

WGSS

Purdue Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Newsletter

Undercurrent

Fall 2016

"You are not a 'Real' Feminist" Feminism in/and Popular Culture



Wednesday, March 23 | 12:00 - 1:30 pm | BRNG B212

A Panel Presented by WGSS

From Beyoncé to Nicki Minaj to Sheryl Sandberg, panelists will discuss contemporary depictions of feminism in popular culture and engage with the meanings and consequences of celebrity feminism. Panelists consider whether celebrity feminism can be "feminism without risk" and what is at stake for feminist academic inquiry as well as feminist advocacy and activism. Dr. Cheryl Cooky, associate professor of American Studies, will moderate the panel. Coffee and light refreshments will be served.

Graduate student panelists:

- Paula Ashe (American Studies)
- Blanca Batti (English)
- Juanita Crider (American Studies)
- Aria Halliday (American Studies)
- Jasmine Linabary (Communication)

For more information, visit <https://www.cla.purdue.edu/WGSS> or call 765-494-6295.

Celebrate International Women's Day!
Sponsored by the African American Studies Program, the Center for Research on Diversity and Inclusion, and the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program

**MARY CHURCH TERRELL,
BLACK WOMEN, AND THE RISE OF
THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY**

MARCH 10, 2016 | 3-4:30 PM | BLACK CULTURAL CENTER

LECTURE BY DR. ALISON PARKER
PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, SUNY

Please join Dr. Parker as she talks about Mary Church Terrell: suffragist, founding member of the NAACP, and the first president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. Alison M. Parker is a professor of history at the College at Brooklyn, City University of New York (CUNY). She inspired in art history and history at the University of California, Berkeley and earned a Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University. Parker teaches about the intersections of gender, race, disability, citizenship and the law in U.S. history. In her career, she has been helping to build a coalition of students, faculty, and staff who are promoting a non-binary, intersectional approach.

Photo: Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., img. no. LC-USZ62-13282

For more info visit our website at: <https://www.cla.purdue.edu/WGSS>
Or call 765-494-6295

International Women's Week
WGSS Presents
**Feminist and Global
Perspectives on Genital Cutting**
A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE WORK

Ellen Gruenbaum

Biographic research I have done on FGM/C in Sudan and elsewhere has contributed to a better understanding of the process of change for this important women's and girls' rights issue. This lecture reviews the international experiences of change as well as the detailed experiences of mothers, activists, and mothers in Sudan. In particular, I highlight the approach of the Sudanese initiative in Sudan, challenges to African immigrant women's health in Italy, and the controversies surrounding cosmetic labiaplasty, race, and reconstructive surgery.

March 9th
FRNY G24
3:00-4:15pm

OIGP Social Justice Seminar Series
**State Violence in Black Communities:
A Gender and Sexuality Studies Perspective**

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 11:30 AM
Young Hall, Room B-64

Dr. Marlo David, Purdue University
Associate Professor of English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

PURDUE Office of Interdisciplinary Graduate Programs
Web: www.purdue.edu/oigp
Email: OIGP@purdue.edu

International Women's Week
**WOMEN, HISTORY & THE COMPUTER
REVOLUTION LECTURE
PANEL**
MARCH 1, 2016
12:00 - 1:30
DLR, 143A/B

**WEAVING THE
STORIES OF
WOMEN'S
LIVES**
MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Feminism & Critical Data Studies
Speaker: Kendall Roark

Feminist Computing
Speaker: Fatma Mili

Sponsored by:
WGSS
Women's Center and Gender Studies

CONTACT FATMA MILI AND KENDALL ROARK
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
765-494-6295
fatma.mili@purdue.edu
kendall.roark@purdue.edu

**"Feminist, Gay, Lesbian...Gypsy?": Fighting for LGBT
and Women's Rights in Romani Communities"**

WGSS PRESENTS

March 8th
BRWN 1154
3:00 - 4:15pm

Speaker: Jud Nirenberg

Roma, commonly called Gypsies, are Europe's largest and arguably most excluded and estranged ethnic minority. They are plagued, even criminalized, by a set of linked sexual stereotypes: at once framed by exotic hyper-eroticism and presumptions of sexual perversity they are also often charged with enforcing anachronistic patriarchal gender norms and suppressing women's rights. Jud Nirenberg, a Romani American community leader and writer, will present his insights into the particular challenges faced by Romani women and LGBT members of Romani communities engaged in the Romani rights movement.

For more info visit our website at: <https://www.cla.purdue.edu/WGSS>
Or call 765-494-6295

WGSS PRESENTS... Speaker: Colin Johnson
**"Creature Comforts: Gender,
Sexuality and Interspecies Solidarity"**

January 28th
BRNG 1245
4:00 - 5:30 pm

Professor Johnson will consider the history of compassionate interspecies bonding as a queer form of solidarity forged between non-human and human "others," particularly those whose pronounced aversion to casual sociality marks them as dangerous, unmanageable or simply strange, and therefore verges to their respective species populations. Part of larger project dealing with the history of anti-sociality in the United States and its relation to sexual normativity, the talk ultimately considers what interspecies intimacies reveal about the normativities that govern intraspecies relations as well.

For more info visit our website at: <https://www.cla.purdue.edu/WGSS> or call 765-494-6295

The Year In Review



2016 Lavender Graduation Celebration.

All graduates, award winners, LGBTQ Center staff, and our new President and CEO of the Purdue Alumni Association take a moment to pose for a photo at the Dauch Alumni Center.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR



As you can see from this newsletter, 2015-16 was another exciting year for the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program at Purdue. We graduated more WGSS majors and WGSS & LGBT Studies minors than ever before, and our graduate certificates and concentrations have taken on new life with an infusion of graduate interest in the brown bags and special speaker events led by our new WGSS-Graduate Organization inaugurated in Fall 2015.

