

DUKE

Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies

Summer 2019

www.gendersexualityfeminist.duke.edu

Inside

Director's Column

PAGE 2-3

Tribute to Retiring Professor
Elizabeth Grosz Feminist
Philosopher and Legendary
Teacher

PAGE 4-5

Congratulations to the
Gender, Sexuality & Feminist
Studies Class of 2019

PAGE 7

Remembering
Margaret Taylor Smith

PAGE 8

Mumbi Kanyago Thesis
"Tweeting Freedom"

PAGE 9

Senior Stories

PAGE 10-12

Where in the world are
2018 Travel Awardees

PAGE 13-15

Duke on Gender Colloquium

PAGE 16

Certificate in Feminist Studies
Graduates Dissertation Abstracts

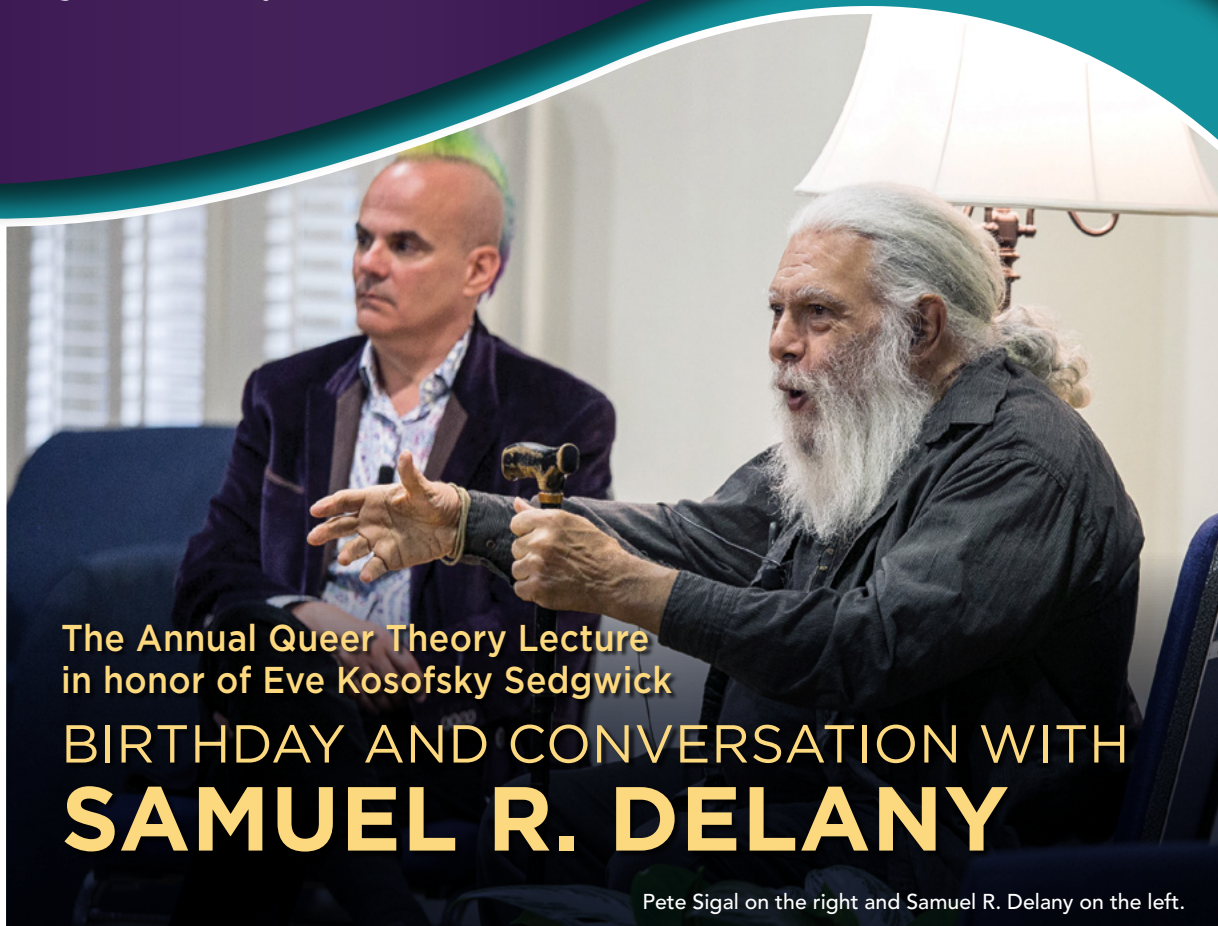
PAGE 17-21

Restored

PAGE 22-23

Fall 2019 Courses

PAGE 24



The Annual Queer Theory Lecture
in honor of Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick

BIRTHDAY AND CONVERSATION WITH SAMUEL R. DELANY

Pete Sigal on the right and Samuel R. Delany on the left.

by: **Maggie McDowell**

PhD Candidate, Department of English
Duke University

During this year's Annual Queer Theory Lecture in Honor of Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, Samuel R. Delany generously shared his birthday with a full house. Before "Chip" Delany and Professor Peter Sigal took to the stage, Professor Gabriel Rosenberg reminded those assembled that the event honors Sedgwick's "incisive and provocative" contribution to queer theory. Chip and Dr. Sigal's conversation, fluidly moving from a retrospective analysis of *Times Square Red*, *Times Square Blue*, to nail biting, to a frank assessment of contemporary politics, reminded us of the extent to which Delany's literary and academic work, and his lived

experience, are in conversation with and a provocation to Sedgwick's initial contributions to the field.

Professor Sigal noted the importance of inviting Delany given recent tendencies in queer theory to move beyond explicitly sexual discourse. Delany's life and work bring us back to the heart of the questions the field initially asked. His readers will know that Delany's fiction and nonfiction alike foreground queer sex as a political act. Specifically, *Times Square Red*, *Times Square Blue* centralizes open discussion of those practices that

continued on page 6

Director's COLUMN



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

“ The GSF faculty is an exceptionally talented and dedicated group of teachers and scholars, from whom I have learned so much. ”

Looking back on my four-year term as Margaret Taylor Smith Director of the Program in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies reminds me of looking back at the trail after a beautiful mountain hike. I think of the magnificent spots I have passed through or rested in along the way, of the challenging patches without that added richness, and the terrific companions who made the journey so rewarding. The GSF faculty is an exceptionally talented and dedicated group of teachers and scholars, from whom I have learned so much. I also had the great privilege of getting to know the amazing philanthropist Margaret Taylor Smith, who endowed the directorship of GSF. From our conversations, I learned about the history of the program and the spirit in which it was founded, but also had the opportunity to engage a rare and exquisitely observant mind. Margaret died in November, and I am grateful to have known her, to have been touched by her wisdom and the inspiration of her generous spirit

The program I joined as chair in the summer of 2015 was not GSF, but Women's Studies. The name change reflects the dynamism of an evolving field of study and represents the work being done by the GSF faculty and students. It is in keeping with similar changes in the names of programs and departments worldwide, and it's exciting to consider how both the field and GSF have evolved.

