Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
@ Tufts University

about WGSS

Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is an interdisciplinary program that focuses on research and teaching in three overlapping fields of inquiry. Scholarship in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies integrates knowledge and methodologies from many disciplines to analyze the various historical and political circumstances, social and economic forces, and cultural representations that shape gendered lives. It emphasizes the fundamental intersection of gender and sexuality with other crucial categories of human identity and experience, including race, ethnicity, and class. It explores the connections between the individual and institutional systems of power in local, national, and transnational contexts. It draws on the insights of feminist theory and practice and develops new modes of critical thought and new models for activism. The Program offers a number of interdisciplinary courses, including introductory courses and special topics courses open to all undergraduates; in addition, it brings together a wide range of courses taught in different departments and programs, each contributing a unique approach to specific topics and materials within the broad and diverse study of women, gender, and sexuality.

For more information about the WGSS major, minor, and other program activities visit ase.tufts.edu/wgss

Congratulations WGSS Seniors 2014!

LORI-ANN CLEMENTSON Portraits of Black Representation: Exploring the White Gaze through the Appropriation of Black Female Bodies in the Media
LAUREN CREATH Anorexia: A Fear of Growing Up
ALIZA GORDON "The Red Badge of Courage": An Exploration of Mainstream Menstrual Discourse and Why the Shame Must Stop Now. Period
GRAINNE GRIFFITHS Knowable Desire: The Case for Autonomy Within Objectification
ELISA MAGALHAES BroBibles: Hegemonic Masculinity and Bro Culture
SARAH OLSTEIN Nothing Short of Stunning(?): Foundational Stories of the Women’s Health Movement in the United States
LAURA RATHSMILL Activism and the Women’s Liberation Movement: Dispelling Third-Wave Myths of Second-Wave Feminism
JULIA RODGERS 'Gender Studies': Underlining Structural Relationships Between White Women and Men of Color as a Framework For Pushing Back Against White Feminism


Contact Us

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Welcome to new WGSS Director Sarah Pinto (Anthropology) starting Fall 2014

Faculty Committee

Sonia Hofkosh, English
Julie Dobrow, CMS
Susan Ernst, Biology
Nina Gerassi-Navarro, Rom Lang
Stephan Pennington, Music
Alisha Rankin, History
Sabina Vaught, Education
Adriana Zavala, Art History

Special Thanks to WGSS Senior Project Faculty Mentors

Jennifer Allen • Nancy Bauer
Andrea Haslanger • Sonia Hofkosh
Ronna Johnson • Robin Kanarek
Lisa Lowe • Freeden Oeur
Susan Ostrander • Sabina Vaught
Monica White Ndounou
**Fall 2013 Tufts Faculty Research Colloquia**

**Alisha Rankin, Department of History**  
*Pharmacy for Princesses: Noblewomen as Healers in Sixteenth-Century Germany*  
October 8, 2013

**Freeden Oeur, Department of Education**  
*Becoming 'Gents': The Making of Masculinity at an All-Boys Charter High School*  
October 22, 2013

**Julie Dobrow, Communications & Media Studies and Dept. of Child Development**  
*Double Standards and Double Lives: On Writing a Biography of “Unlikeable” Women*  
November 13, 2013

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**A Camera of Her Own: Women Filmmakers Today**  
*Beginning in Spring 2013, this on-going series of film screenings and conversations with independent directors, producers, and faculty experts is organized in collaboration with the Communications & Media Studies Program and the Department of Drama & Dance*

**November 5, 2013**  
*La Cámara Oscura*  
A feature film by Argentinian director María Victoria Menis, produced by Héctor Adrian Menis  
(In Spanish and Yiddish, with English Subtitles)

Film screening followed by conversation with the filmmakers, moderated by WGSS affiliated faculty member  
Nina Gerassi-Navarro (Romance Languages)  
With support from Latin American Studies, Romance Languages, and Tufts Hillel

**March 27, 2014**  
*Kings, Queens, & In-Betweens*  
A rough cut of a work-in-progress documentary by Five Sisters Productions about the culture and politics of drag performance in Columbus, Ohio

Film screening followed by discussion with the director  
Gabrielle Burton and WGSS affiliated faculty members  
Jennifer Burton and Laurence Senelick (Drama & Dance)

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**Spring 2013 Films**  
- *A Moment in Her Story: Stories From The Boston Women’s Movement*, a new documentary by Catherine Russo  
- *License to Thrive: Title IX at 35*, a film by Theresa Moore, shown in honor of the 40th anniversary of Title IX  
- *The First Graduating Class: Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls*, a documentary by Lisa Lax and Nancy Stern

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**ALUMS! We want to hear from you! Let us know how you are and what you are doing!**

