

# DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S, GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

WINTER 2020 NEWSLETTER



Mary Thomas' New Service Learning Class Photo



Juwon Lee (New MA, 2019)



Joy James Lecture Q&A



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



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**Above:**

Haley Swenson presents on how to focus on applying degrees in the humanities to careers outside of academia during a graduate workshop [pg. 9].



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Greetings from the Oval! I am, once more, honored and thrilled to report that the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies continues to thrive and flourish — across campus and beyond!

As you will find in these pages, the faculty, graduate students, undergraduate students, alumni and staff of WGSS are all continuing to push to ever higher levels of accomplishment and excellence. In 2018-19, several of our faculty won distinguished awards at Ohio State and beyond for research, teaching and service. Our graduate students continue to execute amazing projects,

win prestigious fellowships and land excellent jobs, and our undergraduate students continue to excel, with the honors society

Triota publishing the first undergraduate journal, *Animus*, in the spring of 2019. Our staff continue to spearhead awesome curricular and social projects, fostering feminist intellectual community within and well beyond the department. I was also happy to see several of our alumni back on campus in 2018-19, as reported in these pages. I was particularly honored to meet Sabrina Hersi Issa, who received the 2019 Young Alumni Achievement Award by the College of Arts and Sciences, and I look forward to future collaborations with her. We would love to see more alumni back on campus, so please reach out to arrange a visit!

The WGSS Department has begun to cultivate several exciting collaborations across campus and across the state. Here at the university, we are about to launch a new LGBTQ+ Studies minor that draws on four other colleges across campus. We are also about to launch a joint-minor with the John Glenn School of Public Affairs and hope to work on a joint-Master's program soon. We are collaborating regularly with the Wexner Center for the Arts on a variety of programming and research. Beyond campus, we now have service-learning courses that are embedded in two local high schools in Columbus, a women's correctional facility and a range of local organizations working on reproductive justice. And May of 2020, Professors Mary Thomas and Jennifer Suchland will launch our first Ohio-based Field School.

Finally, I am thrilled to welcome two new colleagues into the department: Jian Chen and Jessica Delgado! Jian Chen, associate professor, is joining us from the English Department, where they recently received tenure. Professor Chen has just published a new book, *Trans Exploits: Trans of Color Cultures and Technologies in Movement*, and will begin teaching new undergraduate and graduate courses in Trans Studies spring 2020. Jessica Delgado is joining us from Princeton and will deepen our strengths in both women of color and transnational feminisms, with specializations in colonial Latin American and Mexican history and a focus on religion, race and spiritual practices. I am thrilled to have these two amazing scholars and teachers join our faculty!

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 2020 with renewed commitments to sustaining feminist communities here at Ohio State and wherever you live.

**Professor Shannon Winnubst, Department Chair**

# GRADUATE ADDITIONS

## Welcome to our new graduate students!

**Joe Blakely** is an MA student in the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Their research interests involve trans embodiment and impact on social, political and economic practices. *Photo not available.*



**Robert Cremins** is a PhD student in WGSS who previously received an MA in philosophy from The New School for Social Research, a BA in religious studies and a BS in social work. Their research focuses on how discourses of gender and sexuality are constructed and employed to justify settler colonial and imperialist expansion narrated as progress.



**Kayley DeLong** is a PhD student in the department. Recently earning their BA in comparative studies with a minor in queer studies from Washington State University, they are now pursuing their degree at Ohio State and researching chronic illness, pain and death, and how these concepts manifest in queer lives.



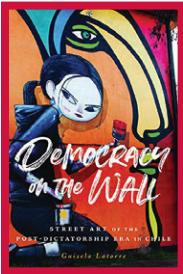
**Nikki Edgerton** recently received her BA in WGSS at The Ohio State University. She has returned to the department to pursue her MA degree, focusing on topics such as public policy and gender, reproductive justice, feminist sex education, queer subjectivity and histories of feminist activism.



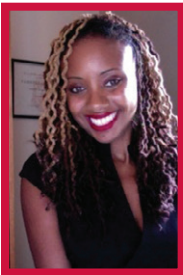
**Niani Jones** is pursuing their PhD in WGSS. Recently earning a BA in sociology and women's and gender studies with a minor in African American studies, Niani's research examines black women and black non-binary femmes who have survived sexual trauma and relied on BDSM and/or Afro-spiritualities or religions as alternate forms of therapy.

