

School of Interdisciplinary Studies
College of Liberal Arts
6180 Beering Hall
100 N. University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098

Phone: 765-496-6929
Email: sisadmin@purdue.edu

Department Head
Venetria K. Patton
Email: vpatton@purdue.edu

Administrative Assistant
Elsa Schirmer
Email: eschirme@purdue.edu
Office BRNG 6180

Website
<https://www.cla.purdue.edu/sis/>

School of Interdisciplinary Studies
College of Liberal Arts
6180 Beering Hall
100 N. University
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098

Please Support SIS

☐

I/We would like to make a gift today

☐

\$500

☐

\$300

☐

\$150

☐

Other

\$

☐

Check enclosed (payable to Purdue Foundation)

☐

Credit Card Payment—I authorize the above payment to my:

☐

Visa

☐

MasterCard

☐

Discover

Credit Card # Exp. Date:

Name on Card:

Signature:

Please contact me, I have other thoughts to share with SIS.

Name: Phone:

Mail to:

School of Interdisciplinary Studies
College of Liberal Arts
Purdue University
100 N. University Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2098

or visit the Purdue E—gift website and designate SIS for your gift.
<http://Giving.purdue.edu/sis>

Spring 2017

School of

Interdisciplinary Studies

PURDUE
UNIVERSITY

THINK BROADLY.
LEAD BOLDLY.

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

A Word from Dr. Venetria K. Patton

Inside this issue:

A Word from the Head of SIS	1
Faculty	2-4
Staff	5
Graduate Students	6
Publications	7-8
Events	9-11
Make a Donation	12



I can't believe it's been a year since I assumed the headship of SIS! As you know, the school was officially approved in February 2014 by the Board of Trustees and Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary Studies and Engagement, JoAnn Miller assumed the role of head. After JoAnn's untimely death in December of that year, we came under the steady leadership of Susan Curtis, a long time American Studies faculty member and former Associate Dean for Interdisciplinary Studies and Engagement. I assumed my position in January 2016.

During this past year, I have focused on infrastructure for our new school, which has two new programs—Native

American and Indigenous Studies and Critical Disability Studies. We also added a major to our Global Studies Program. The school is seeking to increase its undergraduate majors. We have done this through new programs such as the Global Studies major, which is already attracting the interest of potential Purdue students. We are also working to promote our existing majors by creating new publicity brochures to use during the recruitment process. We have also been working on some digital humanities initiatives with the aim of developing a new digital scholarship certificate. SIS is the ideal home for Digital Scholarship in the college.

I have worked with the dean to enhance the budget of our school by providing funds for our new programs and increasing the budgets of some of our growing programs. One of the most significant increases was in the Film & Video Studies Program for which we were

able to establish a recurring fund to address equipment issues. We are also in the process of hiring a Visiting Assistant Professor to offer additional courses.

This is an exciting time of growth and development for the school, and we hope our alumni will support our efforts by remaining engaged. We would like to hear about your successes and to connect you with our current students. While we realize that your allegiance may be to your particular program, we hope that you will recognize the benefits that we gain by uniting under the school umbrella. As a school, we are positioned to chart our destiny in a way we never could before. Please join us on this journey. I invite you to visit our revamped webpages to see what our faculty, students, and programs are doing. If you like what you see, we encourage you to donate to the school or a particular program to support our initiatives.

PURDUE
LIBERAL ARTS

12

Faculty

AASRC

Ronald J. Stephens, Director and Professor of African American Studies was named a fellow in the Big Ten Academic Alliance Leadership Program. The Big Ten is a consortium of the Big Ten member universities and the program is designed to develop the leadership and managerial skills of faculty who have demonstrated exceptional ability and administrative promise.

Ronald Stephens and Elena Benedicto were awarded the Enhancing Research in the Humanities and the Arts Grant for their project, "Mapping Afro-Columbian Musical Traditions and Linguistic Systems!"