Purdue is fortunate to have so many feminist faculty and the WGSS program benefits from a large family of faculty affiliates and staff associates as well as impressive activist-oriented feminist students, both graduate and undergraduate. In the following pages of this newsletter you will find special stories about some of our undergraduates and their projects (pages 8, 10 & 19) and a focus on undergraduate student organizations mentored by the WGSS program (page 11). We also provide faculty and staff profiles (pages 12-13) and a bit about our current graduate teaching assistant cohort (page 14-15) as well as the TAs who contributed last year to our teaching mission (page 16). Also note the special thanks we extend to WGSS affiliates and associates (pages 20-21) with a spotlight on Anthropology Professor and Head Ellen Gruenbaum's recent research on women in the Sudan (page 21).

I want to give a special shout out to WGSS/English Professor Marlo David for the publication of her new book, Mama's Gun: Black Maternal Figures and the Politics of Transgression (Ohio State University Press, 2016). Check out the cover art on page 13. This book makes an important contribution to our understanding and appreciation of the discourse surrounding and informing race, gender, sexuality and reproduction that have put African American women in the crosshairs of American political and popular culture. Everyone should read it!

I am writing this while on research leave this year that I will spend partially in my beloved coastal Maine and partially in the fascinating nation of Iceland where I will be contributing as a Fulbright Scholar to a unique United Nations University program hosted by EDDA, the Gender Equality Institute, and the Department of History and Philosophy at the University of Iceland in Reykjavik. There I will be leading the feminist theory module of an intensive M.A. program training feminist political leaders and activists from around the world in transnational feminist theory and praxis. I expect I will be learning more than teaching this coming year, and I look forward to sharing not only my new research but also new insights and ideas gleaned from teaching and living in Iceland with you all when I return to Purdue next year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bissau".

WGSS STUDY ABROAD IN INDIA

This is a Once in a Lifetime Opportunity

We anticipate our next WGSS in India Study Abroad Program to be offered in 2018, so please keep your eye out for announcements and sign-up opportunities in Fall of 2017.



WGSS in India is a unique study abroad opportunity hosted by our partner institution in India, Sophia College in Mumbai whose campus is a historic former Maharajah's palace. This SA is open to any Purdue student with at least 30 earned credit hours and 3 WGSS (or WGSS related) course credits behind them. The program earns students 12-15 credits and thus qualifies them for a minor in WGSS as well as a \$3000 scholarship which can be applied directly to the

\$3000 fee. This fee covers a full semester of credit at Purdue as well as accommodation and three meals per day, seven days a week, for five months. Thus the only costs to the student for this program are: a \$931 placeholder fee, roundtrip transportation to India, international travel insurance (\$32/month), and pocket money for incidentals making this the most affordable—as well as one of the most intensive and exciting—study abroad programs currently available to students at Purdue.



WGSS Undergrad major/minor requirements!

Major is 24 credit hours and the Minor is 12 credit hours

To get you started these are the required Courses in WGSS (9 credits)

WGSS 28000 Introduction to Women's Studies

WGSS 38000 Gender and Multiculturalism

WGSS 48000 Feminist Theory

After that and for more information go to this website:

<https://www.cla.purdue.edu/students/academics/majors/wgss.html>

The WGSS Graduate Certificate

MA 9 cr. hrs.

PhD 12 cr. hrs.

The interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is designed to enhance graduate studies in any major field or discipline and offers students work experience in their prospective fields. The certificate provides students with grounding in the knowledge, theories, and methods of a variety of approaches in feminist scholarship. The program seeks to transcend traditional boundaries among disciplines and to offer students opportunities for systematic study of gender and women's experience in all fields of knowledge.

Requirements for an interdisciplinary graduate certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies:

WOST 68000 Feminist Theory

WOST 68100 Contemporary Issues in Feminist Scholarship

WOST 68200 Issues in Feminist Research and Methodology

Beyond the core courses, students may choose electives from courses listed by the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program, according to their research interests.

To register for a graduate certificate, send a letter of intent and a copy of your plan of study to:

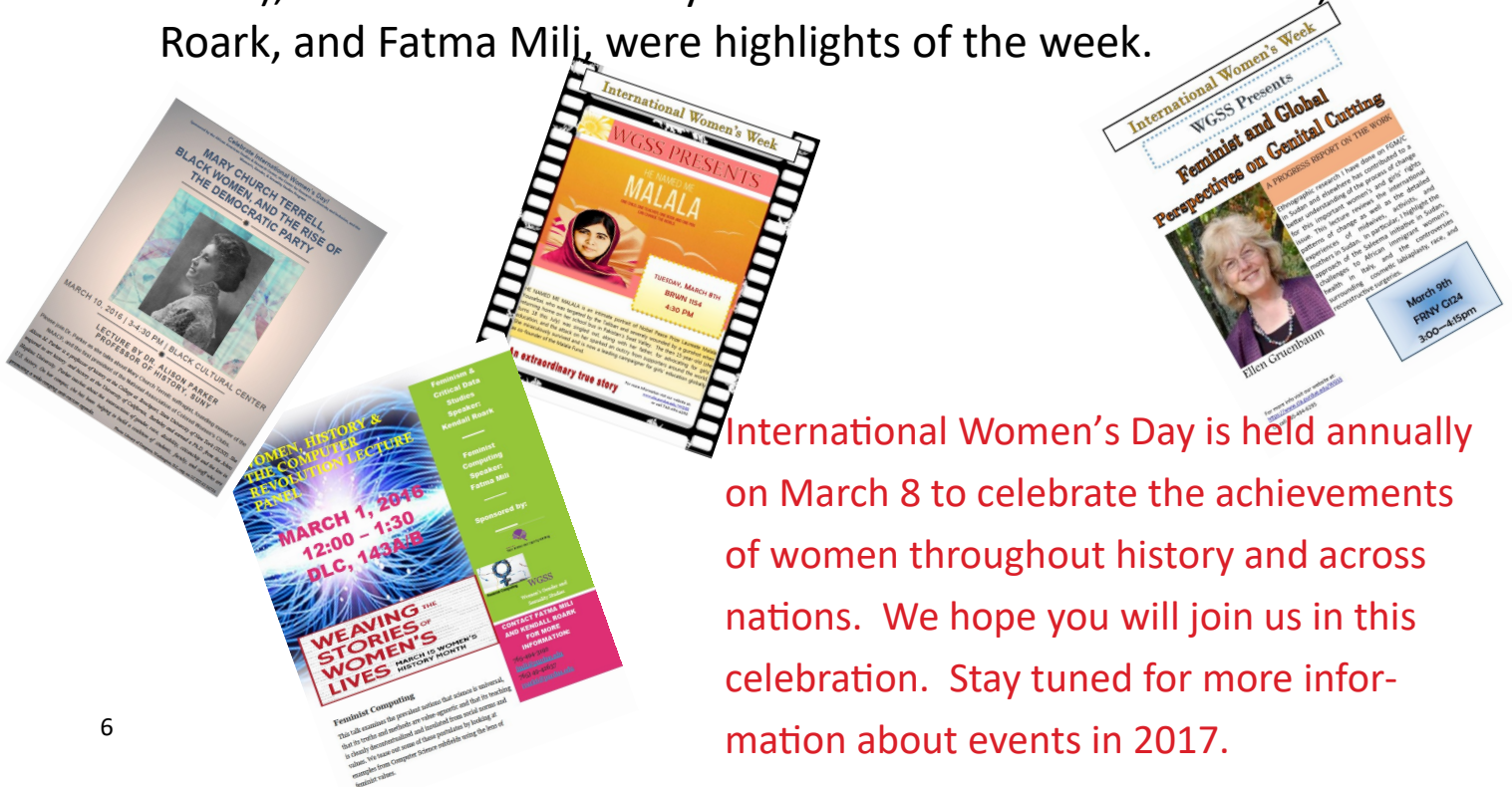
Kim Vestal, Program Coordinator
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program
6164 BRNG