Emerging out of activist challenges to the knowledge produced in traditional disciplines that perpetuated the subordination of women, the field quickly developed its own multi-disciplinary methods of inquiry and theories about the world focusing on how normalized gender roles and sexuality reproduce masculinist power structures. The late Ernestine Friedl, the first female Dean of Arts and Sciences and Trinity College (1980-85), instigated Duke's Program in Women's Studies under the brilliant leadership of Jean O'Barr, who inspired faculty across the campus to develop an exciting interdisciplinary field and transform the curriculum campus-wide. Bringing her expertise in feminist and queer theory, Robyn Wiegman inaugurated the only annual event featuring work specifically in feminist theory—the Feminist Theory Workshop, now in its thirteenth year—thereby establishing Duke as a leader in that burgeoning field. Ranjana Khanna enhanced the intellectual culture of the field both on campus and beyond with such programs as Inprint and Preprint, featuring the published and in-progress work of Duke faculty in the field, and themed years including post-doctoral fellows and short-term distinguished visitors.

I inherited a thriving program with an international reputation and deeply committed core and secondary faculty.

With the graduate certificate in feminist studies—the largest graduate certificate in Arts and Sciences—flourishing under the directorship of Ara Wilson, we set the further development of undergraduate, community, and campus outreach as goals for the coming years. We established a bi-monthly lunch meeting—Gender Wednesday, the brainchild of then Director of Undergraduate Studies Kathy Rudy—featuring invited speakers from Duke, Durham, and beyond discussing how feminism inflects their work. Each year starts with a wonderful (and always very well attended) panel of graduating seniors from the Baldwin Scholars Program who share what they wish they had known as first year students. I have enjoyed hearing about how feminism has inspired rich professional, political, and cultural work on and off campus from the owner of a local meadery, career political organizers and alternative educators, feminist lawyers and medical professionals, dancers, choreographers and filmmakers, the mayor and mayor pro tem of Durham (a former Duke Women's Studies minor), and many more. It has been exciting to see the outreach of this program, now run by Juliette Duara, to the Duke and Durham communities.

Elizabeth Grosz and Anna Krylova started the Duke on Gender Colloquium to showcase the innovative research in the field happening across the campus. Now run by Anna and Frances Hasso, the series, which features one or more Duke faculty members and their chosen interlocutors, has built intellectual community around the multi-disciplinary and transnational study of gender, sexuality, and feminism.

The incorporation of sexuality studies into the major brought a number of innovations, including the development

of a Sexuality Studies board and speakers series and a year-long collaboration with the Franklin Humanities Institute to develop programming in Trans studies, co-run by Gabriel Rosenberg and Ara Wilson as part of the FHI's Humanities Futures series.

I've loved seeing the marvelous creative research of our undergraduate majors, evident in their portfolios (a delight to read!) and in the excellent presentations of honors theses, including such topics as the regulation of black women's reproduction, medical decision making, reproductive surrogacy in India, women and coding, fast tail girls, Latinx poetics, tweeting and politics, feminism and birth control, feminist storytelling and political change, breast cancer science and stories, and women and Santeria. Two undergraduate majors—Lauren Bunce and Mumbi Kanyogo—received Faculty Scholars Awards (in 2017 and 2018 respectively), the highest award given by faculty to Duke undergraduates at the end of their junior year.

The past four years witnessed exciting faculty developments as well, with the promotions to tenure of Kimberly Lamm and Gabriel Rosenberg and to Full Professor of Kathi Weeks. Kim and Kathi were also both awarded the prestigious Robert B. Cox Award for excellent in teaching, in 2018 and 2017, respectively. We are delighted to welcome Patrice Douglass to the faculty following a search in Black Feminism.

It has been a joy and a privilege to have directed GSF, and I am eager to participate in the continuing development of the Program under the leadership of Jolie Olcott.



Tribute to Retiring Professor **ELIZABETH GROSZ** FEMINIST PHILOSOPHER AND LEGENDARY TEACHER

Faculty and students wish a happy retirement to our Jean Fox O'Barr Professor, Elizabeth Grosz who joined Duke's Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies Program, formerly the Women's Studies Program in Spring 2010. Known for her study of French philosophers and feminists, and her writings on the body, science, sexuality, space, time, and materiality, Liz came to Duke after ten years

at Rutgers University, where she worked in the Women's and Gender Studies Department, and an illustrious career teaching at Monash University, the University of Bergen, Norway, the University of Technology, Sydney, Australia, the University of California-Santa Cruz, Johns Hopkins University, and Harvard University.

Elizabeth Grosz is a poet. She would be surprised to hear that, I suspect, and I don't mean she has published poetry (although I would not be surprised). A feminist philosopher with one of the most expansive and incisive minds I have yet encountered, she has an extraordinary capacity for synthesis and breadth, but she approaches the grand ideas of philosophy with a poet's attention to detail: the word, the image, the nuance. She is fluent in the language of the cosmos.

Priscilla Wald

Margaret Taylor Smith
Director of Gender, Sexuality
and Feminist Studies
Duke University

As much as my schedule would permit, I attended her classes, watching her move seamlessly from the microscopic to the telescopic, from the detail to the structure, from the tangible to the ethereal. Students were invariably captivated, but not intimidated. She welcomed as she inspired: her class was a place to discover one's passions through the contagious example of someone who wants nothing more than to work toward insight.

Elizabeth Grosz could be intimidating. She has an astonishing mind, broad command of multiple fields of knowledge and is exceptionally well respected worldwide. But she isn't. She's a teacher. One of the best I have ever seen.