**Jem Panganiban** is currently pursuing her MA with the department. Her research involves studying how gendered beings navigate the Anthropocene. *Photo not available.*

# FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



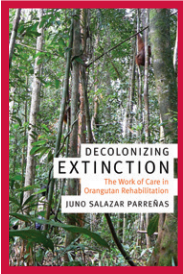
**Guisela Latorre** recently published her latest book *Democracy on the Wall: Street Art of the Post-Dictatorship Era in Chile*. The book examines the explosion of street art that emerged in Chile after the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet, providing the first broad analysis of the visual vocabulary of these murals and graffiti while addressing the historical, social and political context for this public art.



**Treva Lindsey** received the 2019 Diversity Enhancement Faculty Award from the College of Arts and Sciences. The award is given annually to recognize outstanding accomplishments of any faculty member or team of faculty members whose research, teaching and/or service and outreach activities promote diversity and support a culture that embraces and exhibits inclusive excellence and community.



**Linda Mizejewski** received the title of Distinguished College Professor. The title is awarded to full professors who have a record of excellence in teaching, research, scholarly or creative work and service to their department, college, university, profession and/or the community. Chosen nominees hold the title until leaving or retiring from the university, and no more than 10% of full professors in the college can hold the title at any given time.



**Juno Parreñas** recently received the 2019 Michelle Z. Rosaldo Book Prize for *Decolonizing Extinction: The Work of Care in Orangutan Rehabilitation*, awarded biannually by the Association of Feminist Anthropology. The award is given to authors whose first books are monographs that exemplify feminist anthropological theory and ethnographies that help move the field in new directions. She was also featured in an interview on the Black Agenda Report's Book Forum to speak about her book earlier this year.



**Mary Thomas** won a 2019 Ronald and Deborah Ratner Distinguished Teaching Award. The Ratner goes to up to five faculty members within the arts and humanities who have shown themselves to engage, motivate and inspire students. Recognized faculty members are especially noted for impacting and making a difference in their students' lives, educations and careers.

## WELCOME NEW FACULTY MEMBERS!

Joining WGSS this year are **Professor Jian Chen** and **Professor Jessica Delgado**!



While Professor Jian Chen is not new to the university, they have begun a new chapter and new appointment within the department starting this year. They teach in both WGSS and English, instructing the course WGSST/ENG 2282: Introduction to Queer Studies. In November 2019, they published their first book, *Trans Exploits: Trans of Color Cultures and Technologies in Movement*.

Professor Jessica Delgado came to the department from the Department of Religion at Princeton University. She specializes in topics such as colonial Latin American and Mexican history; religion in Latin America; and the intersection of race, religion and spiritual status. She is currently working on her second book, titled *The Beata of the Black Habit: Race, Sexuality, and Religious Authority in Late Colonial Mexico*.



# GRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2019 we celebrated our students who received their graduate degrees. **Juwon Lee**, **Lauren Schulman** and **Kate Swindler** earned their MA degrees, while **Jon Branfman** and **Lauren Strand** earned their PhDs.



**Marie Lerma**, PhD student, was awarded the Global Arts and Humanities Discovery Theme Fellowship. The Discovery Themes Initiative at Ohio State aims to connect diverse ideas and people across disciplines and communities. This particular theme focuses on the human dimensions of challenges society faces through engaging students, growing intellectual community collaboration, preparing upcoming humanities PhDs for careers beyond college and more.



**Kristen Kolenz**, PhD student, received the 2018-2019 Presidential Fellowship for her research exploring resistance strategies that confront disappearance and detention enacted by the state, with a focus on Guatemala. The fellowship is the most prestigious award given to students by The Ohio State University Graduate School and provides financial support for student research. It is awarded to up to 15 nominated doctoral candidates each year who show outstanding scholarship.



**Mahaliah Little**, PhD student, received the SSRC-Mellon Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant. Each year, the predoctoral grant is awarded to former Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellows who are pursuing their PhDs and furthering their research. In addition to her research and academics, during the academic year Little leads the Booked N' Busy Book Club, a group for undergraduate students that discusses books by black authors.

