

FEMINIST GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES

WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY FEMINIST, GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES



Diane Weiss '80 Memorial Lecture



Inside:
2 Letter from the Chair

3 Senior Theses

4 Social Death Series

6 Faculty & Alumni News

7 Ecofeminism Grant

8 FGSS Symposia

On the evening of April 9, 2015, Elizabeth Wilson presented her most recent work as the featured speaker for the 27th Annual Diane Weiss '80 Memorial Lecture. Her presentation, "Bitter Melancholy: Feminism and the Politics of Biology and Aggression," explored depression and aggression through a feminist framework. The talk aimed to reclaim the hostility that may underlie depression as a positive resource, and also to rethink feminist responses to melancholy and depression.

The lecture series is named after Diane Weiss ('80). Professor Victoria Pitts-Taylor introduced the lecture by sharing some background on Weiss, who tragically died soon after receiving her undergraduate degree from Wesleyan and her graduate degree from Boston College. Weiss' family and friends endowed the lecture series in her honor. "She dedicated her life to helping others," Pitts-Taylor said.

Wilson's talk drew from her forthcoming book, *Gut Feminism*, which will be published by Duke University Press in the fall. One of Wilson's overarching goals in the book is to take psychiatric diagnoses, as well as psychopharmaceutical

data, and extract gain for feminist theory. At the Diane Weiss lecture, Wilson focused on re-conceptualizing depression and anger. She contrasted her account with both Freud's theory on melancholy, and feminist treatments of depression. In Freudian and feminist theories of depression, anger is turned inwards. Wilson argues that recognizing the outward expression of anger, or aggression, in melancholia renders the melancholic a more active subject.

Wilson argued that feminist thought has elided or ignored aggression enacted by victimized subjects. She used as a case study the murder of Lawrence (Leticia) King, a gender atypical student from Oxnard, California who was shot and killed by another student at age 15. In the subsequent murder trial, the attorneys and witnesses described King (using male pronouns) as aggressive towards his attacker, and therefore provoking his own attack. Wilson described how feminist and queer theorists, concerned about victim-blaming, have contested the portrayal of King as an antagonist. But Wilson argued that denying King's aggressions is to deny the complexity of King's personhood. Aggression, she argued, needn't be erased from subjects in

order to render them deserving of sympathy and justice.

"If we are unable to keep our conceptual focus on these intensely hostile forces, then our politics become redemptive, sadism is tamed, culture is salvaged, and politics marches on to the good," Wilson said.

During the question and answer portion of the evening, Wilson also contested neuropsychiatric accounts of depression that reduce it to brain processes. However, she did not counter with a social constructionist model of depression, or one that would locate depression in language or culture rather than the physical body. Using a biofeminist framework, Wilson proposes a non-reductionist account of the neurobiology of depression, one that would not reduce it to brain processes. In her book, she argues for the relevance of whole body – and particularly the gut – as a site of psychic processes.

Letter from the Chair

I am extremely pleased to report on my first year as Chair of FGSS. As you may know, the FGSS program at Wesleyan University has officially been in existence (initially as a Women's Studies program) since 1979; the current name of the program reflects an expansive vision that encompasses the multiple dimensions of gender and sexuality, and also speaks to their intersections with other categories of social difference. The activities of the program this year, many of which are highlighted here in the newsletter, reflect this broad, socially engaged vision.

Our annual FGSS Fall Symposium, an event that brings activists and scholars together to address pressing issues, was dedicated to the theme *Activism in Queer Times*. Organized by Prof. Christina Crosby, the event featured Reina Gossett and Amber Hollibaugh, whose writing and activism link sexual rights and economic justice. In the spring, FGSS hosted a lecture series on the theme of *Social Death & Survival: Race/Sex/Class/Vulnerability*. With funding from the Allbritton Center for the Study of Public Life and Mellon University Lectures, we held three events, including a faculty panel and two guest lectures, by Lisa Cacho and Jasbir Puar (see article on pages 4-5 for details). Co-organized by Profs. Rachel Ellis Neyra, Laura Grappo and myself, the series also involved several other faculty members, who gave talks and integrated the events into their course curriculum. The events around social death, a concept that addresses dehumanization, were discussed in at least five different courses in multiple departments on campus. Finally, the Diane Weiss Memorial Lecture this year, which featured Elizabeth Wilson, addressed melancholy, depression, and aggression from feminist perspectives. In part of her talk, Wilson discussed the killing of Lawrence King, a gender non-conforming 15 year-old person of color, in 2008. All of the above events were in some way motivated by concern with violence, including gender-based and racialized violence. Our next symposium in the fall will highlight feminist responses to state violence, in relation to mass incarceration and the prison industrial complex.