"She has been a rare gift to Duke, to GSF, and to all who have known her. Certainly to me."

Annu Dahiya

PhD Candidate and Feminist
Studies Certificate Student
Duke University

"My undergraduate studies in biology birthed my intellectual attraction to fuzzy, liminal zones that exceed the logic of the binary between living and non-living matter. I realized, with frustration, that biology was not the place to pursue these destabilizing, ontological questions. It was only when I met Liz that I began to reframe the way I think about this by considering non-living materiality as the very condition that makes the emergence of life itself possible. Liz has given me an entire philosophical evolutionary genealogy to ask this question about origins in more novel ways. Nine years, ten courses, and two universities later, she has fundamentally transformed what I understand feminist theory to be, what it can do, and what it can address. I am deeply grateful to have been able to work with her at Duke as I have yet to find a more incisive teacher, thinker, mentor, and friend."

"Liz Grosz's scholarship has been so central to my work for so many years. I was extremely lucky to have her as my teacher and dissertation committee member at UC Santa Cruz during my PhD work (1987-1993). Without any hesitation, I can tell you that she is the best teacher I ever had during my entire education. However, learning from Liz never ends, as I continued to be inspired and learn enormously from her many books. The important scholarship she produced will no doubt continue to contribute to many generations of scholars in different fields."

Professor. Meyda Yegenoglu

Senior Research Fellow,
Institute for Advanced
Social Research, University
of Tampere, Finland

"I had the pleasure of meeting Liz as a student at Rutgers in 2006 in a rather gray classroom in the basement of the Women's Studies Program. I was in graduate student heaven reading theories of time and becoming, which were made sparkling by Liz's virtuoso mind. She was a beacon and I was there to soak in the shimmering lights, savoring every word, every impeccable and revolutionary analysis. She was my professor and my advisor. Since then, she has continued to be my mentor through her writings. I told her once that I had all of her books on my shelf next to Nietzsche, Deleuze, Bergson, and Irigaray, to which she replied: "That is exactly where I want to be." This is where she belongs! Surrounded by the greatest revolutionaries in the history of ideas. At the risk of losing sight of Liz's wide range and authority, I would say that she is one of the greatest genealogists of life, a supramaterialist, but undoubtedly, she is the greatest genealogist of the future."

Carolina A. Díaz

Former Postdoctoral
Associate with Gender,
Sexuality & Feminist Studies
Duke University

"Can I just read you some passages since we can't do anything else right now?" The first time I met Liz Grosz was through Annu's reading of *Becoming Undone* in bumper to bumper traffic on the NJ Turnpike during undergrad. I was deeply resistant at first because of my training as a "real," Rutgers philosophy major. I remember thinking how strange it was that across campus in women's studies there was someone dynamizing philosophy to include the unpredictable forces of the natural world instead of simply determining ad hominem fallacies and sine qua non conditions. When I finally met Liz at Duke, I took 6 classes and sat in on another 2. She gifted me the capacity to lift my head out of minutiae and realize the most profound problems are not to be solved abstractly, but are to be lived with creatively. Her philosophy is an embodied one: a celebration of difference and the flourishing of life as the condition that makes something like analytic philosophy possible at all. To Liz, then, I owe the un-repayable debt of learning an ethics of sexual difference and the encouragement to think big enough to make a cosmology out of it. Training and writing my dissertation under her direction has made the future expansive and has been one of the greatest privileges of my life."

M.D. Murtagh

PhD Candidate and Feminist
Studies Certificate Student
Duke University

"For me, Prof. Grosz is the ultimate role model for what one should strive for as an academic. Above all, she is an exceptionally gifted, inspired and inspiring teacher, always impeccably prepared and yet always prepared to capitalize on whatever offers itself on the spur of the moment, in a student's comment, or whatever transpired in the news earlier the same day or the day before. She is also both incisive and generous as a reader of drafts, and one always comes away with new insight as well as encouragement after getting her response. But not least, she has pursued her career as a writer of numerous scholarly books and articles with unsurpassed integrity: constantly exploring new territories and evolving intellectually yet retaining her own unmistakable, compelling voice throughout."

Claus Halberg

Postdoctoral fellow, Center
for Women's and Gender
Research, University of
Bergen, Norway

Birthday and Conversation with **SAMUEL R. DELANY** (continued from page 1)

"the powers that be" dismiss as criminal or dangerous. Speaking more openly about sex, to his mind, is an important component to our education in understanding ourselves and each other better. This conviction, in addition to decades of lived experience, leads him to argue that queer and public sex is the condition of possibility for people who would otherwise have remained strangers to form intimacies and build communities for a better future.

If Chip Delany had one message for the assembled crowd that night, it was an invitation to continue his legacy of inclusive community-building, to watch out for and to care for each other. In an engaged Q&A session, the audience challenged him on the positivity he seems to espouse, given that he has lived through great loss and prejudice, and given the time he admits to spending on YouTube these days watching analyses of the precarity of our current political

moment. By way of response, he pointed to his fiction's increasing preoccupation with the very near future. For instance, his 2012 novel *Through the Valley of the Nest of Spiders* features characters who are, to his mind, "real heroes," not because they transcend their situation or their humanity, but because they endure. The real heroism of these characters, he said, is that they feed the people around them.

Delany's warmth extends from his fiction to his interactions with his readers. GSF brought out a birthday cake at the end of the night in honor of his 77th birthday. Chip blew out his candles in one breath, and then shared his wish with the crowd: "I wish that everyone here gets to live out the rest of their lives happily."



Spring 2019 EVENTS

JANUARY

22 **Conversation Series on State Violence and Ethnic Minorities: "Apology, Forgiveness and Mourning"** with Meyda Yegenoglu, a Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies Visiting Professor from University of Tampere, Finland. Guest Speaker: Sunera Thobaini, Associate Professor at the Institute for Gender, Race, Sexuality and Social Justice at the University of British Columbia.

23 **Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Speaker/Luncheon Series: "Gender Violence Prevention: It's Not Just Checking a Box!"** with Krystal George, Interim Director of the Duke Women's Center, Assistant Director for Educational Initiatives, Office of Gender Violence Intervention & Prevention.

