

LA/W/S NEWSLETTER

LA/W/S Events

Women's Health Research at The University of Scranton: Panel Discussion and Interactive Fair

March 2, 5:30-7:30, The Kane Forum (Leahy Hall 2nd Floor). Please join us as we explore how attention to women improves our theoretical and practical decision making about healthcare. This event will showcase women's health research taking place on our campus. The panel features five U of S faculty members who conduct women's health research:

Dr. Danielle Arigo, Psychology – Health Psychology: Body Image, Illness Self-Management, Social Media

Dr. Joan Grossman, Exercise Science – Weight Management and Exercise after Menopause

Dr. Jessica Bachman, Exercise Science – Nutrition and Weight Management during/after Pregnancy

Dr. Ann Feeney, Nursing – Midwifery and Women's Health during Pregnancy

Dr. Jean Harris, Political Science – Public Policy and Women's Health

Dr. Jamie Trnka will serve as the moderator. Panelists will give brief overviews of their research and engage in a discussion about the state of women's health research and its implications. Panelists and their students will be available to discuss their presentations in greater detail during an informal poster session and reception following the panel discussion.

Join Dr. Jean Harris (Political Scientist and Women's Studies) to discuss **"Women & Politics Post the 2016 Presidential Election."** This event will focus on grassroots activities since election day, including the 500,000 women March on Washington, the increased number of women seeking training to run for office, and how Melania Trump may influence the evolution of the first ladyship. Stay tuned for more details!

Note from Women's Studies Director. Dr. Jamie Trnka

These are challenging times. Over the past weeks and months people of all parties and faiths have confronted a rapid succession of political actions that affect our most basic liberties and values. Angela Davis and other compelling speakers at the Women's March reminded us of the important role an inclusive and intersectional feminism has to play in the defense of vulnerable populations, providing us with the analytical tools we need to resist hatred and division. Insights gained in our department's courses and programs can and do help students with diverse perspectives engage in informed, fact-based discussion that are always political, but that need not be partisan. When we commit ourselves to equity, diversity, fairness, and dignity, we can hold one another accountable to the goals of a liberal education and a democratic society. We'll continue to work hard to advance conversations about women's health and access to affordable care; citizenship, law, and electoral politics; women entrepreneurs; and women's vibrant creative contributions in the Americas. I hope you will join us! Expand the conversation by bringing someone new along the next time you attend a LA/W/S event, or even when you stop by our office (LSC 221 C) to learn more about declaring a concentration or a major in Latin American or Women's Studies.



Note from Latin American Studies Director. Dr. Yamile Silva

Since assuming his presidency, Donald Trump has issued a number of executive orders that discriminate against individuals and endanger U.S. relations with countries in various regions –especially Latin America–, as well as threaten the U.S. democratic system. His orders threaten to harm and obstruct mutual understanding among peoples nationally and internationally. By its nature, our LAS Program cultivates students with global sensibilities which demand dialogue within and across national borders. Our multi-disciplinary department remains strongly committed to our founding principles of nurturing mutual understanding and respect across cultures, languages, ethnicities, religions, and national boundaries. For this reason, LAS is honored to host a wide spectrum of events including film screenings, the academic talk "Occupying



Urbanity: The Right to the City as Idyll and Practice in Twentieth-Century Brazil" by Dr. Brodwyn Fischer (University of Chicago), and a concert by Latin Grammy Nominee Mariachi Band, that will help us to understand better the diversity and complexity of Latin American culture. This newsletter highlights one alumnus –Ciro Saverino ('14), and two faculty members of our program –Drs. Aiala Levy and Mike Allison. Finally, thanks to all of you who have kept in touch and supported LAS through your interest and presence in our courses and events, and in myriad ways have shared a passion for learning about this complex and diverse region.



LA/W/S Events

Occupying Urbanity: The Right to the City as Idyll and Practice in Twentieth-Century Brazil. Talk by Dr. Brodwyn Fischer (U. of Chicago)

April 20, 5:30-7:00, The Kane Forum (Leahy Hall 2nd Floor)

In recent years, the "right to the city" has re-emerged at the center of global debates about urbanization, democracy, and the fate of the left. Social movements around the world have adopted it as a mantra and, in 2016, the UN enshrined it as key to a "New Urban Agenda." But where does the right to the city come from, and what does it mean in practice? Have its translations into law and policy satisfied grassroots demands for radical inclusion in the urban fabric? This talk explores the history of these questions in Brazil, a country that is both widely praised as a global pioneer in institutionalizing the democratic right to the city and widely pilloried for its chaotic and violent urban landscapes.

