



Year in Review Annual Report 2014 - 2015



CENTER for
**WOMEN'S
& GENDER
STUDIES**

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CENTER FOR WOMEN’S & GENDER STUDIES

CWGS

Sue Heinzelman, Director
Mollie Marchione, Associate Director
Nancy Ewert, Program Coordinator
Pat Heisler, Senior Administrative Associate
Alma Jackie Salcedo, Academic Coordinator

CWGS Graduate Student TA

Garrett Sawyer

Performing Justice Project

Dr. Megan Alrutz, Theatre & Dance
Lynn Hoare, Voices against Violence
Briana Barner, Cortney McInery, Tamara Carroll
Morgan Collado, Hayley Morgenstern, Megan Nevels
Emily Aguilar Thomas, Christy Granado DeShay
Rebecca Drew Emmerich

INSPIRE

Facilitators: Jennifer Sapio, Ashley Boynton, Drea Brown

NEW Leadership™ Texas

Nori Hubert - Undergraduate Intern
Staff: Antonia Okafor, Norma Mendoza Torres, LaShun Roy, Whitney Harp
Ann Sheehy, Photographer/Videographer

Student Office Assistants

Andy Escobar	Diamont Daniel
Devon Howard	Josephine Lawson
Yarelhdi Jaimes	Emily Collins
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Cover Photos: Clockwise from top left: INSPIRE students at the end-of-year party; Children at the CWGS Booth at Explore UT; 2015 Senior Seminar Class of 2015; CWGS Graduate Students; Weaving Threads of Justice. Mayan Indigenous Women in Chiapas with Celia Santiz Ruiz; FDP Colloquium with CWGS Post Doc Kareem Khubchandani; NEW Leadership Texas Participants with Keynote Speaker, Senator Judith Zaffirini.

2015 GRADUATES

Congratulations, Class of 2015!

Women's & Gender Studies

Bachelors of Arts Degree:

Sharlla Dawn Biefeld - With University Honors
Karen Michelle Duke - With University Honors
Augusta Rose Durham
Samantha Caroline Heinly
Devon Fitzgerald Howard - With WGS Honors
Choyette Katherine Mahtab - With WGS Honors

Women's & Gender Studies

Masters of Arts Degree

Wanjira Murimi
Thesis: *The Gendered Memory of Kenya's Mau Mau Rebellion*
Supervisor: Matthew T. Richardson

Leila Grace C. Pandey
Report: *Decentering Jose Rizal and Maria Clara: Interventions in Filipina*
Supervisor: Susan S. Heinzelman

Kaitlyn Newman (Summer)
Thesis: *Feminist Perspectives on a Latina-led Rent Strike and the Struggle for Homeplace in Sunset Park*
Supervisor: Rebecca Torres



*Dr. Kareem Khubchandani's (center)
WGS 379S Senior Seminar Class
Photo by Ryan Miller, Courtesy of LAITS*

ENROLLMENT

- Undergraduate Majors - 47
- Master's Program - 11
- Portfolio Program - 50 (estimate)

CORE FACULTY

- 84 Faculty

CWGS MA STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

Carrie Gavit
Lauren Kramer
Briana Barner
Kaitlyn Newman
Katie Logan
Hayley Morgenstern
Helen Hicks

NEW COURSE

Feminist Jurisprudence

Instructor: Zipporah Wiseman

Course description:

This course is about rethinking the part law plays in maintaining a gendered society. We will read case excerpts, examine constitutional provisions and laws and consider readings that offer different perspectives on this and related questions such as reproductive rights, the right to equal employment, and domestic violence.

GRADUATES

- 7 Undergraduates received their Bachelor's of Arts
- 3 Masters Students received their Master of Arts

FACULTY AFFILIATES

- 211 faculty from various schools and colleges

CWGS PORTFOLIO STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS:

Emily Allen Paine
Ryessia Deonane Jones
Casey Lauren Sloan

STUDENT NEWS

Kate Henley Averett (WGS Graduate Portfolio Student) was awarded the 2015 Norval Glenn Prize for her paper “Queer Parenting at the Gender Buffet: LGBTQ Parents Resisting Heteronormativity.”

Karen Duke (WGS BA 2015) accepted a full-time position at the Women’s Community Center of Central Texas (WCC)

Liz Elizondo (WGS Portfolio Graduate Student) was awarded the Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for her dissertation, “Sex, Deviance, and Drama: Socio-Racial Relationships in the Texas-Coahuila Borderlands, 1716-1821.

