

DUKE GSF

Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies

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INACCESSIBLE EXCESS: Photographer Zanele Muholi Comes to Duke

by: **Michelle Wolff**

AAUW Dissertation Fellow

Duke Religion Student

PhD Candidate in Religion, Duke University



Internationally acclaimed South African photographer Zanele Muholi delivered an artist's talk at Duke University as part of the series "Black Feminist Thought & Practice" in October. Muholi projected photos from her most recent projects to a crowd comprised of students and faculty from diverse disciplines. During the Q&A she shared how photography helped her come to terms with her same-sex attraction and survive an abusive relationship.

Muholi self-defines as a "visual activist" who re-writes black queer and trans history. Her images document both the hate crimes committed against black lesbians and trans men in contemporary South Africa and

the enduring love couples share. She and her team photograph everything from funeral processions to wedding parties. As with her self-portraits, Muholi's subjects simultaneously exude confrontation and vulnerability; they celebrate life in the midst of mourning the loss of loved ones.

Muholi's photojournalist style directs our attention not only to the moment captured, but, perhaps more significantly, to an abundance of unknowns. The viewer is left wondering about the subjects' histories and futures: Is this a survivor of "curative" rape? Is she a lesbian mother? Will she survive

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Director's COLUMN



“I woke up Wednesday morning [after the election] and realized I was a Black Woman in America.”



by: **Priscilla Wald**
Maraget Taylor Smith
Director of Gender, Sexuality
& Feminist Studies

“I woke up Wednesday morning [after the election] and realized I was a Black Woman in America.” So said an African-American student in the GSF class that was attending a post-election conversation on the Monday after the election. She described how growing up during Obama’s presidency, she had felt she had a place in America. But the election showed her otherwise.

While the hate speech directed against populations identifiable by race, ethnicity, religion, gender, and sexual orientation unleashed during this campaign and especially in the wake of the election is, sadly, not new, its visibility has brought it more centrally into focus as a topic of public discussion. That, at least, is good since we know from history how such sentiments under the right conditions can boil into catastrophic actions. So what can we do?

As a feminist educator and longtime advocate of free speech, I find myself continually searching for the moment I can comfortably say hate speech has crossed the line into an actionable offense. I know how quickly efforts to restrict speech can turn against feminist and critical race analyses. Now more than ever, I want to protect my right to speak freely and plainly.

At the same time, I know language can be a form of violence, creating an unsafe

environment for individuals or groups against whom hate speech is directed. Words inspire feelings that search for expression in actions, and hateful feelings are especially difficult to contain. While there are strictly circumscribed speech acts that can be prosecuted as “fighting words” under the law, many campuses have enacted stricter regulations.

But there is a danger in silencing the vitriolic expressions as well. Suppressing them doesn’t make them go away. I’m less surprised by the hate speech of, I hope, a vocal few, than by the evident indifference of the many who were able to overlook the explicit bigotry of a candidate for the nation’s highest office when they cast their votes. Those are the people I have more hope of reaching. Not through legislation or regulation, but through education.

Feminist, critical race, queer and other theories have forged important analyses of bias and oppression. They teach us to harness the weapon of language—to fight hate not with hate, but with clear analyses fashioned for multiple publics, to expose the danger in the vitriol, to work to broaden the base of people who condemn it actively, and to speak forcefully for the vision that motivates so much of our work: a world that maximizes everyone’s ability to reach their potential.

Professional DEVELOPMENT GSF



by: **Claire E. Scott**, PhD Candidate
Carolina-Duke Graduate Program in German Studies

Last year I applied for and received funding from The Graduate School at Duke to organize a series of professional development workshops geared towards feminist studies certificate students.

The first of these workshops, “Interdisciplinary Futures: Applying PhD Skills Throughout the University,” took place in Spring 2016 and sought to highlight careers in university administration. We brought in professionals from the Academic Advising Center, the Franklin Humanities Institute, and The Graduate School who encouraged students to think creatively about their career options and the many possible applications of the skills they acquire in graduate school.

In Fall 2016 we hosted two events specifically on the gender studies job market. First, we discussed how to

demonstrate commitment to the field of gender studies and strategies for making disciplinary work legible in an interdisciplinary environment with Director of Graduate Studies Ara Wilson. The final event was an informal discussion about life on the job market with the current postdoc in GSF, Mecca Sullivan. The opportunity to learn from her experiences was incredibly useful and it was a pleasure to have her join us.

Overall, these events were very successful and demonstrated the importance of and ongoing need for professional development geared towards feminist studies certificate students. I learned a lot from both organizing and attending these workshops, and I would love to see these discussions continue.

Overall, these events were very successful and demonstrated the importance of and ongoing need for professional development geared towards feminist studies certificate students.

Fall 2016 EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 7 Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Luncheon: “Entrepreneurship and Empowerment: Forget the Glass Ceiling, Create Your Own Building”**
Ana Homayoun, Duke Women’s Studies graduate 2001, Owner Green Ivy Educational Consultant, Noted teen and millennial author, and Duke Alumni Board.

- 21 Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Luncheon: “I Wish I Knew Then What I Know Now”**. Peer Mentoring with a Baldwin Class of 2017 panel.

- 26 Graduate Scholars Colloquium: “Child’s Play: Interpretation, Reparation, and Melanie Klein’s Clinical Play-Technique”**
with Carolyn Laubender, PhD Candidate, Duke Program in Literature. Respondent: Kim Lamm, Assistant Professor Duke Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies (GSF).

OCTOBER

- 5 Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Luncheon: “Midwifery in the Developing World: Internships, Vocations, and Needs”** with Rebecca Turecky, Certified Nurse Midwife from Costa Rica.

- 19 Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Luncheon: “Starting a Women-Owned Business from Your Heart”** with speaker Diane Currier, Owner, Honeygirl Meadery.

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2016 Feminist Theory Workshop

IMPRESSIONS

by: **Leda Sutlovic**

PhD candidate
University of Vienna,
Department of Political Science
Country of residence:
Vienna, Austria

The 2016 Feminist Theory Workshop gathered a respectable group of scholars from various academic traditions, offering a multidisciplinary approach to the common topic—a question or issue that has been central to feminism--and widening the participants' perspectives.

Coming from the Social Sciences, I found the lecture of Professor Sonia Alvarez to be the most resonating with my work. Titled "Feminisms in Movement," the lecture encompassed the last twenty years of feminist activism in Brazil, from preparations for the Beijing Conference by feminist movements from the '70s and '80s, to the recent massive demonstrations and marches, organized by various feminist and other groups (black and indigenous women groups, slut walk and feminist festivals, groups against racism and for quality of life, anarcho-feminist groups, hip-hop and feminist blogging groups, environmentalists, and others).

The depiction of present-day feminist activism has yielded two conclusions: the new emerging, distinctive feminist fields create a "multisided feminism" that adopts assemblage thinking; instead of homogeneity, feminist movement(s) side stream to other movements, making gender one of the focuses of the political issues. As a consequence, the movement has a low success with concentrating resistance, while feminism is being at the same time embraced by and marginalized within the other movements.

Besides the strong selection of speakers, the Feminist Theory Workshop provided in-depth work in the seminars, offering the space for more detailed discussions addressing one's own interests and for connecting with fellow researchers. For me personally, participation in this significant event represents a valuable academic experience and a strong incentive for further work in the field.

2016 FEMINIST THEORY WORKSHOP WRITE-UP DAY ONE

by: **John Stadler**

PhD Candidate in Literature
Duke University

On Friday, Priscilla Wald welcomed us to the 10th annual Feminist Theory Workshop by inviting us to reconsider key concepts of feminist thought, a theme that ran through the four keynote addresses. Rajana Khanna started us off with a psychoanalytic inquiry into the idea of speculation, that process of thinking forward or beyond and its seeming antagonism to the politics of life, concluding poignantly that speculation may be that which allows us to live with the intolerable. Elizabeth Grosz spoke second and returned

us to the Pre-Socratics in order to question our understanding of temporality and space as implicated in Luce Irigaray's formulation of sexual difference. Both keynotes were complex and accompanied by rich Q&As, after which we were treated to drinks and friendly conversation. The night concluded with a hybrid performance titled "SLIPPAGE: theory-ography 4.5-a we [still] queer here" that before long transformed into a dance party! It was an auspicious start to the Feminist Theory Workshop.

11TH ANNUAL

Feminist Theory Workshop

March 24-25, 2017

A two-day event presented by

Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies at Duke University,
featuring keynote lectures and working seminars

KEYNOTES:

CHRISTINA CROSBY

Professor in English and
Feminist, Gender, and
Sexuality Studies
at Wesleyan University

AMELIA JONES

Professor in Art and Design
and Vice-Dean of Critical
Studies at the USC Roski
School of Art and Design

KATHERINE MCKITTRICK

Professor in Gender Studies
and the Graduate Program
in Cultural Studies
at Queen's University

KATHI WEEKS

Professor in Gender
Sexuality and Feminist
Studies at Duke University

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at University of Pennsylvania
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
at Wake Forest University
Centre for the Study of Women and Gender
at University of Warwick in Coventry, UK

The workshop is **FREE**, but space is limited and registration is required.

Register online at <http://gendersexualityfeminist.duke.edu/feminist-theory-workshops/2017> and also find information to join our Facebook Feminist Theory Workshop Closed Group. In addition, the Workshop readings will be posted on the Workshop website.

For more information, please contact **Pamela Moore** at (919) 684-3655 or gsfs@duke.edu

Presidential Debates: INTERRUPTIONS AND FIRST-PERSON PRONOUNS

by: **Julie Tetel Andresen**
Professor of English
Duke University



October, 2016

Many presidential debate watchers counted up the number of times Trump interrupted Clinton. Few of the tallies coincided. The reason is, the numbers depend not only on how you count but also on what you count. Some watchers did not count interjections that were not sustained, such as Trump's "Nope. Nope. Nope," in the first debate, while others counted it as 1 interruption and still others counted it as 3. The extremes were FiveThirtyEight's count of 3 Trump-

to-Clinton interruptions to Vox's 51. Time counted 28, and The New York Times, 39.

No matter how or what you count, however, it is the case that Trump interrupted Clinton many more times than she did him. And during the second debate Anderson Cooper was moved to say to Trump, "Please allow her to respond. She didn't talk while you talked."

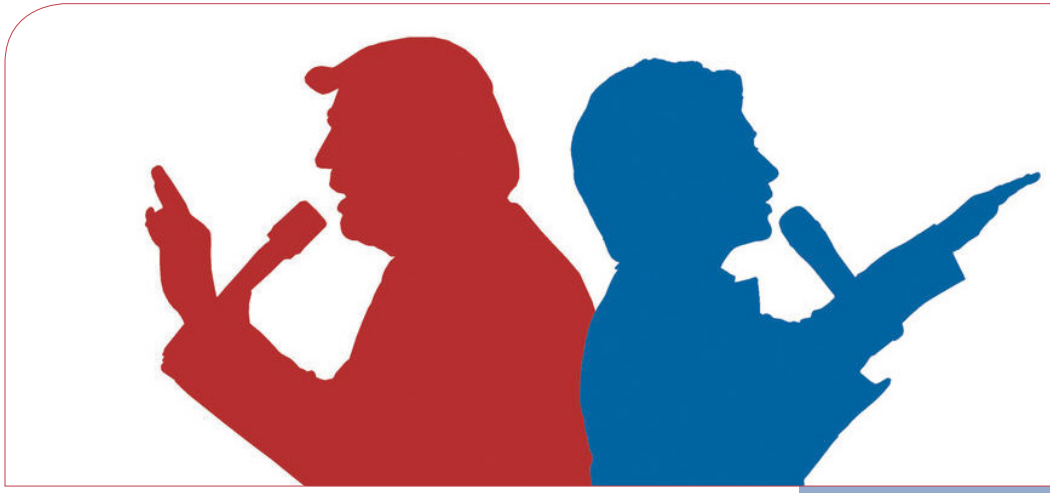


Photographer Zanele Muholi

INACCESSIBLE EXCESS: Photographer Zanele Muholi Comes to Duke *(continued from page 1)*

breast cancer? Even as Muholi continues to photograph the same people for over a decade – some of whom exhibit shifting sexual and gender identities – the effect is to show us how little we the viewers truly see. For this reason, at the reception Muholi and her team were surrounded with engaged audience members longing for more. Her work tells a story that exceeds

the very camera frame she uses to display it. She makes us aware of the complexity of individuals, their relationships, homes, churches, and governments. Muholi's images captivate audiences because she transforms archival gaps into inaccessible excess.



Quick, who do you think uses I-me-mine more? Clinton or Trump?

Linguists, discourse analysts and sociologists have long studied interruptions. In 1975 sociologists Don Zimmerman and Candace West investigated cross-gender conversations and found that men interrupted women 48 times to 1. In the same year linguist Robin Lakoff published *Language and Women's Place* where she wrote about men interrupting women far more than vice versa and further added that a woman who makes a suggestion in a meeting will not get the credit for the idea; the man who says "Let's do it" will.

Last year, linguist Adrienne Hancock reconfirmed results from the 1970s but with less dramatic imbalances. In studies of 3-minute dialogues, she found that men would interrupt women 2.1 times and another man 1.8 times. Women interrupted each other 2.9 times but a man only once.

The usual explanation is that interruptions are verbal power plays, and undoubtedly they often are as they were at the debates. However, linguist Deborah Tannen points

out that interruptions can also be a sign of intimacy, of a casual, comfortable relationship. They can also result from regional differences. Fast-talking New Yorkers will interpret any pause to mean it's their turn to talk, while a Californian will find this quick-filled pause rude and interpret it as an interruption.

Then there's psychologist James Pennybaker and his study of the secret life of pronouns, words like you and she and they, words hardly worth a notice. Pennybaker has evidence to confirm that truth-tellers use I-me-mine more often than liars, but also — significantly — so do followers rather than leaders, the sick rather than the healthy, and the poorer rather than the richer. In sum, those in pain, depressed and self-conscious refer to themselves far more often than those confident and in command.

Of all the presidents going back to Kennedy, Obama has the lowest use of I-words. He is also rated as the most self-confident.

In the first 10 minutes
of the first debate,
Clinton used 15
I-words to Trump's 10.
In the last 10 minutes
Clinton used 15 I-words
to Trump's 34.

“What’s the Buzz???”

GENDER WEDNESDAY

by: **M. Kathy Rudy**
Professor of Gender,
Sexuality & Feminist Studies
and GSF Director of
Undergraduate Studies
Duke University



“ We began planning Gender Wednesdays with a question that (I think) plagues the mind of most undergraduates: what am I going to do with my life? ”

A few years ago, Anne Allison from Cultural Anthropology and I ran an open discussion about an Asian themed frat party, and it was wildly successful. About 30 students came, and we might have had pizza, I’m not sure. But freshman were standing up and saying, “we need a meeting like this to talk about what should feel good about sex.” (I remember that girl so clearly, she had braces.) It was an exciting night. So, when I became director of undergraduate studies, I wanted to have more gatherings like that. Thus we started “Gender Wednesdays.”

We began planning Gender Wednesdays with a question that (I think) plagues the

mind of most undergraduates: what am I going to do with my life? Thus the content of Gender Wednesdays was born. Really simply, I wanted to show undergrads what it looks like to have (what I think of at least as) a feminist life. Sort of like a DGS version of the podcast “This American Life;” this would be “This Feminist Life.” We made a list of people in Durham (or cool people who are passing through) who wanted to talk to students about how they think of politics operating in their lives. And small little friendship groups are being born in front of our eyes. Every week I feel a little worried on Wednesday morning; what if nobody comes? And every week it keeps getting

Fall 2016 EVENTS

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OCTOBER

bigger and bigger. We've heard from alums, business owners, midwives, doctors, farmers, mead makers and many others. They have shared with us how they view feminism operating in their work and in their lives. The students love it and are making great connections in the community and beyond. One of our majors is heading to Costa Rica this summer to work with a midwife she met at a Gender Wednesday. Another major found a connection to a transgender activist, who helped her fill in the content of a class paper. New links between Duke and Durham are being born.