Latin American Film Festival (7:00 PM, Brennan 228)

Wild Tales (Arg.). **Feb 21**

Nise: Heart of Madness (Br.). **Mar 21**

Trash (Br.). **April 25**

Latin Grammy Nominee Mariachi Band Concert, *Flor de Toloache*. (Place TBA, April 28, 5:00 PM).

Reflection on Immigration and Life along the Border.

By Dr. Mike Allison (Political Science and Latin American Studies)

Along with nine colleagues from The University of Scranton, including Linda Ledford-Miller and Yamile Silva from the Department of Latin American Studies and Women's Studies, I traveled to the Kino Border Initiative (KBI) in Nogales, Mexico over intersession. KBI is a binational organization that works between Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora, Mexico to provide migrants with humanitarian assistance. Each year they provide food, shelter, medical attention, and human rights education to thousands of people who have been deported from the US or are contemplating crossing the border into the US.

We visited both sides of the border in order to better understand immigration and life along the border. There is little evidence that the US southern border is being overrun by migrants from Mexico, Central America, and elsewhere. While there has been an increase in the number of women and children from Central America crossing the border, the total number seeking to cross is significantly lower than it was one and two decades ago. Statistically speaking, US border regions including the Nogales area we visited, have very low crime rates compared to similarly-sized US cities.

However, our journey to the US southern border was not meant to overwhelm us with statistics. The short-term immersion was designed to "Humanize, Accompany, and Complicate" the migrant experience. Every person deported from the US or on his or her way to the US has a unique story. Some of those deported had lived in the US for decades and had children who were US citizens. Our deportation policies are anti-family. Several teenagers we met were fleeing gang violence in Honduras and El Salvador. Should they get caught crossing the border and deported back to their native country, it might be a death sentence.

We were also there to accompany the migrants. We walked a desert trail that many migrants take. We walked the trail in the light, with proper clothing and food, and with no fear that coyotes would rape, extort, or kill us. Our experience was nowhere near challenging as it is for the thousands that cross the border each year. We served migrants food in the comedor. Their legal status did not matter. They are all children of God and deserve to be treated with the human dignity that all humans deserve.

Finally, our trip was designed to complicate our understanding of migration. We



spoke with ranchers who supported Trump's enhanced border security. However, they thought that a better policy would be to support guest worker programs to allow more foreign workers to come to the US. They supported more visas for people from Latin America as they thought it ridiculous that Mexicans and Central Americans were unable to get permission to visit US-based family and Disney World. The ranchers did not need to demonize migrants. They provided water and food to those migrants crossing their ranches because that is what their faith called them to do.

No matter our politics, we should not forget that human lives are at stake.

Welcome to Our New LAS Faculty Member

Dr. Aiala Levy



Joining the Latin American Studies program this year is Aiala Levy, a visiting assistant professor in the History Department. Dr. Levy recently received her PhD in Latin American history from the University of Chicago.

Her current book project, *Making the Metropolis: Theaters and the Urban Public in São Paulo, Brazil, 1854-1924*, tells the story of how a backwater became a metropolis. The project tells that story not through the traditional narratives of economic or infrastructural development but rather through culture. For São Paulo's hundreds of thousands of new residents, metropolis meant mass society, a public life among strangers and crowds. Dr. Levy's manuscript explains how Paulistanos (residents of the city of São Paulo) used theaters to shape this new society. Examining the words and deeds of government officials, associational leaders, and businessmen, she argues that, inside São Paulo's theaters, a wide range of residents began to realize their own visions for metropolitan life. At the same time, underpinning all of these visions was a common understanding of social transformation: the notion that, through "culture," acquirable at the theater, every Paulistano—male, female, black, white—could be integrated into a harmonious urban public. As a result, theaters helped ground the metropolis in a secular morality, welcoming new Paulistanos into reputable public life while reordering individuals according to behaviors and tastes.

At the University of Scranton, Dr. Levy has been sharing her expertise in Latin American history both inside and outside the classroom. In the fall, she taught two sections of HIST 125 Colonial Latin America, which offered students an overview of the region under Spanish, Portuguese, and French rule. The two centuries that followed colonialism are the subject of Dr. Levy's current course, HIST 126 Modern Latin America. This semester she is additionally teaching the history of gender and sexuality in Latin America, curating the Latin American Film Festival, and organizing a talk by Dr. Brodwyn Fischer on the history of the right to the city in Brazil.

