

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

Department of
**Women's,
Gender,
and
Sexuality
Studies**

2022 – 2023 Newsletter

CHAIR'S LETTER

May 2023

Greetings on behalf of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department at California State University, Long Beach. I am happy to share our first annual newsletter, at least the first since I joined this department in 2009. I stepped into the role of department chair in Fall 2021, when our classes were still mostly online. While some courses were taught face-to-face last year, this year felt like a real shift to face-to-face learning and in-person events. The excitement of faculty and students returning to campus, or for some teaching and learning on campus for the first time, was palpable. We focused on cultivating a sense of community and belonging among our students, many of whom felt that they had missed so much of the college experience due to the pandemic. We collectively experienced a newfound appreciation for face-to-face learning. Students who had only met in our online courses got to finally meet each other in person, study together, develop friendships, and, for many of them, celebrate graduation together.

In addition to cultivating a sense of community and belonging among students, we also sought to increase the visibility of WGSS. Our major is referred to as a "discovery major" in that students do not often know that it exists when they begin college. Over many years, we have heard the same story about students taking one of our courses for a General Education requirement or out of curiosity only to find their passion ignited and feeling like they have found their academic home. Unfortunately, for many, they realize this in their junior or senior year, and it may be too late for them to change their major. To increase our visibility, both to reach potentially interested students earlier and to engage our campus and community in the critical work that our department is doing, we have engaged some of our WGSS students in our WGSS 496: Internship course with internships in our department. Their insights as WGSS students have been tremendously helpful in developing ways to connect with current students, potential students, alum, and the broader community. Last Spring, the WGSS interns focused on connecting with WGSS alumni and collecting information about how they have used their WGSS degree post-graduation. This year, we had four social media interns who developed a WGSS Instagram account (@csulbwgss), worked on updating and improving our website and departmental promotional materials, and started a student-run WGSS podcast, [SLAYYYY](#). These efforts have helped us connect with other departments, administrators, organizations, and students on campus as well as to the broader community of gender studies departments, organizations, and activists. Our students and alum continue to inspire us in their academic pursuits and the many ways in which they put the knowledge and skills that they have gained to good use, as you will see in what follows.

Our desire for increased visibility of our major, curriculum, and department is also rooted in the need for us to rise to this moment in which we are witnessing and experiencing ever-increasing attacks on sexual and reproductive health, transgender identities, queerness, critical race theory and diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts more broadly, academic freedom, and gender studies programs. As WGSS scholars, we are uniquely positioned to analyze and collectively resist these interconnected attacks. We must stand firm in our opposition to all forms of structural oppression. Please read our Women's Feminist History Month Statement below.

In solidarity,

Dr. Lori Baralt
Department Chair and Associate Professor

FEMINIST HISTORY MONTH STATEMENT

March 2023

Women's Feminist History Month

We are living in a moment of virulent backlash against feminism and the assault on women's and marginalized communities' rights and gender equality. [White-supremacist nationalist](#), [Christian-chauvinist](#), [misogyny](#) has resurged in this country over decades, but we are watching this extremist illiberal ideology spread its tentacles across sociocultural, sociopolitical, and socioeconomic domains to assume absolute power.

All over the world, [authoritarian governments](#) organize, in part, around controlling the bodies, lives, and identities of women and marginalized communities. The manifestations of this control are many and varied. Attacks on [sexual and reproductive health](#), [transgender identities](#), [queerness](#), [critical race theory](#), and [academic freedom](#) are gaining momentum nationwide and globally. These are hallmarks of increasing patriarchal authoritarianism (e.g., traditional family, hypermasculinity, forced motherhood), fascism, and thus declining democracy.

We have never needed feminist thinking, action, and organizing more than we do in this current moment. Feminisms offer ideas, frameworks, histories, ideologies, and strategies to combat the aggressive attack on women and femininity that we are witnessing gain momentum. These are serious issues, and we cannot afford to trivialize the actual power grab that an emboldened right wing is making at all levels of our communities and governments at the expense of women and marginalized groups right now.

We have answers in feminisms.

WGSS's vision of Women's Feminist History Month this year is marked less as a celebratory occasion and rather as an urgent and solemn time to remind us that we should not squander the laborious effort—the energy spent, the deep thinking, the brave acts, the risks taken, the lives lost—and the hard-won lessons learned from feminist knowledge and activism developed locally and transnationally for over more than a century. WGSS calls on our campus citizenry and communities to renew our commitment, amplify our voices, and use our skills to advocate, defend, and secure access, opportunities, and rights for women and marginalized populations. Our humanity is at risk if we do not take a stand and mobilize to be on the right side of history.

WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES STUDENT ORGANIZATION (WGSSSA)



The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Student Organization (WGSSSA) is vital to developing feminist community among our students, increasing the visibility of WGSS on our campus, and engaging in feminist activism. WGSSSA is also a campus chapter of [Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity \(URGE\)](#), a national organization that works to build power and leadership among young people of color who are women, queer, trans, nonbinary, and people of low income within the movement for reproductive justice.

We are grateful to Allyson Alvarado, Keily Escalante, Courtney Leos, and Audrey Stallings, who were the WGSSSA board members this year. Courtney Leos also served on the Pro-Abortion Student Advisory (PASA) Board, which is a paid position for CSU and UC student organizers who are required to attend monthly meetings to help strategize and organize around abortion at CSU and UC campuses.

This year WGSSSA tabled with information about WGSS and URGE on campus and at a variety of in-person events and participated in CSULB's Sextival, CLA Day, and Abortion Positive Week.

Most of our current WGSSSA board members graduated this Spring, so if you are a current student interested in getting more involved in WGSSSA in the coming year, please e-mail me at lori.baralt@csulb.edu.

For the latest updates, news, and information, we invite you to follow WGSSSA on social media: [@WGSSSA](#) or visit [@csulbwgss](#) for all things related to our department.



MANY THANKS TO OUR INTERNS

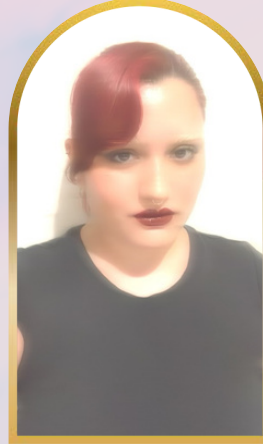
We are grateful to our team of WGSS interns in Spring 2023. They improved our departmental promotional materials and website, developed the framework for this newsletter, started our WGSS Instagram account (@csulbwgss), and our WGSS student-run podcast, SLAYYYY.



Dani Autore
Instagram Intern



Madeline Lavigne
Instagram Intern



Kendra Gonzalez
Podcast Intern



Antoinette Flores
Website Intern

FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

WGSS Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Lori Baralt

Department Chair

Dr. Baralt graduated from the University of Florida with a B.A. in Women's Studies and Political Science. She earned her Ph.D. in Sociology from Michigan State University with an emphasis in feminist theory, social movements, and health as well as a certificate in Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change.



Dr. Baralt has published articles in several academic journals, such as the Journal of Feminist Scholarship, the Journal of Religion and Health, Environmental Health Perspectives, and Women's Health Issues. Her dissertation, "Health Social Movements in a Transnational Context: Racing around the World for a Cure," provided a critical analysis of the exporting of the neoliberal model of corporate and individualized breast cancer advocacy, which had grown popular in the U.S. She conducted her research in Italy and Puerto Rico. She has presented research papers at annual meetings of the National Women's Studies Association, the American Public Health Association, Sociologists for Women in Society, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, the Pacific Sociological Association, the Michigan Women's Studies Association, and the American Sociological Association. Her research has evolved over the years, but her recent scholarship has focused on the sexual and reproductive health of CSULB students, feminist pedagogy, and gendered and racialized carework of parenting faculty during the COVID-19 pandemic.

She also loves being a mama to her 7- and 4-year-old children. During COVID, she started @little.justice.readers to combine her academic interests and parenting by providing a resource to parents, teachers, and caregivers about how to use children's book to discuss a variety of social justice issues with young children. She loves being a professor, but dreams of one day having a feminist bookstore/coffeeshop/wine bar collective. She adores independent bookstores and libraries and loves that her kids are becoming little book lovers too!

WGSS Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Azza Basarudin

Assistant Professor

Dr. Basarudin is trained in gender and sexuality studies. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration (Hons) from the University Utara Malaysia, an M.A. in Women's Studies from Roosevelt University, and a Ph.D. in Gender Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).



WGSS Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Melissa Hidalgo

Lecturer

Dr. Hidalgo obtained her bachelor's degree in English from the University of California, Berkeley, an M.A. in English from the University of Chicago, and a Ph.D. in Literature from U.C. San Diego.



Dr. Hidalgo's research interests and areas of expertise include Chicana/o/x-Latina/o/x literatures, 19th and 20th-century U.S. cultural studies, and queer and feminist cultural production. Dr. Hidalgo has written for a variety of popular publications, including the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, KCET.org, Boom California, and L.A. Taco. She is a Ford Fellow and Fulbright Scholar.

