

# MARY & WILLIAM

THE GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES PROGRAM NEWSLETTER    FALL 2023/ SPRING 2024: ISSUE 21



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COVER: BRAITHWAITE RESIDENCY WITH MURIEL MIGUEL, SPIDERWOMAN THEATER, FABRIC WORKSHOP

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE



As you will see from the pages that follow, this year has been abuzz with activities in our classrooms, research, activism, and programming. Highlighted happenings include our Braithwaite Residency with Muriel Miguel (Kuna/Rappahannock) of Spiderwoman Theatre on indigenous feminisms, a book talk “Manufacturing Freedom: Sex Work, Anti-Trafficking Rehab, and the Racial Wages of Rescue” by Dr Elena

Shih (Brown), Prof. Leisa Meyer’s Homecoming Lecture “Looking for Lesbians in All the Wrong Places”, the GSWS Faculty Colloquia Series, a Boswell book talk “Queering Reproductive Justice: an Invitation” by our alum Candace Bond-Theriault (Howard), and a new student–alumni conversation series on post–graduation pathways. We sent a staggering number of students and faculty to the Duke Feminist Theory Workshop where they interacted with luminaries such as Dr Jasbir Puar (Rutgers) and Dr Julie Livingston (NYU). We celebrated students’ feminist and queer art at the GSWS Creative Arts Reception, and we partnered with student organizations and academic units across campus, including at a student and faculty panel “Understanding Your LGBTQ+ Students” with the School of Education.

GSWS also had its external review, led by Dr Neda Atanasoski (University of Maryland) and Dr Gayatri Reddy (University of Illinois, Chicago). They spoke highly of the vibrant intellectual community we have built in the program and on campus, even while the number of our faculty, staff and resources have not increased since the last external review of the program, over a decade ago. While we are small and resilient and we hope the review will strengthen our campaign for further resources to aid our growth. The reviewers were impressed by our faculty’s cutting–edge scholarship, programming, and mentorship of students—who they found to be engaged, thoughtful and deeply invested in issues of social justice, equity, and racial and gender justice. This is a community that I am deeply proud to be a part of!

As we close this academic year, I want to thank everyone for emboldening our community—our students, faculty, executive committee, alumni, and administrative team. I am grateful to our undergraduate office assistants— Rebecca Belkin, Chloe Jones and Ava Wladar, who have worked tirelessly in putting this newsletter together, and to Latasha Simms for her continued support. I am very excited for our faculty who are off to pursue prestigious fellowships— Prof. Vassiliki Panoussi who has been awarded the Andrew G. Mellon/National Endowment for the Humanities Rome Prize in Ancient Studies, Prof. Jennifer Putzi as WM Faculty Scholar, and Prof. Emily Wilcox as a Guggenheim Fellow. For those of us who are returning in the Fall, in the face of raging wars, battles for reproductive justice, and global “anti–gender” movements, we have a lot of collective work to do!

Finally, congratulations to our many award winners this year, and to the graduating class of ‘24 — I wish you joy in your future paths.

In solidarity,  
Claire Pamment

# CORE FACULTY



**Diya Bose**

Assistant Professor,  
Sociology & GSWS



**Victoria Castillo**

Teaching Professor GSWS



**Elizabeth Losh**

Professor, English,  
American Studies, & GSWS



**Claire McKinney**

Assistant Professor,  
Government & GSWS



**Lisa Meyer**

Professor of History,  
American Studies, and  
GSWS.



**Claire Pamment**

Director of GSWS, Associate  
Professor of World Theatre  
& GSWS



**Jennifer Putzi**

Professor, English & GSWS



**Suzanne Raitt**

Dean of the Faculty of Arts  
and Sciences & Chancellor  
Professor of English

## Sample Faculty Publications

Blazer, Annie. "Gender Policing in Girls' and Women's Sports." *Religions*, vol. 14, no. 8, Aug. 2023.

Farber, Reya. "Transitioning Thailand: Techno-professionalism and Nation-building in the Transgender Entertainment Industry." *Gender, Work & Organization*, Dec. 2023, pp. 1-22.

Ferrão, R. Benedito, et al. "Uninvited Host: Goa and the Parties Not Meant for Its People." *Journal of Festive Studies*, vol. 5, Nov. 2023, pp. 237-53.

Pamment, Claire. "On the Other Side of the Rainbow?: *Khwaja Sira* Pieties, Politics, Performances, and the Tablighi Jama'at." *Pakistan Desires*, edited by Omar Kasmani, Duke University Press, 2023, pp. 146-65.

Panoussi, Vassiliki. "Cross-Dressing." *Oxford Classical Dictionary*, by Vassiliki Panoussi, Oxford University Press, 2023.