Andy Escobar (WGS student) was one of 40 out of 1,000 applicants selected to attend the Civil Liberties and Public Policy (CLPP) Program/Reproductive Rights Activist Service Corps (RRASC) internship in New York City this summer.

Jenny Kelly (WGS Graduate Portfolio Student) has been awarded a 2015-2016 University of California President’s Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Darcy Kues (WGS BA 2011) is now working at the National Domestic Violence Hotline and is in the beginning stages of providing legal services for survivors of domestic violence and queer individuals and their families.

Lenzi Sheible (WGS BA 2014) created the nonprofit organization, Fund Texas Choice, to help low-income women pay the unexpected costs of traveling for abortions in Texas.

Carrie Tilton-Jones (former WGS student) opened The Women’s Community Center of Austin, an organization that focuses on providing resources, referrals, and education to women and girls in central Texas.

Andrea Zarete (WGS/Journalism BA 2013) currently works at the Women’s Community Center of Central Texas, where she creates media to promote this new feminist space. While at the center she has produced a video series called Making Austin HERstory, which documents the stories of 12 women from the Austin community. *Morgan Robyn Collado*, one of the films in the series, co-directed with fellow WGS graduate Danae Johnson, has been selected to screen at Cine Las Americas International Film Festival.

FACULTY NEWS

Professor Robert Jensen (Journalism), Professor Rebecca Rossen (Theatre & Dance), and Associate Professor Barbara L. Jones (Social Work) were awarded the University of Texas System Regents’ Outstanding Teaching Award.

Professor Cristine Legare (Psychology) received a \$1.3 million grant from the National Science Foundation.

CWGS awarded three Core Faculty Research Grants in 2015 to support scholarship that promotes social justice in women, gender and/or sexuality studies. Awards went to Professor Simone Browne (Sociology), Professor Shannon Speed (Anthropology), and Professor Karen Wilkins (RTF).

Professor Sonia Seeman (Music) has been named a University of Texas at Austin Provost’s Teaching Fellow

Professor Sabine Hake has been awarded an EURIAS Fellowship administered by the European Union.

Professor Yolanda C. Padilla, (Social Work) has been appointed inaugural director of the Center for Diversity and Social & Economic Justice.

STUDENT AND FACULTY AWARDS

Congratulations to the following CWGS 2015 award recipients:

Cynthia Walker Peña Scholarship(s) presented to **Katelyn “Katie” Burran** (WGS) and **Andy Escobar** (RTF/LAS/WGS) in recognition of their outstanding record of service and scholarship in Women’s and Gender Studies. Co-sponsored by COLA. Presenter: Dr. Mary Beltrán.

The Lora Romero Memorial Award for Interdisciplinary Research in Race, Ethnicity and Gender presented to **Alfred Martin** (Radio-Television-Film) for *“Scripting Black Gayness: Television Authorship in Black-Cast Sitcoms.”* Presenters: Dr. Becky Bigler and Dr. Julie Minich.

Women’s and Gender Studies Dissertation Fellowship(s) presented to **Caitlyn Collins** (Sociology) for *“Work-Family Policies and Working Mothers: A Comparative Study of Germany, Sweden, Italy, and the United States”*; **Sarah Nicholus** (Spanish & Portuguese) for *“The Production of Queer Space in the Festas Juninas of Northeastern Brazil.”* Presenter: Dr. Polly Strong.

Women’s and Gender Studies MA Thesis Award presented to **Kaitlyn Newman** for *“Refusing the rent to (re)make space: Feminist geographic perspectives on the Sunset Park Rent Strike.”* Presenter: Dr. Mollie Marchione

Contributor of the Year - **President William Powers** for recently designated \$250,000 in recurring university funds to CWGS.



