No Limits! 2016: Sexuality & Gender in the Digital Age

On Friday, March 11, the Women’s & Gender Studies Program hosted the annual No Limits Student Research Conference. This year’s theme was “Sexuality & Gender in the Digital Age,” and featured keynote speaker Dr. Meenakshi Gigi Durham, professor of journalism and women’s, gender, and sexuality studies at the University of Iowa. Dr. Durham’s talk, “Pleasure and Danger: Sex, Violence, and Ethics in the Age of Digital Media,” focused on the research from her forthcoming book, *Technosex: Precarious Corporealities, Mediated Sexualities, and the Ethics of Embodied Technics*.

At day’s end, 168 students, faculty, and community members from Nebraska and surrounding states attended some or all of the conference. There were nearly 40 presentations by students from UNL, UNO, and UNK, as well as Hastings College, Nebraska Wesleyan University, the University of South Dakota, Kansas State University, and the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Celebrating Our Graduates

The Spring Graduation and Awards Reception is Monday, April 25, at 3:30pm in the Unity Room of the Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center.

See the full list of Summer and Fall 2016 WGS course offerings on our website: unl.edu/wgs

Fall 2016 Course of Interest

**ENGL 413/813: Film: “Moms, Maids, & Sex Workers - Redefining the Female Hero”**

Dr. Gwendolyn Audrey Foster, W 1:30-4:40, RVB 123

When a male takes a bullet for another he is described as a “hero”; however, when women are heroic it often goes unnoticed or devalued. Cinematic female heroes are not just sexy women in tights with guns. More interesting are the unsung women heroics who go unmentioned in life - as much as they go unheralded in films. In this class, we will redefine the female hero - particularly women of the underclass, refugee women, women of color, sex workers, domestics, gender-nonconformists, and single mothers - in global films.

Faculty Recognized for Contributions to Students

Three WGS faculty were recognized by the UNL Teaching Council and UNL Parents Association for their contributions to students: Carole Levin (History), Victoria Smith (History and Ethnic Studies), and Abla Hasan (Modern Languages and Literatures).
**Awards and Achievements**

Rachel Schmitz (Sociology, WGS Grad Spec.) recently published two articles in *Children and Youth Services Review* and *The Journal of Men's Studies*. She has also accepted a position as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas-Rio Grande Valley for Fall 2016.

Kristi Carter (English, WGS Grad Spec.) recently presented her poetry at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference, for which she received a travel award from WGS, and the Indiana University Interdisciplinary Conference in Bloomington, IN. Her poem, “Sudden as Spring,” will appear in *Nimrod International Journal* later this year.


Gwendolyn Audrey Foster (English) recently published *Disruptive Feminisms: Raced, Gendered, and Classed Bodies in Film* with Palgrave/Macmillan. She was also awarded a Willa Cather Professorship of English in April.

Kayla Smith (WGS minor) presented a paper at the American Sociological Association’s Annual Meeting, “What is Science? Exploring middle school perceptions of the Nature of Science and Science Identity.” She was also recently accepted to the PhD program in sociology at UNL.

Brandi Woodell (Sociology, WGS Grad Spec.) recently presented, with Alexis Swendener, “Predictors and Consequences of Family Support Among Racial and Sexual Minorities” at the Sociologists for Women in Society Conference. An article, co-authored with Emily Kazyak (Sociology & WGS), has also been accepted for publication in *Sexuality & Culture*.

Emily Kazyak (Sociology & WGS) recently presented a paper at the Midwest Sociological Society Conference. She was also interviewed about her research regarding Nebraska public opinion on gay rights on Nebraska Public Radio in March. With Brandi Woodell (Sociology, WGS Grad Spec.), she co-authored an article that has been accepted for publication in *Sexuality & Culture*.

Sidnie White Crawford (Classics & Religious Studies) has been awarded the Kingdon Fellowship in Religious Studies at the Institute for Research in Humanities at the University of Wisconsin-Madison for the 2016-2017 year.

Christina L. Ivey (Sociology, WGS Grad Spec.) accepted a position at Boise State University in the Department of Communication beginning in Fall 2016.

Amy Arellano (Sociology, WGS Grad Spec.) accepted a position at Boise State University, where she will be working as the Assistant Director of Forensics. Amy will also be teaching classes within the Department of Communication.

**Awards and Achievements**

Pat Tetrault (LGBTQA+ Resource Center) and Stephanie Blair provided a workshop with CEUs at the American College Personnel Association Convention in March. Pat also received the Coalition for LGBT Awareness Award for Public Service at the Convention.

Maureen Honey (English) has been awarded the 2016 Annis Chaikin Sorensen Award for Distinguished Teaching in the Humanities.

Alice Kang (Political Science & Ethnic Studies) recently co-authored and published an article with Josephine Dawuni (Howard University) in *Africa Today*.

Helen Moore (Sociology) was awarded the 2016 American Sociological Association Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award, an award that recognizes outstanding teaching and teaching-related activities over the course of one’s career.

Laura Madeline Wiseman (WGS) presented at AWP and the North American Review Bicentennial Creative Writing and Literature Conference. Her collection, *An Apparently Impossible Adventure* and her collaborative book *Leaves of Absence*, with artist Sally Deskins, were published earlier this year. She received an honorable mention for her essay “Seven Cities of Good” from *Pacific Literary Review’s 2015 Creative Nonfiction Contest*, and her book *Some Fatal Effects of Curiosity and Disobedience* was nominated for the 2016 Elgin Award.

Emily Kazyak (Sociology & WGS) and Maureen Honey (English) were each awarded the 2016 Dean’s Award for Excellence in Graduate Education from Graduate Studies. This is the most prestigious faculty honor awarded by the Office of Graduate Studies. This award recognizes faculty members whose dedication to graduate students and commitment to attentive and rigorous graduate mentoring have made a significant contribution to the advancement of graduate education at UNL.

Catherine Medici-Thiemann (History, WGS Grad Spec.) presented papers at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting in January and the Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting in April. Both papers were part of panels sponsored by the the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women.

Carly Woods (Communication Studies & WGS) directed Chase Aunspach’s award-winning thesis, which won the 2016 Folsom Distinguished Master’s Thesis Award from the UNL Office of Graduate Studies.

Joann Ross (Athletics) recently served on the Chancellor Search Advisory Committee. She also chaired and commented on a panel at the Annual Missouri Conference in History.

Grace Bauer’s (English) collection of poems, *The Women At The Well*, is forthcoming this spring from Stephen F. Austin State University Press. This 20th Anniversary reissue includes an introduction by Kelly Cherry and an updated addendum from Grace.