28 **Graduate Scholars Colloquium Series: "They Are Quiet Women Now: Incarcerated Women, Hair Cropping, and the Production of Difference in the Post-Emancipation British Caribbean, 1834-1900"** with Jacqueline Allain, Ph.D. candidate in the Duke History Department. Response: Dr. Jasmine Nichole Cobb, Associate Professor of African & African American Studies and of Art, Art History and Visual Studies.

29 **Conversation Series on State Violence and Ethnic Minorities: "Archives, Factuality and Testimony"** with Meyda Yegenoglu, a Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies Visiting Professor from University of Tampere, Finland. Guest Speaker: Diane Nelson, Duke Professor of Cultural Anthropology.

FEBRUARY

6 **Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Speaker/Luncheon Series: "Transgender Rights in the Trump Era: The View from the Carolinas"** with Ames Simmons, Equality NC's Policy Director.

12 **Conversation Series on State Violence and Ethnic Minorities: "Public Secrecy and Organized Forgetting"** with Meyda Yegenoglu, a Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies Visiting Professor from University of Tampere, Finland. Guest Speaker: Tyler Goldberger, student in the Duke History Department.

19 **Conversation Series on State Violence and Ethnic Minorities: "Discourse of Colonial Humanitarianism"** with Meyda Yegenoglu, a Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies Visiting Professor from University of Tampere, Finland.

continued on page 9

Congratulations to the **GENDER, SEXUALITY & FEMINIST STUDIES CLASS OF 2019**

GENDER, SEXUALITY & FEMINIST STUDIES FIRST MAJORS

Mumbi Makena Kanyogo
(2nd Major in Public Policy)

Katherine Margaret LeCroy

Miriam Celeste Levitin

Francesca Manouchka Mercer

Alexandra Sanchez Rolon
(2nd Major in Psychology)

Sally Tran

(2nd Major in Psychology)

Nisha Jacqueline Uppuluri
(2nd Major in Global Health)

GENDER, SEXUALITY & FEMINIST STUDIES SECOND MAJORS

Alice Younan Chen
(1st Major in Biology)

GENDER, SEXUALITY & FEMINIST STUDIES MINORS

Elizabeth Kathleen Finny
(Major in Visual Media Studies)

Elizabeth Michelle Lansing
(Major in Psychology)

Alannah Melissa Rivera-Cancel
(Major in Psychology)

Janelle Apha Taylor
(Major in Sociology)

Kayla Nicole Thompson
(Major in Biology)

Isabelle Topper
(Major in Political Science)

GRADUATE STUDENTS COMPLETING THE MINOR IN SEXUALITY STUDIES

Takiyah Josephine Johnson
(Major in Public Policy)

GRADUATE STUDENTS COMPLETING THE CERTIFICATE IN FEMINIST STUDIES

Diana Abernathy
(PhD, Religion)

Nathan Bullock
(PhD, Art, Art History &
Visual Studies)

Kita Douglas
(PhD, English)

Chase Gregory
(PhD, Literature)

Jessica Issacharoff
(PhD, Literature)

Jessica Eileen Mary Malitoris
(PhD, History)

Patrick Morgan
(PhD, English)



Remembering Margaret Taylor Smith

Margaret Taylor Smith, formerly of Birmingham, passed away on November 19, 2018, at the age of 93, in her residence in Indianapolis. Margaret lived a wonderful life, contributed to the lives of countless men, women, and children, and left a legacy to be proud of. Margaret participated on many Boards of Trustees, including those of the Kresge Foundation and the Detroit Medical Center, and received numerous honors, including being recognized as one of the “100 Most Influential Women in Detroit” in 1997. Margaret graduated from Duke University in 1947, was a founding member and Chair of the Council on Women’s Studies, and loved to travel around the world with her husband and children.

She was the devoted wife of Sidney W. Smith, Jr., and is survived by four children: Sarah, Sid, Sue, and Amy, eight grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Tweeting Freedom

MUMBI KANYOGO

HONOR THESIS TITLE:

Tweeting Freedom: African Feminism in the Digital Counterpublics and the Politics of Gendered Violence.

“...Kenyan feminist twitter exists as a digital counterpublic sphere in which Kenyan feminists foster intimacies and pedagogies...”



Through interviewee accounts of four viral digital events, #mydressmychoice, #weare52pc and #menaretrash, this thesis explores the ways in which Kenyan feminists generate community. By invoking feminist literature public and counterpublic spheres and by using contemporary examples of gendered violence in Kenyan public memory, this thesis argues that although Kenyan feminists have the right to participate in the public sphere, a continuum of private

and public violence and respectability politics prevents feminist engagement in Kenya's public sphere. As such, I argue that Kenyan feminist twitter exists as a digital counterpublic sphere in which Kenyan feminists foster intimacies and pedagogies, therefore positioning themselves against gendered and sexualized violence that make feminist engagement in the public sphere precarious.

Spring 2019 EVENTS (continued from page 7)

FEBRUARY

20 Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Speaker/Luncheon Series: “The Relevance of Feminism in Margie Gillis’s Work” with Margie Gillis, Canadian choreographer, performer, and teacher.

25 “Screw Consent: A Better Politics of Sexual Justice” with Joseph Fischel, Associate Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Yale University.

25 Graduate Scholars Colloquium Series: “Afrosporic Intimacies” with Sasha Panaram, Ph.D. candidate, English Department. Response: Dr. Joseph Winters, Professor of Religious Studies.

MARCH

22 & 23 13th Annual Feminist Theory Workshop

continued on page 16

Senior Stories



Alice Chen

I really enjoyed how my Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies courses at Duke have provided me with new tools of thinking about society and how the world operates. Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies has taught me to question things that are not often questioned and to be open to various perspectives and complexities. I remember first learning about Marxism and applying it to multiple contexts such as sex work and unwaged housework. At the time, it had seemed like such a profound, new way of thinking. My Gender, Sexuality

and Feminist Studies courses have also allowed me to challenge and critically think through many ideas of science, which will be useful because I hope to be a physician in the future. The unit on obesity in Food, Farming, and Feminism made me question health practices I had previously seen as objective. There, I learned about epistemology and how knowledge comes to be. As a whole, my course work for my major in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies has broadened my way of thinking and analyzing to a more theoretical and structural level.



Katie LeCroy

Before Duke University, my understanding of feminism was grounded in practice: in women's marches, in protests, and in supporting political leaders that focused on inclusive policies and equality. Passionate about these efforts and interested in expanding my knowledge of feminist theory, I decided to major in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies while pursuing the pre-medical track. My classes taught me the theory behind the practices I had been exposed to, as well as the ways in which additional methods should

be implemented moving forward. As an aspiring doctor, I hope to use the concepts that I've learned--from intersectionality to reproductive ethics--and apply them in the medical setting. My Honors Thesis on birth control has further linked my two courses of study, allowing me to draw connections and view important medical issues through a feminist lens. Duke's Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies has ultimately shaped my view of the world and I hope to use the tools that I've acquired to be a better doctor and a better woman.

Miriam Levitin

I switched my major to GSF during my junior fall semester, as I discovered that I was already more than halfway through the requirements simply due to taking courses that interested me. I never felt completely comfortable in my previous major – I was just another face in 100-person lectures, and I didn't feel supported to pursue my interdisciplinary and creative interests. GSF has nourished my soul; I have been able to study what I am truly passionate about and cultivate the skills necessary to apply critical theory

to real advocacy work. My reading comprehension, analytical writing, and research skills have improved tremendously, and I leave Duke with a firm grounding in multiple disciplines and methodologies. I am pursuing an MSW, hoping to follow a career path of advocating for marginalized individuals and work toward making the world a more equitable and just place. Some specific ideas include working as a sexual health educator and engaging art as a tool for social change.



Francesca Mercer

Through my four-year journey at Duke, I deliberately explored and let my interests lead me rather than trying to force a certain academic plan. I found myself particularly driven and motivated by issues surrounding women's rights and feminism. Taking gender studies classes alongside courses like physics and organic chemistry felt perplexing at first. Through the support of my family and the guidance of my mentor at Duke, Kathy Rudy, my first gender studies professor, who has been with me throughout my undergraduate career, I have gradually found ways to incorporate the disparate elements

of my personal and academic life into one. As a first step in that process, I am writing my Honor's Thesis on breast cancer research. My primary interests have long included medicine, but Kathy helped me unearth my passion to pursue women's health as my medical focus. I aspire to help to forge new paths to better health outcomes in the world of medicine, especially in the service of women. The medical research gender gap is vast in this country, and it will take women and men with drive and focus to lessening that divide. I am preparing to be one of them.



Senior Stories



Sally Tran

Before leaving for college, one of my high school teachers told me to try things in college that I did not have the opportunity to do in high school. With this in mind, I enrolled in the course Gender and Sexuality in the Middle East and North Africa. This course was listed in the Women's Studies at that time so I thought I would learn about women dealing with issues like the gender wage gap. However, I gained so much more than that. This course changed how I saw and thought about

the world. Since then, I have been taking more and more courses in what is now called the Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist (GSF) Studies department. These courses have explained and challenged assumptions about day-to-day life while also teaching me how to understand my real lived experiences in context to different structures and institutions. As a result, my GSF education has prepared me to use critical thinking skills towards any of my future endeavors.



Nisha Uppuluri

I entered Duke with the traditional pre-med plan: major in something STEM-related, do lab research, and so on. However, after a frustrating freshman year of STEM classes where neither my professors nor my peers seemed to think about issues larger than the next exam, I came to the Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies department looking for an academic space that would help me understand my experiences of racialized and gendered discrimination, especially those within the world of healthcare. My academic path through this major

has helped me to do just that, and has also pushed me to think more deeply about what I want to do with my life post-Duke. I plan to pursue a career as a care provider in the field of women's health, where I can make a difference in the health disparities experienced by women of color on personal and institutional levels. I am confident that my academic background in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies will help me to approach this work from a feminist perspective, guiding me to treat patients with respect, care, and empathy.



Where in the world are 2018 TRAVEL AWARDEES

Congratulations to our 2018 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 2018 TRAVEL AWARDEES

Jacqueline Allain (Graduate Student, History, and Certificate in Feminist Studies)

Researched feminist scholarship on reproduction and slavery, gender and emancipation, in the Caribbean. Allain explored how French natal policy responded to emancipation at two levels, the level of the metropolitan (mainland French) government and the level of the colonial Martinican administration.

Liz Crisenbery (Graduate Student, Musicology, and Certificate in Feminist Studies)

Participated in the De-/Anti-/Post-Colonial DH Workshop at the Digital Humanities Summer Institute in Victoria, British Columbia.

Annu Dahiya (Graduate Student, Literature, and Certificate in Feminist Studies)

Presented a paper entitled "The Container Problem" and the Emergence of Intrauterine Experience: Irigaray, Primordial Wombs, and the Origins of Life" at Brock University in Ontario, Canada. The paper focused on strong critic Irigaray, launches at the biological sciences and argues that they have systematically failed to research the origins of permeability of membranes.

Robert Franco (Graduate Student, History, and Certificate in Feminist Studies)

Conducted research in Guadalajara, Mexico on sex and sexuality and their relationship with the revolutionary policies of the Mexican communist party. Franco's research further supported his dissertation on "Revolution in the sheets: The Sexual Political and Intimate Practices of the Mexican Left" which historicizes this enduring divide by examining scandalous explosions of homophobia, heterosexism, and hostility towards sexual politics among political parties and movements of the Mexican left throughout the twentieth century.

Anastasia Karklina (Graduate Student, Literature, and Certificate in Feminist Studies)

Presented a paper at the Cultural Studies Association Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as well as served as a respondent in an author-meets-critic session for Sami Schalk's new book *Body minds Reimagined: Race, Gender, and (Dis) ability in Black Women's Speculative Fiction*. Being a respondent allowed Karklina to better extend her understanding of gender and race and how they intersect with disability.

continued on page 14

Where in the world are **2018 Travel Awardees** (continued from page 14)

Vincenzo Malo (Undergraduate Student, Neuroscience, Global Health, and Spanish)

Conducted research to explore the interplay between perceptions of mental health and gender norms within Camasca, Honduras. Malo believes that there is a severe lack of mental health research in low-resource settings throughout the Americas, especially in the rural regions of Honduras where strict gender roles are defined in societal function.

Julia Wohl (Undergraduate Student, History, Statistical Science, and French)

Participated as an unpaid production Intern for StoryCorps in Brooklyn, NYC, a non-profit organization whose aim is to preserve oral histories and provide the tools people who are historically under-represented in radio or on podcasts to record their own. While there, she conducted some qualitative research based off of interviews in the StoryCorps archive about American men and women returning from war with the purpose to investigate the relationship between gender and descriptions of trauma.

