

[Click Here to view the web version of this email](#)



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY · COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



Gender and Women's Studies

Greetings from Department Chair Carol Mason



Dear Alumni and Friends,

We have had a jam-packed spring semester!

January and February saw us all engaged in selecting a new assistant professor, Dr. Anastasia Todd, who comes to us from Arizona State University. Dr. Todd's specialization is disabilities studies and she holds a Ph.D. in Gender Studies. I was grateful for the efforts of search committee members Charlie Zhang and Melissa Stein, and for all the faculty and students who participated, with a special shout-out to those affiliated faculty who pitched in, including Michelle Sizemore, DaMaris Hill, Rosalind Harris, Jan Fernheimer, Pearl James, Anastasia Curwood, Jenny Rice, and David Luke. With more than 200 applicants, we had our work cut out for us. We met many spectacular scholars and I only wish we could hire more! Gender & Women's Studies is a vibrant field of study.

March came along and everyone scooted off to professional meetings. Graduate student Shawna Felkins escorted two undergraduate students, Astha Patel and Rory Barron, to

present original research at the 26th Annual Interdisciplinary Conference of the American Men's Studies Association in Minneapolis. Graduate students Mikaela Feroli, Ashley Ruderman, and Ruwen Chang were our first participants in the famous annual Duke University Feminist Theory Workshop. Srimati Basu and Charlie Zhang were among a slew of UK faculty who attended the **Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference** in Washington, D.C. Melissa Stein provided a keynote address to attendees at the Prejudice and Expertise: Discrimination in the West, 1850–2000 Conference at University of Warwick.

Also in March I was delighted to celebrate the amazing contributions of our department manager, Michelle Del Toro, among other nominees for the UK Women's Forum 2018 **Sarah Bennett Holmes Award**. In addition to her administrative work for the department, Michelle organizes the GWS and African American and Africana Studies (AAAS) sponsored events down to the very last detail. And, there have been a lot! Here is a list of the amazing programs and visitors that GWS has sponsored or co-sponsored in the spring:

- **The Black Women's Conference** focused on mass incarceration and the new Jane Crow.
- Mohamad Hafez discussed his architecture and amazingly moving art portraying the emotions and politics of living in America in the midst of the Syrian crises.
- The Sexual and Reproductive Health Symposium featured scholars, local activists, and national advocates to kick off our new **Sexuality Studies Certificate**. Among the speakers were Miriam Zoila Perez, Rayne Parker, Toby Beauchamp, Nancy Rosenbloom, Giselle Henry, Kristen Mark, Keisa Fallin-Bennett, Diana Thu-Thao Rhodes, Arnold Farr, Grace Howard, Melissa Stein, Charlie Zhang, and Melynda Price.
- Gabriel Rosenberg presented "No Scrubs: Livestock Breeding, Eugenics, and State Power in the United States, 1919–1933" and Sangay Mishra presented "Political Lives of South Asian Americans: Beyond Ethnoracial Solidarity" as part of the Keys to Our Common Future program.
- In conjunction with the School of Music and Department of Theatre and Dance, we hosted Abbie Conant, who gave a stunning performance in "Aletheia."
- Brian Massumi presented "Immediation: The Being of Relation" as part of the Committee on Social Theory's "Affect" class; he was introduced by Charlie Zhang.

I want to thank those who helped sponsor some of these programs, namely the JustFund of Kentucky Foundation, the Office of LGBTQ* Resources, and of course the College of Arts & Sciences. If you would like to support GWS's efforts to bring speakers and programs to central Kentucky, please do so **here**, or contact me (carol.mason@uky.edu, 257-1788).

At the end of the semester, we applauded the presentations of our undergraduate capstone class and celebrated our capstone and certificate students, as well as the undergraduate winners of our student awards. The Kate Black Award went to senior Bailey McHargue, whose senior research, "Buried in the Mountains: Anxiety and Depression within Appalachian Youth in Harlan, Kentucky" demonstrated her commitment to activism as well as scholarship. Bailey is heading off to law school at the University of Louisville. Junior Rory Barron, whose capstone research "The Most Dangerous Moment: The Neoliberal University and Student Activism in Kentucky" was the recipient of the Joan Callahan Award. The Jan Oaks Award was presented to junior Meg Coppola, whose presentation "Thin White Line: Androgynous Images and their Imitations," exemplified the creative spirit of the late Dr. Oaks.

