



DUKE

Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies

Spring 2018

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L to R: Elizabeth Alden, Elizabeth Grosz,
Meyda Yegenoglu, Kathy Rudy

by: **Elizabeth Grosz**

Professor of Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies and Literature
Duke University

In mid-October, Professor Meyda Yegenoglu, currently a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Social Research at the University of Tampere in Finland, and formerly a Professor of Sociology and Cultural Studies at Bilgi University in Istanbul, visited the Program in Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies at Duke University to give three talks on the current political situation in Turkey since the unsuccessful coup of 2016. For undergraduates she discussed the process by which she became a feminist scholar and activist, from her undergraduate student days

in Turkey, to her graduate work at UC Santa Cruz, and to her current work as a theorist of women in Islamic cultures.

For her public lecture, she talked about the life and writings of the young Armenian woman exile to the US, Arsaluys Mardigyan, the author of *Ravished Armenia*, an autobiography and the first Hollywood film on the Armenian trauma. Mardigyan, as a



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Director's COLUMN

“ Life in *Origin* is a struggle, a battle,
a war; every organism competing
for survival ”



by: **Priscilla Wald**
Margaret Taylor Smith
Director of Gender, Sexuality
and Feminist Studies

The power of stories. We can see it when we look into the past, and—if we look closely (and critically)—in our daily lives. Feminism is one of the lenses that gives that critical perspective. We have been hearing a lot recently about the need for new stories about nature and the human in our moment, which some are lobbying to dub “the Anthropocene,” others, “the Capitalocene.” Each comes with its version of a story about humanity’s relationship to the planet, and recently GSF co-sponsored a visit from the feminist science studies scholar Donna Haraway, who has offered “the Cthulucene” as her designation for the new age.

“Anthropocene,” argues the feminist environmentalist Eileen Crist, once again puts humankind at the center, which seems destined to reproduce the problem. Haraway, concurring, is skeptical also of “Capitalocene,” which suggests we are too beholden to history and its vision of Progress—“bewitched,” she says—to see the potential for change in the practices in which we already engage. Turning over a new leaf, as it were, she finds *Pimoid cthulu*, a spider in residence in the North Central California woods whom she summons as a “demon familiar” for its tentacles, its webs, and most particularly its name, derived from “the ancient Greek khthonios,”—in, under, or beneath the earth—and “*khthōn*,... literally subterranean” (see *Staying With the Trouble* for the full story).

Listening to Haraway, and imagining life in the Cthulucene, I found myself struggling in (and with) another web: Charles Darwin’s from his magisterial *On the Origin of Species*. The web connects all life, but the principle of transformation is competition. Life in *Origin* is a struggle, a battle, a war; every organism competing for survival. It’s tempting to accept his compelling account as the way things are: “Nature, red in tooth and claw,” in the words of the poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson. But I’ve been wondering what these processes might look like independent of the assumptions—especially Malthus’s—that Darwin brought to what he observed. And Haraway’s bewitching story, I realized, was rethinking the vocabulary of life itself.

Haraway’s provocation is to imagine how we might retell our stories in collaboration with other species. So I wonder, how might the tentacled underworld dweller, *Pimoid cthulu*, help us narrate the “competition” between two plants occupying the same ecological niche in a garden? What would be the view from below? And how might a new telling change not only our sense of planetary responsibility in the Cthulucene—as we move backwards in order to move forwards—but also, at the most fundamental level, life itself?

Remembering KATE MILLETT

A Feminist Writer, Artist and Activist.



“Since woman’s independence in economic life is viewed with distrust, prescriptive agencies of all kinds (religion, psychology, advertising, etc.) continuously admonish or even inveigh against the employment of middle-class women, particularly mothers.”

by: **Elizabeth Finny**
Undergraduate,
Duke University

This line stuck out to me because it reminds me of a comment that a friend made to me in high school, when she said women can’t be successful in their careers and be a mother; that they have to choose one or another. We live in a world where career successfulness and motherhood are mutually exclusive, as can be seen in the sentiment of this quote. I think this line is important to understand because how can we discuss equality for women if their biological function, which society encourages them to use, impedes their ability to join the job sphere. Essentially, why can’t women be mothers and be successful in the economy?

“The gnawing suspicion which plagues any minority member, that the myths propagated about his inferiority might after all be true often reaches remarkable proportions in the personal insecurities of women.”

by: **Tyler Johnson**
Undergraduate,
Duke University

I picked this quote because as a Black woman I know these insecurities all too well. As Millet points out they use biology as a tool, but there is nothing inherently inferior about me. We must remember her by working towards a society where women are no longer the subordinate.

