Women & Gender Studies

THE MATRIX
Academic Year
2015-2017
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SAVE THE DATES

**Fear 2 Freedom**
September 19, 2017  4:30PM-6:00PM  Dewberry Hall
Fear 2 Freedom is a global non-profit dedicated to redeem and restore the lives of those affected by sexual assault, bringing them hope and healing. Our goal is to raise awareness of sexual abuse, bring change through vigilance and healing through compassion. We are in the business of “restoring joy” to those who have been sexually assaulted, encouraging them on their own journey from fear to freedom.

**Take Back the Night**
October 3, 2017  7:00PM  JC North Plaza / Clock Tower
Take Back the Night is an annual gathering held during Turn Off the Violence Week in support of the end of sexual and domestic violence and symbolizing a safe place for all. The event is an internationally held march to celebrate survivors of sexual assault domestic violence and understand the impact that rape, other sexual assaults, and dating/partner violence have on our own community and around the world.

**Fall for the Book - Author: Susan Bordo**
**Book: The Destruction of Hillary Clinton**
October 11, 2017  1:30PM  George's 3rd Floor, Johnson Center
Susan Bordo, professor of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Kentucky will discuss her book, *The Destruction of Hillary Clinton*, in which she outlines this destruction in three key areas: gendered stereotypes and double standards, political forces, and media influence. The Forward of her book “offers a clear analysis of how a candidate who received the overwhelming majority of the popular vote, did not win the presidency.”

**Fall for the Book - Author: Janet Mock**
**Book: Surpassing Certainty: What My Twenties Taught Me**
October 12, 2017  2:00PM  Harris Theatre
Janet Mock, New York Times bestselling author of *Redefining Realness*, TV host, speaker, and trans advocate will speak on navigating her twenties without a roadmap. Her newest memoir, *Surpassing Certainty: What My Twenties Taught Me* traces her journey of becoming an adult: moving out, falling in and out of love, and working her way up in the magazine industry. Her work has appeared in publications such as Marie Claire, The New Yorker, and Allure.
History of *The Matrix*

Though not confirmed by original sources, rumor has it that the Matrix was chosen as the name of the Women and Gender Studies newsletter in order to reflect the concept of the “matrix of domination” developed by black feminist scholars Patricia Hill Collins, Bonnie Thorton Dill and Maxine Baca Zinn.

In short, the Matrix of Domination was developed as a concept to represent the fact that in order to truly understand oppression we must understand its counter position of privilege. Moving beyond the decades old tradition of focusing only on the oppressed (African Americans, women, the poor, LGBTQ), the concept of the Matrix of Domination forces us to confront two key truths: that oppression is created by privilege and that we all occupy some statuses of privilege, regardless of our statuses as oppressed. Providing a framework for understanding oppression as an outcome of privilege forces us to examine the role that individual actors and institutions play in both creating oppression and benefiting from it. For example, during slavery, it was masters who benefited economically from slave labor, and thus they had a stake in maintaining the system of the slave plantation. Similarly, the US system of “parental leave”---an interesting term given the fact that though eligible, few men ever take it---benefits men by removing, at least temporarily, women as competition in the labor market. In fact, regardless of whether an individual woman may take parental leave, the presence of this policy results in hiring and wage discrimination against women, which in turn benefits men. Today’s ferocious debates about gay marriage provide a contemporary illustration of this as well.

Second, the concept of the Matrix of Domination challenges all of us to examine the ways in which we hold positions of privilege and benefit from these. For example, only 25% of all Americans earn a college education. Thus, a college student who is a racial/ethnic minority, a woman, identifying as LGBTQ, and Jewish, who grew up in poverty holds at least one status of privilege: education! Additionally, she likely holds others, including being able-bodied and being a citizen of the richest country in the world. The power of the concept of the matrix of domination lies in its ability to take off the blinders and expose the complexities of power, privilege, and oppression as it operates in individual lives, in institutionalized policies and practices, and in the creation of hegemonic ideologies.

