

GENDER DYNAMIC

Gender & Sexuality Studies Program, Northwestern University, 2017-18



Heather Love

Delivers the SPAN Workshop Keynote
on Sexual Truths and Post-Truths

Jennifer Brier

Presents on History Moves, a public
history project with women living
with HIV/AIDS

Mariame Kaba

Discusses transformative justice
approaches to sexual violence

Jessica Mathiason

Delivers the Inaugural Alumni Lecture



Jan Radway
Program Director

Greetings to All of You:

It's difficult to believe another year in Gender and Sexuality Studies has come to a close. This one seemed to rush by even more quickly than usual. Since September, our hard-working faculty have been busy mounting their typical, intellectually impressive roster of courses, with substantial enrollments in all of them. We also hosted the usual number of thought-provoking speakers and co-sponsored a diverse range of events this year. You can find accounts of many of these throughout this newsletter. But I think this year seemed especially intense, abnormally busy, and more tiring than usual in part because so many of us, both students and faculty, have been distracted by and involved in activities surrounding a range of events on the national and international political scenes.

We have discussed the #MeToo Campaign at length and troubled over the implications of such wide-spread abuse of girls and women both in the

U. S. and around the globe. We have worried about the mainstream media's inadequate treatment of the fact that this is not just a problem for white, celebrity women but something that black and brown women, working class and poor women are forced to endure every day. We have been equally troubled by the coarseness of political discourse at this historical moment and especially by the apparent increase in racial harassment and discrimination, by growing violence against LGBT peoples and especially against transgender individuals, and by the harassment and deportation of

refugees and immigrants, including young children. GSS students and faculty variously joined the Women's March, protests organized by Black Lives Matter, actions designed to counter xenophobic treatment of immigrants and refugees, and a range of other activities devoted to the interests of gender and sexual minorities. Indeed the current political environment has made our work seem newly vulnerable and precarious and, at the same time, even more important than ever. We have been heartened therefore by the fact that the numbers of our majors and minors continue to grow even at a time when some humanities and social sciences departments are facing declining enrollments. We are deeply heartened, too, by the commitments, activism, and dreams exhibited by our GSS students. We were delighted to tell them how much they encourage us and give us hope at our Annual Awards Ceremony, where we congratulated our graduating seniors and wished them all well.

As I finish this last year in my term as GSS Director, I want to thank everyone on the Advisory Board for their hard work on behalf of the Program. I am especially grateful to Associate Director and Director of Undergraduate Studies, Amy Partridge, for her good counsel and tireless labor on behalf of our students. All of us in GSS were delighted at the news this spring that Amy has been promoted to

Associate Professor of Instruction and will take a well-deserved research leave during fall quarter, 2018. I am also grateful to Nick Davis, Director of Graduate Studies for his equally hard work and invaluable advice and good cheer. I count working with Amy and Nick among the highlights of my professional career. I am especially delighted to note that Professor Mary Dietz has agreed to serve as Interim Director of the Program next year and that Professor Jennifer Nash will serve as DGS while Nick takes over as DUS. Finally, I want to add that we are all delighted to welcome Eliot Colin as our new Program Assistant in GSS. Eliot previously served as the PA for SPAN and has already contributed a great deal to our activities in the Program. Our former PA, Jasmine Tucker, took a new job in the School of Education and Social Policy at NU, which will allow her to work closely with undergraduate students. We wish her the very best in her future endeavors. In closing, I simply want to add that It has been a privilege and a joy to work with everyone associated with Gender and Sexuality Studies. I plan to come back in 2019 for one last term as Director and I'm deeply grateful to my colleagues for the opportunity to do so.

With thanks and all best wishes to everyone,

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The Gender & Sexuality Studies Program at Northwestern is an interdisciplinary program, with faculty affiliates drawn from more than 25 departments across four of the University's schools.

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KREEGER WOLF ENDOWMENT LECTURE SERIES

By Amy Partridge (Associate Director/DUS in GSS)

Jennifer Brier

“I’m Still Surviving: Towards a Women’s History of Living With HIV/AIDS”

May 3, 2018—In her talk at Northwestern, Jennifer Brier (Associate Professor of History and Director of Gender and Women’s Studies at University of Illinois at Chicago) described her public history project History Moves (<http://historymoves.org/about/>) and their partnership with Chicago participants in the Women’s Interagency HIV Study (WIHS), the world’s longest running clinical research study on women living with HIV. An innovative approach to oral history, the project used a participatory process which began with the women working in pairs to interview each other. Each participant decided which passages from these interviews would be included in the subsequent exhibition “In Plain Sight: A Women’s History of HIV/AIDS in Chicago” and in the forthcoming book *I’m Still Surviving*. Each also contributed additional materials—photos, documents, hand-written stories and poems—to accompany their words. The goal, as Brier described it, was to enable these women to become “historians of their own lives.” The project has since expanded to include a cohort of WIHS participants in Chapel Hill, North Carolina and Brooklyn, New York. Importantly, as Brier pointed out in her talk, this process has produced a dense and complex portrait of women’s experiences living with HIV/AIDS that challenge the narratives we have produced about the natural history of the disease and the experience of being a PWA (Person With AIDS) in the U.S. During the Q&A session, Brier reflected on the relationship of this project to her 2011 book *Infectious Ideas: U.S. Responses to the AIDS Crisis*. Pointing out, for example, that none of the women cited contemporaneous AIDS activism in describing their experiences living with AIDS, she suggested that a “women’s history of HIV/AIDS” requires us to revisit what we think we know about the impact of the AIDS crisis, and activist responses to it, on political life during this period.



Jennifer Brier



Exhibition: “In Plain Sight: A Women’s History of HIV/AIDS in Chicago”



Book: *I’m Still Surviving: An Oral History of the Women’s Interagency HIV Study in Chicago* (2015)

Miranda Joseph

“Performative Accounting of Money and Time in the Financialized University”

February 15, 2018—The Gender and Sexuality Studies Program, with the generous support of the Edith Kreeger Wolf Endowment, was delighted to welcome Chair and Professor of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies at the University of Minnesota Miranda Joseph. In preparation for her visit, the Graduate Colloquium read selections from her books *Debt to Society: Accounting for Life Under Capitalism* (University of Minnesota Press, 2014) and *Against the Romance of Community* (Minnesota, 2002). *Debt to Society* explores modes of accounting as they are used to create, sustain and transform social relations while *Against the Romance of Community* examines the supplementary relation of community with capitalism in the context of political debates over LGBT art and culture and the discourses and practices of NGOs. In her talk at Northwestern on “Performative Accounting of Money and Time in the Financialized University” and in the spirited Q&A that followed, Joseph connected this earlier work to her current work in critical university studies and feminist studies of finance.



Miranda Joseph

Katha Pollitt

“Fake News on Abortion: How the Anti-Choice Movement Makes Up Stuff and Gets You to Believe It”

October 17, 2017—With the generous support of the Edith Kreeger Wolf Endowment, the Gender and Sexuality Studies Program collaborated with the Department of African American Studies, the American Studies Program, and the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities to bring Katha Pollitt to campus to reflect on the current state of abortion politics. In her talk, “Fake News on Abortion: How the Anti-Choice Movement Makes Up Stuff and Gets You to Believe It,” Pollitt argues that the anti-choice movement uses false information and flawed argumentation to discredit the pro-choice movement and their claim that access to free abortion on demand is essential to women’s liberation by reframing abortion itself as dangerous to women. Moreover, as Pollitt points out, to be perceived as legitimate these claims must at least appear to be grounded in science rather than as merely religious and moral objections to abortion. It is this mandate, Pollitt argues, that results in ludicrous claims on the part of the anti-choice movement (e.g. “women’s bodies can reject a pregnancy on command if they are raped”; “64% of women are forced to have an unwanted abortion”) which are nonetheless presented as indisputable “facts.” While this kind of “fake news” might rally support for the anti-choice movement and be used to pass anti-choice legislation, there is no actual evidence to support these anti-choice claims.