Emma Zang (Graduate Student, Public Policy)

Presented dissertation paper titled "Intra-Household Property Rights and Women's Welfare: Evidence from the 2011 Chinese Divorce Reform" at the International Sociological Association Joint Conference for Family and Population Sections in Singapore.

OCTOBER 2018

Chinonyelum (Nonni) Egbuna (Undergraduate, Visual Media Studies)

Attended the Rocky Mountain Women's Film Festival in Colorado Springs, CO for research purposes. As an aspiring filmmaker and producer she intends on using the craft to empower minority populations and others commonly misrepresented in the media. Attending the festival for female creatives was both an educational and an empowering experience

Julien Fischer (Graduate Student, Literature, and Certificate in Feminist Studies)

Presented a paper entitled "Performative Passage: Whiteness and the De/Naturalized Other," at the American Studies Association conference in Atlanta, Georgia. His interest in thinking about the passport as a material prosthetic whose performative relationship to its bearer's identity purports to be representational. This paper looks at the passport's oceanic origins as intertwined with its work as a surveillance technology.

Natalie Gasparowicz (Graduate Student, History, and Certificate in Feminist Studies)

Presented a paper at the Global History and Catholicism: An International Conference at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana that examined the importance of a global framework to histories of population control and the Roman Catholic Church. The focal point being the Church's key opposition figure to women's reproductive rights today. In the paper she argues that the Mexican case would be better understood on the global stage, as opposed to just in the Latin American context by bridging histories of religion, gender, and sexuality, from a global perspective.

**Kelly Hunter (Graduate Student,
Public Policy)**

Presented a paper at the International Studies Association in Toronto, Canada. The paper was accepted as part of a panel assembled of top graduate students and faculty in political science from the US and Europe studying gender, peace, and security. The panel was titled: "Gender Equality and Restitution in the Aftermath of Conflict." Her paper was titled "Redemption?: Sexual and Gender-based Violence Provisions in Peace Agreements Following Conflict-Related Sexual Violence."

**Nora Nunn (Graduate Student, English,
and Certificate in Feminist Studies)**

Researched Margaret Bourke-White, an American photojournalist for LIFE Magazine at The International Center of Photography (ICP) in New York City. Bourke-White plays a key role in this chapter in which Nunn's dissertation focuses. Nunn's dissertation emphasizes the way that literature and visual cultures shaped collective understandings of the crime of genocide in the 20th-century United States. The ICP houses extensive archives of photographs and other resources of visual cultures.

**Tessa Nunn (Graduate Student, Romance
Studies, and Certificate in Feminist Studies)**

Participated in the 2019 Modern Language Association's annual conference held in Chicago. At the conference she participated on the Simone de Beauvoir Society's panel dedicated to addressing questions of privilege in Beauvoir's work. Her paper, titled "Crying for Whom? Beauvoir and the Parody of Tears," questioned what it means to be a privileged woman who cries for other people's suffering.

**Tania Rispoli (Graduate Student, Romance
Studies, and Certificate in Feminist Studies)**

Presented a paper for the conference at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, Virginia, dedicated to the theme of intersectionality. The paper was entitled "Rethinking the Politics of Space in Contemporary Feminist Global Movements" and its aims were to show how the contemporary feminist "wave" is able to put in practice an intersectional approach, overcoming the traditional splits between political struggles and economic struggles.

Spring 2019 EVENTS (continued from page 9)

APRIL

4 **The Annual Queer Theory Lecture in honor of Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick, "Birthday and Conversation with Samuel R. Delany,"** a science fiction author, professor, and literary critic. Delany spoke about queer sex, sexual futures, and sex in fiction.

10 **Gender Wednesday: "Publicizing the Perpetrators – Defamation Defense and the #MeToo Survivors"** with Nicole Ligon, the Supervising Attorney of the First Amendment Clinic at Duke Law. In that capacity, she works with students on litigating and advising clients with free speech concerns.

11 **"Black + Speculative Futures"** with Ashley Baccus Clark, a Brooklyn-based Molecular and Cellular Biologist and multidisciplinary artist who uses new media and storytelling to explore themes of deep learning, cognition, memory, race, trauma, and systems of belief.

continued on page 22



Left to right- Brendan Jamal Thornton, Matthew Gutmann, Frances Hasso

Duke on Gender Colloquium TRANSNATIONALLY THINKING MEN AND MASCULINITIES

by: **Garrett McKinnon**
PhD Candidate,
Department of History
Duke University

On January 24, 2019, the Duke on Gender Colloquium hosted the panel “Transnationally Thinking Men and Masculinities.” Anthropologists Matthew Gutmann (Brown University) and Brendan Jamal Thornton (UNC, Chapel Hill) presented papers about the place of men’s sexual bodies in scientific discourse and sensual spirit encounters, respectively. I was drawn to the panel by interest in how men’s physicality and sexuality construct manhood.

Gutmann interrogated the claims of recent biological studies identifying a tendency within popular scientific literature to mystify factors like testosterone as explanations for sexual violence committed by men. He critiqued these studies’ methodology, noting that many relied on limited sample sizes and ignored cultural or social influences. He concluded that these scientific narratives contribute to a new “crisis of masculinity”

evidenced by gender-segregated public spaces that presume and constitute men’s dangerous natures.

Thornton presented ethnographic research on Pentecostalism in the Dominican Republic, interrogating the meanings of male congregants’ reports of sexual encounters with ghost seductresses. Succubus, or similar female phantoms, exist across time and cultures, often flipping gender norms by imagining women as sexual aggressors who victimize men and steal their reproductive capacity. Thornton complicated the existing literature’s tendency to view spirit sex as wish fulfillment. In examining Pentecostal men’s spectral anxieties, he considers how the chastity discourses of the church contest a street culture that instead valorizes men’s sexuality.