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Girls Who Code

by: **Rebecca Trinklein, Undergraduate**

Program in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies
Duke University Undergraduate

This summer, I taught for Girls Who Code, a nonprofit organization that gives 40,000 girls, aged sixteen and seventeen across the United States, the opportunity to take part in its seven-week Summer Immersion Program in which they learn the basics of coding. The Girls Who Code goal is to reduce the gender gap in technology by giving girls early exposure to computer science materials and by introducing them to positive female role models in the computer science industry. The program is hosted by a variety of technology companies, such as Facebook and Microsoft; it also provides instructions and lunch to students free of cost.

Every morning, I taught twenty students how to code on the 11th floor of Amazon's

Manhattan office, along with my classroom's two Teaching Assistants. The program's curriculum covers a range of computer science topics, including the Internet, robotics, data structures, algorithms, and the basics of coding languages such as Python, JavaScript, HTML, and CSS. Each day, I observed how learning new materials and overcoming bugs in their codes allowed my students to become more confident both in their coding abilities and in themselves.

At the end of the summer, my students left not only with a new-found set of self-confidence, knowledge and interest in a future in technology; but also with a sisterhood of 22 other girls who support each other as they develop their computer science skills. On the last day, as the class bid tearful goodbyes and promised to stay in touch, I realized that Girls Who Code had made a positive, life-changing impact the girls.

Fall 2018 EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

5 Transgender Studies + Humanities Series: "The Look of a Woman: Facial Feminization Surgery and the Aims of Trans-Medicine" with Eric Plemons, Assistant Professor in the School of Anthropology at the University of Arizona. He is a medical anthropologist focused on surgical practice and the production, circulation and application of expert knowledge on gendered bodies.

6 Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Speaker/Luncheon Series: "I Wish I Knew Then What I Know NOW!" Baldwin Scholars Graduating Senior Women Leaders share their experience and answer questions about being a student at Duke.

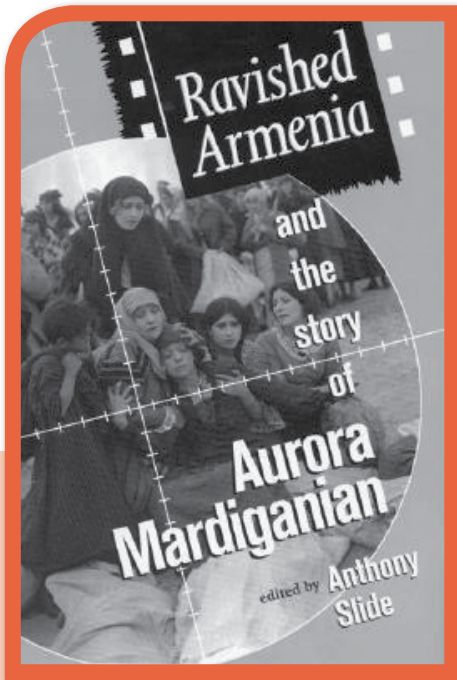
12 Professional Development Series: "The Gender Studies Job Market: Statements of Teaching philosophy and Teaching Portfolios" with Nick Clarkson, Postdoctoral Associate in Transgender Studies

with the Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies Program at Duke University

20 Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Speaker/Luncheon Series: "Reimagining a Gynecological Exam from a Woman's Perspective" with Nimmi Ramanujam, Duke University, Robert W. Carr, Jr., Professor of Biomedical Engineering. Talk on how we have used a woman centric approach to eradicate the much dreaded duck bill speculum.

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Meyda YEGENOGLU (continued from page 1)



Her lectures and talks at Duke opened up the place of real-world relations of power, intimidation and imprisonment that face students, scholars and academics ...



young girl, witnesses all the women and girls in her family be slaughtered, and was sent, alone, to this country to live with surviving family members. After writing her autobiography, and having a role in the film, she continues to live in the USA, and to speak and write about her memories of the forced displacement of masses of people from Anatolia, Turkey.

For Professor Yegenoglu's talk to graduate students, she discussed undertaking research in situations of personal and political risk, specifically with reference to the imprisonment of Turkish academics who are critical of the current government. She discussed the difficulties of scholarly writing in the context of working in situations of peril with increased regulation that focused on judicial, military or academic issues and what is at stake for those who do that work.

Her lectures and talks at Duke opened up the place of real-world relations of power, intimidation and imprisonment that face students, scholars and academics as they undertake the work of social and political analysis.





Cameron Awkward-Rich, PhD

Postdoctoral Associate in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies
Duke University

PROFILE

I am coming to Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies (GSF) at Duke fresh from having received my PhD from Stanford University's program in Modern Thought and Literature. Thus far, I have deeply appreciated the vibrant intellectual community in and around GSF, including the Queer/Trans Theory reading group organized by graduate student Inbal Fischer, generative conversations with my co-postdoc, and too many talks and panels to name. This semester, among other things, I've been working on two scholarly articles; given several readings from my poetry collection, *Sympathetic Little Monster*, in North Carolina and elsewhere; and begun to revise my dissertation into a manuscript.