Katha Pollitt with students

FACULTY UPDATES

MICHELLEANNE BIRKETT (Medical Social Sciences, Preventative Medicine) was selected as a New Voices Fellow by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. A key role of this fellowship is to identify ways to expand the diversity of expertise that is brought to all of the convening Academies and advisory activities.

HÉCTOR CARRILLO (GSS, Sociology) was selected to receive two awards for his book *Pathways of Desire: The Sexual Migration of Mexican Gay Men* at the 2018 American Sociological Association Meeting:

- Latina/o Sociology Section Distinguished Contribution to Research Book Award
- Section on Sex and Gender Distinguished Book Award.

MARY DIETZ (GSS, Political Science) will step in as Interim Director of GSS for the 2018-19 school year.

MICHAELA DI LEONARDO (GSS, African American Studies, Performance Studies) has a forthcoming book on *The Tom Joyner Morning Show*, the most important (and progressive—pro-feminist, pro-LGBTQ) black radio show you never heard of (Oxford University Press). This last year she gave 4 talks on various topics at 2 conferences, and wrote 2 distinctly feminist articles. di Leonardo also aided feminist advisee Dario Valles finish and defend his dissertation, and hooded Almita Miranda, who defended her dissertation too late last year to march. Both new PhDs have 2-year postdoctoral fellowships at Brown University. di Leonardo will be a Faculty Fellow at the Kaplan Center next year, finishing her 30-year study of race, class, and gender in New Haven, Connecticut for University of Chicago Press.

ALICE H. EAGLY (Psychology, Management and Organizations) received the 2018 SAGE Award for Scholarly Contribution from the Academy of Management, Division of Gender and Diversity in Organizations. Alice was also honored by a conference centered on her work *Gender Roles in the Future: Theoretical Foundations and Future Research*, sponsored by the Society of Personality and Social Psychology and the European Society of Social Psychology, Berlin, June 2017.

JILLANA ENTEEN (GSS, Asian American Studies, Asian Studies) continues her research with the sponsorship of a SPAN Faculty Research Grant for her project “Transitioning in Thailand: Medical Travel and Trans* Surgeries” and will travel to Thailand this summer to interview surgeons and staff involved in Thailand’s Trans*-related surgical industry. Enteen has given several presentations on this topic this year including at Trans(forming) Queer, the 11th Annual DC Queer Studies Symposium and at the New Media Consortium Convention in Boston. She has designed several new courses and presented Northwestern’s TeachX as well as held Hewlett and Educational Technologies Teaching Fellow (ETTF) Fellowships. She also convened NUDHL, the Northwestern University Digital Humanities Lab sponsored by the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities.

STEVEN EPSTEIN (Sociology) published two articles including:

- Epstein, Steven. “Governing Sexual Health: Bridging Biocitizenship and Sexual Citizenship.” pp. 21-50 in Kelly Happe,

Jenell Johnson, and Marina Levina (eds.), *Biocitizenship: The Politics of Bodies, Governance, and Power* (New York: NYU Press, 2018).

- Epstein, Steven, and Laura Mamo. “The Proliferation of Sexual Health: Diverse Social Problems and the Legitimation of Sexuality.” *Social Science & Medicine*, 188 (2017): 176-190.

LOUISE KNIGHT (Visiting Scholar, GSS) continues to write her biography of Sarah and Angelina Grimke, the abolitionist-feminists from South Carolina (forthcoming by Farrar, Strauss and Giroux). In the last year she has given lectures at the National Abolition Hall of Fame, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and the Massachusetts Historical Society. She also presented a paper at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) and gave the keynote address at the Rhetoric Society of America conference. She was recently elected to serve on the board of Biographers International Organization (BIO).

KATHRYN MACAPAGAL (Medical Social Sciences, Psychiatry and Behavior Sciences) contributed to three presentations including:

- Macapagal, K. (2018, April). Gay teens use Grindr too: Hookup app use among adolescent men who have sex with men. Presented at the Gay Men’s Behavioral Science conference, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.
- Moskowitz, D.A., Kraus, A., Korpak, K., Birnholtz, J., Mustanski, B., & Macapagal, K. (2018, July). Top, Bottom, and Versatile Orientations among Androphilic Adolescents: Evidence towards the Origins of Penetrative Label Adoption. Presented at the International Academy of Sex Research annual meeting, Madrid, Spain.
- Macapagal, K., Kraus, A., Korpak, A. K., Birnholtz, J., Mustanski, B., & Moskowitz, D. A. (2018, July). Hookup app Use Among Adolescent Men Who have Sex with Men: Sexual Behavior, Partner Characteristics, and Sexual Decision Making. Presented at the International Academy of Sex Research annual conference, Madrid, Spain.

JEFFREY MASTEN (GSS, English) presented the paper “Philology’s Queer Children” at the Shakespeare Association of America in Los Angeles in March and gave a paper entitled “The Museum of Gavestoneana,” on representations of Edward II’s friend/lover Piers Gaveston in popular culture, at Penn in April. At the forum “Thinking Queer History in Shakespeare: A Conversation on Method” at the Modern Language Association convention in January, Masten and Valerie Traub gave papers analyzing each other’s recent books on premodern sexuality. Masten’s *Queer Philologies: Sex, Language, and Affect in Shakespeare’s Time* (University of Pennsylvania Press 2016) will be available in paperback in November.

MÓNICA RUSSEL Y RODRIGUEZ (GSS, Anthropology, Latina & Latino Studies) joined the board of the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Rights.

GREGORY WARD (GSS, Linguistics, Philosophy) will join Héctor Carrillo as Co-director of SPAN beginning in the Fall of 2018.

SPAN: YEAR IN REVIEW



Héctor Carrillo and Steven Epstein
SPAN Co-directors, 2017-18

The 2017-18 academic year marked the eighth year of operation for the Sexualities Project at Northwestern (SPAN) and the last of our second cycle of funding from the Northwestern Human Sexualities Endowment. We are happy to report that the Provost’s office has renewed our project for three more years for the period 2018-21.

Because of the conditions of our funding, SPAN has primarily focused on funding sexualities research and education in the social sciences and the health sciences. This year, however, we received a small fund from the Dean of the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences (WCAS) that allowed us to support some research in the humanities. The considerable demand for these resources is indicative of an uncovered need. We are hopeful that we can attract more funding for this purpose, including from alumni and outside donors. Please contact us if you are interested in supporting this effort.

This past year SPAN also added a new pedagogical component that promotes the creation of new undergraduate courses related to sexualities. We are particularly interested in links with departments and programs that have not yet included relevant sexualities-related courses in their curriculum, and also in supporting the fine-tuning of sexualities courses offered by GSS. This coming year a first faculty cohort includes three professors: Noelle Sullivan (Anthropology and Global Health Minor) will develop a course on human sexuality and sexual health; Natalie Bouzaglo (Spanish and Portuguese), a course on sexuality and masculinity; and Nick Davis (English and Gender and Sexuality Studies), a senior capstone course in gender and sexuality studies.

