

# GENDERLINE

Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies



## FROM THE HEAD

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all. It has been more than eight months since I have seen WGSS faculty, staff, and students in person. In spring 2020 and 2021, we held the WGSS graduation and awards ceremony virtually to safeguard the health of students, staff, faculty, and community members. Although we would love to share the same space with students, we understand that it's important right now to teach remotely and to observe social-distancing guidelines. I am grateful to work with the WGSS leadership team during this time: Professor Carolyn Peterson is WGSS Undergraduate Program Director, Dr. Michelle McGowan is Graduate Program Director, and Dr. Carolette Norwood is WGSS Assistant Head.

In the midst of the pandemic, I am happy to share some good news. UC approved a new LGBTQ Studies undergraduate certificate over the summer of 2020! Professors Carolyn Peterson and Beth Ash and I collaborated on the certificate's creation. This new program honors the forward-thinking scholarship of UC WGSS Professors Emeritae, Drs. Michelle Gibson and Deb Meem, in LGBTQ Studies. With former UC faculty member, Dr. Jonathan Alexander, they are the authors of the first LGBTQ Studies textbook, *Finding Out: Introduction to LGBT Studies*, which is in its third edition! Professors Gibson and Meem also organized around LGBTQ rights on UC's campus. We are so very happy that this program has attracted 37 certificate students in the first year of its existence. In addition, WGSS faculty members like Dr. Olga Sanmiguel-Valderrama, Associate Professor, have incorporated the pandemic into their research program. Dr. Sanmiguel-Valderrama is studying how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected Latinx agricultural workers' labor practices and organizing in Colombia, Canada, and the United States.

In February 2021, WGSS hosted Dr. Zakiya T. Luna, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara, as our Taft Distinguished Lecturer. She is the author of *Reproductive Rights as Human Rights: Women of Color and the Fight for Reproductive Justice* (New York UP, 2020) and coeditor of *Black Feminist Sociology: Perspectives and Praxis* (Routledge, forthcoming). Her lecture addressed US reproductive justice organizing and Black feminist theorizing.

I am happy to share some wonderful news from our WGSS faculty and students.

- In 2021, *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, perhaps the most prestigious in WGSS, published an essay by Dr. Carolette Norwood titled "Misrepresenting Reproductive Justice: A Black Feminist Critique of 'Protecting Black Life.'" Congratulations on this accomplishment, Dr. Norwood!
- Earlier in the year, *The New England Journal of Medicine* published an essay titled "Care Churn—Why Keeping Clinic Doors Open Isn't Enough to Ensure Access to Abortion" by Dr. Michelle McGowan, along with Dr. Alison Norris and Dr. Danielle Bessett, a WGSS affiliate faculty member. This important essay addresses factors that affect the delivery and availability of abortion services in the United States. Congratulations on this significant achievement, Dr. McGowan!
- Several WGSS MA students received fellowship and grant awards to support their research: Rory Barron and Kelsey Mello received UC University Research Council Graduate Student Stipend awards; Silver Flight, Morgan Gimblet, Kelsey Mello, and Melanie Nipper received Taft Graduate Summer Fellowships; Stevie Leigh and Erin Winchester received Taft Graduate Enrichment Awards; Silver Flight also received a WGSS Public Internship Award to work with Equality Ohio; and Morgan Mitchell received a Farmworker Justice Fellowship, Northwest Justice Project. Congratulations to all!

I look forward to collaborating with readers on creating a fabulous feminist future with faculty, staff, students, community members, and you! If you're able, I hope that you can make a donation to WGSS.

**Ashley Currier**  
Professor and Head/WGSS  
curriear@ucmail.uc.edu



# WGSS Faculty



**Carolette Norwood** is associate professor and assistant department head in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She directs the social justice certificate in addition to leading two ongoing Economic Mobility studies funded by Greater Cincinnati Women's Fund.



**Ashley Currier** In 2020-21, I have been working on my third book manuscript, "The Postcolonial Afterlives of Antisodomy Laws: Gender and Sexual Injustice in Namibia." My book, *Politicizing Sex in Contemporary Africa: Homophobia in Malawi*, received the 2021 International Studies Association Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Allies Caucus Book Prize.

**Michelle McGowan**, Danielle Bessett (UC Sociology), and Alison Norris (Ohio State University) published their perspective on abortion care churn in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. She also published on teaching abortion with Michal Raucher (Rutgers) and states as laboratories for women's health policy with Valerie Blake (West Virginia University).



**Yvonne Fulbright** is a Icelandic-American AASECT-certified sexuality educator, relationship expert, and author of several books. Armed with a PhD from New York University and a MA in human sexuality from the University of Pennsylvania, Fulbright is an adjunct professor at several universities. Having penned sex columns for *Cosmopolitan* and *Women's Health*, Fulbright currently writes for *Psychologytoday.com*.



**Valerie Weinstein** is freshly returned from sabbatical and is excited to teach "Feminist Film Theory" and "Gender and Nationalism in World Cinema." She is pleased to announce the November 2020 publication of *Rethinking Jewishness in Weimar Cinema* (Berghahn Books), which she coedited with Dr. Barbara Hales, University of Houston - Clear Lake.



**Angela Potochnik** is Professor of Philosophy and Director of UC's Center for Public Engagement with Science. Her research addresses the nature of science and its relationships to the public. She is the author of *Idealization and the Aims of Science* (2017) and coauthor of *Recipes for Science* (2018).

**Amy Lind** continues her role as Director of Taft Research Center where she has lined up annual (virtual) programming with a thematic focus on racial justice. She continues to do research and write about Latin American politics, with a current focus on transnational feminist responses to new forms of authoritarianism.



**Laura R. Micciche** is Professor of English and researches feminist and affective approaches to writing and teaching practices. Her books include *Failure Pedagogies: Learning and Unlearning What it Means to Fail*, co-edited with Allison D. Carr (2020), *Acknowledging Writing Partners* (2017) and *Doing Emotion: Rhetoric, Writing, Teaching* (2007).



**Carolyn Peterson** teaches Human Sexuality and directs the Undergraduate WGSS Program, the LGBTQ Undergraduate Certificate, and the Internship Program. She is currently creating the Feminist Futures undergraduate capstone class where graduating WGSS students will research and present their feminist career path plans.



**Laura Dudley Jenkins** is collaborating with Rebecca Sanders on patriarchal populism's threat to international women's rights and with Rina Williams on oral histories of women in political science. Her book *Religious Freedom and Mass Conversion in India* won the 2020 APSA Hubert Morken Award for best book in religion and politics.

**Anne Sisson Runyan** is Professor of Political Science, former head of Women's Studies, and former interim director of the Taft Research Center at UC. She is a recognized eminent scholar in feminist international relations, serves as Vice President of the International Studies Association and won the 2020 AAUP Georgina M. Smith Award.



**Evan Torner** is Associate Professor and Undergraduate Director of German Studies, and director of the UC Game Lab. He works on media and social inequality in the former East Germany, science fiction, race representation, and role-playing games (RPGs) with an emphasis on small-press RPGs and live-action role play (larp).



# WGSS Graduate Students



**Travis Hardee** is a first-year student in the MA/JD program. An aspiring civil rights lawyer, he ultimately hopes to follow a career in policy to address issues on governmental misconduct.



**Rory Barron** is a second-year MA student in WGSS. He is interested in the digital political economy of queer subcultures and how queer narratives are shaped by these political economies.

**Eric Winchester** graduated from the University of Dayton in 2018 with degrees in International Studies and Women's Studies and Gender Studies. Her primary research interests include LGBT/queer spaces and transnational feminist nonprofit work.



**Morgan Gimblet** is a first-year WGSS graduate student and assistant with a BA in Race, Ethnicity, and Gender Studies from Texas A&M. She is interested in abortion access for queer and trans people and decriminalizing sex work.

**Kylie Boyer** is a first-year WGSS graduate student with a BA in Global Communications from Kent State University. Her research interests include sexuality and media, period poverty, and education inequality.



**Nikki Smith** has come to the graduate program after sixteen years away from the university setting. After graduating from IU, she entered the business world, holding a variety of roles.



**Dayna Mathew** is a MA/JD student. She hopes her research on the definition of family, emphasizing its historical context and exposing its non-exclusivity, will allow her to practice family law.