Prokhorova, Elena, and Alexander Prokhorov. "Genre Constructions of Childhood in Recent Russian TV Series." *Historical and Cultural Transformations of Russian Childhood*, by Marina Balina et al., 1st ed., Routledge, 2022, pp. 221-37.

Wilcox, Emily, and Soo Ryon Yoon, editors. *Inter-Asia in Motion: Dance as Method*. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, 2024.

Jody Allen, History/ The Lemon Project

Alicia Andrzejewski, English

Kendall Artz, Graduate Teaching Assistant

Jennifer Bickham Mendez, Sociology

Annie Blazer, Religious Studies

Cheryl Dickter, Psychological Sciences

Reya Farber, Sociology

R. Benedito Ferrão, English/ APIA

Aaron Griffith, Philosophy

Julianne Guillard, Graduate Teaching Assistant

Vivian Hamilton, Law/ W&M Center for Racial & Social Justice

Kathleen Jenkins, Sociology

Simon Joyce, English

Deborah Morse, English

Helen Murphy, Biology

Vassiliki Panoussi, Classical Studies

Alexander (Sasha) Prokhorov, Russian Studies

Anne Rasmussen, Music/ AMES/ Middle Eastern

Hannah Rosen, History/ AMST

Francesca Sawaya, English/ AMST

Monica Seger, Italian Studies

Christina Stancioiu, Art History

Erin Webster, English

Emily Wilcox, Chinese Studies

Brett Wilson, English

Laurie Wolf, Theatre & Dance

Andrea Wright, Anthropology/ AMES

AFFILIATE FACULTY

# COMMITTEES

## GSWS Executive Committee

Diya Bose  
Victoria Castillo  
Elizabeth Losh  
Claire McKinney  
Leisa Meyer  
Claire Pamment  
Jennifer Putzi  
Jody Allen  
Alicia Andrzejewski  
Jennifer Cross/ School of Education  
Helen Murphy  
Joey Houska/undergraduate  
Meagan Thompson/ postgraduate

## Curriculum

Claire McKinney (Curriculum Coordinator/Chair)  
Cristina Stancioiu  
Miranda Yanez (student rep)

## Administrative & Fiscal Coordinator

Latasha Simms

## 2023-2024 Student Office Assistants

### Fall '23



Gabi Estrada (they/she)  
Gabi is a junior,  
majoring in GSWS and  
Sociology.



Lizzy Gale (she/her)  
Lizzy is a senior,  
majoring in History with  
a NIAHD Certificate in  
Public History, with a  
minor in GSWS.



Mel Pineda-Flores  
(they/them)  
Mel is a senior, majoring  
in GSWS with a minor in  
Sociology.

## Outreach

Claire Pamment (Chair)  
Diya Bose  
Jay Watkins  
Molly Shilo  
Mel Pineda-Flores (student rep)

## Prizes and Awards

Victoria Castillo (Fall '23 Chair)  
R. Benedito Ferrão  
Reya Farber (Spring '24 Chair)  
Vassiliki Panoussi

## DEI Committee

Helen Murphy (Chair)  
Erin Webster  
Joey Houska (student rep)

## Personnel

Leisa Meyer (Chair)  
Aaron Griffith  
Simon Joyce  
Claire Pamment (ex-officio)

### Spring '24

Rebecca Belkin  
(she/her)  
Rebecca is a junior,  
majoring in Psychology  
and GSWS.



Chloe Jones (she/her)  
Chloe is a junior,  
majoring in Psychology  
and GSWS on the  
Pre-Law track.



Ava Wladar  
(she/her)  
Ava is a sophomore,  
majoring in English  
and GSWS.



# GSWS Welcome Party

Fall 2023

Located in the new arts quarter in  
Phi Beta Kappa Memorial Hall

***This event welcomed  
old and new students  
and faculty to the  
program.***

We started the academic year with a gathering of GSWS community, with performances and activist manifestos from students and organizations: Someone You Know (SYK), Inside Out Theatre, Lips, Drag & Drop, VOX: Planned Parenthood Generation Action, LAMDA Alliance, Bring Lots of Tampons (BLOT), WM Queer Trans People of Color (QTPOC), and Latin American Student Union (LASU)

- Rebecca Belkin ('25)



Nora Gentry

Drag n' Drop: Alex Cooper



***"We're here!***

***We're queer!"***

- Mel Pineda-Flores ('24), co-organizer of the event and celebration

Lips: Logan Mischke and Abby Long



# Sponsored Events This Year

## Doll Play Made me Gay:

### Barbie's Storied Past

(10/23) with researcher Frank New, co-sponsored by History and the Boswell Lecture Series

