

May 2021 Newsletter



Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Graduate Student Spotlight: Kelsey Mello

How did you hear about the WGSS MA program?

I discovered the MA program while I was at a tabling event at the National Women's Studies Association in San Francisco with my undergraduate Women's Studies department. I had been seeking a graduate program and after speaking to faculty and students that day, I knew that this was the program for me!

What has been your experience as a GA?

I am truly grateful for my graduate assistant experience as the Friends of WGSS GA. I have learned many new skills and been able to discover more about our WGSS faculty, students, and board members! Although we have been remote this year, I am thankful for the ongoing unity and encouragement from everyone at UC in WGSS.

Who are your favorite theorists?

Some of my favorite theorists are Zakiya T. Luna and Dorothy Roberts. Most of my research centers rural reproductive health disparities and innovations. They're literature on transnational human rights, public health ethics, and reproductive justice have informed my MA project. The more I research, the more I come back to their insights.

What excites you about the field of WGSS?

What has always excited me about the field of WGSS is that it is limitless. The interdisciplinary aspect gives nuanced and personalized insights to understanding local, national, and transnational lives.



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UC Faculty: Dr. Shelina Brown

Dr. Shelina Brown is a feminist musicologist whose research engages with voice studies, popular music, and gender-based cultural activism. Shelina holds a PhD from UCLA's Department of Musicology. Her dissertation project focuses on Yoko Ono's experimental vocal techniques of the late 1960s and early 1970s that came to influence a range of counter-hegemonic musical repertoire throughout the late twentieth century. Shelina's methodological approach draws upon experiential sound studies



and contemporary feminist psychoanalysis, considering the ways in which vocality impinges upon processes of gendered racial subjectivization. A Canadian national raised in Kyoto, Japan, Shelina also holds a Master's Degree in Comparative Literature specializing in Modern Japanese Literature. Prior to commencing studies in Musicology, Shelina was employed as a sessional lecturer of Modern Japanese literature at the University of Alberta, Canada.

Shelina is currently drafting her first book project titled, *Shout from the Heart: Yoko Ono's Rock 'n' Roll Revolution*. She is also preparing an article, "Of Insects and Interstices: Yoko Ono's *Fly* (1970) as Matrixial Borderspace." Shelina has presented papers on Japanese popular music, punk subculture, and Los Angeles underground music at annual meetings including SEM (Society for Ethnomusicology), IASPM (International Association for the Study of Popular Music), AAS (American Association for Asian Studies), and EMP (Experience Music Project).

A long-term participant in underground and independent music scenes, Shelina has been active as a vocalist and instrumentalist in several new wave and noise rock bands over the past ten years. She still maintains close ties to the Los Angeles underground, and looks forward to exploring music scenes across Ohio and the Midwest.