My first scholarly book, *Refuse: Maladjustment & Trans[masculine] Thought*, examines the politics and poetics of bad feelings in transgender literature and theory. Reading a range of cultural artifacts—novels, films, poems, polemics, biographies, and scholarship—by and about transgender people in the 20th/21st century, *Refuse* argues for and models a version of trans theory that thinks with, rather than against, the bad feelings and mad habits of thought that persist in transphobic discourse and trans cultural production alike.

Related to my research on transgender literature, I will be teaching a spring semester course called "Reading Transgender." In this course, students will explore the history of trans representation in writing, from newspaper chronicles of nineteenth-century cross-dressers to the writing of contemporary transgender poets. Together, we'll piece together a literary history of transgender, tracing out how past ways of framing gender-nonconforming people have shaped the present of transgender literature and lives, as well as considering the ways in which contemporary writers are imagining trans futures.

I am excited to be with GSF for the second year of its Transgender Studies initiative, and I look forward to continuing to be a part of the ongoing conversation.

A poet and critic, Cameron Awkward-Rich is the author of the poetry collection Sympathetic Little Monster (2016) and has published articles in Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society and Science Fiction Studies. In 2017, he received his PhD from Stanford University's program in Modern Thought and Literature. He also holds a B.A. in English and Biology from Wesleyan University.

Nick Clarkson, PhD

Postdoctoral Associate in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies
Duke University

Having moved most recently from a small town in southern Minnesota, I have been excited to find so many opportunities for queer and feminist connections at Duke and in Durham. I gave a talk from my manuscript in progress, partnered with Duke's Center for Instructional Technology for a blog series on trans inclusive pedagogy, conducted a workshop on teaching documents for the academic job market for GSF graduate certificate students, attended several meetings of the graduate queer and trans theory reading group, and have been reading tarot for students at a few of the Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity's Kickback Fridays. I have also enjoyed getting to know people off-campus through the Durham Rainbow Bowling League and events at the LGBT Center of Durham.

At the start of the semester, I wrapped up a summer project, an article entitled "Teaching Trans Studies, Teaching Trans Students," which is currently under review with *Feminist Teacher*. For the rest of the school year, I will focus on revising my manuscript, *States of Incoherence: Biopolitics and Transnormative Citizenship*, which examines the effects of post-9/11 surveillance and security policies on trans people. I look at the use of body scanners in airports as well as amendments to policies about changing one's sex designation on identity documents in order to demonstrate the conflicting concerns of contemporary U.S. security practices.

Identity documentation policies require trans people to medically modify their bodies to be recognized by the State, while airport security procedures respond with suspicion to those whose bodies have been modified.

This spring, I will teach a freshman seminar, "Trans Identities and Activism." Course materials will help students develop a more nuanced relationship to the recent surge in trans visibility. In addition to learning about the history of trans communities, we will explore the relationship between transness and different topics such as feminism, surveillance, pleasure, medical regulation, and media representations.

Nick Clarkson earned his PhD in Gender Studies at Indiana University. His previous appointments include a Future Faculty Teaching Fellowship at Butler University in Indianapolis and a Visiting Assistant Professorship at Minnesota State University, Mankato. His publications have appeared in Archives of Sexual Behavior, Transgender Studies Quarterly, and Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore's anthology Why Are Faggots so Afraid of Faggots.



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2017 Feminist Theory Workshop

IMPRESSIONS

by: **Billy Holzberg**

PhD candidate
Gender Institute, London
School of Economics, UK
Country of citizenship:
Germany

The Duke Feminist Theory Workshop was a truly insightful experience. I loved participating in an event that gave such a prominent stage to feminist theory. Not having known too much about the work of the presenting scholars before, I enjoyed engaging with and being carried away by strands of feminist theory that were not directly related to my research. I was impressed by the range of different topics and high quality of the talks, the scholars opened up new pathways of thought for me — not only in terms of subject matter but also epistemologically and methodologically. Therein, I particularly enjoyed the talks by Kathi Weeks, Katherine McKittrick and Christina Crosby who in different ways persisted in asking and charting potential ways for thinking about how to live a meaningful life under conditions of hardship and increasing precarity.

I am truly grateful for having been able to participate in the Duke Feminist Theory



Workshop. The workshop was impeccably organized and I was made to feel welcome immediately. I really enjoyed the breakfast session and was glad to debate the different papers with other people in the smaller seminar. The travel award not only gave me the possibility to participate in this unique event but also allowed me to meet with a range of other junior scholars from different parts of the world that I struck up stimulating and lasting relationships with. As such it was a truly enriching experience.

by: **Iva Dimovska**

PhD candidate
Department of Gender
Studies, Central European
University, Hungary
Country of citizenship:
Republic of Macedonia

As a first time-attendee of the Duke Feminist Theory Workshop I was pleasantly surprised and more than excited by the diversity of the offered talks that covered such current and interesting topics, ranging from the complex relationship between work and love, public and private; through one's pain, grief and mourning for a lost body; to the ways futurity of black lives is measured, predicted and constructed; and the still debated position of essentialism in feminist art practices.