## Getting Bi: Bisexuality 101 & Beyond

(11/2) with activist and lecturer Robyn Ochs, co-sponsored with the Lambda Alliance

## Disability and Desserts

(11/3) with Disability Activist Sarah Todd Hammer, hosted by the Student Accessibility & Disability Alliance and Center for Student Diversity

## Human Rights and Social Justice

(2/29) Lecture Series presented by the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies Program

## Startup Citizens:

### Radical Reinventions of Democracy and Technology

(3/30) presented by the Equality Lab, a Digital Humanities Symposium

## Moving Beyond War:

### A South Asian Feminist Movement

(4/17) with Dr. Kavita Panjabi, co-sponsored by English & Global Studies

## Vigil Held in Honor of Nex Benedict

in collaboration with WM Dissenters, College Socialists, American Indian Student Association, and QTPOC



# Reviving the Seminar Room

With new furniture and energy, we have transformed the GSWS Seminar room to a multi-use space to host club meetings, social activities, classes, talks and office hours for GSWS students and faculty. This room is also a safe space for students to gather, study, and be themselves. With the implementation of this new space, Gabi Estrada, Lizzy Gale, and Mel Pineda-Flores, the three GSWS Student Office Assistants (Fall '23), hosted a canvas painting night, to bring together students and decorate the seminar room!

- Chloe Jones ('25)



# Duke Feminist Theory Workshop

The Feminist Theory Workshop (FTW), at Duke University, which is now in its seventeenth year, offers a unique opportunity for internationally recognized faculty and young scholars to engage in sustained dialogue about feminist theory as a scholarly domain of inquiry. Keynote speakers for 2024 included Grace Kyungwon Hong, Professor of Gender Studies at UCLA; Julie Livingston, Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis and History at New York University; Jasbir Puar, Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Rutgers University; and Kevin E Quashie, Professor of English at Brown University. GSWS is a co-sponsor of this important gathering.

"FTW was an inspiring meeting of the minds that pushed its attendees towards a feminist praxis for surviving current world crises and imagining a better future. The introductory remarks encouraged us to embrace a feminist theory that points to uncertainty and holds multiple competing ideas, that does not provide the resolution that our current times crave but is open to the deliciousness of complexity. Given pressing world issues at hand, Genocide in Palestine and Global Climate Change, we were encouraged to imagine feminist approaches to, approaches that included ideas like decolonization and de-growth, fighting against neo-liberalism, liberalism, and fascism. What had a lasting impact for me was what Robyn Wiegman told us about using the systems of the academic institutions we work within, no matter how much we critique them, to make change." - Bjorn Mustard ('23)

"Puar introduced us to slowness (in contrast to stasis) as a response to hopelessness, Livingston gave us degrowth in response to ever-evolving oppressions, and the roundtable gave me a sense of optimism and closure after a weekend of questioning, destabilization, and growth. I felt inspired by the scholarship in which I was immersed and it made me want to seek out more ways to engage in feminist theory. As my first academic conference, FTW gave me an opportunity to enter this space for theory and conversation purely to listen and learn, enlivening me and my hope for the future."  
- Miranda Yañez ('24)

"Julie Livingston's talk on climate-related suicide situated the body as the site of new possibilities, where we must work to understand complexities in how systems and bodies are transformed simultaneously as a result of climate disaster. Through the embodiment of a degrowth mindset, we can work to rebuild institutions which center the body and emotions as 'private sites of shame.' Mental illness is seen as personal and not political; clinical trials engage with a 'fantasy' of a plain body with no complications—including additional medications—which exists outside of context, separate from the spiraling anxiety with which many face when grappling with a dying planet and many, many other worldly concerns. By looking instead towards degrowth, we can begin to navigate these broken institutions and work towards a world where bodies are not privatized and shamed, and can exist in relation to the surrounding world. Prioritizing the care of others; prioritizing one's relationship with the landscape—these are critical to a mindset which deprioritizes growth and development, and instead works to create a caring community to more than simply endure the surrounding world. Her talk resonated with me because her work is the most relevant to the work that I myself do—investigating how environmental and social factors influence how we work to change the surrounding world."

- Julia Ashworth ('23)

The GSWS Program was proud to send Julia Ashworth ('23), Victoria Gum ('16), Logan Mischke ('26), Bjorn Mustard ('23), Meagan Thompson (PhD Student), Miranda Yanez ('24), and Prof. Suzette Spencer to the 2024 Conference.



(left to right) Meagan Thompson, Bjorn Mustard, and Logan Mischke

# GSWS EVENTS



Prof. Diya Bose, Dr. