



DUKE

# Gender, Sexuality & Feminist Studies

Spring 2019

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## PATRICE D. DOUGLASS, PH.D. Joins Duke University

by: **Sasha Panaram**

PhD Candidate

English Department, Duke University

### The Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies at Duke University Welcomes a New Faculty Member

Duke University's newest crop of faculty includes Assistant Professor, Patrice D. Douglass, who has joined the Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies. Prior to arriving at Duke, Professor Douglass served as an Assistant Professor for the Justice, Community, and Leadership program at St. Mary's College in California.

Her research is widely published and has appeared in scholarly publications such as *Theory and Event*, *Zeitschrift für Anglistik und Amerikanistik: A Quarterly of Language, Literature and Culture*, and the *Journal of Visual Culture*. Among her many accolades, Professor Douglass has served as a Bremen Research Ambassador at the University of Bremen in Germany.

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# Director's COLUMN

“ Feminist theory is a broad category; it does not offer answers. It is a lens through which to understand the way power is racialized, gendered, and sexed. ”



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

## Now More Than Ever

It is hard to know where to begin these days. We have watched the U.S. Senate confirm the appointment of a Supreme Court Justice after hearing testimony about his sexual misconduct allegations. We have watched the head of state in the United States mock the #MeToo movement through which women have sought to speak out against the widespread sexual assault and harassment to which so many women are subjected in their daily lives. And we have watched Viktor Orban, the Prime Minister of Hungary, declare his intent to close Women and Gender Studies programs in Hungarian universities because the study of women and gender is “ideological” rather than “scientific.”

Now more than ever I am grateful for my feminist training. Now more than ever I need that training to make sense of what is happening around me. Now more than ever I call on that training to help the students who have come to me to help them make sense of what feels to them like a deeply disturbing trend.

Feminist theory is a broad category; it does not offer answers. It is a lens through which to understand the way power is racialized, gendered, and sexed. Feminist theory is a rigorous approach to experience that helps to explain the processes through which inequitable dynamics and biases appear as “objective” and “true.”

The well established field of feminist science studies, for example, demonstrates some of the ways scientific categories and methods unwittingly reproduce cultural biases. That information is of course useful for anyone interested in helping to foster a more equitable world, but it is equally useful for scientists who want tools to help them see past their biases. The history of science has shown how the ability to see past one's blind spots, to approach a problem in a new way, is crucial to scientific discovery and innovation. In other words, feminist theory is an excellent pedagogical tool.

In a brilliant 1986 essay, “What is Feminist Theory,” my GSF colleague Elizabeth Grosz described the “*discursive space*” feminist theory could open up, a space that would “encourage a proliferation of voices, instead of a hierarchical structuring of them, a plurality of perspectives and interests instead of a monopoly of the one--new kinds of questions and different kinds of answers. No one form would be privileged as the truth, the correct interpretation, the right method; rather, knowledges, methods, interpretations can be judged and used according to their appropriateness to a given context, a specific strategy and particular effects.”

Now more than ever....

# Why You Should Take a GENDER, SEXUALITY AND FEMINIST STUDIES CLASS AT DUKE

Article from the **MUSE - Feminism at Duke**

Written by: **Cameron WU**

Established in 1983, the Duke Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist (GSF) Studies Department (formerly "Women's Studies") is dedicated to "transforming the university's organization of knowledge" through an interdisciplinary and intersectional approach to studying gender identities, relations, practices, theories, and institutions.

However, the small proportion of students participating in this program suggests that GSF classes are simply not a priority for many Duke students. These classes not only enlighten, but also empower students with analytical and critical thinking skills that extend to any profession.

Here are just three reasons why you should consider taking a GSF class at Duke:

## 1. Diverse Academic Perspectives

The vast majority of what we learn about at Duke, from academic literature, historical narratives, textbooks to case studies, was written by straight men. Not only that, but most of the faces we see in textbooks, faculty positions, and university leadership are male. As such, more diverse classes that actively value everyone's voices and do not tokenize underrepresented groups are an asset to our educations.

