Happy winter to all! I hope that your winter is off to a delightful start! Before stepping into the headship in August, I spent part of the summer doing field research in Namibia to understand how the antisodomy law affects LGBTQ people, sex workers, and incarcerated people. At the start of my headship, I am particularly energized by the department’s efforts to develop new curriculum in LGBTQ studies and social justice.

I am excited to be working closely with several colleagues in the department this year. Professor Carolyn Peterson is continuing on as Undergraduate Program Director, and students are flocking to the WGSS major and minor. Her outstanding Human Sexuality class operates as an important “gateway” course for WGSS. Dr. Michelle McGowan is our new Graduate Program Director. As the only core WGSS faculty member with a PhD in WGSS, she brings a perspective to the graduate program that will help graduate students realize their academic and career goals. Dr. Carolette Norwood now serves as WGSS Assistant Head. In this role, Dr. Norwood will marshal her unique research, service, and teaching expertise into creating new outreach opportunities for WGSS with the Cincinnati community.

Later this year, WGSS will host Dr. Jyoti Puri, Hazel Dick Leonard Chair and Professor of Sociology at Simmons University, as our Taft Distinguished Lecturer. Dr. Puri is the author of Sexual States: Governance and the Struggle over the Antisodomy Law in India (Duke UP, 2016), Encountering Nationalism (Blackwell Publishers, 2004), and Woman, Body, Desire in Post-colonial India (Routledge, 1999). Her lecture will address the exciting field of transnational gender and sexuality studies.

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

- Dr. Michelle McGowan received a prestigious, multi-year grant from the National Institutes of Health about how adolescents make decisions after learning the results of genomic testing. Congratulations, Dr. McGowan!

- Dr. Gergana Ivanova’s book, Unbinding The Pillow Book: The Many Lives of a Japanese Classic (Columbia UP, 2018), was named a Choice 2019 Outstanding Academic Title! Congratulations, Dr. Ivanova! She is Associate Professor of Japanese Language and Culture and a WGSS affiliate faculty member.

- Dr. Rina Williams, associate professor of political science and WGSS affiliate faculty, received a 2019 National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend for her book project on women’s participation in Hindu nationalist politics in India.

- Dr. Amy Lind, Mary Ellen Heintz Professor of WGSS, became Taft Faculty Chair and Director of the Charles Phelps Taft Research Center in January 2019! WGSS is very proud of Dr. Lind and thrilled that a visionary feminist leader is charting a new course for the Taft Center. WGSS is a Taft member department.

- Dr. Olga Sanmiguel-Valderrama is a Charles Phelps Taft Center Fellow this year! This fellowship will allow her to work on her book manuscript, “Latinx in Agribusiness.”

- WGSS MA student Hillary Gyuras was awarded a Taft Summer Research Fellowship, the WGSS Returning Student Award, and an AAUW Career Development Grant, all of which support her research on “self-managed abortions,” or abortions procured outside of traditional medical settings, in the US.

This is my eighth year here at UC, and I can’t wait to see what this year has in store for WGSS faculty, staff, and students. To borrow from UC President Neville Pinto’s vision for the university, “Next Lives Here” in WGSS. I look forward to creating a feminist future with faculty, staff, students, community members, and you!

Ashley Currier
Professor and Head / WGSS
currieay@ucmail.uc.edu
Celebrating the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

WGSS AWARDS APRIL 2019

Outstanding Faculty Award: Amy Lind and Valerie Weinstein
Outstanding Staff Award: Evajean O’Neal
Outstanding Alumx Award: Armaghan Ziaee
Outstanding Graduate Student Award: Julie Marzec
Outstanding Advocacy Award: Carmen Recchia
Friends of WGSS Award: Deb Meem & Michelle Gibson
Friends of WGSS Returning Student Award: Hillary Gyuras
Friends of WGSS Marquita McLean Award: Lonnie Jennings
Outstanding Undergraduate Award: Mavris Masterson

BACHELOR OF ARTS (MAJOR, WGSS)
Christina Boja, Keisha Brown, Elizabeth Keith, Paige Visagie, Massie Fallon

BACHELOR OF ARTS (MINOR, WGSS)
Madeline Abanto, Miranda Beitel, Hannah Devich, Elizabeth FitzGerald, Bassam Garadah, Courtney Gulick, Jodi Gunther, Mavris Masterson, Jordan Novak, Kailey Schneider, Shelby Vaccariello, Angelina Wellington, Brittany Wheeler, Meredith Zukor

MASTER OF ARTS GRADUATES
West Bancroft, Joel Brimmerman, Azia Carnes, Maria Castro-Reece, Keeley Beers Gogul, Stacy Jane Grover, John(na) Jackson, Brandi Lewis, Julie Marzec, Ladan Zarabadi

Recognition of University-Wide & Professional Awards
A&S Triumph Cord: Christina Boja, Keisha Brown, Jordan Novak, Fallon Massie, Rachel Bloom
UC Women’s Center Feminist Changemaker Award: Siqi Cheng
GSGA Conference Travel Grant: Julie Marzec, Ladan Zarabadi
GSGA Interdisciplinary Research Fellowship: Julie Marzec
Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society: Rachel Bloom, Fallon Massie
TAFT Travel Grant: Joel Brimmerman, Julie Marzec, Ladan Zarabadi
TAFT Summer Fellowship: Hillary Gyuras, Jen Ham
2019 Graduates at Lavender Graduation
Dr. Michelle McGowan

By RB Bolus

Dr. Michelle McGowan, a Research Associate Professor in the Women’s, Gender and Sexuality Studies department and current Graduate Program Director of WGSS, has been very busy this past year. Over this past summer, Dr. McGowan conducted a study-abroad program in the Netherlands with 13 students from UC and 10 students from Case Western Reserve University to study comparative health policies and comparative drug policies in the Netherlands. She has also been working with OPEN (Ohio Policy Evaluation Network) collecting data and studying abortion regulations in Ohio since 2011 and has been mapping these onto the closures of abortion clinics. This work included focus groups with prenatal counselors and OBGYNs who are particularly impacted by regulation changes. One of the questions she is interested in is how we can think about healthcare reform without federal intervention. Dr. McGowan also received a new grant in September to study the ethics, legal implications, and genetic health risks in adolescents with Children’s Hospital.

Ariel Shaw

By RB Bolus

Ariel Shaw is a 4th-year undergraduate student in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at UC. In addition to her schoolwork and work with initiatives at the UC LGBTQ Center, Ariel is deeply involved in queer and anti-racist advocacy around Cincinnati and particularly of note is her blog, established in 2017, “Diary of a Mad Black Trans Girl” (diaryofamadblacktransgirl.wordpress.com). Her blog features poignant critiques of media, film, and performance as well as documentation of her own experiences with transphobia, mental health, and her relationships. Aided by her in-class studies of performance and feminist theories, Ariel’s blog does an incredible job of utilizing a critical feminist lens to both celebrate and empower marginalized identities while also relaying the difficulties of navigating a world of oppression. Ariel does a brilliant job of melding feminist theory and praxis as she utilizes her education to enact real change in her community.
Dr. Rina Williams

By Silver Flight

Rina Williams is Associate Professor of Political Science and affiliate faculty in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Asian Studies at the University of Cincinnati. She has been examining the role of women and gender in religious nationalism in Indian politics. Over the last six years she has been researching India’s Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). This party presents a puzzle to her, as it promotes traditional, conservative gender roles for women, which may not be appealing to all Indian women, while at the same time requiring the support of women’s votes to stay in power. “How do they negotiate this tension?” Williams asks.

Williams says that the BJP realized they needed to include women to gain power around the 1980s, at which point they began to have women give speeches at rallies and demonstrations. The party came to power in 1999 but lost an election in 2004. The party began to incorporate women further by allowing them to hold important positions in the BJP. However, Williams argues that even at this point, women were still constricted to certain political roles. Williams writes that the current ideology of women’s role is one of “complementarity”: women don’t necessarily need to stay in the home, but men and women, while equal, have different societal roles.

The BJP returned to power in 2014 with the election of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and was reelected with an even bigger majority in April 2019. Despite the party’s conservative views on gender roles, they enjoy strong support from Indian women, which Williams attributes to the party’s appeals to religion, Indian nationalism, and gender ideology.

In the summer of 2019, Williams received a $6,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, allowing her to finish her final round of research and write the first draft of the book.
Jen Ham

By RB Bolus

Jen Ham is a 2nd-year MA graduate student in the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies graduate program at UC. Jen’s research is focused on the use of different feminist theories to critique ableist systems and structures. Much of Jen’s work criticizes existing structures that attempt to address disability, such as ramps and assistive devices and claims that these responses place disability within the individual rather than, as what she calls it, a “social construct reproduced through flawed built environments.” This past summer, Jen received funding from the Taft Research Center to travel to Denmark and study the first cohousing community, Saettedammen, constructed in 1972 and intended to create a diverse, accessible intergenerational environment. Jen’s research aim is to examine how an intentional cohousing community can reimagine accessibility beyond the ableist approach present in most institutional settings; this research project will serve as the foundation for Jen’s final Master’s project. Upon arrival in Denmark, Jen expanded her research to include other cohousing communities, Trudeslund and Skrøllanet. Between these communities, Jen conducted 9 interviews and 15-20 hours of observation. Her research addresses the failings of current programs created to aid people with disabilities, and her research is bound to challenge many systems of power.
Friends of WGSS Board Profiles

**JAN CURRIE** is the current President of Friends’ Board and a cousin of Mary Ellen Heintz. She has degrees from Purdue University (B.A.), University of California, Los Angeles (M.A.) and The University of Chicago (PhD). She taught at Murdoch University in Australia for 25 years where she researched gender issues and the impact of globalization on universities. Upon returning to Cincinnati, her hometown, she sought out the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies Program and was asked to join the board of Friends four years ago.

