



DUKE

Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies

Summer 2018

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by: **Julie Tetel Andresen**

Professor of English

Duke University

On Friday, February 9th I happened to catch *Real Time* with Bill Maher. Maher had invited onto the show Bari Weiss, a columnist at the *New York Times*, to discuss the first Valentine's Day since the eruption of the #metoo movement.

Maher first made his points about love: how we've spent our whole history as humans saying that love is magical and serendipitous, how we can't explain why it works or predict who will turn us on; how we can't legislate it, and why we don't want to rule it out of existence.

Weiss responded with the idea that the conversations around the #metoo movement have been exclusively about consent and pain and that what we should also be talking about is **intimacy**, **love**, and **romance**. She was happy to imagine this as a moment when we can "revisit the sexual revolution."

At this point in the conversation, April Ryan, a White House correspondent and panelist on Maher's show, threw in the word **courtship**. Maher picked up the idea that courtship involves pursuit. Ryan responded with

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Director's COLUMN

“ What’s in a name?

That depends a lot on who
is doing the naming. ”



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

What’s in a name? That depends a lot on who is doing the naming. I’m delighted to be teaching the GSF capstone seminar with my colleague Gabriel Rosenberg this year. It’s a great group of students, and one of our topics has been to think about what can and cannot be said.

In a class on feminist theory, we discussed how new concepts emerge, beginning as amorphous ideas and gradually assuming definition. The students broke into pairs to identify something they’ve wanted to express but lacked a word.

Not surprisingly, technology inspired several responses. We’ve all had the experience, I imagine, of wanting to google something but not quite knowing what terms would get us the information we seek. One of the pairs coined “franoogle”—from frustration and google—to name the experience of trying to grasp an idea for which we lack words and of struggling to find out more about something without those terms.

“Technoshade” also invokes technology—this time, social media. The pair coining this word was interested in the expectations people have about how others will respond to something. “Technoshade” names the decision to decline to “like”—or perhaps even to signal disapprobation of—something one would be expected to “like” on social media, to defy others’ assumptions about our responses.

Not surprisingly, identity was another concern. “Ghost belongingness” is how one pair named the nostalgia for a sense of belonging one in fact never had. This wonderfully poetic term reminds how easy it is to imagine, in light of contemporary alienation, that it was better once. Perhaps such false memories give us the hope we need to work for social transformation.

The fourth pair coined “literatize,” which names the effort to turn the everyday into the literary or to recognize the literariness of the everyday; identifying that tendency is especially important because it can be used as a mode of resistance. To understand the literariness of the everyday is to see how lived experience is constructed, which in turn makes visible the power of stories, hence the mechanisms through which we might work for change.

In addition to seeing the concerns—and creativity—of our majors, this exercise showed us how our collective vocabulary shapes our communication: what we can say, what others can hear. Feminism is about transformation, but in order to transform our world, we must first understand it, and understanding how to make accessible what we cannot yet say is crucial.

Congratulations to the **GENDER, SEXUALITY & FEMINIST STUDIES CLASS OF 2018**

GENDER, SEXUALITY & FEMINIST STUDIES FIRST MAJORS

Tyler Ann Johnson
Eliza Stephanie Moreno

Adriana Moniece Parker
Lauren Mechelle Perry-Carrera

Alexander Solomon Sanchez Bressler

GENDER, SEXUALITY & FEMINIST STUDIES SECOND MAJORS

Lauren Kelly Bunce
(First Major in English)

Savannah Grace Lynn
(First Major in Psychology)

Colleen Sharp
(First Major in African American
Studies)

Mikaela Anne Kovach-Galton
(Interdepartmental Degree,
Gender, Sexuality & Feminist
Studies, Psychology)

GENDER, SEXUALITY & FEMINIST STUDIES MINORS

Larissa Marie Cox
(Major in Computer Science)

Louise Kendaru
(Major in Cultural Anthropology)

Eliane Morgan Shinder
(Major in Biology)

Olivia Deitcher
(Major in Biomedical Engineering)

Samantha Lee Sconyers
(Major in International
Comparative Studies)

Erin Colleen Taylor
(Major in Computer Science)

Amanda S. Gavcovich
(Major in Public Policy)

Lucy Elizabeth Wooldridge
(Major in Public Policy)

SEXUALITY STUDIES MINORS

Cynthia Michelle Metzger
(Major in Environmental Science)

GRADUATE STUDENTS COMPLETING THE CERTIFICATE IN FEMINIST STUDIES

Israel Augustus Durham
(PhD, English)

Carolyn C. Laubender
(PhD, Literature)

John Paul Stadler
(PhD, Literature)

Rachel E. Greenspan
(PhD, Literature)



SENIOR STORY



Lauren Bunce

“Studying feminist theory and literature has provided me with the analytical tools and critical vocabulary necessary to not only think about social processes differently, but also imagine alternative ways of being in the world.”

Feminism has been a powerful force in my imagination, allowing me to dream about what the world could look like without patriarchy. In a column I wrote for my high school newspaper in 2013, I asked a question that I didn't yet have the tools to answer: “When will women realize that they are capable of so much more?” I recognize a budding consciousness in this statement; my 18-year-old self was waiting for a community that would not only confirm what I knew about patriarchal oppression, but teach me how to overcome it. GSF was this community, but I learned more about oppression and resistance than my 18-year-old self could have ever imagined.

Instead of asking how a woman can realize her potential, I want to join feminist theorists who have asked how collective liberation can be realized. “Thinking things together,” as Angela Davis described it in an inspiring lecture that I was fortunate to attend this year, is one of the greatest lessons to be

learned from a gender studies curriculum. As individuals with various identities and lived experiences, we depend on one another for our liberation. As people who study various disciplines and approach contemporary struggles from more than one angle, we rely on overlapping strategies and perspectives. Studying feminist theory and literature has provided me with the analytical tools and critical vocabulary necessary to not only think about social processes differently, but also imagine alternative ways of being in the world. I am overjoyed to say that as I near the end of my time at Duke, I feel less alone in my pursuit of change. I have discovered my talents as an educator and supporter of others, and I have found immense joy in collaboration and community. It is my duty as a lifelong learner and aspiring teacher to question unwaveringly, support others in their search for freedom and agency, and always think things together.

Tyler Ann Johnson

“ I was sitting in the class Gender and Everyday Life and realized there was a whole different mode of learning that was new to me. ”



I came to Duke knowing I wanted to be an Obstetrician Gynecologist. I was unaware of the path I would take to get there, nor the difficulty of the process. I am the first in my family to go to college, and I was under the assumption that getting to medical school was a straight track. This was not the case, and I realized this the spring of my freshman year. I was sitting in the class Gender and Everyday Life and realized there was a whole different mode of learning that was new to me. I was so intrigued by reading about my life and some of my struggles in an academic text. I was learning about intersectionality as a concept, and trying to figure out how that can be used practically. This is when I decided that I would be a Gender, Sexuality and Feminist major, while

being a pre-med student. My goal is working with black women in communities that are underserved. I want to work with young black women/girls on sexual health because of the disproportionate rates of STIs among black women. Through this education I was able to learn about why these discrepancies may exist causing me to want to work with my communities of women even more. I also learned to open my eyes to the injustices medicine has done to black women in particular. These revelations have caused me to pursue medicine with some much need skepticism. I am appreciative of this opportunity to learn and grow with the help of the Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies . I look forward to using this education to follow my dreams.

SENIOR
STORY

Spring 2018 EVENTS

JANUARY

17 “**Black Feminism and the Limits of the Law**” with Patrice Douglass, professor of Justice, Community, and Leadership at Saint Mary’s College of California. Through a critical analysis of the dissenting opinion by Justice Sonia Sotomayor in *Utah v. Strieff* and of Black feminist theory, the talk explored the limits of the law after abolition of slavery.

29 Graduate Scholars Colloquium: “**Museum in Exile: Martin Wong and the Museum of American Graffiti**” with Kita Douglas, PhD candidate for Duke University Department of English. Focusing on Martin Wong and his collection of NYC graffiti writing art and materials and Wong’s short lived Museum of American Graffiti in 1989 Douglas presented a section of her dissertation chapter.

30 “**Yaaas, But No: Theorizing Black Women’s Sass as a Discourse Genre**” with J. Finley, assistant professor of American Studies in Middlebury College. In the talk, Finley deconstructed the “sassy black woman” image in pop culture, by examining it as humor and problematic alternative to traditional representations of black women.

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SENIOR STORY



Savannah Lynn

“ I hope to continue to be a rabble-rouser as I move on to graduate school, questioning “empirical” research and asking it to center on those who have historically been excluded. ”

My mother taught me from a young age to approach everything with a healthy skepticism, which carried me into my double-major of Psychology and Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies. I am a person who is difficult to satisfy, pedagogically speaking. In psychology classes, I have felt stifled by the centuries of white/straight/rich/male foundation upon which the field is built, but in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies classes, I have felt constantly frustrated by high theory and its accessibility to those whom it purports

to theorize about. I often tell people that I would never engage in one of my fields of study without the other; I believe the two need each other to thrive and maintain relevance in the contemporary era. I hope to continue to be a rabble-rouser as I move on to graduate school, questioning “empirical” research and asking it to center on those who have historically been excluded. Ultimately, I hope to work to nurture and empower LGBTQ youth and adolescents, building communities of self-compassion and self-care.

Spring 2018 EVENTS (continued from page 5)

FEBRUARY

2 “Moving Harriet Jacobs: Beyond the Slavery of Freedom” with Jasmine Syedullah, a visiting assistant professor of Race and Ethnicity in the Department of Sociology at Vassar College. This talk revisited the meaning of freedom after slavery through the testimony and writings of formerly enslaved women.

6 “Women Who Said ‘Yes’: Old and New Methods in Black Feminist History” with Emily A. Owens, an assistant professor of History at Brown University. Owens focused on the methodological contributions of *Fantasies of Consent* by Owens, the talk offered insights into new ways to read classic sources and introduce new sources into the conversation about sex and slavery.

8 The Annual Queer Theory Lecture: “What Transpires Now: Transgender History and the Future We Need” with Susan Stryker, an award-winning scholar and filmmaker. In this talk, Stryker examined the trans-temporal dimensions of what gets labeled “transgender” today, drawing materials from her forthcoming book of the same title.

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Lauren Perry-Carrera

■ ■ We need people in business who are Gender Sexuality and Feminist Studies majors because we need erudite feminists sitting in a boardroom next to math geniuses. ■ ■



During my freshman year, I took my first Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies class: Thinking Gender. Coming from a liberal high school in the Bay Area, I thought my grasp of what “feminism” is was sufficient, but a few weeks into this class I realized I had so much to learn. Professor Elizabeth Grosz blew me away each day in class discussion as I could feel my mind expanding and views changing. I realized that GSF Studies was the perfect major for me as it combined so many of my academic interests and would allow me to read, write, and think critically.