**Kadi Riffe** is a graduate student in the 4+1 program and is currently finishing her MA paper "Feminist Definitions of Violence", looking at how feminist undergraduate UC students develop their working definitions of rape.

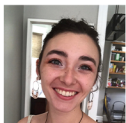
**Silver Flight** is a second-year MA/JD student with a background in violin performance and pedagogy. Their research is on name changes and gender markers on legal identification documents.



**Sakina Jarmon** is a first-year WGSS MA student. Her research interests are sexual freedoms and empowerment of black women specifically within kink pleasures and communities. She plans to continue this research abroad in Berlin.



**Stevie Leigh** is a first-year MA student in WGSS. She plans to study how fandom affiliation influences sexual identity development among female-identifying and LGBTQ+ individuals.



**Melanie Nipper** is a second-year WGSS MA student. Her MA research focuses on radicalizing affect with incel communities via memes and gifs. She was also accepted into the 2020 NWSA conference for her work on posthumanism films.

**Erin Espinosa** is a second-year WGSS MA student and originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico. They write queer creative nonfiction and enjoy yoga and cooking in their free time.



**Hanya Malik** is a first-year graduate student in WGSS. She earned her BA in Political Science and WGSS with a minor in Philosophy at Purdue University. Her research interests include transnational feminism and Muslim women's activism.



**Kelsey Mello** is a first-year WGSS MA student. She received her BA from CSU Fresno in Political Science and Women's Studies. Her research interests include expanding medication abortion and rural access to reproductive health services.

# Background to Friends of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Board

In 1980, Mary Ellen Heintz and some of her feminist activists established the Friends of WGSS to support the activities and growth of the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (known at the time as the Department of Women's Studies) at the University of Cincinnati. Upon Mary Ellen Heintz's death in 2001, with the help of Friends' fund-raising and a generous donation from her estate, a departmental endowed chair was established in her name, currently held by Professor Amy Lind.

During the decades following, Friends provided a full stipend for one Graduate Assistantship (with the generous donation in the last five years from Professor Emerita Deb Meem and Professor Emerita Michelle Gibson). The Board also raised money for the Women's Library Fund to purchase books and journals related to gender and sexuality. Before the restrictions of this year, Friends hosted seminars, films, and other forums to discuss important gender issues in an outreach program to the broader community.

The Friends Board is comprised of a diverse cross-section of scholars, activists, and nonprofit professionals from across the Greater Cincinnati region. It is a vast social network that serves as an informal mentoring association for graduate students. The engagement between the Friends Board and the students amplifies the sense of community connectedness that often has impact on students' likelihood of successfully completing their degree program. In the last several years, a connection of a new WGSS graduate student to a specific member of the board has helped to establish a closer relationship with one member of the Friends Board. The annual Friends Welcome Dinner is another important opportunity for the Board, WGSS faculty, and students to socialize, connect, and collaborate.

**Professor Emerita Jan Currie**  
**President of Friends of WGSS Board**



Please donate to Friends of WGSS. Your contribution helps us create a fabulous feminist future!





# Friends of WGSS Board Profiles

## Friends of WGSS President, Jan Currie



Jan Currie is the current President of the Friends' Board and cousin of Mary Ellen Heintz, one of the founding members of Friends. She has degrees from Purdue University (BA), University of California Los Angeles (MA), and the University of Chicago (PhD). She taught at Murdoch University in Australia for 25 years where she researched

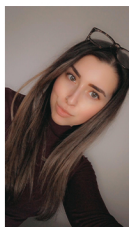
gender issues and the impacts of globalization on universities. She co-edited *Universities and Globalization: Critical Perspectives* (1998) and co-authored *Globalization Practices and University Responses* (2003); *Gendered Universities in Globalized Economies: Power, Careers, and Sacrifices* (2002); and *Academic Freedom in Hong Kong* (2006). She has written numerous articles on globalization and its impact on universities, gendered universities, and pay equality in higher education.

## Board Member, Maria Merrill



Maria Merrill (she/her) is a 2016 graduate of UC's WGSS MA program and has been involved in LGBTQ+ equity and justice work for the past eight years across four institutions of higher education. She currently serves as the Assistant Director in the Center for Diversity and Inclusion at Xavier University.

