

Women's and Gender Studies



A Note from the Director

Dear all:

Welcome to Spring 2023! I would like to start by recognizing the numerous events organized throughout the campus to celebrate the 50th anniversary of women joining the University of Scranton. Many of our faculty are involved in the planning of the celebrations, and I am thankful for their enthusiastic support to this initiative. It has been an exciting two semesters for the Women's and Gender Studies program at the University of Scranton. We have been busy sponsoring, organizing, and coordinating events of which you will find some of the highlights in this newsletter. On Monday Dec 5th, in collaboration with the Jane Kopas Women's Center, the Multicultural Center, The Ellacuria initiative, and Peace and Justice, our program organized a panel discussion on Iranian women and their efforts to obtain freedom. The speakers were Dr. Leila Soleimani, Dr. Mojib Saei, Dr. Hengameh Hosseini, Dr. Ash Zareian, Dr. Gretchen Van Dyke, and Dr. Marzia Caporale. The discussion was facilitated by Dr. Habib Zanzana. The presentation was attended by over 100 people and was followed by an engaged and lively Q&A session. I am thankful to all the co-organizers and the sponsors who made this important night such a success.

On March 2nd, the Women's and Gender Studies program with the support of the Jane Kopas Women's Center and Diversity Initiatives hosted the screening and discussion of the award-winning documentary *Fair Play*. Inspired by Eve Rodsky's NYT bestselling book, the film takes a deep look at domestic inequity and systemic gendered division of labor within the family unit. Approximately thirty people attended the film screening and participated in the round table discussion facilitated by the Jane Kopas Women's Center staff and the Women's and Gender Studies faculty.

On March 28th, the Ellacuria Initiative, under the directorship of Drs. Lori Walton and Billie Tadros, organized a day dedicated to the teaching of Women's and Gender Justice. Many WGS faculty members (Drs. Caporale, Harris, Van Dyke, and Curiel) gave lectures and presentations at this very successful event which was open to students, faculty and staff.

Finally, the Women's and Gender Studies faculty has been active both with their work for the campus community and with their scholarship. Inside this newsletter, you will find a summary of their many activities.

Spring 2023 Newsletter

Since this is my last term as program director, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has worked and collaborated with me during the past three years: a special thank you goes to Donna Rupp, our extraordinary administrative assistant, to the faculty who have dedicated their time to our program, to the Jane Kopas Women's Center and the Multicultural Center for their continued support, and to the work studies who have helped with promotional materials such as posters and the newsletter. I wish you all continued success and a wonderful end of the Spring Semester.

With gratitude,

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

Inside This Issue

- **A Note from the Director**
- **Faculty Scholarship**
- **New Women's and Gender Studies Course**
- **WGS Concentration Student Spotlight**
- ***Take Back the Night***
- **Iranian Women Panel**
- **Screening of the Film *Fair Play***
- **50 Years of Coeducation Celebration**
- **Ellacuria Initiative**



Faculty Scholarship



Dr. Marzia Caporale

Conference presentation: “Rethinking Illness: Narrative Strategies of the Self in Giorgia Soleri’s *La Signorina Nessuno*” NeMLA 2023, Niagara Falls.

Dr. Caporale is the chief editor of an edited volume entitled *Gender in Banlieue Cinema: Intersectional Perspectives*. It is scheduled for publication by Lexington books in December 2023.

Dr. Paul Datti

Charette, J., Connell, A., Dalton, S., Gruber, R., Krasta, K., Loeffler, D., Petitto, D., & Datti, P. (2022, October). Queering your conceptualization; just because we haven’t measured it, doesn’t mean it doesn’t work. Half-day pre-conference institute provided at the annual Pennsylvania Counseling Association fall conference, Pittsburgh, PA.

Dr. Datti presented “All These Isms: Understanding Privilege, Power, and Oppression,” on March 8, as part of the Diversity+Inclusion = A Better U! Lunch and Learn program at the University of Scranton. In his presentation, he discussed “Isms,” such as racism, sexism, cisgenderism, and able-ism.

Dr. Aiala Levy

Conference presentations: “Consuming Theater, Engendering the Urban Public in c.1900 São Paulo, Brazil,” Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME (March 8, 2023); “Babes and Bonbons: Consuming Female Respectability in ca.1900 Brazil,” Berkshire Conference of Women, Genders, and Sexualities, Santa Clara, CA (July 1, 2023)

Dr Levy will be a Scholar-in-Residence at Wabash College (Crawfordsville, Indiana) during the 2023-2024 academic year.

Dr. Susan Mendez

Publication: “The Thinking Self and Discourse of Love Lead to Self-Knowledge in Iris Gomez’s *Try to Remember*,” *Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction*, 22 November 2022: Online.

Conference presentation: “‘A life rendered will always be incomplete:’ Discourses to counter Anti-immigration Policies in Patricia Engel’s *Infinite Country*” will be presented at the 5th Biennial Latinx Literary Theory and Criticism Conference at the City University of New York, Graduate Center, April 5-7, 2023.

Dr. Ann Pang-White

Her new book, *Readings in Chinese Women's Philosophical and Feminist Thought: From the Late 13th to Early 21st Century*, was recently published by Bloomsbury Press. Over the summer, she also completed her guest editor work of the special issue, "Philosophy, Women, and Gender in the New Millennium," for the *Journal of Chinese Philosophy* (Brill).

Another special issue, "Self and Other," for which she is the guest editor, is the *NTU Philosophical Review* (published by National Taiwan University) to come out in March 2023.

In addition to serving on several editorial boards of academic journals, Dr. Pang-White was invited to serve as a consulting editor for De Gruyter's *Women Philosophers Heritage Collection* book series and to join the editorial board for the *Bloomsbury World Philosophies Book Series* for the Chinese philosophy section.

In spring 2022, Dr. Pang-White taught "PHIL 218 Feminism: Theory and Practice" with a capstone project, "Feminism Expo." The Expo was open to the public and was a great success.

Dr. Virginia Picchiatti

Dr. Picchiatti is currently co-editing a collection of essays on Italian author Grazia Deledda, winner of the 1926 Nobel Prize in Literature, with Deledda scholar Angela Guiso. The volume, *Grazia Deledda's Painterly Aesthetic*, undertakes a new reading of Deledda's works inside the international context of Modernist movements in the visual and literary arts. Dr. Picchiatti will contribute an essay that explores how Grazia Deledda and Willa Cather "paint" female bodies and the landscapes they inhabit and the relationship between their aesthetic and that of female Impressionist painters.

Dr. Habib Zanzana

Dr. Habib Zanzana presented two research papers at the NeMLA conference in March 2022, in Baltimore, Maryland: "Cinema and the Contemporary Quebécois Family in the films of Xavier Dolan" and "The Intersection of Migration and Gender in Contemporary Arab Literature and Cinema."

Dr. Zanzana is working on a book manuscript with Dr. Christian Krokus of the Theology Department at the University of Scranton. Title of the Manuscript: *Christian de Chergé*. Publisher: *Orbis Modern Spiritual Masters Series*, Orbis Books, January 2024. He will translate selected writings by Christian de Chergé from French to English and contribute an introduction to the life of the prior of the Trappist monastery of Our Lady of Atlas in Algeria who strove tirelessly to promote Christian and Muslim dialogue and unity.

Dr. Zanzana will serve as co-editor, with Dr. Marzia Caporale (editor) and Dr. Claire Mouflard (Hamilton College), on a manuscript titled, "Gender in French Banlieue Cinema: Intersectional Perspectives" The book will be published by Lexington Books, an imprint of the Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, Inc.



A New Women's and Gender Studies Course Offered

taught by Dr. Susan Mendez



What is your course and what is it like?

My course is ENLT 375 The Works of Toni Morrison; it is an English literature class where we read six of Morrison's eleven novels and select pieces of literary criticism about Morrison's work. At the start of each new novel, we view clips of interviews where Morrison discusses, in brief, some of the main ideas in each of these novels. Don't let the 300-course-level frighten you away! This is a course for anyone who likes to read good literature.

Why is it an important addition to the program?

This course was designed and proposed after Toni Morrison's death on August 5, 2019 at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx, New York City. It is an important addition to the program because Toni Morrison's work not only highlights the issue of race in her work. She emphasizes primarily the Black woman's experience in her novels; however, a few select novels such as Song of Solomon and Home also focus on the Black man's experience in U.S. society. Moreover, Toni Morrison won the Pulitzer Prize for Beloved in 1987 and the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993. In a continuing bid to decolonize curriculum and syllabi, a course on the critically acclaimed and awarded literature of Toni Morrison for the English and Women's and Gender Studies Programs seems only right and necessary at this time.

What do the students like about it?