Throughout college, I’ve always known I would end up in a Business role after graduation. However, I decided against the typical path for business-oriented students, studying Economics, as I felt it wouldn’t allow the broad scope of intellectual study I desired. I wanted what I studied in college to be something that would force me to think critically, rather than memorize formulas or concepts. I wanted to read essays that would make me reconsider my previously held notions and write papers that would consume my mind, getting me lost in deep thought for hours. I knew when I graduated I could learn the formulas or facts I would need to be successful in business, but what I wouldn’t learn on the job was how to think.

I knew a Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies major would expand my intellect in a way no Business oriented major would, in a way that would heighten my ability to be a successful businesswoman, and general woman in the world.

Upon graduation, I will be moving to New York to work as a Sales and Trading Analyst. Some may not understand the connection between my path in the Gender, Sexuality and Feminist studies major and finance, but to the contrary, I think they are perfectly aligned. We need people in business who are Gender Sexuality and Feminist Studies majors because we need erudite feminists sitting in a boardroom next to math geniuses. Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies majors have a tremendous value to add to business because, while they haven’t spent four years learning formulas and equations, they have spent four years looking at the world through a critical lens, forming arguments and questioning notions. These qualitative skills are as valuable in business because good business is driven by people—their wants, needs, and desires—and GSF Studies is all about people.

SENIOR STORY

SENIOR STORY



Alex Sanchez Bressler

“ I’ve rediscovered writing as a reflective and generative medium. I’m thankful for the nitty-gritty theory I’ve learned in my Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies classes. ”

As much as I’ve learned from my gender, sexuality, and feminist studies curricula, I’ve gained the most from my classmates. This really hit home for me in the class Black Feminist Literature and Poetics, taught by visiting Postdoctoral Professor Mecca Sullivan. As a published creative writer and intellectual inspirer, Professor Sullivan is incredible. She conjured a syllabus that got the whole class excited, got us thinking—which was perfect because my classmates were brilliant. Most of my peers were women of color; we had poets, artists, and critical thinkers, and everyone in the class contributed to the discussion in a way that mattered. It was something simple and important. It’s easy to get lost in theory, to detach and watch from the stratosphere what goes on in the “real world” below. I’ve certainly run that risk many times, as a cisgender male student in gender studies classes. It was a privilege to step back and listen to the creative and intellectual synergy

in that class. Since then, I try to ground my work in lived experiences, especially through creative outlets.

So I began creative writing. It’s a fairly recent endeavor since I’ve only been taking writing classes since the summer of 2017. But I remember writing silly poems in a pale blue notebook when I was a kid. I remember the sound of a pencil against the cardboard box that my family keeps ornaments in, and it’s the sound of my mother writing a “year in review” reflection since 1992. I’ve rediscovered writing as a reflective and generative medium. I’m thankful for the nitty-gritty theory I’ve learned in my Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies classes. It’s been an incredible education. But for now, I’d like a loan on critical theory. Maybe I’ll come back to it in graduate school, with renewed interest. In the meantime, I’m content to write and enjoy the communities I’ve found during my time in Durham.

Intimacy, Love **AND ROMANCE** (continued from page 1)

■ ■ At this point, all I wanted to do was wave my hand and call out, “Yoohoo, #metoo movement, over here!” ■ ■

“courtship is pursuit with boundaries. You slowly let them in.” She admitted, “I want to be courted.”

Weiss agreed that courtship had become “a dirty word” – when it shouldn’t be.

At this point, all I wanted to do was wave my hand and call out, “Yoohoo, #metoo movement, over here!”

We romance writers don’t need to revisit the sexual revolution, **we’ve been visiting it all along**. The first issue of *Ms. Magazine* appeared in 1972. That’s the same year as the publication of Kathleen Woodiwiss’s *The Flame and the Flower*, the first romance to open the bedroom door.

Forty-five years ago romance writers walked through that open door and began to explore intimacy, love, romance and, yes, courtship and, oh yes, women’s sexuality. We have generally been scorned and ridiculed for doing so, and if not openly mocked

then at least dismissed ... which is exactly why a liberal feminist such as Bari White (who I found completely engaging!) could imagine this is like the moment to “revisit” an emotional and sexual territory we know very well, as if an entire genre devoted to narrativizing intimacy, love and romance did not exist.

Over the years friends have occasionally suggested things like, “Why don’t you say you write historical fiction/women’s fiction/contemporary fiction,” as if identifying myself by anything other than the dread label ‘romance writer’ would do.

I always resisted that move, because I’m out of the closet, and I’ve long thought that self-identifying as a romance writer was a political gesture. I feel like now is the political moment I’ve been waiting for when my work can be understood through a new lens.

Spring 2018 **EVENTS** (continued from page 6)

FEBRUARY

22 Postdoc Talk: “On Trans Asociality”

with Cameron Awkward-Rich, an author and a postdoctoral associate in Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies at Duke University. This talk is framed by the life and writing of Michael Dillon, Awkward-Rich excavated an enduring, Lyric model of trans subjectivity that recognizes the importance of Asociality to the development of trans thought.

26 Graduate Scholars Colloquium: “Nancy and the Queer Adorable in Serialized Comics”

with Jessica Q. Stark, a Ph.D. candidate at Duke University’s English Department. The event presented a comparison between the two renditions of the Nancy comics of the original creator Bushmiller and later poet and visual artist Brainard, addressed the ongoing series as offering a complex, queer adorability that destabilized modes of identification in the comic and beyond.

28 Gender Wednesday: “Feminism & Politics: A Durham Story”

with Jillian Johnson, Mayor Pro Tempore and At Large City Council Member in Durham. Duke University graduate, Johnson is active in efforts to contain the proliferating gentrification in Durham and serves on the Durham Housing Authority Committee, among many other committees.

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“What’s the Buzz???”

GENDER WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 14



Katharine Ashe



Julie A. Tetel

“Feminism and the Romance Novel”

featured two authors: Katharine Ashe, a USA Today bestselling and award-winning author of historical romances and Julie A. Tetel, author of over 25 romance books.

This event speculated on the place and future of the romance novel as a genre that often criticized for celebrating alpha masculinity, objectification of women, and whiteness. As a published author and a lecturing fellow in the Departments of History and Religious Studies at Duke University, Ashe highlighted her experiences of learning about feminism in different contexts within the United States. A linguist and a romance writer, Tetel illustrated the relationship between language and love as connection and dialogue.

FEBRUARY 28



Jillian Johnson

“Feminism & Politics: A Durham Story”

with Jillian Johnson, Mayor Pro Tempore and At-Large City Council Member in Durham. Johnson graduated from Duke University in 2003 with a B.A. in Public Policy and a minor in Women’s Studies and was elected to City Council in 2015. As an active member of the Durham Housing Authority committee, she has been instrumental in containing gentrification in Durham. Johnson is a founding member of Durham for All and a board member of the Durham Solidarity Center, Outside in 180, and the Southern Vision Alliance. Furthermore, she is also the Liaison to the Durham Youth Commission, the Mayor’s Council for Women, and the North Carolina Museum for Life & Science.

In her talk, Johnson shared experiences as a female public figure and servant as well as an alumna of Duke. In particular, Johnson speaks about the ongoing efforts to increase housing affordability in Durham.

MARCH 28

“Please Believe Me... From Lemons to Lemonade After Sexual Assault”

with April-Autumn Jenkins who is a therapist and gender violence prevention educator and trainer at Duke University Women’s Center. For the past 20 years, she has focused her career on the reduction and elimination of gender violence on campus and in the community.

As April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month, April-Autumn shared both her experiences as a therapist at the Women’s Center and her personal experiences as a survivor, including the moment where she moved on from a victim to a survivor when no one wanted to hear her voice.



April-Autumn Jenkins

APRIL 11

“Ghosts Behind the Camera”

with Sylvia Herbold and Grace Beeler. Sylvia Herbold is an artist and recent MFA graduate in Experimental and Documentary Arts program at Duke. Through an ongoing exploration of women’s stories, her practice incorporates everything from film to performance, sculpture, and painting. Grace Beeler is the producer/director of the new documentary film *What Comes Out Goes to the Government: Condominial Sewerage in Brazil*.

Sylvia Herbold and Grace Beeler shared their unique artistic processes and also showed visual examples of questions that were asked through experimental feminist film making traditions and questioning status quo.



Sylvia Herbold



Grace Beeler

So, what is your story?

How did feminism impact your life?



Dr. Eric PLEMONS

☐☐ Plemons set up an outline for change he views as necessary to trans- medicine. ☐☐

by: **Jeremy Gottlieb**
Duke University
Cultural Anthropology
Major
Global Health Minor

On September 6th, Dr. Eric Plemons completed his visit to Duke as part of the Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies' Transgender Studies and Humanities Series by giving a talk titled, "Trans-Medicine in America." Plemons is currently an assistant professor in the School of Anthropology at the University of Arizona and a core faculty in their Transgender Studies Initiative. He is distinguished for his medical anthropology around

trans- medicine. As the lecture was co-sponsored by the Duke Child and Adolescent Gender Care Clinic, Plemons spoke to both medical professionals and academics in the Trent Semans Center, part of the Duke Medical Center.

Plemons' recent book, *The Look of a Woman: Facial Feminization Surgery and the Aims of Trans-Medicine* (2017), was the foundation for his talk. Specifically, Plemons

Spring 2018 EVENTS (continued from page 9)

MARCH

6 **"Trans Liberation: A Discussion with Harmony Phoenix"** Harmony Phoenix, a co-founder of Trans Liberation Foundation, is a black trans parent and an activist based in Greensboro, NC that supports trans people of color in North Carolina through emergency assistance fund and the Trans Reparations Project. In the event, Harmony talked about their work in contemporary Trans politics.

8 **The Annual Anne Firor Scott Lecture: "Modernizing in Early Modern Times: Women and Innovation among the Ottomans"** with Leslie Peirce, Silver Professor and Professor of History at New York University.

23-24 **The 12th Annual Feminist Theory Workshop**

26 **Graduate Scholars Colloquium: "Between Boldness and Imprudence: Female Figures in the Poetry of Narsai"** with Erin Walsh, a Ph.D. candidate in late antique Christianity at Duke University. In the event, Walsh examined how late antique Christian poets writing in Greek and Syriac retold the narratives of unnamed New Testament women, explored how such poets widened dialogue and debated with Jesus.

28 **Gender Wednesday: "Please Believe Me... From Lemons to Lemonade After Sexual Assault"** with April-Autumn Jenkins a psychotherapist at

Duke University Women's Center. The Month of April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month. April-Autumn shared her personal experience and how she moved from victim to survivor when no one wanted to hear her voice.

