

# Women's and Gender Studies



## Notes from the Chair

Spring semester 2022 is here and well underway! There are many new exciting activities that relate to the Women's and Gender Studies program, as outlined in the newsletter.

First, we welcome two new work study students in training, Ms Hannah Kohrn and Ms Emily Russo. They are currently working with Sam Gurn to learn more about our office, our programs, and the events organized for the semester. One of their current tasks is to redesign a poster with new images and language for our office door, since the LA/W/S sign no longer reflects the administrative organization of our program. We sincerely hope that they will both continue in the position during the next academic year.

Our signature event to celebrate International Women's Day was March 8th and was attended by nearly 30 people (students, faculty, and staff). Our virtual keynote speaker was Dr. Imen Neffati, Junior Research Fellow from Pembroke College in Oxford, England. She was joined by University of Scranton's faculty Dr. Virginia Picchietti, Professor of Italian, and Dr. Ovidiu Cocieru, Assistant Professor of Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship, to present on the topic of Global Gender Equity.

We continue to partner with the Jane Kopas Women's Center and plan to attend Take Back the Night's pre-rally to both support their initiative and to make our program visible on campus during such an important event. It is with a sad heart, however, that we say goodbye to the director of the center, Maria Marinucci, who will be leaving her position at the end of the semester. I personally wish to thank her for her support to our initiatives and for the many collaborations that have enriched our program.

Wishing everyone a healthy and joyful spring!

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

## Newsletter Highlights

International Women's Day, March 8th

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Faculty Scholarship

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Meet our new Work Study Students!

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Take Back the Night 2022

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The Committee on Gender Equity



WOMEN'S AND  
GENDER STUDIES

# MARCH: WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

March 8th

## International Women's Day Roundtable Event

**GLOBAL GENDER EQUITY ROUNDTABLE**

This event is hosted by the Women's and Gender Studies Program and the Jane Kopas Women's Center to celebrate International Women's Day!

To sign up, scan this QR code or email Dr. Caporale @marzia.caporale@scranton.edu, by February 28th.

**Dr. Ovidiu Cocieru**  
Assistant Professor of Management at the Kania School of Management and WGS faculty  
'Gender Inequality and the Climate Crisis'

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Imen Neffati**  
Junior research fellow at Pembroke College Oxford, UK  
'Gender Inequality in Inheritance, Tunisia as Case Study'

**Dr. Virginia Picchietti**  
Professor of Italian Department of World Languages and Cultures and WGS faculty  
'Feminism and Gender Equity in Italy'

**MARCH 8TH**  
**BRENNAN 509 FROM 5-7PM**  
**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED**

International Women's Day

Some history of International Women's Day. It is a global celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. It has been observed since the early 1900s and was honored for the first time on March 19th, 1911, in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland. During this time, women around the world actively spoke out against the oppression and inequality they were facing by attending rallies that campaigned for the right to work, vote, be trained, hold public office, and so much more. This significant activity not only led to the launch of the internationalwomensday.com platform but also to the major changes and attitudinal shifts we have seen in women and men over time. Today, groups still come together worldwide to celebrate the achievements of women and continue the ongoing fight for gender parity.

To celebrate Women's History Month and, more specifically, International Women's Day, we hosted a Global Gender Equity Roundtable event with three keynote speakers who spoke about various gender issues that impact women globally.

Our keynote speaker, Dr. Imen Neffati, gave an inspiring talk on gender inequality regarding inheritance law in Tunisia. Our very own Dr. Virginia Picchietti presented on gender equity and feminism in Italy, detailing changes within societal Italy over the past decade.

Dr. Ovidiu Cocieru presented on climate change and how global warming disproportionately impacts women. This Roundtable event was attended by approximately 30 faculty, staff, and students and we were honored to host such an informative event for our campus community. We would like to thank all three speakers for their time, research and commitment to social change.



