

April 2022 Newsletter



Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Graduating 2022 MA Student Projects

Kylie Boyer: Queering the Family: Women in Kdramas Over Two Decades

This project examines Korean television to analyze characters and plotlines that resist and subvert women's gender and sexuality televisual portrayals. I analyze Korean drama series' women characters and their relation to other women, to other genders, and to society through characterizations, dialogue, and characters' performance of gender and sexual identities.

Morgan Gimblet: Mutual Aid is Reproductive Justice: Lessons from a Texas Abortion Fund

Through oral histories and queer archival methodology with the creation of a feminist zine, my project focuses on the case of a Texas-based abortion mutual aid group. It draws connections about how abortion mutual aid social movements utilize reproductive justice theory and feminist ideas emphasizing bodily autonomy.

Stevie Leigh: "Do You Know Who You Are?": Queer (Dis)Identification and Coming-of-Age as Fans of One Direction/Harry Styles

Using data gathered from 22 semi-structured interviews, I investigate the potential for fan-affiliation with One Direction/Harry Styles to "queer" fans' coming-of-age experiences. My findings demonstrate fans' use of disidentification, including the cultivation of a distinct lesbian continuum, to resist misogynistic and heterosexist stereotypes while navigating fan-affiliated sexual identity development.

Jimmy Lewis: Rhetorics of Reconciliation: Christianity and Queerness in the Episcopal Church USA

My MA project seeks to evaluate the kinds of rhetoric surrounding the ordination of Gene Robinson to the position of bishop in the Episcopal Church USA as an openly gay man. Since he was the first openly gay person elected to the position of a bishop, reactions and responses were divided; the goal of my project is to analyze these rhetorics and to conclude which prevailed in the Episcopal Church at large.

Kelsey Mello: Adaptation and Innovation in Abortion Care: Insights from Abortion Clinic Personnel Working in Restrictive State Contexts

This MA project expands on the mixed-methods analysis from Mello, et al., 2021 and builds upon the existing body of literature of qualitative research with abortion clinic staff. Through semi-structured interviews with 14 abortion clinic personnel from Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia from June 2021 to March 2022 and a policy analysis of federal and state abortion regulations, this project examines how personnel working in hostile regulatory environments adapt and innovate their practice to maintain a high-standard of care for their patients.

Erin Winchester: Locating Queer Social Life: LBQ+ Meetups in Cincinnati, Ohio

This project explores how LBQ+ meetups serve as modern sites for political solidarity, collective identity formation, and considers how the COVID-19 pandemic created disruptions within LBQ+ socializing. Amid the decline of lesbian bars, this project draws from interview data to examine the role LBQ+ meetups have in filling the community's social needs.

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Recognizing Sally Moffitt

In March 2022 I will complete 50 years of service in University of Cincinnati Libraries, 40 years of which have included holding the position of WGSS library subject specialist and departmental liaison. During these years, the WGSS department evolved beyond its origin as the Women's Studies Program situated in the College of Arts and Sciences to its present configuration as the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department. As WGSS broadened its disciplinary outlook, so too has the library's supporting collections built up over these 40 years.

Highlights of the library's holdings that are specifically women's, gender, and sexuality oriented include these article databases:

- Gender Studies
- GenderWatch
- LGBTQ+ Source
- Studies on Women and Gender Abstracts
- Women's Studies International.

The library's holdings of WGSS documentary materials are extensive and diverse in format including books, micro, and digital collections, many acquired through the assistance of the Charles Phelps Taft Research Fund and the Laura Struminger Schor WGSS Library Endowment.

Some notable digital collections include:

- LGBT Thought and Culture
- Women and Social Movements (three digital collections)
- Women: Transnational Networks

Notable microformat collections include:

- Atlanta Lesbian Feminist Alliance Archives
- Planned Parenthood Federation of America Records, 1918-1974
- Records of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor, 1918-1965

It has been my privilege and pleasure to have had the opportunity to work with WGSS faculty and students to build the library's supporting collections. I thank you for all the wonderful memories of our shared enterprise that I will take with me when I retire in May.