Much of our work, of course, takes place in the classroom. In addition to our usual curriculum,

FGSS offered two special courses this year. In the fall, we collaborated with Center for the Arts to offer a course taught by Visiting Artist Leila Buck ('99). The course, called *Beyond the Veil*, addressed representations of Muslim women, and was part of the Muslim Women's Voices at Wesleyan project. In the spring, Visiting Scholar Alexandre Baril taught a seminar called *Remaking Bodies, Rethinking Social Movements*, which addressed various aspects of body politics, including in disability and trans communities. The FGSS program also added a new course to its curriculum, *Sex and Gender in Critical Perspective* (FGSS 200), which offers a broad introduction to the field of gender and sexuality studies for first and second year students. I taught FGSS 200 as a lecture course in the spring. This fall, visiting faculty member Quan Tran, who is receiving her PhD in American Studies at Yale, will teach the course as a first year seminar (FYS).

Many other activities and events, too many to list, marked our year. I will briefly list a few of them. With Animal Studies, FGSS launched a new Eco-Feminism Summer Research Grant, whose first recipient is Rebecca Winkler ('16). Winkler, an FGSS and biology double major, is studying human-animal conflict with elephants. She will use the grant to travel to animal sanctuaries in India and Thailand, furthering research she began in summer 2014. We also celebrated the winners of the Carol B. Ohmann Prize for Best Thesis and Best Essay, Kelsey Henry and Dreisen Heath, respectively. Students led by Jenie He ('16) revived the FGSS majors committee. We held a fall and a spring FGSS Salon, an event for faculty to share works-in-progress with each other, hosting Profs. Christina Crosby (English and FGSS) and Kerwin Kaye (Sociology). Crosby spoke about her forthcoming book, *Body Undone: Living on After Great Pain* (NYU Press). Kaye discussed a work in progress, "Masculinity, Drug Treatment, and the Management of Poverty," based on his ethnographic research at drug treatment centers.

FGSS also co-sponsored 11 events, ranging from a Disability Studies Lecture featuring Robert McRuer (organized by Prof. Margot Weiss)



to a three-day Queer/Art/Poetics conference (organized by Profs. Neyra and Katie Brewer Ball). The student-organized events we supported included the display of the Monument Quilt, which was brought to Wesleyan through the efforts of Chloe Murtagh '15, Ryden Nelson '16, and other campus activists. Modeled after the AIDS quilt, the work documents the stories of survivors of rape and sexual abuse. Before arriving at Wesleyan, the quilt was exhibited at 12 other sites across the country. In spring, we co-sponsored the Female Voice in Politics Conference, whose speakers included Rosa DeLauro, U.S. Representative of Connecticut's 3rd Congressional District, and other current and former elected officials.

In addition to all of this, we welcomed new faculty, hosted open houses, and celebrated the publication of new books. All of this activity speaks to the hard work, vibrancy, and engagement of our faculty and students. I'm honored to be part of this community of scholars, writers, artists and activists, and I am certain we can look forward to more in the year ahead.

Victoria Pitts-Taylor
Professor of Feminist, Gender,
and Sexuality Studies, Chair

Class of 2015 Senior Thesis Writers

This year, three seniors in the FGSS program completed theses. These interviews took place at the beginning of March, on the cusp of crunch time. On May 5, Paulina Jones-Torregrosa, Jessica Tollman, and Kelsey Henry presented their completed theses to their fellow majors and the FGSS faculty.

