



Women's *and* Gender Studies

From the Director: Greetings from Women's & Gender Studies!



Chantal Kalisa,
WGS Director



Julia Schleck,
WGS Acting Director

This year's letter from the director will be a joint one, as this year's directorship was shared by Chantal Kalisa (Spring 2012) and Julia Schleck (Fall 2012). Julia is filling in for Chantal while she is on leave. Chantal will be back full time in January!

As you know, we had a quite successful spring, injecting masculinities studies in both our curriculum and our Colloquium Series. Dr. Jan Deeds, Director of UNL's Women's Center taught the very first "Introduction to Men's Studies." She collaborated with us to bring Michael Kimmel on campus to deliver a well-attended lecture. In April, UNL scholars Iker González-Allende (Modern Languages) and James Garza (History) as well as Jan Deeds completed the series with a roundtable panel discussion. We also co-sponsored Marina Camboni's lecture that focused on the use of Walt Whitman's vision of "manliness."

Following last year's successful search for a joint hire with Communication Studies, this fall we were able officially to welcome Carly Woods as a new core faculty member. Welcome, Carly! She joins Chantal (WGS & Modern Languages), Rose Holz (WGS), Basuli Deb (WGS & English) and Emily Kazyak (WGS & Sociology) as part of our growing group of core faculty. In the next year, the core faculty as well as our Advisory Board's discussions will be focusing on modifying our by-laws in order to reflect our growth. We have also identified our priorities in curriculum development, undergraduate and graduate student recruitment, and ensuring continued support of program faculty on whom we continue to depend heavily.

Our Fall Colloquium Series was dedicated to exploring "Reproductive Issues: Past and Present." Drawing large audiences each time, it featured presentations by Rose Holz (WGS) on the history of commercial birth control clinics, by Karina Shreffler (Oklahoma State University) and Julia McQuillan (Sociology) on sterilization and its intersections with race, and by Kathleen Lacy (English) on pregnancy and childbirth in African American women's history and literature. This theme relates well to that of our upcoming No Limits Conference, "Science and Gender Matters," and shows how our work in this area of women's and gender studies continues to deepen.

Julia and Chantal wish to highlight Associate Director Dr. Rose's accomplishments for the last few years where she has greatly contributed to the growth of this program. This past year, she was awarded the Distinguished College Teaching Award, she published an excellent book, *The Birth Control Clinic in a Marketplace World*, and is doing an outstanding job, especially when between Directors. Thanks, Rose!

On a personal note, Julia would like to extend her sincere thanks to Rose, Glenda, Catherine, and Sam for all of the work they did this fall as she inexpertly tried to step into Chantal's shoes for a few months. For taking on extra tasks, for their patience, for their warm friendliness, and for their striking ability to keep a straight face regardless of what she said or did, she would like publically to express her admiration and gratitude. Chantal wants to thank you for all the support she has been given during an unexpected leave and is looking forward to working with you in the coming year.

WGS Colloquium Series:

“Whitman’s *Leaves*, Gamberale’s *Foglie d’erba* and the Language of Futurism and Fascism”

Marina Camboni

Allysha Martin, (PhD Student, Modern Languages and Literatures, WGS Graduate Specialization)

On January 18, 2012, Dr. Marina Camboni, professor of American literature at the University of Macerata, Italy, gave a talk as part of the Women’s and Gender Studies Colloquium Series on “Masculinities.” She described the process through which Walt Whitman’s nineteenth-century collection of poems, *Leaves of Grass*, was translated and adapted in Italy during the first decades of the twentieth century. She focused primarily on how translators and readers, Benito Mussolini among them, fixated on Whitman’s idea of the “Superior Man,” which then transformed into the pre-Fascist idea of the “New Man,” a being more connected to nature and his primitive instincts.

Camboni argued that this transition from the “Superior Man” to the “New Man” throws ideals of masculinity into question because these ideals evolve. Furthermore, she demonstrated that this very evolution highlights how translators manipulate language to perpetuate their own concepts of gender within a broader socio-political framework and that such differences, especially across geographical and cultural borders, mark gender as a social construct.

Also as part of her visit, Camboni participated in a brown bag lunch discussion about Transnational Feminism.



WGS Colloquium Series:

“Guyland: The Perilous World Where Boys Become Men”

Michael Kimmel

Henry Cabrera (Senior, Political Science, History, and WGS)

On March 1, 2012, Michael Kimmel, noted scholar of gender and masculinity, gave a lecture at UNL as part of the Women’s and Gender Studies Colloquium Series on “Masculinities.” Professor Kimmel spoke about his book *Guyland*, for which he interviewed more than 400 young men ages 16-26. Kimmel argued that these youth are not transitioning directly from childhood to adulthood but rather undergoing “emerging adulthood,” which Kimmel called “Guyland.”

According to Kimmel, while we have seen massive changes in women’s lives in the last forty years, still central to young men is what they think manhood means – doing nothing “feminine.” For example, Dr. Kimmel argued that the young male dialogue of “bros before hoes” connotes bonds of brotherhood and a feeling of superiority over women. Likewise, “that’s so gay,” or being called a “faggot” or a “sissy,” implies that homosexuality has no place in masculinity. Kimmel noted these terms are common in the lyrics of rapper Eminem who said in an MTV interview that the “lowest degrading thing you can say to a man when you’re battling him is call him a ‘faggot’ and try to take away his manhood.”

Professor Kimmel also talked about privilege and men’s sense of entitlement. He described a talk show in which he participated (“A Black Woman Stole My Job”) where white men had become angry because they felt a black woman had displaced them. What was most disturbing was the “my” in the show’s title. As Kimmel asked, what prompted these white men to feel that this job was “theirs” in the first place? However, perhaps my favorite quote of the evening was this: “White men in America are the beneficiaries of the largest affirmative action program in the world. It’s called the history of the world.”



WGS Colloquium Series:

“Roundtable Discussion: Incorporating Masculinities into Women’s and Gender Studies”

Kathleen Lacey (PhD Student, English, WGS graduate Specialization)

For the final event in the WGS Colloquium Series on “Masculinities,” on April 3, 2012 a panel convened to discuss the increasing importance of including the study of masculinities in gender studies programs. Panelists included Dr. Jan Deeds, director of the Women’s Center and instructor of the new course, “Introduction to Men’s Studies,” Dr. Iker González-Allende, associate professor of Spanish, and Dr. James Garza, associate professor of History and Ethnic Studies. Rose Holz, associate director of the Women’s and Gender Studies program, moderated the panel.

One of the main worries with incorporating masculinities into the curriculum is the concern that such a focus may be regressive; much of human history and thought has been told through the point of view of men. However, when we understand that men also have gender and gendered experiences, we can begin to analyze the ways that various ideas about masculinity affect men’s behavior. Not to be confused with male studies, which seeks to explain men’s behaviors from a purely biological standpoint, men’s studies is a pro-feminist approach to the study of masculinity. It aims, through a multiplicity of perspectives and disciplines, to understand how men perceive themselves as men and what we can do to challenge rigid definitions of masculinity.

Because many educators strive to include a gender lens in their teaching, no matter the subject, panelists discussed how this has come up in their own classes. The study of other cultures, for example, yields different notions of masculinity. What is clear is that there is an ideal masculinity, and that much of men’s behaviors are the result of attempting to achieve this ideal. Understanding men’s behaviors and challenging the narrow confines of the “man box” helps improve not only the richness of men’s lives but also their empathy for and relationships with women.



WGS Colloquium Series:

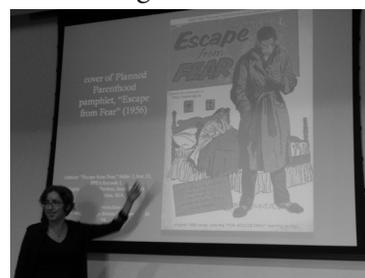
“Whose Business Is It Anyway? Or, How the American Birth Control League Waged Battle Against Commercial Birth Control Clinics in the 1930s” - Rose Holz

Brandon Locke (MA Student, History, WGS Graduate Specialization)

On September 27, Dr. Rose Holz delivered a talk as part of the Women’s and Gender Studies Fall 2012 Colloquium Series, “Reproductive Issues: Past and Present.” The talk drew upon a portion of her recently published book, *The Birth Control Clinic in a Marketplace World*.

Holz focused on the 1930s, a crucial time for the development of both charity and private birth control clinics. Because birth control was still illegal, activists like Margaret Sanger scrambled to gain legitimacy in a society that was not completely open to discussions about sexuality and contraception. At the same time, birth control manufacturers were competing to gain a share in the newly reinvigorated bootleg marketplace. Holz argued that Sanger’s charity movement attempted to narrow the definition of birth control in an attempt to distance itself from past radicalism and establish itself in the conservative 1930s. This, Holz explained, led the American Birth Control League (ABCL) to join forces with the American Medical Association (AMA) in attempting to discredit commercial providers who may have given birth control a bad reputation.

Dr. Holz framed this struggle through the story of Rufus Riddlesbarger, a birth control manufacturer, and a woman known only as “R.H.S.,” a spy from the AMA. R.H.S.’s report, and others like it, revealed that the commercial clinic provided services to unwed women, gave detailed advice about birth control and sex, and may even have provided abortions. This information was then used by the AMA and the charity birth control movement to accuse the private marketplace of being immoral, saying it encouraged illicit activity in order to profit from it. By combining the world of commercial birth control with charity, Holz’s research sheds new light on the early efforts to re-legalize birth control in America.



WGS Colloquium Series:

“Surgical Sterilization, Race and Regret: Contemporary Patterns”

Karina Shreffler and Julia McQuillan

Julia Moore (PhD Student, Communication Studies)

On October 25, Dr. Karina Shreffler presented her research with Dr. Julia McQuillan on race and surgical sterilization in the United States at the second talk of the Women’s and Gender Studies Fall 2012 Colloquium Series, “Reproductive Issues: Past and Present.” The presentation offered a fresh perspective on our cultural assumptions about why and how women become sterilized, including challenging the common misconception that women seek out sterilization simply due to the fact that they are done having children. According to Dr. Shreffler, most women reported reproductive/chronic health issues or voluntary reasons for becoming sterilized; however, Asian and Native American were more likely to cite pressure as a reason for sterilization. The outcome of sterilizations are also worth noting; data showed that many sterilized women and couples regret the procedure, with 26% desiring more children and 10% wishing for a sterilization reversal. Notably, Black and Hispanic women were overrepresented among women who desired a reversal.

Given the distribution of reasons and regret across races, this research highlights how intersectionality comes into play in “choice” and access to medical care, where race and a variety of other social factors interact to produce differing sterilization outcomes. Dr. Shreffler concluded the talk by stating that trends in sterilization may be due to “reproductive stratification,” which includes medical bias and health disparities, ultimately calling for future research to address how and from where women of different racial groups perceive pressure from doctors, family, and others. The talk elicited a lively question and answer session that drew on differing disciplinary backgrounds. Many audience members suggested directions for future research, including mixed-methods and historical approaches to the study of race and sterilization.



WGS Colloquium Series:

“‘This Giving Birth’: The Politics of Pregnancy and Childbirth in African American Women’s History and Literature”

Kathleen Lacey

SaRena Freet (Junior, WGS Major)

November 12, 2012, Women’s and Gender Studies concluded their Fall 2012 Colloquium Series, “Reproductive Issues: Past and Present.” Kathleen Lacey, a PhD Candidate in English and Women’s and Gender Studies, presented “This Giving Birth”: The Politics of Pregnancy and Childbirth in African American Women’s History and Literature. Lacey’s research is in its beginning stages, but it is significant in that it draws attention to the injustices against pregnant women of color through historical and literature linkages. She began her talk with a brief history of the inadequate treatment of African Americans in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and the racist science that facilitated their continued abuse and exploitation, including but not limited to the Tuskegee syphilis experiment, “Hottentot Venus,” “freak bodies” displayed at the St. Louis World’s Fair, and “slave breeding” on white plantations.