Not to be outdone by the undergraduates, our graduate students have been raking in prizes and awards. The College of Arts and Sciences recognized both Mikaela Feroli and Ashley Ruderman for their brilliant teaching; they received Outstanding Teaching Awards. Ashley also won a dissertation travel grant to examine archives at the Schlesinger Library of Harvard University, as well as a fully funded fellowship from the Office for Policy Studies

of Violence Against Women. In December, the Provost's Office recognized Lauren Copeland as an excellent teacher by awarding her the 2018 University of Kentucky Outstanding Teaching Award. Lauren also received the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Competitive Graduate Fellowship. In addition, I am pleased to announce that Ph.D. candidate Billy Korinko will leave us for Berea College next year to teach and oversee the Peanut Butter and Gender program. We are incredibly proud of our graduate students' accomplishments!

Finally, I want to say how important it has been to have the support of our dean, Mark Kornbluh, whose steadfast championing of our department has helped us to grow and flourish. We are indeed a department on the rise, adapting to the changes in higher education, growing the number of our majors and minors, training our first doctoral students, and providing leadership in these challenging times. On that note, I close by announcing that Dr. Cristina Alcalde, who recently was promoted to full professor, has taken on the leadership role of Associate Dean of Inclusion and Internationalization for the College. We are so grateful for the progressive vision of the administration, which makes Gender & Women's Studies an enduring part of the University's commitment to the Commonwealth, the nation, and the world.

Sincerely,

Carol Mason, Ph.D.



UK GWS Co-sponsors Duke University's Feminist Theory Workshop

On March 23rd and 24th, three Gender & Women's Studies Ph.D. students attended the 12th Annual Feminist Theory Workshop at Duke University. Ashley Ruderman, Mikaela Feroli, and Ruwen Chang were energized by presentations from important scholars in the field and by engaging in breakout workshops with other young academics. This is the first time that our department appeared as an institutional co-sponsor of the workshop and sent representatives to this prestigious gathering of established scholars and aspiring graduate students.

Regarding the topics featured at the conference, our scholars-in-training saw their doctoral curriculum reflected in the discussions at Duke. As Chang explains, "What I have read from GWS 650 Feminist theory resonates with Jennifer Nash's talk about intersectionality. Silvia Federici's discussion about capitalism and gender violence reminds me of the importance of studying both social and sexual reproduction. All those academic connections between the workshop and my doctoral training further assure me that the GWS department at UK is in conversation with outside scholars from various fields."

Participating in the workshop allowed our students to rub elbows and share ideas with leaders in the field who are charting its path forward. "Personally, I feel the workshop was an excellent space to see where feminist scholarship has been and where it is going. The

four keynotes touched on similar themes, which provided a great way to see how feminist theory is implemented across various disciplines and geographic locations. After all of the keynotes were presented we split into smaller workshops to intimately work with groundbreaking scholars in the field,” Feroli said.

These opportunities are crucial to the graduate students’ academic development as well as to their career readiness and marketability. The kind of networking and intellectual exchange that the workshop provides graduate students, in an intimate setting and concentrated time, is a unique, field-specific supplement to attending the National Women’s Studies Association conference. It is especially important to participate in this national venue as our fledgling Ph.D. program hoods our first doctorates. Moreover, the students who attended brought back to Lexington a sense of excitement that was contagious. Feroli exuded, “The Duke Feminist Theory Workshop becomes a community that seeks to support and strengthen your knowledge in feminist theory. I can’t wait to go back again!”

If you would like to ensure that we continue providing this opportunity to our graduate students, consider making a donation to the GWS discretionary **fund**.



GWS UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE STUDENTS PRESENT AT THE 26TH AMERICAN MEN’S STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

On March 22–25, three GWS students travelled to Minneapolis to present at the 26th American Men’s Studies Association conference (AMSA) at the University of Minnesota. Senior Rory Barron, junior Astha Patel, and Ph.D. student Shawna Felkins presented original research produced in GWS classes to masculinities scholars from institutions within the United States and abroad. Barron and Patel presented a panel titled “Violence, Resistance, and Negotiation: Interrogating Masculinity in Institutions,” where they discussed trans masculinities in relation to gender performance and sexual identities and the effects of pornography viewership and consumption on college-aged heterosexual couples, respectively.