Since this is the first time that the course is offered, it is a small class with seven students (five English majors; one Business Administration major; and one double major in Political Science and Philosophy). I think students enjoy the small-class size and thus intimacy of the discussion. I also think students enjoy getting to wrestle with the thick, rich, and layered prose of Morrison's work. Everything in her work highlights further need of discussion, research, and imagination. Her use of "discredited knowledge," where a blend of practicality and superstition and magic presents another way of knowing things, defines and enhances a Black cosmology, and a Black cosmology makes for a fabulous lens to read U.S. American fiction!

Meet one of our WGS Concentration Students



Samantha Burton

What are your insights on how your major and concentration complement one another and build the foundation for your future career?

I am a senior Theatre major with a Women's and Gender Studies Concentration. This year has been a pivotal one for me when it comes to my major and concentration. I was given the opportunity to play the role of Jo March in The University of Scranton Players Production of Little Women. This role as a theatre major had an impact on me and my education because of all the obstacles that Jo faced being a woman during the 1860s and the "gender norms" that a woman was forced to follow and traditionally "stay at home and have babies", where Jo has far more other plans and wants to be a famous writer in New York. Long story short, playing this role allowed me to take what I have learned through my WGS courses and my own personal creation between my life and this character and successfully tell the story of Jo as an actress in the most authentic way possible.

Besides being a theatre major with this concentration, it has made me benefit in so many ways because I am an advocate and an ally for all women and the LGBTQ community. It has educated me on all of the problems we are still facing today regarding gender and women, specifically how we are continuing to spread awareness on these issues. Declaring this concentration has made me grow as a student and now as an advocate for Women's and Gender Studies in the world today and my future workplace.

I currently work at a children's theatre in Syracuse, NY. I will return there for this upcoming summer, until I make my mark on my next theatre adventure. I hope wherever I work that I can continue to educate others and push for more equality when it comes to WGS and how there are so many women we do not hear or talk enough about who have made their marks and done incredible things but go unrecognized because not enough people know about Women's and Gender Studies and know the history of how Gender is constantly evolving and has been an ongoing topic in our news all over the world. It is just not discussed and talked about enough, or it is and is being swept under the rug as not important.

Theatre is my passion, my love. I wrote in my 4th-grade yearbook I want to be an actress when I grow up -- and I stand by that little girl's dreams, which I continue to fight for. But learning more about the WGS concentration and taking classes on it made me want to dive into what these women have done, what is being discussed and how I as a woman can make a change in my future workplace and environment.

JKWC staff member Mackenzie Longo talks about the annual *Take Back the Night*, an event designed to raise awareness about sexual violence



What is “Take Back the Night” and Why is it Important?

Take Back the Night (TBTN) events began in the 1960s in Belgium and England as protests against women feeling unsafe to walk home at night. It quickly spread all over the world, including the first one in Philadelphia in 1975 after a microbiologist was murdered on her walk home from work. *The unifying theme for TBTN is to bring awareness to sexual violence and provide support for individuals who have experienced this violence. We have a 3-part event planned for Thursday, April 27, 2023. It consists of the Clothesline Project, Pre-Rally, and the Speakout.*

WOMEN, RELIGION & INTERSECTING OPPRESSION

Join us for a panel discussion on current events affecting Iran and Iranian women

Monday, 12/5/22 at 7:00 PM
The DeNaples Center 405

Featuring:

Dr. Marzia Caporale, CAS
Dr. Hengameh Hosseini, PCPS
Dr. Leila Soleimani, KSOM
Dr. Mojib Saei, CAS
Dr. Gretchen VanDyke, CAS
Dr. Ash Zareian, KSOM

Facilitated by:

Dr. Habib Zanzana, CAS



Light
Refreshments
will be Served

Sponsored by: Women &
Gender Studies, The Peace &
Justice Concentration, The
Ellacuría Initiative &
The Cultural Centers

A panel to discuss women in Iran and their fight for freedom took place on December 5th. This event was attended by over 100 university members (faculty, students, and staff) and was co-sponsored by several University divisions, including the Ellacuria Initiative who generously sponsored the food served at the event.

Screening of the film *Fair Play*



On March 2nd, the WGS program, in collaboration with the Jane Kopas Women’s Center and Diversity Initiatives, hosted the screening and post-film discussion of *Fair Play*, a documentary about gender and work-life balance. The film follows three families on their journey to better balance their lifestyle and society’s expectations. They are fighting problems that affect millions of couples and families across the country and even the globe.

The event was attended by approximately 30 students, staff, and faculty.





JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE 50 YEARS OF COEDUCATION AND WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON

MARCH 1

TABLE SIT & START OF THE LITTLE FREE LIBRARY IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH (swap out books) • 11 AM – 1 PM, DENAPLES CENTER, 2ND FLOOR

The swap out books initiative will be available the entire month of March, with three different libraries throughout campus. The Little Free Libraries are located outside of The Jane Kopas Women's Center located in DeNaples 205F, outside the elevator in McGurkin, and outside of the Women's and Gender Studies office in LSC.

Check out the @universityofscranton Instagram page for a Women's History Month themed **ROYALS ON THE SPOT!**

MARCH 2

WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES WILL HOST A SCREENING OF FAIR PLAY (an intersectional look at work-family balance) • 6 PM, BRENNAN 509

The Jane Kopas Women's Center will facilitate a conversation about wage gap, family work balance & intersectionality.

MARCH 4

UNIVERSITY PLAYER'S LITTLE WOMEN TALKBACK • Located in the McDade Center for Literary and Performing Arts in the Royal Theatre following the 8 PM performance

The talkback will discuss stereotypes presented within the musical and how they have contributed to female stereotypes over time. *There will be copies of the book available for the first 10 audience members who participate in the talkback.*

MARCH 7

SALARY NEGOTIATION WORKSHOP • 6 PM – 7 PM, DENAPLES 405

Workshop hosted by Lori Moran from The Center for Career development and The Office of Human Resources.

MARCH 8

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: # EMBRACE EQUITY! WHAT DOES EMBRACING EQUITY MEAN TO YOU? DESSERT TABLE SIT • 5 PM – 7 PM, DENAPLES, 3RD FLOOR

WOMEN OF VISION AND COURAGE AWARD CEREMONY • 3 PM – 4:30 PM, DENAPLES 407A

Join us as we recognize women on campus for their hard work, dedication, and commitment this year, as we honor 50 years of co-education at The University of Scranton.

THE UNIVERSITY OF
SCRANTON
A JESUIT UNIVERSITY

Co-Sponsorship by The Cultural Centers, The Committee for the Celebration of 50 years of Co-education at Scranton, Women's and Gender Studies, The Committee on Gender Equity, University Players, The University of Scranton Center for Career Development and Office of Human Resources.

For additional information, contact: jkw@scranton.edu, or (570) 941-6194

Events for the second half of the month will be listed on a later poster!!

There will be a \$50 Amazon giftcard giveaway to anyone who registers and attends one of the sessions!

WOMEN'S AND GENDER JUSTICE TEACH-IN

8-8:30

Opening Remarks
Women's and Gender Justice and Leadership

Dr. Michelle Maldonado, Provost

8:20-8:30

The Women's and Gender Studies Program at the University of Scranton: Brief History and Mission

Dr. Marzia Caporale, Professor of French and Italian, World Languages and Cultures, Women's and Gender Studies

8:30-9:45

Sex, Gender, Race and U.S. Citizenship

Dr. Jean Wahl Harris - Professor, Political Science

10-11:15

Wisdom Cries Aloud: Religious Women of Scranton

Dr. Christian Krokus - Professor, Theology and Religious Studies

11:30-11:45

Ellacuria Initiative and Women's and Gender Justice 2023

Ryan Sheehan, JD - Jesuit Center

11:45-12:15

Who Belongs at Scranton?

Dr. Jessica M. Nolan Professor of Psychology
Dr. Paul Datti - Professor and Director, Counseling and Human Services Program

12:15-12:30

Gender-Based Violence and Global Impact for Gender Justice

Dr. Tiffany Bordonada (she/her) - Associate Professor and Co-Program Director for Clinical and Mental Health Counseling

12:30-12:45

Anniversary of Title IX and Gender Justice

Elizabeth Garcia, JD - Executive Director, Office of Equity and Diversity- Title IX Coordinator

1-2:15

What we get Wrong about Intersectionality.

Dr. Nicole Hoskins (she/her) - Assistant Professor, Theology and Religious Studies

2:30-3:45

Women Challenged Globally.

Dr. Gretchen Van Dyke - Associate Professor, Political Science

4-5:15

Separate and Together: Co-education and Its Historical Implications

Dr. Susan Poulson - Professor, History Department

5:30-6:45

Drag Me! Ethics and Politics of Performing Masculinities In Mexico

Dr. Roxana Ariadne Curriel (she/her/ella) - Assistant Professor, Latin American and Latin Studies

March 28th
LSC 133

Sponsored by the Ellacuria Initiative, University of Scranton