# MEET OUR NEW WORK STUDY STUDENTS



**Emily Russo**

My name is Emily Russo, and I work in the Women's and Gender Studies office as a work study student. I am a freshman Advertising / Public Relations major. I hope to add a minor in Social Media and a concentration in Women's and Gender studies. I am currently taking a Gender in Society class where I have learned so much more about gender, sexuality, and equality. I love how the university provides courses where I can learn more about these important topics. In my free time, I love to go on drives, take walks, get coffee, and go to places where there are scenic views. I also love going on spontaneous adventures and trying new things.

**Hannah Kohn**

Hi! My name is Hannah Kohn and I work in the Women's and Gender Studies office as a work study student. I am a sophomore Sociology major with a Psychology minor and a concentration in Women's and Gender Studies. On campus, I am secretary for the Random Acts of Kindness Club and a Resident Assistant in Region 1, which oversees first-year students. I am also a part of the University of Scranton Programming Board (USPB) where I serve as one of the co-chairs for the Coffeehouse Committee. After coming to the University of Scranton and taking classes such as "Gender in Society" and "Race and Ethnic Relations", I decided to add a Women's and Gender Studies concentration. I realized that the various topics I was learning about, such as equality, race, class, gender, sexuality and so much more, would be important to have under my belt for the work I plan to do in the future. I am so happy to be a part of a program that challenges me to think more critically about important topics like these.





# FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

## Dr. Marzia Caporale

- Book review for *Etudes Francophones*, Spring 2022 issue. *La Langue qu'elles habitent. Écritures de femmes, frontières, territoires*. Eds. María Carmen Molina Romero et Montserrat Serrano Mañes. Bruxelles, Peter Lang, 2020.
- Conference paper: "Popular Culture as Pedagogy: Teaching 'Il Canto di Ulisse' from Dante to Jovanotti in the American College Classroom," accepted for Dante 700 celebration conference, University of Florence, Italy, January 2022.
- Conference paper / roundtable "For a New Poetics of Gender in banlieue Cinema: From La haine to Today." NeMla 2022, Baltimore, March 2022.

## Dr. Paul Datti

- Herrick, S. J., & Datti, P. A. (In press). "Autism spectrum disorder and sexual minority status: Sex education and counseling implications." Literature review and practical article accepted in the *American Journal of Sex Education*.
- Charette, J., Dalton, S. E., Loeffler, D., & Datti, P. (2021, November). "Putting it into practice: Complexities in caring for LGBTQ+ clients, families, and systems. Half-day pre-conference institute provided at the annual Pennsylvania Counseling Association fall conference, King of Prussia, PA.

## Dr. Aiala Levy

- Dr. Levy was awarded an Information Literacy Stipend from the Weinberg Memorial Library in Fall 2021 for HIST 190 Digital History. Also, together with Katia Ramirez '22 (a student HIST 213 Gender & Family in Latin America and LAWS work-study), Dr. Levy received a Research as High Impact Practice (rHIP) grant from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs (ORSP) to work on her book and digital project, *Afro-Paulistano Cartographies: Race and Space in a Post-Emancipation City*.

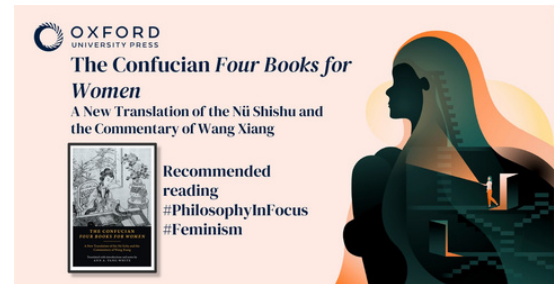
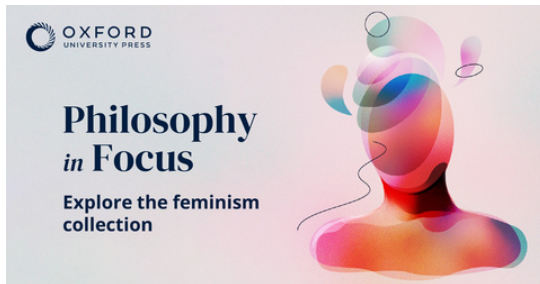
## Dr. Habib Zanzana

- Dr. Zanzana published a peer-reviewed article on Don Quixote and the Construction of Dulcinea in a book titled, *Cosmic Wit: Essays in Honor of Edward H. Friedman*. The book was published by Juan de la Cuesta Hispanic Monographs, 2021.
- Presented a research paper at the Center for the Study of Contemporary Women's Writing at the University of London Virtual Conference (July 2021). The paper was titled, "Contemporary Women's Writings and Medical Humanities."
- Dr. Zanzana will be presenting 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

# FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

## Dr. Ann Pang-White

- Journal Article, “Female Chastity in Confucianism: Genealogy and Radicalization,” *Journal of Chinese Philosophy*, Volume 49, Issue no.1, forthcoming (March 2022).
- Journal Article, “Asian Texts, Global Contexts: Philosophy, Women, and Gender in the 21st Century,” introduction to the three-part special issue for the *Journal of Chinese Philosophy*, Volume 49, Issue no. 1, forthcoming (March 2022).
- Special Issue Editor (invited), “Philosophy, Women, and Gender in the New Millenium,” *Journal of Chinese Philosophy*, Volume 49, Issue no. 1. (Part I of the Three-Part Special Issue)
- Chaired the International Society for Chinese Philosophy feminism panel at the American Philosophical Association Annual Meeting on January 14, 2022.
- Organized three panels for the 22nd Biennial International Conference of the International Society for Chinese Philosophy, to take place on June 27–30, 2022, East China Normal University, Shanghai, China. All three panels have been accepted.



## Dr. Billie Tadros

- Dr. Tadros's book of poems, *Was Body* (Indolent Books, 2020), whose themes include women's embodiment and queer relationships, was recently named the winner in Poetry for the National Indie Excellence Awards.
- Two of Dr. Tadros's poems, "You say ravine and ravenous derive from the same, so," and "We Were Women, We Were Already Receding," were recently anthologized in *Dream of the River* (Jacar Press, 2021), an anthology of LGBTQ poetry whose sales benefit the Trevor Project.
- Dr. Tadros's poem "D is for Delta, or, Estuary, as Two Marry, a Tidal, a Bridal Opening," was named the winner of the inaugural Live Out Proud Poetry Contest organized by the Rainbow Alliance, NEPA Pride Project, and NEPA Creative.
- In Fall 2021, Dr. Tadros presented a working paper as part of the virtual Rhetoric of Health and Medicine symposium entitled “Putting the ‘I’ in and Taking the ‘I’ Out: I Poems as Invention, Inventory, and Embodied Methodology for (Auto)Ethnographic Work on Injury and Identity.”
- Dr. Tadros also presented a reading/talk at the Midwest Modern Language Association convention entitled "Was Femoral, Was Femme Moral: Notes toward a Feminist Injury Poetics and Pedagogy."

# TAKE BACK THE NIGHT 2022

Samantha Gurn, our senior work study student, will be Take Back the Night student coordinator for The Jane Kopas Women's Center this semester. The theme for Take Back the Night is, "Enough." And Sam is really excited for the work that has already been done for this powerful event.

## Why is Take Back the Night meaningful to you?

This event is meaningful to me because I am an advocate for people who have experienced the violence that is talked about at Take Back the Night. I think this event brings people closer and gives the space for people to start on their healing journey. It is meaningful because people who may not have had the opportunity to share their story finally can without fear of judgment.

## How did you pick this year's theme?

I have had the pleasure of working with my fellow Women's Center staff members on this event and everyone has had so many great ideas on this year's theme, and we have a lot of amazing submissions for the design!

We picked "Enough." because our staff felt like this theme is broad enough for everyone to have their own personal connection and interpretation of the theme. I personally really like it because it holds a lot of power in the single word.