Lacey then proceeded with a close reading and interpretation of African American women’s fiction, focusing on Sherley Anne Williams’s *Desa Rose*, Nella Larsen’s *Quicksand*, and Sapphire’s *Push*. All of these stories hold common threads of exploitation, abuse, and acts of resistance but maintain the individual experiences of each person. Lacey emphasized the racial injustice that is systemic due the social and capitalist system that does not provide support for all. What struck me the most about this presentation was the continued stereotypes and misrepresentation of black women and the welfare system that are still present today. Throughout the presentation, Lacey drew attention to the racial injustices that are still in practice in not only the medical field but also the economic system. Continuing these areas of research and having more such WGS colloquium talks are important in raising awareness about these racial and social inequalities.



Faculty and Student Achievements

Grace Bauer (English) has published poems in recent issues of *Blood Lotus*, *Ploughshares*, *Terrain*, *New Madrid*, *Platte Valley Review*, and *Phoenix in a Jacuzzi*. Her poem, "The Rhetoric of Oz," was selected for inclusion in *Women In Disguise*.

Joy Castro's (English) novel, *Hell or High Water*, appeared in July from St. Martin's Press. Translation rights have been purchased in Germany and France, and the book has been optioned for television or film. Her collection of personal essays, *Island of Bones*, was published in September. She taught creative writing for five weeks this summer at the University of Seville in Spain.

Sidnie White Crawford (Classics & Religious Studies) is a Visiting Scholar at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Oxford University during Fall 2012, where she is studying scribal traditions in the Dead Sea Scrolls. In July she became the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the W. F. Albright Institute of Archaeological Research in Jerusalem.

Margaret Jacobs (History) had three new articles come out in 2012: "Breaking and Remaking Families: The Fostering and Adoption of Native American Children in Non-Native Families in the American West,

1880-1940" in *On the Borders of Love and Power: Families and Kinship in the Intercultural West*; "Diverted Mothering among American Indian Domestic Servants, 1920-1940" in *Indigenous Women's Work: From Labor to Activism*; and "Home-Making in the Sacramento Mountains: The Photographs of G.E. Miller and the Blazer Collection" in *Out of the Shadows: The Women of Southern New Mexico*.

Emily Kazyak's (Sociology and WGS) article, "Midwest or Lesbian? Gender, Rurality, and Sexuality," will be published in *Gender & Society*. An online PDF version is now available on the G&S website.

Carole Levin (History) was Shakespeare Festival Guest Scholar-in-Residence at Grand Valley State University in Michigan, where she visited classes and gave the keynote address to the Shakespeare Conference, which was also part of the festival. The title of her keynote was "Queen Margaret in Shakespeare and the Chronicles: She-wolf or Heroic Spirit."

Christin J. Mamiya (Art and Art History) was awarded the Gladys Lux Arts Education Award at the 2012 Mayor's Arts Awards. The award recognizes special initiatives in or dedication to arts education and is sponsored by the Gladys Lux Foundation.

Julia Schleck (English) had two articles come out in book collections this year, which reflect her continuing interest in traveling, print history, and the history of knowledge production, "Forming the Captivity of Thomas Saunders: Hakluyt's Editorial Practices and their Ideological Effects" in *Richard Hakluyt and Travel Writing in Early Modern Europe* and "Forming Knowledge: Natural Philosophy and English Travel Writing" in *Travel Narratives, the New Science and Literary Discourse, 1569-1750*.

Carly Woods (Communication Studies and WGS) was awarded the Frederick B. Artz Summer Research Grant from the Oberlin College Archives Summer Scholars Program to support research for "Creating Rhetorical Spaces: Literary and Debating Societies at Oberlin, 1835-1900." She also published "(Im)mobile Metaphors: Toward an Intersectional Rhetorical History" in Karma Chávez and Cindy Griffin's edited volume, *Standing in the Intersection: Feminist Voices, Feminist Practices in Communication Studies*.

Student / Alumni Achievements

Brandon Locke (History/WGS) was appointed Project Manager of UNL's History Harvest, a digital archive of historical artifacts cultivated from communities around

Nebraska. He was also elected Chair of the North American Coordinating Committee of the Right to Research Coalition, an international student-based organization that promotes Open Access policies and educates current and future faculty on the benefits of open policies. He traveled to Budapest, Hungary, in July 2012 for the Right to Research Coalition's General Assembly.