## Friends of WGSS GA, Kelsey Mello



Kelsey (she/her) is a first-year Women's, Gender, and Sexuality MA student. She received her BA from California State University, Fresno in Political Science and Women's Studies in May 2020. Her current research focuses on rural barriers to accessing reproductive care, abortion law and exceptionalism, and the expansion of telehealth services for abortion care.

## Board Member, Christina Hartlieb



Christina Hartlieb serves as the Executive Director of the Harriet Beecher Stowe House in Walnut Hills. The historic site interprets Harriet and her time living in Cincinnati as a catalyst for using the power of voice in her best-selling antislavery novel, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Christina is a former high school educator who received an MA in History and a Graduate Certificate from the Women's Studies Department of UC back in the 1990s.

## Board Member, Tristan Vaught



Tristan N. Vaught, MA, is the owner and operator of Tristan N. Vaught Consulting, LLC and the co-founder of Transform Cincy. Before COVID 19 changed the landscape of our world, they were the inaugural director of training and education with the Living with Change Foundation. Previous to this role, they held positions as the founding director of the LGBTQ+ Center at IUPUI and the interim director and first program coordinator of the LGBTQ Center at the University of Cincinnati. Tristan, originally from Buck Creek, Indiana (a small farming community outside of Lafayette), is a first-generation college graduate. They graduated with honors from the University of Cincinnati in 2011 with Bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. In December 2015, they completed a Master's degree in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from the University of Cincinnati with research centered around the effectiveness of LGBTQ+ ally trainings in higher education and beyond.

**Dr. Anima Adjepong**  
**Taft Post-Doctoral Fellow**



***What are you looking forward to about teaching Queer of Color Critique next semester?***

"There are two main things I'm looking forward towards next semester. First, I'm excited to meet the students who enroll in the course. It will be my first time teaching at University of Cincinnati, and I've heard such wonderful things about WGSS students that I can't help but eagerly anticipate getting acquainted.

Secondly, Queer of Color Critique (QoCC) is a subject area that is really dear to me. I understand this mode of analysis to have a political imperative of creating a world in which many worlds can exist. In other words, QoCC instigates a decolonial world. Importantly for me, this approach to inquiry and analysis refuses a binary understanding of activism and scholarship. As such, I am excited to introduce students to how QoCC can be leveraged to materially transform our social world to justice."

**Dr. Chandra Frank**  
**Taft Post-Doctoral Fellow**



***What are you looking forward to most about teaching Gender, Sexuality, and Culture in Spring 2021?***

"I am looking forward to exploring the connections between queer diaspora, sexuality, kinship, and cultural production this semester. We will be delving into multiple geographic contexts and we'll be focusing on selected case studies in this course. I am thrilled to journey with students and collectively examine the work of scholars, artists, and activists to gain a deeper understanding of the queer diaspora. I am sure exploring what it means to 'queer' migration and in which ways migration can be read as queer will lead to generative discussions. Reading the work of scholars such as Karma R. Chávez, Jin Haritaworn, Gayatri Gopinath, Eithne Luibhéid, Fatima El-Tayeb, and Rinaldo Walcott will help us unpack the multiple routes and roots underlying queer diaspora. I look forward to exploring art, film, and literature with students, and engage with artists such as Ajamu X, filmmaker Pratibha Parmar, and author Monique Truong to explore issues around pleasure, intimacy, sexuality, and empire."

# How did you hear about the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies MA program?



"I minored in Women & Gender Studies in undergrad, but the program was very limited. I knew that I wanted to learn more about the discipline and find a way to build a career in academia based on my interests and passions. I applied to several WGSS graduate programs, both MA and PhD. UC was the best fit for me because it offered the academic and professional opportunities I was looking for and the commitment to building interpersonal relationships among students and faculty that I valued so much in my undergraduate education."

**Stevie Leigh**

"I heard about UC's WGSS MA program from a professor and organizational advisor from my undergrad who received her master's here and recommended the program. I am forever grateful for Dr. Tasha Dubriwny!"

**Morgan Gimblet**



# What has been your experience being a Graduate Assistant or Teaching Assistant?



"My GA position at the LGBTQ Center has been awesome--I have met new people, learned so many things, and have been able to kick off a couple of programs that I'm really excited about!"

