

Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies University of Massachusetts Amherst

208 Bartlett Hall

EEE

SPRING 2016

A department in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts

NEWS

There is lots going on! Look for our fantastic range of events this spring including the symposium Feminist Poetics: Legacies of June Jordan. In addition to great events: The Ph.D. proposal has received preliminary approval, and we are hoping to submit a final proposal before too long. The Five College Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice (RHRJ) certificate has been approved at all the Five Colleges including the University! <https://www.fivecolleges.edu/reproductive-health-rights-justice/>. The major is growing and we have terrific new gen ed classes. This semester we are offering *WGSS 290C History of Sexuality and Race in the U.S. (HS U)* taught by Angela Willey, which is a general education course that fulfills the US diversity and Historical Studies requirements, along with *WGSS 285 Biology of Difference* gen ed (SI U Interdisciplinary Science and US diversity). Already the new course, like most of our other courses, is in high demand! Look for *WGSS 187 Gender, Sexuality and Culture* gen ed (IU—Interdisciplinary, US diversity) to be offered each fall, and a rotation of general education classes to be offered in spring.

Sometime in February our updated website will be live. We have redesigned departmental literature on our racks, and the new building is growing by the day. Soon we will be so spiffy you won't recognize us!

Our faculty are doing all the above and more and getting the recognition they deserve.

Kirsten Leng and **Mecca Sullivan** both were awarded Lilly Teaching Fellowships. Three of our faculty, **Kiran Asher**, **Kirsten Leng** and **Mecca Sullivan** received mutual mentoring micro-grants. Kirsten also was elected to the governing board of the American Historical Association committee for LGBT History. **Tom Schiff** was awarded a Civic Engagement and Service-Learning Faculty Fellowship. **Tanisha Ford's** *Liberated Threads: Black Women, Style, and the Global Politics of Soul* came out this fall, to considerable acclaim. **Banu Subramanian's** book *Ghost Stories for Darwin: The Science of Variation and the Politics of Diversity* was named one of the Choice Outstanding Academic Titles for 2015, from the American Library Association. And of course, we are very proud that Banu has been selected for a distinguished faculty lecture. This is a university wide honor. Read on for more.

Next fall our extended newsletter will include a message from the Director with all the news about our move, the Ph.D., and more, plus alumni news. Oh, and we've restocked our historic buttons, stop by to pick one up.



Awards and Scholarships

Joyce Berkman Award/Ann Ferguson Scholarship

We are grateful that two retired faculty members, Ann Ferguson and Joyce Berkman, set up separate scholarships for our students.

Applications for the **Ann Ferguson scholarship** (for undergrad and graduate students pursuing degrees or certificates in women and gender studies at UMass Amherst) are currently being accepted. There is one common application at the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts that includes this fund, as well as about 100 other funds.

<http://www.communityfoundation.org/scholarships/>



The Joyce Avrech Berkman Award is given annually in both the History Department and the Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Department. The WGSS prize winner is recognized for the most outstanding feminist paper by a certificate student who is completing requirements and graduating that year from the Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies.

Be on the lookout for a new award for WGSS transfer students, funded by a generous alum!

Events

Lots to choose from and more coming.

Check our facebook page and website for information or changes!

You can sign up for our events listserv so you don't miss anything.

Margot Weiss

Associate Professor of Sociology at Wesleyan University

"Visions of Sexual Justice"

Tuesday February 23, 2016 4:00 pm, Campus Center 904-908

Erin Collins

Executive Director of the Clemency Center at NYU

"The Criminalization of Title IX"

Friday, February 26, 2016 noon, Room TBA

Dagmar Herzog

Distinguished Professor of History at the CUNY Graduate Center

"Disability and Abortion: Western Europe, 1960s-1970s"

Thursday March 3, 2016 4:30-6:00 pm, Campus Center 917

Distinguished Faculty Lecture: Banu Subramaniam

"Interdisciplinary Hauntings: The Ghostly World of Naturecultures"

Tuesday, March 8, 2016 4:00 pm, Bernie Dallas Room, Goodell Hall

What do morning glories or alien plant and animal species have to do with gender, race, or eugenics? Banu will trace the genealogies of ecology and evolutionary biology to demonstrate how foundational ideas of "variation" in biology are inextricably connected to ideas of "diversity" and "difference" in the humanities. This lecture explores how histories of gender and race have shaped contemporary biological theories and what we can learn about the relationships between natures and cultures.

Feminist Poetics: Legacies of June Jordan Symposium, March 25, 2016 (see next page)

Pre-Registration event

Wednesday April 6, 2016 4:00 pm, 102A Bartlett

Curious about fall classes? Want to know more about honors options, including research projects? Come hear faculty members describe their upcoming classes! This is a great opportunity to meet faculty, explore academic options, and share snacks in a relaxed setting.