Once you've completed the requirements, submit a transcript to the same address as above. Your file will be evaluated; if all courses are in order, the graduate certificate will then be awarded.

International Women's Month



A film series and guest presentations made March 2016 a powerful month to educate and inform the Purdue community on the history of women's rights. Those film screenings included: *Suffragette*, *Girl Rising*, *He Named Me Malala* and the *PBS Presentation Makers: Once and for all: Beijing, 1995*. Guest lectures by Jud Nirenberg (author of *Gypsy Sexuality*) and Dr. Allison Parker (author of *Articulating Rights: Nineteenth-century Women on Race, Reform, and the State*), as well as lectures by Purdue Profs. Ellen Gruenbaum, Kendall Roark, and Fatma Mili, were highlights of the week.



International Women's Day is held annually on March 8 to celebrate the achievements of women throughout history and across nations. We hope you will join us in this celebration. Stay tuned for more information about events in 2017.

Exciting News: Mark Your Calendars

**2017 Cummings-Perrucci Lecture
Presents**



Anita Hill

September 25, 2017

Loeb Playhouse

Anita Hill (B.S. Oklahoma State University; 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 and Management.

Professor Hill became a national figure as a result of testifying at the 1991 confirmation hearings of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. A recent HBO film detailing those hearings and highlighting Professor Hill's decision to participate in them was aired this past spring. In the 25 years since those hearings, 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. For more on her scholarship and teaching, please visit: <http://www.brandeis.edu/facultyguide/person.html?>

Taking action: WGSS students tackle local concerns

Note: In Spring 2016, students in instructor Jasmine Linabary's WGSS 280 Introduction to Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies classes completed group action projects that required them to take direct action on an issue of social concern for the Purdue campus or Greater Lafayette community. The following are descriptions of two groups' efforts written by the students.

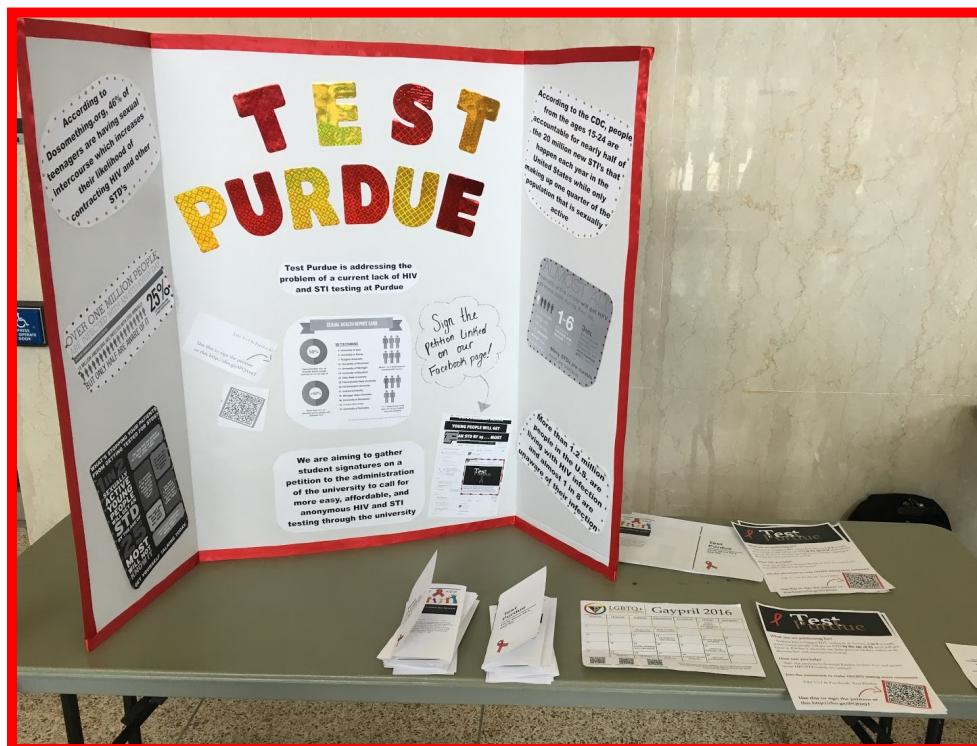
Test Purdue

Through the Test Purdue project for WGSS 280, myself, Jessica Bohlin, along with Rylee Barr, Jessica Barker, and Brittney Wagner petitioned Purdue University to provide free anonymous HIV and subsidized STI testing for students. In 2015, Purdue ranked the lowest for Big 10 Colleges (120 out of 140 United States universities) for sexual health according to the Sexual Health Report Card released annually by Trojan. One of the largest resources that Purdue lacks in is testing for HIV and STIs. We actively campaigned across campus using posters, tabling with brochures, and creating a Facebook page under the name "Test Purdue" in order to inform the student body and other concerned parties about the lack of affordable and easily-accessible testing at Purdue. To date, our petition on Change.org has 115 signatures from undergraduate and graduate students, parents, faculty, and community members.

