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UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY · COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



Gender and Women's Studies

Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni and Friends,

The Department of Gender and Women's Studies is committed to providing students with a robust learning experience, opportunities to engage with peers, and content that illuminates timely and important issues and concepts. GWS has always been creative and forward-looking; we have used the challenges and lessons of the pandemic as an opportunity to create new courses and update our curriculum.

GWS course offerings continue to expand, and enrollments are growing, providing more students with quality educational experiences to engage with critical topics including gender, sexuality, race, class, disability, transnational issues, and intersectionality. Our introductory courses are FULL of new students! Our upper division classes attract students from ACROSS CAMPUS! And our graduate courses include students from many disciplines and colleges!

Students on campus, and through online courses students from anywhere in the world, can interact with our award-winning faculty and graduate student TA's. GWS classrooms, on campus and on the web, are dynamic environments of learning and the department is committed to our educational mission.

A very important part of my job as chair is to support GWS faculty and graduate students as they create new knowledge to move forward our understanding of essential topics of justice, equality, and lived experiences. This work is essential to GWS and UK being leaders in the Commonwealth and our changing world.

We appreciate the generous support of all our alumni and colleagues. We are especially grateful for support from the Tomasky Leaders Fund for our undergraduate students, the Bonnie Jean Cox Graduate Research Endowment for our graduate students, and the Space, Place & Southern Grace Fund for Feminist Studies.

I look forward to continuing to work with students, faculty, alumni, staff, and administration to expand the role of GWS as a central, integral part of UK's educational and research missions. GWS works with the entire UK family to help students grow and flourish.

Sincerely,
Dr. Ellen Riggle, Professor and Chair



The Department of Gender and Women's Studies hosted several events in the spring of 2022 including the Fourth Annual Kentucky Gender & Women's Studies Conference, a workshop on building solidarity in communities, a keynote presentation and dialog on Black Women's Digital Resistances, a conversation centering Black communities on college campuses, and a work-in-progress discussion on "Trans Feminine Histories."

February 24-25, 2022, the GWS graduate students hosted the **Fourth Annual Kentucky Gender & Women's Studies Conference**, with the theme "Gender, Sex, and Politics: On Power, Identity, and Biopolitics." The conference featured a keynote talk from Dr. P. Carl, a noted artist, activist, scholar, and author of the memoir *Becoming a Man: The Story of a Transition*. Carl is a Distinguished Artist in Residence at Emerson College. The second keynote talk came from our own Dr. Carol Mason, Professor of Gender and Women's Studies, and English at the University of Kentucky. She is also affiliate faculty at the Berkeley Center for Right-Wing Studies at the University of California and serves on the editorial board of *American Studies* at the University of Kansas. The conference also included panel discussion including *Queering Family & Kinship*, *Transnational Movements & Neoliberal Exploitation*, and *Navigating the Political Sphere as Black Women*.

March 10-11, 2022, GWS and the Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies invited **Dr. Moya Bailey** to give a keynote lecture on *Black Women's Digital Resistances*, as well as organized a discussion of *Black Feminism* with Dr. Aria Halliday, Professor of UK's departments of Gender and Women's Studies and African American and Africana Studies. Dr. Bailey is a graduate of Spellman college, a feminist scholar, writer, and activist known for coining the term *misogynoir*, a specific form of discrimination experienced by black women. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Studies at Northwestern University and the author of *Misogynoir Transformed: Black Women's Digital Resistance* and the co-author of *#Hashtag Activism: Networks of Race and Gender Justice*.

March 30, 2022, the department partnered with the Cooperative for the Humanities and

Social Sciences to present a workshop with **Dean Spade**. Spade holds the Patricia Wismer Professorship for Gender and Diversity Studies, is a Professor of Law at Seattle University School of Law, and is the author of *Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During This Crisis (and the Next)*. The workshop focused on giving tools to the UK Community for understanding mutual aid and why it is important.

On April 7, 2022, Assistant Professor Dr. Elizabeth Williams and UK's Gaines Center for the Humanities hosted a presentation by **Dr. Melvin Whitehead**, Assistant Professor of Student Affairs Administration at Binghamton University. Dr. Whitehead's research explores the legacies of racism on U.S. college campuses with a focus on white college students dis/connections with whiteness and anti-blackness.

On April 8, 2022, our last event of the semester was a discussion with **Dr. Greta LaFleur**, Associate Professor of American Studies from Yale University about her essay "Trans Feminine Histories, Piece By Piece." Dr. LaFleur also gave a keynote address, "Sexual Violence and the State: A Racial History of Legal Castration." These events were presented and co-sponsored by UK's Department of English and Early American Literature.