The new academic year also brings changes to SPAN’s leadership. Founding Co-director Steven Epstein has now stepped down after eight years of service with SPAN, and in addition our indefatigable Program Assistant, Eliot Colin, has now become the program assistant for the Gender & Sexuality Studies Program. Many thanks to both of them for their commitment to SPAN. As of 2018-19, Prof. Gregory Ward (Linguistics) joins Prof. Héctor Carrillo as SPAN Co-director.

INTRODUCING THE 2018-20 SPAN POSTDOCS

Scott De Orio received his PhD in History and Women’s Studies from the University of Michigan in 2017. His research focuses on the intersection of LGBTQ history and the history of the carceral state. His first book project *Punishing Queer Sexuality in the Age of LGBT Rights* examines the changing ways in which the branch of the carceral state concerned with controlling sex crimes has targeted LGBTQ subjects in the U.S. since World War II. His second project is a transatlantic study of the regulation of child sexuality from the Enlightenment to the present. Scott’s writing has appeared in the *Journal of the History of Sexuality*, in the edited collection *The War on Sex*, and on the blog *NOTCHES: (re)marks on the History of Sexuality*.



Scott De Orio



Tony Silva

Tony Silva received his PhD in Sociology from University of Oregon in 2018. His research examines how individuals negotiate and understand social categories that—while often perceived as natural—are actually affected by social context. Specifically, he examines gender and sexual identities, including their intersections with race, place, class, and age, and investigate diversity within them. As a mixed-methods researcher, he conducts research using interviews and secondary data analysis of nationally representative surveys. Currently he is preparing a book manuscript from his interviews with 60 rural, white, straight-identified men who have sex with men. His published papers appear in *Social Forces*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Sexuality Research and Social Policy*, *Gender & Society*, and *Sexualities*.

SPAN WORKSHOP

On Sexual Truths and Post-Truths

Keynote with Heather Love

“A Sociological Periplum: Samuel Delany’s Documentation of Marginal Worlds”

By Ryan Mack (PhD Candidate, Sociology, GSS)

Heather Love kicked off a conference on “sexual truths and post truths” by teaching us a new word that invited us into questions of truth and knowledge-making practices. A “periplum” signifies a map seen from the perspective of a person sailing along the coast, rather than a map seen from above. This metaphor for thinking about the nature of knowledge invoked a historical backdrop of sociological empiricism that named and categorized deviant groups as if from an objective above, instead of from inside the experience of such groups. She suggested that, though problematic, some hard-won insights from mid-century deviancy studies have largely been forgotten in Queer Theory, overshadowed by inspirations from psychoanalysis, continental philosophy, and Foucaultian constructionism. She invited us to think about what was at stake in the historical shift from empirical studies to interpretive, post-structuralist academic critique. How is it that anti-empiricism and a deep mistrust of categories have claimed a methodological victory in Queer Theory where *interpretation* now dominates? Notably, Samuel Delaney’s work sneaks into the Queer Theory cannon despite its empirical content, perhaps because of efforts by some to make insignificant the empirical dimensions of Delaney’s work. Distinct from that view, Love argued that his empiricism mattered. Love suggested that we might find validity (and indeed, importance) in Delaney’s first-person experience and observation. She suggested that Delaney offered a different version of empiricism that does not identify and (re)marginalize deviants and their categories, but offers a more contingent, subjectivized, and relational version of empiricism. The question and answer session following the keynote included an insightful suggestion that Queer Theorists could explicate the variety of descriptive styles in empirical work and then discern their attendant politics. This offered those present some evidence that Love accomplished her goal for the talk: she successfully traced the genealogies of, and possible futures for, documenting experiences of the marginalized.



Heather Love



Steven Epstein, Heather Love, and Héctor Carrillo

Roderick A. Ferguson: “The Backdrop of the Post-Truth”

By Ivan Bujan (PhD Candidate, Performance Studies, GSS)

The author of the foundational text *Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique* (2004) Roderick A. Ferguson delivered a talk on “The Backdrop of the Post-Truth.” Ferguson offered insights into how to theorize the current anti-Black political climate in the U.S. He argued that current “post-truth” discourse, and its racist, sexist, and xenophobic ideologies, do not simply originate with the Trump administration. Rather, its history stretches back to the 1980s, most notably embodied in the Reagan and Bush eras, and their use of a discourse of irrationality to respond to the various critiques of power offered by artists, activists and scholars at the time and to defend privileged gendered, sexual, racial and national formations. In other words, Ferguson argues that “post-truth” discourse attempts to resist the work of anti-racist, anti-capitalist, anti-state, feminist, and queer formations through the destruction of the psychic and affective lives of the racially and sexually different. Because “post-truth” discourse operates affectively, Ferguson argues, it also is a fruitful endeavor inasmuch as it produces “counter-hegemonic forces” which in turn engender critical work by activist, academics and artists whose insights teach us to recognize and resist exploitation and offered the contemporaneous work of The Combahee River Collective, Toni Morrison and Audre Lorde as examples. During the discussion that followed, Ferguson further elaborated on the notion of “post-truth,” its connection to knowledge production after the ‘poststructuralist turn,’ and to the historical legacies and current iterations of anti-Black racism.



Roderick A. Ferguson

Abram J. Lewis and Mitali Thakor: “True Sex, Fake Sex” Roundtable

By Lital Pascas (PhD Candidate, Rhetoric & Public Culture, GSS)

Lewis’ presentation focused on the question: what would it mean to engage truth generally, and the truth of sex in particular in a *truly* nonmoral sense? In other words, are there advantages to entertaining truth within but also apart from “relations of power?” Reflecting on his own research on queer and feminist engagements with enchantments of sexuality in the 70s, Lewis commented that in that historical moment, queer and feminist communities recurrently invoked genres of thought and action disqualified by the truth regimes of gender and sexuality studies. He therefore asked how should we relate to such ideas about magical ontologies of sexuality when researching underscholarly truth regimes. In addition, what are our obligations to our subjects’ truth claims?

Thakor, in a presentation titled “Fake Sex: AI and the Face-Swapped Porn Panic,” discussed the recent rise in AI-enabled face-swapped porn called Deep Fake technology, examining it as a specific manifestation of fakery in the post-truth era. Asking what it means to think of bans connected to moral panics, especially around mundane issues such as Deep Fake, she considered this technology’s stakes in relation to consent, child-pornography legislation, politicians’ public appearances, online free-speech, gender, and race. Later, she asked how we can locate pleasure and erotic charge in artifice, suggesting that the desire to uncover artificiality relies on similar logics as the desire to inspect racial authenticity: the desire is not only to expose fakery, but also to expose the real.

Chase Joynt and Kristen Schilt

“The Agnes Project: On Queer Methods and Hybrid Practice”

By Marie Laperrière (PhD Candidate, Sociology, GSS)

Kristen Schilt and Chase Joynt’s presentation provided a fitting conclusion to the 2018 SPAN Workshop. By retelling the story of their research collaboration – from the moment they met and decided to work together, to their serendipitous archival discoveries and challenging process of finding the adequate vehicle to share their findings – they encouraged participants to think about interdisciplinarity, the ethical stakes of interview research, and the function of a discipline’s collective imaginary.



