

NEWSLETTER VOLUME 14, FALL-SPRING 2015

WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES PROGRAM



**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



For Boston University's Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program, the 2014/15 school year was a time of exciting programmatic developments, expansion of faculty, valuable public events, and impressive student and faculty achievements.

In spring 2015, we launched the **WGS Program's Internship Course**, profiled in this newsletter by the internship director, Diane Balsler. Among the valuable internships successfully completed by WGS students was Bridget Daley's work with "The Fight for \$15" campaign. Daley, who graduated this spring with a minor in WGS, mobilized college students in Boston to build public support for a living wage of \$15 an hour. Her efforts culminated in a successful demonstration on April 15th and a sensitive paper analyzing the internship and her own complicated position as a privileged college student and feminist working to raise the minimum wage. For her achievements, the WGS Program awarded her its annual **Sarah Joanne Davis Scholarship Prize**.

The Graduate Certificate Program continues to thrive in its second year of operation. Congratulations to Rupal Shah (School of Public Health) and Shannon Forrester (College of Fine Arts, Painting), both of whom earned the Graduate Certificate in WGS this year. Seventeen students took the core course, WGS 801: Theories and Methods in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies. Many of our graduate students presented work in the program's inaugural Gender Workshop, overseen by our) . . . 8 . . . o . . . U . . . Several of our Certificate students organized a new student-run group, Critical Pedagogies, which is devoted to developing teaching and learning practices that battle oppression and discrimination of all kinds.

The WGS Program awarded its first research grants to three faculty, Catherine Connell, Anthony Petro, and Susanne Sreedhar. We welcomed six new faculty members who hail from different departments, divisions, and schools: Bria Dunham (Sargent), Carolyn R. Hodges-Simeon (CAS Anthropology), Christopher Martin (CAS English), Siobhán M. Mattison (CAS Biology), Linda McClain (Law), Anthony M. Petro (CAS Religion), and Virginia Sapiro (CAS Political Science).

We established the **WGS Lunch Discussion Series** to bring together faculty from two different disciplines to discuss a topic of wider interest in an informal setting. We brought **Micia Mosely** to campus to share her stand-up comedy in "How to be a Black Lesbian Feminist in Ten Easy Steps," an event organized by Barbara Gottfried for her course WS 356: Women & Comedy in America. The WGS program collaborated with the Law School, the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies, the Writing Program, and other units to organize a series of events for "The 1964 Civil Rights Act at 50." The culminating event was a student forum, "CRA @ 50 and Unfinished Business," in which students shared research and writing about civil rights, past, present, and future. And we ended the year with an important day-long symposium co-sponsored by the Center for the Philosophy and History of Science and the Department of Biology: "**Plasticity, Diversity, and the Science of Sexuality.**"

— *Carrie J. Preston*

Director

Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

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The Gender Workshop kicked off in the fall of 2015 co-hosted by the Department of Sociology and WGS. Each semester we circulated and workshopped papers by graduate students engaged in gender studies research. We read and discussed dissertation chapters, journal articles, and conference papers by doctoral students in Sociology, Philosophy, and American Studies.

WGS Graduate Certificate students were also invited to participate in several events focused on pedagogical concerns this year: I organized Feminist Pedagogies and Challenges in the fall, with guest talks by Karen Warkentin (Biology, WGS) and Deborah Belle (Psychology/WGS). Carrie Preston participated in two discussions with Critical Pedagogies, a new group organized by graduate students and chaired by Paul Edwards (American Studies/WGS). Both events were open forums for students to meet and discuss teaching experiences, challenges, and work/life balance.

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— *Ashley Mears*

Director of Graduate Studies
Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program



THE 2015 SEDGWICK MEMORIAL LECTURE FEATURING:

SABA MAHMOOD

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY

On March 5, Professor Saba Mahmood of the University of California, Berkeley delivered the Fifth Annual Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick Memorial lecture in Gender and Sexuality Studies. The Sedgwick Lecture was established in 2010 by members of the Faculty Gender and Sexuality Studies Group to honor the memory of Professor Sedgwick, a founder of queer theory who taught at BU early in her career.



Pictured above: Professor Saba Mahmood addressing the audience

Professor Mahmood's lecture, *"Moral Injury and Muhammed's Cartoons: Thinking Reparatively with Eve Sedgwick"* addressed recent controversies over depictions of Mohammed as a way of thinking through unexamined assumptions about the boundaries between the religious and the secular, between image and word, and between "religion as belief" and what she calls "practices of piety." Inspired partly by Sedgwick's late work, the talk provided a welcome antidote to the polarized discourse on religious extremism, East and West. The lecture had a record turnout of over 150 people. It was followed by a lively Q&A, and an even livelier dinner with many members of the WGS faculty.

**BOTH THE LECTURE AND THE DISCUSSION WERE VIDEOTAPED
AND CAN BE SEEN ONLINE AT BU.EDU/HONORINGEVE**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THOSE WHO EARNED WGS GRADUATE CERTIFICATES IN 2015

RUPAL RAMESH SHAH



I enrolled at Boston University's School of Public Health in 2013 for graduate school and graduated in May this year with my Master's degree in Public Health with a concentration in global health. Through my time at Boston University, I was heavily involved with the African Studies Center as well as the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program. When I graduated in May, I also obtained certificates from both the

African Studies Program as well as the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies program. At graduation, I also received the Katherine M. Skinner award for promoting women's health. For the first time in 16 years, I also returned back to Kilimanjaro, Tanzania to conduct my global health internship. Throughout my time in Tanzania I worked with three major organizations and hospitals to conduct public health research studies. The largest amount of my time was spent at Kibong'oto Infectious Diseases Hospital which is in a village in Kilimanjaro. Those research studies are now in the process of getting compiled and published.

In the community of Boston/Cambridge, I have continued to volunteer at a local hospice (Hospice Services of Massachusetts) and a local children's shelter (Home for Little Wanderers). A couple of years ago, a few women and I started a local women's group in Cambridge which focuses on women's issues worldwide. Because of the extensive amount of time I spent in Tanzania, I have also been able to write as a Sunday columnist for the national newspaper in Tanzania, *The Citizen*. I am now developing my skills as a writer and hope to write for a few other papers and magazines in the Boston area as well as in East Africa. One of the other things that I have been involved with during my time in Boston is running marathons. Since moving to Boston in 2008, I have completed 6 marathons including the Boston marathon a couple of years ago. I have two more marathons scheduled for next year as well.

At the moment, I am in the process of searching for jobs and my next opportunity. I want to stay in the field of public health and hopefully continue working on infectious diseases. I hope to find something by September 1st and hope the opportunity allows me to continue my global travels as well.

SHANNON FORRESTER



Since being awarded the Graduate Certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in the spring of 2014 and graduating in May with my MFA in Painting things have been very busy. I have been focused on finding new avenues to develop and share my work as well as being active in the job market seeking a faculty appointment in an Art Department for the 2015-2016 academic year. My search has encompassed local, national, and international opportunities. The process itself has provided me with many lessons about the field, career development, and the process of an academic job search.

In terms of finding new venues to present and develop my work, I am honored to have been selected by a jury to serve as a National Artist Member of the A.I.R. Gallery in Brooklyn, New York. A.I.R. Gallery (Artists in Residence, Inc.) was established in 1972 as the first not-for-profit, artist-directed and maintained gallery for women artists in the United States. A.I.R. Gallery is a permanent gallery exhibition space that has been providing visibility as well as supporting an open exchange of ideas and risk-taking by women artists more than forty years. As part of this new gallery affiliation I am thrilled to announce my work will be included in two exhibitions in New York set to occur in early 2016, I hope to see you at the openings! In addition, I am excited to add that another jury awarded me a grant for a one month residency at the Vermont Studio Center in Johnson, VT. VSC is the largest international artists' and writers' residency program in the United States. The academic job market as we all know is a difficult one, after completing more applications that I want to remember, I am thrilled to announce I will be teaching Drawing in the Foundations program at New Hampshire Institute of Art this year. After finishing graduate school and all of the applications for various opportunities, I decided I really needed a short break this summer. So I made one final pilgrimage to the Michigan Womyn's Music festival, the final event after forty years of feminist cultural retreats. I share with you a photo of me after a week camping on *The Land* of the festival in the majestic fern forest. What an incredible experience to live in a women's village for a week!



New Spring 2015 Course

WS 450 - Internships: Women, Gender, and Social Change

Taught by Dr. Diane B. Balsler

In the spring semester of 2015, the WGS program launched its new Internship Program and Seminar, WS 450: Internships in Women, Gender, and Social Change taught by Dr. Diane Balsler. Each student in the course was placed in an internship with an organization engaged in significant social change, including community change organizations, economic and social justice organizations, and the offices of public policy leaders. Throughout the semester, students experienced the processes involved in trying to accomplish political, economic, and social transformations.

The course required eight to ten hours per week at the internship site where students worked with leaders and activists. Their responsibilities included organizing, public policy development, advocacy training, coalition building, and leadership training around issues such as housing, economic justice, sexual violence, and equity. Each week students reported on the highlights, struggles, and learning at their jobs.

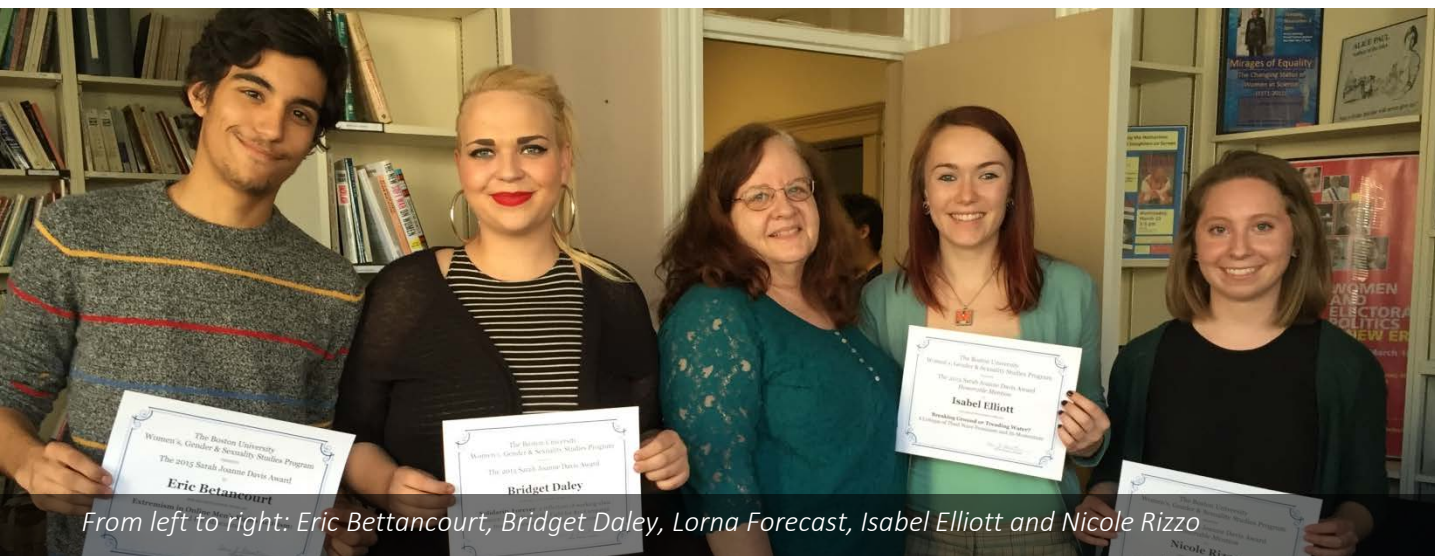
Students also discussed and analyzed key aspects of social change theory relevant to the internships, including economic/political theories, leadership development, and critical aspects of mass mobilization and electoral politics.

Students worked with experienced and often inspiring leaders and organizers on many critical issues of the 21st century. They all had unique experiences which they often found to be personally transformative. These experiences could serve as the basis for their leadership in the future.

— *Diane Balsler*

Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies
Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program

THE SARAH JOANNE DAVIS AND WGS RESEARCH AWARD



From left to right: Eric Bettancourt, Bridget Daley, Lorna Forecast, Isabel Elliott and Nicole Rizzo

SJD AWARD WINNER AND RUNNER-UPS:

Bridget Daley

Solidarity Forever: a reflection of working-class women's liberation in the Fight for \$15 campaign from the viewpoint of a female organizer

Isabel Elliott

Breaking Ground or Treading Water?
A Critique of Third Wave Feminism and its Momentum

Lindsay Hawthorne

Activism Project: 59th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women

Nicole Rizzo

From Austen to Dickinson:
Liberation, Literature, and the Confines of Patriarchy

WGS RESEARCH AWARD WINNER:

Eric Bettancourt

Extremism in Online Men's Rights Activism:
'Red Pill' Masculinism

Bridget Daley won the WGS Program's 2015 Sarah Joanne Davis Scholarship Award. The award recognizes a WGS minor who has made a significant contribution to scholarship, activism, leadership, artistic creation, or political engagement.

Bridget won the award for her remarkable leadership, activism, and political organizing on the Fight for \$15 Campaign and the day of action she coordinated on April 15, 2015. In addition, she wrote a very sensitive account of the project in "Solidarity Forever: a reflection of working-class women's liberation in the Fight for \$15 Campaign from the viewpoint of a female organizer." Bridget's organizing and account is an outstanding example of the world changing work that our minors can and do accomplish.

Eric Bettancourt began his academic career at BU by enrolling in "Sexism in the 21st Century" and was so taken with the course he petitioned to add the 300-level "American Masculinities" in his Freshman year. Eric found himself in a course of junior and senior Sociology majors, yet held his own. His interest in the course's marking of masculinity as a category of analysis led to his winning the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies essay prize this past Spring for his sophomore year essay "Online Men's Rights Activism: 'Red Pill' Masculinism" which considers the ways in which conservative men's rights groups use the internet to disseminate a misogynist sexual politics. We look forward to two more years of Eric's excellent research!



MICIA MOSELY:

“HOW TO BE A
BLACK LESBIAN
FEMINIST
IN 10 EASY STEPS”

Micia Mosely, Ph.D., an educational facilitator, performer, and activist, came to campus Thursday, November 20, 2014 in conjunction with Barbara Gottfried’s course on “Women and Comedy.” Mosely is not a joke-teller, nor does she set up punchlines. Her chosen focus, “How to Be a Black Lesbian Feminist in Ten Easy Steps” seemed designed to be provocative, but Mosley took the tack of using comic insights to communicate with her audience rather than pressing an agenda—we saw and laughed with her, experiencing the oneness of audience and performer the most effective stand-ups elicit.

Afterwards, Mosley was generous in her discussion with students, particularly with regard to advice on how to succeed as a comedian. She urged those who questioned her to think long and hard about what they had to say, and how they might want to say it, not simply to garner laughs, but to open people’s minds. Students appreciated the opportunity to meet and engage with a successful comedian up close.

— *Barbara Gottfried*

Co-Director of Undergraduate Studies
Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Program



DIVERSITY, PLASTICITY, & THE SCIENCE OF SEXUALITY

Faculty Gender and Sexuality Studies Group with speakers from the Colloquium “Diversity, Plasticity, and the Science of Sexuality.” Cati Connell (BU, Sociology & WGS), Keith Vincent (BU, MLCL & WGS), Ondine Leblanc (Mass Historical Society), Malin Ah-King (Humboldt U of Berlin, History), Paul Vasey (U of Lethbridge – Alberta, Canada, Psychology), and Karen Warkentin (BU, Biology & WGS).

WGS Profs. Karen Warkentin and Carrie Preston, and Prof. Alisa Bokulich of Philosophy, organized a Boston Colloquium for the History and Philosophy of Science, held April 24, 2015, to examine “Diversity, Plasticity, and the Science of Sexuality.” Both public attitudes and scientific understanding of sexual diversity have changed dramatically in recent years. In biology, non-reproductive sexual behavior, including same-sex sexual behavior, is now documented in many animal species, shifting paradigms and creating opportunities for comparative research.

A second shift is the growing understanding of environmental effects on development. Such plasticity clearly impacts the expression of most complex traits and contributes importantly to diversity; biologists are now working out mechanisms underlying context-dependent development. Co-sponsored by WGS, Biology, and the Center for the History and Philosophy of Science, with generous funding by the College of Arts and Sciences, this interdisciplinary Colloquium examined how our changing understanding of developmental plasticity and sexual diversity in nature influence our thinking about human sexual diversity. It brought perspectives from evolutionary and developmental biology, the history and philosophy of science, and cutting-edge psychology and sexology together to explore the themes of diversity and plasticity in the science of sexuality.

Many of the colloquium speakers, along with BU WGS faculty, continued to explore these themes at a Faculty Gender and Sexuality Studies Group Retreat on Cape Cod for the two days following the conference, sparking new ideas, collaborations, and plans for an international Sexual Plasticity Working Group.

— *Karen Warkentin*

Associate Professor
CAS Biology and Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies

WGS'S UNESCO/UNITWIN NETWORK REACHES AROUND THE GLOBE!



The UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & Development reflects interdisciplinarity and outreach, spotlighted by BU/WGS this year. Stories in the [UNITWIN Highlights Reel for 2014/2015](#) span across the globe from India to West Africa to Greater Boston and beyond!

Of great excitement, the Global Network of UNESCO Chairs on Gender celebrated the release of [Gender Perspectives in Case Studies across Continents Volume II \(2014-2015\)](#). WGS's Brenda Gael McSweeney was an author and the editor of this E-Book. Themes include women & education, livelihoods & political voice, and activism across the decades. The case studies address provocative gender disparities in countries as diverse as Poland, Cyprus, Burkina Faso, India and Ireland. Former WGS Visiting Scholar Soheila Alirezanejad authored a chapter on women and microfinance in Iran, titled *Visible and Invisible Money: Different Opportunities for Rural Women in Iran*. She shared this photograph of the Association of Women Beekeepers in Rameh in action.

Meanwhile, our Women of Vision Series continues to go global! This initiative began in Boston with UNITWIN Affiliates, the Brighton Allston Historical Society (BAHS), then Unbound Visual Arts (UVA). BAHS members researched and hosted community events on women's contributions across the centuries in politics, the arts and social activism, while UVA presented exhibits on these themes. This work has since been expanded to India and Burkina Faso. Scholastique Kompaoré, female education pioneer in West Africa, focused this past year on the surprising role of Burkina Faso's interim ruler Naaba Saaga – since age 11, 'for life'! – seen in her village courtyard outside of Ouagadougou in Brenda's 2009 photo taken during their initial interviews.



MORE ON THE BU-BASED UNITWIN AT:

[HTTP://WWW.BU.EDU/WGS/NETWORKS/UNESCO-UNITWIN-AT-BU/](http://www.bu.edu/wgs/networks/unesco-unitwin-at-bu/),
[UNITWIN.BLOGSPOT.COM/](http://unitwin.blogspot.com/) AND [EQUALITYBURKINA.BLOGSPOT.COM/](http://equalityburkina.blogspot.com/)

UNESCO/UNITWIN Co-Coordinators at WGS/BU:
 Dr. Carrie Preston and Dr. Brenda Gael McSweeney

THE WGS LUNCH DISCUSSION SERIES



The WGS Program seeks to be the center for interdisciplinary scholarship and teaching related to gender, sexuality, race, nationality and the other categories of identity that organize and disorganize our lives. To support faculty research and foster productive conversations, WGS initiated a Lunch Discussion Series. At each event, two faculty members hailing from different disciplines present research on a similar topic.

The inaugural Lunch Discussion, “Facing the Skeletons: Trauma and Narrative for Turkish Women in Prison and American Women with HIV,” featured Roberta Micallef (WGS, MLCL) and Leslie Brody (Psychology). Professor Micallef is working on the autobiographical narratives produced by Turkish women imprisoned for political dissidence. Professor Brody’s “Emotion, Gender, Culture, & Health Laboratory” is engaged in research on factors that impact the health outcomes of minority women with and at risk of HIV. Brody’s research suggests that the opportunity to tell one’s personal story has unexpected health benefits. Micallef similarly stressed the power of autobiographical stories for coping with trauma and as a means for social change.

The second Lunch Discussion, “Disability Studies Across the Disciplines,” featured Karen Jacobs (Sargent) and Anthony Petro (WGS, Religion). Professor Jacobs spoke about Project CAREER, which aims to improve the employment success of undergraduate college and university students with traumatic brain injury (TBI). She has developed a technology-driven, long-term support program for Veteran and civilian postsecondary students with TBI that merges assistive technology and vocational rehabilitation. Professor Petro presented his work in progress on a new book project, *“Good Morality Is Good Medicine”: Public Health, Disability, and American Christianity since the 1950s*. Petro examines the history of American Christian engagement with health and disability policy in the U.S. and argues that Christians have shaped debates over public health in national discussions of alcoholism, the patients’ rights movement, euthanasia, the rights of disabled children, and needle exchange. This Lunch Discussion generated a fascinating discussion of how critiques of normative concepts of health, such as Petro’s, can appear to clash with efforts, like Jacobs’, to assist those recovering from TBI. If we couldn’t resolve these tensions over lunch, we left the event with a broader understanding of the complexity of disability policy and rehabilitation efforts.

SPOTLIGHT ON: WGS FACULTY & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

DIANE BALSER, INSTRUCTOR

My academic interests include the history of the women's movement and feminism in the United States, contemporary global women's issues, and women and politics. I have a particular interest in providing internships for students that involve having them work in organizations for change and give them experience with women leaders. In 2015, I developed a new course, *Internships in Women, Gender and Social Change*, which introduced students to the ideas and practices of social change organizations related to women and gender through local internships.



ELIZABETH BOSKEY, LECTURER

Lecturer Elizabeth Boskey was pleased to learn last month that her paper, *Understanding Transgender Identity Development in Childhood and Adolescence*, initially published in the *American Journal of Sexuality Education*, was selected to be part of #RoutledgeTrans, a collection of articles on the scholarly study of transgenderism that Routledge is currently offering for free, as a way to increase awareness of research about and with transgender populations. This past spring, she also had the opportunity to present her talk, "Treatment Beyond the Binary – How Structural Inequalities, Systematic Prejudice, and Arbitrary Categorizations Imperil Healthcare for Transgender Youth and Adults" at the 7th Annual Health Disparities Conference, and her two hour workshop, "Closed Minds, Open Relationships - Communication Failures with Polyamorous Clients," at the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists National Meeting.



CATHERINE CONNELL, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Assistant Professor Cati Connell was awarded the Frank and Lynne Wisneski Award for teaching excellence. Her book, *School's Out: Gay and Lesbian Teachers in the Classroom*, was published by UC Press in November 2014. She has a forthcoming publication in *Signs*, co-authored with fellow WGS affiliated faculty member, Ashley Mears.



SARAH FREDERICK, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Associate Professor Sarah Frederick's translation of Yoshiya Nobuko's "Yellow Rose" was published along with a scholarly introduction by [Expanded Editions Press](#). She was invited to speak on modern kimono culture at the Museum of Fine Arts textile studies group in February 2015 in conjunction with an exhibit based on her 2009-13 collaborative research project to modern kimono. She participated in the Natsume Soseki workshop at UC Berkeley that was organized by WGS colleague Keith Vincent. She participated in the BU Travel Writing Workshop which culminated in a series of talks in May. She was invited to be the Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies Professor for fall 2015 and was awarded a Hakuho Foundation grant for spring 2016 to work on her digital humanities project mapping literary works in Kyoto Japan.

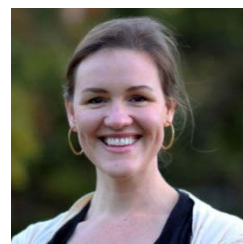


BARBARA GOTTFRIED, INSTRUCTOR

My research and teaching interests include feminist theory and practice, gender and literature, pop culture, T.V., film, comedy, and, most recently masculinities studies (returning to an early interest). I am particularly interested in the cultural production and re-production of gender and how internalized gender expectations are negotiated in the U.S. and in Europe, specifically England, Hungary, and the Balkans. My current projects explore the influence of women's greater presence in contemporary stand-up on men's stand-up discourses; and the relationship of masculinities to dance in American culture vs. European dance traditions.

**CAROLYN HODGES**, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

I study topics at the intersection of anthropology, evolutionary biology, and human ontogeny. My current work focuses on factors affecting developmental variation in sex-typical characteristics of the body, face and voice. In 2015, I published an article on the relationship between nutritional availability and the development of the male-typical voice in a population of adolescents in Bolivia. I also presented several conference papers: two papers on the relationship between adrenal puberty and health at the annual meetings of the Human Biology Association and the International Society for Evolutionary Medicine and Public Health, as well as three papers on pubertal development of the face and voice at several biological anthropology meetings. One of these papers was finalist for a post-doctoral scholar award. I've spent the 2015 summer in Nicaragua pursuing preliminary fieldwork (ethnographic interviews and feasibility analysis) on a project designed to assess environmental factors affecting variation in adolescent development. I have two grants under review at the NSF and NIH to pursue this work further.

**CHERYL KNOTT**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Associate Professor of Anthropology, Cheryl Knott, published two articles in the *Encyclopedia of Human Sexuality* on "Sexual Coercion" and "Orangutans." She received grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Orangutan Republic Foundation, Orangutan Outreach, Riverbanks Zoo and Gardens, Phoenix Zoo, and the Woodland Park Zoo to support her orangutan research and conservation project. In January, she gave the Keynote address at the *Thrive* event for the Woodland Park Zoo. In April, she chaired a session on Primate Behavior at the Annual Meeting of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists and presented a talk on *Infant Carrying in Orangutans: Implications for Human Evolution*. In August, she organized a conference, *GP30+*, celebrating over thirty years of research and conservation at the Cabang Panti Research Site in Gunung Palung National Park, Borneo, Indonesia. She presented a paper on *The Gunung Palung Orangutan Project: 23 Years of Research* and hosted a post-conference field trip to the site. She also was an invited speaker for the US Embassy's *@America* venue in Jakarta, Indonesia for World Orangutan Day.

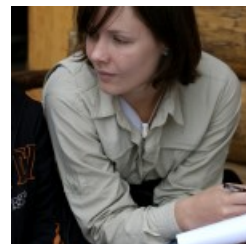


JENNIFER KNUST, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

An Associate Professor of New Testament and Christian Origins at Boston University, I hold joint appointments in the School of Theology and the Departments of Religion and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. My research and teaching interests include ancient rhetoric, the transmission of the Gospels, and sexuality and the Christian Bible, leading to my first two books, *Abandoned to Lust: Sexual Slander and Ancient Christianity* (Columbia University Press, 2005) and *Unprotected Texts: The Bible's Surprising Contradictions on Sex and Desire* (HarperONE, 2011). Most recently, I have been tracing early Christian ideas about sacred text by examining late antique and early medieval manuscripts, which I place in their liturgical and institutional contexts. At BU, I teach courses on women and religion, the New Testament, the history of Christianity, and Jesus, among other topics, and am part of the teaching team for the WGS Interdisciplinary Introduction.

**SIOBHÁN MATTISON**, RESEARCH ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

In on-going research, we are developing further studies to establish quantitatively the various contexts surrounding adoption in Taiwan, in order to provide evidence of if and how such variation affects health and social outcomes of adopted children. We continue to explore the effects of breastfeeding duration and its outcomes, including a meta-analysis of literature from small-scale populations in order to determine how socio-environmental variation structures the relationship between breastfeeding duration and outcomes relevant to health. Finally, we are preparing a field-based project that aims to expand previous findings among the Mosuo to explore the initial rise of socio-economic inequality and its impact on health and well-being alongside rapid market integration.

**ROBERTA MICALLEF**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Roberta Micallef, Associate Professor of the Practice Middle Eastern Literatures and Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies completed a project annotating and sampling Turkish proficiency standards. Together with Professor Sunil Sharma she organized a series of meetings on travel writing which culminated in a day long workshop titled, "Illusion and Disillusionment: Travel Writers in the Modern Age." Micallef is working on a project on Turkish women's autobiographies and presented her work on Turkish women's prison narratives during the WGS's Lunch Discussion Series.



BRENDA GAEL MCSWEENEY, VISITING FACULTY

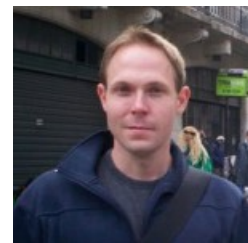
I was Editor and an author of *Gender Perspectives in Case Studies across Continents (2014/2015)*, e-published by UNESCO Buenos Aires and Paris. My ongoing action-research projects at WGS and as Resident Scholar at Brandeis University's Women's Studies Research Center focus on female education in Burkina Faso, self-reliant livelihoods in West Bengal-India, and the situation of women in Ireland. I contributed with women's education pioneer Scholastique Kompaoré to UNESCO's "Women in African History" e-learning tool that won the Gender Equality and Mainstreaming in Technology first prize award from the International Telecommunications Union and UN Women! We shared our research across the decades and my photos from Burkina Faso. Unbound Visual Arts, of which I am a Founding Council Advisor and artist, hosted exhibitions for local communities, academics, and the political arena reflecting this global work; while the Brighton-Allston Historical Society of which I am a Board Director presented our findings on women's socioeconomic, artistic and public service contributions over the centuries. At WGS I co-coordinate with Dr. Carrie Preston and manage the UNESCO/UNITWIN Network on Gender, Culture & Development with university and nongovernmental partners in India, West Africa, and the Boston area.

**CARRIE PRESTON**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Associate Professor Carrie Preston was awarded the United Methodist Church's Scholar-Teacher of the year award in 2014-2015. She gave an invited lecture, "Undead Plays: Yeats's Irish National Theater and Japanese Noh Drama," at Yale University on April 18, 2015. At the Modernist Studies Association Annual Conference in Pittsburgh, she presented her paper, "The 'Sword-Dance and Spear-Dance' Recitals of Ezra Pound, Ito Michio, et. al. and the Intermedial Collaborations of Modernism" and organized and led the seminar, "Interdisciplinary Modernism and the Cultural Event."

**ANTHONY M. PETRO**, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

I finished my first book *After the Wrath of God: AIDS, Sexuality, and American Religion* (Oxford University Press), which officially comes out July 1. I also published a piece in *Radical History Review's* special issue on "Queer Archives." The article is called "Beyond Accountability: A Queer History of Catholic Sexual Abuse." I gave a talk as part of a roundtable at the American Society of Church History/American Historical Association on the 25th anniversary of the publication of Randall Balmer's *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory*. And I was an invited participant for a workshop on "Managing Religious Diversity in the Neoliberal Americas," hosted this past year in Montreal as part of NYU's Hemispheric Institute for Performance and Politics. I continue to co-chair a seminar with the American Academy of Religion on "Global Perspectives on Religion and the HIV/AIDS Epidemic." This spring, I received a Junior Faculty Fellowship from the BUCH for next year. I will combine it with my sabbatical to start work on my next project, which brings together American religious history and feminist and queer disability studies.



J. KEITH VINCENT, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

J. Keith Vincent published a co-edited collection of essays on the Japanese novelist Natsume Sōseki as a special issue of the Japanese journal *Bungaku* in November. The collection came out of a conference on Sōseki he organized the previous year at the University of Michigan. In May, he co-hosted a follow-up seminar on Sōseki at Berkeley, which will result in two further publications in English and Japanese. He delivered the keynote lecture at the conference “Queer Theory and Japanese Literature” at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, and another invited lecture, “The Survival of the Author: Ghosts and Nonhuman Actors in Natsume Sōseki’s ‘Kokoro.’” at Middlebury in March. His article “Sex on the Mind: Queer Theory Meets Cognitive Theory” appeared in the *Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Approaches to Literature* in January, and a long book review of two new translations of Japanese novels appeared on the website publicbooks.org. He is looking forward to serving as Chair of Modern Languages and Comparative Literature beginning in the fall.

**SUSANNE SREEDHAR**, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

My teaching and research interests include political philosophy and feminist philosophy. I’m especially interested in the history of each, as well as their intersections. My first book, *Hobbes on Resistance: Defying the Leviathan*, came out with Cambridge University Press in 2010. My current research is on conceptions of gender, sexuality, and the family in early modern political thought. I teach courses on ethics, political philosophy, philosophy of law, the history of philosophy, and the philosophy of gender and sexuality.

**KAREN WARKENTIN**, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

Associate Professor Karen Warkentin began work on a new 5-year NSF-funded project studying “The Development of Adaptive Embryo Behavior” in red-eyed treefrogs, with field research at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama. She and five students traveled to Cartagena, Colombia, to give presentations at the Latin American Herpetology Congress in November. She published five papers, with students and collaborators, in the journals *Behaviour*, *Biotropica*, *Ecology*, *Ecology and Evolution*, and *Functional Ecology*. With Carrie Preston and Alisa Bokulich, she co-organized a colloquium, in BU’s Philosophy and History of Science series, on “Diversity, Plasticity, and the Science of Sexuality,” at which she presented a talk entitled “Development, evolution, and the diversity of non-reproductive sexual behavior: an introduction.”



To read more about our faculty, please visit our website at:

www.bu.edu/wgs/community/faculty

WGS WELCOMES: KIM ICREVERZI

VISITING RESEARCHER

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My research looks at cinema's contribution to materialist histories of gender and sexuality. I focus especially on reproduction, not as a biological phenomenon, but as a social technology and cinematic technique. While my writing has looked at examples from postwar Japanese genre cinema that include melodrama, pink, yakuza, and independent art cinema, my research pursues questions related to the persistence of popular attachments more broadly through a multiperspectival cultural studies methodology that betrays promiscuous interests in Marxism, psychoanalysis, and phenomenology.

At the University of California, Irvine, I taught introductory courses in Women's Studies on "Gender and Power" and "Gender and Popular Culture" as well as writing courses on "Body Politics," "The Fantastic," "Japanese Horror," and "Images of the Yakuza." Though each of the courses I'll offer at BU promise to involve gender and sexuality, you'll also find me on the team teaching WGS102 in Spring 2015.

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Kim Icreverzi
Lecturer

*BA, Georgetown University
MA, University of California, Irvine
PhD, University of California, Irvine*



CONGRATULATIONS!

Raffi Freedman-Gurspan of our WGS community has become the first openly transgender White House official. She has joined President Obama's team as director of outreach and recruitment for the White House personnel office. Raffi previously made history at the Massachusetts State House before working as a policy advisor for the National Center for Transgender Equality. Before that, she worked closely with Brenda McSweeney here at BU as Course & Research Assistant and team-member of the UNESCO/University Twinning project, hosted by WGS. Raffi's appointment to the White House is being celebrated by transgender rights activists and, of course, all of us at WGS! More at [UNITWIN](#). Congratulations Raffi!

Read more about Raffi Freedman-Gurspan here:

"FIRST TRANSGENDER WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL, RAFFI FREEDMAN-GURSPAN, GETS TO WORK", CAROL E. LEE, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:



The WGS Program is happy to welcome its youngest member, Nola Alice Mears Petrovic, born March 24, 2015.

Congratulations Ashley Mears and Vladimir Petrovic!