Diana Abernethy

Religion PhD, Duke University and Certificate in Feminist Studies

DISSERTATION TITLE:

Profiles in Deception: Lying and Falsehood in 1 Samuel



“ By interpreting acts of deception in their literary context, I synthesize insights from previous studies focusing on the justification of deception ... ”

Through literary analysis in character studies of Saul, Michal, Jonathan, Abigail, and David, my dissertation shows that acts of deception instantiate the central theme of 1 Samuel: God's election of David and dis-election of Saul. Saul couples deception with violence as he seeks to eliminate David, but his efforts fail to harm the rising king. Saul's children utilize deception to transfer loyalty from their father to the newly anointed king, David, and this shift guides the reader from Saul's reign to David's. Meanwhile, from Jonathan and Michal, David learns to use deception as an alternative to violence; this skill allows him to secure his kingship without murdering Saul,

which further manifests David's election. By interpreting acts of deception in their literary context, I synthesize insights from previous studies focusing on the justification of deception in terms of conceptual frameworks such as the deceiver's gender, the deceiver's intentions, and the relative power of the deceiver and the deceived. I thus provide a comprehensive account of deception in 1 Samuel that reveals the theological foundation of David's election. God's choice of David determines whether 1 Samuel portrays acts of deception positively or negatively more reliably than the deceiver's merits, gender, or motivations.

Certificate in Feminist Studies Graduates
DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS



Nathan Bullock

Art, Art History, & Visual Studies PhD, Duke University and Certificate in Feminist Studies

DISSERTATION TITLE:

Architecture and the Performance of Citizenship in a Global City: Singapore, 1965-2015

“...feminist intervention in architectural history is formed by the work of theorist Luce Irigaray by searching for what is left out of the canon and the urban built environment.”

This dissertation examines the process of citizenship's contestation in Singapore through unbuilt architectural plans. Covering the first fifty years of independence, alternative proposals by Singaporean architects which were rejected are analyzed as performative of a critique of the state and its definition of citizenship. This feminist intervention in architectural history is informed by the work of theorist Luce Irigaray by searching for what is left out of the canon and the urban built environment. The examples included are shown as attempts at the democratization of space in Singapore. These projects and their theoretical underpinnings

are explained as being postcolonial and countermodern in their opposition to the state's perpetuation of colonial policies and International Modernist design in urban planning and architecture. The continuity of their critique and the state's responses over this fifty-year period is demonstrated as is the avant-garde role of architects in the founding of civil society activist and arts groups and spaces. Finally, the importance of architecture to the visual and performing arts of contemporary Singapore is connected to this critical performance of citizenship.

Chase Gregory

Literature PhD, Duke University and Certificate in Feminist Studies

DISSERTATION TITLE:

Reading and Writing As/if: US Literary Criticism and Identity



■ ■as/if criticism is well suited to describe fraught social bonds, experimental allegiances, and unintuitive cross-identifications because its style mirrors the substance of its argument – a feat that other modes of criticism rarely accomplish. ■ ■

As/if: US Literary Criticism and Academic Identity turns to early queer and third-wave feminist scholarship to identify a unique strategy and style of literary criticism, *as/if* criticism. *As/if* criticism is both born of and resistant to two conflicting imperatives in the US academy, which first come to a fore during the 1990s. The first is the demand to write “as”: that is, the institutional demand that critics use their gender, race, sexuality, etc. as credentials of authentic knowledge. The second is the demand to write “as if”: that is, the post-structuralist demand that critique suspend the idea of knowable or stable identity. Challenging both of these demands, *as/if* criticism employs four different strategies—*recognition*, *qualification*, *intimacy*, and *identification*—in order to disrupt identity as it is produced and valued as a knowable category within literary criticism. Taking five authors as

case studies, I examine Eve Sedgwick’s compendium of queer critical essays, *Tendencies* (1993); Deborah McDowell’s debut work of black feminist criticism, *The Changing Same* (1995); Barbara Johnson’s deconstructive take on race and gender, *The Feminist Difference* (1995); Robert Reid-Pharr’s innovative critical essay collection, *Black Gay Man* (2001); and Kathryn Bond Stockton’s second book, *Beautiful Bottom, Beautiful Shame: Where “Black” Meets “Queer”* (2006). Over the course of its chapters, *As/if: US Literary Criticism and Academic Identity* makes the case that *as/if* criticism is well-suited to describe fraught social bonds, experimental allegiances, and unintuitive cross-identifications because its style mirrors the substance of its argument—a feat that other modes of criticism rarely accomplish.



Jess Issacharoff

Literature PhD, Duke University and Certificate in Feminist Studies

DISSERTATION TITLE:

Big House: Women, Prison, and the Domestic

“...*Big House* contests the fixity of the boundaries between them, and writes gender into conversations about mass incarceration.”

Certificate in Feminist Studies Graduates DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS

Big House: Women, Prison, and the Domestic, addresses the development of the contemporary US carceral state, foregrounding the confinement and control of women and the evolving ideological frameworks and disciplinary techniques that guided women's incarceration through the inception of state-run women's prisons in the nineteenth century. These new prisons for women reproduced and refined modes of capture intrinsic to the modern domestic home and, in turn, served as a laboratory for the further development of domestic forms of discipline, making up what I term “the carceral domestic.” While available scholarship tends to assume that disciplinary structures of women's prisons were simply exported from men's prisons, my dissertation elucidates an alternate history of carcerality born of the societal relegation of women to the home. By focusing on the women's prison, and on women's confinement more generally, this project expands the critical

archive that accompanies contemporary critiques of mass incarceration. The dissertation consists of three sections. The Birth of the Carceral Domestic, A Women's Prison in Three Acts, and The Neoliberal Women's Prison, covering the early period of the sex-segregated women's prison in the nineteenth century, the development of gendered forms of carceral control over the twentieth, and the contemporary women's prison in the age of mass incarceration and neoliberal privatization. I draw on a broad range of materials and genres, including personal narratives, urban planning guides, domestic homemaking manuals, TV shows, judicial opinions, literary fiction, prison policy codes, and acts of Congress. Through these varied accounts of the intersecting spheres of prison and home, *Big House* contests the fixity of the boundaries between them, and writes gender into conversations about mass incarceration.

Jessica Malitoris

History, Duke University and Certificate in Feminist Studies

DISSERTATION TITLE:

The Promise of Marriage Consent: Family Politics, the United Nations, and Women's Rights in the US, 1947-1967



“... my exploration of how global politics put pressure on ideas of family in the US helps illuminate how people perceived changes within the nation.”

My dissertation focuses on the 1962 United Nations Convention on Consent for Marriage to explore the ways in which women's rights were tied to civil rights, the Cold War, and decolonization. In the mid-twentieth century, as now, “the family” served as both the crucible of and synecdoche for the nation. Thus, my exploration of how global politics put pressure on ideas of family in the US helps to illuminate how people perceived changes within the nation. At once a work of women's and diplomatic history, the project arises from a desire for more sustained engagements with the period “between the waves” of women's movements in both the US and the UN. As women from around the world sought to improve the lives of women in recently-independent and colonial territories, they also found the treaty applied to themselves, as governments from the so-called First and Second Worlds sought to use women's rights as another pawn in Cold War politics.

This project balances analysis of the Marriage Convention's development on the floor of the UN with its reception in the United States. I use official United Nations documents, State Department and Women's Bureau records, personal papers of representatives, and the papers of both international women's organizations and those within the US that pushed Americans to accept the treaty and its standards at home. Inspired by powerful histories of international women's NGOs and transnational women's movements, I nevertheless seek to expand approaches to women's rights in the UN. My dissertation approaches the United Nations itself as a battleground, even prior to the 1975 International Women's Year, and broadens the scope of the history of family rights by focusing on parallel strands of black and white women's activism in this period.



Alice May Baldwin
before inpainting



Alice May Baldwin
after treatment



Benjamin Duke
before inpainting



Thomas S. Kenan III

The Program in Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies is most grateful to Thomas S. Kenan III for his generous gift that enabled the restoration of the seven paintings located in the Pink and Blue Parlor, six of which are portraits.

Among other things, Mr. Kenan serves as the Director and Vice Chairman of the Board of Flagler System, Inc. He is Director of the four William R. Kenan, Jr. Fund Foundations and a Trustee of the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust, the Executive Mansion Fine Arts Committee and the Randleigh Foundation Trust. In addition, he serves on the boards of the Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans Foundation and the Stephen's Episcopal Church Foundation. He also serves on the Board of Visitors of the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School.

The restoration work began in Fall 2016, with Hessling Conservation and ended in Spring 2019. The restored portraits lend such character and history to the rooms, it is hard to imagine them placed anywhere else on campus. The six portraits represent images

of the following benefactors from the Duke family and the first two female Deans of the Woman's College.

1. Washington Duke by Busey
2. Benjamin Duke by Wiltschek
3. James B. Duke by Wiltschek
4. Mary Duke Biddle by Gallo
5. Alice Mary Baldwin by Lintoth
6. Roberta Florence Brinkley by Densing

Washington Duke

Washington Duke was an industrialist and philanthropist, who's family's contributions strengthened Trinity College and prepared it for its dramatic growth into a university.

Benjamin Duke

Benjamin Newton Duke, the eldest son of Washington Duke, was a tobacco and textile entrepreneur and philanthropist. He was the primary benefactor of Trinity College after it relocated to Durham in 1892.

James B Duke

James Buchanan Duke, son of Washington Duke emerged a leader in the tobacco industry. At the urging of President William P. Few, James B. Duke in 1924 agreed to rename this institution in honor of his father.



Benjamin Duke
after treatment



Washington Duke
before inpainting



Washington Duke
after treatment

Mary Alice Baldwin

In 1930, the Woman's College of Duke University opened its doors, with Alice Baldwin as its Academic Dean and head of the college. Under Baldwin's guidance, the Woman's College became one of the most well respected women's colleges in the South.

Mary Duke Biddle

In 1937, she befriended the Woman's College of Duke University by having Room 120, now referred to as the Pink Parlor, redecorated and equipped with valuable furniture and art objects in the Louis XV style.

Florence Roberta Brinkley

In 1947, she came to Duke to succeed Alice Mary Baldwin as Dean of the Woman's College, and served in that capacity until her retirement in 1962.

Thanks to Mr. Kenan's gift we are able to more clearly see the original depth of color and the play on light that the artists intended us to see in the paintings. You can even say, a youthfulness has been restored to the portraits which had been covered up over the years by light, climate and dust damage. All are encouraged to see the beauty brought back to these restored portraits.

Spring 2019 EVENTS (continued from page 16)

APRIL

18 Postdoc Talk: "Feral Pig Panics: Racialized Reproduction Anxieties and the Uprooting of U.S. Domesticity" with Logan O'Laughlin, postdoctoral associate of Feminist Environmental Studies in the Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies Program at Duke. This lecture uses feminist science, critical race, and queer studies to rethink the panics about these so-called nuisance species.

23 "Fire and Flood: Queer Resilience in the Era of Climate Change," Film screening and discussion with Vanessa Raditz. The connection between climate change and the treatment of queer and trans people in communities are often missed. Vanessa is an environmental health researcher, and youth educator. The "Fire and Flood" film project is rooted in Vanessa's lived experience of the 2017 fires in Northern California.

26 2019 Honors Thesis Presentation: Event celebrating the Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies program honor students.

MAY

5 GSF Graduation Ceremony

Duke University

112 East Duke Building
Durham, NC 27708-0760

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Durham, NC
Permit No. 60

Fall 2019 COURSES

GSF 89S	FYS: Girls On Film Kimberly Lamm
GSF 199S	Thinking Gender Kathi Weeks
GSF 202S	Introduction to the Study of Sexualities Gabriel Rosenberg
GSF 221	Women at Work Martha Reeves
GSF 235S	Clinical Issues Janie Long
GSF 275S	Food Farming & Feminism Gabriel Rosenberg
GSF 278	Sex/Gender – Nature/Nurture Ara Wilson/Christina Williams
GSF 290S	Special Topics: #MeToo and More Juliette Duara
GSF 290S	Special Topics: Intro to Transgender Studies Grad Instructor

GSF 361	Money, Sex, Power Kathi Weeks
GSF 364S	Race, Gender, and Sexuality Patrice Douglass
GSF 369	Transnational Feminism Frances Hasso
GSF 374S	Global Men and Masculinities Frances Hasso
GSF 375	Reproductive Ethics Kathy Rudy
GSF 390S	Special Topics: Feminist Art From The 1960S Kimberly Lamm
GSF 390S	Special Topics: Economies of Care Ingrid Meintjes/Ulrike Prattes
GSF 960S	Interdisciplinary Debates: Rethinking Care Economies Ara Wilson/Jocelyn Olcott