Fun fact: Dr. Hidalgo used to tutor student athletes at Indiana University, Bloomington, where she was an English doctoral student in Victorian literature for three years.

WGSS Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Jennifer Reed

Professor

Dr. Reed received her B.A. in Psychology from Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. She earned a Ph.D. in Comparative Culture from the University of California, Irvine.



Dr. Reed's most recent scholarship is on the BBC/HBO show, Gentleman Jack. Her dissertation research focused on one-woman shows and the ways they provided alternatives to dominant images of women through representations of race, class, and sexuality. Her research has since focused more on television and representations of gender and sexuality.

She has written on the various personae of Lily Tomlin, Roseanne, and Ellen DeGeneres, postfeminism on television, and is currently at work on representations of female masculinity on The L Word. Her work has appeared in Feminist Media Studies, The Journal of Popular Culture, and the anthology Third Wave Agenda. Her 2013 book, The Queer Cultural Work of Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner was published by Palgrave.

She just edited a special issue of The Journal of Lesbian Studies on the impact of the show called, "Gentleman Jack and the (Re)Discovery of Anne Lister," 26, 4, 2022. The entire issue contains articles that explore the meaning of the show, and its connection to the historical figure, Anne Lister.

Did you know?

Dr. Reed is also the CLA Facilities Director.

WGSS Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Anat Schwartz

Lecturer

Dr. Schwartz obtained her B.A. in Asian Studies with a minor in Anthropology from Temple University. She received her Ph.D. in East Asian Studies with a feminist emphasis from the University of California, Irvine, in June 2022.



Did you know?

Dr. Schwartz speaks three languages: English, Korean, and Hebrew.

Dr. Schwartz's research examines contemporary South Korean feminist communities, activism, and narratives. In particular, she is interested in the theorization and construction of social justice communities through online spaces, and the impact of digital surveillance technologies on feminist and marginalized communities in East Asia. Anat's specialized areas of interest are transnational gender and sexuality studies, East Asian Studies, digital media, and surveillance technologies, global Asia(s), modern Korean history and literature, and critical trans and queer theory.

Dr. Schwartz has taught several WGSS courses, including WGSS 101: Gender, Race, Sex, and the Body, WGSS 205: Intro to Queer Studies, WGSS 300: Feminist Theory, WGSS 365: Pop Culture: Seeing Gender & Sex, and WGSS 416: Queering Gender. In her teaching, Dr. Schwartz prioritizes creative mediums and outlets for students' critical engagement and expression.

From 2014 until 2020, she was employed as a teaching assistant at the University of California, Irvine. In the summer of 2020, she lectured at UCI. She only recently began teaching at CSULB in 2022.

Dr. Tarrant's scholarly interests include the philosophy of sex and love, the economy, pop culture, pornography, feminist theory, masculinity, and intersectional perspectives on the law. Dr. Tarrant has provided sex and gender media analysis for The Atlantic, The New Yorker, NPR, USA Today, MarketWatch, Playboy, and Bitch magazine, among other publications.

Check out her website!
<https://www.shiratarrant.com/>

WGSS Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Shira Tarrant

Professor

Dr. Tarrant graduated from California State University Long Beach (CSULB) with a bachelor's degree in political science. She also holds a doctorate in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA).



WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FACULTY?

Check out department website!



SABBATICAL CORNER

Dr. Stacy Macias earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor last year and was on Sabbatical in Fall 2022. Here is Dr. Macias' description of her sabbatical.

During my sabbatical, I devoted time to a few distinct but related research projects. One project picks up on the research I began as a doctoral student about queer femme and queer femininities. As a scholar of gender and sexuality studies, I've always been fascinated by how little academic attention queer femme and queer femininities garner, especially among queer studies scholars. This is changing, however, as trans studies scholars, queer of color researchers, and public intellectuals are now asking plainly: without queer femmes, and trans women of color elders especially, where would queerness of any kind be? I'm inspired by this line of inquiry, which aligns with my decades long research focus on the racialized queerness of Latina/x femmes and femininity. Relatedly, I've had an opportunity to access the archives of some local Chicana lesbian femmes, who were key players in early queer Latina/o/x Los Angeles social justice efforts. The UCLA Chicano



Studies Research Center helped sponsor this project, and we hope to create an exhibit and host a few events that will spotlight these hidden archival gems. I'm also co-editing a special issue for the Journal of Lesbian Studies revisiting the iconic text edited by Carla Trujillo, *Chicana Lesbians: The Girls Our Mothers Warned Us About*, which recently celebrated its 30th year anniversary of publication. It's an honor to be able to commit my research energies exclusively to trans, queer, femmes of color and ultimately publish and share the fruits of this labor with colleagues, students, and the public at large.