Katelyn Burran, Dr. Mary Beltrán, and Andy Escobar



Sarah Nicholus and Alfred Martin



Dr. Polly Strong and Caitlyn Collins



Kaitlyn Newman and Dr. Rebecca Torres

EVENTS

- Faculty Development Program participants presented 4 lectures throughout the fall.
- Sponsored or co-sponsored 12 talks, lectures and presentations from UT and the community
- Sponsored or co-sponsored 11 conferences/Symposium including:

- 11th Annual Graduate Conference in Comparative Literature (September 26-28)
- Flow Conference (Sept. 11-12)
- Anthropology at the Edge: The U.S.-Mexico Border/lands Symposium (February 2)
- 22nd Annual Conference on Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies (March 25-26), "Feminist Geographies: Mapping Spaces, Nations and States of Being"
- Learning from José Muñoz: A teach-in symposium (April 16)
- NAIC/NAIPA Symposium: Imagining an Indigenous Future (April 30)
- 2015 NEW Leadership Texas (June 7 - 12)
- Performing Justice Project Performance (June 27)



*Explore UT / CWGS Booth
"Fun and Games with Feminism"*

CWGS FACULTY AND STUDENT SUPPORT EVENTS

- Explore UT (March)
- Promotion and Tenure Panel (April)
- Steering Committee (October & April)

22nd Annual Conference on Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies (March 25-26)

The Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies conference is an annual event hosted by the Center for Women's & Gender Studies (CWGS) at The University of Texas at Austin. This conference provides an opportunity to share new and innovative research in women's, gender, and/or sexuality studies with the students and faculty affiliates of CWGS, The University of Texas at Austin community, and CWGS community partners.

22nd Annual Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies
Graduate Student Conference

**FEMINIST GEOGRAPHIES:
Mapping Spaces, Nations, and States of Being**

PRE-CONFERENCE KEYNOTE by Dr. Simone Browne
Tuesday, March 24th at 6 PM
in the Glickman Center, CLA 3.102E
Free and open to all students, faculty, and staff
Reception to follow

GRADUATE STUDENT CONFERENCE
Student Activities Center

Wednesday, March 25th 12 PM - 5:45 PM
Thursday, March 26th 9 AM - 12 PM
1:45 PM - 4:30 PM

KEYNOTE by Dr. Omise'eke Natasha Tinsley
Thursday, March 26 at 12:30PM, Glickman Center, CLA 3.102E
To find out more about the conference visit:
sites.utexas.edu/feministgeographies

Co-sponsored by:
Office of the President
Department of American Studies
Center for Asian American Studies
Comparative Literature
Department of English
Department of History
Department of Theatre and Dance
Department of Classics

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS
AT AUSTIN**

The 2015 conference, "**Feminist Geographies: Mapping Spaces, Nations and States of Being**" was held in the Student Activities Center and the College of Liberal Arts Building (CLA) Glickman Center on March 25-26.

Professor Simone Browne, CWGS Core Faculty and in the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, whose scholarship focuses on place, borders, race and surveillance, delivered the pre-conference keynote address on Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00 pm in CLA 1.302E. Professor Omise'eke Natasha Tinsley, CWGS Core Faculty and in the Department of African and African Diaspora Studies, delivered the keynote address at a luncheon on

Thursday, March 26, at 12:00pm in CLA 1.302E. Moderated panels took place from 12:00 pm-5:00 pm Wednesday on March 25 from 9am-6pm and Thursday on March 26 at the Student Activity Center (SAC), Rooms 3.106 & 3.116.

Co-sponsored by: Office of the President, Department of American Studies, Center for Asian American Studies, Program in Comparative Literature, Department of English, Department of History, Department of Theatre and Dance, Department of Classics.

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

With support from the Provost's Office and Graduate School, this program is designed to assist in recruitment, retention and promotion of new faculty members by providing them with support of various kinds. Our goal is to welcome, inform and support our new colleagues. The 4 faculty fellows included this year are outstanding young scholars who work in gender studies.



Dr. Kathryn Ponders, Assistant Professor

Department of Advertising

Moody College of Communication

Exposure to Thin Models: The Impact of the Goal-Striving Process

Kate Ponders is a consumer psychologist who investigates emotions, goals, and the self. Her research focuses on emotions in consumption contexts, consumer motivation, and information processing. She enjoys examining these topics in social marketing topics such as health communications. Dr. Ponders is especially interested in the role that emotion and self-identity play in understanding women's health issues.



Dr. Mary Beltrán, Associate Professor

Department of Radio Television Film

Moody College of Communication

Latinas Only Latinas Can See: Tween TV Stars, Ambiguous Latinidad, and Questions of Empowerment

Mary Beltrán is an associate professor of Radio-Television-Film and an affiliate of Gender & Women's Studies and Mexican American Studies. Her research is focused on the construction of race, class, and gender in U.S. television, film, and celebrity culture, particularly in relation to Latina/o representation in and production of U.S. film and television.



