

Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies

University of Washington

Volume 3, Issue 1, Autumn 2016

GWSS Alum Spotlight

Kelly Barr Clingan, Class of 2004, remembers her Thesis project for GWSS (formally Women Studies) as a pivotal moment. Kelly, who triple majored in Women Studies, Music Education, and Music here at University of Washington, found that Women Studies was where she could bring it all together. For years Kelly has played in bands that have very few female members. In High School she played in the Roosevelt High School Jazz Band where she was one of only two girls in the twenty piece band. Here at UW she looked around and found a familiar scene. She was in the 20 piece UW Studio Jazz Ensemble where she was just one of 2-4 women, depending upon the quarter. Today Kelly is the only woman in the 13 piece Mexican band, Banda Vagos. While she is comfortable in these arenas and loves the work she does, she had to step back and reflect "This is kinda weird." Women Studies allowed

her the creative and intellectual freedom to craft a project where she could dig deep into these experiences and imagine something different. Kelly's thesis project, "New Girls on the Block", was in lieu of a written thesis. She recruited from around the city of Seattle to form an all-girl band. The



entire band was women and they played music composed by women. Reflecting on the power of this opportunity Kelly says, "I do that now!"

And it's true. Kelly worked as the Director of Bands for Washington Middle School here in Seattle for 8 years. In her time there she taught and mentored countless students from a wide variety of backgrounds and at the crossroads-age of the middle school years. She brought to them her love of music as well as a deep understanding of the barriers that

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Letter from the Chair

Greetings,

Today is a glorious autumn day in Seattle suffused with the exciting feel of a new academic year: it's sunny so we can see far ahead to many springs even as the leaves turn color to remind us of our pasts. This our 46th year as a department, we hope you will tune in and support us as we plan for our big 50th anniversary celebration in 2020.

Our department is thriving. This year, 2016-17, is a particularly significant one as we welcome three amazing new faculty members to GWSS: Kemi Adeyemi, Bettina Judd, and Cricket Keating. At our annual faculty retreat this year we held an intellectual salon: each faculty member talked about their current research and what courses they would like to develop over the next three to five years. To hear all the fabulous research and the synergies – in Black gender, sexuality and feminist theory; Latina and

Indigenous feminisms; activist film, art, and music; global sexuality, queer and trans studies; critical race and violence; transnational feminism, health, and urban communities– was exhilarating. Our students both shape our research and will benefit from the rich slate of offerings being planned.

And talking of students, our grads continue to shine! Three received their PhDs in Feminist Studies in 2016: Monica De La Torre, is now an Assistant Professor in the School of Transborder Studies at Arizona State University, Tempe; Nicole Robert, is a Lecturer in the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, University of Washington, Bothell; and Noralis Rodriguez-Coss is a Post Doctoral Fellow in Women's and Gender Studies, Gonzaga University, Spokane. We are so proud of them!

Three fabulous new grads join us this Autumn: Christina Chung, Fabian Romero, and Stephanie Wang. We

look forward to their contributions to our GWSS community.

I'm in the midst of writing what seems like a hundred letters of recommendation! In crafting these letters—for jobs, for fellowships, and for graduate study—I am struck by all the amazing things our undergrads and grads are doing and will do. On topics as diverse as health, animal-human interactions, labor histories and movements, gender and development, violence and human rights, to name but a few, they are pushing the envelope, changing the world. Each time I re-learn what a privilege it is to be in this department and surrounded by such committed people.

We always look forward to news from you.

Best wishes for a terrific year ahead,

Priti

Welcome New Grad Students!

The GWSS department welcomed three new graduate students to our Feminist Studies Ph.D. Program this Fall. **Fabian Romero** hails from our neighbor to the south, Olympia, Washington, where they earned their B.A. in Social Justice Writing and Education at The Evergreen State College. Fabian is a writer whose interests include Crime & Criminality, Film/Cinema, Indigenous Research Methodologies, Queer and Trans Studies, and Violence & Trauma. All of these topics fuel Fabian's research into the experiences of people of Michoacan who migrated to the Pacific

Northwest. Michelle Habell-Pallan will serve as Fabian's primary advisor. **Yingi (Stephanie) Wang** comes to UW with a Bachelor of Economics from Sat Yat-sen University and a Master of Philosophy from The University of Hong Kong. Stephanie's interest focuses on NGO work as an emerging form on precarious labor and will be working with Sasha Welland and Priti Ramamurthy. **Yuen (Christina) Zi Chung** earned her Master of Visual Arts from Hong Kong Baptist University and will be working with Sasha Welland on Art, Technofeminism, and Visual Culture.