**Write to us! Send photos!**  
Email us at: wgss@tufts.edu
Fall 2014 Courses

ANTH122  Gender and Sexuality in South Asia
ANTH130  Anthropological Thought
ANTH182  Human Physique
ANTH185  Bodies in Motion
CH104    Women & Health
DR194    Independent Film Production
ED192    Feminist Theories in Education
ENG45    Non-Western Women Writers
ENG81    Postmodernism & Film
ENG177   Feminism, Literature, Theory
ENG191   Jane Austen Now
FAH50    Impressionism and Post-Impressionism
FAH92    Frida Kahlo & Diego Rivera: Art & Life
FR191C   Francophonies au-delà de l’Hexagone
FR191E   Novel as a Genre: Préciosité to Naturalism
HST32    Rise of the Modern Women
HST121   Courtship in America
HST15S   Gender & Sexuality in Pre-modern Europe
ILVS91   Women & Fantasy in Global Fiction & Film
PHIL48   Feminist Philosophy
REL191   Gender & Sexuality in Ancient Christianity
SOC30    Sex and Gender in Society
SOC149   Sociology of the Body
WGSS73   Introduction to Queer Studies
WGSS190  Doing Feminist Research

Guest Speakers

February 28, 2014
“Sex, or the Unbearable”
A conversation with Lauren Berlant and Lee Edelman about their new book

Sex, or the Unbearable is a dialogue between Lauren Berlant and Lee Edelman, two leading cultural critics and queer theorists. Lauren Berlant is George M. Pullman Distinguished Service Professor of English at the University of Chicago. Her books include Cruel Optimism, The Female Complaint, and The Queen of America Goes to Washington City. WGSS affiliated faculty Lee Edelman is Fletcher Professor of English Literature at Tufts. He is the author of L’Impossible Homosexual, No Future: Queer Theory and the Death Drive, Homographesis, and Transmemberment of Song.

March 6, 2014
“Queering Nicaragua: Culture, Activism, and Sexual Rights”
A lecture by Cymene Howe in honor of International Women’s Day

Cymene Howe is Associate Professor of Anthropology and Core Faculty in the Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality at Rice University. She is the author of Intimate Activism: The Struggle for Sexual Rights in Postrevolutionary Nicaragua and coeditor of the volume 21st Century Sexualities: Contemporary Issues in Health, Education, and Rights.

WGSS Collaborates

WGSS works in partnership with departments, programs, and individuals on campus to help organize a variety of lectures and events that engage issues relevant to the study of women, gender, and sexuality. Here are some from this past year.

“Contextualizing Transfeminisms” A screening of Beautiful Daughters, a film about the first transgender production of Eve Ensler’s The Vagina Monologues, followed by discussion with Shannon Weber (WGSS), Laurie Wolfe (Tufts alum, actor, & activist), and Lorelei Erisis (The Rainbow Times). Organized by WGSS major Taylor Strelevitz. January 22, 2014


“Constructing Political Will: Women’s Rights and US Foreign Policy” A lecture by Alison Brysk, the Melchamp Professor of Global Governance at UCSD and Fellow at The Wilson Center’s Global Women’s Leadership Initiative. She has published widely on globalization, gender, and human rights. March 25, 2013

“Can Women Stop War?” A lecture by Ambassador Swanee Hunt, the Eleanor Roosevelt Lecturer in Public Policy and Founding Director of the Women & Public Policy Program at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. April 9, 2014

Organized by WGSS affiliated faculty Richard Eichenberg (Political Science)

WGSS Graduate Courses

Tufts is one of the nine institutional members of the Graduate Consortium in Women’s Studies, which offers a changing curriculum of interdisciplinary, team-taught graduate level courses for credit toward a Tufts graduate degree (with departmental advisor approval). Advanced undergraduates doing research in a relevant topic can apply to be admitted to a GCWS course. The courses have a Tufts registration number. For more information about specific courses, the application process, and other Consortium programs for graduate students, including conferences, a dissertation writing workshop, and the annual Mother Board writing prize, contact the Consortium at: 617-642-3485 or visit http://mit.edu/gcws/
Feminist Pedagogies Symposium
April 12, 2014

This year Tufts hosted the Graduate Consortium in Women’s Studies Symposium on Feminist Pedagogies. A collaboration between WGSS and the Education Department (with support from the Women’s Center and the Office of the Dean of Arts & Sciences), this half-day event was organized jointly by WGSS affiliated faculty Sabina Vaught (Education), who is the Tufts member of the GCWS Board of Directors, and Andi Sutton, GCWS Coordinator (and one of the first WS majors at Tufts). WGSS major Lori-Ann Clementson assisted. Attended by graduate students in many disciplines developing a professional teaching profile in women’s and gender studies and faculty exploring interdisciplinary teaching strategies and syllabus design with colleagues from the nine GCWS member institutions, the symposium included a keynote lecture by Dr. Lisa M. Coleman, Chief Diversity Officer and Special Assistant to the President at Harvard University, a plenary panel of five distinguished feminist scholars from area schools, and a set of workshops, two of which were led by WGSS affiliated faculty Paula Aymer (Sociology) and Shannon Weber (WGSS). Tufts Dean of Academic Affairs Nancy Bauer (also WGSS affiliated faculty) gave the closing remarks.

Pictured left to right:
- Dr. Lisa M. Coleman giving her lecture on “Looking Forward, Looking Back: Women’s Studies, Feminist Pedagogies, and the U.S. University”
- Shannon Weber and participants in her workshop on The Green
- Elora Halim Chowdhury (UMass Boston) with co-panelist Aliyyah Abdur-Rahman (Brandeis University) on the panel “The Feminist Futures of Women’s Studies”
- Dean Nancy Bauer speaking on “Audience, Authority, Progress, and the Real World: Four Challenges to Feminist Pedagogy”