So within these pages is our story and accomplishments for the 2015-2017 academic year.
Women and Gender Studies Center
Johnson Center 240K

The Women and Gender Studies Center bridges academic coursework with student development, leadership, and coalition building. Our mission is to educate the George Mason University community about gender issues and emphasize women and gender studies scholarship and research. We strive to partner with academic programs, University Life units, and the Northern Virginia community to provide learning experiences that educate about gender issues; to provide a safe as possible space for people of all race, gender, sexuality ability, and religious backgrounds.
List of Events
2015-2016

Welcome Week Pizza Party
Take Back the Night Information Session
Transnational Women Writers Reading Group
Graduate Student and Alumni Happy Hour
Cultures of Dispossession Lecture: Pregnant on Arrival: The
Making of the Illegal Immigrant
Fear 2 Freedom
Take Back the Night
Finals Study Break Pizza Party
Make Your Own Holiday Card Study Break
Fun Coloring Study Break
Social Justice and Literature Reading Group
Women and Gender Studies Annual Breakfast
Sojourner Truth Lecture with Dr. Nekima Levy-Pounds
Women Writing Now: A Discussion of Contemporary Women
Writers
Make Your Own Damn Sandwich - Equal Pay Event
God Loves Uganda Film Screening
Pride is Classy
Women’s History Month Open Mic Night
It’s Sweet to be a Grad Student
Women and Gender Studies Spring Gala
Equal Pay Day: Salary Negotiation Workshop
Politics of Gender and Justice: The Intersection of Identities and
Disciplines - 3rd Annual WGST Gender Research Conference

List of Events
2016-2017

Welcome Week Pizza Party
Fear 2 Freedom
Fall for the Book: Earl Smith & Tim McGettigan
Book: A Formula for Eradicating Racism: Debunking White
Supremacy
Fall for the Book: Patricia Hill Collins
Book: Intersectionality
Fall for the Book: Angela Hattery & Earl Smith
Book: Gender, Power and Violence
Fall for the Book: Barbara Amaya
Book: Nobody’s Girl
Take Back the Night
Deconstructing Masculinities and Violence
The Goddess Diaries
Race Matters @ Mason
Create Your Healthy Sex Box: World AIDS Day
Two Faculty Brown Bags
Finals Week Study Break Pizza Party: Mean Girls Screening and
Pizza
Global Inauguration Conversation
Let Them Play (Get Paid) - Women & Sports Event
W.E.B. DuBois Lecture with Eduardo Bonilla-Silva
Women & Gender Studies Annual Breakfast
Sojourner Truth Lecture: Reimagined
Women’s History Month Kick Off Ice Cream
Women Writing Now: A Discussion of Contemporary Women
Writers
Women’s History Month Screening: Profiled
Women’s History Month Trivia
Women’s History Month Open Mic Night
Make Your Own Damn Sandwich - An Equal Pay Event
Politics of Gender and Justice: The Intersection of Identities and
Disciplines - 4th Annual WGST Gender Research Conference
Lavender and WGST Graduation
Final Study Break with Pizza and Mean Girls
Signature Events
Academic Year: 2015-2017

Fear to Freedom

Take Back the Night

What causes rape?

☐ Flirting
☐ Drinking
☐ Outfit
☐ Rapist

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Sojourner Truth Lecture
Spring 2015
Dr. Nekima Levy-Pounds
Black Lives Matter

Dr. Levy-Pounds is a professor of law, civil rights attorney, and a nationally recognized expert on a range of civil rights and social justice issues at the intersections of race, public policy, economic justice, public education, juvenile justice, and the criminal justice system.