I personally benefited the most from Professor Christina Crosby's talk "Loss is Inseparable from What Remains". Thinking about empathy and ways of establishing new forms of relating and reimagining love has unexpectedly contributed to my own PhD project, inspiring me to reflect on the ways

in which love and empathy can be actualized as revolutionary forces both in the public and the private sphere.

All in all, the participation in the Duke Feminist Theory Workshop for me was both a chance to enrich my knowledge and gain new perspectives on pressing feminist issues by engaging conversations with peers with different disciplinary backgrounds. It also acted as a source of inspiration when it comes to working my own project, primarily through the topics I have been engaged with in the last few weeks following the end of the workshop: the revolutionary potential of (queer) love and empathy and experiencing (queer) time after great trauma, grief and pain.

A two-day event presented by



12th annual

Feminist Theory Workshop

March 23–24, 2018 • Duke University

KEYNOTES:

Anne Allison

Professor in Cultural Anthropology, Duke University

Silvia Federici

Professor Emerita of New College, Hofstra University

Denise Ferreira da Silva

Director & Professor in the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice, University of British Columbia

Jennifer Nash

Associate Professor, African-American Studies & Gender and Sexuality Studies, Northwestern University

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Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies, Princeton University
Women's and Gender Studies, Southern Methodist University
Department of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies at Stony Brook University
Women and Gender Studies, University of Toronto Mississauga, Canada
CIRSDe Interdisciplinary Center for Research and Studies of Women and Gender, University of Turin, Italy
Women's and Gender Studies, Virginia Tech
The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality at Wake Forest University

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

Register online at <https://www.regonline.com/feministtheoryworkshop2018> 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 **Julie Wynmor** at (919) 684-3655 or gfs@duke.edu.

Grad Scholars COLLOQUIUM (2016-2017)

by: **Claire E. Scott, PhD**

Carolina-Duke Graduate
Program in German Studies

Maryann Murtagh

PhD Candidate
Duke University,
Program in Literature



Last year's Graduate Scholars Colloquium supported by the Program in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies prompted our community to investigate the role of gender, sexuality, and feminism in a wide variety of contexts. We explored a diverse array of spaces including the British psychoanalytic clinic and the U.S. women's prison; traveled through an assortment of temporalities from contemporary trans-Asian pop music to an exhibition inspired by the United Order of Tents founded in 1867; and engaged with variety of media, including performance art, film, and the genre of the pamphlet.

The Fall Semester began with a presentation by Carolyn Laubender from the Program in Literature. Her work on Melanie Klein and play in the post-war children's clinic helped

us to rethink Eve Sedgwick's notion of "reparative reading." This was followed by Michelle Wolff's complication of the disciplinary logic of the "curative" rape of lesbian women and transmen in South Africa. Michelle's theological training led to some thought-provoking insights on queer kinship and Christianity's intervention into the regulation of sexuality and gender presentation. To cap off the semester Claire Scott from German Studies presented on melodrama in the New German Cinema, addressing questions of motherhood and genre as they relate to female identification with suffering.

In the Spring Semester we first welcomed Shannan Lee Hayes from the Program in Literature. Her presentation asked us to

consider Simone Leigh's exhibit *The Waiting Room* as contributing to a politics of refusal and an aesthetics of difference. Next Ali Na, from the Department of Communication at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, introduced us to the Korean-born, gender non-conforming performance artist Yozmit. In our discussion we considered the relationship between gender, Buddhism, and technology. Our final presenter of the year was Jess Issacharoff from the Program in Literature who took us back to the origin of the women's prison in the United States.

Pulling in everything from horse-theft, to Martha Stewart, to *Orange is the New Black*, our discussion of incarceration as gendered was an exciting way to end the year.

Many thanks to all of our presenters, respondents, and participants! A special thanks to the incomparable Julie Wynmor for her assistance in coordinating these events! The vibrancy of this community makes it a joy to be a part of, so please be on the look out for more excitement next year.

Fall 2018 EVENTS (continued from page 4)

OCTOBER

2 Graduate Scholars Colloquium: "Primordial Wombs: Clay Crystals as the Originary Surfaces of Life" with Annu Dahiya, PhD candidate, Literature Department, Duke University. Respondent: Max Symuleski, PhD candidate, Computational Media Arts and Cultures Program, Duke University. "Primordial Wombs" analyzes the role the non-living environment played in the genesis of life on Earth.