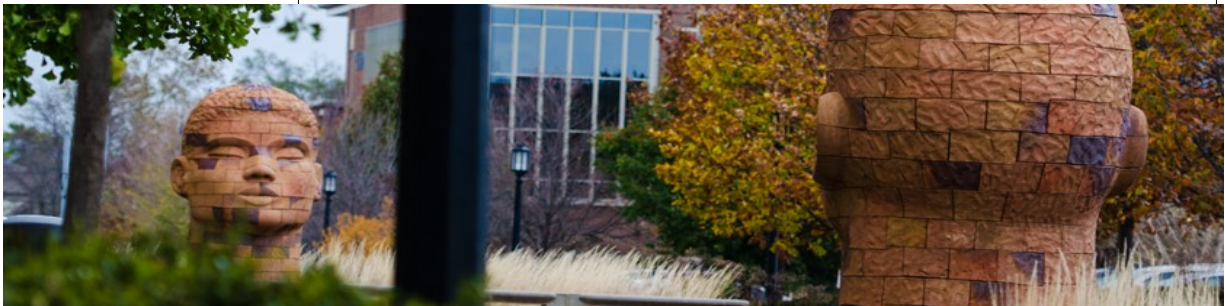
American Studies



Shannon McMullen traveled to Dublin, Ireland this summer to participate in the art + science exhibition SEEING at the Science Gallery: <https://dublin.sciencegallery.com/seeing/exhibits.html>. More information is available at: <http://www.gardensandmachines.com/20X/index.html>.

Dr. Cheryl Cooky, Associate Professor of WGSS, had numerous appearances on both television: *PBS Newshour* and radio: *Counter-spin* and *Air Talk*, and had featured articles in *The New York Times* and *Huffington Post*.

Ray Fouche was awarded the Arthur Mollela Distinguished Fellowship from the Smithsonian Institution's Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation.



2017 Cummings-Perrucci Lecture Presents Anita Hill

On September 25, 2017, WGSS and the 2017 Cummings-Lectures Series will bring Ms. Anita Hill to the Loeb Playhouse. Anita Hill (B.S. Oklahoma State; J.D. Yale University) is University Professor of Social Policy, Law and Women's and Gender Studies at Brandeis University with a joint appointment in the Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, the African and Afro-American Studies Program, Legal Studies, and the Heller School for Social Policy Management.

Professor Hill has published widely on a variety of social inequality topics. Her book, *Re-imagining Equality: Stories of Gender, Race, and Finding Home*, (2011) offers an intersectional study of commercial and anti-discrimination law related to the 2008-09 foreclosure crisis and the uneven effects of poverty in American life.

Jewish Studies

Evening Events Spring 2017

Klatch Jewish Arts Series Presentation
Monday, April 3 ~ Lecture location TBA ~ 8:00 p.m.
Ranen Omer-Sherman, JHFE Endowed Chair in Judaic Studies, University of Louisville, Lecture title TBA

Special Events Spring 2017

[IU/Purdue Jewish Studies Graduate Student Workshop](#)
Purdue University's West Lafayette campus
Sunday, February 26, 2017, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Noon Series Spring 2017

Wednesday, February 15 ~ Stewart Center, Room 313 ~ 12:30
Olga Lyanda-Geller, Continuing Lecturer, Russian, School of Languages and Cultures, Purdue University, Lecture title TBA

Wednesday, March 22 ~ Stewart Center, Room 313 ~ 12:30
Stuart Robertson, Continuing Lecturer, Biblical Hebrew, School of Languages and Cultures, Purdue University, "Did the Exodus Really Happen?"

Wednesday, April 19 ~ Stewart Center, Room 313 ~ 12:30
Susan Wegener, Graduate Student, Department of English, Purdue University, Lecture title TBA

Events

African American Research Center

February
Black History Month
Dr. Von H. Washington

A one man storytelling presentation: Unraveling the Confusion “While Treading the Boards”
Thursday, February 2, 2017
6:00 PM Fowler Hall

Talkin’ and Testifyin’ Works in Progress Series
Ms. Gretha Huffington May
Afro-Columbians: The People of San Andres, Providence and St. Kathleen Raizal
Tuesday, February 7, 2017
3:30 pm STEW 278

March
Talkin’ and Testifyin’ Works in Progress Series
Mr. Alberto Urquidez
Race, Rationality, and Relativism
Monday, March 20, 2017
3:30 pm BRNG 1284

Harriet Jacobs Lecture Series
Dr. Brittany Cooper
Thursday, March 23, 2017
7:00 pm STEW 218 C & D

April
Talkin’ and Testifyin’ Works in Progress Series
Dr. Mindy Tan
(Re)Visioning “Black is Beautiful”
Tuesday, April 4, 2017
3:30 pm BRNG 1284

Talkin’ and Testifyin’ Works in Progress Series
Ms. Megan Williams
“(Un)Leavened: The Social Life of Pound Cake”
Friday, April 14, 2017
3:30 pm BRNG 1284

Faculty

WGSS



TJ Boisseau, associate professor and director of Women’s Gender and Sexual Studies (WGSS) has been awarded a Fulbright to coordinate a transnational feminist theory module for the United Nations University (UNU) M.A. trainees program in Iceland. TJ will fulfill this appointment at the request of the UNU Gender Equality Studies and Training Programme, the EDDA Center of Excellence in Critical Contemporary Research, and the Faculty of History and Philosophy at the University of Iceland. Additionally, TJ will develop ties between the Gender Studies Program at the University of Iceland and Purdue University to produce a gender studies study abroad program to Iceland for WGSS majors and minors.

Marlo David was promoted to Associate Professor of WGSS and English. She is an affiliated faculty member in African American Studies and American Studies. Professor David has been with Purdue as an Assistant Professor since 2009. Her field of expertise is 20th –and 21st–Century African-American Literature and Culture, black gender and sexuality studies, Afrofuturism, black women novelists and performers, motherhood studies, reproductive justice activism, African-American satire, and black feminist thought, ecofeminism.

Jennifer Freeman-Marshall, Assistant Professor of WGSS and English, won the 2015 WGSS Excellence in Teaching Award. She is also the English Department’s nominee for the 2016-2017 Exceptional Early Career Teaching Award. Her teaching motto is “This classroom is a living, breathing thing,” which is a reminder to place students at the center of their learning.



Faculty

Critical Disability Studies

Maren Linett, Associate Professor of English, has been named the Director of one of the School of Interdisciplinary Studies newest programs, Critical Disability Studies. Maren Linett’s second book, *Bodies of Modernism: Physical Disability in Transatlantic Modernist Literature* was published by the University of Michigan Press. The Press’s Corporealities series is the oldest and most distinguished series in disability studies.

The Critical Disability Studies Program in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies offered a new course, Introduction to Disability Studies. Students will now be able to declare a minor in Critical Disability Studies. With this minor CDS students will join Health and Human Sciences students to study how bodies and their attributes are socially constructed and politically motivated.



Native American & Indigenous Studies



Dawn Marsh, Associate Professor, is the Director of Native American and Indigenous Studies. The program focuses on the history, cultures, religions, languages, arts, and literatures of American Indians of the Americas. Participating departments include History, Anthropology, English and Linguistics.

The Native American and Indigenous Studies Program exposes students to arts, cultures, histories and literatures beyond the dominant narratives of western European culture and its legacy. A minor in NAIS can open doors to new and different ways of viewing the world, new approaches to the environment and science, new concepts in history, politics, and religion, new ways of telling stories, of maintaining families and cultures, and even perceptions of time and space.

Events

Critical Disability Studies



In the Fall 2016, SIS’s new Critical Disability Studies Program hosted Rabia Belt, J.D., PH.D. of Stanford University Law School, who lectured on voting rights with an intersectional focus on race, gender and disability. Her lecture, “Outcasts from the Vote: Women’s Suffrage and Disability over the Long 19th Century,” was co-sponsored by the Department of History, the Department of Political Science, the African American Studies and Research Center, the American Studies Program, the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program and the Purdue Policy Research Institute.

American Studies

Spring 2017

Springfest 2017
Saturday, April 8, 2017
10am-4pm
Memorial Mall/CLA Tent
AMST will be hosting a table—come out to see them!

AMST Annual Graduate Symposium
Tentative
Saturday, April 29th & Sunday, April 30th
Saturday 9am-5pm
Sunday 9am-12 noon
STEW 214A

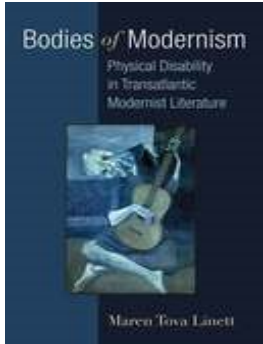
AMST Annual Awards Banquet
Tentative
Saturday, April 29th 5-8PM
PMU—West Faculty Lounge
RSVP to [Ray Fouché](#)

School of Interdisciplinary Studies

School of Interdisciplinary Studies

Publications

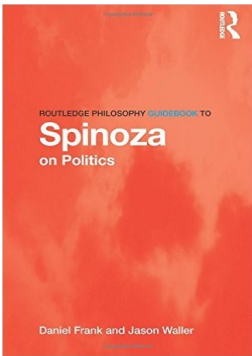
Critical Disability Studies



Maren Linett's second book, *Bodies of Modernism: Physical Disability in Transatlantic Modernist Literature* was published by the University of Michigan Press. The Press's Corporealities series is the oldest and most distinguished series in disability studies.

Jewish Studies

Daniel Frank, Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Jewish Studies Program, published *Spinoza on Politics*, with Jason Waller. London and New York: Routledge, 2016.



WGSS

Marlo David, Associate Professor of English and WGSS published *Mama's Gun: Black Maternal Figures and the Politics of Transgression*. Columbus, OH: Ohio State University Press, 2016.

School of Interdisciplinary Studies

Staff



This year Kim Vestal joined WGSS as their new Program Coordinator. Kim, a Boilermaker to the core, has been an employee of Purdue for 16 years. As Program coordinator, Kim will assist in the management and supervision of all aspects of the program administration including the faculty and teaching assistant recruitment process. During Kim's first year with WGSS she coordinated WGSS's budget and organized several celebrations and events throughout the year.

With Delayne Graham's departure from SIS, Elsa Schirmer joined our school as the Administrative Assistant for Dr. Patton and the Graduate Secretary for the School of Interdisciplinary Studies' four Graduate Programs (American Studies, Comparative Literature, Linguistics and Phil Lit). Elsa has been with Purdue since 2013. Her last position was in the Business Office for CLA Administration and the School of Interdisciplinary Studies. She looks forward to having the opportunity to contribute to the School of Interdisciplinary Studies as it grows and becomes an integral part of the College of Liberal Arts.

SIS is particularly sad to say goodbye to Brandi Plantenga. Brandi had been the Secretary in American Studies since 2014. She started her new position in the College of Pharmacy in December.

Bravo Award

Congratulations to Kim Vestal, Brandi Plantenga, Alice Wenger, Elsa Schirmer and Matilda Stokes for receiving the Bravo Award! The Bravo Award seeks to highlight the excellence found across all areas and job functions at Purdue University. Bravo was designed to provide recognition and rewards for substantial accomplishments that extend well beyond regular work responsibilities.



School of Interdisciplinary Studies

GRAD STUDENTS

Keturah Nix, AMST PhD Student and AASRC TA, recently received a scholarship sponsored by the College of Liberal Arts and the Graduate School.

Jennifer Sdunzik and **Annagul Yaryyeva** received the Purdue Service Learning Grant for their Community Service/Service Learning Project. This is the second year in a row that Jennifer and Annagul have received this award.

Jonathan Freeman has a blog so that SIS can follow him during his Fulbright Grant in South Africa: <https://jfreeblog.wordpress.com/>. Jonathan is a Ph.D. candidate in American Studies at Purdue University. He earned his B.A. in History from Lane College and his M.A. in Afro-American Studies from UCLA. His research interests include Black popular culture, U.S. foreign relations, Black global freedom struggles, and the Anti-apartheid movement. As a Fulbright grantee, he will be affiliated with the South African Research Chair in Local Histories, Present Realities at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg for the duration of his research.



Arthur Banton, **Lisa Beringer**, **Lilly Marsh** and **Aubrey Thamann** all graduated last year with their PhD in American Studies.

Aria Halliday has accepted a tenure track position in Africana Feminisms in the Women’s Studies Program at the University of New Hampshire.

Publications

AASRC

Su’ad Abdul Khabeer, Assistant Professor of Anthropology and African American Studies published *Muslim Cool: Race, Religion, and Hip Hop in the United States*. New York: New York University Press, 2016.

Nadia Brown, Associate Professor of Political Science published *Distinct Identities: Minority Women in U.S. Politics*. New York: Routledge, 2016.



American Studies

Bill Mullen (AMST) published a new book—*W.E.B. Du Bois: Revolutionary Across the Color Line*. London: Pluto Press, 2016.

Lee Bebout, an American Studies Alum has a new book— *Whiteness on the Border: Mapping the U.S. Racial Imagination in Brown and White*. New York: New York University Press, 2016. Congratulations Lee!