## National Women's Studies Conference (NWSA)

Each year, graduate students from WGSS attend the National Women's Studies Conference (NWSA) to speak on panels, lead discussions and present their research. Here is a list of panels they presented at this year's conference in San Francisco, CA:

- **Mary Byrne:** "Schooling Resistance: Race, Gender and Power in a K-12 Education" and "K-12 and University Connections: Combatting Neoliberal Pedagogies"
- **Peyton Del Toro:** "K-12 and University Connections: Combatting Neoliberal Pedagogies"
- **Joy Ellison:** "Alternate Archives: Racialized Embodiments and the Politics of Liberation"
- **Sai Isoke** and **Mahaliah Little:** "On Having a PhD in 'Grievance Studies' in the Era of Trump"
- **Lesia Pagulich:** "(Re)Thinking Postcolonialism Transnationally: Reflections on Queer Feminist Transnational Solidarities and Epistemic Travels"
- **Katherine Ritter:** "Toward a Just Anthropocene: Thinking Feminist Imaginaries Beyond the Human/Nonhuman Binary"
- **Tatsiana Shchurko:** "Traveling Theories: Rethinking Race Transnationally"
- **Anne Van:** "K-12 and University Connections: Combatting Neoliberal Pedagogies" and "Racialized Radical Bodies: Impacts of White Gaze and White Racial Fantasies"
- **Malia Womack:** "Recovery, Resilience and Resistance in Puerto Rico" and "Transnational Labor Organizing under Neoliberalism"



# UNDERGRADUATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## New Service-Learning Course in WGSS!

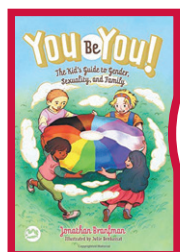
Last spring, WGSS held its first ever inside-out course, Feminist Perspectives of Incarceration in the U.S. Taught by Professor Mary Thomas, students in the service-learning course participate in an “inside-out” prison education program in which on-campus students and incarcerated students learn together inside the facility. The class focuses on historical and ongoing incarceration of people who are poor, of color or gender non-confirming. At the end of the semester, the class presented their final projects to faculty, college staff and facility staff. Presentations ranged from research on drug addiction treatment versus incarceration to language used in descriptions of incarcerated people to poetry and storytelling about life experiences leading up to incarceration.

## Animus: Triota Journal

This year, Triota, the WGSS honor society, debuted its new academic journal, *Animus*. The journal consists of research from the members of Triota on topics such as women’s involvement in the Cuban Revolution, public health and addiction, sex education, the power of propaganda and more.



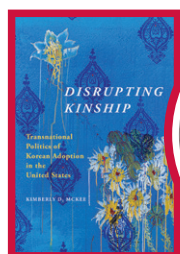
# ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**Jonathan Branfman**, PhD '19, is now a visiting assistant professor in film and media studies and gender, sexuality and women's studies at the College of William and Mary. He has also released the new edition of his LGBTQ children's book, *You Be You!: The Kid's Guide to Gender, Sexuality, and Family*, and has drafted a second children's book about anti-racism.



**Katie Clonan-Roy**, BA '09, is now an assistant professor in the College of Education and Human Services at Cleveland State University. Her current research explores intersectional and critical perspectives in examining the development of critical literacy in after school spaces for girls, the inclusion and responsivity of sex education curricula of and to sexual and gender minority youth and the preparation and education of equity-focused teachers.



**Kimberly McKee**, PhD '13, published her first book this year, titled *Disrupting Kinship: Transnational Politics of Korean Adoption in the United States*.



**Sabrina Hersi Issa**, BA '06, was awarded the 2019 Young Alumni Achievement Award by the College of Arts and Sciences. The award is given to one alum who is 35 years old or younger and has demonstrated achievement in a career, civic involvement or both.



**Barbara Mennel**, MA '92, is currently the Rothman Chair and Director of the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere at the University of Florida, where she works as a professor of film and German studies. She is author of *Women at Work in Twenty-First Century European Cinema*, and she has recently published the second edition of her book *Cities and Cinema with Routledge*.