Collaborations with AES & AIS

In 2016 we had the distinct pleasure of joining faculty from American Ethnic Studies and American Indian Studies in a conversation about our departments' 45 year history of involvement and continuing engagement in the social, cultural, and intellectual issues of the day on the UW campus and beyond. Professor Shirley Yee from GWSS participated along side Professor Steve Sumida from AES and Dian Million from AIS in a conversation moderated by Juan Guerra, the AES chair. GWSS has a long history of collaborating with these and other departments and we are so pleased to have been able to join them in this event and look forward to many more years of fruitful collaboration.

Intersectionality: A Forum on Race & Equity

GWSS Student Highlight, Cont. from page 1

many students experience in accessing music. Kelly now brings her personal experience as well as her lessons learned and expertise from teaching in Seattle Public Schools to her new position as the Education Director for Seattle JazzED. Kelly has had a relationship with the organization, which seeks to fill the gaps in what private and public school music programs are able to offer, and she began teaching for them 4 years ago. Knowing what Kelly could bring to the table, Laurie de Koch, the Executive Director of Seattle JazzED, approached Kelly as part of her effort to find ways to address the lack of girls in their programs. They came up with the idea of a "Free Girls-Day Master's Class" at Seattle JazzED. It was at that first Free Girls-Day event that she had the vision for the Girls Ellington Project.

Let there be no doubt, Kelly Barr Clingan is "doing that now" and taking it to new levels in the work she is doing with Seattle JazzED. The Girls Ellington Project emerged from that one-day event 4 years ago and each year this all girls group is taking the jazz world by storm. Along with performing at some of the best jazz venues in Seattle like The Royal Room, The Triple Door, and Jazz Alley, each year the members of the Girls Ellington Project work toward the goal of participating in the Essentially Ellington Competition in New York City. Girls Jazz Day is also still going

strong. Girls who participate in the all-day event learn new songs in an all-girl band. The girls in this program are mentored and taught by different female musicians and teachers each year. The importance of this opportunity cannot be minimized. They additionally bring in guest artists from the best of the jazz world to share their knowledge of the jazz industry as well as advice on improving their musicianship.

Kelly Barr Clingan is just one of the many amazing scholars that have found in Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies a place where they can get the tools they need to launch into not only a deeply rewarding career, but also make a change in the communities they live in. We couldn't be more proud to call her an alum.



New Faculty in GWSS!!!!

We are pleased to welcome and announce the addition of three new amazing scholars to our GWSS Faculty. Kemi Adeyemi, Bettina Judd, and Cricket Keating. Prof. Keating's scholarship is about how people in Latin America, South Asia, and the US have imagined democracy and struggled to build more inclusive, egalitarian, and participatory models of political collectivity. Dedicated to bringing democratic theory into the classroom, Prof. Keating practices and writes about critical pedagogy and building coalitions. Prof. Judd's scholarship is about how Black women artists have produced feminist thought

through *feelin* in their music, poetry and photography. She is an accomplished poet herself, most recently of the award winning book, *Patient*. Prof. Adeyemi's scholarship is about how black queer women *take* pleasure in the tightly regulated spaces of the neoliberal city. An ethnographer and scholar of performance, Prof. Adeyemi studies nightlife scenes in Chicago. Now we can proudly claim that our department has a strong focus on Black Feminist Gender and Sexuality with research and teaching that is at the cutting edge theoretically, methodologically, and in activist practice.



Professor Cricket Keating



Professor Bettina Judd



Professor Kemi Adeyemi

2016 Honors Excellence in Teaching



Clare Bright, Part-time Lecturer, GWSS, received this award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the students of the University Honors Program. Professor Bright teaches courses such as, Philosophy of Gender in Western Thought and Comparative Ideology: Human Rights Movements in the Honors Program. Students in the Interdisciplinary Honors Program, nominated faculty members for the award, then a committee of primarily students chose the recipient. It was presented to Professor Bright at the Honors Spring Reception by 3 of her former students. Needless to say she was very pleased to receive it!

New Internship Opportunities for GWSS Undergraduates

This last year we have been working hard to cultivate relationships with organizations in our community who can offer our GWSS Undergraduate students outstanding internship opportunities. The commitment to internship site development is paying off and we have cemented some new opportunities for our students that are just as diverse as our student body.

With opportunities such as interning with GeekGirlCon to ChickTech and the Country Doctor Community Clinic we have deepened our connection with our larger community and cultivated opportunities that will help our students develop skills that they can take directly into their careers.

Reflections on a New Internship Position:

Alice Crowe, GWSS & Philosophy Major, Class of 2017

I started at Country Doctor last week, and it's been really interesting so far, I've already learned a lot about medical insurance and helped out with a presentation for some folks. I was really drawn to the internship because trans healthcare is a really personal issue for me; I know that I found a lot of problems when I went in for hormone replacement therapy, and being able to work with the Medicare Commission means that others don't have to have the same frustrating experience. I'm really looking forward to seeing people get through the enormous maze of complications to get the bodies that feel right to them. Personally, I'm also really excited because it's great practice for my own eventual medical transition. My eventual career plans involve working as an instructor in the field of philosophy of science,

focusing on how scientists, especially medical researchers, view (trans)gender-related topics. So I'm glad to get some behind the scenes looks at how people are cogitating about this, since I always believe that the only effective academics are embedded ones.



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH IN GWSS:

GWSS Students representing well at the 2016 Undergraduate Research Symposium

Among the amazing research and scholarship that was on display at the 2016 Undergraduate Research Symposium here at University of Washington was the work of three GWSS majors and one GWSS minor. Poster sessions were packed full to the brim and the oral presentations were dynamic and well received. Here are some highlights from the work of our incredible undergraduates who presented fantastic work.



Ryan Karnoski, Class of 2016, Social Work and GWSS, Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies classes and Attitudes about Feminism, Women, and Homosexuality. Faculty Mentor: Professor Nancy Kenney, GWSS, Psychology.

Ryan's research utilized a survey that he developed on the relationship between exposure to Gender Women and Sexuality Studies classes and attitudes about Feminism, Women, and Homosexuality. Undergraduate UW students who have taken at least one GWSS class and students who have never taken such a course were surveyed to determine their attitudes toward women, feminism, and homosexuality and to assess their views toward the field of Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies. was well executed with some fantastic analysis for future studies on this relationship.

Rachel Macor, Class of 2016, Psychology with a minor in GWSS, Mary Gates Scholar, UW Honors Program, The Garment of Widowhood: Does One Size Fit All? A Qualitative Analysis of Resiliency between Lesbian and Heterosexual Widows.



The intention of this research was to learn what types of support best aid resiliency among widows, and whether

these support systems are readily accessible to lesbian widows in mainstream heterosexist U.S. society. The goal of the research is to help us identify the conceptual framework needed to best improve resiliency among lesbian and heterosexual widowed populations.



Tomas Narvaja, Class of 2016, GWSS, Mary Gates Scholar, UW Honors Program. Faculty Mentor: Professor Nancy Kenney, GWSS, Psychology.

Tomas' presentation provided an analytical review of contemporary writings and studies derived from various books, journals, and news articles available through the University of Washington Library and various online resources. The findings include how various forms of consensual sex such as coerced sex, compliant sex, and even enthusiastic, pleasurable sex can play into upholding rape culture, harm women disproportionately, and uphold men's systemic power

Skye Torry, Class of 2016, GWSS. Disability and Sexuality Education. Faculty Mentor: Professor Joanne Woiak, Disability Studies.



Skye's project consisted of examining how disability is excluded from discussion and curricula in a high school setting, in particular, when the focus is around sex education. She focused on analyzing issues of consent, policy and law, violence, and what ablest ideologies and stereotypes surrounding disability are imbedded in the institution of sex education. From this research Skye was able to create an introductory kit that provided information on how and what kind of language to use, fact sheets, and lesson plan ideas for social workers and health educators to use in the high school setting.

THANK YOU, DONORS!

Special thanks to our donors! Your gift to the Women's Studies Discretionary Fund is like sunshine in Seattle. No matter how large it brings good cheer to our Fall reception and student gatherings, and supports all the little extras at Graduation--flowers, cake and GWSS gift mugs-- that make us who we are. It allows the Department to respond to new, unanticipated oppor-

tunities, address pressing needs, and capture emerging priorities and challenges that would not otherwise be supported by traditional funding sources.

Thanks much!



Check out our Donation Page

<https://gwss.washington.edu/support->

CONGRATULATIONS TO 2016 PHD GRADUATES!!!!

Noralis Rodriguez-Coss: Noralis's defense of "Feminist Street Performances in Puerto Rico: Alternative Imaginaries shifting the (Ideal)ized National Body," was as insightful and informative as it was timely, adding to the scholarship in feminist studies, Puerto Rican Studies, and island studies - among other fields. Noralis has accepted a post-doctoral position at Gonzaga University in Spokane.



Monica De La Torre: Monica De La Torre successfully defended her dissertation "Feminista Frequencies: Tuning in to Chicana Radio Activism in the Pacific Northwest, 1975-1990," to graduate with her Ph.D. this spring. Monica will be taking a position as Assistant Professor of Media and Expressive Culture at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona.



Nicole Robert: Nicole Robert successfully defended her dissertation, "Queering U.S. History Museums: Heteronormative Histories, Digital Disruptions," to earn her doctoral degree this spring. Nicole is a lecturer in the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences, University of Washington, Bothell Campus.



Notes from the Field

Priti Ramamurthy spent last year in India doing field work for “Country and City: For a Poetics of Informal Economy Workers.” Ninety percent of Indians work in informal economy jobs: construction, street vending, petty retail, transportation, waste picking, sex work, and domestic service labor to name but a few venues. Conditions of employment are uncertain and insecure. Characterized as a “wasteland of the dispossessed” and a “precariat”, the existing scholarship on informal economy workers in fields like labor studies, urban geography, rural sociology, and feminist studies has been resolutely economistic. With few exceptions, it has had little to say on the experiences, life-making activities and desires of the men and women, who toil in India’s cities even as they remain enmeshed with ongoing lives in their villages. What is conspicuously scarce in this litany of gloom are humanizing accounts that plumb how denizens of the

informal economy experience and narrate their life-worlds: their longings, desires, and indignities; their practices of care and violence; their loneliness, friendships, and found intimacies; and their conflicted attitudes to love, marriage, kinship, sex, and patriarchy. Over the past year, Priti’s collaborative research team set about producing these “humanizing accounts” of urban migrants in the informal economy through oral histories and participant observation. In two cities, Delhi (population 19 million) and Hyderabad (population 9 million), they worked in nine settlements (“slums”) to do 135 oral histories and 24 interviews with key informants.

“One of the six settlements we will be focusing on in Delhi is a place where about 30-40 families from “Bengal”, who are probably illegal Bangladeshi refugees, live amidst the huge piles of garbage they collect from middle class houses and sort in to an astonishing 52 different streams, 38 of plastics alone! Such virtuosity to separate a plastic slipper and toss its dis-

membered parts. Lots of signs of hope within. In the late afternoon, two young mothers, in their late teens had re-possessed a garbage cycle-rickshaw, spread out a blanket in its carriage and were beautifying their just bathed infants with powder and kajal-- home made eyeliner--before suckling them. One of them has decorated the “room” (tarpaulin shack) she shares with husband with more than twenty mirrors, all salvaged from garbage bins; her young sister in law has decorated her own space in the neighboring shack with recycled puppets and toys.”





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GWSS analyzes and changes society from the unique perspectives of gender, sexuality, race, class, nationality, and ability. Offering graduate and undergraduate programs, we create new knowledge based on interpretive, historical, and empirical studies, theoretical production, community collaboration and activism. Continuing these pursuits are possible with gifts from people like you. Consider giving the gift of support to help us pave a new kind of future!

Visit us on the web and give the gift of support!

<http://gwss.washington.edu/support-us>

Awards and Recognition

2016-2017 Jiwoon Yu-Lee - The Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies awarded Jiwoon, the Martha Duggan Fellowship in Caring Labor. The fellowship was set up by Bob Duggan as a memorial to his late wife. In addition to receiving the fellowship Jiwoon will be contributing to Bridges Center activities and programming in an effort to keep focus on caring labor.

June 2016 GWSS Librarian, Cassandra Hartnett received the Distinguished Librarian Award.

2016 Alumni Award – GWSS/WS Alum Kelly Barr-Clingan is the 2016 GWSS Alumni Award Winner. Kelly is the Education Director at Seattle JazzED and Founder of the Girls Ellington Project. <http://www.seattlejazzed.org/staff-board/>