Chase Joynt and Kristen Schilt

The point of departure of Schilt and Joynt’s project is Agnes, a transgender woman whose story had captivated the imagination of social psychologists in the 1970s, before being reappropriated by trans, queer and feminist theorists. Agnes was one of Harold Garfinkel’s respondents, whom he interviewed on several occasions in preparation for his 1967 book *Studies in Ethnomethodology*. Garfinkel was interested in the process by which people come to believe that they live in a shared reality, and most importantly, in the events that can disrupt this belief. Agnes, who was raised as a boy, adopted a female identity at age 17 and eventually underwent a sex reassignment surgery, became Garfinkel’s exemplary figure for his concept of “passing”.

Interested in unpacking the story behind the widely shared fascination with Agnes’s case, Schilt and Joynt gained access to Garfinkel’s private archival holdings held at UCLA. After several months working daily in the archive, they finally came across Agnes’ interview tapes, as well as that of eight other gender nonconforming interviewees, buried for over 60 years in a rusted shut filing cabinet. At a time when several universities are actively working to reduce their physical archives, they encouraged us to reflect on the enduring value of interacting physically with archival material.

Pulling back the curtain on the challenges involved in research collaborations across scholarly boundaries, they also discussed the process of reflection and negotiation that led them to decide on the appropriate vehicles to share their work. The collaborators are working on a book that will explore the issue of why certain cases come to occupy center stage in the imagery of a discipline. They also presented a preliminary cut of their forthcoming experimental documentary *Framing Agnes* in which actors impersonate Agnes and Garfinkel’s unknown respondents whose tapes they discovered in the archive.

The workshop ended with a lively exchange during which discussants raised important questions about the ethical stakes involved in using people’s most intimate experiences for theory building – and what it means for research participants not to be aware of the questions driving the research, and of the concepts and theories that their life stories serve to build. Schilt and Joynt reiterated their belief in the need to reflect on the histories of cases with taken-for-granted meanings, so that respondents such as Agnes can be seen with a new gaze. Finally, audience members asked questions about the things that get left out when someone’s life story becomes exemplary of a concept, and when scholars are more focused on building theory than on understanding their subjects’ experiences of the world.

2016-18 POSTDOC TALKS

Mitali Thakor: “Do Digital Police Dream of Electric Creeps?”

By Abram J Lewis (SPAN Postdoctoral Fellow)



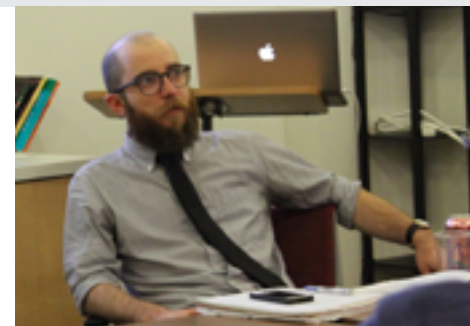
Mitali Thakor

In her shrewdly-titled talk, “Do Digital Police Dream of Electric Creeps?” Mitali Thakor drew from her book project, *The Artificial Child*, which details the growth of international digital surveillance technologies for policing online child pornography. Thakor is particularly interested in strategies that employ *preemptive* logics of surveillance—that is, strategies that seek to prevent child sex crimes before they occur. Thakor thus detailed an expanding surveillance infrastructure organized around “potential victims,” and especially, “potential offenders.” And in cogent constructivist form, Thakor suggested that these technologies may actually produce the very subject positions they purport merely to identify. Central to Thakor’s research is the case of “Sweetie,” a digital animation of a young girl, designed by a Dutch nonprofit to entrap offenders online. Sweetie offers a fascinating study

of digital policing under global capitalism—not only because Project Sweetie orchestrated an international alliance of NGOs and law enforcement, but also because of the campaign’s self-conscious stylization of the representational economies of trafficking. Dutch law forbids using images of actual children in sting operations; thus, the campaign employed digital technology to create a convincing *facsimile* of a trafficked child. And Sweetie herself—rendered as hyperbolically “innocent,” and apparently of Filipina descent – caters to a host of racialized, gendered, and sexualized notions about the paradigmatic child victim. But ironically, Thakor argued, Project Sweetie’s campaign ads actually cultivate new forms of viewing pleasure: the pleasure of artifice revealed, for instance, of an imagined abject victim redeemed, and an imagined offender neutralized. Thakor’s research is noteworthy for its interweaving of ethnographic fieldwork and readings of visual culture alongside surveillance studies and queer theory. The production and criminalization of the child sex offender via Sweetie may hearken to familiar critiques by the likes of Gayle Rubin or Lee Edelman. But as Thakor crucially shows, the global surveillance apparatus authorized by Sweetie throws into relief the centrality of race and empire to sex panic under a multicultural, post-Fordist regime.

Abram J Lewis: “The Lunar Effect: Self-Loss and Cosmic Consciousness in the Mad-Queer 1970s”

By Mitali Thakor (SPAN Postdoctoral Fellow)



Abram J Lewis

AJ Lewis opened his talk with two scenes emblematic of the famed summer of 1969: the Stonewall Riot, queer activism’s watershed moment, and the Apollo 11 moon landing, an event Jack Halberstam characterized as his “first encounter with television and...the outer edges of the human.” Lewis juxtaposed the two events to argue that they illustrated the coming decade’s preoccupation with scientific rationalism alongside fomenting social activism that pried open tensions between secular and ‘irrational’ principles. Playing with double meanings of the moon craze, as both peak scientific rationalism, and lunacy, a characterization of unruly psychosis,

Lewis suggested that queer and trans activists turned to madness as an affective state for feminist liberation. He illustrated how “cosmonautic pursuits took on psychonautic avenues,” offering case studies such as the founding of a center on paranormal research by an Apollo 14 spaceman, the introduction of thiorazine medication and shifts in the treatment of neurodivergent people, and the controversial confluence of scientific experimentation and madness in the CIA’s mind control project at Vacaville prison. Lewis also presented an array of political posters that suggest madness and schizophrenia—mercurial, multiple selves—offered political possibilities for radical activists, indicating queers should divest not just from heteropatriarchy but also the individual self of liberalism. Lewis is currently working on his manuscript, *The Falling Dream*, which broadly investigates queer and feminist uses of witchcraft and madness as resources for social activism during the politically debilitating time of the tumultuous, lunatic, and magic 1970s.

SPAN READING GROUP

By Amy Partridge (Associate Director/DUS in GSS)

Gayle Rubin famously begins “Thinking Sex” (1984) with the declaration that “the time has come to think about sex” and to develop an “autonomous theory and politics of sexuality” that does not assume feminism to be “the privileged site of a theory of sexuality.” Given the current state of public discourse on sex and sexuality, which is increasingly focused on the ongoing problem of (hetero)sexual harassment and assault (of women by men), however, perhaps it is now time, once again, to think about feminism and its multiple and contradictory contributions to thinking sex in general and female sexuality in particular and to revisit the divergent trajectories within and between feminist and sexuality studies scholarship on the topic of “female sexuality,” broadly conceived.

We began by reading foundational texts in feminist theory and sexuality studies, focusing in particular on the work of Catherine MacKinnon and Gayle Rubin, with the goal of collectively (re)assessing the tools each offers for interpreting female sexuality, including as it is being articulated at present—for example, in the #MeToo campaign, ongoing debates over the pleasures and dangers of “hook-up culture,” the adjudication of campus Title IX cases, and the promise and problematics of an “affirmative consent” standard. In subsequent weeks, we continued to track and to assess the continuities, slippages, and tensions within and between feminist and sexuality studies scholarship focused on female sexuality, taking up topics such as lesbian-feminism and its legacies; the production of female pleasure and/as feminist politics; feminism, queer theory and “orgasmologies;” and the relationship between foundational theories of “compulsory heterosexuality” and current debates that posit (hetero)sexuality as in crisis.



DISSERTATION RECIPIENT (2018-19)

C. Tova Markenson (Theatre & Drama)

“Entrance Forbidden to the Yiddish Theatres: Performance, Prostitution, and Protest in Latin America (1900-1939)”



SUMMER FUNDING RECIPIENTS (2018)

Karlaia Brown

“Do All Black Lives Matter? The Treatment of Sexual Misconduct within Black Activist Communities and What we Can Learn from it”

Ivan Bujan

“Aesthetic Encounters: PrEP-inspired Art as Iteration of Aids-related Activist Practices”

Julia Fernandez

“Transgender Users of Dating Platforms”

Julian Glover

“To Be Real: Black and Latinx Transgender Women in the Ballroom Scene”

S. Tay Glover

“Queered Belonging in the Black Diaspora: Southern Black Lesbian Queer Women and Erotics”

Carlos Gustavo Halaburda

“Governmental Fiction: Melodrama and Latin America’s Reproductive Futures, 1880-1910”

Moira Kyweluk

“The ‘Egg Timer Test’ in Clinical Context: Sexuality, Identity, and Fertility Testing”

Gervais Marsh

“Centering Disrespectability: Performance Activism in the Anglophone Caribbean”

Anna Michelson

“Redefining the Romance: Classification and Social Change in Romance Genre Fiction”

Bahram Naderil

“Pious Prostitutes: The Practices of Religious Devotion among Indonesian Transgender Sex Workers”

Mirna Nadia

“The Pro[s]per Families: Tracing the Sexuality Discourse within the Indonesian Family Planning Program”

Jennifer Porter-Lupu

“Albert and His Live-In Carpenter: Queer Encounters with Archaeological Trash”

Ashley Walker & Michael DeVito

“Stigma in Supportive Online Spaces: Investigating the Disclosure and Management of Doubly-Stigmatized Gender and Sexual Identities Online within the LGBTQ+ Community”

Mlondolozzi Zondi

“Unmournable Void: Movement, Corporeal Integrity, and Death in Black Contemporary Performance and Visual Art”

GRADUATE PROGRAM: YEAR IN REVIEW



Nick Davis
Director of Graduate Studies

Graduate students in Gender & Sexuality Studies sustained their unbroken string of productive, engaged, and successful academic years in 2017-18. Ivan Bujan, Marie Laperrière, Ryan Mack, and Lital Pascas did wonderful work as TAs in our large lecture classes and expanded our curriculum with innovative, popular seminars linked to their research. V Chaudhry and Kelly Chung served as the program’s first official delegates to the Duke Feminist Theory Workshop in March.

A wave of happy news hit near the end of the year, as three Certificate students defended their dissertations and secured postdocs in prestigious institutions: Kelly Chung at Dartmouth College, Rae Langes at the University of Oklahoma, and Stefan Vogler at the University of California, Irvine. Two of these positions are tied to Women’s and Gender Studies units at these schools. Savina Balasubramanian and Todd Nordgren also completed their doctorates, and Todd will return to Northwestern in the fall as a Visiting Assistant Professor in English.

Serving for five years as DGS in this vibrant program has been a tremendous privilege and the best kind of education. Facilitating the Graduate Colloquium and talking to Cluster and Certificate students at events and individual meetings throughout the year served as constant reminders of how lucky we are to have each other’s ears and backs, to encourage each other’s development, and to enjoy such rich community.

Workshop with WWHDD: “Rage Is Sustainable Only When Shared”

Organized by Ivan Bujan (PhD Candidate, Performance Studies, GSS)

The activist collective What Would an HIV Doula Do? (WWHDD) stages public interventions and uses peer education to nurture public conversations about the ongoing AIDS epidemic and its embodiment in systemic inequalities that cut across race, class, gender, and ability. As WWHDD state, “We understand a doula as someone in community who holds space for others during times of transition. For us, HIV is a series of transitions in someone’s life that does not start with being tested or getting a diagnosis, nor end with treatment or death.”



WWHDD with Ivan Bujan’s GSS 372 Course (AIDS: Art and Activism of the Ongoing Crisis)



WWHDD: “Visual AIDS / Kay Rosen tote bag on the beach with roses” 2017

WWHDD offered a workshop at Northwestern in May titled “Rage is Sustainable Only When Shared” which was led by New York-based writer, organizer, curator and WWHDD co-founder Theodore (ted) Kerr and by charlesryanlong, a Chicago-based artist, activist, and Black liberationist. The workshop explored rage and grief as affects that have the power to enact substantive and sustainable social change. During the introductory exchange, small group work, and lively sincere discussions, workshop participants had a chance to learn about the historical uses of rage in activist and artistic realms, share their experiences with rage, and learn how to mobilize it for the purposes of political transformation and personal growth. For more information see: <http://hivdoula.work/>.

INTRODUCING THE 2018-19 GSS TAS



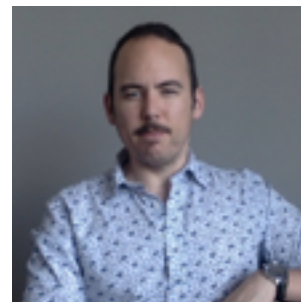
Lauren Herold

Lauren Herold is a fourth year PhD student in the Screen Cultures program of the Radio/TV/Film department. She studies LGBTQ television history and media advocacy in relation to the politics of race, gender, and sexuality. She has presented her work at a symposium on *Transparent*, at Console-ing Passions, at the American Studies Association, and at the Society for Cinema & Media Studies. She serves as the Advocacy Chair of Northwestern's Queer Pride Graduate Student Association and volunteers with the campus Women's Center. She holds an MA in Screen Cultures from Northwestern University and a BA in Women's and Gender studies from Columbia University.



Zachary Nissen

Zachary (Zach) Nissen is a PhD candidate in Anthropology and is pursuing certificates in Gender and Sexuality Studies (GSS) and Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LACS). His dissertation research involves archaeological and ethnographic field work at the ancient Maya city of Aventura, in the Corozal district of northern Belize. Zach draws on theories of space/place, everyday life, and affect to assess how inequalities shape ordinary people's experiences of the ancient city's landscape in the distant past as well as the present, and investigates the ways these experiences inform people's understanding of themselves, their community, and local history/heritage.



Kyle Kaplan

Kyle Kaplan is a PhD candidate in Musicology and a Mellon Interdisciplinary Cluster Fellow with the Gender and Sexuality Studies program. His dissertation, "Music, Intimacy, and International Homosexual Collaborations, 1957-1963," reconstructs the social and creative networks of composers such as Hans Werner Henze and Samuel Barber in counterpoint with Adorno's contemporaneous writings on aesthetics, ethics, and intimacy. His research on the soundtracks of experimental gay erotic cinema will appear in the forthcoming special issue of *Women and Music* on "Race-ing Queer Music Scholarship." He holds degrees from UCLA and McGill and has served on the board of the LGBTQ Study Group for the American Musicological Society.



Benson Zhou

Benson Zhou is a PhD candidate in the Rhetoric and Public Culture program. His research interests include masculinity studies, queer theory, cultural studies, political economy of media, and qualitative methods. He is particularly interested in understanding sexual inequality among sexual minorities. His dissertation explores the diversity of Chinese gay masculinities and the extant sexual hierarch(ies) among different gay masculinities through ethnographic work in Beijing. He holds an MA in Communication Studies from Renmin University of China, and a BA in Public Relations and a minor in Journalism from Communication University of China.

GRADUATE STUDENT UPDATES

SAVINA BALASUBRAMANIAN (PhD, Sociology) published her article "Motivating Men: Social Science and the Regulation of Men's Reproduction in Postwar India" in *Gender & Society*. Savina will start a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Loyola University Chicago in Fall 2018.

KARLIA BROWN (PhD Candidate, Sociology) received an Alumni Funds Grant from the Sociology Department, as well as a Summer Research Grant from SPAN. Additionally, she presented her paper "How Women Studying Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Perceive Traditionally 'Feminine' Fields and the Women Who Pursue Them" at the American Sociological Association Annual Conference in Philadelphia, PA in August 2018.

IVAN BUJAN (PhD Candidate, Performance Studies) was a TA for GSS for the 2017-18 period. He published a chapter in *Viral Dramaturgies: HIV and AIDS in Performance in the Twenty-First Century* entitled "Blue Is, Blue Does: A Performance about Truvada in Several Interactions." He presented a paper at the American Studies Association (ASA) in Chicago entitled "PrEP4Love: World-making Performances as Pedagogies of Dissent." Additionally, Ivan organized a workshop co-sponsored by GSS and SPAN: "Rage is Only Sustainable When Shared" (see p. 12). He also received a Summer Research Grant from SPAN and a Graduate Research Grant from TGS.

CARA NASH DICKASON (PhD Candidate, Screen Cultures) published two chapters entitled "Girls Worth Looking At: Surveillance, Race, and Class in Contemporary Teen Girl TV" and "Someone Was Watching Us: Surveillance and Spectatorship in *Pretty Little Liars*" in the collections *Mediated Girlhoods, Vol. 2*, and *ABC Family to Freeform TV*, respectively. With support from SPAN she presented work on gender and surveillance in early television at the conferences Console-ing Passions and Film and History, and on girls' sexual selfies at the Society for Cinema and Media Studies and the University of Chicago Cinema and Media Studies conferences.

ALYSSA LYNNE (PhD Candidate, Sociology) received a Buffett Institute Graduate Student Dissertation Research Award and a SPAN Summer Research Grant in Summer 2017 to conduct ethnographic research with *kathoey* in Bangkok, Thailand. She presented at the 2018 Engendering Change Conference at The University of Chicago and completed her second year paper, entitled, "'Being You is Not Sick': (De)medicalization of Thai *Kathoey* Identity." Alyssa was also awarded a Foreign Language and Area Studies Scholarship (FLAS) to study intermediate Thai at the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) during Summer 2018 and a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRFP) for 2018-22.

MOLLIE MCQUILLAN (PhD Candidate, Human Development and Social Policy) developed and instructed the SESP undergraduate course, "Gender Identity Development, Minority Stress, and Policies: An Interdisciplinary Perspective." She received support from the 2017 National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship, 2017-19 Northwestern University Presidential Fellowship, and a Summer 2017 SPAN Dissertation

Fellowship. She published a chapter entitled "Educational Attainment and Sexual Orientation in Adolescent and Young Adult Males" in *Sociological Studies of Children and Youth*. Mollie also received conference and research support from The Graduate School Conference Grant; School of Education and Social Policy Conference Travel Grant; SPAN Conference Presentation Travel Grant; and the National LGBTQ Conference Scholarship.

LITAL PASCAR (PhD Candidate, Communication Studies) received support from GSS, SPAN, and The Graduate School. She presented her research on consensual non-monogamy at the Rhetoric Society of America's conference, the National Communication Association conference, and at Console-ing Passions: International Conference on Media and Feminism. She participated in panels about teaching and gender at the American Studies Association conference and at Northwestern's Graduate Learning and Teaching Symposium. Lital also published a book chapter, "From Homonormativity to Polynormativity: Representing Consensual Non-Monogamy," in *After Marriage: The Future of LGBTQ Politics and Scholarship*. Her co-edited Special Issue on "Queer safe Spaces" and an article titled "The Right to Jerusalem: The Danger of Queer Safe Spaces" were accepted for publication in *Borderlands* journal.

WHITNEY POW (PhD Candidate, Screen Cultures) was generously supported by Northwestern's two-year Presidential Fellowship for their research on queer and transgender histories of software and computing. Whitney also received a grant from the German Research Foundation to present their invited work at the Queer Temporalities & Media Aesthetics Workshop in Bochum, Germany. Their article, "Reaching Toward Home: Software Interface as Queer Orientation in the Video Game Curtain" was published by the journal *The Velvet Light Trap* (UT Press). Whitney also presented their work at Backward Glances, the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, the Screen Cultures Colloquium, the GSS Colloquium, and the JASON National Educators' Conference.

DANIELLE ROSS (PhD Candidate, Performance Studies) received funding from the Buffett Institute and the Department of Performance Studies. She presented her research at Dance Studies Association's annual conference in Malta. Ross' research took the form of performance and occurred at the In Motion graduate student conference at Northwestern, and in Portland, Oregon in collaboration with choreographer Linda Austin and visual artist Amy Conway.

STEFAN VOGLER (PhD, Sociology) published his article "Constituting the Sexually Violent Predator: Law, Forensic Psychology, and the Adjudication of Risk" in *Theoretical Criminology* and has several other manuscripts under review. He also presented work at several conferences, including those of the American Sociological Association, Law & Society Association, and Society for the Social Studies of Science. Additionally, Stefan recently received the Karpf Peace Prize from the NU Sociology Department for his research on LGBTQ asylum law. In July, Stefan began his position as Chancellor's Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of California, Irvine.

A Conversation With Stefan Vogler

Stefan is currently a Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Criminology, Law and Society at the University of California, Irvine. He received his PhD in Sociology from Northwestern University in Spring 2018, where he was also affiliated with the Gender & Sexuality Studies, Legal Studies, and the Science in Human Culture programs.

How would you describe your current work and what drew you to it?

My current work explores the various interrelationships between gender and sexuality, law and crime, and science and technology in order to understand how social institutions affect the expression and conceptualization of identities and create new forms of social control, particularly for gender and sexual minorities. Since I began graduate school, I have been interested in the relationship between sexuality, gender, and the state, but I was particularly drawn to my current work on LGBTQ asylum law because it is a space where queer people actually have to *prove* their gender and sexual identities to state actors. This struck me as such an interesting change from the historical trend where queer people had to conceal their identities to gain entry to the U.S. because we were legally barred from entering the country until 1990. Now LGBTQ people can gain legal protections by “coming out” to the state. It also resonated with my interests in queer theory and the nature/nurture debate regarding sexuality. All of these theoretical interests of mine just happened to converge in this area of law that also has huge consequences for LGBTQ people around the world, so I couldn’t help but be drawn to it.



Stefan Vogler

How did GSS influence your career trajectory? How does it affect your work today?

