

December 2021 Newsletter



Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Graduate Student Spotlight: Felicia Nadel

How did you hear about the WGSS MA program?

I was a WGSS and English undergraduate student at the University of New Hampshire. After taking a couple of years off from academia, I searched for WGSS MA programs to work towards my career aspirations. I was excited to find UC's program; well-established WGSS MA programs can be difficult to find.

What has been your experience as a graduate assistant?

I am in my first year as a TA/GA. I believe the feminist learning fostered in WGSS classrooms is very important. WGSS readings and materials access different cavities of the body. Classroom discussions are really fun for me; we have the opportunity to upend society's oppressive teachings and offer room for new understandings, revelations, and the exchange of ideas.

Who are your favorite theorists?

I am going to bend this a little and include writers and poets amongst my favorite theorists, as I believe feminist art offers us plenty of theory. I love the works of Audre Lorde, Mary Oliver, Toni Morrison, Judith Butler, Ericka Hart, Marla Brettschnieder, Drayla Vanrachack, Jamaica Kincaid, and Jes Baker.

What excites you about the field of WGSS?

I choose to be in the field of WGSS because of its grounding in feminism. To me, this grounding lends itself to a loving pulse in humanity. The field of WGSS is far from perfect, but collectively, the people who make up the field rise to its challenges again and again. I believe the goal of a feminist practice is to mine for love. As we continue to push and grapple with feminist thought, we find more caring ways to be in our bodies, relate to other people, and relate to the earth. I enjoy the perpetual motion of WGSS, the infinite doors to open to new feminist renderings. Not to quote a (probably problematic) white guy in my WGSS excitement answer, but— Clark Knowles, a favorite writing professor of mine in undergrad loved the Walt Whitman quote, "All goes onward and outward, nothing collapses" — and for me, this holds true about feminist studies. WGSS and its wide expanse "goes onward and outward, nothing collapses."



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WGSS Faculty: Dr. Amy Lind



What is your academic background?

My academic background is entirely interdisciplinary, which I love and which very much defines me as a scholar. As an undergrad at the University of California at Santa Cruz, I double-majored in Women's Studies (now Feminist Studies) and Latin American and Latino Studies. I was fortunate enough to take courses and/or learn from an array of amazing scholars, such as Donna Haraway, Teresa de Lauretis, Angela Davis, bell hooks, Lata Mani, Sonia Alvarez, and Arturo Escobar. I also spent a year studying abroad in Lima, Peru, where I also worked with three feminist organizations. Later, I attended Cornell University to study critical development and postcolonial studies in the School of Planning. There, I worked with a political theorist, feminist economist, anthropologist, and a geographer. I can say with certainty that interdisciplinarity has shaped my scholarly and pedagogical experience as well as my intellectual curiosity.

What classes do you enjoy teaching and why?

One of my favorite courses to teach is part of our feminist theory series: Race/Class/Sexuality/Nation. I ask a set of provocative questions that serve as a thread for us, as a class, to consider as we read a wide range of texts that contribute to feminist knowledge production and often force us to question what "counts" as feminist theory. I also enjoy teaching Global Sexualities and Queer Theory. In Spring 2022, I am teaching an undergraduate course, WGS/POL 3038: Gender and Political Justice, for the first time. It is cross-listed with Political Science, so I should have a wide range of students in the course.

What is your most recent publication?

Since I have been serving in administrative roles, I have published less than before. However, very recently, a co-authored chapter of mine, "Plural Sovereignty and *la Familia Diversa* in Ecuador's 2008 Constitution" (co-authored with Christine Keating) was published in a wonderful edited volume, [*Transnational Feminist Itineraries: Situating Theory and Activist Practice*](#) (Duke University Press, 2021, coedited by Ashwini Tambe and Millie Thayer). Dr. Keating and I are also working on a book on Ecuador's Citizen Revolution, neoliberalisms, and the afterlives of colonialism.

What current projects you are working on?

I am excited to share with you that I am incoming Co-Editor-in-Chief of the [*International Feminist Journal of Politics*](#), or IFJP (2022-2025). We are editing the journal as a collective. The six of us are from six different countries representing regions in the Global South and Global North. A goal of ours is to decolonize feminist international relations and decenter Anglophone forms of knowledge production. It will be challenging and also exciting. WGSS students and faculty are encouraged to publish in IFJP, attend our annual conferences, and consider joining an upcoming Epistemic Justice CoLab for emergent scholars, which will serve as a supportive mentoring environment for advanced graduate students and recent PhDs to workshop papers and prepare them for submission to an academic journal - that Dr. Shine Choi and I will be organizing in 2022-2025.



International Feminist
Journal of Politics