DEPARTMENTAL TRANSITIONS

Dr. Abraham Weil joined our department as an Assistant Professor in Fall 2018. He was hired as a Trans Studies scholar, and he infused our curriculum with cutting-edge trans studies scholarship and perspectives. He provided generous and excellent mentorship to WGSS students and particularly to trans students of color. While at CSULB, he also was a founding member and primary organizer of the Trans Advocacy Coalition (TAC), a group of faculty, staff, and students dedicated to trans education, resources, and advocacy on campus and in the broader community. Unfortunately for us, Dr. Weil has taken a position as an Assistant Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Kansas. We wish him well, but he is sorely missed.

Dr. Kelly Sharron joined our department as a lecturer in Fall 2018. She successfully taught many of our core lower and upper division courses. Dr. Sharron has taken a position as a lecturer and academic program associate in the Sociology and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Departments at the University of Kansas. Dr. Sharron is also very missed.

Katie Masterson, our department coordinator, joined us in Fall 2021 from the Political Science Department. She has been an incredible support to our department for the past two years. She has accepted a job with Human Resources at CSULB and while we are very happy for her to advance in her career, she will be greatly missed in our department.

EXCITING NEW CURRICULUM

WGSS 490

Joteria Studies

Queer Gender and Sexuality
in the Americas

TuTh 2 - 3:15 PM
In-Person
Dr. Stacy I. Macias



Manuel Paul, Maricón Collective, "Por Vida" 2015.
Mural at Galería De La Raza, San Francisco

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is an ever-evolving field. As a department, we seek to update our curriculum to remain at the forefront of our field and relevant to timely issues by drawing on our faculty's expertise as well as our students' interests.

Dr. Basarudin developed and successfully taught a new course, **Feminist Politics of Rage**, as a special topics course in Fall 2022. This course explores the ways in which feminist rage has shaped uprisings, revolutions, and movements and traces the intellectual and political genealogy of feminist rage to harness rage as a cultural source of agency to reimagine feminist futurity. This course will be an elective for the WGSS major and minor.

Dr. Macías developed a new course, **Jotería Studies: Queer Gender and Sexuality in the Américas**, which will be taught as a special topics course in Fall 2023. This course explores the emergent and dynamic interdisciplinary field of jotería studies in which "brown" racialized sexualities and genders serve as both the primary subjects of analysis and main methods of reading. The course will consider jotería studies genealogies and future configurations in relation to Chicana/o/x-Latina/o/x Studies, ethnic studies, and queer and trans studies. Through an intersectional lens, the course will examine jotería studies as a critical cultural, political, and intellectual formation in visual art, literature, photography, performance, testimonial, essay, film, and ephemera. This course will be an elective for the WGSS major, minor, and Queer Studies Minor. Check out the Daily 49er article, [Tripping Over Fall's New Classes](#), which discusses this course.

We look forward to officially adding both courses to our curriculum in the coming year.

ALUM HIGHLIGHTS

CSULB WGSS ALUM



Spotlight



Julian Acuna

Class of 2021

Julian graduated with a B.A. in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies from CSULB in 2021.

After graduation, Julian worked for a nonprofit teaching sex education/risk reduction to the inmates of LA county jail. He worked on the 9000 floor, which consisted of gay and bisexual men, along with MSM (men who have sex with men) and transgender women. Julian currently teaches sixth-grade science to pupils from a disadvantaged neighborhood in Crenshaw.

CSULB WGSS ALUM



Spotlight



Savanna Cavalletto

Class of 2014

Savanna graduated with a B.A. in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies with a minor in Queer Studies from CSULB in 2014.

Savanna is a Foster Care Program Specialist for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in Washington State. She ensures that foster care students receive the same educational opportunities as their peers. Together with her mother and grandmother, Savanna has been volunteering for the Central California Women's Conference since she was 16 years old.

CSULB WGSS ALUM



Spotlight



Emily Escobar

Class of 2018

Emily graduated with a B.A. in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies from CSULB in 2018. She also recently earned her M.A. in Applied Gender Studies at Claremont Graduate University.