Gender and sexuality studies has influenced my career trajectory and me personally in so many ways. I’ll have to significantly abbreviate my response so I don’t take up the entire newsletter! GSS, both the program and the wider discipline, have been a home for me when I sometimes didn’t feel like my work fit the mold of “traditional” sociology. But GSS also gave me conceptual tools that I simply wouldn’t have gotten elsewhere. It taught me to be critical but to also keep in mind that our work—no matter how theoretical or abstract it gets—is based on real people’s lives and experiences, and that’s something we should take very seriously and handle responsibly. Those principles really continue to guide my work today, and I don’t see that changing anytime soon.

For those passionate about feminism/LGBTQ issues and discouraged by the current political climate, what advice do you have?

As someone who studies immigration law, it’s sometimes hard to find the positives in today’s political climate. But in my research, I try to highlight ways that marginalized groups can use the law to affect change, and I think LGBTQ asylum law is one area where we have seen massive gains in the past 20 years. The good news is that many of the gains we have won, in asylum law and elsewhere, will be quite difficult for this administration to roll back. And when they try, I also know from my research that there are a ton of amazing people waiting to fight them on it. The people I encountered in my field work were continually inspiring to me in so many ways, and these folks are super smart, determined, and ready to make sure that any attempts to roll back gains made by women, LGBTQ people, and other minorities will be an extremely hard fight for Trump and the GOP. I think my advice would be to keep supporting these folks on the front lines in whatever way you can—donating, volunteering, protesting. And continue centering their perspectives and those of marginalized groups in your research and teaching. Oh, and when you need some self-care, I recommend binge watching *Pose*, because we all need some queer joy in our lives.

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM: YEAR IN REVIEW



Amy Partridge
Associate Director and
Director of Undergraduate Studies

It has been such a pleasure to spend another year in conversation and collaboration with the vibrant and committed undergraduate students working in Gender & Sexuality Studies. Jan Radway (Director of GSS) and I had the distinct pleasure of supervising our two senior thesis students this year, Ying Han and Sylvia Regan (see below), and I am pleased to report that six GSS students will be pursuing senior thesis projects in 2018-19. It was a great pleasure as well to work with alumna Kyra Jones, class of 2012, in her capacity as Sexual Violence Prevention Educator at C.A.R.E. to bring Mariame Kaba to campus in the fall to discuss the potential of transformative justice practices to address sexual violence (see p. 17).

This year we also inaugurated our Annual GSS Alumni Lecture series and were delighted to welcome back Dr. Jessica Mathiason, class of 2007. Jessica received her PhD in Comparative Studies in Discourse and Society at the University of Minnesota in 2017 and we invited her to discuss her dissertation project on “Engineering Kinship: Genetic Technologies, Economic Speculation, and the Queer Body.” Her talk was a tour-de-force (see p. 19) and it is my great pleasure to announce that Jessica has accepted a position in Women’s Studies at the University of Maryland this coming year. The remarkable work of another alumna Sharlyn Grace (class of 2008), who co-founded the Chicago Community Bond Fund, is also featured in this newsletter (see p. 20).

Let me close by offering my heartiest congratulations to all our graduating seniors! Congratulations in particular to Kira Nutter and Emma Flanders whose joint paper won the George C Casey Prize for the best undergraduate essay and to Sophie Spears and Yamari Lewis who shared the Rae Arlene Moses Leadership Award this year (see p. 20). We look forward to hearing of your many adventures and successes as well as your important contributions to our shared vision of a more just world as you move on from Northwestern. Please keep in touch!

GSS SENIOR THESES

Creating New Spaces for Being: How Gender, Sexuality, and Love are Deconstructed in the *Shojo* Manga *Hanakimi*



Ying Han

This thesis investigates the space that *shojo* manga opens up for its readers to explore the boundaries of traditional Japanese conceptions of female and male gender roles, specifically by examining the crossdressing heroine, Mizuki Ashiya, in the *shojo* manga *Hanazakari to Kimitchi e*, by Hisaya Nakajo (1996 to 2004). I briefly trace the history of *shojo* manga and its subgenre Boys’ Love in order to examine how the series fits into this subversive narrative tradition and its exploration of different gender identities and sexual orientations. Then, I turn to the larger historical context, looking at the collapse of the Japanese stock market and the real estate inflation bubble of 1991 to see how *Hanakimi* not only fits within the genre of *shojo* manga but may also play a more political role in further destabilizing the traditional family structure in this historical context. Lastly, I gesture towards how Asian-American readers interact with and find themselves within Asian media in this instance.

“Young, Gay & Proud”: Gay and Lesbian Youth in San Francisco 1978-1981



Sylvia Regan

In 1979, twenty young men and women from across the Bay Area formed the Gay Youth Community Coalition (GYCC) with the goal of fostering a vibrant gay youth community. In this project, I use the GYCC archives to recuperate their articulation of a new “gay youth” identity and to explore the radical implications of these young people proudly asserting a gay identity and even advocating for the abolition of “age of consent” laws during a period of anti-gay backlash that was primarily expressed as a moral panic over the impact of a contemporaneous (implicitly adult) gay movement on youth sexuality.

Mariame Kaba

"Transforming Rape Culture: Exploring Transformative Justice and Sexual Violence"

November 13, 2017—CARE collaborated with GSS, the Buffett Institute for Global Studies, The Women's Center and Campus Inclusion and Community, to host "Transforming Rape Culture: Exploring Transformative Justice and Sexual Violence." Kaba is an organizer, educator and curator who's active in numerous social movements for prison abolition, racial justice, gender justice, and transformative justice. She is the founder and director of Project NIA, a grassroots organization with a vision to end youth incarceration, and a co-founder of numerous organizations including the Chicago Freedom School, Love and Protect, the Chicago Taskforce on Violence against Girls and Young Women, We Charge Genocide, and most recently Survived & Punished. She has authored numerous reports, curricula, and articles on these topics and her writing has appeared in *The Nation*, *The Guardian*, *The Washington Post*, *In These Times*, *The New Inquiry*, *Teen Vogue* and others. In 2016-17, she was awarded a prestigious Soros Justice Fellowship to support her work to end the criminalization of survivors of violence. Most recently, Kaba co-organized the Just Practice Collaborative, a training and mentoring group focused on sustaining a community of practitioners who provide community-based accountability and support structures for all parties involved with incidents and patterns of sexual, domestic, relationship, and intimate community violence. Kaba's talk addressed the history of transformative justice, how it can be



Mariame Kaba

used to address sexual violence, and the impact of community accountability processes on survivors, offenders and the community. An audience of over a hundred attended the event, including many of the freshman enrolled in GSS 101 "Our Bodies/ Ourselves: the Women's Health Movements Then & Now," a fall quarter freshman seminar taught by GSS Prof. Amy Partridge. Some of their reflections on Kaba's talk are excerpted here:

"Kaba first provided some background regarding the current violence against women movement and its relationship to criminalization. Then, she described what victims of sexual violence really need, and cited several specific accounts of survivors who were not only unable to report the rape, but were themselves criminalized in the process of doing so. Finally, she defined community accountability and described how this model could be used to assist sexual violence survivors." — Jehannaz Dastoor (Anthropology Major '21)



We Charge Genocide Die-In (2015)

manslaughter. When Peterson attempted to explain that he was a victim of sexual assault, police replied, 'You don't seem like a rape victim to me.'