Investing time into understanding narratives from women and LGBTQ+ leaders provides us with crucial insights into their experiences and thought processes. Often times, we tend

<https://www.thedukemuse.com/feminismatduke>

to dismiss the voices of minorities due to a "lack" of academic resources and historical evidence—but this assumption is far from the truth.

According to Dr. Laura Edwards, Peabody Family Professor of History and Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies, "women have always acted—but the culture tends to constrain them and obscure their actions." Thus, she continues, GSF classes give these women agency and the ability to articulate their voices to contemporary audiences. Current movements advocating for GSF studies are not the root of the academic discipline, but a result of people paying attention to the voices of historically oppressed groups. Consequently, studying diverse perspectives enables us to think outside traditional gender binaries and move forward as more mindful individuals.

## 2. The Power of Representation

Representation undoubtedly has powerful effects on people. Recently, reporters and audiences praised movies such as *Black Panther* and *Crazy Rich Asians* for providing platforms for African Americans and Asian Americans to see themselves represented in popular culture. Extending this intentional form of representation to the classroom empowers students whose cultures and

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## Why You Should Take a **GENDER, SEXUALITY AND FEMINIST STUDIES CLASS AT DUKE** (continued from page 3)

identities are not mandatory curriculums. Learning that your experiences as part of a minority are not only valid but relevant and meaningful for people to study is a powerful way to build your own self-confidence and realize that your experiences don't make you an outsider. Rather, they make you a member of a community.

According to a [2016 study](#), 90% of surveyed women believed that female representation was important, and 58% reported having a female role model who inspired them to be more ambitious or assertive. Representation not only encourages people to seek opportunities that they didn't know they had, but it also empowers them to pursue avenues for attaining those goals. Similarly, diversifying teaching materials and subjects allows people to identify with leaders and role models and feel included in classroom discussions.

### 3. Become an Informed Community Member and Professional

GSF classes prepare us to confront class discussions, social issues, and workplace interactions with a more thoughtful and

critical lens. When problems arise, how are gender dynamics affecting communication and outcomes? To what extent are people of minority groups intentionally included and valued in professional spaces? GSF classes teach us how to approach our lives in a holistic, intersectional fashion. For women and LGBTQ+-identified individuals, GSF studies can help them feel more confident asserting their opinions and experiences. For those who don't necessarily identify with those groups, these classes can help them gain a greater understanding and appreciation for others' perspectives. Ultimately, GSF courses help people to become advocates for social change not only in terms of dialogue but also in terms of actionable, sustainable practices that can be carried across academic and social disciplines.

Whether you're looking for an interesting class to take next semester or considering a GSF degree, GSF classes provide invaluable knowledge and insights that are relevant to everyone. GSF classes not only teach contextualization and critical thinking skills, but also what it means to have an open mind and enter critical conversations.

## Fall 2019 EVENTS

### SEPTEMBER

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

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**Duke on Gender Colloquium: "Black Muslims and the Black Arts Movement"** Chair: Israel Durham (President's Postdoctoral Fellow, English Department, University of Maryland). Presenters: Su'ad Abdul Khabeer (American Culture and Arab and

Muslim Studies, University of Michigan) "Muslim Cool: Race, Religion, and Hip Hop in the United States". Ellen McLarney (Duke Asian and Middle Eastern Studies) "blk visions for blk lives"; Sonia Sanchez's Muslim Poetry".

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**Graduate Scholars Colloquium: "Rape Culture and Visual Sexuality"** with Zoë Eckman, PhD candidate, English Department, Duke University. Respondent: Rachel Gevlin, PhD candidate, English Department, Duke University.

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**Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Speaker/Luncheon Series: "Women in the Law: The Real Life Experience of Practicing While Female"** with Faith Herndon, B.A. and M.A. from Yale University, J.D. from New York University School of Law. The talk will focus on the realities facing women who go into law, covering the different possibilities a law degree offers and the gender issues that arise in law school and the profession.