Emily currently works for a non-profit organization called Civic Nation under their gender equity initiative, the United State of Women. She leads the development of issue-based advocacy campaigns, and currently, she is leading the reproductive freedom campaign, which includes abortion access and period poverty. Emily is working on legislative advocacy work around the Women's Health Protection Act and education around self-managed abortion.

CSULB WGSS ALUM

Spotlight



Marina graduated from CSULB in 2009 with a B.A. in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies. In addition, she acquired two master's degrees, one in Cultural Studies at Claremont Graduate University (2011) and one in Counseling at Cal State San Bernardino (2020).

After graduation, Marina worked in the violence prevention and advocacy field for about ten years. She is the parent of a 2-year-old daughter and a 3-year-old son. She works part-time and accrues her hours toward becoming a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor at CSU San Bernardino. Marina recently joined the nonprofit "Free Mom Hugs" (SoCal). This organization provides a visible presence of acceptance and love at events for individuals in the LGBTQIA+ community, many of whom have survived parental/bio family rejection.

When she attended CSULB Marina was on the board of WGSSA and some of her fondest memories were in those meetings or doing on and off-campus feminist activism.

Marina Rodriguez



Class of 2009

WGSS GRADUATE AWARDEES

Since 2012, the WGSS department has awarded three departmental awards to graduating students. Congratulations to the award recipients for the 2022/2023 academic year!



Jenny Canales

bell hooks
Transforming
Lives Award



**Samantha
Olvera**

Sharon Sievers
Scholarly
Achievement
Award



Oly Venzon

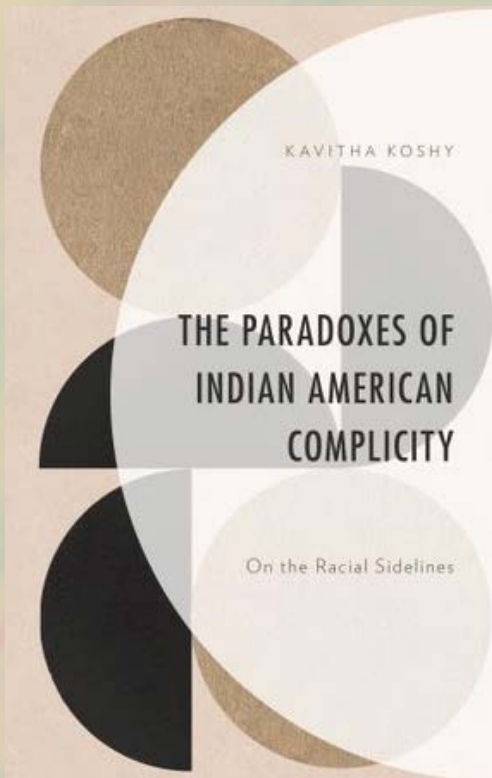
Dolores Huerta
Activism Award

FACULTY & STUDENT AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to **Dr. Basarudin**, who received the President's Commission on the Status of Women's Advancement of Women Award in recognition of her outstanding service and achievements. We are grateful for her exceptional teaching, service, and scholarship that enriches our department and university.

Congratulations to **Dr. Basarudin** on her proposal "Migrating Gender Epistemologies: Institutional Collaboration to Build Transnational Gender Studies Consortium in the Global South" being selected for funding by the review and selection committee of the faculty incentive travel grant program Professors Around the World (PAW). This project will strengthen CSULB's global mission and comprehensive campus internationalization initiatives. We are excited about the educational opportunities that will develop for our students.

Congratulations to **Dr. Koshy** on the publication of her book, *The Paradoxes of Indian American Complicity: On the Racial Sidelines*, which offers a timely exploration of Indian immigrant racialization and is a call to action for an anti-racist, decolonial practice among differentially racialized peoples. The findings of the research uncover the paradoxes of claiming deracialized, neoliberal identities, while engaging in racial contestation, benefiting from selective immigration while occupying a racialized-human capital-labor "slot" in global capitalism, and experiencing "racialized otherness" through everyday racism, despite proximity to whiteness.