**MARIA MERRILL** is a 2014 graduate of UC’s WGSS MA program and has been involved in LGBTQ+ diversity and inclusion work for the past seven years across four institutions of higher education. She currently serves as the Assistant Director in the Center for Diversity and Inclusion at Xavier University.

**BARBARA MYERS** retired from International Paper Company after 30 years as a Finance Manager while following her real passion outside of work, supporting women and women’s issues. She serves on many cultural and political boards throughout Cincinnati to achieve this, and collects art by and about women in her spare time.

**LUCY STEINER** received her MS in counseling from Cal State Fullerton in 1982. Her practice focused on family and individual counseling, including drug and alcohol process of recovery. She worked in private practice and at a women’s center in Orange CA.

**TAMIE SULLIVAN** is a strategic communications consultant with 30 years of experience. She founded Sullivan Communications, Inc. to leverage strategic partnerships, social innovation, and cause marketing to raise awareness for critical social issues and solutions that work. Sullivan is founder of Girls with Pearls, Cincinnati, which became a program of Most Valuable Kids in 2018. Sullivan currently serves on a number of boards.

**TRISTAN VAUGHT** (they/them) is currently the Director of Training and Education at Living with Change. They are an activist, educator, and the Founding Director of the LGBTQ+ Center at Indiana University Purdue University in Indianapolis. They enjoy writing poetry and short stories, communing with nature, and considers themselves a bourbon snob.
WGSS Faculty


GIAO TRAN, PhD. is a tenured WGSS core faculty and an Ohio-licensed clinical psychologist whose work reflects her longstanding commitment to equity and inclusion. Along with student and professional contributors, Dr. Tran is currently writing a book on childhood sexual violence. This book is designed to educate the general public about an underreported and often misunderstood health crisis.

AMY LIND enjoyed serving as department head for 3 ½ years and is excited for the new challenge of serving as Taft Research Center Director. She published a chapter in Transnational Feminist Itineraries (Duke UP, in press) and continues to write about gender/sexual/racial politics in the aftermath of Latin America’s pink tide.

VALERIE WEINSTEIN published her monograph, Antisemitism in Film Comedy in Nazi Germany (Indiana University Press, 2019). She has articles forthcoming on the reception of Girls in Uniform, a 1931 German film about same-sex desire, on Jewish women in early German slapstick comedy, and on German-Japanese film collaboration in the 1930s.

MICHELLE MCGOWAN became the WGSS Graduate Program Director in August 2019. She currently serves as a project leader for OPEN (Ohio Policy Evaluation Network) studying the impact of state-level abortion policies and litigation on clinic closures, abortion care delivery, and access to comprehensive reproductive health care in Ohio.

ARMAGHAN ZIAEE was awarded a medal of honor by UC’s Office of Ethnic Programs and Services for positive contribution on student’s success. The National Women’s Studies Association selected her to participate in the Women of Color Leadership Project. Harvard Design Magazine published “To Manifest,” her collective piece with Feminist Art and Architecture.

CAROLETTE NORWOOD, WGSS assistant head, is collecting data for the Reproductive Justice study funded by OPEN and finalizing a book chapter, “The Politics of Space at the Intersection of Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality,” in Zakiya Luna and Whitney Pirtle (eds.) Black Feminist Sociology: Perspectives and Praxis (Routledge).

GIOA TRAN

ANJALI DUTT is Assistant Professor of Social/Community Psychology and affiliate of the WGSS program. Her current research projects involve (a) participatory research with refugees in Cincinnati, (b) exploring the impact of neoliberal ideology on various attitudes, beliefs, and (in)actions, and (c) feminist processes of community building with disenfranchised populations.

JAN FRITZ, a Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg, is a member of two EPA Advisory Councils - NEJAC (about environmental justice) and NACEPT (about environmental policy and technology) as well as a national Fulbright selection committee (Scandinavia). She is the editor of Springer’s Clinical Sociology book series.

DAVID NIVEN is Associate Professor of Political Science. He is the author of The Missing Majority: The Recruitment of Women as State Legislative Candidates. David’s research on women’s campaigns for office has also appeared in several journals including Politics & Gender and Political Research Quarterly.