**Kadi Riffe**



"I've had a TAship for all 4 semesters of the MA program, and even got to teach two of my own classes. I love teaching and knew going into graduate school that I wanted to teach. These opportunities have certainly been a learning experience (especially teaching during a pandemic as a first-time instructor). I love seeing the connections made for students and their engagement with the class topics. It reminds me of those 'a ha' moments I had in undergrad not too long ago. I feel like I get to pass on some of my favorite professors' passion to my students."

**Rory Barron**

# What excites you about the field of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies?



"Social change!"

**Kylie Boyer**

"That there are no limits to what I can research. I also love that I can use my knowledge to make actual changes in the world."

**Hanya Malik**



"Being in this program excites me because I now have the opportunity to learn within an environment that prioritizes the voices of the most neglected. In a world that marginalizes the most vulnerable populations, having a space, such as WGSS, to learn about topics pertaining to these communities is essential to ending inequality."

**Travis Hardee**



# WOMEN'S, GENDER, & SEXUALITY STUDIES

## 2021 ANNUAL AWARD CEREMONY

### Awards

#### OUTSTANDING FACULTY

Dr. Carolette Norwood

#### OUTSTANDING STAFF

Pam Latham

#### OUTSTANDING ALUMNX

Haya Abusway & Dr. Jill Williams

#### OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT

Melanie Nipper

#### OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT

Chloé Boehmer

#### ADVOCACY AWARD

Kadi Riffe & Sydney Seymour

# Class of 2021 Graduating Students

## BACHELOR OF ARTS (MAJOR)

Ellen Beaty, Chloé Boehmer, Levi Davidson, Hope Griswold,  
Claire LeBlanc, Eva Patterson, Sydney Reid, Wesley Taylor, Red Watkins

## BACHELOR OF ARTS (MINOR)

Sydney Adams-Lasse, Carly Biega, Lily Bischoff, Erin Cash,  
Nicole Chupp, Adam Cline, Kierra Davis, Nataly Dwyer,  
Emily Fockler, Lainey Francis, Janieyce Gadison, Keira Garvin,  
Grace Garber, Bri Hamilton, Janay Howard, Angelique Kennedy-Chavannes,  
Anthony Lombardi, Miranda Mason, Hailey McGee, Antonia Mullins,  
Megan Pearson, Sruthi Pillai, Madison Powers, Chloe Rosenberger,  
Mia Slone, Samantha Tanen, Anna-Jessie Taylor, Amy Waugh, Sydney Zwick

## LGBTQ STUDIES CERTIFICATE

Levi Davidson

## SOCIAL JUSTICE CERTIFICATES

Kierra Davis, Grace Garber, Jered Jackson

## MASTER OF ARTS GRADUATES

Rory Barron, Erin Espinosa, Morgan Mitchell,  
Melanie Nipper, Kadi Riffe, Sydney Seymour, Devonte Stewart

## GRADUATE CERTIFICATES

Annie McGhee, Brittney Miles, Audra Morrison,  
Anna Parnigoni, Jayne Stone

# Recognition of University-Wide & Professional Awards

## Faculty

**Ashley Currier**, 2021 International Studies Association's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Allies Caucus Book Prize

**Olga Sanmiguel-Valderrama**, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Embodiment of Hope Award

## Students

**Chloé Boehmer**, Eleanor Hicks Award

**Morgan Gimblet**, Taft Research Center Graduate Summer Fellowship Award, Cambridge Reproductive Health Consultants Stipend

**Travis Hardee**, 2022 Ohio Innocence Fellowship

**Stevie Leigh**, Taft Graduate Enrichment Award

**Kelsey Mello**, URC Graduate Student Stipend and Research Cost Program for Faculty and Student Collaboration Award, 2021 Taft Research Center Graduate Summer Fellowship Award (Declined), Cambridge Reproductive Health Consultants Stipend

**Erin Winchester**, Taft Graduate Enrichment Award

# Honor Roll of Donors

We thank the following individuals for their generous donations to the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. These gifts fund scholarships, attract and retain excellent faculty, and enrich the experience of our undergraduate and graduate students. The following donors contributed to WGSS from June 1, 2019, to March 31, 2021.

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at the University of Cincinnati!**

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a fabulous feminist future!*



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**UC | GENDERLINE**

A publication for the alumna and friends of the  
Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies