

Women's and Gender Studies

DISCOVER WHAT IS GOING ON IN OUR PROGRAM!



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WGS NEWSLETTER

Notes from the Chair

Welcome to the Fall Semester 2021!!! We are excited to be back in person and look forward to the many events that the Women's and Gender Studies program has in store for the semester and the academic year!

First, I would like to announce that the Department of LAWS which houses both Latin American Studies and Women's and Gender Studies will be discontinued in its current format. This is mostly an administrative change. From a practical point of view, the restructuring will not affect the two programs which will continue to fully operate and collaborate on as many initiatives as possible. As proof of the ongoing partnership between LAS and WGS, the two programs will cosponsor a speaker on December 9th, Dr. Jay Sosa (Assistant Professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies). His talk will focus on anti-discrimination laws in Brazil regarding the LGBT population as well as on the denial of racism which has been central to Brazil's national identity for the past century.



"We continue our partnership with the Jane Kopas Women's Center through the faculty liaison program."

The WGS program continues to grow and thrive both in terms of new courses added (5 approved during the last academic year), new faculty joining (Dr. Ovidiu Cocieru, KSOM), and new students adding the WGS concentration to their course of studies.

We continue our partnership with the Jane Kopas Women's Center through the faculty liaison program in the Fall (presentations and roundtables hosted by Drs. Zanzana and Poulson). In the Spring, WGS and the JKWC will join forces for a signature event on Global Gender Equity to be held on March 8th. Stay tuned for more details about guest speakers, time, and location.

Our Work Study student Sam Gurn has collected a series of interviews and information pieces about the many activities related to the WGS program. You will find these inside this newsletter. I'm grateful to Sam for her work. A special thank you to her and to our administrative assistant, Donna Rupp, who assists us tirelessly with all our many projects, questions, and queries.

Have a great semester everyone!

Dr. Marzia Caporale

Director, Women's and Gender Studies Program

Faculty Scholarship

Dr. Marzia Caporale

- Publication: "Moroccan Identities in Motion: Narratives of Dystopia in Leïla Kilani's film *Sur la planche*" *Trans-Mediterranean Francophonies*. Ed Megan McDonald and Claire Launchbury. Liverpool University Press.2021.
- Conference presentation : March 2021 NeMLA (Northeastern Modern Language Association conference) "Queering Masculinities: Reinterpreting Gender Boundaries in Contemporary Italian Pop Culture"
- Conference presentation November 2021 SAMLA (South Atlantic Modern language Association) "Women Connecting Voices: Breaking Barriers of Confinement in Djaili Amadou Amal *Les impatientes*"
- Service to the community : March 20, virtual round table discussion for The Gathering Place (Non profit) "Are women still the second Sex? Simone de Beauvoir's Legacy."

Dr. Paul Datti

- Presentations: Datti, P. A., & Herrick, S. J. (2021, June). All these Isms: Understanding privilege, power, and oppression in personal and professional relationships. Two-hour special presentation at the National Council on Rehabilitation Education 2021 Summer Conference, online. <https://ncre.org/summer-2021-conference>. The above talk will also be given in the community for the staff of the North Pocono Public Library on Nov 2nd.
- Nov 13th: Datti, P. A., & Kratsa, K. (2021, November). LGBTQ+ 101: Empowering counselors and counselor trainees to provide competent and affirming care. Presentation at the annual Pennsylvania Counseling Association fall conference, King of Prussia, PA.

Dr. Aiala Levy

- Published: "'Art, Luxury, Elegance': Crafting an Aesthetic of Aspiration in São Paulo's Early Cinemas," *Journal of Global South Studies* 38, no.1 (Spring 2021): 25-53.
- "Introduction: Experimental Urbanity in São Paulo," with Daniel Gough and Joseph Jay Sosa, *Journal of Global South Studies* 38, no.1 (Spring 2021): 1-24.
- Additionally she is now directing the Latin American Studies Program. She is also on the steering committee for the University's NEH Humanities Discussions Grant ("Scranton's Story, Our Nation's Story"), which is interested in women's stories and stories of gender.

Dr. Ann Pang-White

- Professor of Philosophy and Director of Asian Studies, recently has published an article "Virtues and the Book of Rites" in the *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* (Brill), Volume 48, Issue 1 (Apr 2021), pp. 56-70.
- She just completed an invited book chapter, "Reassessing Ban Zhao: The Advent of Chinese Women Philosophers" to be included in *Ancient Women Philosophers* (Cambridge University Press), and a book manuscript, *Readings in Chinese Women's Philosophical and Feminist Thought -- From the Late 13th to Early 21st Century* (Bloomsbury). Both are in the production stage.
- In 2021 and 2022, she will be a special issue editor of two issues on women and gender in cross-cultural studies for the *Journal of Chinese Philosophy*.
- In her research, writing, and teaching, Dr. Pang-White attempts to bring women's and gender issues to the forefront of traditionally male-dominated fields such as philosophy and Chinese traditions, to uncover forgotten and neglected discourse and literary works by women writers, and to break hierarchical, binary, exclusionist thinking paradigm that undermines cross-cultural cross-gender solidarity.

Faculty Scholarship (continued)

Dr. Yamile Silva

- Two of Dr. Silva's articles and one academic interview to Costa Rican writer Tatiana Lobo have been accepted for publication in peer-reviewed journals:
- -" Narrativas de lo gótico en «*La extraña*» (1922) de Abigail Mejía" *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*. (Forthcoming Spring 2022).
- -"Qué el imperio de la tiranía caiga por los mismos medios que se levantó": apropiaciones tácticas en *Catecismo o instrucción popular* de Juan Fernández de Sotomayor (1814) *Revista Universidad de Cartagena* (Forthcoming June 2022)
- -"La letra escondida: género, archivos y escritura en Tatiana Lobo: entrevista" *REGS/Journal of Gender and Sexuality Studies* (Michigan State University Press) (Forthcoming June 2022).
- In November, Dr. Silva will present her paper "Abigail Mejía: cronista de viajes" at the XXX Congress, Association of Gender and Sexuality Studies in República Dominicana. Her proposed panel "Representations of Space in the Colonial Latin America (1492-1898)" has been accepted to be part of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA) conference in May 2022.
- Dr. Silva's critical edition of *Entre Frivolidades* (1922) by Dominican writer Abigail Mejía is under review by an academic press.
- Service: On May 25, Silva served as a Spanish translator for the second vaccine clinic at St. John Neumann Parish in Scranton. Dr. Silva served as a book proposal reviewer for Routledge | Taylor and Francis Group during Summer 2021. Also, she participated as an external reader for the Doctoral Dissertation "Lecturas firmadas. Género y antologías en la España contemporánea" by Raquel Fernández at the Universidad de Oviedo, in September 2021. Silva has been invited to serve as a peer review panelist for the NEH Division of Education Programs, *Humanities Connections Planning and Implementation* competitions to be in November 2021. Silva continues serving as a member of the Executive Committee Board of the Colonial Section in the Professional Organization LASA (Latin American Studies Association). Finally, Silva has been invited to give a talk on Litigations and the Exercise of Legal Rights in petitions by Spanish women in the Colonial Americas (XVI-XVII) at the Doctoral Program in Gender Studies at Universidad de Oviedo in Spain during Spring 2022 (TBA).

Dr. Billie Tadros

- presented a working paper entitled "Putting the 'I' in and Taking the 'I' Out: I Poems as Embodied Method/ology for (Auto)Ethnographic Work on Injury and Identity" as part of the September 2021 virtual Rhetoric of Health and Medicine Symposium, in which I explore the methodological possibilities and limitations of using the Listening Guide (Gilligan et al.), and specifically, "I poems" (e.g., Gilligan et al., Inckle, Koelsch), in working with data gathered in surveys and interviews with other woman-identified runners who sustained traumatic injuries.
- In November she will be presenting poems at the Midwest Modern Language Association conference from a working manuscript exploring injury and gender identity entitled *Was Femoral, Was Femme Moral*.
- has been appointed the director of the new Health Humanities concentration, for which several of our WGS courses are also cross-listed.

Dr. Habib Zanzana

- Conference presentation: "Contemporary Woman's Writing and the Medical Humanities in Addallah Taïa's *A Country for Dying*", at the Institute of Modern Languages Research Virtual Conference, University of London, July 2021.

Interview with Dr. Ovidiu Cocieru

DR. COCIERU IS A FINANCE PROFESSOR WITHIN THE KANIA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



Dr. Ovidiu answered some questions about joining the Women's and Gender Studies program! He looks forward to this partnership.

WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND WITHIN THE FIELD OF WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES?

I do not have a particular background in the field of Women's and Gender Studies. During my doctoral studies in management at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, I had the distinct pleasure and honor to take several courses taught by renowned feminist and critical theory scholars Linda Smircich and Marta Calás. Their perspective on gender and the distribution of power has impacted my understanding of the world.

WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO COME TO THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON?

My research focus is on experiential learning and its impact on the community. Given that the University of Scranton is a Jesuit university, my interests aligned very well with the mission of the university. During my first campus visit, I was also impressed by the kindness and professionalism of the people at this university. Now that I am here, it feels like home.

WHAT COURSES ARE YOU HOPING TO OFFER WITHIN THE BUSINESS SCHOOL THAT COVER TOPICS WITHIN WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES?

The course that I intend to teach as part of the Women's and Gender Studies is MGT 474 (Managing a Multicultural Workforce). Among other topics, the course focuses on sex and gender in the workplace, including legislation, gender role socialization, gendered job steering, sex discrimination, sexual harassment, glass ceiling, sticky floors, glass walls, glass escalator, glass cliff, women and poverty, women and negotiation of pay; work and family, and the implications for men and women; the work experiences of people with different sexual orientations and gender identities; and gender and intersectionality with race, religion, age, weight, and appearance.

Interview with Dr. Ovidiu Cocieru (continued)

WHY IS WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES IMPORTANT FOR BUSINESS MAJORS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT?

Gender has a major impact on work experiences. In the United States, women working full-time earn about 80 cents to the dollar earned by men working full-time. Women and men are expected to fit in certain gender norms while at work, and when they deviate from these expectations, they are often penalized. Women and men sometimes face discrimination and harassment at work because of their gender. It is important for students to understand these dynamics to become better workers, colleagues, and managers.

WHAT IS THE BEST ADVICE YOU HAVE FOR A STUDENT WHO IS LOOKING TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED WITH SOCIAL CHANGE?

Start somewhere and focus on what is under your control. I like what Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson responds to those who ask her about what they can do to have a positive impact on climate change. She says that people who want to enact change should focus on the intersection of three areas: (a) What are you good at?, (b) What is the work that needs doing?, and (c) What brings you joy?. I believe that one's ability to enact change increases as they spend more time at the intersection of those three questions.

New Course offered with Dr. Ann Pang-White

DR. ANN PANG-WHITE TO TEACH PHILOSOPHY 218 IN SPRING 2022

This course counts as a GE philosophy elective (P) with the diversity designation (D). It is a foundational course in Women's and Gender Studies and is open to anyone who is interested in learning more about the subject. "What is feminism?" "What is the relationship between feminist theory and practice?" This course tackles these topics and related philosophical questions. Special attention will be paid to the interrelationship of gender, class, and race. Topics may include liberal feminism, radical feminism, women-of-color feminism, Global, postcolonial, and transnational feminisms, Marxist and socialist feminisms, existential and post-modern feminisms, care-based feminism, and the third-wave feminism.



Senior Spotlight

We interviewed some of our seniors who have a Women's and Gender Studies concentration to see what they have gained from our program.



Samantha Gurn

Sam is a Marketing major with Theatre and English minors and a concentration in Women's and Gender Studies.

What made you want to add a WGS concentration?

I have always viewed myself as a feminist and after taking my first WGS course I knew this was something I wanted to be a part of.

How do you hope to incorporate what you have learned in your WGS courses into your career field?

I am not entirely sure what I want to do yet after graduation but I hope to contribute to the work culture in a positive way by ensuring equitable behaviors in the workplace by implementing what I have learned in my courses about gender disparities and inclusivity into the company I work for in some capacity.

Matthew is an Accounting major with a History minor and a concentration in Women's and Gender Studies.

What made you want to add a WGS concentration?

HIST 238 made me want to add this concentration. I loved the subject matter of this course and how it was discussion based, it was much different than the courses I had taken for my major and I really enjoyed it!

What do you hope to do after graduation?

I hope to be an auditor one day at a big four firm for a few years. Eventually, I would like to be more involved in politics and potentially run for office. I think having a history minor and the Women's and Gender Studies concentration can only help further that career choice because I have learned a lot of different topics and these are topics I am very passionate about.



Matthew Normann

Mackenzie is a Strategic Communications major with a Public Relations track and a Counseling and Human Services Minor with a concentration in Women's and Gender Studies.



Mackenzie Mickavicz

What made you want to add a WGS concentration?

I just kept taking the courses and my advisor, Dr. Pavlick told me I was only missing one class. She inspired me to declare the concentration.