The Department of Gender & Women's Studies is thrilled to be able to present such a broad spectrum of scholars, artists, writers, and thinkers and to continue these important conversations. Keep an eye out for our upcoming speakers and events during the 2022-2023 school year.



Space, Place, and Southern Grace for Feminist Studies

Funded by alum Sarah Caton (GWS '16, Spanish '16) the **Space, Grace, & Southern Grace Fund** for Feminist Studies is a competitive merit-based one-year scholarship given to one GWS major each year. **Bailey Meyer** was selected as the recipient of this prestigious scholarship for the 2021-2022 academic year. Bailey, a GWS and biology double major on the pre-med track, conducted an independent study with a faculty mentor centered on race, inequalities, and public health in spring 2022. We thank Sarah for her support of such a stellar student!



Tomasky Leaders

Thanks to the generosity of donor and UK alum Susan Tomasky (Topical Major '74), GWS

was able to provide financial support for four excellent students through the **Tomasky Leaders Scholarship Fund** during the 2021-2022 academic year. This fund encourages students to engage in politics and public debate, to pursue higher office, and to lead an activist life. Scholarship recipients, the Tomasky Leaders, receive funding for registration and travel fees for leadership and activism trainings, seminars, conferences, and programs. Tomasky Leaders may also receive funding to offset the costs of doing an unpaid internship. As COVID restrictions began to ease during the past academic year, all four of our Tomasky Leaders were able to use their funds to conduct internships in the community.

Olivia Byam, Hallie Lintner, and Eva Morales-Norris all interned at Ampersand, the Sexual Violence Resource Center of the Bluegrass. As interns, they worked shifts on the 24-hour crisis hotlines and served as on-call medical advocate. As Hallie Lintner explained, "This means that I am in contact with hospitals and survivors and I am trained on a variety of topics including, but not limited to medical and legal advocacy, survivor rights, crisis counseling, and community resources. I have also worked on a few smaller projects like creating handouts for volunteers, putting different assortments together for various events, and other basic office tasks." She was also able to develop a project on sexual violence in the rock-climbing community for Ampersand, connecting her personal and academic interests in the process. Meanwhile, Olivia Byam reported that she found serving as a medical advocate to be an especially gratifying aspect of her internship, which left her excited for similar opportunities in the future.

In addition to her internship at Ampersand, **Eva Morales-Norris** interned with the Center for Positive Sexuality (CPS). Through CPS, which she attended biweekly practicums on a variety of topics that she described as "engaging and enlightening" and worked alongside a mentor on a research project on kink identity and spirituality.

Finally, **Heidi Garcia**, who plans to pursue a career as a lawyer, interned at the Public Defender's Office for the north side of Fayette County. Heidi reported that in addition to regularly attending a small class conducted by her supervisor detailing how the legal system works, she was pleased to be given hands-on experience right away, tasked with looking through interview footage, other videos, and documents for material that could be used at trial. Reflecting on the experience in April, she noted, "As we come up on the end of the semester, I can say with confidence this is one of the best opportunities I have had in my time at UK."

We in GWS are incredibly proud of the community engagement work our social justice minded Tomasky Leaders conducted last year and are grateful to Susan for providing them the opportunity and support to do so!



Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, the department is able to recognize excellence among its students by supporting their future scholarship in a variety of ways. Donating to a department award is one of the easiest ways for alumni and friends to make a

significant impact on our students' success. Congratulations to the following award recipients:

Undergraduate Awards:

Joan Callahan Award for Scholastic Achievement: Tate Craft and Abigail Harkness

Given in honor of Joan Callahan, this award recognizes an undergraduate major or minor in Gender & Women's Studies for outstanding achievement in scholarship.

Kate Black Award for Activism: Heidi Garcia

Given in honor of Kate Black, this award recognizes outstanding achievement as a scholar and an activist in an undergraduate major or minor in Gender & Women's Studies.

Jan Oaks Award for Feminist Creativity: Tejaswini Sudhakar

The Jan Oaks Feminist Creativity Award was established in 2016 in memory of Dr. Jan Oaks and awards excellence and creativity in feminist studies in the humanities.

GWS Honors Students:

Tate Craft, Abigail Harkness, Tejaswini Sudhakar, Heyna Suit

Dean's List Recipients:

Colton Barton, Tate Craft, Mariana Escobedo De La Pena, Laura Flanagan, Heidi Garcia, Abigail Harkness, Hallie Lintner, Lora Lovings, Audrey Matthews-Fields, Bailey Meyer, Eva Moralez-Norris, Tejaswini Sudhakar, and Quinn Troia

Graduate Awards:

GWS Graduate Certificate Award:

Kelly Ferguson

2021-2022 A&S Dean's Competitive Fellowship:

Ruwen Chang

2022-2023 Office for Policy Studies on Violence Against Women (OPSVAW) Graduate Fellowship:

Alina Hechler and Mel Lesch

2022 Humanities Without Walls Workshop funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation:

Lee Mandelo



New GWS ABD students:

Congratulations to **Lee Mandelo** and **Snehal Sharma**!