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## Patrice D. Douglass, Ph.D. JOINS DUKE UNIVERSITY (continued from page 1)

She is currently at work on her first book manuscript, tentatively entitled, *Politicizing Gender: Sociogeny, Violence, and Narrative in Black*, where she “deconstructs antebellum case law to examine the history of sexual violence under slavery.” Professor Douglass argues that, “the legalized refusal to mediate violations against the enslaved illumines a structural caesura between the assumptive logics of political and social violence in political theory and the violence that engenders blackness.”

“We in GSF all feel incredibly fortunate to have hired Professor Douglass, says Professor Priscilla Wald, the R. Florence Brinkley Professor of English and Director of Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies. “She brings a range of fields and areas of expertise to GSF and has already shown herself to be a wonderful teacher and terrific colleague. Her scholarly work is incredibly rich, analytically rigorous, and intellectually challenging in all the best ways.”

Patrice Douglass earned her bachelor's degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz where she majored in Feminist Studies and minored in Legal Studies. She then went on to earn a master's degree in Ethnic Studies from the University of California, Riverside, and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Culture and Theory from the University of California, Irvine.

With research and teaching interests in Black feminist theory, afropessimism, political theory, and legal theory, Professor Douglass's presence at Duke University will undoubtedly impact students and research on the college campus and the wider North Carolinian community as well.

“Patrice Douglass's work is important for her willingness to deal with death and violence as central to the conception of black existence,” says Professor Jasmine Nichole Cobb, the Bacca Foundation Associate Professor of African & African American Studies and of Art, Art History and Visual Studies at Duke University. “Her attention to the intersection of state violence and gender violence is timely, forcing us to think about the framing of black women's lives with regard to movements against sexual assault and police violence.”

“Professor Douglass' work examines how the archive of slavery, and blackness more generally, confound and trouble the anchoring assumptions of contemporary feminism around sexual difference, desire, and sexuality,” according to Professor Gabriel Rosenberg, an assistant professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies at Duke University. “Her work is meticulous, brilliant, and creative. It is also timely and tells us much about contemporary American culture and politics. I think that it will have an enormous impact on both the fields of black studies and gender and sexuality studies in the coming years.”

Intent on producing work that, in her own words, “uses theory as a creative tool to place ideas that are seemingly contradictory into conversation,” Professor Douglass brings with her to Duke a “desire to teach courses, produce scholarship, and commission dialogues that make clear the bridge between Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies and Black Studies.”

# 2018 Feminist Theory Workshop

## IMPRESSIONS

by: **Gavin Doyle**

PhD Candidate  
Trinity College Dublin  
in Ireland

The Program in Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies at Duke continues to organize one of the most significant events in the academic calendar, and I was honored to be offered an opportunity to join the discussion as an international scholar of gender and sexuality in American Cultural, over the two-day workshop. My work as a PhD student at Trinity College Dublin in Ireland focuses on the intersections of queerness and Irishness in the work of a number of American literary and cultural figures since the late 1960s.

Throughout each and every section of the workshop—from the keynote lectures to

discussions with attendees over coffee or wine—I had an opportunity to think and talk about how my own research fits within the larger academic landscape, and how collaboration is always just an introduction away. I met with students and scholars from around the world working in many different, but many times overlapping, areas of study. I would recommend to all graduate students and early career researchers committed to the academic interrogation of gender and sexuality, and indeed all identity categories and social subjectivity.

by: **Paniz Musawi**

PhD Candidate  
University of London  
in United Kingdom

My fellow travel awardees, other PhD students and researchers had intense exchanges while reflecting on how the keynote speakers approached their subject of research, what their contribution was to existing discussions and how they further complicate existing notions of gender roles and relations and ideas of time and space in feminist epistemologies.

Professor Allison's engagement with "The Matter of Death in Solitary Times" in the context of Japan provided a critical reading of the political economy of death in times of advanced capitalism in Japan.

Denise Ferreira da Silva's presentation offered a fascinating observation: the redundancy of time considering the use of violence against black and brown bodies across time in different geographies/spaces. Erasing time, da Silva highlighted the continuity of violence used as an instrument of control over racialized bodies.

Professor Federici visualized clearly the strategies of control of women's bodies through the use of violence such as the witch-hunt in medieval Europe to women subjected to lobotomies in the modern age.

Jennifer Nash's deeply critical, thought-provoking and sophisticated presentation raised awareness for uncomfortable dynamics among knowledge producing bodies and problematized the question of ownership over knowledge and right to speak about particular topics among feminists of differing positionalities.

The Feminist Theory Workshop is precious and provides space, even if it is for two days, to gather and exchange among feminist and queer scholars across age to problematize, to complement and to intervene into existing and emerging politics and discourses.

A two-day event presented by



13th annual

# Feminist Theory Workshop

March 22-23, 2019 ▲ Duke University

## KEYNOTES:

### LAUREN BERLANT

George Pullman Distinguished Service Professor of English at the University of Chicago

### ANNE ANLIN CHENG

Professor of English, Director of American Studies, and affiliated faculty in the Program in Gender and Sexuality Studies at Princeton University

### C. RILEY SNORTON

Professor of English and Gender and Sexuality Studies at University of Chicago

### KIM TALLBEAR

Associate Professor of Native Studies, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous People, Technoscience, and Environment, Faculty of Native Studies at the University of Alberta, Canada

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The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality, Wake Forest University  
Department of Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies, University of Washington  
Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program, William & Mary

The workshop is **FREE**, but space is limited and registration is required. For more information go to the **Feminist Theory Workshop Webpage**. You can also find information to join Feminist Theory Workshop Closed Facebook Group. In addition, the Workshop readings will be posted on the Workshop website.

Questions can be answered by contacting Julie Wynmor at (919) 684-3655 or [gsfs@duke.edu](mailto:gsfs@duke.edu).

For direct registration use this QR Code





## Logan O'Laughlin, PhD

Postdoctoral Associate in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies  
Duke University

# PROFILE

I am joining Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies at Duke after just receiving my Ph.D. in Feminist Studies from the University of Washington. After catapulting across the country from the Pacific Northwest, I am enjoying getting to know the diverse flora and fauna of Durham and I have appreciated the rich academic community of GSF since my arrival. I've been relishing Dr. Wald & Dr. Rosenberg's seminar, "What Has Life Become?" and am also involved with DECIPHER Bass Connections Project, providing guidance on students' interdisciplinary research projects on drinking water safety. I am grateful for the numerous writing workshops, GSF panels, and collaborations with others in the past couple months.

I have also been working on a series of publications this semester. One article, based on a chapter of my dissertation, is under review at *Feminist Studies*, and I've also been developing a chapter for the *Routledge Handbook on the Anthropology of Gender and Sexuality*. I am currently collaborating with a queer eco-justice scholar and friend on a piece for *Transgender Studies Quarterly* urging us to think through transgender and environmental justice together. I am looking forward to continuing these conversations as I am developing my book manuscript.

My book project, *Toxic Animal Encounters: Queer Environmental Threats & Racialized Reproduction Anxieties*, traces contemporary panics about environmental toxins and their effects on sex, sexuality, and reproduction in North America. Through analysis of these panics expressed in popular media and scientific journals, I argue that nonhuman animals function as bellwethers for the longevity of white, heterosexual human reproduction. I explore this in three environmental scandals: (1) scientific reports of pesticide runoff causing frogs to develop as intersex; (2) media responses to the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill that disproportionately focus on the reproductive health of pelicans; and (3) farmers' anxieties about feral pigs overpopulating the U.S.