What career do you hope to pursue after graduation?

I would like to tie the public relations track into benefitting women and empowering women. Even if I do not work at a women's organization I would like to spread awareness of women's right and gender equity.

How do you hope to incorporate what you have learned in your WGS courses into your everyday life?

I have a younger sister so I am always preaching feminism. I also work at an ice cream shop with teenage girls, so I try to help educate them and show younger women why gender equity is so important and how we can look towards a better future.

Elizabeth is a Political Science major with concentrations in Legal Studies and Women's and Gender Studies.

What made you want to add a WGS concentration?

I took a class with Dr. Harris that fulfilled my requirement for my major. Honestly, I didn't know that it was a WGS course. I found it interesting to learn about women in politics and leadership positions. I wanted to further my learning of not just women in politics but learning about the challenges that women face on the daily.

How do you hope to incorporate what you have learned in your WGS courses into your everyday life?

Throughout the courses, I learned many challenges that women face on the daily. I would love to incorporate these challenges to help women find solutions on a community & state level.



Elizabeth Delaney

Events for the Semester

THE JANE KOPAS WOMEN'S CENTER:

Love Your Body Week October 18-23, 2021

Follow our social media posts throughout the week for more information about the events and body acceptance & love!

MONDAY
7-9pm:
Clothing swap
Spruce up your style and find clothes that fit you through our eco-friendly swap. Donation bins located outside JKWC (TDC 205F)

The road to body empowerment

WEDNESDAY 6-7:30pm:
Workshop Wednesday
Come hang with us in the JKWC, make a craft, and discuss pressures of college on body image.

THURSDAY 6-8pm:
Love Your Body Day
Join us for Love Your Body Day with a night full of activities on 4th floor DeNaples, including a table fair, yoga, and more!

@janekopas
#LYBWeek2021

THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON
A JESUIT UNIVERSITY
CROSS CULTURAL CENTERS
JANE KOPAS WOMEN'S CENTER

Love Your Body Week is an annual event for the JKWC and they are so excited to be back in person this semester! Many different clubs and organizations are involved in this educational and fun program. The event is Thursday 10/21 from 6-8pm on 4th floor Denaples. Leading up to the event is a clothing swap on Monday 10/18 from 7-9pm where JKWC staff will be discussing fast fashion and how clothing can be more sustainable. Following this event will be a Workshop Wednesday on 10/20 from 6-7:30pm where people can come and have a conversation with JKWC staff about the pressures of college on body image while doing an activity. All genders are welcome to this event!

WGS LIAISON PROGRAM, SPEAKER BILL HOUSER

As part of the Jane Kopas Women's Center's liaison program with Women's and Gender Studies, Dr. Poulson has arranged for the student staff of the JKWC to engage with Mr. Bill Houser, Resident Legal Advisor at the US Embassy in Ghana. The students have drafted questions for Mr. Houser and are eager to learn more about establishing the rule of law in developing countries. They are especially interested in learning about issues facing the LGBTQ community in Ghana. The talk will take place Tuesday, October 26th at 11:30am via zoom at the JKWC.

Events for the Semester (continued)

CO-SPONSORED LAS/WGS EVENT : DR. JAY SOSA, BOWDOIN COLLEGE

Zoom, Thursday, December 9, at 7:30pm.

Unstable Analogies: LGBT Anti-discrimination Law in Brazil and the (Non) Intersectionality of Human Rights

From 2001 to 2019, Brazil's LGBT social movements engaged in an extended campaign of legislative and judicial activism to enact anti-discrimination protections based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In doing so, LGBT social movements initiated an extended debate within Brazilian public culture as to the nature and extent of homophobia in Brazilian society. This talk traces the concept of homophobia as it extended across Brazilian public culture from transnational appeals for human rights inclusions, federal legislative proposals, court cases, and eventually to themes of mutual dignity and respect on television melodrama. Key to this conceptual work was homophobia's constant comparison with racism in legal and administrative settings, social movement activism, and popular culture. Public narratives comparing homophobia to racism challenged twentieth-century discourses on national identity that had emphasized Brazil's racial harmony and sexual tolerance. But these comparisons also proved unstable analogies that cultivated different ethical questions about racial, gender, and sexual justice in distinct settings. Drawing on intersectionality's intellectual roots in U.S. anti-discrimination law, this talk examines how intersectionality's critique of analogizing oppressions translates to transnational settings.



We hope you enjoyed this edition of our WGS Newsletter.