I have lived in Durham since 1983 and simply love this funky (not so little anymore) town. Next spring, the plan is to bring in Durhamites who helped shape the political identity of Durham. We've got activists and alumni, city council women and men, and old school community organizers coming. Also, largely due to HB2, we'll be devoting several weeks to transgender activism, especially in Durham. I expect this little community will keep growing and growing.

So, what is your story? How did feminism impact your life? Were you a council member, an undergrad, a grad student, or an alumni supporter? What role does feminism have in the way you've designed your life and passions? Do you have insights that the next generation might benefit from? Would you be interested in sharing your story with GSF majors and other college students today? If so, please shoot us an email. We are scheduling now for Fall 2017!

So, what is your story?

How did feminism impact your life?

20 Faces and Phases: "Zanele Muholi's Portrait Series Featuring LGTI Persons from Africa and Beyond," with Zanele Muholi. An artist's talk on the black queer and trans visual history of South Africa.

21 Duke on Gender Colloquium: "Relations with Dead/Remains in an Era of Singlification (21st Century Japan)" with Anne Allison, Duke Professor of Cultural Anthropology, and Kathy Rudy, Duke Professor of Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies (GSF). A panel on the trend towards Singlification — how the elderly are handling the prospect of death on their own or with the help of new resources instead of relying on family.

24 Graduate Scholars Colloquium: "Baptism By Drowning: "Curative" with Michelle Wolff, Duke PhD Candidate in Religion with Certificate in Feminist Studies. Respondent: Anne-Maria Makhulu, Duke Associate Professor of Cultural Anthropology.

25 Professional Development Series: "The Gender Studies Job Market: Informal Conversation and Collaboration" with Mecca Sullivan, Duke Post-Doctoral Associate of Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies (GSF). A chance to ask the current postdoc in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies questions and hear about her job market experiences.

NOVEMBER

2 Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Luncheon: "Tracking Women's Health and the Question of Hormonal Birth Control" with Lisa Nadler, MD, Triangle Family Practice.

14 Graduate Scholars Colloquium: "Escaping Melodramatic Traps," with Claire E. Scott, PhD Candidate, Carolina-Duke Graduate Program in German Studies. Respondent: Priscilla Wald, Chair of Duke Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies (GSF) and R. Florence Brinkley, Duke Professor of English. A debate about the contributions of female directors to the stylistic innovation and political engagement of the New German Cinema.

16 Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Luncheon: "Food Studies, Food Work, and Farming off the Beaten Path" with speaker Saskia Cornes, Duke Farm and Program Manager.

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Mecca Sullivan, PhD

Duke Postdoctoral Associate of Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies
and Assistant Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies
at the University of Massachusetts

by: **Nikolas Sparks**
PhD Candidate in English
Duke University

PROFILE

Mecca Sullivan, Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies postdoc, has quickly become an active member of Duke's intellectual community since arriving in campus this past fall. During her first semester, Mecca has participated in "The Black Outdoors," a Franklin Humanities Institute working group on contemporary black humanistic studies, given several public readings from her short story collection *Blue Talk and Love*, completed two scholarly articles, continued work on her first manuscript, and designed a course for the spring semester on the intersections of Black Feminism and literary production, just to name a few of her activities.

Mecca's first scholarly manuscript, *The Poetics of Difference: Queer Feminist Forms in the African Diaspora*, considers the social and political resonances of formally subversive works by contemporary women writers and artists of the African Diaspora. She explains: "Since the height of the post-civil rights and decolonization movements, black women artists have actively engaged in a politically rooted experimentalism that remains underexplored in contemporary scholarship."

Building off this research and GSF's Annual theme of Black Feminism, Mecca's course, "Black Feminist Literature and Poetics" will explore black feminist literary cultures of the US and the African Diaspora, with a focus on contemporary literature. In addition to work by well-known authors like Toni Morrison, Audre Lorde, Ntozake Shange, Alice Walker, and Jamaica Kincaid, students will also look at works by emerging and lesser-known writers such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, and Nicole Dennis-Benn. Because black feminist literary culture extends beyond the written word, students will explore a range of genres and media, including film, web series, visual art, and even hip hop and music videos.

Mecca says of her decision to join GSF at Duke: "I was particularly eager to take part in the postdoc during the GSF theme year on Black Feminism, especially in a city like Durham, where there's so much important Black feminist work happening on campus and in the local community."

Mecca Sullivan is an Assistant Professor of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She received her Ph.D. in English Literature at the University of Pennsylvania. She also holds an M.A. in English and Creative Writing from Temple University and a B.A. in Afro-American Studies from Smith College. Sullivan is the author of *Blue Talk & Love*. She was born and raised in Harlem in New York City.

National Transgender Discrimination TEAM EVALUATION

by: **Parker Foo, Tony Li, Madelaine Katz**



“ One of the objectives of our project was to connect with the trans community and partner with an organization that would be able to utilize our work. ”

During the Data+ program this summer, we analyzed data from the National Transgender Discrimination Survey, which was conducted in 2008-09 by the National Center for Transgender Equality and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. This survey was the first indepth, datadriven snapshot of the experiences of transgender people. It contained questions asking about the experiences of transgender people in all facets of life and also contained questions regarding topics specific to transgender communities. The broadness of subjects covered in the National Transgender Discrimination Survey allowed us to examine the experiences of transgender individuals in unprecedented depth.

One of the objectives of our project was to connect with the trans community and partner with an organization that would be able to utilize our work. By attending trans-related workshops and observing discussions

between trans activists and North Carolina legislators, we were able to dialogue with the community to identify needs. We then partnered with the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of North Carolina to investigate the discrimination that trans and Gender Non-Conforming (GNC) people face in public accommodation, housing, and employment in North Carolina and the South through analysis and visualization of the survey data. Our end goal was to make our findings and report available as a resource to both the local and activist communities.

In order to make our analysis of the data clearer and increase public awareness of the issues faced by the transgender community, we produced visualizations of important results through Tableau, a data visualization tool used to produce graphics that anyone can access online. To facilitate comparison between North Carolina, the South, and the

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Faculty UPDATES

Elizabeth Grosz

Elizabeth Grosz taught two classes in fall, an undergraduate class called "Freud and Sexuality" and a graduate student class called "The Animal." This school year Grosz is working with Anna Krylova of the History Department on the Duke on Gender Colloquium. In the spring she is teaching the undergraduate course "Key Concepts in Feminist Theory" and a graduate course called "Irigaray." Grosz has published many scholarly articles and several books, most recently, *Becoming Undone Darwinian Reflections on Life, Politics and Art* (Duke University Press 2011).

Contestation, and Revolutionary Traces in Post-2011 Egyptian Popular Film," at NYU Abu Dhabi in March 2015. She presented the further developed paper at the Duke on Gender Colloquium in October 2015. Hasso taught the undergraduate course, "Thinking Gender," in Fall 2016.

Kimberly Lamm

Kimberly Lamm is excited that her first book, *Addressing the Other Woman: Textual Correspondences in Feminist Art and Writing*, will be coming out with Manchester University Press, part of the series "Rethinking Art's Histories." She is also looking forward to an essay on the exhibition *Global Feminisms* to appear in the collection *Feminism and Art History Now: Radical Critiques of Theory and Practice* (I.B. Tauris, 2017).

Lamm will be teaching two new courses in Spring 2017: "Mad Men: Gender, Work, and U.S. Culture," and "Fashion and Feminism." The latter is part of her research for a new book project on African-American women writers and their representation of fashion and clothing.

Frances S. Hasso

Frances S. Hasso worked on a co-edited book with Zakia Salime, *Freedom without Permission: Bodies and Space in the Arab Revolutions*, which is now in production at Duke University Press and will be published in 2016. The book includes a sole-authored chapter, "The Sect-Sex-Police Nexus and Politics in Bahrain's Pearl Revolution." Hasso continues to work on Egypt-focused research. An article, "'Civil' and the Limits of Politics in Revolutionary Egypt," is published in the December 2015 issue of *Comparative Studies in South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*. She was Editor 1 for Vol. 11 (2015) of the *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*. She worked with some intensity on the "Feminist Formations" initiative, a series of short essay interventions solicited from 21 autonomous groups and collectives across the generational spectrum from Morocco to Iran. Activists were asked to reflect on their main challenges at this historical moment. Hasso gave an invited faculty seminar on new work, "Masculinities, Ideological

Gabriel Rosenberg

Gabriel Rosenberg published his first book last fall, so he spent most of the year waiting anxiously for reviews and laying the groundwork for new research projects. This past summer, he was a François André Michaux Fund Fellow at the American Philosophical Society. There, Rosenberg conducted archival research on the history of eugenics, genetics, and livestock breeding for a book project tentatively titled, *Purebred: Making Mean and Eugenics in*

Modern America. He's continued research and writing for that project as an Early Career Fellow at the Humanities Center at the University of Pittsburgh, where he is spending the year on leave. Rosenberg submitted a chapter on "Breeds and Breeding" for a forthcoming edited volume on gender theory and animal studies, and he worked on several other essays in various stages of review. In addition, he lectured at Yale University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Grinnell College, and the University of Pittsburgh.

Kathy Rudy

Kathy Rudy often notes that teachers are drawn to teach the subject and grade/level that most inspired them in their own education. This is certainly true for Rudy. She LOVED college. Her mind expanded in so many directions at once she sometimes thought her head would explode.

And now, almost forty years later, Rudy had fallen into a position that she thinks was made for her: Director of Undergraduate Studies for GSF. She still gets to teach her students her fields of interest, but she now get to have some hand in programming what the major looks and feels like for them. Her greatest goal is to help her students see the differences they can make on a separate but parallel set of issues: growing wealth disparity, HB2, environmental destruction, peak oil, climate change, racial unrest, the list goes on. She hopes to send our majors and minors out into the world with their hearts bursting with pride, hope and courage.

Kathi Weeks

Kathi Weeks has enjoyed her sabbatical year in 2016. A number of different pieces were published over the course of the year while she was working on a book about Marxist feminism. These include a short essay about sex trafficking and abolitionism in the online journal *Open Democracy*; a contribution on 1970s feminist Shulamith Firestone for an edited volume on 51 key feminist thinkers from Routledge press; an interview about the feminist politics of a guaranteed basic income in the journal *Canadian Dimension*; an essay about post-work imagination in the work of Fredric Jameson for a volume published by Verso Press; and a collection of essays on the politics of the public toilet that she solicited from a fantastic group of scholars for the journal *South Atlantic Quarterly*. She is looking forward to being back in the classroom in 2017.

Ara Wilson

Ara Wilson was elected the Social Science representative on the Executive Council for the Arts & Sciences Council. With Gabriel Rosenberg, she is directing an initiative in GSF on Transgender Studies & the Humanities, funded by the Franklin Humanities Institute. Her recent article, "The Intimacy of Infrastructure," appeared in *Signs*. She is involved in an on-going ethnographic project in Thailand which received a research grant from the Rockefeller Center Archives. Among her courses are "Money, Sex, Power" and "Nature/Nurture Sex/Gender," team taught with a neurobiologist.

Fall 2016 EVENTS

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NOVEMBER

18 Duke on Gender Colloquium: “Colonial Sexualities” with Anjali Arondekar, Associate Professor of UC Santa Cruz, Feminist Studies, and Peter Sigal, Duke Professor of History. A presentation and discussion on how sexuality is discussed in colonial and narrative contexts, focusing particularly on colonial archives.

Black Feminist Thought and Practice: “Finding Politics in Unexpected Places,” with Tiffany M. Gill, Associate Professor of University of Delaware, Department of Black American Studies and Department of History. A talk on the international dimensions of the black beauty and travel industries to place black women’s entrepreneurial experiences at the center of global black freedom struggles.

30 Black Feminist Thought and Practice: “A Black Feminist Sense of Place in the Louisiana of Lemonade and The Louisiana Project” with LaKisha Simmons, Assistant Professor of University at Buffalo, SUNY, Transnational Studies. Simmons asks how a black feminist sense of place engages with our haunting histories, landscapes of the present/past, and embodied memories.

DECEMBER

1 & 2 Transgender Studies and the Humanities Series: “Transgender Gesture & Radicalized Performance”, Lecture and Seminar with Gayle Salamon, Associate Professor of Princeton University, Gender and Sexuality Studies. A talk on the case of Latisha King, a gender-transgressive 15-year-old who was shot and killed in an Oxnard, California junior high school by a 14-year-old classmate in 2008.

5 Black Feminist Thought and Practice: “Wearing our Wokeness: The Dressed Black Body and the Fight for Social Justice,” Tanisha C. Ford, Associate Professor of University of Delaware, Black American Studies & History. In this talk, historian Ford theorizes wokeness and how it, at once, functions as a strategy for organizing, a political ideology, and a style of dress.

Roundtable Discussion on Gender and Politics: “Reflections on the 2016 Election” with Rebecca Traister, *New York Magazine*, Deondra Rose, Assistant Professor Duke Sanford School of Public Policy, Annie Linskey, *Boston Globe*, and Rachel F. Seidman, Adjunct Assistant Professor of UNC Chapel Hill, Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies (GSF). The event included a presentation by students in Seidman’s Class: Women in the Public Sphere: History, Theory and Practice.

National Transgender Discrimination TEAM EVALUATION (continued from page 11)

United States as a whole, we added filters to the visuals we produced in order to let users look at any one of these regions in particular.

We were also interested in comparing rates of experiencing various forms of discrimination in the workplace, in housing, or in public accommodations in North Carolina or the South as compared with the rest of the country. To do this, we used a method called chisquare categorical testing to evaluate whether two categories have significantly different opinions or results. We found that differences between North Carolina and the rest of the country were generally not statistically significant, indicating that discrimination levels faced in North Carolina are similar to discrimination levels experienced nationally. However, when expanding our comparison to include the entire Southern region in relation to the rest of the country, we found that the Southern population experienced significantly higher levels of discrimination in many of our tested variables than all other regions.

The main lesson we took away from this project is that the trans community on a state, regional, and national level face disproportionately high levels of discrimination that many non-trans people do not experience in numerous facets of everyday life, from harassment at retail stores and hotels to denial of basic necessities such as shelter or medical care.

“The main lesson we took away from this project is that the trans community on a state, regional, and national level face disproportionately high levels of discrimination.”

Queer FUTURITY

by: **Alex Sánchez Bressler**

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I remember mi tía Nana's house as more dead than non-living. Not the rotten kind of death—her home had a spook to it, as if it conjured memories like spells from the afterlife. My tia's home was always cluttered with paintings, perhaps of a skeleton, or an old man, or a girl with maggots on her face. I think years later we found one of those paintings in my sister's room and it gave us a real scare—but en mi tia's casa, spooks don't have to worry about frightening others. They only exist in that house more dead than non-living, a home that once knew life and didn't regret it.

I am reminded of queer theorist José Muñoz when I remember my tía, my ghost. Muñoz speaks of queer futurity, an idea that "queerness is that thing that makes us believe this world is not enough." Yes, José. To remember a queer past as a legitimate part of history is to imagine the multiplicity of social realities. My tía knew this; she did not exist in the realm of normalcy. Her spook will haunt my own sense of community and self—I see her in my essay-writing, art-making, star-gazing, and loving. My tía lives her memory in my present tense, and perhaps José lives his memory in the lives of those who love him.

José writes that memory is a political act. I do not remember mi tía solely for nostalgia's sake; instead, I am working from a point of departure that sees my tia in José's lens where "ghosts...fuel and propel our political and erotic lives." This is not to disengage love from memory—actually, I am doing the opposite. I choose to honor the wonder that was mi tía; I choose to see her queer memory as a realm of possibility. She was so



José Esteban Muñoz author of *Cruising Utopia, The Then and There of Queer Futurity*

“... queer futurity is realized when one “looks back at a scene from one’s past, present, or future...and emboldens concepts of freedom.”

weird! She loved smells and painting and art and dark things. I look back at my tía and feel a queer, spooky future.

José writes that queer futurity is realized when one “looks back at a scene from one’s past, present, or future...and emboldens concepts of freedom.” I look at myself when I look at mi tía. I also look at José; his worldview is indeed a moment of queer ecstasy, and it has already re-imagined the future in the way that I choose to remember my tía Nana. Para mi tía, una vida normal no era suficientemente. I’ll keep that in mind, as I make my way through this radically queer world that mi tía and José Muñoz dared to reimagine.



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