I'm looking forward to what the rest of my year in GSF will bring, including teaching a First-Year Seminar in the spring, entitled "Feminism and the Environment." Focusing on North Carolina as a location of environmental justice, we'll look at how environmental violence intersects with oppression based on race, class, gender, and sexuality in several sites, including toxic waste disposal, animal agriculture, overpopulation panics, and birth control.



# Meyda Yeğenoğlu

Visiting Professor in Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies  
Duke University



While at Duke, I will be teaching an undergraduate course on Gender, Sexuality and Human Rights and will give seminars at the graduate level on State Violence and Genocide in the Spring Semester of 2018-2019.

I am the author of *Colonial Fantasies: Towards a Feminist Reading of Orientalism* (Cambridge University Press, 1998) and *Islam, Migrancy and Hospitality in Europe* (Palgrave-MacMillan, 2012) and have published on postcolonialism, orientalism, Islam, secularism and religion, nationalism, cosmopolitanism, Europe/European identity, globalization and migrancy in journals such as: *Race and Ethnic Relations*; *Culture and Religion*; *Philosophy and Social Criticism*, *Inscriptions*; *Radical Philosophy*; *Postmodern Culture* and in various collections.

Visiting appointments I've held include Columbia University, Oberlin College, Rutgers University, New York University, University of Vienna and Oxford University. Currently I am a Senior Researcher at the Institute for Advanced Social Research, Tampere University, Finland since February 2016.

Academically, I received my PhD degree at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Sociology Program in 1993. Since then my work has included positions at the Middle East Technical University, Sociology

Department in Ankara-Turkey during the period of 1994-2010. During this time I began as an Assistant Professor in 1994 and was promoted to Associate Professor in 1996 followed by a Full Professor position in 2005. Later, I worked as a full professor at Istanbul Bilgi, University, Sociology and Cultural Studies Programs Istanbul-Turkey until my forced departure in January 2016. Both institutions were modeled on American universities and medium of instruction is in English.

Courses taught included topics on Contemporary Social Theory; Cultural Theory; Racism, Nationalism, and Postcolonialism; Introduction to Postcolonial Theory; Religion, Globalization and Culture; Culture, Identity and Postcolonial theory; Culture, Literature and Society; Post-Structuralism, Deconstruction and Feminist Theory; Middle East Women, Feminism and Orientalism; Current Issues in Cultural Studies and Critical Theory; Globalization and Diasporas; Feminist Theory; Gender, Race and Class; Orientalism and Feminism both at the graduate and undergraduate levels. In addition, I supervised graduate students in a wide range of fields such as European identity and Islam, Muslim immigrants, secularism, religion, racism, cosmopolitanism, globalization, orientalism, hybridity and analysis of migrant literature, representation and migrant artistic practices, nationalism and discourse analysis.

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# Duke on Gender Colloquium

## THE NECESSITY OF SPEAKING OUT: GENDER, RACE, AND LABOR IN THE ACADEMY

by: **Sinan Goknur**  
PhD Candidate  
Department of Art,  
Art History & Visual Studies  
Duke University

“... we should strive to re-imagine and re-constitute the university as an alternative site of futurity based on a politics of self-critique rather than self-interest...”

The Duke on Gender Colloquium hosted a panel on “Gender, Race, and Labor in the Academy” in the East Duke Parlors on October 22, 2018. Grace Kyungwon Hong (UCLA Gender Studies and Asian American Studies) and Jasmine Nicole Cobb (Duke African & African American Studies and Art, Art History and Visual Studies) presented papers that inquired into the ways archives may be interpreted and mobilized against persisting violence, the contours of which depend on forgetting or erasing the past.

Cobb shared her work in progress on Black hair culture, which considers the materiality, aesthetics, and politics of Frederick Douglass’s hair in his lifetime but also as a material and symbolic archive that emerges in iconic deployments of hair by Black men in the US through the early twenty-first century. She showed differences in hair embodiment that relate to the shifting dynamics of regulation and emancipatory struggle.