4 Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Speaker/ Luncheon Series: "(Re) Imagining Goldberg: Simone Dinnerstein and Pam Tanowitz on their "Careers and Collaboration" with Classical pianist Simone Dinnerstein and choreographer Pam Tanowitz.

6 Duke on Gender Colloquium: "Interventions on the Colonial and Postcolonial: The Case of Psychoanalysis" Moderator: Antonio Viego (Duke

Romance Studies, Program in Literature). Presenters: Ankhi Mukherjee (Wadham College, Oxford University) "Psychomattering: The Analyst as Muse of History in Disaster Zones". Ranjana Khanna (Duke English Department, Program in Literature) "Death Drives: International Psychoanalysis Again".

17 "Becoming a Feminist Under an Authoritarian Regime" with Meyda Yegenoglu, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Social Sciences, at University of Tampere, Finland. In this conversation Meyda Yegenoglu described the history of the difficult political and repressive conditions under which she has become a feminist activist as well as a feminist scholar.

18 Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Speaker/ Luncheon Series: "The Road Less Traveled: How a Feminist Used a Law Degree to change

the World" with Olie (Bibi) Gnagno, M.A. in French language and Civilization from the New York University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in Paris and a J.D. from North Carolina Central University.

"Writing Disaster, Testifying Violence and Abusing Trama: The Double Tragedy of Arşaluys Mardigyan" with Meyda Yegenoglu, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Social Sciences, at University of Tampere, Finland. A talk problematizing the difficult distinction between testimony and literary representation of genocide by reading *Ravished Armenia* and Arşaluys Mardigyan's story.

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Faculty UPDATES

Elizabeth Grosz

Elizabeth Grosz taught two classes in the fall, an undergraduate class, "Thinking Gender", and a graduate class called "Time and Becoming". She is on leave in the Spring of 2018. Grosz has published many scholarly articles and books, most recently, *The Incorporeal. Ontology, Ethics and the Limits of Materialism* (Columbia University Press, 2017).

Frances S. Hasso

Frances S. Hasso is Associate Professor in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies with secondary appointments in Sociology and History at Duke University. She is an Editor of the *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies* (2015-2018). She co-edited *Freedom without Permission: Bodies and Space in the Arab Revolutions* (Duke University Press 2016) with Zakia Salime (Rutgers). She is Co-Director of the Duke on Gender Colloquium with Anna Krylova in the History Department. She was awarded an American Center for Oriental Research (Amman)/Council of American Overseas Research Centers Senior Fellowship for spring 2018 and a 2017 Josiah Charles Trent Memorial Foundation Endowment Research Grant, both to support archival and field research for the project, "Palestinian Perinatal and Young Child Death During the British Mandate," which she worked on for five weeks in Occupied Palestine in summer 2017. She is completing three of four related articles on politics, bodies, and spaces in contemporary Egypt, iterations of which she presented at Brown in May 2017, Princeton in October 2017, Cal Berkeley in October 2017, and the University of Minnesota in December 2017.

Kimberly Lamm

Kimberly Lamm is happy that she received tenure and was promoted to Associate Professor last spring. She is also excited that in January 2018, her first book, *Addressing the Other Woman: Textual Correspondences in Feminist Art and Writing*, will be coming out with Manchester University Press. She recently completed two essays on aesthetics, queer sexuality, and clothing: "The Will to Adorn: Nick Cave's Soundsuits and the Queer Reframing of Black Masculinity," and "A Queer Poetics of the Normal: Joe Brainard, Clothing, and Girlish Femininity." She is hard at work on her next book, which brings Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak's concept of an "aesthetic education" to bear on the work of women artists who, in the 1980s and 1990s, sought to decolonize global visual culture and the figurations of woman within it.

Gabriel Rosenberg

Gabriel Rosenberg spent the Spring semester on leave as an Early Career Fellow at the Humanities Center at the University of Pittsburgh where he continued work on his two current book projects. On his return to Duke, He's dived back into teaching and to his new duties as the Director of Undergraduate Studies of GSF. In the meantime, he published an article in *GLQ: A Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies* titled, "How Meat Changed Sex: The Law of Interspecies Intimacy after Industrial Reproduction." He also published a chapter in an edited volume on gender theory and animal studies, and he continued work on several other essays in various stages of review. He gave talks

at Yale University, Washington University in St. Louis, Northwestern University, the Ohio State University, the University of Georgia, the University of Tennessee, and the University of Lethbridge. Finally, he participated in an unusual and invigorating seminar at the Library of Congress's John W. Kluge Center. The seminar staged a conversation between humanists and astrobiologists.

Kathy Rudy

Kathy Rudy had a very good year teaching, writing, and healing. Her courses during last year included "Interpreting Bodies", "Nature Culture Gender", and the "Senior Seminar", which is the capstone course. Next summer she will teach "Ethic in America the Question of the Animal" for the Duke MALS Program. MALS is the Masters of Arts in Liberal Studies Program that offers students a rich selection of seminars within a graduate program that gives them the freedom to chart their own course of study.

One of Kathy's passions is student mentoring and she is able to do this by working with students who are preparing their honors thesis. She annually hosts an informational dinner for rising juniors who are Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies majors. She introduces the value, commitment, and work such a project requires along with the guidance she and other faculty mentors can provide. The most important aspect involves how she helps students explore how they can incorporate their passions and interests into a thesis.

As many of you know, Kathy has been battling a long-term illness. Her journey with this illness has changed her perspective on many things in life. The life lessons her illness has brought have been hard but vital; perhaps they are just as important as anything she ever learned in a classroom.

Kathi Weeks

Kathi Weeks has continued to work on her book about U.S. Marxist feminism. In addition, she published a brief political intervention in a recent issue of *In These Times* on intersectional class activism and her essay titled "Down with Love: Feminist Critique and the New Ideologies of Work" is due to come out soon in *Women's Studies Quarterly*. She has been traveling quite a bit this year to give talks and attend conferences, and has given a number of print, radio, and podcast interviews. She was thrilled to be awarded the Robert B. Cox Teaching Award last Spring.

Ara Wilson

Ara Wilson oversaw an initiative on Transgender Studies this past year with Gabriel Rosenberg. She directs the Graduate Certificate program in Feminist Studies and serves as a faculty representative on the Executive Committee of the Arts & Science Council in Trinity College. Her current projects explicate new and old rubrics in feminist and queer studies, including gender, infrastructure, and intimacy.

Duke on Gender Colloquium

THINKING FEMINISM AND SOCIALISM: PAST, PRESENT, AND TIME ITSELF

“” The presentations as a whole offered lessons in doing research that uses archives and creates new ones. ””

by: **Sydney Roberts**
Undergraduate,
Literature Major
Duke University

Convened a day before the October Revolution's centenary, the November 6, 2017 Duke on Gender Colloquium, titled "Marxism, Feminism, Socialism: A Transnational Conversation," posed timely questions concerning the past of Socialist Feminism and what we can draw from it to understand the present, future, and time itself using a transnational lens. Professors Rebecca Karl (NYU), Anna Krylova (Duke), Kristen Ghodsee (Penn), Lisa Disch (Michigan), and Kathi Weeks (Duke) examined multiple sites, texts, and historical moments to offer nuanced analysis

on subjects relevant to the study of sex, gender, bodily subjectivity, and feminism in relation to capital. The presentations as a whole offered lessons in doing research that uses archives and creates new ones. The contemporary political and economic effects of late capitalism provided a sense of urgency that underscored the connecting thread of feminist imaginaries and historical analyses that dared to envision a better future. Objects of inquiry included early 20th Century Chinese Anarcho-Feminist texts, Soviet films, feminist manifestos, U.S. propaganda, and records of the often

Fall 2018 EVENTS (continued from page 11)

OCTOBER

19 **"Managing Scholarship at Risk"** with Meyda Yegenoglu, Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Social Sciences, at University of Tampere, Finland. Meyda Yegenoglu addressed the current difficult political conditions academics in Turkey are facing and the difficulties she must negotiate in her current research.

Transgender Studies + Humanities Series:
"Terrorizing Transness: Necropolitical Nationalism" with Nick Clarkson Postdoctoral Associate in Transgender Studies with the Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies Program at Duke University. A talk on the conceptual links between "terror" and "transness" highlighting links across post-9/11 U.S. security memos and contemporary popular culture tropes.

23 **Graduate Scholars Colloquium: "Simone de Beauvoir & the Dancing Project"** with Tessa Nunn, PhD candidate, Romance Studies Department, Duke University. Respondent: Dr. Thomas DeFrantz, African & African American Studies Department, Program in Dance, Theater Studies, Duke University. Examined Beauvoir's study of personal freedom through dance and recognition of the dancing other.

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ignored Socialist Bloc solidarities built with activists in the Global South. Krylova's argument for revisiting Bolshevik Feminism and state-sponsored projects of social transformation and cultivation, especially in schooling, complimented Ghodsee's argument that feminist gains in the West since the 1960s were centrally linked to Cold War competition with the Soviet Union, which took gender inequality seriously early.

Analyzing French theorist Christine Delphy's work, Disch argued that 1970s feminist theory should be revisited rather dismissed

using the "second wave" frame. Weeks analyzed with and against each other a number of feminist activist texts from 1970 to 2015, arguing that Marxist Feminist was, is and can be thought from multiple sites and often in tandem, using this to reflect on the temporality and political potentiality of past literature. Karl's consideration of the translated writings of the early twentieth-century Chinese theorist He-Yin Zhen as revolutionary global feminist thought allowed for broad insights on women as a class, sex and reproduction as labor, and nationalism. Ultimately, the colloquium was an evening of grappling with difficult questions concerning Socialist Feminist liberatory politics, a practice as necessary now as it was 100 years ago. The Duke on Gender Colloquium is co-directed by Frances S. Hasso and Anna Krylova.