Women's Studies Faculty on the March

New York City Women's March, Photo: S. Méndez

"The Women's March was a march for every one and every issue. Although some were more at the forefront, I was reminded that so many social justice issues are interconnected and that our work must be anti-oppressive for all."—Justine Johnson, Director of the CCC and JKWC, Adjunct Faculty in Women's Studies, and Washington, D.C. Marcher

"I confess. I am a born and bred cynical New Yorker. My time in California and in Pennsylvania has not changed that. But when I attended the Women's March in New York City on January 21, 2017, I was exhilarated. I went with some female friends from college, but it was a march inclusive of men, women, children, young and old, people



of all ethnicities, races, and religions. It was remarkable to be united with so many people (total is over 400,000 for NYC) and make a stand about what is important to us all: social justice. It breaks down to economic justice; gender justice; environmental justice; racial justice; LGBTQIA, indigenous, elderly, and disability rights, but it is really quite simply just social justice. For this reason, I marched even though I am not one to march usually, and I will do my best to be vigilant in the future."—Susan Méndez, Assoc. Prof. and Interim Chair of English and Theatre, Associate Faculty of Latin American and Women's Studies, and New York City Marcher

"After reading about the event, I knew I had to be part of it, rather than on the sidelines. With others from Scranton, I was on a bus bound for Washington, D.C. by 5:00am. A woman passed out pink knitted hats for us, made by her friend "who wasn't able to come, but who wanted to contribute." This sentiment illustrated one of my favorite signs from the march: *For everyone one of us here, there are 15 more who wanted to be.* What struck me most was that millions of people were out all over the world, not solely to support women's issues, but to show their commitment to gender/racial/economic equity, scientific inquiry, fair labor practices, voting rights, access to healthcare, immigrants and refugees, combatting climate change and gun violence – you name it, it motivated people to be there. The day brought people together in a way I had not seen before, and I look forward to April's #ScienceMarch as another opportunity to unite around shared values."—Dr. Danielle Arigo, Asst. Prof. of Psychology, Associate Faculty of Women's Studies, and Washington, D.C. Marcher

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Women's Studies Empowers You to Empower Others

Alannah Casey, '15

As a first-year student at the University of Scranton I experienced the uncertainty that comes with having to choose a major in hopes of preparing for a set career path. I entered the university as a Communication major and by the spring semester of my first year I became a double major in Communication and Women's Studies. The Women's Studies program gave me the opportunity to question the structures in place without blindly accepting the status quo. By looking specifically at the status of women, my feelings and experiences were validated. Prior to taking my first Women's Studies course with Dr. Harris, "Women's Rights and Status," much of my educational experience neglected to include the experiences of "others". It was through a Feminist Theory course I learned the necessity of learning through a feminist pedagogy, inclusive of various experiences. The Women's Studies program also exemplified the need and effectiveness of advocacy through the work of the professors that taught in the program and through the work that students were encouraged to do on campus and abroad. Personally, I was encouraged to take on leadership roles in social justice movements to end sexual and intimate partner violence, like Take Back the Night. I was also given the opportunity to participate in the 2014 NEW Leadership Institute, a public policy institute designed to empower and educate young women with an interest in political leadership.

Almost two years after graduating from the University of Scranton, I work as the legal advocate for the Women's Resource Center of Lackawanna County. As the legal advocate I work with survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence as they navigate the legal system. Advocacy is central to the work I do because survivors are silenced by the current systems when they are seeking justice. This is mainly due to the fact that these systems are not survivor-centered and safety concerns are often forgotten. I work to empower those I work with and I know that my experience as a student in the Women's Studies program contributed to the passion I feel for social justice and advocacy. Even further the Women's Studies program gave me the courage to challenge oppression and injustice in every facet of my life.

Memories from Studying Abroad in Puebla

Ciro Saverino, '14

Hello! My name is **Ciro Saverino**, a member of the class of 2014. I've been asked to talk about my experience studying abroad in Puebla, México, during my junior year of college. When people ask me about my time in México, I immediately think of the amazing FOOD I ate every single day. In my humble opinion, the Mexican gastronomy, while very varied throughout the many regions of the country, is the tastiest, and most aesthetically beautiful food in the world! The combination of unique flavors; corn (maíz), pork (their meat of choice), refried beans (frijoles refritos), and the multi-colored salsas made from the different kinds of tomatoes and chile peppers that bring both heat and color, Mexican food is truly a cultural gift to humanity.

They say life truly begins at the edge of your comfort zone, and from my experience, studying abroad was one of the hardest, but most rewarding experiences of my life. In addition to eating lots of amazing food, and making lifelong friends that I still keep in touch with today on social media, perhaps the most important experience for me was being on my own, far away from home. Although I did live with a great host family, I did get very homesick and lonely at times, especially towards the end. There were times where I would experience cultural shock, or miss my family and friends back at home, but in retrospect, without these difficult moments, I would not have grown so much as an individual.



Currently, I am teaching Spanish at Christian Brothers Academy (CBA), an all-boys Catholic school in Lincroft, NJ. Teaching Spanish every day and working with young people is really fun. If you haven't already considered teaching as a career, I'd highly recommend it! Most notably, I play lots of Spanish music every day in class, which my students really enjoy, and my students are preparing to begin a unique Pen Pal exchange program with another high school in Costa Rica. We are very excited for this awesome opportunity to use language to connect and interact with people from a faraway land and culture. Finally, on a personal note, I just returned from a winter vacation to Puerto Rico. What an amazing island! I particularly enjoyed beautiful Luquillo beach near the Yunque National Rainforest. I highly recommend Puerto Rico for your next vacation get away!

(Me, at the Aztec pyramids at Tenochtitlán, outside of México City on a weekend trip with some classmates.)

LA/W/S Events (Cont.)

"Celebrating Women in the Arts" (Co-sponsored with Dept. of English and Theater)

April 26, Wednesday-8pm at TDC 405-Poetry reading by Briana Noll

April 27, Thursday - 5:30-8:00pm BRN 509 The Rose Room-Short academic presentations by faculty and undergrads about women and art or women in the arts

April 28, Friday-5:00 pm-Female Mariachi band: *Flor de Toloache*

April 29, Saturday - 5:00-7:00pm LSC 238 The Forum-Female Theatre artist who has won the award-Jess Hayes-comes to campus to speak before the Saturday evening showing of Mr. Burns.

Research Focus: Women Leaders and Policy Makers in the Global Community

Gretchen J. Van Dyke Ph.D., Department of Political Science

Since Spring 2016, I have been excited to be a project partner for a Jean Monnet grant to establish the “We-Bind Network”, funded by the European Union Commission and currently housed at the Institute for Women’s Policy Research (IWPR) in Washington, D.C. The grant is to study and publicize the importance of women leaders in foreign policy and international relations, utilizing seminars and conferences to highlight new research and to publish findings for academic and professional audiences. The array of specific research projects is focused on women engaged in foreign policy leadership and decision-making in global community. Most of our scholarship has at least some ties to European-related foreign policy questions or individuals connected directly or indirectly to the European foreign policy sphere.

An Italian colleague and friend, Federiga Bindi, spearheads this venture, which builds upon the Women’s Leadership in International Relations project that she and others began in 2013 in Brussels, Belgium. Federiga is the Jean Monnet Chair and Professor of Political Science at the University of Rome Tor Vergata; additionally, she has been a Senior Fellow at the Center for Transatlantic Relations at SAIS Johns Hopkins University, and currently holds the Daniel German Distinguished Visiting Chair at Appalachian State University. I met Federiga in 2007 through the European Union Studies Association (EUSA), the foremost scholarly and professional association that focuses on the EU, its integration process, and transatlantic relations.



At the upcoming May 2017 Sixteenth Annual EUSA Biennial Conference, in Miami, FL. I will present a paper, titled "Samantha Power - A European Journalist turned U.S. Diplomat," as part of two conference panels organized under our grant’s auspices. Power, who was born in Ireland and whose mother migrated to the United States during Power’s childhood, recently stepped down as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, a position she held for three years. She is known for her passionate commitment to international human rights and her efforts to build coalitions, including with European partners, to address human rights challenges in the international community. We are at work on a new grant proposal to fund additional research on EU women leaders. For that new effort, I will initiate a new project on Margot Wallstrom, the current Swedish foreign minister, who served in the in the European Commission for two terms in addition to being the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General (SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Conflict.