Congratulations to **Dr. Macias** who after her Sabbatical in Fall 2022 was able to continue to focus on her research through an award from the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center (CSRC). During Spring 2023, Dr. Macias was appointed to work with the CSRC on the Latina Lesbian Futures Project (LLFP), which is envisioned as a distinct effort within the purview of the Latina Futures, 2050 Lab to draw attention to the critical contributions of self-identified U.S. Latina lesbian women. In particular, the LLFP will highlight the historical narratives of several changemakers that are altogether eclipsed from the storied eras of Latina/o civil rights struggles and *movimiento* politics. Moreover, Latina lesbian women—unlike their gay Latino male and heterosexual Latina counterparts—are so deeply absented from the U.S. historical record that there is no name, icon, or figure that Latina/o populations can readily invoke or name. Thus, the LLFP would crucially serve not only to illuminate Latina lesbian women’s existence but also how they have shaped the Latina/o body politic and continue to influence current social justice aims. For example, Latina lesbian women such as Laura M. Esquivel, Elena Popp, and Yolanda Retter Vargas were pivotal players in local, regional, and national Latina/o organizations aimed at advancing social justice initiatives, yet little is known about their level of participation and leadership roles. Currently, the CSRC houses the unprocessed archival materials of Esquivel, Popp, and Retter Vargas, which once accessed, organized, and digitized would reveal how Latina lesbian women catalyzed social change that would positively impact future generations of Latinas, LGBTQ communities, and the overall social, cultural, and political conditions of Latinos in the U.S. Toward this end, Dr. Macias worked to digitize the above-mentioned CSRC archival materials.

On April 20th, students from WGSS 424: Gendering Environmental Justice, presented their projects at the 12th Annual Green Generation Project Showcase. The projects are judged by a panel of faculty before the event and this year two of our groups won. Congratulations to **Claire Phillips, Natalie Salinas, and Emily Williams** who won first place in the category of Research Related to Environmental or Natural Science for their project entitled “The History and Ongoing Struggle of Indigenous Communities and National Parks.”

Congratulations to **Karina Fonseca** and **Leslie Lira** (pictured right) for receiving an honorable mention in the category of Research Related to Public Policy, Education, or Social Issues for their project entitled “Integrating Intersectional Environmentalism into Education”.



DEPARTMENT EVENTS

WGSS WELCOME BACK MIXER

Wednesday, September 7

1:00-2:30pm

Seating area outside MHB

Come mingle with faculty and other WGSS students while enjoying some delicious pizza!



WGSS Welcome Back Mixer

As we transitioned back to in-person classes in the fall, WGSS wanted to prioritize reconnecting with our students and facilitate students connecting with each other.

Donuts & Coffee with WGSS

WGSS students were invited to listen to a panel of alumni speak about what they have done since graduating with their WGSS degree while enjoying some coffee and donuts!

DONUTS & COFFEE WITH WGSS

Join us for donuts and coffee to discuss what you can do with your WGSS degree!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18
9:30-11:30am

Anatol Patio
(attached to AS building next to MHB)



CSULB Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, CSUN Center for Civil Discourse & Social Change, CSUN Middle Eastern & Islamic Studies Program

Presents

WOMAN.LIFE.FREEDOM

A Conversation on the Iranian Uprising featuring:

Dr. Catherine Sameh, UCI
 Dr. Nayereh Tohidi, CSUN
 Dr. Nahid Siamdoust, UT Austin

OCTOBER 27, 2022 ~ 4:00 -5: 30 PM PST

Zoom Meeting ID: 885 4778 1485 ~ Passcode: 486550

Woman. Life. Freedom: A Conversation on the Iranian Uprising

Dr. Azza Basarudin, along with colleagues from CSU Northridge, hosted an informative discussion with Iranian feminist scholar-activists on the Iranian uprisings that were taking place last fall.

Where is the Reproductive Justice in This? An Intersectional Analysis of Ethiopian Transnational Adoption

Dr. Basarudin and the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at CSUN organized another even this fall. Dr. Hewan Girma spoke on the racial, class, and gender implications of trans-national adoptions both in the countries of origin and the African diaspora through a reproductive justice lens.

CSUN Department of Women's and Gender Studies and CSULB Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies present.

"Where Is the Reproductive Justice in This? An Intersectional Analysis of Ethiopian Transnational Adoption"

A Virtual Talk by Dr. Hewan Girma, Assistant Professor of African American and African Diaspora Studies, the University of North Carolina, Greensboro



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2

4 PM-5:30 PM

ZOOM LINK: [HTTPS://CSUN.ZOOM.US/J/84681623613](https://csun.zoom.us/j/84681623613)

MEETING ID: 846 8162 3613

Since the early 2000s, African countries have become a significant source of internationally adopted children. Between the 1960s and 2018, an estimated 70,000 children were adopted from Ethiopia alone and raised by mostly white families in the Global North. But this phenomenon, especially from the perspective of originating African countries, has received little academic attention. Drawing on in-depth interviews and focus groups with birth families in Ethiopia as well as Ethiopian transnational adoptees in the Global North, Dr. Hewan Girma examines the racial, class, and gender implications of trans-national adoptions both in the countries of origin and the African diaspora. Employing a reproductive justice lens, Dr. Girma argues that trans-national adoptions are a form of forced migration challenging the intrinsically unjust arguments embedded in family preservationist and adoption discourses.