APRIL

11 **Gender Wednesday: "Ghosts Behind the Camera"** with Sylvia Herbold, artist and Duke University MFA graduate in Experimental and Documentary Arts program. Grace Beeler, producer/director of the new documentary film, "What Comes Out Goes to the Government: Condominial Sewerage in Brazil."



focused on trans- medicine's history in the United States, its current state, and its possible futures. By tracing transitions in the locus of trans-medical care from academic medicine to private practice in the 1980s and its recent return to university clinics in the past decade, Plemons set up an outline for change he views as necessary to trans medicine. Namely, he called for more medical training programs in the US with LGBT-specific care in their curricula and patient-centered outcome research that would allow shifts in medicine's understanding of its aims for trans-medicine.

Following Plemon's presentation, Dr. Deanna Adkins, MD, and Kristen Russell, CSW,

both of the Duke Child and Adolescent Gender Care Clinic, engaged Plemons on his recommendations. First detailing the genesis of their clinic, which opened in 2015, they discussed the challenges of opening a university gender clinic and their goals to train future health professionals. They likewise lamented the lack of clinical research on trans-youth but expressed a goal of becoming a "center of excellence" by pioneering research in the field. Since then, Dr. Adkins' addressed some of Plemons' proposals by continuing to train residents and fellows, as well as helping colleagues at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill found their own gender clinic.

They likewise lamented the lack of clinical research on trans-youth but expressed a goal of becoming a "center of excellence" by pioneering research in the field.



Where in the world are 2017 TRAVEL AWARDEES

Congratulations to our 2017 Travel Award recipients. Their research, presentations, and scholarship have spanned the globe. Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies scholars have used their awards to further their research and study of a range of topics including gender identities, women's rights, feminist theory, LGBT research, health care, and activism. Travel awards also supported students who received summer internships and attended national and international conferences.

MAY 2017 TRAVEL AWARDEES

Dahlia Chacon

Undergraduate, English

- Participated in a five-week Project HEAL event to conduct research to reveal gaps in knowledge that can potentially inform these educational programs of Project HEAL in the future. The goal was to define self-esteem by observing natural conversations on perceptions, opinions, and beliefs, and determine the leading influences on women's self-esteem, specifically in adolescents, in El Pital, Honduras.

Noelle Garbaccio

Undergraduate Student, Biology and Global Health

- Conducted interviews in Rural Honduras to investigate personal mental health and the mental health infrastructure. The study sought to understand the psychosocial factors contributing to women's self-esteem in a very rural region of Honduras and determine the general quality of mental-health among women older than 15 years of age.

Rachel Greenspan

Graduate Student, Literature, and Certificate in Feminist Studies

- Presented a paper entitled "Naming Argentina: Torture, (Anti-) Humanism,

and the Disappeared Woman" at the American Comparative Literature Associations' Annual Meeting in Utrecht, Netherlands. Her paper addressed the intersection of psychoanalysis, feminism, and radical politics during the most recent Argentine dictatorship.

Chase Gregory

Graduate Student, Literature, and Certificate in Feminist Studies

- Participated in the Beyond Between Men: Homosexuality Across Time symposium at Oxford University. The conference aimed to re-examine Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick's most important book, *Between Men* to bring together scholars of all periods of history and different forms disciplines.

Shannan Hayes

Graduate Student, Literature, and Certificate in Feminist Studies

- Participated in the 2017 National Women's Studies Association's Annual Conference and presented a paper about the 2016 exhibition, *The Waiting Room*, by artist Simone Leigh, which originated from a larger dissertation paper.

Carolyn Laubender

Graduate Student, Literature/GSF,
and Certificate in Feminist Studies

- Presented a paper about “The Black Mummy” at the 2017 Annual American Comparative Literature Association Conference in Utrecht, Netherlands. The paper was on D.W. Winnicott’s figure of “The Black Mummy”, in the famous case study entitled Piggie, about an account of the psychoanalytic treatments of a little girl.

Maryann D. Murtagh

Graduate Student, Literature,
and Certificate in Feminist Studies

- Presented a paper on the “Dispersing the Brain-Organ: a feminist politics of perception in Bergson’s duration and Uexkull’s umwelt” at the 56th Meeting of the Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy in Memphis, TN. Also, this paper was under consideration for the “Best Graduate Student Paper Award” and accepted for publication in the S.P.E.P special volume of the Journal of Speculative Philosophy.

Lissa Neira

Undergraduate Student, Evolutionary
Anthropology

- Researched trash disposal techniques in rural Honduras and the health effects on the people with an emphasis on the role of women in rural Honduras.

Tessa Nunn

Graduate Student, Romance Studies,
and Certificate in Feminist Studies

- Presented a paper at the Irigaray Circle’s annual conference in the U.K. Her paper uses Irigaray’s notion of sexual difference and divine women to analyze Jean-Luc Godard’s film “Hail Mary.”

Damiola Oke

Undergraduate Student, Psychology,
and Global Health

- Conducted research to improve water quality awareness with Un Mundo, a local Honduran non-profit development organization that works with poor Honduran rural communities to promote dignity, community, and self-sufficiency.

Christine Ryan

Graduate Student, Law, SJD

- Conducted research in Dublin, Ireland to access the National Archives of Ireland to interrogate the roots of Irish abortion law and reveal the oppressive gender structures on which the regime rests.

Judy Riviere

Undergraduate Student, Theater Studies,
and Global Health

- Traveled to El Pital, Honduras, with Un Mundo to participate in the research project that focuses on how women’s perception of cervical cancer and HPV affect the screening process.

Kathryn White

Undergraduate Student, Civil Engineering

- Participated with Rutgers’ University in a Bridges to Prosperity project to learn how to lead a project and build a footbridge for a small community near La Paz, Bolivia to alleviate poverty.

Ashley Rose Young

Graduate Student, History

- Presented at the 2017 Association for the Study of Food and Society Conference in Pasadena, CA. She was afforded the opportunity to engage with scholars who were passionate and deeply knowledgeable about women’s and gender history.

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Israel Augustus Durham

English PhD, Duke University and Certificate in Feminist Studies

DISSERTATION TITLE:

“Stay Black and Die: On Melancholy and Genius”

■ ■ Hence, as a form of expression and interpretation in black thought writ large, genius emerges as a response to and in excess of one’s melancholy. ■ ■

Throughout the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, Sigmund Freud prefigures an array of discourses in black studies. One mode of interrogation occurs with relation to his 1917 essay “Mourning and Melancholia”. Some African American literature, such as Richard Wright’s *Black Boy*, invokes this work indirectly, just as theoretical texts, like Joseph Winters’s *Hope Draped in Black: Race, Melancholy, and the Agony of Progress*, have direct engagement. Nevertheless, Freud’s attendance to mourning and melancholia is pertinent.

He surmises that when the love object dies, mourning does the reparative work of suturing the ego back together after it’s splitting and impoverishment; melancholia, by contrast, is the “pathological disposition” which occasions such disrepair and instantiates itself through the psychic loss of the love object.

In turn, melancholy carries the possibility of devolving into mania such that the one experiencing the psychic loss desires to inflict harm on, while simultaneously becoming, the love object; theorists generally assign this category to the mother.

Rather than suggesting that melancholy catalyzes mania, a rendering of the “pathological” for the people in which the dissertation has its investments, I contend that the affect fosters performances of excellence, given the shorthand “genius”. Hence, as a form of expression and interpretation in black thought writ large, genius emerges as a response to and in excess of one’s melancholy. This productivity concretizes what Fred Moten refers to as the “material trace”: genius, not mania, is an affective vestige that is at once reducible and irreducible to the mother.

Rachel E. Greenspan, PhD

Music PhD, Duke University and Certificate in Feminist Studies

DISSERTATION TITLE:

“Dreaming Woman: Argentine Modernity and the Psychoanalytic Diaspora”

■ ■ Taking Argentina as an exemplary case of psychoanalytic entrenchment that disrupts neat oppositions between Europe and its others, *Dreaming Woman* reframes the psychoanalytic archive on sexual difference as a discourse on migration. ■ ■

Dreaming Woman decenters Europeanist histories of psychoanalysis by examining the ways in which forced migration has shaped psychoanalytic theories of sexual difference and evolving modes of feminist practice in Latin America. Home to more psychoanalysts per capita than any other country, Argentina emerged as a site of political asylum during WWII and of exilic dissemination during periods of military dictatorship. Taking Argentina as an exemplary case of psychoanalytic entrenchment that disrupts neat oppositions between Europe and its others, *Dreaming Woman* reframes the psychoanalytic archive on sexual difference as a discourse on migration. Tracing the coincident rise of psychoanalysis and authoritarianism in Argentina, I examine the role of migrant women, and of discourses on Woman, in establishing new relationships between psychoanalysis and politics.

Through a multimedia archive that includes literature, autobiography, pop culture artifacts, transnational correspondences,

clinical case studies, theoretical essays, and artwork, *Dreaming Woman* approaches psychoanalysis as a heterogeneous set of clinical and cultural practices through which Argentines have articulated distinctive feminist and anti-imperialist projects throughout the twentieth century. These archival materials share a concern for female sexuality as a national problem—that is, a problem tied to national identity and a problem for the nation-state to solve. They also show the transformative impact of clinical encounters with female sexuality, maternal grief, and torture on modern theories of the subject. In view of contemporary anxieties surrounding global migration, the case of Argentina shows that psychoanalysis has always been a political practice forged through exile, one that offers an indispensable conceptual framework for addressing the persistent psychic traces of displacement.





John Stadler

Literature PhD, Duke University and Certificate in Feminist Studies

DISSERTATION TITLE:

"Pornographesis: Sex, Media and Gay Culture"

Examining pornography as one of culture's honored sites for working through social problems, I approach gay pornography as an engagement with the "problem" that homosexuality has been thought to constitute.

Pornographesis asks how gay pornography has come to organize the feelings, desires, pleasures, memories, attachments, and identifications of the male homosexual subject. Queer scholarship tends to forego a rigorous study of gay erotic media in favor of less sexualized, more recuperable objects. As a result, the representational histories and media cultures of gay pornography remain largely obscured. Unlike other studies that take pornography as their subject, mine does not aim to reduce pornography's meaning to monolithic postures of either pleasure or harm, but rather locates the possibility for vexed in-betweens, discontinuities, and ruptures. The central question of *Pornographesis* is not just how gay pornography inscribes gay identity, but how that inscription changes over time and according to circumstance. I examined over five decades of notable shifts in the narrative structure, cultural position and reception practices of gay pornography. I link these shifts to changes in media, from 8 and 16mm film to video, print, telephonic, theatrical, and digital technologies. Examining pornography as one of culture's honored sites for working

through social problems, I approach gay pornography as an engagement with the "problem" that homosexuality has been thought to constitute. Each era reveals the changing demands that producers and viewers alike place on pornography: that it be beautiful, liberated, narrative, risky, safe, carnal, political, elegiac, honest, authentic, masculine, and interactive, revealing not just one uniform gay pornographic culture, but many. Gay pornography offers an underutilized lens for examining political crises, social structures, and the rigid demands of heteronormative masculinity, and *Pornographesis* makes the case that the study of such erotic media is not merely instructive, but is in fact crucial for comprehending modern gay identity.

"*Pornographesis* hopes to show that you don't actually know pornography when you see it, that its inscriptions are multiple and often deeply layered, and its meanings can come in waves, sometimes much later than at the point of viewing. To know pornography, you truly have to read it." – from Preface, xvii

Harmony THEORY

Trans Identities and Activism

by: **Nick Clarkson, PhD**

Postdoctoral Associate in Gender, Sexuality
and Feminist Studies



Activist Harmony Phoenix visited Duke in March to discuss trans activism. The event was associated with my freshman seminar, Trans Identities and Activism, but additional members of the GSF community attended the event.

Phoenix is a black trans parent and an activist based in Greensboro, NC. They co-founded the Trans Liberation Foundation, which supports trans people of color in North Carolina. During the event, Phoenix told us about the work of the Foundation. It began with an emergency assistance fund, providing grants to support the basic necessities of trans people of color in North Carolina. However, in the midst of protests in response to police violence in Charlotte, the fund was overwhelmed with requests. The Foundation then started the Trans Reparations Project, which collects monthly donations from white anti-racist donors. The Trans Reparations Project is currently supporting 13 trans people

of color in NC at \$500 per month. Noting that The National Transgender Discrimination Survey found that the average annual income for trans people is \$11,000, the Reparations Project aims to interrupt cycles of poverty for trans people, and so far, has helped 4 recipients move out of homelessness.

Phoenix responded to multiple questions about how cisgender allies can participate in trans activism. They first noted that all activism is trans activism, citing the centrality of trans organizers in Black Lives Matter and other movements. They encouraged participants to talk to their friends about the importance of using the correct pronouns for people. One student noted that when she tries to have conversations with people about the harm of their offensive "joking," her concerns are dismissed as "drama," and she's losing friends as a result. Phoenix reassured her, "If you're losing friends, that means you're doing something right."

Graduate Scholars COLLOQUIUM

Part writers' workshop, part lecture, the Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies Graduate Scholars Colloquium this year encompassed a wide range of topics, disciplines, and frameworks.

by: **Chase Gregory,**
Co-Leader
PhD Candidate
Duke University
Program in Literature

Part writers' workshop, part lecture, the Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies Graduate Scholars Colloquium this year encompassed a wide range of topics, disciplines, and frameworks.

PhD candidate in Literature Annu Dahiya inaugurated our series with a paper titled "Primordial Wombs: Clay Crystals as the Originary Surfaces of Life." Unflinchingly interdisciplinary in its approach, Dahiya's paper challenged the "inside/outside" binary by taking seriously the role the nonliving environment played in the genesis of life on Earth. Max Symuleski, a PhD Candidate in CMACP, provided a generous thought-provoking response, spring-boarding an in-depth discussion about the intersection of feminist philosophy and feminist science studies.

In October, Tessa Nunn, a PhD candidate in the Dance department, presented her work "Simone de Beauvoir and the Dancing Project," which kept an audience of dancers and non-dancers alike rapt at attention (a movement exercise preceding her talk, in which participants were encouraged to dance with someone they did not know, made the night particularly memorable). Following a response by Dance Professor,

Thomas DeFrantz, participants launched into a lively conversation on "freedom," race, embodiment, and the history of existentialism.

Laurel Iber, a PhD candidate in the French department of Romance Studies, presented a chapter from her dissertation titled "Herculine Barbin: Memoir and Palimpsest" to finish the semester strong. Suzanne Le Men, a second year Ph.D student from the Romance Studies Department, gave the response. Iber's paper, which explored the many iterations of the story of nineteenth-century 'hermaphrodite' Herculine Barbin, provoked, among other things, a fascinating discussion about archival method.

In January, we welcomed English PhD candidate Kita Douglas to the parlors to present her dissertation chapter on artist Martin Wong, "Museum in Exile": Martin Wong and the Museum of American Graffiti." Then-PhD-candidate Israel Durham of the English department delivered a lush and provocative response. Douglas's paper germinated a rich rumination on how Wong's shifting relationship to multiple identity groups cannot simply be contained or explained by current theories of intersectionality.



Our penultimate colloquium showcased PhD candidate Jessica Q. Stark's soon-to-be-published American Literature article, "Nancy and the Queer Adorable in the Serial Comics Form," which examined multiple versions of the Nancy comics as a collective, contradictory, yet continuous whole. Engaging with the subtleties brought out by Stark's work allowed participants to both interrogate queer theories of "the adorable," and rubrics of US identity. Chase Gregory of the Literature department provided the response.

March saw our final presenter, PhD candidate in Religion Erin Walsh, who presented her paper "Between Boldness and Impudence: Female Figures in the Poetry of Narsai." Dr. Jessica Boon of UNC responded with a detailed and thorough take on the entanglements of gender and embodiment; her response prompted workshop participants from very disparate academic backgrounds to pose a myriad of questions

about narration, religion, field legibility, the medium of poetry, gender, sexuality, and the trickiness of translation.

All in all, the GSFS Graduate Scholars Colloquium—this year organized by co-coordinators Maryanne Murtagh and Chase Gregory—enjoyed another successful year, hosting six scholars in the blue parlor for evenings of rich discussion, evaluation, and critique each month.

■ ■ All in all, the GSFS Graduate Scholars Colloquium—this year enjoyed another successful year. ■ ■

In PRINT

On Monday, April 16, 2018, the Program in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies celebrated 2018 publications by Duke Faculty on gender-related topics. The participants shared their work through selected readings. A reception in the East Duke Parlors followed the readings. The event was well attended by faculty, students, and staff.

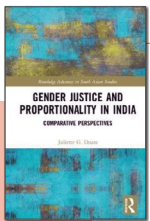
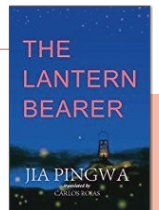


BRENNA CASEY

Adjunct Instructor, Department of English and Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies
"Peering Across the Plaza: The Shrouded Women in Melville's 'Benito Cereno'" .
Journal of Melville Studies 20.1 (2018).

CARLOS, ROJAS

Professor of Chinese Cultural Studies, Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies, and Arts of the Moving Image
The Lantern Bearer, A Novel by Jia Pingwa, Carlos Rojas (Translator)
New York: CN Times Books Inc., 2017

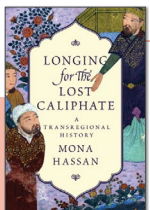


JULIETTE DUARA

Senior Fellow, Kenan Institute for Ethics, Duke University
Gender, Justice and Proportionality in India, Comparative Perspectives
Routledge Press, 2018 (London, New York)

GABRIEL ROSENBERG

Assistant Professor of Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies and History
"How Meat Changed Sex: The Law of Interspecies Intimacy After Industrial Reproduction"
GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies 23.4 (2017): 473-507.

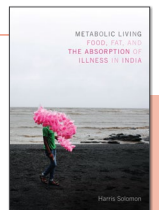


MONA HASSAN

Associate Professor of Religious Studies
Longing for the Lost Caliphate: A Transregional History
Princeton University Press, January 2017
"Poetic Memories of the Prophet's Family,"
Journal of Islamic Studies 29, no. 1 (January 2018): 1-24.

HARRIS SOLOMON

Associate Professor of the Department of Cultural Anthropology and the Duke Global Health Institute
Metabolic Living: Food, Fat, and the Absorption of Illness in India.
Duke University Press, 2016



KIMBERLY LAMM

Associate Professor of Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies
Addressing the Other Woman: Textual Correspondences in Feminist Art and Writing.
Manchester: MUP, 2018

Where in the world are 2017 TRAVEL AWARDEES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

OCTOBER 2017 TRAVEL AWARDEES

Nathan Bullock

Graduate Student, Art, Art History, and Visual Studies

- Presented research at the Association for Asian Studies Conference in Washington, D.C. The project was informed by Luce Irigaray's method of looking for what is missing and what is not said in Western philosophy and psychoanalysis. He is applying this approach to architectural history in Singapore, which is also highly Western and remains colonial despite Independence from the British.

Alisha Hines

Graduate Student, History and African and African American Studies

- Presented at the Organization of American Historians on a panel she organized on the theme, Law and the Family in Antebellum America. Her paper specifically focused on black women's performances of mastery in antebellum courts in their effort to secure custody and control over their children.

Tyler Johnson

Undergraduate Student, Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies

- Presented research relating to young adolescence sexual reproductive health in rural Uganda at the 2017 Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minority Students in Phoenix, AZ.

Tessa Nunn

Graduate Student, Romance Studies, and Certificate in Feminist Studies

- Presented a paper on the intersections of feminist theory, postcolonial critique, and the films of Ousmane Sembène at the bi-annual Women in French conference at Florida State University.

Hannah Ontiveros

Graduate Student, History

- Traveled to the State Department to research the national archives on Korea from the 40s and 50s, to research three aspects. 1) The language and logic that U.S officials used to position themselves as caretakers, fighters, and administrators of South Korea's humanitarian military and political fate. 2) The women in the United States during and immediately following the Korean War. 3) The women who opposed the Korean War and how their logic of protecting their families mirrored those of women who supported the war's extension.

Cole Rizki

Graduate, Literature, and Certificate in Feminist Studies

- Traveled to Barcelona, Spain to present a paper at the annual Latin American Studies Association (LASA) conference. His paper was about the performance artist, "Hija de Perra," (1980-2014) a Chilean underground trans-punk with artistic praxis.





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Fall 2018 COURSES

GSF199S.01	Thinking Gender Kathi Weeks
GSF 202S.01	Study of Sexualities Gabriel Rosenberg
GSF 225S.01	Women and the Political Process Mandy Cooper
GSF 235S.01	Clinical Issues for LGBTQ Janie Long
GSF 278.01	Sex/Gender – Nature/Nurture Ara Wilson, Christina Williams
GSF 290S.01	Adoption Ethics Mary K. Rudy, Juliette Duara
GSF 290S.02	Land and Literature Saskia Cornes
GSF 295S.01	Sex Work: Politics of Sexual Labor Kathi Weeks

GSF 361.01	Money, Sex, Power Kathi Weeks
GSF 364S.01	Race, Gender, and Sexuality Patrice Douglass
GSF 366.01	Nature, Culture, and Gender Brenna Casey
GSF 372S.01	Freud and Sexuality Elizabeth Grosz
GSF 890S.01	Feminism, Visuality, and Space Elizabeth Grosz
GSF 960S.01	Interdisciplinary Debates: What Has Life Become? Priscilla Wald, Gabriel Rosenberg