From the Director:

Greetings from Women’s & Gender Studies!

Margaret Jacobs
WGS Director

For those of you who don’t know me, let me introduce myself. I am a professor of history specializing in the history of cross-cultural relations between Indigenous and white women in settler colonial nations, such as the United States, Australia, and Canada. My last two books focused on Indigenous child removal and white women’s roles in promoting, carrying out, and sometimes challenging the practice. I teach cross-listed U.S. women’s and gender history classes, a cross-listed graduate seminar on Women, Gender, and Empire, and courses on the history of the American West. I served as Director of Women’s and Gender Studies from 2006-2011.

It has been bittersweet to become Director of Women’s and Gender Studies again. I was deeply saddened by the death of Chantal Kalisa, the previous director and a close friend. There is a big hole in the WGS program and in my personal life without her. WGS is honoring Chantal and her legacy by cosponsoring a fellowship fund with the Department of Modern Languages (see pg. 4).

I am also excited to direct the WGS program again. As I meet faculty members from all across the UNL campus and WGS students with multiple majors and minors I am constantly reminded of how enriching it is to reach across disciplines and challenge our ways of seeing and thinking about the world.

WGS is at a dynamic point in its history. We are working with the Departments of Psychology and Political Science to make two new joint tenure-line appointments in 2016-17: one in our emphasis area on Women, Gender, and Science, and one in another emphasis area, Transnational Feminism. WGS will also be undergoing an Academic Program Review (APR) for the first time in the next year. In spring 2017 we will be writing a “self-study” of WGS. A team of external reviewers from outside UNL will be on campus in September 2017 to review the program. While the APR will entail a lot of work, it will also provide a valuable opportunity for us to evaluate and assess our program. Stay tuned for news on you can be involved.

Because we have been so busy with searches and the beginnings of the APR process, WGS did not hold a colloquium series this fall. We will be back next semester with “Transgender Identities and Families,” a series organized by WGS core faculty member Emily Kazyak.

I look forward to reconnecting with WGS faculty, campus and community associates, students, and alumni.
No Limits Keynote Lecture:  
Dr. Meenakshi Gigi Durham  

Trenton Haltom (PhD Student, Sociology & WGS)

Last spring, the UNL Women's and Gender Studies Program hosted keynote speaker Dr. Meenakshi Gigi Durham at the annual No Limits Conference under the theme of "Sexuality and Gender in the Digital Age." Dr. Durham's talk, "Pleasure & Danger: Sex, Violence, and Ethics in the Age of Digital Media," brilliantly encapsulated the conference theme by discussing the effects of our recent inundation of technology.

In her talk, Dr. Durham spoke of the ways in which technology and sexuality are inevitably linked, seduced as we are by screens as technology has become central to our lives. While some forms of media exist to enforce the embodiment of traditional notions of gender and sexuality, others work to disrupt them. By referencing human phenomena like cybersex, plastic surgery, and pornography, Durham brings to the forefront how new technologies enter our social milieu and effect the body.

There is danger, Durham notes, in subscribing to such scripts of beauty and body norms as they reinforce race, class, and gender hierarchies distributed via the media. These media fabrications of normalcy are further infused with power structures that leave many online vulnerable or perhaps victims of online sexual exploitation. In this way, Durham concedes that the virtual may greatly influence the physical and material. Thus, in considering all the pleasures of new technologies, the media, and the Internet, we must also keep in mind the dangers they hold.

Moving forward, Durham encourages us to recognize these "ever changing, still uncharted, and probably uncharitable new media environment[s]... as contested terrains where pleasures and dangers interact and intersect and where our understandings of these processes can lead to real world changes that ensure social justice and sexual safety."

Dr. Durham is a Professor of Journalism and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Iowa and author of The Lolita Effect: The Media Sexualization of Young Girls and What We Can Do About It (2008, Overlook Press). Her keynote address can be viewed at https://mediahub.unl.edu/media/5272.

Rave Reviews for No Limits 2016!

“I loved the diversity of presentations as well as the diversity of the subject matter.”

“The conversation and discussion that occurred in the panel discussion time was invigorating and very engaging.”