Catherine Medici-Thiemann's (History/WGS) paper, "To Persuade and Connect: Mary Sidney's Essential Role in Henry Sidney's Irish Rule," was published in *A Mirror for Medieval and Renaissance Studies: Selected Proceedings of the Newberry Center for Renaissance Studies 2012 Multidisciplinary Graduate Student Conference*.

Rachel Schmitz (Sociology/WGS) was awarded an Ogle Fellowship for the Summer of 2012 from the Sociology Department to continue research for her Master's thesis entitled, "Tentative Transitions and Gendered Pathways: Exploring the Revolving Door of Youth Homelessness."

Briony Zlomke (WGS Grad Specialization) was awarded the Advance Opportunity Scholarship from the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Library and Information Sciences.

Science and Gender Matters: No Limits 2013

On March 1 and 2, 2013, UNL will host the annual No Limits conference. This year's theme is "Science and Gender Matters," which was inspired by the newest WGS focus area, Science and Gender.

This year's keynote speaker will be Janet Kourany, associate professor at Notre Dame University and feminist philosopher of science. In her talk, "But What Happens When the Scientists Are Women?," Kourany will address the persistent concern that science will be less sound if women are allowed to conduct it because women are not as analytically gifted as men. Kourany will challenge us to move beyond this assumption in a variety of ways. Kourany will also point to the complexity of women's participation in science.

In addition, WGS faculty member and associate professor of Psychology Sarah Gervais will lead a panel discussion, "Applying Gender to Psychology Research: Helping Students Create New Knowledge." Students will describe their experiences working with Professor Gervais' research team, which applies gender analysis to psychology research. They will begin by sharing details about their individual projects, which include such topics as objectification, obesity stigma, and self-sexualization. The roundtable will then proceed to an informal Q & A with the audience. In this open conversation, students may discuss topics such as their most interesting discoveries, how they first got involved with the project, and the opportunities and challenges that come from research.

While our theme is "Science and Gender Matters," papers and panels can address a wide range of women's and gender themes. We invite proposals from undergraduates, graduate students, and recent graduates on any topic from any discipline related to women's issues, lives, histories or cultures; feminism; or women's and gender studies. Creative writing, visual arts, film, music, performances, workshops, and academic papers are all welcome. The submission deadline is Friday, January 18, 2013.

This year's conference will take place at the Nebraska Unions. Student panels on Friday, March 1, will be held at the Nebraska East Campus Union. Student panels and the roundtable discussion on Saturday, March 2, will be held at the Nebraska City Campus Union. The keynote talk on Friday will be at the Sheldon Museum of Art.

For more information about No Limits and for the Call For Papers, please see the No Limits page on the WGS website, unl.edu/womenssp/events/nolimits.

Spring 2012 Special Topics Courses

This spring WGS will offer two special topics courses. For further information about these courses, please see the course description booklet on the WGS website.

WMNS 498/898 Section 1

Jan Deeds

Introduction to Men's Studies

This course is an introduction to the field of men's studies from its beginnings in the 1970s to the present. Drawing from multiple disciplines, we will examine the history of men's movements, the definitions of masculinities, and the intersection of masculine identity with race/ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender performance, age, and other characteristics. Class will include readings and discussion, films, guest speakers, and other experiential activities.

WMNS 498 Section 2

Dara Murray

Sexuality and the Internet: Power, Participation, and Privacy

Students will explore the powerful role that digital culture plays in contemporary women's presentation and negotiation of sexuality. In considering how users make meaning about themselves, their social relations, and their world, the class will look at different online contexts and practices, including social media (blogging, vlogging), gaming, user-generated content, and fan fiction. Students will consider the ways in which women (as cultural producers and cultural intermediaries) across the world offer complex understandings of individual power, participation, and privacy. This course will challenge students to reflect critically on the (re)production of identity politics as related to issues of inequality, oppression, and power dynamics in our global new media age.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Last year, WGS celebrated 31 graduating majors, minors, and graduate specialization students.