## Samantha Gurn

### What does Take Back the Night do for our campus?

I think TBTN is such an important event for the campus community because sexual and gender violence impacts so many people. This event gives all of these people an opportunity to speak and share and maybe even heal. I think this is the most powerful event I have ever attended on campus my entire four years here, and I am proud to be student coordinator this year. Our team of work study students, interns, and volunteers has put in a lot of work already this semester, and I think it is going to be even better this year because of the community we have built around the event.





# SAYING GOODBYE TO MARIA MARINUCCI

We are saddened to see Maria Marinucci, the current Director of The Cross Cultural Centers, go but we are so lucky to have had such a powerful leader these past five years. We asked Maria a few questions about her time here.

**What changes have you seen, good or bad, for gender equity during your time here on campus?**

I think over the past 8 years, we have seen more openness to gender issues, and have seen an expansion of the understanding of “gender” beyond the binary, which ultimately increases awareness and education, and also more holistically supports our community members. I’ve see it in JKWC programming, the change to “Women’s and Gender Studies,” our Preferred Name Policy, examinations of restrooms, policies for supporting trans and non-binary students, and in the shift to the Committee on Gender Equity, among other issues. I think folks have also been more open to seeing and listening to how women, trans, and non-binary folks experience the world in different ways than cisgender men, which is a great step toward progress.

**What is one piece of advice you have for people on our campus who want to make a positive change but don’t know where to start?**

Yesterday, I relistened to Amanda Gorman’s recitation of her poem, “The Hill We Climb,” at President Biden’s inauguration and was reminded of the importance of bravery and also how we need not strive for perfection. If folks want to make a change, that tells me they see something that needs to be or can be changed. We may not know exactly the outcome we want, but we can all take steps to move forward. Start by asking questions—why is this the way things are, who made them this way, who can I support or accompany in making change? Be brave enough to understand the history or the background, and be brave enough to speak up. Each individual has far more power than they realize, if only we are brave enough to use it, as Amanda suggests.



**Maria Marinucci**

## JKWC Staff Spring 2022



**How can we continue the partnership between The JKWC and The WGS program?**

The JKWC and WGS partnership is critical! I think it helps students connect classroom learning with practical application, and also allows faculty to see students and their passions in a new light. Continuing to have liaisons that help educate our non-WGS concentrators on feminism and issues relating to gender, which can then inform student-led programming efforts, is fantastic. I also think the JKWC students have supported faculty in understanding student challenges and needs, which continues to improve our campus all around. I’d love to see more informal partnerships as well — providing feedback, co-sponsoring events, etc. I love how this partnership has challenged my learning, and am excited to see it continue.

# THE COMMITTEE ON GENDER EQUITY

One of the University's longtime committees has changed its name! The Committee on the Status of Women is now titled "The Committee on Gender Equity." We spoke with Dr. Cara Krieg, Chair of the committee, about the name change and what it means for the committee looking forward. Below is their updated Mission Statement to reflect the new ideals regarding the name change:

"To support the University's "dedication to the personal development fundamental to the growth in wisdom and integrity of all who share its life", and to meet the challenge of General Congregation 34 of the Society of Jesus "to listen carefully and courageously to the experience[s] of women," to work in solidarity with "women in the struggle for a more just relationship between women and men," and "to end discrimination against people based on ... gender," the Committee promotes and pursues equitable and just treatment for women and all members of the University community."