W.E.B. DuBois Lecture
Spring 2017
Dr. Eduardo Bonilla-Silva
The Diversity Blues: Toward a New Diversity Agenda at Historically White Colleges & Universities

Dr. Bonilla-Silva is trained in class analysis, political sociology, and sociology of development (globalization) and for the last 20 years he has worked in the area of race. He is the author of numerous books which includes; Racism without Racists: Color Blind Racism and The Persistence of Racial Inequality in American.
Fall for the Book
Featured Authors
Academic Year 2015-2017

Leora Tanenbaum
*I Am Not a Slut: Slut-Shaming in the Age of the Internet*

Holly Kearl
*Stop Global Street Harassment: Growing Activism around the World*

Tim McGgettigan & Earl Smith
*A Formula for Eradicating Racism: Debunking White Supremacy*

Barbara Amaya
*Nobody's Girl: A Memoir of Lost Innocence, Modern Day Slavery*

Patricia Hill Collins
*Intersectionality*

Angie Hattery & Earl Smith
*Gender, Power and Power*
Signature Events
Academic Year: 2015-2017

Scholar's Lecture

The scholar's lecture is an annual event where we recognize our faculty/affiliated faculty and their work.

Dr. Zakiyyah Iman
Sense of Things

Dr. Jackson is an assistant professor of Black Feminist Theory, Literature, and Criticism in the Department of English at George Mason University. She is affiliated faculty of Women and Gender Studies. Professor Jackson’s book in progress, tentatively titled “Life, Matter, Systems in an AntiBlack World,” argues that key Black Atlantic literary, visual, and philosophical texts generate a critical praxis of humanity, paradigms of relationality, and modes of embodiment that alternately expose, alter, or reject the nexus of “race” and “species” discourse in Western science and philosophy. Professor Jackson has published work in Feminist Studies and GLQ.

Dr. Jan Arminio
An Inheritance to My Biracial Granddaughter: What is it that I am leaving you?

Dr. Arminio is a professor and program director of the Higher Education Program at George Mason University. She is also an affiliated faculty of Women and Gender Studies. Dr. Arminio’s scholarship focuses on multicultural issues, qualitative research, assessment, and campus programs and leadership. Her most recent book is Student Veterans in Higher Education. She is the 2011 recipient of the Robert H. Shaffer award for excellence in graduate teaching.
Politics of Gender and Justice: The Intersection of Identities and Disciplines

Annual Gender Research Conference

An annual conference hosted by the Women and Gender Studies at George Mason that gathers artists, activists, scholars, intellectuals, community members, and others together to critically and creatively examine how gender and justice are intertwined.

Conference Keynote Speakers

Dr. Lisa Lindley  2016

*Invisible & At-Risk: The Sexual and Reproductive Health Concerns of Sexual Minority Women*

Dr. Rita Chi-Ying Chung  2017

*Navigating Politics and Breaking Race/Gender Stereotypes: Asian Woman Speaking Out*

Dr. Adia Harvey Wingfield  2017

*No More Invisible Man: Professional Black Men's Interactions in While Male Dominance Workplaces*
We have a major!

BA in Integrative Studies with a concentration in Women & Gender Studies

After many years and much hard work by the Women and Gender Studies faculty and staff and especially the executive committee members, we determined that the best route to pursuing a major was to initiate a concentration in Women and Gender Studies through the School of Integrative Studies. In the spring of 2017, the CHSS curriculum committee approved the new concentration and shortly thereafter, our first student declared the major!

Women and Gender Studies allows students the freedom to examine social problems in “real time.” This is certainly part of what drew Sarah Metcalfe to the program, which has allowed her to examine issues from a variety of disciplinary approaches and through many different lenses in ways she never thought was possible with other disciplines.

Through the Women and Gender Studies, she has also been able to research and explore topics of interest in an open-minded and diverse environment where one’s voice and opinions can have an impact. Sarah has also gained an understanding and empathy of what’s at the heart of some of today’s most controversial issues and how they directly relate to and affect her life.

Sarah is active in the Women and Gender Studies program, including; participating in several Women and Gender Studies plays and performing a wide range of characters. She’s been an avid cosplayer and fan of anime and manga for about 15 years. It’s a great medium for connecting with people of all ages and backgrounds and has really helped in developing her creative crafting skills. Lastly, she has recently taken up the study of self-defense for women which is a great way to tone up one’s body and mind.