“Loved the diversity of topics!”

“Panels were excellent! Quality, variety, and scope very appreciated and somewhat unparalleled for this region.”

“So impressed by these students!”

“Very enjoyable and supportive environment.”

“Very inclusive, calm, understanding conversations.”

“It was difficult choosing which panels to attend!”

“Very INTERSECTIONAL!”
WGS Colloquium Series, Spring 2016
“Legal Codes & Talking Trees: Indigenous Women’s Sovereignty in the Sonoran & Puget Sound Borderlands, 1854-1946”
Professor Katrina Jagodinsky
Phoebe Lockhart (Sophomore, Economics, Human Rights, & Pre-Law)

On April 5, 2016, Katrina Jagodinsky offered compelling analysis of the intersectionality between indigenous women’s rights and the legal system. Professor Jagodinsky’s lecture traced the development of female legal rights in the United States by telling the powerful stories of two brave women, Lucia Martinez and Nora Jewell. Through comprehensive historical analysis, Professor Jagodinsky was able to determine how women in the early 1900s utilized the legal system, filed claims for relief, and created their own ethnojurisprudence. Her presentation was based on her new book, *Legal Codes & Talking Trees*.

Lucia Martinez, who filed a petition against her husband for child custody, was the first woman to file a legal claim on her own behalf in Arizona. After Martinez was divorced from her husband, King Woolsey, she filed a writ of habeas corpus and was given physical custody of her children. Later, after Woolsey forfeited his bond of indenture, Martinez was awarded $1000. Martinez’s story is inspirational because it highlighted how a Native American woman and attorney were able to prevail against one of the most powerful statesmen and legislators in Arizona.

According to Professor Jagodinsky, Nora Jewell was a young Native American woman who was sexually abused by her court-appointed guardian in Washington. Although the patriarchal legal system was intimidating for Jewell, she bravely pressed charges against her rapist. Despite an unfavorable verdict, Jewell’s case set an important precedent for future victims. Dr. Jagodinsky also discussed how Jewell’s story embodied resistance through survival. Rather than allowing the patriarchy to exert control over Native women’s bodies, labors, and progenies, Nora Jewell exercised her legal rights and resisted the system.

The stories of Nora Jewell and Lucia Martinez explained how indigenous women responded to colonial upheaval and utilized the legal system to promote justice. In many ways, Dr. Jagodinsky’s presentation was a call to action, inspiring me to remember the brave women who helped shaped the justice system I love and respect today.

WGS Welcomes New Program Faculty!

A new program faculty member in WGS, Dr. Claire Nicholas received her PhD from Princeton in Socio-Cultural Anthropology. At UNL, she is an assistant professor of Textiles, Merchandising, and Fashion Design. Currently, her research focuses on Moroccan textile craft and North American design education. In Spring 2017, she'll be teaching TMFD 4/810 (WMNS 4/810A): Socio-Psychological Aspects of Clothing and TMFD 4/808: History of Textiles.

Dr. Kelsy Burke received her PhD in Sociology from the University of Pittsburgh, and joins the Sociology department as an Assistant Professor. Her research shifts sociological inquiry from a focus on marginalized identities to those that are socially normative and privileged, addressing impacts of digital media on heterosexuality, gender, and conservative Christianity. Her new book, *Christians Under Covers: Evangelicals and Sexual Pleasure on the Internet* was just released by the University of California Press.

Dr. Debra Hope received her PhD in clinical psychology from SUNY Albany in 1990 and joined the psychology department at UNL that same year. Her current research is concerned with both the assessment and treatment of anxiety disorders and the impact of stigma and discrimination on mental health and mental health services, particularly for LGBT individuals. She is also the director of the Anxiety Disorders Clinic and the Rainbow Clinic, both specialities within the Psychological Consultation Center.

