

Women's and Gender Studies



A Note from the Director

Welcome to another exciting semester! The Women's and Gender Studies program has many wonderful events in store, as well as new additions that you will find listed in this newsletter.

First off, I am proud to say that the WGS program continues to grow and develop. Between the Spring and the Fall semester of this year, the program has welcomed two new affiliate faculty: Dr. Howard Fisher (Media and Communications) and Dr. Madeline Gangnes (Department of English and Theater). The Steering Committee has also approved the WGS designation for two new courses: COMM 216 Women and Videogame Culture, and ENLT 375 The Works of Toni Morrison. A new foundational course, WOMN/INTD 220 Gender Theory and Methods was also formally approved and is now officially listed in the catalogue. It will be taught by Dr. Tadros and Dr. Pavlick in Spring 2024.

We of course continue our partnership with the Jane Kopas Women's Center, and I am particularly grateful to the new assistant director Brandice Ricciardi for the enthusiasm with which she has welcomed my ideas regarding co-sponsored events and collaborations. In addition to our annual faculty liaison events, led this year by Dr. Fisher and Dr. Tadros, the WGS program and the JKWC are planning a social discussion hour in solidarity with Iranian women as they fight to gain access to fundamental human rights. The event will take place in November, time and location will be forthcoming.

Finally, we are celebrating this year the 50th anniversary of the University of Scranton going co-ed. The kick-off event on October 13th will be followed by more celebrations and programming throughout the year so please stay tuned for exact dates and times!

Wishing everyone a Happy Fall!

Dr. Marzia Caporale
Director, Women's and Gender Studies Program

FALL 2022

Newsletter Highlights

Meet one of our new Affiliate Faculty!

Meet Our Alumnae!

Faculty Highlights

New Courses Approved

Recent Events



WOMEN'S AND
GENDER STUDIES

MEET ONE OF OUR NEW FACULTY

Dr. Madeline Gangnes

Department of English and Theatre



Why did you join the WGS faculty?

I joined the WGS faculty because I know that the concept of gender permeates almost every aspect of human life. I have worked in this profession long enough to have seen the ways in which women and gender-nonconforming scholars and educators are perceived and treated as compared with their male colleagues. As a literature professor, I've read and taught so many wonderful texts that speak to the experiences of characters and authors whose paths have been dictated by their genders—sometimes in ways that are empowering, but often in ways that can disadvantage them. It's been a joy to prompt students to have "difficult" discussions related to WGS, and to see how brilliantly they can rise to the challenge and help each other reach important insights about this very complex issue.

What is your current research?

My current research varies widely and encompasses fields like Victorian literature and culture, periodical studies, book history, comics and illustration, and digital humanities. The biggest project I'm working on at the moment examines a Victorian periodical for children with reference to its illustrations and how it depicts gender and race, both in text and image. I was very fortunate to conduct research at the National Library of Scotland over the summer to support this work.

Why should students consider taking WGS courses or declare the concentration?

Students should consider taking WGS courses or declare the concentration because gaining an understanding of the complex landscape of gender helps us to better connect with those around us. There is no day we live in which gender does not play a significant role in our lives, and anything that affects ourselves and others so profoundly is a vital topic of study. People of all genders can benefit from learning about the experiences of others and interrogating the complex societal and institutional systems that may oppress or hold back people of certain genders. Simply put: WGS helps us become more discerning and compassionate people.

MEET OUR ALUMNAE

Elizabeth Delaney - Class of 2022

and

Amanda Ragusa - Class of 2017

Interviews were conducted by WGS work study student Emily Russo



Elizabeth Delaney

What are you doing? Does it relate to WGS?

Although not related to WGS, I am a Prevention Specialist for a Drug & Alcohol Agency.

If it doesn't specifically relate to WGS, did the major/concentration help shape your personal and professional life?

Even though my career doesn't relate to WGS, the WGS concentration helped me open my eyes to the injustices women and different genders face on a daily basis, especially in the criminal justice system and politics.

Which WGS courses would you recommend the most?

I would recommend Marriage & the Family. Dr. Wolfer is a phenomenal professor!



Amanda Ragusa

What are you doing? Does it relate to WGS?

I work as a Recruitment Coordinator at a healthcare company

If it doesn't specifically relate to WGS, did the major/concentration help shape your personal and professional life?

My WGS concentration opened my eyes to the importance of diversity and inclusion in the workplace. I worked my first corporate job for a prestigious woman-owned and operated business, and I now work in the healthcare space with an incredibly diverse team of HR professionals. I would say that my background in WGS gave me the tools for a successful, ethical, and progressive career in Human Resources. In my personal life, I can confidently say that my education has helped me achieve healthier, deeper relationships, and for that I will be forever grateful.

Which WGS courses would you recommend the most?