ANJALI DUTT

EVAN TORNER is Assistant 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, and role-playing games (RPGs), with an emphasis on small-press RPGs and live-action role-play (larp).

YVONEE FULBRIGHT is a sexologist and AASECT-certified sexuality educator, who joined WGSS in January 2010. She is the author of 9 books on healthy sexuality and relationships. She's currently studying sensuality in her home country, Iceland.

A publication for the alumx and friends of the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
WGSS MA Students

**RORY BARRON** is a first-year MA student in WGSS. He completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Kentucky. He’s interested in the political economy of queer subcultures and how queer narratives are shaped by these political economies.

**SIQI CHENG** is a second-year WGSS graduate student. She intends to attend law school following graduation and pursue a career in nonprofit legal advocacy.

**ÆRIN ESPINOSA** is a first-year graduate student in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Cincinnati. Originally from Albuquerque, New Mexico, they write queer creative nonfiction and enjoy cooking and yoga in their free time.

**SILVER FLIGHT** is a first-year WGSS MA/JD student. They studied Violin Performance (Miami University) and Pedagogy (UW-Milwaukee) while also taking classes in WGSS and are excited to now be a full-time WGSS student. Silver is researching gender markers on legal identification documents.

**HILLARY GYURAS**’s research centers on the political economy of reproductive and sexual health in the U.S. Her master’s project will explore the purported rise in abortions sought outside of traditional medical settings and the implications of such practices. She formerly worked as a community-education manager for Planned Parenthood of Greater Ohio.

**MELANIE NIPPER** (she/hers) is a first-year WGSS MA student with a background in English Rhetoric (BA) and New Media Communications (MA). Her research interests include ecofeminism in film and new media and corresponding environmental attitudes and policy, and the influence and spread of incel ideology via meme culture.

**SYDNEY SEYMOUR** (they/she) is a first-year WGSS MA student with a BA in Strategic Communications from The Ohio State University. Their research interests include the application of gender in video games and its influence on fan culture and the effects of participatory media on gender discrimination.
Honor Roll of Donors

We thank the following individuals for their generous donation to the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. These gifts fund scholarships, attract and retain excellent faculty, and enrich the experiences of our undergraduate and graduate students. The following donors contributed to WGSS from May 1, 2018, to May 30, 2019.

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Mr. and Mrs. S. James Woods
Become a Friend of WGSS

In my second year as President of Friends of WGSS, I want to thank the new and old members of our Board for all the work they contributed throughout the year. The Board is trying to rejuvenate itself with younger and more diverse members so that they can carry on the work of Friends for many years to come. We said farewell to Angela Fitzpatrick, Stephanie Hart, Julie Arostegui LeMaster, and Michelle Watts and welcome Annabelle Arbogast, Christina Hartlieb, Maria Merrill, Meredith Shockley-Smith, and Tristan N. Vaught as new members. We hope to add a few new members during this year so if anyone is particularly interested in joining the Board, please contact Friends at friendsws@ucmail.uc.edu.

Thanks to Dr. Valerie Weinstein for her role as interim head of WGSS department and coming on to the Board until a new head was appointed. Professor Ashley Currier is that new head, and she is bringing a lot of enthusiasm to the Board for this coming year. We also have a new graduate assistant, Silver Flight, who will help Friends with events and Board meetings. It is through Friends’ donations that we are able to provide a stipend to a graduate assistant who serves as the first point of contact with Friends’ members and assists in the department.

We are continuing our Connections Program that connected each Board member with a first-year MA student. Lucy Steiner will be the point of contact for this mentoring program. Barbara Myers helped to organize the dinner held at the Harriett Beecher Stowe House and presented the gathering with some of the history of the House. Tamie Sullivan will partner with WGSS to bring MVK Girls with Pearls, a group of 100 fifth-grade girls from under-privileged backgrounds to UC to see what college life is like.

We appreciate the generous support of all of our donors, especially Dr. Deborah Meem and Dr. Michelle Gibson, who have contributed half of the stipend given to our graduate student.

We welcome new Friends of WGSS and appreciate all of our old Friends who give generously so we can support the Department with scholarships, library books and events that reach out into the community every year. I am glad that I can carry on the work of the four-time board president Mary Ellen Heintz, my cousin and my connection to Friends of WGSS.

Thank you,

Jan Currie
President
Friends of WGSS

Upcoming Event

Wed., March 4, 2020, 1-2:30pm,
Charles Phelps Taft Research Center
Title: Women’s Rage: Countering Sexual Violence and Humiliation
Speaker: Dr. Dianna Taylor,
Professor of Philosophy,
John Carrol University

To make a donation, scan the following QR codes with the camera on your phone or tablet, or go to foundation.uc.edu.

Donate to Friends of WGSS
Donate to WGSS Department