Dr. Luis Othoniel Rosa Rodriguez received his PhD in Latin American literature from Princeton, and joins Modern Languages & Literatures as an Assistant Professor of Spanish. He is currently at work on a project that seeks to theorize ways in which literary practices can participate and contribute to current intellectual debates about the conflict between capitalism and life in our age, giving special attention to feminist theory.
A Celebration in Honor of Chantal Kalisa

In December of 2015, our dear friend, teacher, and colleague, Chantal Kalisa, passed away. In April, we gathered together at St. Mark’s to celebrate her life. Colleagues, students, and friends shared stories and memories in tribute to her wit and brilliant spirit.

Dr. Marie-Chantal Kalisa Memorial Fund

The Dr. Marie-Chantal Kalisa Memorial Fund honors the life and work of Chantal Kalisa, former professor of French and director of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program at UNL.

Chantal Kalisa was born December 5, 1965, in the Republic of Burundi in Africa, and developed an appetite for literature at an early age. She excelled in multitasking, reading as she cleaned house with a broom in one hand and a book in the other. She later described herself as a “child of exile,” having been raised by parents who were exiled from Rwanda prior to the genocide that occurred there in 1994 and claimed a million lives, including many of her relatives.

Chantal came to the United States in 1990 to pursue her graduate education, earning her doctorate from the University of Iowa in 1999. She began her career at UNL in 2001. As a scholar, she researched global women’s rights, transnational feminism, women’s literature, African colonial and post-colonial violence against women, and the Rwandan genocide. Her most recent book, *Violence in Francophone African and Caribbean Women’s Literature*, was published by the University of Nebraska Press in 2009. She also co-edited a book in French on the Rwandan genocide and was often invited to speak at local, national, and international genocide commemorations.

The Dr. Marie-Chantal Memorial Fund will be used for the benefit and support of education in the areas of French/Francophone Studies, Women’s and Gender Studies, Transnational Feminisms, and/or Genocide Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences at UNL. This fund will benefit both undergraduate and graduate students through scholarships and/or research and travel fellowships, especially those studying abroad in Rwanda or Burundi. Special consideration will also be given to high school graduates from Rwanda and Burundi.
Alice Kang (Political Science & Ethnic Studies) co-authored the article, “Just the Facts?: Media Coverage of Female and Male High Court Appointees in Five Democracies,” which appeared in Politics & Gender. She also published a chapter, "Benin: Women Judges Promoting Women's Rights,” in Gender and the Judiciary in Africa. In September, she received the Department of Political Science's Carroll R. McKibbin Distinguished Research Award.

Jennifer McKitrick (Philosophy) presented “Feminist Metaphysics: Can this Marriage be Saved?” at the Society for Analytical Feminism meeting at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell. The paper is forthcoming in the Routledge Companion to Analytical Feminism.

Sidnie White Crawford (Classics & Religious Studies) is the Kingdom Fellow in Religious Studies at the Institute for Research in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for the 2016-2017 academic year. She is currently at work on a book entitled, Scribes, Scrolls and Scripture: The Story of Qumran.

Nora Peterson (Modern Languages) received the College Distinguished Teaching Award in the spring. Her book, Involuntary Confessions in Early Modern France was published this fall by the University of Delaware Press.

Abla Hasan (Modern Languages) will be leading a new study abroad program, “Arabian Caravan” to Morocco in the summer of 2017.

Christina Falci (Sociology) published “A Demands and Resources Approach to Understanding Faculty Turnover Intentions due to Work-Family Balance,” with Megumi Watanabe in the Journal of Family Issues.


Gwendolyn Audrey Foster (English) published “Anatomy of Hell: A Feminist Fairy Tale” in Senses of Cinema and a number of book reviews for Choice.

Amelia Montes (English) published “Rituals of Health” in The Routledge Companion to Latina/o Pop Culture in June.


Radha Balasubramanian (Modern Languages & Global Studies) gave a lecture in New Delhi on the influence of India on Leo Tolstoy and Tolstoy's influence on India at Jawaharlal Nehru University.

Joy Castro (English & Ethnic Studies) guest edited the special Fall 2016 issue, “Race, Racism, & Racialization,” of Brevity: A Journal of Concise Literary Nonfiction with Ira Sukrungruang. She also served as the visiting writer at Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in early October.