This talk is cosponsored by the CSUN Women's Research and Resource Center and the Dean's Office at the College of Humanities

VIRTUAL BOOK TALK

Ethical Encounters: Transnational Feminism, Human Rights, and War Cinema in Bangladesh

AUTHOR

Elora Halim
Chowdhury

UMass Boston

FEBRUARY 23, 2023

12.30 - 2 PM, PST

DISCUSSANT

Tammy Ho

UC Riverside



REGISTER AT: [ETHICAL ENCOUNTERS](#)

Sponsored by CLA Scholarly Intersections, CSULB Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and CSULB International Studies Department.

Virtual Book Talk

Dr. Azza Basarudin organized a virtual book talk for author Elora Halim Chowdhury to discuss her book, *Ethical Encounters: Transnational Feminism, Human Rights, and War Cinema in Bangladesh*.

The Intersectional Environmentalist Book Talk

Dr. Lori Baralt, invited author Leah Thomas to WGSS 424 (Gendering Environmental Justice) to speak about her book, *Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle Systems of Oppression to Protect People + Planet*.

Join us! Author Leah Thomas is visiting WGSS 424 (Gendering Environmental Justice) to discuss her book

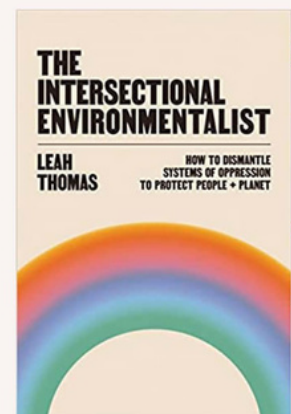
The Intersectional Environmentalist

THURSDAY, MARCH 16

3:30-4:45PM

HORN CENTER ROOM 106

The *Intersectional Environmentalist* examines the inextricable link between environmentalism, racism, and privilege, and promotes awareness of the fundamental truth that we cannot save the planet without uplifting the voices of its people -- especially those most often unheard. Written by Leah Thomas, a prominent voice in the field and the activist who coined the term "Intersectional Environmentalism," this book is simultaneously a call to action, a guide to instigating change for all, and a pledge to work towards the empowerment of all people and the betterment of the planet.



Queer Zine Workshop

Dr. Anat Schwartz, along with her WGSS 205 (Intro to Queer Studies) class, hosted a Queer Zine workshop where students learned how to make craft both DIY and digital zines.



WGSS Student Symposium

Dr. Schwartz hosted a exhibition for her WGSS 300 in the fall that was so successful, that we decided to host a WGSS Symposium in the spring! During the week of Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activity, WGSS students presented their semester and year-long projects from several different classes, including: Gendering Environmental Justice (WGSS 424), Feminist Theories (WGSS 300), Intro to Queer Studies (WGSS 205), Pop Culture: Seeing Sex and Gender, and Queering Gender (WGSS 365), and Gender, Race, Sex, and the Body (WGSS 101).



CLA Day & Day at Beach

In the fall, the college hosted CLA Day, inviting students to mix and mingle with CLA departments and clubs. This spring, the university hosted the Day at the Beach event for newly-admitted students to learn more about CSULB and its departments. Our WGSS interns, student volunteers, and faculty engaged with those wanting to learn more about all things WGSS!



Coffee Break welcoming Fullbright Scholar

WGSS and POSC departments held a welcome event for Sven Van den Bossche, a visiting scholar from Belgium.



Green Generation Showcase

Students from WGSS 424: Gendering Environmental Justice had their excellent projects that were on display at the Green Generation Showcase at the Japanese Garden. Congratulations to those students whose posters won!

COME & JOIN US FOR A

BOOK TALK

with *Dr. Kavitha Koshy*

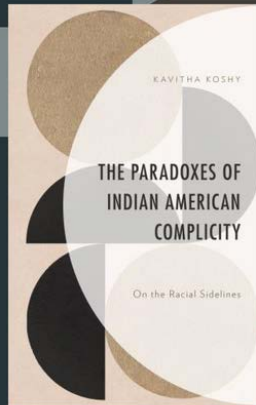


Thursday, April 27
5:00-6:30pm
Anatol Patio

Discussants:

Dr. Sabrina Alimahomed-Wilson
Dr. Justin Gomer

Light refreshments will be provided



Sponsored by the Departments of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, International Studies, American Studies, Sociology, Asian & Asian American Studies, and the South Asian Studies Minor

Book Talk with Dr. Kavitha Koshy

Students and faculty joined together for lively discussion around the topics in **Dr. Koshy's** recently published book entitled *The Paradoxes of Indian American Complicity: On the Racial Sidelines*.

Dry Land Panel

Dr. Lori Baralt was featured on a panel for the event "Fiction to Reality: Reproductive Rights in Dry Land and Beyond" to discuss the complex issues portrayed in Ruby Rae Spiegel's play, *Dry Land*, which was performed this spring by CSULB students.

D R Y Land
by Ruby Rae Spiegel

CAL REP
CALIFORNIA REPRODUCTIVE EQUITY ACT

Apr. 27-29, May 4-6
Apr. 29 & May 6
csulb.edu/theatre-arts

FEATURING PANELISTS FROM:

- WGSS** WOMEN'S GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES
- CAPS** COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH
- STUDENT Health SERVICES** DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

FICTION TO REALITY: REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN DRY LAND & BEYOND

THURSDAY, MAY 4TH
5PM - 6PM

STUDIO THEATER, CSULB

Join us for a thought-provoking panel discussion on the complex issues portrayed in Ruby Rae Spiegel's play, *Dry Land*.

Light refreshments will be provided.

TO RSVP, PLEASE BE SURE TO SCAN THIS QR CODE AND FILL OUT THE FORM!

WANT TO HEAR ABOUT WGSS EVENTS NEXT YEAR? FOLLOW OUR INSTAGRAM!

@CSULBWGSS

SENIOR SEMINAR CAPSTONE

The WGSS Department is incredibly proud of our majors capstones projects that have been developed this year through WGSS 301: Feminist Research Methods and WGSS 495: WGSS Senior Seminar with Dr. Basarudin. They have pursued feminist research that they are passionate about and it shows! Congrats, WGSS majors!



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WGSS CLASS OF 2023!

For the second year in a row we hosted our WGSS Graduation Reception at the beautiful Earl Burns Japanese Garden on campus. Students attended with their families and friends, and we presented graduation awards. Many of our students also attended the University Graduation at Angel Stadium as well as other Cultural Graduation ceremonies on campus.

It has been an honor and a privilege to co-create knowledge with our WGSS students. We know that they will go fiercely into the world and make their mark! Please stay connected to your WGSS faculty and friends.





SPREAD THE WORD! WGSS MAJOR, MINOR, AND QUEER STUDIES MINOR

Our department offers a WGSS major and minor as well as an interdisciplinary Queer Studies Minor. For more information about our programs and curriculum, please visit our [department website](#). Please share this information with anyone who might be interested.

WGSS Major

45 units (15 courses)

- 7 core courses
- 8 WGSS electives



Find more information on the WGSS major here!



WGSS Minor

18 units

Queer Studies Minor

15 units

BUILDING OUR WGSS ALUM COMMUNITY

We are working to reconnect with our alum. This newsletter is part of that effort. Last Spring, we had students from the WGSS 496 internship class work on a WGSS alum project to reconnect with alum that we had lost touch with and bring folks back into the fold. This Spring, students in WGSS 496 completed an Alum Oral History Project in which each of them interviewed a WGSS alum about their time in WGSS and their path since graduating. We are so grateful to our alum who participated in this project. It was very inspiring to the current students. We also have local alum who have come to WGSS events to share with current students about how they are using their WGSS education in their careers and lives since graduating. We hope to have more opportunities for faculty, students, and alum to connect in the coming years. We love to hear from our alum!

If you are an alum who would like to stay connected with our department, please fill out this [survey](#). You can also follow us on Instagram at @csulbwgss.

GET INVOLVED WITH WGSS!

As we look to build feminist community, we would love to hear from you! If you have ideas about collaborations, ways for our department to support your community, or if you would like to be more involved in working with our department, please reach out to me at lori.baralt@csulb.edu.

HOW TO SUPPORT WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

You can help to fund student scholarships and programs, bring scholars and practitioners to campus, and build alum connections by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

You can donate through our website [here](#).

Or contact: Howie Fitzgerald, Director of Development, College of Liberal Arts:
Howie.Fitzgerald@csulb.edu or 562.985.1619