Left to right: Grace Kyungwon Hong, Jasmine Nichole Cobb, and Sarah (Sally) Deutsch

Working from a chapter of her book *Death Beyond Disavowal: The Impossible Politics of Difference*, Hong invoked Black feminist scholarship both as an analytic and a rejoinder to the neoliberal perpetuation and exacerbation of gendered, sexual, and racialized precarity in the US academy. She defined neoliberalism “foremost as an epistemological structure of disavowal, a means of claiming that racial and gendered violence are things of the past. It does so by affirming certain modes of racialized, gendered, and sexualized life, particularly through invitation into reproductive respectability so as to disavow its exacerbated production of premature death.” She used the archives of the first generation of Black women feminist scholars in the academy and particularly the works of Barbara Christian to consider how neoliberalism unequally distributes life and death.

The vacuous slogans of neoliberal multiculturalism and diversity often serve to obfuscate the exploitation, marginalization, and violence that persist in the relationship

between protectable life and ungrievable death. Hong argues that we should strive to re-imagine and re-constitute the university as an alternative site of futurity based on a politics of self-critique rather than self-interest, one that never loses sight of Audre Lorde’s question “In what way do I contribute to the subjugation of any part of those who I call my people?”

In the discussant comments, Sally Deutsch (Duke History) considered LatinX precarity and circled back to the notion of “difference” that marks the uniqueness of anti-Black violence in the US and insists on connecting it to violence experienced by all racialized, gendered, devalued peoples. Frances Hasso (Duke GSF, History and Sociology) used Hong’s work to point to the transnational “uneven but connected dispersion of death and devaluation.” An energetic Q&A period also considered adjunct precarity, unionization, the value of teaching and cultivating imagination, and the necessity of speaking out.

# Faculty UPDATES

## Elizabeth Grosz

Elizabeth Grosz taught two classes in the fall, an undergraduate class, "Freud and Sexuality," and a graduate class called "Feminism, Visuality and Space". She is on leave in the Spring of 2019. Grosz has published many scholarly articles and books, most recently, *The Incorporeal. Ontology, Ethics and the Limits of Materialism* (Columbia University Press, 2017).

## Frances S. Hasso

Frances S. Hasso finalized a 4-year co-editorship of the *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*. She is lead Editor of volume 14 (2018), which includes a thematic issue on "Decolonizing Sex and Sexuality" (July) and another on "Generations" (November) ([jmews.org](http://jmews.org)). She used a CAORC Senior Fellowship at the American Center for Oriental Research (ACOR) in Amman to complete field and archival research in Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine from January through May 2018 for her project on "Reproductive Death" in Palestine during the British colonial period. She was awarded a 2018-2019 Fellowship from the National Humanities Center to write the book. She gave an invited plenary panel talk on pedagogy and scholarship in times of crisis for the "Feminism in Crisis?" conference at the American University in Beirut in January. She gave an invited paper, "Documenting the Non-Archival Reproductive Subject: Intimate Palestinian Life during the British Mandate," in February for a Palestinian studies workshop at Brown University, "The Shadow Years: Material Histories of Everyday Life." She gave a widely attended public

lecture at ACOR in March titled, "Palestinian Reproductive Death and Life during the British Mandate," and a similar presentation in April to researchers at the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan. She organized a panel on masculinities for the World Congress for Middle East Studies (WOCMES) V in Seville, Spain in July and presented a paper whose revised version was published online in the *Arab Studies Journal* in October, "Decolonizing Middle East Men and Masculinities Scholarship: An Axiomatic Approach" (<http://www.arabstudiesjournal.org/asj-online/decolonizing-middle-east-men-and-masculinities-scholarship-an-axiomatic-approach>). She has a journal article in press at *Gender, Place & Culture*, "Masculine love and sensuous reason: the affective and spatial politics of Egyptian Ultras football fans."