# 2019 HIGHLIGHTS



**Sara Koopman**, professor in the School of Peace and Conflict at Kent State University, came to Ohio State for her lecture, “What Does a Feminist Peace Look Like?: Colombia’s Struggles Over the World’s Most Inclusive Peace Accord.” She touched on the accords’ recognition of issues and violence that marginalized people in Colombia faced through a differential approach, the negotiation amidst recent backlash against LGBT civil rights wins and the struggle to maintain support for the accord due to “gender ideology” scare tactics.



**Riley Snorton**, professor of English language and literature and professor of gender and sexuality studies at the University of Chicago, visited campus in February for his lecture, “Fleshy Encounters: Black Feminisms and the Mutability of Gender.” He also led a graduate seminar to discuss publishing, interdisciplinary legibility and the job market.



## DREAMING OF A DIFFERENT LIFE?

We love it when our alums come back to visit! **Amanda Rossie Barroso** and **Haley Swenson** came in the spring to host a graduate workshop, “Dreaming of a Different Life?: The Case for Alt-Academic Careers,” focusing on applying degrees in the humanities to careers outside of academia. They spoke with graduate students in disciplines across the humanities about the benefits of alternative careers, obstacles students face, applying their skills as job experience and searching for jobs that align with their fields.

## 2019 HIGHLIGHTS *continued...*



**Franke Wilmer**, professor of political science at Montana State University, joined us for a talk with WGSS Professor Cynthia Burack to discuss her book *Because We Are Human: Contesting U.S. Support for Gender and Sexuality Human Rights Abroad*. Professor Wilmer also led a seminar, titled “Conflict Transformation and Peace Processes: South Africa, Israel and Palestine, Bosnia and Northern Ireland 20 Years Later,” to talk about her research on transitions toward peace, conflict and violence and differences between government and civilian-led efforts to work toward resolutions.



**Joy James**, Ebenezer Fitch Professor of Humanities at Williams College, visited campus for her talk, “‘We Welcome Their Hatred:’ Rejecting Racist Violence and Femicide While Surviving in the Afterlife or Terror.” James talked about condemning capitalism and monopolies, using the criticism to discuss social justice and rebellions against police violence led by those who are most vulnerable to violence (such as Erica Garner). During her visit, she also led a graduate seminar and visited the Marion Correctional Facility to discuss her field and her work with black feminism and incarceration.



### THE FEMINIST SCOOP

For the end of the 2018-2019 academic year, WGSS decided to chill out for our annual spring celebration by hosting an ice cream social. Fondly called “The Feminist Scoop,” the department celebrated its graduating students, honored members receiving awards and encouraged everyone to enjoy a small break with friends and some Jeni’s Ice Cream before final exams.



# 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 and every gift makes a significant difference in the lives of our students and faculty and in the future of feminist studies.

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



### Cunningham Appalachian Student Scholarship Fund #315824

In memory of WGSS alumna Patricia Cunningham II, this scholarship is funded to provide opportunities to undergraduate students from Appalachian counties. Cunningham focused on outreach, education, leadership, and serving underrepresented students on and off-campus. She founded the Appalachian Project, Ohio, which focused on pathways of education for Ohio State's Appalachian students.

Thanks to our wonderful donors, WGSS and the Community of Appalachian Student Leaders (CASL) were able to award the first ever Cunningham scholarship to Luke Slavik! Luke is a junior in the pre-dental program and is pursuing a BS in health and rehabilitation services. He serves as the assistant director of volunteering for the Buckeye Food Alliance, and he volunteers with students at The Graham Elementary and Middle School. He's from Belmont County and works at Wheeling Hospital during his breaks as he pursues his career in dental school.

### Graduate Student Development Fund #627690

Donations toward this fund contribute to the professional development opportunities, research support and dissertation support for graduate students in the Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Through this fund, we are able to offer enrichment grants to incoming students, send students to national conferences and support them in finishing and presenting their research.

### Program Support Fund #306738

This department fund is used to support a variety of department initiatives. Through donations, we are able to invite guest speakers, receive technical support, provide service learning, expand outreach efforts, assist students studying abroad and more.

These are just some of the funds that support the department. For more information, please visit [wgss.osu.edu/give](http://wgss.osu.edu/give), or contact the Office of Advancement at [ascadvancement@osu.edu](mailto:ascadvancement@osu.edu) or **614-292-9200**.







**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](http://wgss.osu.edu)

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