"Kaba argued that we should not try to fix a broken system but should rebuild it altogether. She proposed an alternative model and a community accountability process based in restorative justice pointing out that, in the aftermath of their assault, most victims claim they want answers, recognition, safety, restitution, and an understanding of the significance of the trauma above all else. Moreover, transforming how we handle sexual violence, transforms how we perceive it. As Ritchie explains, in the 'prison state' we view sexual violence as a personal, rather than a social issue (110). Based on this understanding of sexual violence, relegating all known perpetrators to the confines of a prison cell should remove the risk of sexual violence. We know, however, that this is not the case. A social understanding of sexual violence highlights that rape is not a crime of sex, but one of power. Kaba's community accountability model acknowledges the social causes of sexual violence, dismissing the idea that rapists are merely a few 'bad seeds.' This transformative model underlines the potential for change within the individual and humanizes both the victim and the perpetrator. Such a model has the power to change our understanding of sexual violence, and only then do we have a chance to eliminate it." — Hannah Green (Sociology Major '21)

"In community-based accountability, Kaba explained, all parties were included in recovery and participants were advised to create accountability for what had been done. This entailed no mandates, no obligatory forgiveness and no guaranteed success. However, the process theoretically opens up a conversation between parties to come to some better resolution than what could have been reached legally. Kaba warned us all at the beginning of the talk that her opinions on the matter were radical and ran contrary to the notion that the police work to protect everyone in this country." — Karina Smegal (Undeclared Major '21)



Locked Up and Locked Out March and Rally (2014)
(Photo credit: Sarah Jane Rhee)

The Buffett Center, Women's Center, Campus Inclusion and Community, and Gender and Sexuality Studies present:

Transforming Rape Culture: Exploring Transformative Justice and Sexual Violence with Mariame Kaba

Mariame Kaba is an organizer, educator and curator whose work focuses on issues of racial justice, gender justice, prison abolition and ending multiple forms of violence. This lecture will address the history of transformative justice and how it can be used to address sexual violence as well as its impact on survivors, offenders and the community.

University Hall 122
Monday, November 13
6:00-8:00pm

INAUGURAL ALUMNI LECTURE SERIES

Jessica Mathiason

“New Eugenic Media: Gender, Sexuality, and Bioethics in the 21st Century”

May 17, 2018—Gender and Sexuality Studies welcomed Dr. Jessica Mathiason for our Inaugural Alumni Lecture. Jessica graduated magna cum laude from Northwestern in 2007 with a BA in Gender Studies and English. She received her PhD in Comparative Studies in Discourse and Society at the University of Minnesota in 2017. Her dissertation project, “Engineering Kinship: Genetic Technologies, Economic Speculation, and the Queer Body,” examines the ideological and aesthetic evolution of eugenic discourse as it travels from Progressive Era eugenic cinema to 21st century genetic-themed film, television, and new media. Linking the critical humanities to the biological sciences, Mathiason contests the traditional narrative that eugenic science was an exclusively right-wing phenomenon by revealing the surprising appearance of several radical elements—feminism, progressive economics and social welfare reform—within this otherwise pernicious social project. Today, these progressive strands of eugenic ideology have been de-radicalized through two significant shifts: from progressive economics to neoliberalism and from eugenics as a state-sponsored program to a corporation-driven one. This speculative future—depicted in audio-visual texts from *Orphan Black* and *ReGenesis* to viral videos on “neo-evolution”—veers away from the progressives’ valuation of queer difference by employing technological means and legal strategies to compel social normativity. Her work has been published in the journals *Cultural Critique* and *Transgender Studies Quarterly* and is forthcoming in the edited collection *Orphan Black: Sestras, Scorpions and Crazy Science*.



Jessica Mathiason



“Mathiason’s talk, titled ‘New Eugenic Media: Gender, Sexuality, and Bioethics in the 21st Century,’ examined the ways that eugenic media during the early twentieth century incorporated a mix of conservative and progressive tropes. The new eugenic media of the 21st century, on the other hand, is focused on the speculative question of human perfection, and structured by the logic of capital in the commodity economy. According to Mathiason, examples of ‘new eugenic media’ include *ReGenesis* (Jennings, 2004) and *Orphan Black* (Coghill, 2013). Mathiason ended her talk by describing how she came to this topic and what it was like to write a dissertation.”

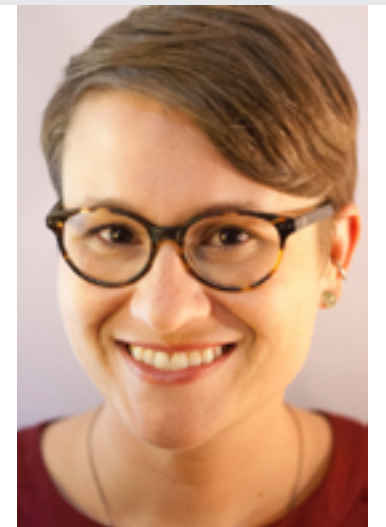
—Mattlyn Cordova (GSS major ‘19)



Lecture Audience

A Conversation With Sharlyn Grace

Sharlyn Grace is a co-founder of the Chicago Community Bond Fund and currently serves as CCBF’s Co-Executive Director, focusing on programs and policy. Before joining CCBF full-time, she was the senior criminal justice policy analyst at Chicago Appleseed. Sharlyn completed her BA in English and GSS at Northwestern in 2008, and received her law degree from Northeastern University School of Law in 2013. Sharlyn is passionate about racial justice and criminal legal system reform efforts, including prisoners’ rights, ending police violence, and decarceration.



Sharlyn Grace

How would you describe your current work and what drew you to it?

I am currently the Co-Executive Director of Chicago Community Bond Fund, a non-profit organization that I helped found in 2015. CCBF grew out of an informal fundraising effort to raise \$30,000 to free five people from Cook County Jail in the fall of 2014. They had all been arrested at a vigil for DeSean Pittman, a Black 17 year old murdered by Chicago Police just two weeks after Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson. I got involved in that grassroots fundraising effort due to work I was already involved with that centered on ending police violence. Now, CCBF pays bonds for people who cannot afford it themselves and would be incarcerated before trial as a result. We have paid over \$800,000 in bonds to free more than 150 people from jail since December 2015. We also advocate for policy changes that would prevent people from being locked up pretrial because they and their communities lack access to wealth.

How did GSS influence your career trajectory? How does it affect your work today?

My Gender Studies classes were world-opening for me. Having grown up in relatively homogenous and very conservative rural Missouri, it was these courses and the community in the Gender Studies Program that really helped me see the world from a much broader perspective and understand many of the social forces I had been oblivious to before—or which benefit me personally as a white person and so were easy to gloss over. My Gender Studies classes, which honed critical thinking skills and usually brought racial justice and socioeconomic status into the conversations, helped me identify the places where I could intervene and take action to improve the world and bring it closer to a place where everyone can thrive. I already knew that was what I wanted to do when I arrived at Northwestern, but it was the GSS community and curriculum that helped me refine how I could best contribute to the fight for social justice.

For those passionate about feminism/LGBTQ issues and discouraged by the current political climate, what advice do you have?

One of my favorite quotes is, “Hope is a discipline.” It means that we have to commit to being hopeful, and we have to choose to re-commit over and over again. For me, personally, I find hope in collective action. Through organizing, I meet people every day who are giving their time, skills, and resources to improve the world simply because they care about our shared future. That is incredibly inspiring to me, and it gives me faith that we will win.

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Yamari Lewis

Rae Alrene Moses Leadership Award

Sophie Spears

Rae Alrene Moses Leadership Award

Kira Nutter and Emma Flanders

George C. Casey Prize for Best Undergraduate Essay
“Gendered Pitch: A Study of Habitual and Optimum
Pitch in Relation to Gender”