Luis Rosa Rodriguez (Modern Languages & Ethnic Studies) published a new book, Comienzos para una estética anarquista: Borges con Macedonio, and recently gave a talk in Santiago, Chile, entitled, "Borges, Macedonio y la imaginacion anarquista” at the Universidad Metropolitana de Ciencias de la Educacion.


Guy Reynolds (English) published “The Surrealist Script(s): Bourgeois, Chadwick, Hiller” in Intersections: Women artists/surrealism/modernism, an edited collection by Patricia Allmer from Manchester University Press.

Katrina Jagodinsky (History) presented a talk on her book, Legal Codes & Talking Trees: Indigenous Women's Sovereignty in the Sonoran and Puget Sound Borderlands, 1854-1946, at Indigo Bridge Books in November as part of the Nebraska Bar Association's book series addressing Native Americans and the law.

Michael James (Textiles, Merchandising, & Fashion Design) was honored at the 2016 Fashion Impact Awards in Omaha for his dedication to textile education and art.

Julia Schleck (English) was awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to co-direct a summer institute for college and university professors. Entitled “Beyond East and West: Exchanges and Encounters in the Early Modern World, 1400-1800” the institute will be held at the University of Indiana next summer.
Faculty/Student Achievements Cont’d

WGS 2016 Scholarship and Award Winners

Karen Dunning Women’s and Gender Studies Scholarly Paper/Creative Activity Awards
Undergraduate Student: Karissa Malone
Graduate Students: Erin Bertram, Alexis Swendener, & Brandi Woodell

Outstanding Student Achievement Award
Sarah Wagelie

Melba Cope Scholarships
Eliot Hines & Astrid Ramsay

Melba Cope Community Associate Award
Casey Tallent

No Limits 2017
University of Nebraska-Kearney
Friday, March 10, 2017
Keynote Speaker: Abby Ferber
“The Politics of Hate: From the Mainstream to the Far Right”
Professor of Women's & Ethnic Studies and Sociology, Colorado University-Colorado Springs

“No Limits” is a regional student academic conference dedicated to crossing boundaries between disciplines and exploring a wide range of women’s and gender issues. All student projects related to women and/or gender issues are welcome.
For the full CFP, see www.unk.edu/academics/womens_studies/no_limits.php.

WGS Welcomes New Campus & Community Associate, Catherine Medici-Thiemann!
Former WGS graduate research assistant Dr. Catherine Medici-Thiemann received her PhD in history from UNL in 2016, and currently teaches women’s and gender studies courses at UNL and UNO. Her research focuses on early modern women’s political agency and challenges traditional narratives and assumptions that have overlooked or actively dismissed women’s agency.

For news, events, & info, go to:
http://www.unl.edu/wgs

Student Achievements


Kristi Carter’s (English & WGS Grad Spec.) chapbook Daughter Shaman was a finalist in Grazing Grain Press’ Chapbook Contest. Her poem, “The Cosmology of the Daughter Who Emerged from an Unrecognizable Place,” was a finalist in the North Carolina Literary Review’s James Applewhite Poetry Prize competition and will be published in 2017. She has other poems in forthcoming issues of Gigantic Sequins and Redactions. She also gave a reading of her work at the Uptown Arts Bar in Kansas City, MO, in June. She plans to present her work on the trope of mother-daughter relationships in 20th century poetics at the Arts of Healing: Cultural Narratives of Trauma Conference at the Universitatea Petrol-Gaze in Ploiesti, Romania.

Carol Tshampil-Diesing (Communication Studies & Grad Spec.) published a book review in the Iowa Journal of Communication and created a workshop to help women who are caregivers for veterans to better communicate with their loved ones for the Women of Warriors Weekend Retreat in Aurora, NE. She also received the Award for Outstanding Leadership and Dedicated Service from the AMVETS Department of Nebraska in June.

Chase Aunspach (Communication Studies & WGS Grad Spec.) received UNL’s Lowe R. and Mavis M. Folsom Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award. His thesis was supervised by former core faculty member, Carly Woods.

Jennifer Rome (Communication Studies & WGS Grad Spec.) was selected for participation in the Organization for Women and Communication Scholars’ Retreat at the University of Colorado, Denver in June.