“GWS has offered specific classes like global masculinities and gender and pop culture which has provided us with the necessary intellectual training needed to participate in conferences like AMSA and engage with other scholars, which is an important aspect in learning how to develop our own voices and ideas,” Barron said.

Felkins presented research from preliminary fieldwork in a paper titled “The Future Is Female: Masculinities at the Intersection of Sex and Technology in Film.” Felkins first presented at the 25th AMSA conference in 2017 and felt the welcoming and supportive atmosphere of the conference would be perfect for undergraduate students.

“The size of the conference allowed for intimacy with the presentations, and a deeper

interaction with the participants. It was a little intimidating being around scholars who have done extensive research in their field, whether it be social psychology or queer studies, and there was a lot of diverse subjects. This being not only my first AMSA experience but also my first conference, I was surprised to feel so comfortable. The feminist in me felt at home,” Patel said.

This is the second time the GWS department has sent undergraduate students to a national conference. It’s important to them that undergraduate students have the opportunity to present their ideas and have them challenged in ways that allow for growth, and they go the extra mile in making that possible.

“I remember one year ago, Shawna coming to class excitedly passing around the AMSA program and describing what an amazing experience she had. Without her, I would have never even known about this conference or entered my abstract.” Patel said.

Barron continued, “We have excellent professors in GWS who go above and beyond in assisting their undergraduate students to have access to opportunities like this and who push us to be better versions of ourselves, academically and personally.”



On Thursday, May 3, we gathered for the annual GWS end of year celebration and awards day, where several GWS undergraduate, graduate, and graduate certificate students were presented with awards. Congratulations to all the awardees!

- GWS Honors: Bailey McHargue
- 2018 Joan Callahan Award for Scholastic Achievement: Rory Barron
- 2018 Kate Black Award for Activism: Bailey McHargue
- 2018 Jan Oaks Feminist Creativity Award: Meg Coppola
- GWS graduate certificate awardees: Juan Fernandez Cantero, Rachel Carr, Silvia Encinas, Sharrah Lane, James William Lincoln, Maria Lorraine Schroeder, and Christine Lenore Woodward
- College of Arts & Sciences Dean’s Competitive Graduate Fellowship: Lauren Copeland
- College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award: Mikaela Feroli and Ashley Ruderman
- University of Kentucky 2018 Outstanding Teaching Award: Lauren Copeland



SPOTLIGHT ON NEW FACULTY: ANASTASIA TODD, JENNIFER HUNT, CHRISTINA HAYNES

The Gender & Women's Studies Department is delighted to welcome three new faculty members in the upcoming fall 2018 semester! We are pleased to announce that Dr. Jennifer Hunt, Dr. Anastasia Todd, and Dr. Christina Haynes will be joining our GWS team.

GWS has hired **Dr. Anastasia Todd** as our newest assistant professor. She specializes in Feminist Disability Studies, Girlhood Studies, and Affect Theory. Her research has been showcased in journals such as *Transformations* and *Girlhood Studies* with titles such as "Disabled Girlhood and Flexible Exceptionalism in HBO's *Miss You Can Do It*" and "'Cute Girl in Wheelchair—Why?': Crippling Youtube" which was nominated for the Center for LGBTQ Studies Sylvia Rivera Award in Transgender Studies. She has also had featured book chapters in *Youth Meditations* and *Affective Relations* and MTV and *Teen Pregnancy: Critical Essays on 16 and Pregnant* and *Teen Mom*. Dr. Todd has taught courses on Women and Sexuality, Gender and Disability, History of Feminist Thought, Feminist Methods, and Affect Theory. She will be joining us from Arizona State University where she earned her Ph.D. in Gender & Women's Studies.

Dr. Jenn Hunt will be joining us from Buffalo State SUNY. Dr. Hunt coordinated the Gender & Women's Studies program at Buffalo State, garnering many awards for her work along the way. She is a social psychologist by training whose research examines stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination, behavior in legal contexts, and the effects of gender, race, and culture in our daily lives. Her work has been featured in journals such as *Behavioral Sciences and the Law*, *Organization and Environment*, and *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* with titles such as "Sexual Harassment Trials Involving Latina Plaintiffs: Effects of a Cultural Relativist Argument and Juror Background," "The Other Side of the Diaspora: Race, Threat, and the Social Psychology of Evacuee Reception in Predominately White Communities," and "The Stereotype Rebound Effect: Universal or Culturally Bounded Process?" This fall she will teach *Social Inequalities under the Law* and *Sex and Power*. In the spring, she will teach *Psychology of Gender* and a graduate seminar. In addition, she serves as Associate Editor of *Law and Human Behavior*.

