz visited campus earlier this year to discuss the concept of surrogate humanity. She discussed the raced and gendered social relations between bodies, as well as the idea that seemingly neutral technology is actually infused with identity politics and has a base in racial slavery, colonial conquest and genocide.



Professor Beverly Guy-Sheftall, Anna Julia Cooper Professor of Women's Studies at Spelman College in Atlanta, visited campus to discuss gender, sexuality and art with artist Mickalene Thomas. She also hosted a graduate seminar with the department, discussing her experiences in the field of black studies and women's studies, black feminism, and the state of WGSS as a whole.

SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT



Dear Alumni and Friends,

We thank you for supporting the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at The Ohio State University. Please consider making a gift or donation to the department to help us continue our work and create opportunities for our students. Each gift makes a tangible difference for our students, faculty and the future of feminist studies.

For the department to realize its opportunities for excellence, it must build upon the base established with state and tuition funding by drawing support from its alumni and friends. The following are a few ways you can invest in the department and its programs:

Program Support

This department fund is used to support a variety of departmental initiatives, such as speakers, technical support, service learning and outreach, study abroad and other programming. We are currently working to use these funds to expand outreach and engagement initiatives and to pursue engaging scholars who enhance our pedagogy.

Graduate Student Development

For activities that contribute to the professional development of graduate students in the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies.

The Max Rice Jr. & Sarah Smith Women's Studies Fund

Established by WGSS alumna and Bowling Green State University professor Sarah Smith-Rainy in memoriam of her partner, Max Rice Jr., this fund provides student and faculty support to create opportunities for Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies to advance the study of disability and/or sexuality.

The Mildred Munday Scholarship Fund

This scholarship, named for Dr. Mildred Munday, who was instrumental in the creation of the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Ohio State, provides tuition to undergraduate students who demonstrate excellence in scholarship and a commitment to WGSS.

These are just some of the funds that support the department. For more information, please visit wgss.osu.edu/give.





THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S, GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

286 University Hall
230 North Oval Mall
Columbus OH, 43210
(614) 292-1021

wgss.osu.edu

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Columbus, Ohio
Permit No. 711



Catch up with the department at
wgss.osu.edu