Dr. Katie Dawson, Assistant Professor

Department of Theatre and Dance

College of Fine Arts

Transforming Education through the Arts: Drama-Based Instruction as a Liberatory Pedagogy and Practice

Katie Dawson is a nationally and internationally recognized consultant in arts-based and creative learning. Her scholarship has appeared in numerous U.S. and international journals. She is co-author of: *The Reflexive Teaching Artist: Collective Wisdom from the Drama/Theatre Field*. Katie received the Creative Drama Award and the Winifred Ward Scholar Award from the American Alliance of Theatre and Education along with multiple teaching awards from her University.



Kareem Khubchandani, Embrey Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow

Center for Women's & Gender Studies

College of Liberal Arts

Snakes on the Dancefloor: Bollywood Ishtyle and Sridevi's Queer Gesture

Kareem Khubchandani is the 2014-16 Embrey Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Women's and Gender Studies. His research interests broadly include LGBT Studies, social and vernacular dance practices, migrant populations, and ethnic/racial minorities. He engages these themes and aesthetics in his performance practice through drag, storytelling, and spoken word.

INSPIRE: EMPOWERING TEXAS WOMEN LEADERS

Since 2009, the INSPIRE program has served as UT's signature leadership program for women undergraduates. INSPIRE is a three-year program (sophomore to senior).



During the 2014-2015 academic year our students wrote and presented their research papers; attended the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in Baltimore and Washington, DC; and volunteered and participated in activities surrounding Sexual Violence Prevention Month. We enjoyed fall and spring retreats, potluck dinners, and an end-of the year luncheon at the Texas Union.

INSPIRE is supported by the Mary Braunagel-Brown Excellence Fund, the Jody Conradt Excellence Fund, and the Creekmore and Adele Fath Foundation



INSPIRE presenting at the CWGS 22nd Annual Emerging Scholarship Conference



INSPIRE at the National Conference For College Women Student Leaders in Washington, DC



INSPIRE End-of-Year Party

NEW LEADERSHIP™ TEXAS

NEW Leadership™ Texas is a six-day residential program that gives college women the knowledge and skills to become effective leaders in politics, public policy, and public service. It is held every summer at the University of Texas at Austin. This year, 26 college women joined us from 17 colleges and universities .



Activities during the week included a Keynote Address by State Senator Judith Zaffirini; Field trip to Austin City Hall and the Texas State Capitol; Workshops on leadership styles, diversity and social justice, public speaking, networking, managing your message, fundraising, and campaigning.

NEW Leadership Texas is supported by Eileen Fisher, Inc., Embrey Family Foundation, and the RGK Foundation.



With Keynote Speaker, Senator Zaffirini



Visit to Austin City Hall



Visit to the Texas State Capitol

CWGS EMBREY CRITICAL HUMAN RIGHTS INITIATIVE



The Center for Women’s and Gender Studies (CWGS) Embrey Critical Human Rights Initiative (ECHRI) generates and supports projects to create an educational culture for gender and racial justice. Through innovative learning spaces, including vibrant collaborations with community organizers, the ECHRI sustains research, teaching, and activism as justice strategies in resistance to oppressions along constructed borders of ability, class, ethnicity, gender, indigeneity, nationality, and sexuality.

Current projects of the CWGS ECHRI include:

Performing Justice Project: A team of CWGS faculty and staff generated the Performing Justice Project (PJP) to build a performance-based approach to exploring high school curricula on gender and racial justice with many people. PJP has worked with youth in juvenile justice settings, foster care facilities, and Texas schools. The program prepares youth to make change around gender and racial justice in their lives and communities.

Established by J. Lindsey Embrey, the Embrey Family Foundation began in 2004 and continues to “cultivate human rights awareness and advance initiatives that challenge and embolden people to walk better in the world.”

DEVELOPMENT

Grants Awarded

- \$50,000 Creekmore and Adele Fath Charitable Foundation continued for INSPIRE
- \$10,000 RGK Foundation for NEW Leadership Texas
- Embrey Family Foundation continued grant support for the Embrey Critical Human Rights Initiative

Gifts

- Eileen Fisher, Inc. donated \$5,796 to NEW Leadership™ Texas, in a campaign in which they donated 10% of all sales on March 22, 2014 to help the 2015 NEW Leadership™ programs all around the country.