Dr. Christina Haynes will be joining GWS and AAAS from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse as a visiting lecturer. Her research specializes in African American Women, Black Feminist Thought, Academic Achievement, and Feminist Geography. She received her Ph.D. from Ohio State University and has been featured in journals such as *The Journal of African American History*, *National Political Science Review*, and *Enrollment Management Journal* with titles such as "Taking to the Airwaves: Using Content Analysis of Survey Toplines and Filmographies to test the 'Michelle Obama Image Transformation'" and "'You Expect Me to Be That Way?': Academically Successful African American Women's Counter-Narratives to Stereotypical Images." She has taught courses on Ethnic and Racial Studies, Hip Hop Culture, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Black Feminist Thought. Last year, she taught *Introduction to African American Studies* for

AAAS. She will be teaching Gender and Popular Culture in the fall and Black Women Leaders in the spring.



Save the date for the 2nd Annual Kentucky Gender & Women's Studies Conference scheduled for Saturday, September 8, 2018 in the Bill Gatton Student Center at the University of Kentucky.

Kentucky is one of the four U.S. states to hold the designation of a "commonwealth"— a community founded for the common good. To center the efforts of dedicated Kentucky scholars and activists who work toward the betterment of their communities and Kentucky as a whole, our theme this year is "A Common(wealth) of Justice." We hope this theme will inspire you to imagine different visions of justice and collective well-being, new definitions of community, and possible futures for the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Submissions will be in the spirit of research from the field of gender and women's studies including but not limited to issues of social justice, inclusion, belonging, power, discrimination, and unconscious bias. Work from all disciplines, including collaborative projects and interdisciplinary work will be considered.

Please join us for a day of panels featuring papers, workshops, and poster presentations created by undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, staff, activists, and community members. For more information, please visit <http://kygws.as.uky.edu>.

Also upcoming is the Kentucky Women Writers Conference scheduled for September 13-16. Featured speakers include Mary Gaitskill, Jane Friedman, and Tarfia Faizullah. For more information about the conference visit the KWWC [webpage](#).

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

You can invest in the future of the Gender & Women's Studies Department and support the next generation of scholars with a contribution to our program. You can also make your gift in honor of or memory of a friend, relative, or faculty member. Please designate your donation to an area of your choice, or you can direct your gift to the Department's greatest needs:

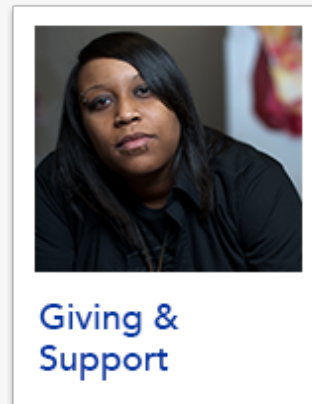
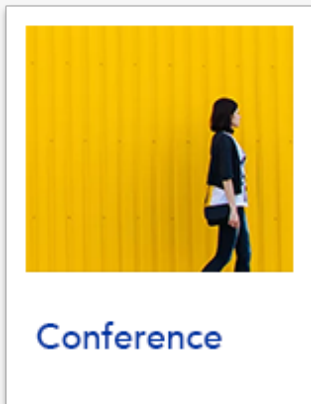
The Gender & Women's Studies Discretionary Gift Fund provides critical resources to respond to student needs, attract world-class faculty, and provides innovative opportunities

to enable our students to compete in the global marketplace.

A gift to the Gender & Women's Studies Discretionary Gift Fund can be made online at www.as.uky.edu/givetoas and click on the Gender & Women's Studies Discretionary Gift Fund button.

Gifts can be mailed to:
University of Kentucky Gift Receiving
210 Malabu Drive, Suite 200
Lexington, KY 40502

For questions, please contact Laura Sutton (lsutton@uky.edu) or (859) 257-3551.



Gender & Women's Studies
112 Breckinridge Hall 0056
Lexington, KY 40506-0027

Phone: 859.257.1388



University of Kentucky College of Arts & Sciences
202 Patterson Office Tower
Lexington KY, 40506-0027

An Equal Opportunity University.

[Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#)