Jessica Tollman, "The Electromagnetic Lady: Janelle Monáe, Sonic Fiction, and Black Feminist Worldmaking"

Advisor: Profs. Rachel Ellis Neyra, Christina Crosby

Thesis: I'm reading Janelle Monáe's sonic fiction--science fiction through music--as imagining a queer, anti-racist world invested in shifting how we perceive social reality. I argue Monáe's creative project re-imagines the alienation of marginalized groups through an alien future characterized by android subjugation and resistance. By animating the android and materializing her as a woman of color with queer and working class sensibilities, I argue that Monáe disrupts normative figurations of western Man and generates connective potentials only possible in the realm of the "not yet here."

Favorite writing spot: Art Library in Olin

Inspiration: Music has always been a form I've moved towards. Listening to music can be deeply personal, yet also communal. It has a profound affective potency and moves us in more ways than one. I wanted to have the chance to think with an artist whose theoretical project generates ways of thinking and being otherwise in the world.

Greatest challenge: Monáe's theoretical project is rich with salient insights so it can be overwhelming by the number of directions we could go. But that's the exciting part too; getting to focus in on certain elements and really flesh them out.

Lightbulb moment: I was in my room listening to Monáe's "Many Moons" (2008) track and free writing. It clicked for me that her android future makes an argument for the centrality of alienable bodies—bodies that can be bought and sold—to U.S. history. I solidified my argument that by embodying the android in her project, Monáe animates that body which has been rendered object, demonstrating that objectification is never absolute for resistance ruptures with a vital force. We just have to listen in a lower frequency.

FGSS Seniors: (left to right) Elizabeth Jáuregui, Jessica Tollman, Dreisen Heath, Gwendolyn Rosen, Paulina Jones-Torregrosa, and Kelsey Henry. During the fall semester, Jones-Torregrosa, Tollman, and Henry worked on the first chapters of their theses alongside the senior essay writers in the Senior Seminar with Professor Natasha Korda.



Kelsey Henry, "A Wrinkle in Time: Growing Old, or, a Queer Unbecoming"

Advisor: Prof. Megan Glick

Thesis: I am writing about growing old as a queer time. 'Queer time' demarcates ways of existing in time and space that depart or deviate from what I term 'heterosexual standard time' (HST), which is a prescriptive time that schedules human lives around the completion of a series of heterosexual rites, most importantly marriage and reproduction. I approach the aging process as a queer unbecoming and rebecoming of the self that deviates from narratives of desirable maturation (i.e. growing up) and challenges us to rethink what constitutes a valuable and viable human life.

Favorite writing spot: "Queer" Art Library in Olin!

Inspiration: I was reading the ACT UP Oral History archives early last summer and came across an interview with Ann Philbin, who was a lesbian ACT UP activist. She spoke about weekly phone calls that she made to her parents, where she would share how many of her friends had died that week. Their response was always the same: "This isn't supposed to be happening to someone your age. This is supposed to be happening to us."

Greatest challenge: I have to remind myself every day that this project is the beginning, not the end, of a conversation. It is okay, even ideal, to walk away from this process with more questions than answers.

Lightbulb moment: [My mom] asked me if I thought menopause was a queer time. I realized that even though nearly every formulation of queer time is imagined as a departure from reproductive time, this departure is largely disembodied, abstract, or explicitly masculinized... rarely imagined through the embodied, biological departure from reproductive femininity that many women experience during menopause. Thanks, Mom!

Paulina Jones-Torregrosa, "This Bridge that Never Dissipates"

Advisor: Prof. Rachel Ellis Neyra

Thesis: My thesis is a comprehensive analysis of the woman of color feminist anthology *This Bridge Called My Back*. I analyze all four editions of the book, and bring three other related anthologies into the conversation. In this way, I characterize this collection as "variations on a theme," and track the shifting significance of the bridge metaphor.

Favorite writing spot: My carrel is my happy place.

Inspiration: I read *This Bridge Called My Back* my sophomore spring, and it was like I read the story of my life. I scribbled down an idea for a senior thesis on a post-it on my computer, and ran with it a year later! Obviously my focus has changed, but my passion for the initial text has not.

Greatest Challenge: Throwing out my entire first chapter was not fun! I split it in two, and pulled material from it for my first and second chapters. It was overwhelming, but I'm glad I did it.

Lightbulb moment: I restructured my entire thesis over winter break, and it was great when I finally put the name "variations on a theme" to my analysis of the anthologies.

Social Death & Survival

FGSS Explores

by Gwendolyn Rosen

In Spring 2015, the Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program sponsored a three-part series titled “Social Death and Survival: Race/Sex/Gender/Vulnerability.” The series, made possible with funding from the Allbritton Center for the Study of Public Life and the Mellon University Lectures, explored the phenomena of social death through a variety of lenses.

Social death is a concept often linked to slavery and the Holocaust. It can be defined as “a state in which one’s whole personhood or citizenship is denied,” as Victoria Pitts-Taylor (FGSS) explained in introducing the series. Professors Pitts-Taylor, Rachel Ellis Neyra (English), and Laura Grappo (American Studies) organized the series to draw connections between multiple experiences of social death and to explore the survival strategies of those who experience it. Speakers addressed a range of social forces that can produce social death, including those related to racism, homophobia and transphobia, colonialism, and ableism. The progression of the series throughout the semester mirrored the inclusionary framework being discussed, as each event was held in a room bigger than the last to accommodate larger audiences.

The first installment of the series was a panel discussion on February 26th, featuring five Wesleyan faculty members, including Professors Neyra, Alexandre Baril (FGSS), Megan Glick (American Studies), Robyn Autry (Sociology), and Margot Weiss (Anthropology and American Studies). Grappo served as the panel’s moderator. The panelists presented on the aspects of their own research and writing that touched on the theme of social death in some way. The panel also served as an introductory course in the definition of social death, with many explanatory examples. Many of the speakers referenced Orlando Patterson’s foundational text, *Slavery and Social Death*, which used the term to describe the psychological and physical destruction of slaves.



Weiss and Baril each addressed how social death can be used as a tool to examine social justice movements. Weiss explored ‘queer necropolitics,’ and argued that the representation of some queer figures in mainstream media leads to ignorance about the social death of other socially marginalized queer people, particularly those of low socioeconomic status. Baril explored two opposing models of disability, the social and medical models, and argued for a composite model that could not only be applied to disability, but also trans experience. He argued for recognizing disabled and trans realities as “multiple, contradictory, complex, and sometimes elusive.”

The panelists also critiqued well-versed scripts in social justice movements, which have the potential for marginalization. Glick urged the audience to question why many movements strive for recognition of ‘humanity,’ a category that has been defined legally to exclude those who are not white males. Autry critiqued the value of ‘community,’ particularly in terms of collective memory. “I hope that we might consider the politics of the anti-social,” Autry proposed. In her work, she explores how “memory deviants” stray from narratives that are supposed to construct their history, for example in the recollection of black histories.

Neyra concluded the panel with a piece that demonstrated her work as a poet-theorist. The lengthy title of her piece reads: “‘Heavy Metal and Reflective,’ or, ‘Stop Men,’ or ‘Monstrous Fugue Out from Social Death,’ or ‘We’re all holding and need to be with holding with each other but meanwhile not narcing because narcing is direct communication, and direct communication serves neo-con notions of property, and, really, we can do better than that.’” Neyra describes her work as “intellectual-love-letters of sorts in these dark, dire times of invasion and disobedience, and study.” In her performance, Neyra fluidly explored drug culture and blackness/brownness in connection with financialization and capital.

Neyra also addressed the recent events on Wesleyan's campus, when a number of students were hospitalized for drug use and several students were arrested. In the discussion that followed, students openly addressed how those events affected them and the campus climate. The conversation also raised the question of resistance: what is to be done to contest social death? The panelists offered a range of responses that addressed the need for changes at both the structural and the micro-level.