President’s Funds - President Powers designated \$250,000 in recurring university funds to CWGS before he left office. These funds will be used for a variety of purposes including general operating funds for the center.



NEW Leadership Texas Students

WELCOME FALL 2015 M.A. COHORT



Lindsey Davis is from southern California and graduated from Cal Poly Pomona with a Bachelor's degree in Gender, Ethnicity, and Multicultural Studies as well as a minor in Regenerative Studies. During previous research, Lindsey focused on grassroots food justice activism and was inspired by decolonial research methods. They would like to continue learning about decolonization and marginalized epistemologies at UT Austin. Lindsey's current research interests include social justice organizing, the intersections of identity, and media representation. Lindsey's academic interests include women of color feminisms, queer theory, spiritual activism, and health justice. They like hiking, all sorts of food, and international films.



Abe (or Abbie) Heath received their BA from Michigan State University, graduating with a dual major in Gender Studies, with a LGBT specialization, and Arts and Humanities, where they were a part of a residential college that focused on ethics, race, and civic engagement. Abe is pursuing a dual Masters in Archiving and Gender Studies in the hopes of focusing on identity-based archiving practices as a community resource. Coming from a DIY organizing background, Abe is interested in archiving the underrepresented spaces and populations, infiltrating archives and libraries with non-normative and inclusive narratives of the everyday, focusing specifically on queer, non-gender conforming, and POC narratives. At UT Abe is excited to combine their academic and personal interests, focusing on an inclusive and available exchange of information from a queer lens.



Candice Lyons was born and raised in East Texas, graduating with honors from Longview High School in 2008. She went on to earn a B.A. in Philosophy from The University of Texas at Austin, before returning to her hometown to teach 7th grade English Language Arts at a local middle school. During her time as a secondary educator, Lyons remained active in her community. Spurred by her personal and academic interests in LGBT activism, Lyons volunteered on the planning committee of one of Longview's very first pride festivals, along with contributing to public outreach efforts designed to educate locals on LGBT history and culture. She looks forward to a long-awaited return to Austin and immersion in the field of study about which she is most passionate—women and gender.



Sierra Salazar was born and raised deep in the heart of the Rio Grande Valley. She received her B.A. in psychology from the University of Texas at San Antonio with a minor in women's studies. During her undergraduate career, she became interested in exploring alternatives to standard verbal counseling as well as fleshing out her analyses on the aftermath of sexually traumatic experiences on an individual's cognitive state and physical behavior. Sierra's academic interests include sexuality studies, dance therapy, and learning the ways of curanderismo. She similarly enjoys live music, exploring cultural festivals, and cooking. She looks forward to moving to Austin and beginning this new academic adventure!



Georgia Shields grew up in Auburn, AL and attended Auburn University for two years as an English major. Following a five year hiatus, she returned to school at Georgia State University in Atlanta to complete a Bachelor of Arts in sociology. At GSU, her research focused primarily on issues surrounding sexuality education in American public schools.

As a student in GWB-era Alabama, Georgia was a recipient of federally-funded abstinence-only sex education. The melodrama, absurdity, and misinformation therein prompted her ongoing interest in the culturally constructed beliefs held by US society with regard to adolescent agency and sexualities. By interrogating the messages that such education sends to children and adolescents, she plans to use her time at UT to conduct research that will aid in the search to find new, equal, and empowering ways to teach young people about sex, gender, sexuality, and healthy relationships.



Shane Stringfellow received his B.A. in Feminist Studies and Psychology from the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). He graduated with distinction in the major of Feminist Studies for completing an honors thesis titled “(Re)Conceptualizing Masculinity: Gender Labor and Affect in Trans-masculine Communities.” His honors thesis builds upon the work of feminist scholar Jane Ward by analyzing how ‘gender labor’ (a form of intimate labor that provides gender affirmation) circulates in trans masculine communities. He is interested in the ways in which hegemonic masculinity is both resisted and reproduced by trans masculine individuals, and how we might move toward queering masculinity. As a graduate student, Shane hopes to continue research in trans studies, queer theory, and affect theory. He also hopes to pursue research in disability studies and queer animality as they intersect with trans theory and embodiment.