Majors:

Katherine Brimager, Adelle Burk, Amanda Colborn, Arianne Holland, Jason Lucht, Kylie Magnuson, Sarah Whitt

Minors:

Madison Barry, Kylee Britzman, Mara Dahlstedt, Allison Fortkamp, Michelle Haikalis, Meghan Hepburn, Vincent Marasco, Sarah Miller, Michael Milone, Jihan Najjar, Carly Persell

LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies Minors:

Michael Booton, Breanna Bussel, Joshua Erlewine, Jennifer Florimon, Aaron Hurtado, Amy Juliano, Jade Novotny, Magie Wieneke, Amy Vanderpool

Graduate Specializations:

Regina Flowers, Amber Harris Leichner, Megan Gannon, Sinduja Sathiyaseelan, Steven Soebbing

Welcome New Faculty

This fall Carly Woods joined the WGS core faculty. Woods holds a joint appointment with the department of Communication Studies.

Dr. Woods received her PhD in Communication Studies with a Certificate in the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality from the University of Pittsburgh. She studies the intersecting rhetorics of identity, power, and difference in public argument and address. She is currently working on a book project that examines debating societies as gendered sites of citizenship and rhetorical education in nineteenth- and twentieth-century public culture.

In the past, Carly has taught the Thompson Scholars section of WMNS 101: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies as well as graduate and undergraduate courses on Gender and Communication. Woods will act as a coordinator for the many different sections of WMNS 101.

In 2012 Susan Fritz, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, became a WGS Program Faculty member. Fritz has a long history of research, teaching, and outreach in gender issues. She enjoys a national reputation among agricultural educators for her leadership and gender expertise.

Stacey Waite, Assistant Professor in English, also became a WGS Program Faculty member in 2012. Waite is an award winning poet and her areas of interest include Queer Theory/Queer Pedagogies, Teaching of Writing, and Creative Writing/Poetry, and Feminist and Gender Studies.

WGS also welcomed Brie Owen, Lecturer in English, as a new Campus and Community Associate. Owen's interests include Children's Literature and Culture, Histories of Adolescence and Childhood, and Gender Studies/Queer Theory.

The program is also pleased to welcome Tamy Burnett as a Campus and Community Associate. Burnett is the Academic Learning Communities Coordinator for UNL. She received her PhD in English with a specialization in Women's and Gender Studies from UNL and has been a WGS instructor for many years.



Woods

Waite

Burnett

Fritz

Owen

SAGE and Students for Choice Update

WGS's two student groups, Students Advocating Gender Equity (SAGE) and Students for Choice, have begun organizing for the 2012-2013 academic year. Group members participated in the SlutWalk in October and are planning to help Planned Parenthood's phone bank.

The groups are also looking to partner with local non-profit groups and student organizations to coordinate campus events. In addition, they have been involved with the Progressive Student Collation to further these partnership goals.

Meetings are held Thursdays at 3pm at NuVibe, a cafe in downtown Lincoln. If you are interested in joining the group or would like more information, please see the Student Groups page on the WGS website, <http://www.unl.edu/womenssp/about/sage>.

For news, events, & info, go to:
<http://www.unl.edu/womenssp>

WGS 2012 Scholarship and Award Winners

Karen Dunning Women's and Gender Studies Scholarly Paper/Creative Activity Awards

Undergraduates: Lauren Schaal and Sarah Whitt

Graduates: Jessy Ohl and Jenna Stephenson-Abetz

Graduate Honorable Mention: Steven Soebbing

Outstanding Achievement Award

Sarah Whitt

Melba Cope and Tannehill-Evans Scholarships

Catherine Tran

Melba Cope Community Associate Award

Susan Powers Alexander

Spring 2013 Colloquium Series

The theme for WGS's Spring 2013 Colloquium Series will be "Science and Gender Matters." The series will be partially held in conjunction with events from the No Limits conference. These include the March 1 keynote by Janet Kourany, "But What Happens When the Scientists Are Women?," and the March 2 roundtable panel discussion, "Applying Gender to Psychology Research: Helping Students Create New Knowledge."

WGS Program Faculty member Jeanette Jones will also present a colloquium talk on science, gender, and race.

Please see the colloquium series page on the WGS website for more information, <http://www.unl.edu/womenssp/events/colloquium>.

In honor of the 30th anniversary of Women's and Gender Studies at UNL

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