The second event featured Lisa Marie Cacho, Associate Professor of Latina/o and Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Her talk on March 26th, titled "Lawful Injustice: Punishing 'Status Crimes' Without Penalty," addressed how racism works in the legal system to render unpunishable violence against particular victims. Dr. Cacho carefully analyzed the prosecution and defense of George Zimmerman, whose trial for second-degree murder and manslaughter in the death of Trayvon Martin ended in acquittal in July 2013.



Cacho, author of *Social Death: Racialized Rightlessness and the Criminalization of the Unprotected* (NYU Press, 2012), described how Martin was a victim of de facto status criminalization. Cacho demonstrated how prosecutors treated Martin, the victim, as a likely criminal because of his status as a black man. "Social death is about vulnerability," Cacho said. "It's a form of disempowerment that requires all of us to participate." She argued that racism embedded in state and federal laws allows certain people to be denied the presumption of innocence through "rightlessness," a concept she explores further in her book. In her response to Cacho's lecture, Prof. Neyra underlined the importance of careful listening and reading of the prosecution's language in the Trayvon Martin case. As she put it, "emergency is not always loud."

The final event of the series featured Jasbir Puar, Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at Rutgers University. She is the author of *Terrrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* (Duke University Press 2007), which won the 2007 Cultural Studies Book Award from the Association for Asian American Studies. Puar's lecture, "The 'Right' to Maim: Inhumanist Biopolitics and Palestine," drew from her upcoming book "Inhumanist Biopolitics: The Prehensive Occupation of Palestine," in which she explores the intersection of imperialism, disability studies, and posthumanism, asking the question "How do objects occupy?"



Introducing the lecture, Pitts-Taylor remarked that settler colonialism is closer to home than Palestine. The event was held in the Exley Science Center, which holds Native American human remains and cultural objects. Pitts-Taylor re-read part of the University's public apology from November 2013, reminding the audience that settler colonialism is not a historical moment to study but part of our present.

Puar's lecture explored debilitation in Gaza as an under-theorized element of the Palestinian experience. She argued that Israel's attacks on Gaza articulate a logic of preserving, but debilitating, life with tactics such as shooting to maim (as opposed to shooting to kill). Puar sees maiming not only in war injuries but also in the destruction of water supply and medical infrastructures, despite medical neutrality doctrines. Puar argued that this is a form of torture, as the target becomes not to eliminate life but to eliminate resistance. For Puar, Palestine "provides an epistemological blue print, one that opens up the connective tissue between regions, regimes of power, sights of knowledge and production, historical excavations, and solidarity struggles for liberation." As discussant for the lecture, Prof. Grappo asked the audience to reflect on necropolitics in the U.S. context and cited the riots in Baltimore.

The three events were an opportunity for students and faculty to critically think together on how social death infiltrates many lives and parts of the world. The series reflected the importance of the intersectional approach to social problems and social change.

Faculty News



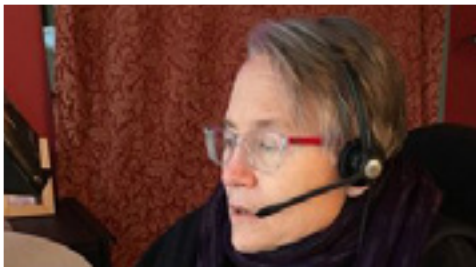
Lori Gruen published two books, *Entangled Empathy: an Alternative Ethic for Our Relationships with Animals* and *Eco-Feminism: Feminist Intersections with Other Animals and the Earth*. She gave talks at UC Irvine, Whitman College, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Oneonta, Georgetown, and in Dehli, India and Rennes, France. She also spoke about Ecofeminism at the Sculpture Center in Long Island City.



Jennifer Tucker won the 2015 James L. McConaughy Writing Prize for Faculty for her submission, "How facial recognition came to be." The article was published in the Boston Globe in November 2014. The faculty McConaughy Writing Prize is awarded each year for the best piece of nonfiction writing, designed to interest general readers, on a topic in the social sciences or sciences, published during the preceding twelve months. Funds for this award were given originally by members of the class of 1936 in honor of their classmate, James L. McConaughy, former governor of Connecticut and president of Wesleyan University.



Natasha Korda published articles in *Shakespeare Bulletin* and *Shakespeare and Costume*, and has forthcoming articles in *A New Companion to Renaissance Drama* and *Rethinking Feminism: Gender, Race, and Sexuality in Early Modern Studies*. She was recently elected to the Board of Trustees of the Shakespeare Association of America (SAA), and will be serving as Chair of the 2016 SAA Program Committee.



Christina Crosby's forthcoming memoir, *Body Undone: Living on After Great Pain*, was featured at Barnard Center for Research on Women's fifth annual salon in March 2016. Participants included Crosby, Lisa Cohen, Leigh Gilmore, Laura Grappo, Maggie Nelson, Gayle Pemberton, and Gayle Salamon. Prof. Crosby also read from the memoir at the closing of the Queer/Art/Poetics conference held at Wesleyan University in April.

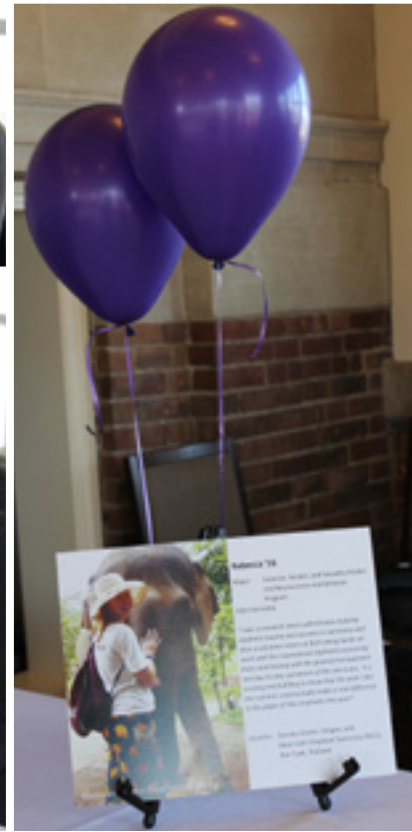
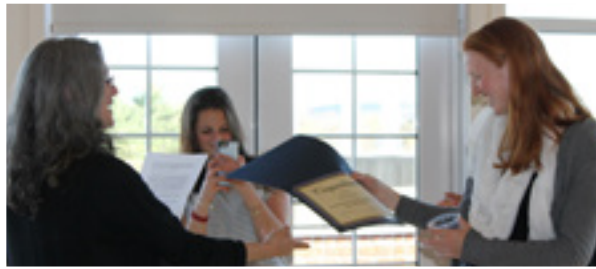
Alumni News



Jackie Soro '14 is living in Philadelphia in a community with other Wesleyan grads. There, she is serving on the Gender Justice Committee in preparation for the 2015 U.S. Social Forum this June. Her committee is dedicated both to keeping intersectionality at the forefront of the myriad issues that will be discussed at the forum, and to ensure that the forum be accessible to folks of all races, genders, classes, abilities, and other identity groups. In her spare time, Soro makes and distributes feminist zines.



Ella Dawson '14 works for TED's scrappy social media team, where she writes all of the tweets. By night she fights STI stigma by blogging about life with herpes. Her fiction writing has been included in three feminist erotica anthologies, most recently *Heart, Body, Soul: Erotica With Character*.



FGSS and Animal Studies Announce Grant for Ecofeminism Research



The Feminist, Gender, and Sexualities Studies Program and Wesleyan Animal Studies are pleased to announce the start of an annual Ecofeminism Summer Internship Experience Grant. The grant will be awarded to a student working on intersectional issues across gender, sexuality, race, class, and species. Rising juniors and rising seniors will be eligible to apply for the grant, and ideally, their grant-sponsored experience will contribute to their senior thesis.

On April 28, 2015, students and faculty gathered to celebrate the inaugural recipient of the grant, Rebecca Winkler. Winkler, a junior FGSS and biology double major, spent the past summer in Thailand working with elephants at Boon

Lott's Elephant Sanctuary. She will use the grant to return to Thailand as well as India to work with captive elephants and scientists who are working to mediate conflict between humans and elephants. This research will contribute to her senior thesis. Winkler said, "I will be using an ecofeminist lens to analyze the intersectional lives of humans and elephant in these places and explore how gender, class, race, sexuality, and religion complicate issues of captivity, conservation biology, and conflict."

The reception was also a celebration of Winkler's faculty advisor, Lori Gruen, who released two books this year. The first, *Entangled Empathy: an Alternative Ethic for Our Relationships with An-*

imals, argues that rather than animals rights, we ought to right our relationships with animals by empathetically responding to them. The second, *Eco-feminism: Feminist Intersections with Other Animals and the Earth*, is an anthology co-edited with Carol Adams that explores eco-feminist theory and activism.

Applications for next year's grant will be accepted in January 2016. FGSS and WAS are thrilled to be providing opportunities to students to further explore the intersection between gender, sexuality, the environment, humans, and animals.

From left to right: Professor Lori Gruen, Professor of Philosophy, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Environmental Studies, Rebecca Winkler '16, and Professor Victoria Pitts-Taylor, Chair, Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies



Fall Symposium: “Activism in Queer Times”

On October 31, 2014, the Feminist, Gender, and Sexualities Studies Program hosted Activist Fellows at Barnard College’s Center for Research on Women Reina Gossett and Amber Hollibaugh at the Fall 2014 Symposium. Associate Professor of American Studies and Anthropology Margot Weiss moderated the discussion. The symposium was well attended by students, faculty, and community members, and also received a feature in the [Wesleyan Argus](#).

The theme of this year’s symposium was “Activism in Queer Times.” Professor Victoria Pitts-Taylor introduced the speakers and how the concept of queer time is an important temporality for activists in order to be able to picture and work towards a different future.

Gossett began the afternoon by speaking about her latest project, “No One is Disposable,” in which she is investigating the prison system and the criminalization of the trans community, particularly trans women of color. Gossett believes that activism is best achieved in a system of self-determination, in which those who are affected

are also capable of identifying problems and creating solutions.

Both Gossett and Hollibaugh discussed how increased visibility of the trans community does not always translate into progress. Gossett shared a startling statistic that the homicide rate for trans women of color was at its highest in 2013, the same year that Laverne Cox made abundant media appearances for her role on Netflix’s *Orange is the New Black*. Hollibaugh described that this type of activism as “politics of inclusion,” in which the goal is to place queer life in a world that already exists rather than create a new, queer world.

In her talk, Hollibaugh also spoke to dismantling the binary between academia and activism. She reflected on the literature she read during the beginnings of her activism career during the Civil Rights movement and urged us to bridge the gap between the thought associated with academia and the action associated with grassroots activism. This was an important message to Wesleyan students, who are beginning to make the connection between classroom discussions and their daily lives.



This fall, FGSS will dedicate its annual Symposium to the theme Incarceration. The event, to be held on November 6th at 2:00 pm, will include scholars and activists working on critiques of the prison industrial complex, and will address incarceration and the carceral state in relation to gender, sexuality, class and race. Among the speakers will be Ruth Wilson Gilmore.

2015 Fall Symposium to Address Mass Incarceration

Gilmore, who holds a PhD in economic geography and social theory from Rutgers, is Professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences and American Studies at the Graduate Center, City University of New York. Among many publications, her prize-winning book is *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California* (2007). Her works-in-progress include *Fatal Couplings: Essays on Motion, Racial Capitalism, and the Black Radical Tradition* and *Big Things: Reconfigured Landscapes and the Infrastructure of Feeling*. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and The Caribbean (IRADAC),

and serves on the boards of many social justice, cultural, and scholarly formations in the US, Europe, and West Asia. She was a founding member of Critical Resistance, California Prison Moratorium Project, and other grassroots organizations. In 2012, the American Studies Association honored Gilmore with its Angela Davis Award for Public Scholarship, an award that recognizes scholars who have applied or used their scholarship for the “public good.” In 2014, she received the Harold M. Rose Award for Anti-Racism Research and Practice from the Association of American Geographers.

Wesleyan University Feminist, Gender, and Sexualities Studies Program

222 Church Street • Allbritton Center 218
Middletown, Connecticut 06459