“ ... the colloquium was an evening of grappling with difficult questions concerning Socialist Feminist liberatory politics, a practice as necessary now as it was 100 years ago ... ”

Remembering **KATE MILLETT** (continued from page 3)

Left to right
Michelle Rodriguez, Miriam Levitin,
Tyler Johnson, Devon Lewis,
Elizabeth Finny, and Mahima Varma



by: **Miriam Levitin**
Undergraduate,
Duke University

“Perhaps patriarchy’s greatest psychological weapon is simply its universality and longevity. A referent scarcely exists with which it might be contrasted or by which it might be confuted. While the same might be said of class, patriarchy has a still more tenacious or powerful hold through its successful habit of passing itself off as nature. Religion is also universal in human society and slavery was once nearly so; advocates of each were fond of arguing in terms of fatality, or irrevocable human “instinct” – even “biological origins.” When a system of power is thoroughly in command, it has scarcely need to speak itself aloud; when its workings are exposed and questioned, it becomes not only subject to discussion, but even to change. Such a period is the one next under discussion.”

I am currently in a course titled “Sex/Gender, Nature/Nurture”, which questions the causes of sex differentiation and variance in sexuality. Throughout history it has been argued that women are simply inferior — this is natural, this is biology, this is evolution. Millet acknowledged that yes, there are biological differences, but it is social construction that has led to the institutional ruling of males over females. When certain groups lack representation in political structures, their oppression continues. We cannot subvert the patriarchal system unless we expose and question its workings.

by: **Michelle Rodriguez**
Undergraduate,
Duke University

“For it is precisely because certain groups have no representation in a number of recognized political structures that their position tends to be so stable, their oppression so continuous.”

This called my attention because I have lived through this political oppression as a minority. Political figures always speak of cutting government aid towards the less financially stable, and the fact that minorities have no representation allows these figures to choose what they want to impose upon us. This destabilizes our communities and wreaks havoc on the incoming generations.

“It is often assumed that patriarchy is endemic in human social life, explicable or even inevitable on the grounds of human physiology. Such a theory grants patriarchy logical as well as historical origin.”

by: **Mahima Varma**
Undergraduate,
Duke University

Patriarchy today is so deep rooted in Human nature that it has become implicit and self perpetuating. Women internalise the oppression and strengthen the cycle. Gender difference have become both increasing subtle as well as increasingly commonplace. Everyone everywhere is participating in increasing the gender gap - females grow up believing that they are inferior and inadvertently accept the secondary position whereas males do the opposite.

“As the Freudian understanding of female personality is based upon the idea of penis envy, it requires an elaborate, and often repetitious, exposition. Beginning with the theory of penis envy, the definition of the female is negative – what she is is the result of the fact that she is not a male and “lacks” a penis. Freud assumed that the female’s discovery of her sex is, in and of itself, a catastrophe of such vast proportions that it haunts woman all through life and accounts for most aspects of her temperament...Assuming that this were true, the crucial question, manifestly, is to ask why this might be so. Either maleness is indeed an inherently superior phenomenon, and in which case its “betterness” could be empirically proved and demonstrated, or the female misapprehends and reasons erroneously that she is inferior. And again, one must ask why. What forces in her experience, her society and socialization have led her to see herself as an inferior being? The answer would seem to lie in the conditions of patriarchal society and the inferior position of women within this society.”

by: **Devon Lewis**
Undergraduate,
Duke University

I really enjoyed reading the entire section on Freud and I chose this quote because it introduces Millett’s challenge to Freudian thinking. Millet thoroughly traces the roots of patriarchy that underlay Freud’s theories on sexual differentiation. In doing so, she is challenging not only this individual, but all of the social theories that have been built on Freud and other philosophers. I think this is really powerful to see a woman pushing back against patriarchy in academic and establishing a new way of viewing society. I believe that this perspective was transformative to feminism at its time.

“What’s the Buzz???”

GENDER WEDNESDAY



“I Wish I Knew Then What I Know NOW!”

with Baldwin Scholars Graduating Seniors Ania Desai, Mali Shimojo, and Samantha Holmes. These women shared their own experiences and answered questions about being a student at Duke.

The Alice M. Baldwin Scholars Program inspires and supports undergraduate women to become engaged, confident and connected leaders in the Duke community and beyond.



“Reimagining a Gynecological Exam from a Woman’s Perspective”

with Nimmi Ramanujam, Robert W Carr, Jr. Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Director of Center for Global Women’s Health Technologies. She leads a multi-disciplinary translational research program focused on the development of novel optical technologies for noninvasive or minimally invasive assessment of breast and cervical cancer.