Pursuing the Bachelor of Arts in Integrative Studies with a concentration in Women and Gender Studies provides students with the academic training and co-curricular opportunities to define, understand, analyze and propose solutions to gender inequalities both in the US and globally. Students will be able to take courses with both faculties of Women and Gender Studies and the School of Integrative Studies whose background include feminist research methods, gender-based violence, social justice and human rights, childhood studies, and sustainability.

Students will also complete experiential credits which will expose them to gender and sexuality issues in the wider community. Graduates are prepared to pursue careers in human services, non-profit work, law, public health, teaching or graduate studies.

To learn more, please visit http://integrative.gmu.edu/programs/la-ba-ints-wgst or contact our undergraduate advisors, Misty Krell (mkrell@gmu.edu / 703.993.1436) or Nancy Xiong (nxiong@gmu.edu / 703-993-2896).
December 2016/May 2017 Graduates
Women and Gender Studies Minor
Lara Akpata
Emily Allen
Ghazal Azizzada
Felicia Baez
Alana Berry
Eleni Burchard
Victoria Cornetta
Brenna Denicola
Monique Deleon
Michelle Gaspari
Suzanne Hewitt
Brynne McMackin
Courtney O’Brien
Rachel Petras
Meaghan Rachal
Natalie Valentine
Kristan Vella

Women and Gender Studies
Graduate Certificate
Emily Harvey
Nancy Xiong

MAIS in WGST
David Powers Corwin
Andrew "AJ" Jones
Jenika Mercedes McCrayer

MAIS in WGST
Kami King
Valencia King
Melody Kujat
A New Initiative

Study Abroad: Maternal Child Health in Peru
Summer 2017

This summer 14 Mason students and one intrepid faculty member went to Peru to learn about reproductive and maternal child health. The trip was sponsored by the Women and Gender Studies in collaboration with the Department of Global and Community Health.

The trip began in Lima, where the students visited several health facilities that offer maternity care. They also had the opportunity to speak with health care providers and a medical student and develop their understanding of how the health care system works. The group also visited Pachacutec, a neighborhood that began as an informal settlement on the outskirts of Lima that lacks basic infrastructure such as piped water. They met with community activists to hear about their experience in fighting for resources for their community and enjoyed a meal in one of their homes.

Peru is a country of contrast, with large differences in health and health care between urban and rural, indigenous and non-indigenous areas. To explore these contrasts, the group next travelled to Maska, a small town near the city of Pisac. In Maska the students stayed on an organic farm where they considered agriculture and food systems and their impact on public health. They also got to help out on the farm. Each student got to plant an indigenous plant as part of the farm’s efforts to promote the use of local plants, and they also learned how to make adobe clay and use it to make bricks.

Next the group headed to Cuzco, a city in the mountainous altiplano region of Peru where the population is largely indigenous. In Cuzco, the group visited both public had private health care facilities and also had the chance to present a health education lesson at a local school. This was a highlight of the trip; the GMU students loved having the opportunity to meet and share their expertise with students in Peru.

Our final activity was a four days hike to Machu Picchu. For some students this was their first hike, and for most students it was the longest hike they ever completed. At the end of the longest day of the hike, several students reported that they felt incredibly accomplished after completing such a tough day.

At the end of the trip, students had the opportunity to reflect on their experience. Many students noted that the trip changed their perception of developing countries, and helped them view them in a more holistic way. Several also reported developing an appreciation for how Peruvians are working to improve their communities and society on their own, without outside involvement from developed countries.

The trip will be held again next year, and all interested students can contact Corrie Paeglow (cpaeglow@gmu.edu) for more information.
Did you know that for the price of two coffees a month you can make a significant impact at Mason? Sign up now for monthly online donations of $10 or more to support our students, faculty, and those the Women and Gender Studies Center serves, breaking down gender stereotypes and helping more people than ever before. You will be recognized annually as a member of CHSS Dean’s Circle, an exclusive opportunity to receive updates on the Center and Women and Gender Studies’ faculty, student, and alumni activities. You can donate here: bit.ly/give2wgst