CLPP's 35th anniversary annual conference, **From Abortion Rights to Social Justice: Building the Movement for Reproductive Freedom**, will take place April 8-10, 2016 at Hampshire College.

<http://clpp.hampshire.edu/conference-2016/conference>

CLPP is the Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program at Hampshire College.

Graduate Symposium for students completing the Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies

Friday April 15, 2016

8:30-1:00 pm in the Hadley room, Campus Center

End of Year Celebration — Thursday May 5, 2016

Feminist Poetics: Legacies of June Jordan

A symposium celebrating the work of feminist poet, scholar and activist June Jordan, and her legacies in contemporary feminist poetics

March 25, 2016
Student Union Ballroom
University of Massachusetts Amherst

Organized by:
Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies
Afro-American Studies
University of Massachusetts Amherst



Cosponsors at UMass: Center for Multicultural Advancement and Student Success, CMASS ◊ Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies, CLACLS ◊ Chancellor's Office ◊ College of Humanities and Fine Arts, HFA ◊ Department of Anthropology ◊ Department of Communication ◊ Department of English ◊ Department of History ◊ Department of Journalism ◊ Department of Theater ◊ Interdisciplinary Studies Institute, ISI ◊ Social Thought and Political Economy Program, STPEC ◊ Women for UMass Amherst, WFUM.

Five-College co-sponsors: Dean of Students, Mount Holyoke College ◊ Feminist Studies, Hampshire College ◊ Five College Women's Studies Research Center ◊ Gender Studies, Mount Holyoke College ◊ Office of the Provost and Dean of the Faculty, Smith College ◊ Study of Women and Gender, Smith College

PROGRAM

- 9:30-10:00 **Welcome**
- 10:00-11:30 **"Wrong is Not My Name": Writing Feminist Activism in 2015**
Moderator: Arlene Avakian (UMass)
Speakers: Alicia Garza (#BlackLivesMatter)
Lisa C. Moore (RedBone Press)
Nadia Alahmed (UMass)
Samiya Bashir (Poetry for the People)
Korina Jocson (UMass)
- 12:00-1:00 **Lunch Discussion**
"I Train My Eyes To See": Filming Genders and Sexualities
Moderator: Aneeka Henderson (Amherst College)
Films by: Aishah Shahidah Simmons (Williams College)
Kai M. Green (Northwestern University)
- 1:00-2:30 **"The Paradox in Rhyme": Feminist Poetics as Theory and Praxis**
Moderator: Mecca Jamilah Sullivan (UMass)
Speakers: Evie Shockley (Rutgers University)
Che Gossett (poet and activist)
Kevin Quashie (Smith College)
Alexis Pauline Gumbs (Mobile Homecoming project)
- 3:00-5:00 **"Inside the Continuum": The Combahee River Collective and Black Feminist Foundations**
Moderator: Paula Giddings (Smith College)
Speakers: Cheryl Clarke (author, *Living as a Lesbian*)
Barbara Smith (author, *Writings on Race, Gender and Freedom*)
Sharon Page Ritchie (San Francisco Arts Council)
Akasha Gloria Hull (author, *Color, Sex, and Poetry*).
Margo Okazawa-Rey (Fielding Graduate University)
- 5:30-7:00 **Dinner**
- 7:00 **Performance**
Sonia Sanchez (author, *Shake Loose My Skin*)
Evelyn Harris (Grammy award winning artist)
UMass student performers

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STUDENT NEWS

Undergrad student news

Major Requirement reminder: Junior Writing and Theory are offering in the fall, the Integrative Experience is offered in the spring. There are new limits about double and triple counting classes between majors and minors. See an advisor.

There are numerous career events each spring:

DIVERSITY CAREER FAIR, Tuesday, February 23, 2016, 1:00-5:00 pm, Student Union Ballroom. This fair is for employers seeking to diversify their employment pools, with a focus on ALANA, LGBTQIA, international students, people with disabilities, and other under-represented populations. Open to all majors, all level students.

The next day is **CAREER BLAST 2016!** All Majors Job & Internship Fair, **Wednesday, February 24, 2016, 10:00-3:00 pm lower level campus center.** Practice your schmoozing on over 150 employers! <http://www.umass.edu/careers>

INSIDE: Fantastic Events!

Graduate student news

There are a great number of fantastic events already slated for WGSS graduate students this spring. (see page 2) Here is some basic information but please also be on the look out for more details in your email.

- ◆ *Navigating the Interdisciplinary Job Market* — **Thursday February 11, 2016, 4:00 pm in Bartlett 102a**
- ◆ Applications for the Certificate in Advanced Feminist Studies are due **March 1st**
- ◆ English Graduate Students host - "*Methods Symposium 2016: New Approaches in Queer, Postcolonial, and Black Studies*" with Lisa Lowe, Heather Love, and Christina Sharp - (more information here - <https://www.umass.edu/issr/events/methods-symposium-2016-new-approaches-queer-postcolonial-and-black->