Any history course with Dr. Susan Poulson will be more than worth your time and effort; I wish I could sit in her classroom again! Dr. Kim Pavlick's 'Gender & Communication' course was one of the most interactive and collaborative classes I took at Scranton, so I would definitely recommend that class as well.

FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

Dr. Roxana Curiel

- Dr. Curiel was awarded the University of Scranton Faculty Development Grant (Summer 2022) for the project “De muxe a muxe: Meuxidad and the Third Gender in Zapotec Culture.” She spent the summer performing an ethnography of two muxe artists, Elvis Guerra and Luka Avedaño, which is part of her book manuscript, *Machorras: Embodying Identity Against Mexicanidad*. She also created “Robles,” a drag performance piece with fellow dragtivist Nancy Cázares and musician Gabriel Tepichín. They were invited to perform it at the Archivo de la Ciudad de México as part of the talk series, “Disidencia, resistencia y movilización. La diversidad sexual en la Ciudad de México a través de sus archivos,” which was part of the Pride events organized by the government of Mexico City. The performance told the story of Colonel Amelio Robles and their transition during the Mexican Revolution (1910), along with current stories of femmecides and violencia machista against trans women in Latin America. The piece's success has led to several invitations to perform at festivals and LGBTQIA+ events.
- In Fall 2022, Dr. Curiel was invited to write a chapter on queer theory by scholars from Harvard and the Universidad Autónoma de México collaborating in an edited book, *Teoría Queer en México: Disidencias, Diversidades y Diferencias*, under contract with Editorial Signos. She will present a drag performative version of that chapter, “White Bunny: latinidad, racialización y estética cuir en la música de Bad Bunny,” at the upcoming American Studies Association 2022 Annual Meeting.

Dr. Paul Datti

- Dileo, R., Choi, S., Hanneman, T., Demirbas, A. R., Hearld, K. R., Datti, P. A., & Borkowski, N. (2022). Do hospitals achieving “leader in LGBTQ healthcare equality” maintain higher patient scores compared to non-leaders? *Journal for Healthcare Quality*, 44(5), 269-275.

Dr. Howard Fisher

- Dr. Fisher’s novel “Medusa: Rise of a Goddess” received a 9.5 (out of 10) from The BookLife Prize, an annual prize hosted by Publisher’s Weekly. There are several rounds of competition, and that initial score was just the first round. Quarterfinalists and Semifinalists are announced this month (fingers crossed!), and the competition’s final prizes are announced in November.

The book is a retelling of the Medusa story that turns the misogynistic myth on its head by telling the story from Medusa’s own point of view. That story is contrasted against a modern story of a woman navigating coming to terms with her sexuality against the religious, fundamentalist man who rejects and abuses her.

Dr. Habib Zanzana

- Dr. Zanzana presented two research papers at the Northeast MLA conference in March 2022, in Baltimore, Maryland:
 “Cinema and the Contemporary Quebecois Family in the films of Xavier Dolan.”
 “The Intersection of Migration and Gender in Contemporary Arabic Literature and Cinema.”
- Dr. Zanzana also published a peer-reviewed article in an international journal:
 “The Kaleidoscope of Cultures in Contemporary Italy in Amara Lakhous’s Clash of Civilizations over an Elevator in Piazza Vittorio,” CROCEVIA, Percorsi dell' intermedialità. Edizioni Universitarie di Lettere Economia Diritto, Milan, Italy, June 2022, 141-163

NEW COURSES APPROVED

COMM 216 Women & Videogame Culture:

Students will study the history of videogames and analyze women’s place in that history. They will review the creation of the earliest videogames, the rise of home consoles, and the controversies surrounding videogame violence – with an emphasis on women’s roles and gender portrayal.

English 375 The Works of Toni Morrison:

This course will examine the works of Toni Morrison, a major figure in both African-American and Contemporary American Literature. In reading her novels, primarily, and her essays, students will discover Morrison’s unique elaboration of critical concepts and themes within the discipline of literature. Reading list can vary with each course offering.

RECENT EVENTS

CONCENTRATION FAIR

Join us to learn about some of the concentrations we offer
and get FREE CANDY!!

What is a
Concentration?

A concentration is an interdisciplinary program, similar to a minor, that can complement any major

- Asian Studies
- Environmental Studies
- Health Humanities
- Latin American & Latinx Studies
- Peace and Justice Studies
- Women's & Gender Studies

Tuesday, October 18 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
 DeNaples Center 2nd floor Fireplace Lounge

50th Anniversary of Women Being Admitted to the University



“A small working group of students, faculty, staff, and administrators have begun gathering for the purpose of identifying how best to honor and celebrate 50 years of coeducation at The University of Scranton.

Following the official kickoff on October 13, we look forward to partnering with various departments across campus in support of programs that celebrate this milestone in the life of the University and honor the experiences of women at the University.”

Elizabeth Garcia, Esq.
Special Assistant to the President
Executive Director for the Office of Equity and Diversity
Title IX Coordinator



Sarah Soos