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March 2021 Newsletter

Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

WGSS MA Student: Sakina Jarmon

How did you hear about the WGSS MA program?
I went to UC during my undergrad!

Who are your favorite theorists?
My favorite theorist are bell hooks and Angela Davis.

What excites you about the field of WGSS?
I love this field because there’s so much room for anything and everything at its core.

WGSS is so accepting. I am particularly excited about my summer research on how Black Queer-identifying women navigate white-dominated alternative sexual communities in Berlin, Germany, and the spread of Black feminism at a transnational level!
Dr. Rachael Nolan (she/her) is currently an Assistant Professor at the College of Medicine and Concentration Director of Health Services Management in UC's College of Medicine. Certified in Public Health, Gerontology, and Grief Recovery, Dr. Nolan has served as an advocate for the needs of persons affected by chronic and/or terminal illness and their families. Dr. Nolan is co-chair of the LGBTQ+ faculty and staff association, that aims to help create a more equitable environment in which LGBTQ+ members of the university community can flourish in their work environments and be productive researchers, teachers, and staff members. She was appointed by the Provost to help create an interdisciplinary Bachelor’s degree in Public Health at UC. The major/minor in public health offers courses assessing social behavioral aspects of preventing diseases, environmental health concepts, the changing U.S. health care system, and the monitoring of diseases in the community.

Research Interests and Current Projects
Dr. Nolan's scholarship centers on grief and survivorship as a public health issue. She uses a community-based approach to address disproportionate access to services to help overcome grief and trauma. Currently, Dr. Nolan is working with a student on an Endometriosis & Transgender Project, survivorship project with communities of color, and a cancer survivorship project to establish cancer navigators to assist with treatment options and provide cancer patients with emotional support.

Recent Publications
Dr. Nolan's most recent publication, "Transgender and gender non-conforming bereavement (TGNC): A case study on complicated grief experienced and the effect of partner suicide on interpersonal relationships and subsequent partnerships of the bereaved," featured in Death Studies, discusses the limited attention of transgender and gender non-conforming persons and the nuances they experience when grieving. In this article, Dr. Nolan follows a trans person and their grief experiences after losing their partner. She also has an upcoming book chapter that will be published by the American Public Health Association on the end of life as a public health issue.