What we did not expect to come from this petition was the overwhelming support and rise to action by various other entities within the community. One such organization was the Purdue Student Government. PSG unanimously passed a bill calling Purdue to provide the very services that our petition was calling for. Before writing the bill, president-elect for the 2016-2017 session, Geri Denger, was informed of this lack of services through students we had spoken to about the current testing deficit that exists at Purdue and decided to author a piece of legislation calling PSG to demand these services from the university as well. Though university administration has yet to respond to the call from the petition and PSG for increased sexual health resources such as testing, we are encouraged by the dialogue that is being generated and the catalyst that our petition has provided and continues to provide for future change.

Join this effort by signing our petition to demand Purdue offer free and anonymous HIV/STI testing on campus at <http://chn.ge/1PQN19T>. Like our Facebook page, Test Purdue, at <https://www.facebook.com/help Purdue change/?fref=ts>

– Jessica Bohlin



Collecting Consciousness

Our Group Action Project, which we called “Collecting Consciousness,” was a donation drive for local homeless women in Lafayette. We got the idea of putting on a drive after thinking about the prevalence of homeless women in our community, and wondering what homeless women do when they get their periods if they do not have the funds to purchase menstruation management products, nor do they have easy

access to clean bathrooms. After doing a lot of research about the topic, we found some very sad and disturbing information. It was difficult to imagine how horrible it would be to have to use dirty rags or paper towels from fast food restaurants to protect ourselves from bleeding (according to a 2015 Cosmopolitan article by Lane Moore, these are actual things that homeless women do during their periods). So, the goal of our drive was to collect personal items for local homeless women, such as pads and tampons, body wash, shampoo, deodorant, etc., and donate them to a local shelter in order to make their lives a little easier.



On average, a woman needs 20 pads or tampons per period (about 4 tampons/pads per day for a 5-day period). However, for homeless women, getting these products can be difficult since they are expensive, and since they are not often donated to homeless shelters. People do not realize that menstruation management products are needed items at shelters, and so we wanted to make sure that we raised awareness about the issue, while encouraging Purdue students and staff to donate to their local shelters on a regular basis even after our drive was complete. We were limited in time and resources, so we were only able to advertise our drive for one week, and the drive itself only lasted for two weeks. Still, we collected about 10 bags full of items, and we were pleased with the results. The directors of the shelter that we donated the items to, The Lafayette Transitional Housing Center, was extremely appreciative of our donations and said that they are always in need of personal hygiene products.

This project was humbling for us. As women ourselves, we have all experienced the burden of a period first hand. Even though we hate having periods, we take for granted our ability to simply reach into our dresser drawers, purses, or backpacks to get a pad or a tampon whenever we need one. This project taught us that even though women may have similar experiences, we can still experience them differently. We cannot generalize our struggles because other factors play into them, and it is important that we try to look at women's, gender, and sexuality issues from a perspective that goes deeper than our own experiences. You can help homeless women in your local community by donating personal hygiene products to a shelter near you.

– Crescent Wigfall, Selena Legaspy, Christine McKee, Jayashri Gopalakrishnan, and Sydney Dunnuck

Students on the Road

Duke Feminist Workshop

In March 2016, a group of six Purdue students attended the tenth annual Duke Feminist Workshop in Durham, North Carolina. Coming together with hundreds of feminists from around the world, Purdue graduate students Esther Teixeira, Deena Varner, Alison Layfield, and Heather Murton, as well as undergraduates Ryesha Jackson and Carolina Vogel, attended the two-day workshop to discuss intersectional feminist politics, feminist psychoanalysis and transnational feminisms. Keynote speakers included Sonia E. Alvarez, Evelyn M. Hammonds, Ranjana Khanna, and Griselda Pollock.



Women's History Conference

This past spring, a group of Purdue University Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies students participated in the Indiana Women's History Conference. Accompanied by Purdue graduate students Dana Bisignani, Ekeama Goodard-Scovel, and Heather Murton, students explored Indiana women at work. Hosted by the Indiana Historical Bureau, the Indiana State Library, and the Department of Natural Resources Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, this one-day symposium hosted a series of presentations and panels to discuss the topic of "Hoosier Women at Work." Students, educators,

and community members alike shared their thoughts on gender and the work force. Sessions included "Women, Work, and War," "Women Reformers at Work," "Changing Attitudes on Women and Work," "Business Women at Work," "Discrimination and Compensation for Women's Work," and "College Women at Work." The conference came to a close with a Skype-panel of women from the Indiana Women's Prison for their presentation on "Women, Crime, and Reformation in Postbellum Indiana."



Purdue Feminist Action Coalition for Today

Feminist Action Coalition For Today is Purdue's fully-inclusive feminist organization, welcoming people of any gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, race, and religion who are interested in promoting equality and fighting gender oppression on their campus and in their community. The organization was founded in September 2009 by students in Women Studies who shared the same passion for feminism.

Feminist (*n.*):

Someone who advocates social, political, legal, and economic rights for all regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, class, or sexual orientation.

To join or for more information contact Sydney Tomasko, FACT President,
stomasko531@gmail.com

SARA V

SARA V serves as a vehicle to protect and support survivors while combatting sexual violence, by offering a safe environment for survivors, and educating against rape culture. Sara V, also serves as a liaison between students and the university to ensure that reported cases are handled properly, and provides awareness as an activist component.

Upcoming events for the semester includes:

Tuesday Nights at 7:00pm: **The All Shades of Purple Film Series**: Addressing Domestic Violence

October 6th—Telling Amy's Story, Grissom Hall, room 103

October 20th—The Perfect Victim, Rawls Hall, room 2070

October 27th—Sin by Silence, Beering room 2280

Ongoing projects include the t-shirt fund raiser and canvassing signatures to petition the university to establish a rape crisis center.

To join or for more information contact Ti'Air Riggins, SARA-V President, triggins@purdue.edu



TJ Boisseau is the Director and an Associate Professor of WGSS in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies (CLA). She received her PhD in U.S. Women's History from Binghamton University (SUNY-Binghamton) in New York in 1996. Her foremost interest as a scholar lies with the historical formation of feminism as an idea, as a hegemonic subject position, and as an identity, 1850 to present. Her research explores both the ways that individual subjects have projected, embraced, or distanced themselves from this identity and the ways that hegemonic US media have produced, defined, and delimited a feminist subject position and identity in American popular culture and transnationally.

Dr. Boisseau's published works include Feminist Legal History, co-ed. (New York University Press, 2011); Gendering the Fair: Histories of Women and Gender at World's Fairs, co-ed. (University of Illinois Press, 2010); White Queen: May French-Sheldon and the Origins of American Feminist Identity (Indiana University Press, 2004), "New Orleans: Gender and the Politics of Place and Displacement," A Special Issue of the National Women's Studies Association Journal, co-ed. (2008). She has published her work in *Feminist Teacher* (2015), *Women's History Review* (2009), *thirdspace* (2008); *Anthropology and Education Quarterly* (2002), *Gender & History* (2000), *Signs* (1995) and in numerous anthologies and collections of essays.

Dr. Boisseau has directed the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program since arriving to Purdue University in 2012. She teaches courses on the history of feminism, gender, race, popular culture and American women's history. She is an affiliate of the American Studies Program and the African American Studies and Research Center and a member of the Advisory Board for the Center for Research on Diversity and Inclusion at Purdue.

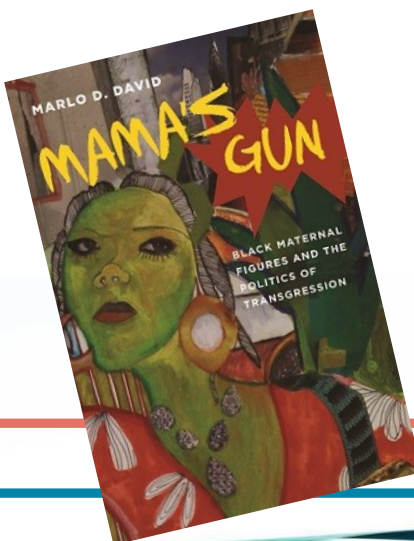


Dr. Jennifer Freeman Marshall is Assistant Professor of English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her research specializations include Black feminist thought, feminist theory and methods, and 20th century African American literary and cultural productions, and feminist ethnography. A recipient of the 2011 Women's Studies Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award, she received the Teaching for Tomorrow Award at Purdue (2013-2014) and most recently won the Outstanding Instructor Award for 2015. She has developed courses on Contemporary Black Feminist Literature, Zora Neale Hurston, and other courses on gender, culture, and literary studies. Her book-in-progress, Zora Neale Hurston: Icon, Token, and Canons, explores the popular and scholarly receptions of the iconic writer and anthropologist. Her most recent publication is entitled "In Search of Heidi Durrow within a Black Woman's Literary Tradition" in the *Forum for World Literature Studies*. She delivered a paper entitled "Black Feminist Literary Production and Social Justice" at the 2014 NWSA conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Marlo D. David is Associate Professor of WGSS and English. She received her PhD in English from the University of Florida in 2009. Her research has focused on contemporary African-American cultural studies as well as feminist gender and sexuality studies. Dr. David's interdisciplinary research traces the ways black writers, artists, and performers respond to inter- and intra-racial representations of blackness and contemporary American politics in the post-Civil Rights era. Her work offers ways of interpreting African-American literature, performance, and popular culture that emphasize the multiplicities of black identities and challenge stereotypes that stigmatize black people, particularly black women and girls.

Dr. David's recent book *Mama's Gun: Black Maternal Figures and the Politics of Transgression* (2016) examines the ways African-American writers and performers use methods of vernacular signification to modify controlling images about black mothers in contemporary American culture. By identifying a new literary trope and five new categories of maternal signification, Dr. David provides alternative ways of reading transgressive maternal figures that are deemed "bad mothers" within dominant discourses. Her work is applicable in the fields of U.S. literary studies, American Studies, African-American Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies. In addition to her current book project, her essays have appeared in *Tulsa Studies of Women's Literature*, *Black Camera: An International Film Journal*, *The African American Review*, and *Home Girls Make Some Noise: A Hip Hop Feminist Anthology*.

Marlo teaches courses on black women writers, motherhood in American literature, black gender and sexuality studies, black feminism, African-American satire, postmodern black cultural studies, and feminist theory and methodology.



Kim Vestal, Program Coordinator. Kim was born and raised in the Lafayette area and is a Boilermaker to the core. She has been an employee of Purdue for 17 years. She joined the WGSS family in 2015 and brought a wealth of University experience to this position. She is excited to be associated with the dynamic individuals that educate, enlighten and prepare those who will be our future leaders.

As Program Coordinator, her responsibilities are to assist in the management and supervision of all aspects of program administration including the faculty and teaching assistant recruitment process. Kim coordinates academic and programmatic activities while overseeing budget and organization of several celebrations and events held throughout the year. Web page development and social media implementation are also among her duties.

Kim has been married for 30 years to Jerry, has 4 married children and 5 beautiful granddaughters with their first grandson on the way in November. She feels extremely blessed for her own family and her Purdue family and welcomes the opportunity to chat about the opportunities in WGSS and how Purdue can enrich the lives of others.



Heather Lauren Murton, Instructor WGSS280

Heather is an English PhD student with a concentration in Theory and Cultural Studies. In 2013, she graduated summa cum laude with a BFA in English and Creative Writing and a focus in women's studies and critical race studies from Chatham University, a small liberal arts and women's college in Pittsburgh, PA. Heather earned her M.A. from West Virginia University in English Literature where she also pursued a certificate in Women's and Gender Studies. Heather has taught Introduction to Rhetoric and Composition, Feminist Theory, and a film class on gender politics and violence in the horror genre. At Purdue, Heather hopes to continue to bridge together her interests in the humanities and feminism, and she looks forward to celebrating and exploring feminism on Purdue's campus.



Christopher D. Munt, Instructor WGSS 282

Christopher is a PhD candidate in American Studies with a concentration in Science, Technology, & Environment Studies. In addition to completing the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies graduate certificate, he holds an MA in American Studies with a concentration in Anthropology and a BA in Religious Studies. His dissertation research investigates the impacts of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) on urban development in 1980s San Francisco, California. His project draws on critical race theory, queer of color critique, and new feminist materialism to bring into focus the way HIV "intra-acts" with identities, bodies, neighborhoods, and discourses. In April, he received the inaugural LGBT Studies Award during the Purdue Literary Awards for his poem "Revolutionary Love: A Poetic Drama in Four Voices".

Pam Sari, Instructor WGSS280

Pam is a doctoral candidate in American Studies with a concentration in Transnational American Studies, and is also affiliated with the Anthropology department. Her research interests are in transnational religious connections and intersectionality of religion alongside issues of race, ethnicity, and gender. Her dissertation research focuses on transnational networks between a Charismatic megachurch in Indonesia and their church partners in the US, particularly Indonesian American churches in Southern California. Part of her research discusses the role of women leaders in these churches in emphasizing socioeconomic and creative ministries among their youths. She received her master's degree in American Studies from the University of Wyoming, and her bachelor's degree in English/American Studies from

Diponegoro University in Indonesia. At Purdue, she has been involved with the Asian and Asian American student networks/coalition, including sitting in a student committee that proposed the Asian American and Asian Cultural and Resources Center (AAARCC) at Purdue. Her recent involvement is with a community organization called International Playgroup which provides support for international mothers of preschoolers.



Deena Varner, Instructor WGSS 282

Deena is a PhD candidate in theory and cultural studies at Purdue University, where she also teaches in the women's, gender, and sexuality studies program. Her dissertation explores narratives of female criminality during the 1980s, and her research interests include psychoanalytic feminisms and queer theory, narratives of mental illness and deviancy, prisoner and ex-offender studies, and politics of work and leisure.





**Nicholas Marino, Instructor
WGSS282 LC, WGSS482**

Nicholas is a PhD candidate in English, specializing in Rhetoric and Composition. His dissertation research focuses on the intersection between literacy learning and the socialization of masculinity. In particular, he looks at how masculinist ideologies inflect

our assessment of "good writing" across the curriculum. He received his graduate certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in the spring of 2015, and has taught Intro to LGBT Studies 282, and the capstone course for the LGBT minor. Within the English department, he has also taught Intro to Composition, and Accelerated Composition with a service learning component. He is an active member of the American Men's Studies Association, and received the Loren Frankel Memorial Scholarship from the organization in 2014. He also serves on the vetting committee for the journal, *Men and Masculinities*. Prior to attending Purdue, Nick received his M.A. in English and American Literature from Georgetown University. There, he researched the intersection of bodybuilding, masculinity and the construction of time within American popular culture. He is excited to be a part of the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies program at Purdue.



Julia Smith, Instructor WGSS282

Julia's research interests and intellectual passions as a scholar of English Literature and Theory and Cultural Studies have been guided by feminist politics. Her central fields of interest include gender and sexuality studies, cultural theory, film studies, visual culture, autonomist Marxism, and postmodernity. Her dissertation studies masochistic desiring as gendered and discursive formations among literary, cinematic, psychoanalytic, and cultural texts. Her research methods heavily rely on aesthetics and close-reading practices to excavate often overlooked socio-historical realities and cultural artifacts from the standpoints of marginalized subject groups. Grounded in feminist politics and anti-social queer theory, a current that runs through her work is to bridge the often dismal nature of post-modern thinking with strategies of resistance to oppres-



**Esther Teixeira, Instructor
WGSS280**

Esther is a PhD candidate at the School of Languages and Cultures-SLC. Her dissertation focuses on prostitu-

tion. She analyzed selected literary work from Brazil, Colombia and Peru and build a historical panorama of prostitution in Latin America, to examine how these works both express and shape different nuances on prostitution. She teaches Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American literature at SCL to undergraduate students. Besides teaching and researching, she is devoted to encouraging both undergraduate and graduate students to engage in community service as part of their academic development at Purdue. As a result, along with a friend and co-worker, she has created the *Sandra Cisneros Latinas I Tell You My Story* Literature Project. This project aims to connect students from the Spanish program with the Latino community living in Lafayette. Because of the *Sandra Cisneros* project, she received the *Berenice A. Carroll Feminism Peace, and Social Justice Award* 2015, and was featured as *Boilers of Purdue* last year.

Ashley Albrecht, Instructor, WGSS 280

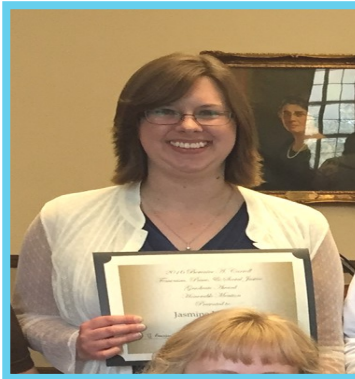
Ashley holds an M.A. in Journalism from Indiana University, for which she was awarded the *Cushman Memorial Fellowship* to attend. She also holds both a B.S. in psychology and a B.A. in English from the University of Illinois, from which she graduated *summa cum laude*, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and earned a place on the 'Bronze Tablet' for graduating in the top 3% of her class. In 2012, she received a Graduate Certificate from the *School of Criticism & Theory* at Cornell University, for which she was awarded a grant to attend. This past fall, Ashley presented an individual paper at the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) annual conference, entitled "Resisting the Gender Police: Fostering Trans* Youth Solidarity." She also presented a poster at Purdue's *Third Annual LGBTQ Symposium*. Additionally, she earned Purdue's WGSS Graduate Certificate in the spring of 2015.

Ashley is grateful to have had the opportunity to teach in a variety of academic settings. At Purdue, she has taught 'Introductory Composition,' 'The Movies' (Introduction to Film), 'Business Writing,' & 'Fundamentals of Speech Communication.' Ashley served as an adjunct faculty member in the philosophy department, teaching both 'Introduction to Philosophy' & 'Ethics.' She has also taught 'Visual Communication' at Indiana University, as well as through *Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth*. Beyond teaching, Ashley has served both as a Research & an Editorial Assistant for multiple professors, including Purdue's past Dean of

Graduate Research and Education. This past year, Ashley worked as both a Research Assistant and an Acquisitions Assistant for *Purdue University Press*.



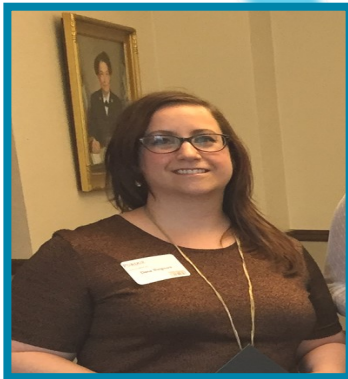
Jasmine R. Linabary, a doctoral candidate in the Brian Lamb School of Communication and a graduate certificate holder and teaching assistant in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Program at Purdue University, received the 2016 K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award.



The award, presented by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, recognizes graduate students who show exemplary promise as future leaders of higher education; who demonstrate a commitment to developing academic and civic responsibility in themselves and in others; and whose work reflects a strong emphasis on teaching and learning. Linabary received the award at the association's annual meeting in January 2016 in Washington, D.C.

Linabary's research emphasis is on organizing, new media, and social change, with particular interests in gender and participatory methodologies. Her dissertation is a feminist participatory action research project examining the potentials and limitations of digital space for transnational feminist organizing. She also is a research assistant with the Purdue Peace Project, a locally led peacebuilding initiative in Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria, and El Salvador that aims to reduce the likelihood of political violence.

Jasmine served as a TA for only one year with WGSS but her influence was long stretching and impacting. We wish her the very best as she moves forward.



Dana Bisignani is a doctoral candidate in English and has taught in the WGSS program for four years. She authors a blog, The Gender Press, and recently published a chapter on "activist-apprentice pedagogy" in *Feminist Community Engagement: Achieving Praxis* (Palgrave MacMillan, 2015). Her research examines the critical reception of anti-war poet Denise Levertov's political poetry and activism, and the intersections of gender, art-making, and war-making more broadly. She holds an M.F.A. from Purdue and her poetry has appeared in several journals, including *Cimarron and Prairie Schooner*. Spring 2016 was her last semester with WGSS. Dana was a superb TA for WGSS for several years and we **thank her** for all of her efforts, enthusiasm, dedication to the WGSS program and wish her the very best.

THANKS to Departing Teaching Assistants



Celebrating our student successes is a highlight of our year. This years honorees were: Dana Smith , Abby Schneller Sharon Chung (first row left to right). Dana Bisignani, Jasmine Linabary, TJ Boisseau and Kathrine Boyer (second row left to right).

WGSS Best and Brightest!

Those earning the WGSS Graduate Certificate

Pictured left: Julia Smith, Heather Murton & Christopher Munt



Kathrine A. Boyer received the 2016 Berenice A. Carroll Feminism, Peace, & Social Justice Undergraduate Award for her project titled *Painted Fingertips—A novel in progress*.



A special celebration took place to honor Dana Smith (left) for the 2016 Bernice A Carroll Undergrad Award. Sharon Chung (m) was awarded the 2106 WGSS Outstanding Undergraduate Leadership Award and Abby Schneller (right)

THANK you!



A special THANK YOU to Dorothy Snyder, a PhD candidate at the Brian Lamb School of Communication in Organizational Rhetoric and had earned the WGSS Graduate Certificate.

Dorothy was one of the extremely talented students that joined our program as a Teaching Assistant and taught the WGSS280, Introduction to Women's Studies for two years. We so appreciate all that Dorothy brought to the WGSS program and wish her the very BEST as she continues on.

LGBTQ



LGBT Studies Minor

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Leadership | Social Justice | Intersectionality

The 12 credit LGBT Studies Minor provides students with opportunities to examine topics of gender and sexuality through an interdisciplinary perspective.

Eligibility

All undergraduate students, regardless of major, gender identity, or sexual orientation are eligible.

Requirements

Over 20 courses in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Anthropology, History, Sociology, and Psychology satisfy the requirements of the minor.

For a full list of courses, please visit:

www.cla.purdue.edu/academic/sis/p/wgss/

SEX, HISTORY, AND THE CITIES

A QUEER HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY,
BERLIN, AND PARIS

SUMMER STUDY ABROAD

May-June, 2016

SIX WEEKS — 6 CREDITS

See our blog from Summer 2015:

[https://www.purdue.edu/
lgbtqabroad/2015/](https://www.purdue.edu/lgbtqabroad/2015/)

For more information contact:

Lowell Kane
Director, LGBTQ Center
Lowell@purdue.edu

Dr. Yvonne Pitts
Professor, History
Ypitts@purdue.edu



SPOTLIGHT: Kelsey Chapman

Kelsey is a junior, majoring in History with an interest in Public History. She is the President of ACT UP Purdue, and participated in the Sex, History, and the Cities Study Abroad program this past summer. Kelsey states that the study abroad trip was transformative and was the foundation for her passion for queer visibility and activism. She also wears an AMAZING vest that she hand-decorated with LGBTQ and Feminist images and messages for her final class project. This vest sparks powerful conversations about justice and liberation!

Lowell Kane, Director of the LGBTQ Center, says Kelsey is an incredible student leader, activist, and organizer. She cares deeply about her community, and works hard to create positive change.



LGBTQ CENTER FALL 2016

Healing Hearts: ¿Cómo sanar después de Orlando?

August 30th, 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Latino Cultural Center

RAINBOW CALLOUT: WELCOME AND RESOURCE FAIR

September 14th, 6:00pm - 8:00pm
PMU North & South Ballrooms

Film Screening and Discussion: Suited

September 17th, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Krannert Auditorium

4th Annual LGBTQ Symposium

October 4th, 2:00pm
Krannert Auditorium

NOH8 PHOTOSHOOT (discount with PUID)

October 7th, 3:30pm - 6:30pm
Feature Gym (Córdova Rec Center)

NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY CookOUT

October 11th, 11:00am - 3:00pm
Feature Gym (Córdova Rec Center)

BOILERS OUT LOUD

October 25th & 26th, 7:00pm - 8:00pm
Feature Gym (Córdova Rec Center)

POSITIVE: ART & AIDS EXHIBIT

November 1st - 11th
Patti and Rusty Rueff Galleries

HIV/AIDS Awareness Week

November 14th - 18th
PMU 118

Special Thanks!

WGSS would like to warmly acknowledge our Affiliated Faculty and our Associates

Affiliated Faculty

Emily Allen, English	Raymond Dumett, History
Janet Alsup, English	Nathalie Duval-Couetil, Technology, Leadership & Innovation
Dorsey Armstrong, English	Anne Flitsos, Visual and Performing Arts
Megha Anwer, Honors College	Rayvon Fouche, Interdisciplinary Studies
Jennifer Bay, English	Geraldine Friedman, English
Jean Beaman, Sociology	Nancy Gabin, History
Elena Benedicto, English	Kim Gallon, History
Linda Bergmann, English	Ellen Gruenbaum, Anthropology
Samantha Blackmon, English	Charlene Haddock Seigfried, Philosophy
Evelyn Blackwood, Anthropology	Sally Hastings, History
Monica Bloom, CARE	Elizabeth Hoffmann, Sociology
Pat Boling, Political Science	Tara Star Johnson, English
Kristina Bross, English	Janice Kelly, Psychology
Helen Brown, Visual and Performing Arts	Lorraine Kisselburgh, Biomedical Engineering
Nadia Brown, Political Science	Rebekah Klein-Pejsova, History
Patrice Buzzanell, Communications	Wendy Kline, History
Brenda Capobianco, Education	Anne Meis Knupfer, Education
Valeria Chapman, Political Science	Ellen Kossek, Management
Robin Clair, Communications	Brian Leung, English
Rosalee Clawson, Political Science	Paula Leverage, Languages and Cultures
Cheryl Cooky, Interdisciplinary Studies	Maren Linett, English
Elena Coda, Languages and Cultures	Roseanne Lyle, Health and Kinesiology
Susan Curtis, History	Joyce Main, Engineering Education
Dorothy Deering, English	Dawn Marsh, History
Andrea DeMaria, Consumer Science	William McBride, Philosophy
Catherine Dossin, Languages and Cultures	Shannon McMullen, Visual and Performing Arts
	Fatma Mili, Technology

Sylvia Mitchell, History

Kimber Nicolett, Agriculture Education

Abdelfattah Nour, Basic Medical Sciences

Venetria Patton, Interdisciplinary Studies

Wendy Paula, History

Alice Pawley, English Education

Caroline Perrucci, Sociology

Nancy Peterson, English

Mary Pilat, Agriculture Education

Yvonne Pitts, History

Ashley Purpura, Interdisciplinary Studies

Kendall Roark, Libraries

Aparajita Sagar, English

Chris Sahley, Biological Sciences

Kevin Stainback, Sociology

Marcia Stephenson, Languages and Cultures

Dawn Stinchcomb, Languages and Cultures

Mangala Subramaniam, Sociology

Jill Suitor, Sociology

Patricia Sullivan, English

Antonia Syson, Languages and Cultures

Margaret Tillman, History

Sharra Vostral, History

Eric Waltenburg, Political Science

Whitney Walton, History

Laurel Weldon, Political Science

Jennifer William, Languages and Cultures

Melinda Zook, History

Associates

Guadalupe Acosta-Roberts, CLA Advising

Berenice Carroll, Political Science, Emerita

Lowell Kane, Director of the LGBTQ Center

Debra Bradford, CLA Advisor

Carolyn Johnson, African American Studies and Research Center

Joan Marshall, College of Liberal Arts, Emerita

Margaret Moan Rowe, English, Emerita

Lori Sparger, College of Liberal Arts COO

Dena Targ, Human Development and Family Studies, Emerita

If you are a Purdue University faculty member with research or teaching interests in women's, gender, and/or sexuality studies, or if you are a Purdue University administrator or staff member who would like to support and ally with the WGSS program, simply email Director TJ Boisseau (tjboisseau@purdue.edu) your request.

SPOTLIGHT



In 2015 **Ellen Gruenbaum** spent part of her sabbatical as a Visiting Professor at Ahfad University for Women in Omdurman. During this time she advised students in their master's degree program in Gender and Development Studies and did research on the social movement against traditional female genital cutting practices. Being in Sudan also gave her the opportunity to return to the two villages she has been studying since the 1970s for additional research.

She also returned to Khartoum as a consultant for UNICEF, carrying out four community studies for a research project on female genital cutting in West Kordofan and Kassala states. "It was great to see so many of my Sudanese friends from the past, to catch up with the political and social changes since my last visit twelve years ago."

In addition to writing, Gruenbaum used this new research in her teaching in anthropology and as a guest lecturer for WGSS.

Final Thoughts...

ALUMNI and WGSS STUDENTS...We would love to hear from you. Give us an update on what you are doing with your WGSS degree. Let us know how your WGSS's courses prepared you for work and/or life. Please share your accomplishments and journeys since graduation. Just keep in touch by emailing us at WGSS@purdue.edu!

Additionally...Consider supporting WGSS!

Your gift of any amount makes it possible to publish this very newsletter, provide funds for awards for both graduate and undergraduate students, support WGSS student groups and hold campus events to raise awareness for feminist issues on campus.

Please consider making a gift to WGSS today!

Contact Us

If you have questions, or would like more information, give us a call!

WGSS

Room 6164, BRNG

765-494-6295

Email: WGSS@purdue.edu

Visit us on the web at :

www.cla.purdue.edu/WGSS

**Don't Forget to
check Us Out!!**



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LEAD BOLDLY.**

Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies

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