Nimmi Ramanujam will talk about how we have used a woman centric approach to eradicate the much dreaded duck bill speculum and the work we are doing to create a new narrative for women’s perceptions of their reproductive anatomy.



“(Re)Imagining Goldberg: Simone Dinnerstein & Pam Tanowitz on Their ‘Careers and Collaboration’”

with classical pianist Simone Dinnerstein and choreographer Pam Tanowitz. Simone Dinnerstein is a classical pianist who rose to prominence with her self-financed recording of Bach’s Goldberg Variations in 2007 and she is now widely recognized as one of the world’s leading Bach interpreters. Pam Tanowitz is an NY-based choreographer and founder of Pam Tanowitz Dance, known for her unflinchingly postmodern treatment of classical dance. The event moderator was Barbara Dickinson a Professor of the Practice of Dance for the Duke University Dance Program, where she teaches Modern Technique, Repertory, Performance, Choreography, and Dance History.

Using a deconstructed classical dance vocabulary, Dinnerstein and Tanowitz’s new piece translates Bach’s Goldberg Variations score into movement. They discuss their careers and collaboration in the week leading up to the world premiere of New Work for Goldberg Variations in Duke’s Reynolds Industries Theater.

“The Road Less Traveled: How a Feminist Used a Law Degree to Change the World”

with Olie “Bibi” Gnagno, a graduate of Smith College in Government and French, a Master of Arts in French language and Civilization from New York University in Paris, and a Doctor of Jurisprudence from North Carolina Central University. Over the last two years, Bibi has lived in Cote d’Ivoire, completing a Fulbright-Clinton Fellowship on gender-based violence in relation to women’s access to justice. Also, she started a company called “OMG I Love Your Hair.”

Bibi Gnagno shared her unique life path and experiences, staying true to herself and acknowledging the mutual support of her community.



“Transgender Issues in Medicine”

with Lisa Nadler, MD Assistant Professor of Community and Family Medicine, Duke Primary Care and Destry Taylor Nurse Practitioner, Durham, NC. Nadler and Taylor’s talk was on the medical and counseling resources available to transgender patients.



So, what is your story?

How did feminism impact your life?

Fall 2018 EVENTS (continued from page 14)

NOVEMBER

6 Duke on Gender Colloquium: “Marxism, Socialism, Feminism: A Transnational Conversation” Chair: Frances Hasso (Duke GSFS, Sociology, History). Presenters: Lisa Disch/ on France (Political Science, University of Michigan), Kristen Ghodsee/ on Eastern Europe (Cultural Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania), Rebecca Karl/ on China (History Department, NYU), Kathi Weeks/ on the US (Duke GSFS), and Anna Krylova/ on Russia (Duke History Department)

13 Graduate Scholars Colloquium: “Herculine Barbin: Memoir and Palimpsest” with Laurel Iber, PhD candidate, Romance Studies Department, Duke University. Respondent: Suzanne Le Men, PhD candidate, Romance Studies Department, Duke University. Examined the political, ideological and aesthetic dimensions of Herculine Barbin’s Memoirs.

15 Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Speaker/ Luncheon: “Transgender Issues in Medicine” with Lisa Nadler, MD and Destry Taylor NP Student,

Duke University. Talk on the medical and counseling resources available to transgender patients.

27 Graduate Student workshop and lunch: “Beyond the Spectrum: Rethinking Autism” with Tom Boellstorff, professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of California, Irvine. By placing disability and sexuality studies in conversation, the workshop explored what alternative frameworks might bring to questions of social justice, ability, and human flourishing.



Duke University

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Spring 2018 COURSES

GSF 89S.01 **Trans Identities and Activism**
Nicholas Clarkson

GSF 101.01 **Gender and Everyday Life**
Maryann D. Murtagh

GSF 199S.01 **Thinking Gender**
Kathi Weeks

GSF 221.01 **Women at Work**
Martha Reeves

GSF 290S.03 **Sexuality and The Law**
Juliette Duara

GSF 290S.04 **Reading Transgender**
Cameron Awkward-Rich

GSF 362S.01 **Gender and Popular Culture**
Kimberly Lamm

GSF 363S.01 **Interpreting Bodies**
Mary K. Rudy

GSF 366.01 **Nature, Culture, and Gender**
Saskia Cornes

GSF 370S.01 **Queer Theory**
Gabriel Rosenberg

GSF 401.01 **Gender and The Law**
Katharine Bartlett

GSF 499S.01 **Senior Seminar**
Gabriel Rosenberg
Priscilla Wald

GSF 601S.01 **Debates In Women's Studies**
Mary K. Rudy

GSF 701S.01 **Foundations In Feminist Theory**
Kimberly K. Lamm

GSF 960S.01 **Death Drives**
Ranjana Khanna
Allison Anne