PhD Graduates:

Congratulations to our newest PhD graduates, **Dr. Ruwen Chang** and **Dr. Miles Feroli**!

Dr. Ruwen Chang has accepted a Visiting Assistant Professor position in the Politics Program at Centre College.

Dr. Miles Feroli has accepted the position of Associate Director of LGBTQ+ Initiatives at Eastern Kentucky University.

Graduate Student Spotlight:

Lukas Bullock, a PhD student in GWS, worked with the group KY Tenants and spoke with tenants across Kentucky about the issues around housing insecurity. Through a listening project with more than 10,000 participants, the group created a report highlighting low wages, policy failure, and greed as contributing factors in Kentucky's housing crisis. The full report can be viewed here: <https://my.visme.co/view/rxew1vz0-onz2g08r83n05e6p>

Congratulations to PhD student **Lee Mandelo**, whose debut novel *Summer Sons* was published by Tordotcom. The novel has been described as “a sweltering, queer Southern Gothic that crosses Appalachian street racing with academic intrigue, all haunted by a hungry ghost.” Lee's next book, *Feed Them Silence*, a novella of the near future, is set to release in March 2023!



Awards and Honors:

Aria Halliday:

- SHF x Cultural Studies Award, for “Twerk Sumn!: Theorizing Black Girl Epistemology in the Body”, published in Cultural Studies 34.6, January 2020
- 2022-23 Harrington Faculty Fellowship through the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at the University of Texas

Frances Henderson:

- The Louisville Institute Grant: Black Rural Lives Matter: African American Churches and Anti Racist Organizing in The Rural South
- President Elect of Women and Gender Studies South

Carol Mason:

- 2021-2022 University Research Professor

Melissa Stein:

- 2022 University of Kentucky Outstanding Teaching Award

Elizabeth Williams:

- UK Center for the Enhancement of Learning and Teaching (CELT) Innovation Institute Fellow 2020-2021

Charlie Zhang:

- Best Paper, Southeast Asian Studies Association for "Releasing Masculinity for a More Just World: Lessons on How to 'Be Water' in Hong Kong," published in the *Journal of Asia Studies*, 2021

**Publications**

This is a sample of selected faculty publications. Please check the GWS News section and individual faculty profiles for the most up to date information on new publications.

Srimati Basu

“Why Rape Shouldn’t be Linked to Promise of Marriage”, op-ed published in *Times of India* (Aug, 2021)

Aria Halliday

Buy Black: How Black Women Transformed US Pop Culture, University of Illinois Press (2022)

“Mid-Twerk and Mid-Laught”, co-authored with Ruth Nicole Brown, *Education Success of Black Women and Girls* (2021)

Carol Mason

Interview for “West Virginia textbook battle shows how GOP turned its image from ‘blue blood to blue collar’”, *The Guardian* (Nov 2021)

“Sentimentalizing Resentment: How Taylor Caldwell Set the Mood for the Far Right”, *Political Research Associates* (Dec 2021)

Ellen Riggle

“Temporal Migrations in Annie Ernaux’s *L’Événement*: Recounting (a) Lived Experience(s) in Abortion Narrative.”, authored by J.E. Hornsby with introduction by E. Riggle, *Contemporary French and Francophone Studies* (2022)

Karen Tice

“Contesting Bans and Borders: White Women and Women of Color Feminists on the Cuban Venceremos Brigades”, *Feminist Formations*, Volume 33, Issue 2, 129-159 (2021)

Charlie Zhang

“Releasing Masculinity for a More Just World: Lessons on How to ‘Be Water’ in Hong Kong”, *Journal of Asian Studies* (2021)

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT GWS:

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 in 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 Development Fund provides critical resources to respond to student needs, attract and support world-class faculty, and provide innovative opportunities to enable our students to compete in the global marketplace. A gift to the Gender & Women’s Studies Development Gift Fund can be made online **here**.

Gifts can be mailed to:
UK Philanthropy
PO Box 23552
Lexington, KY 40523

For questions, please contact Debra Gold (**Debra.Gold@uky.edu**) or (859) 257-8124.

KEEP IN TOUCH

Please let us know if your email address changes or if you have any news or ideas for the next newsletter.

Email Gender & Women’s Studies Department Manager,
Michelle Del Toro at **michelle.deltoro@uky.edu**



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