## What initiated the name change?

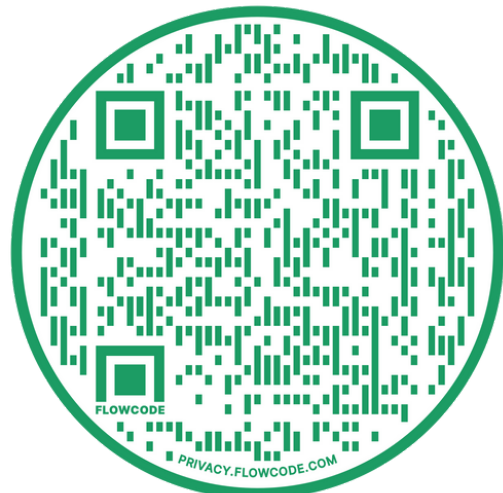
The Committee has been discussing the possibility of name change for some time now. When the Committee was initially formed in the 1980s, the status of women was the main concern. However, the concerns we've been hearing and the work we've been taking on has increasingly involved gender issues that are not just exclusive to those who identify as women. Societal forces that create issues for women often also create issues for those with other minority gender expressions. The Committee is well-positioned to consider issues of gender that do not apply exclusively to women. We also hope that by changing our name and broadening our scope, we can more clearly communicate to the rest of the University community that we are a place to bring gender-related concerns that do not rise to the level of the Office of Equity and Diversity. Finally, this change is consistent with the University's new Diversity and Inclusion policy and better positions us to work collaboratively with the Council on Diversity and Inclusion (CDI) on campus issues related to gender broadly.

## How did you pick the new name?

We picked the name "Committee on Gender Equity (CGE)" because it better reflects the goal of the committee. The Committee on the Status of Women was a bit opaque as to the purpose of the committee. Rather than simply gathering information, as the old name implied, the Committee works to improve gender equity. The name was discussed and then voted on by the current members of the committee. This name won with the overwhelming majority of the vote.

## What is the committee's goals for this semester/ academic year?

For the next semester, we have two primary goals. In collaboration with the CDI, we will be working with the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium (HEDS) Diversity and Equity Campus Climate Survey data to identify specific areas we can target with upcoming work. We will also be working to communicate our new mission change to the wider campus community. I would also like to take this opportunity to let everyone know that any community member (staff, faculty, or student) is welcome to attend the first part of our meetings to bring any concerns to the committee. Community members are also welcome to reach out to Committee members directly or anonymously submit ideas, concerns, or issues to our virtual suggestion box. You can reach this virtual box by scanning the QR Code below.





# FUTURE EVENTS!

We are very excited for the rest of the events for the semester!

## Take Back the Night

Take Back the Night is April 28th! You should attend this moving event. There are three separate parts of the event, starting with the Clothesline Project around the Dionne Green. Secondly, Pre-Rally from 5-7 on the Dionne Green (rain-location is the Byron Center). This portion of the event is followed by a march around campus to protest sexual and interpersonal violence, and to advocate for an end to it. We then end the event at the Speak Out on the Alumni Memorial Green, in front of Campion Hall. This event starts around 7:30pm and will go until everyone who wants to share their story can.

There are planning meetings every other week leading up to the event. If you would like to participate in the planning and implementation of this event you are welcome to attend any of the planning meetings on: 4/6, 4/20, 4/27. The meetings are held on the 4th floor of DeNaples at 7:45pm. And the event is 4/28!

## Philosophy of Women Capstone Presentation

Dr. Ann Pang-White is teaching PHIL 218 Feminism: Theory and Practice. Students will do a group project as the capstone for the course. Part of the requirement for this group project is students will prepare poster sessions to share/present at a Student Expo on May 12 (Thursday), 4:30-6:30, TDC 407. The 30 students in the class will be divided into 10 groups. Also, Women's and Gender Studies will have a table at the Expo. We hope you can join us!



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



# Take Back

Take Back the Night is an international event which seeks to raise awareness of, educate about, and advocate for the end of sexual, domestic, and interpersonal violence.

We need volunteers and voices to help us plan this powerful event!



Future Planning Meeting Dates  
(meet on the 4th Floor of DeNaples)

- Wednesday, March 23rd @7:45pm
- Wednesday, April 6th @7:45pm
- Wednesday, April 20th @7:45pm
- Wednesday, April 27th @7:45pm

The Event: Thursday, April 28th!



# The Night



