

Preparing for Your Future

Our Ph.D. program is designed to prepare students for scholarly careers in feminist research and teaching interdisciplinary gender, women, and sexuality studies and/or related disciplines at the university/college level. Graduates of our Ph.D. program may also find employment with governmental agencies, non-governmental agencies (NGO's) and non-profit organizations working on social issues.

In recent years, our graduates have taken tenure-track positions at major universities, postdoctoral fellowships, research positions, directorships of Women's Centers, and leadership positions in international organizations.

Our Departmental Expertise

The UW department of Gender, Women and Sexuality is reputed for scholarly expertise in women of color and transnational feminisms. We have growing foci in digital humanities, where we are well-known for innovative experimental exchanges with communities through music, dance, and visual cultures, and in queer studies, especially queer of color and transnational queer scholarship.

Recent Dissertations & Positions

“Feminist Street Performances in Puerto Rico: Alternative Imaginaries Shifting the Ideal (ized) National Body,” Noralis Rodríguez-Coss, PhD 2016 - Post Doctoral Fellow, Gonzaga University

“Feminista Frequencies: Tuning In to Chicana Radio Activism in the Pacific Northwest, 1975 -1990,” Monica De La Torre , PhD 2016 - Assistant Professor, Arizona State University

“Queering U.S. History Museums: Heteronormative Histories, Digital Disruptions,” Nicole Robert, PhD 2016 - Lecturer, University of Washington, Bothell

“Chican@ Artivistas: East Los Angeles Trenches, Transborder Tactics,” Martha E. Gonzalez, PhD 2013 - Assistant Professor, Scripps College

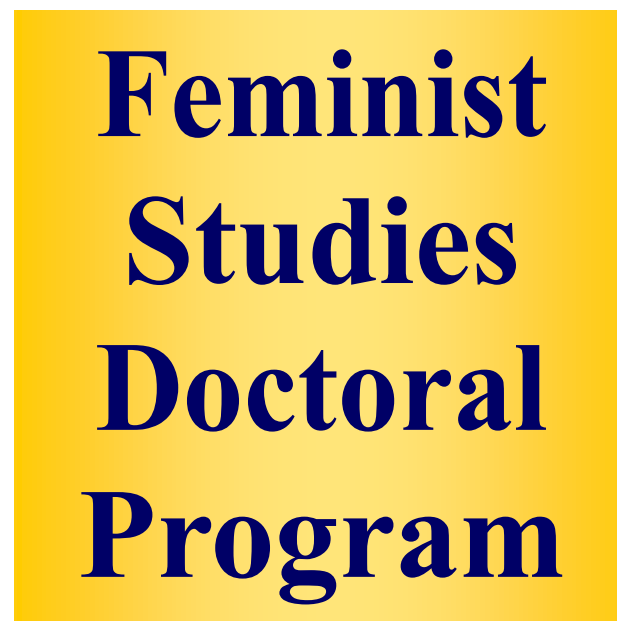
‘Punishment’s Twin’: Theorizing Prisoner Reentry for A Politics of Abolition, Renee Byrd, PhD 2013 - Assistant Professor, Humboldt State University

GWSS

The Department of Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies



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Who We Are

The Graduate Program in Feminist Studies has a strong interdisciplinary orientation.

Intersectional, Decolonial, Indigenous, Queer and Transnational feminisms foreground our studies of gender, sex, and sexuality in the US and elsewhere. Our core faculty specializes in research informed by Black Studies, Latina/o Studies, Asian American Studies, Latin America, East Asia and South Asia Studies and the disciplines including Anthropology, Cultural Studies, History, Political Science, Psychology and Sociology. In addition to our core faculty, nearly 100 adjunct and affiliate faculty from departments across the university offer courses and expertise to our students.

Our History

The Department of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies at the University of Washington will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2020. We started as a program in Women Studies in 1970 and became a department, with our own tenure lines in 1996. Our doctoral program, which began in 1998, awarded its first PhDs in 2006. Since then 25 students have successfully completed their PhDs in Feminist Studies. In 2011, we changed our name to Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies to better describe the scope and direction of the program.

Program Faculty

Kemi Adeyemi, Ph.D.

Black Studies, Nightlife, Performance Theory, Queer Studies, Sound, Urban Studies, Visual Studies

Michelle Habel-Pallan, Ph.D.

Activism, Archives, Chicana/o, Digital Humanities, Latino/a Studies, Performance Studies, Popular Music, Public Scholarship, Race and Ethnicity, Women of Color, Technofeminism

Bettina Judd, Ph.D.

Black Feminist Thought, Feminist Studies in Science Technology and Medicine, Poetry and Poetics, Popular Music, Queer Studies, Theory/Criticism, Visual Culture

Cricket Keating, Ph.D.

Critical Pedagogy, Decolonial Politics, Latin America, Political Theory, Queer Politics, South Asia, Transnational Feminisms

Nancy J. Kenney, Ph.D.

Bioethics, Biotechnology, Motherhood, Psychology, Reproduction

Regina Yung Lee, Ph.D.

Bioethics, Comparative Literature, Critical Theory, East Asia, Feminist Theory, Francophone, New Media, Science and Technology, Theory/Criticism, Transnational, Fan Studies, Speculative Fiction

Priti Ramamurthy, Ph.D. GWSS Department Chair

Anthropology, Biotechnology, Ethnography, India, Political Economy, Transnational, Women of Color, Agrarian Transitions, Consumption and Commodity Cultures, Urban Studies

Chandan Reddy, Ph.D.

Asian America, Global Studies, Queer Studies, Sexuality, Critical Race Theory, Globalization Studies

Luana Ross, Ph.D.

American, American Indian/Native American, Crime and Criminality, Documentary, Film/Cinema, Indigenous, Social Change, Visual Sociology, Crime and Deviance, Prisonization, Indigenous Research Methodologies, Settler Colonialism

Amanda Lock Swarr, Ph.D.

Anthropology, Gender, Masculinity, Medicine, Queer Studies, Race and Ethnicity, Sexuality, Transgender Studies, Transnational, Violence and Trauma, African Studies, Feminist Theory

Sasha Su-Ling Welland, Ph.D.

Anthropology, Art History, Asian America, China, Digital Humanities, Ethnography, Public Scholarship, Transnational, Visual Culture

Shirley J. Yee, Ph.D.

African American, History, Race and Ethnicity, Social Change, Urban Studies, Women of Color

Applying to the Program

Students applying to this program must have a strong academic background in Women, Feminist, Sexuality or Gender Studies. Applicants may have a bachelors or masters degree in any interdiscipline or discipline but should have a record of academic coursework or activism that includes study of such subjects as feminist theory and/or empirical and/or theoretical analysis of race, class, sexuality, and gender.

Program Requirements

Students pursuing the Ph.D. must complete at least 60 credits of course work, which include 15 credits of core seminars: GWSS 501: History of Feminism; GWSS 502: Cross Disciplinary Feminist Theory; and GWSS 503: Feminist Research and Methods of Inquiry, taken sequentially; and 45 credits of coursework in research methods and the student's areas of concentration.

Ph.D. students take a written and oral General Examination at the end of course work, usually in the third year of study. Within four weeks of the exam students are expected to submit a dissertation proposal and present it to their committee for discussion and approval. On successful completion of the exam and proposal defense, students are admitted to candidacy for the PhD. This marks the beginning of more intensive dissertation research.

Students must complete a minimum of 30 credits of dissertation research culminating in a publishable dissertation.