## Kimberly Lamm

On leave for the 2018-2019 academic year, Kimberly Lamm is hard at work on two book Projects: one that reads women's art practices from the 1970s to the 1990s through Gayatri C. Spivak's essay "Can the Subaltern Speak?", and another that traces the role clothing and fashion play in the work of African American women writers. She has a number of articles coming out in 2019: among them, "Pussy in a Can': Containing Feminization and Disposability in *The Wire*," in *Cultural Critique*, and "I Want to Wear It: Black Feminism and the Color of Fashionable Clothing in *Mahogany*" in a special issue on fashion and feminism in *Australian Feminist Studies*.



## Gabriel Rosenberg

Gabriel Rosenberg continued work on two book projects. He wrote a chapter on the role of animals in the history of sexuality for a forthcoming edited volume, and he continued work on several articles that are under review. He delivered papers at a number of conferences, and gave talks at Yale University and the University of Kentucky. In addition, he continued to serve as the program's Director of Undergraduate Studies and, with Professor Priscilla Wald, enjoyed co-teaching in the spring the capstone seminar for graduating seniors.

## Kathy Rudy

Kathy Rudy taught two Liberal Studies classes this year and is very happy to be back in the classroom with her MALS (Master of Arts in Liberal Studies) pals. She also co-taught a course with Juliette Duara on domestic and international adoption, which has been extremely interesting. Rudy is engaged with writing about her experiences of prolonged illness through the lens of bioethics. In preparation for future classes, she is reviving her old work on abortion (which was the topic of her dissertation and first book), potentially for a class that looks at the history and social engagement around abortions, legal and illegal. She anticipates that feminist thinking is going to become more widespread and important as we head toward a world that looks like "The Handmaid's Tale."

## Kathi Weeks

Kathi Weeks has continued to work on her book about U.S. Marxist feminism. In addition, she will be presenting a paper that develops a feminist case for a guaranteed basic income at a couple of conferences this Fall semester. She enjoyed serving temporarily as DGS last semester and is busy teaching three undergraduate courses in GSF this semester.

## Ara Wilson

Ara Wilson's two current projects are first, researching the history of the concept of *gender* and second, tracing how the sign for Venus and Mercury ( ♀ ) came to symbolize female. These interests grew from her team-taught course with a Duke neurobiologist, Professor Tina Williams, "Nature/Nurture Sex/Gender." She directs the Graduate Certificate program in Feminist Studies and serves on the Executive Committee of the Arts & Science Council in Trinity College.

# Transgender Studies + Humanities Series

## HISTORIES OF THE TRANSGENDER CHILD

by: **Julien Fischer**  
PhD Candidate  
Department of Literature  
Duke University

The Duke Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies Program concluded its Transgender Studies + The Humanities Initiative last Tuesday, October 16, by hosting a lunch seminar for graduate students and faculty led by visiting transgender studies scholar Julian Gill-Peterson. Currently a professor of English at the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Gill-Peterson has just published their first book, *Histories of the Transgender Child*, with the University of Minnesota Press. Seminar attendees were asked to read a pre-circulated excerpt from Gill-Peterson's newly published monograph, which traces a history of trans children in 20th century medical archives using a trans of color critique.

Dr. Gabriel Rosenberg (GSF and History) opened the event by introducing the visiting scholar and their exciting contributions to transgender studies. Gill-Peterson followed with opening remarks on their groundbreaking monograph, which intervenes into the nascent field of trans studies with a historical provocation: "If there were so many trans children hiding in plain sight in the past, how have we failed to see them?" (Gill-Peterson, 3). Trans children, Gill-Peterson claims, have existed for quite a long time. The myth that trans children are a new social form emerging from recent technological advances in sexual medicine insidiously erases trans children's history prior to medicalized transsexuality's

## Fall 2019 EVENTS (continued from page 4)

### OCTOBER

**16** **Transgender Studies + Humanities Series:** "Histories of the Transgender Child" workshop with Julian Gill-Peterson as Assistant Professor of English and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at the University of Pittsburgh.

**17** **Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Speaker/ Luncheon Series:** "Feminism & Politics: A Durham Story" with Mayor Pro Tempore Jillian Johnson, B.A. in Public Policy from Duke University. Using her time on City Council, Johnson focuses her efforts on containing gentrification.

**25** **Professional Development Series:** "The Gender Studies Job Market: Statements of Teaching philosophy and Teaching Portfolios" with Patrice Douglass, Assistant Professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies Program at Duke University.

**30** **Graduate Scholars Colloquium:** "Familiar Grammars of Loss and Belonging, Curating Trans Kinship in Post-Dictatorship Argentina" with Cole Rizki, PhD candidate Literature Department, Duke University. Respondent: Chase Gregory PhD candidate, Literature Department, Duke University. Program at Duke University. A talk on the conceptual links between "terror" and "transness" highlighting links across post-9/11 U.S. security memos and contemporary popular culture tropes.

### NOVEMBER

**14** **Gender Wednesday Undergraduate Speaker/ Luncheon Series:** "The Diverse Future of Durham" with Mayor Steve Schewel. Schewel is a Visiting Assistant Professor at Duke University's Sanford School of Public Policy and founded the alternative weekly newspaper, *The Independent*. He received a bachelors degree from Duke in 1973 and a Ph.D. in 1982.

**19** **Graduate Scholars Colloquium:** "Irigaray's 'Extendable Matrix': Cosmic Expansion-Contraction and Black Hole Umbilical Cords" with Maryann Murtagh, PhD candidate Literature Department, Duke University. Respondent: Dr. Claus Halberg, Curie Actions Fellow & Gender, Sexuality and Feminist Studies visiting scholar.



Left to right: Ara Wilson, Ranjana Khanna, Cole Rizki, Julian Gill-Peterson, Gabriel Rosenberg, and Julien Fischer

emergence. Gill-Peterson's scholarship sets out to excavate the stories of those trans children that populate the sexological archive, and to combat the prevalent myth of the trans child's newness.

Responding to Gill-Peterson were two commentators, Professor Robyn Wiegman (Literature and GSF) and graduate student

Julien Fischer (Literature). Dr. Wiegman's remarks centered on the metacritical and political stakes of Gill-Peterson's intervention within the interdisciplinary field of Trans Studies, while Fischer's comments centered more closely on the sexological archive and the historiographical challenges of reading a past archive from the perspective of the political present. The remainder of the lunch seminar was dedicated to an open discussion period, during which faculty and graduate students engaged with Gill-Peterson's work in the richly interdisciplinary space of the Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies' and Transgender Studies + The Humanities Initiative.



Julian Gill-Peterson

“ If there are so many trans children hiding in plain sight in the past, how have we failed to see them? ”



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## Spring 2019 COURSES

**GSF 89S.01      Feminism and the Environment**  
Logan O'Laughlin

**GSF 101.01      Gender and Everyday Life**  
Jessica Issacharoff

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

**GSF 290S.01      Black Feminism**  
Patrice Douglass

**GSF 290S.02      Sexuality and the Law**  
Juliette Duara

**GSF 361.01      Money, Sex, Power**  
Ara Wilson

**GSF 362S.01      Gender and Popular Culture**  
Kathy Rudy

**GSF 365.01      Gender and Political Theory**  
Patrice Douglass

**GSF 368.01      Gender, Sexuality and  
Human Rights**  
Meyda Yegenoglu

**GSF 369S.01      Transnational Feminism**  
Frances Hasso

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

**GSF 374S.01      Global Men and Masculinities**  
Frances Hasso

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

**GSF 499S.01      Senior Seminar**  
Frances Hasso

**GSF 701S.01      Foundations in Feminist Theory**  
Gabriel Rosenberg; Ara Wilson