Maria Nazos (English & WGS Grad Spec.) published her poem, “Cape Cod Pantoum” in the October 31 issue of The New Yorker. She also participated in the Bilingual Reading Series by presenting new translations of Dimitra Kotoula at the American Literary Translators Association Conference. Her second full-length collection of poems, The Sun Will Not Go, was a finalist for the 2016 Akron Poetry Prize.

Jeannette Schollaert (English & WGS Grad Spec.) will present “Building a Rainbow: Feminist Literary Presses and Ntozake Shange’s Poet-Activist Imaginary” at the National Women’s Studies Association Conference on November 11 in Montreal.
Spring 2017 Colloquium

WGS's Spring 2017 Colloquium Series will feature Dr. Carla Pfeffer, author of *Queering Families*, and a student panel of trans-identified students discussing life at UNL as trans students.

Courses of Interest - Spring 2017

**WMNS 4/892: Special Topics in Masculinities:**

**Masculinities in Motion**

This course is an introduction to the study of men and masculinities from multiple perspectives. The objective is to analyze the diversity of masculinities in society and their intersection with other forms of identity such as race, social class, and age. We will also explore how masculinity changes and transforms throughout a man's life due to aspects such as work, family, migration, or participation in the Army. The course will also include other topics such as queer masculinities, men's sexuality, and the body. (Dr. Iker Gonzalez-Allende, M, 3:30-5:50pm)


Taught by one of our newest program faculty members, this course will have two main emphases: 1) Gender and dress (clothing, adornment, hairstyle, etc.) as it intersects with class-based, aged-based, racial, ethnic, cultural, and religious identities; and 2) Notions of beauty, body image, body modification and the beauty/fashion/media industries. (Dr. Claire Nicholas, MW, 4-5:15pm)

Alumni Spotlight: Jules Black, ’13

After graduating with my Bachelor's degree in Sociology and minors in Women’s and Gender Studies and LGBT/Sexuality Studies, I continued honing my research skills through a project management position at the Bureau for Sociological Research. In April 2016, my family and I relocated to Omaha after I accepted a research assistant position with a consulting firm. I joined the evaluation team for the Adolescent Health Project through the Women's Fund of Omaha, which seeks to normalize sexual health conversations and services and increase adolescents’ access to sexual health services to decrease rates of STDs and teen pregnancy in the Omaha area. My education in sexuality and gender studies at UNL definitely aided in securing the position and has provided invaluable insight to the work I am currently doing.

Social Media & Website Updates

WGS has increased its presence on social media through Facebook and Twitter. We post info about department and campus news and events, as well as national news pertaining to gender and sexuality. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @unl_wgs. Changes are coming to the WGS website! Already active is the new layout for the schedule of classes. We are now using an interactive table that allows students to click on the class title for the course description. Future additions to the website will include an updated graduate student directory, a dedicated area for alumni stories and successes, and new information and resources about career opportunities.

Congratulations Graduates!

During the 2015-2016 academic year, WGS celebrated 24 graduating WGS majors, minors, and graduate specialization students as well as LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies minors at our December and May graduation receptions.

Majors: Payton Canku, Morgan Spiehs, Caitlinn Sullivan

Minors: Abigail Ashby, Samantha Burtwistle, Henry Cabrera Calderon, Sarah Cohen, Anna Eckstrom, Nicole Greenwalt, Ann Himes, Grecia Lopez, Coreen Renner, Clarissa Siegel-Causey, Kayla Smith, Paige Thompson, Sarah Wagelie

LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies Minors: Cambria Beirow, Henry Cabrera Calderon, Conner Crist, Anna Eckstrom, Caitlinn Sullivan

Graduate Specializations: Mevi Hova, Katherine Hunt, Catherine Medici-Thiemann, Julia Moore, Jessica Rivera-Mueller, Rachel Schmitz
If you would like to contribute to the Women's and Gender Studies Development Fund, please cut out the above contribution card and mail it to: University of Nebraska Foundation, P.O. Box. 82555, Lincoln, NE 68501-2555.

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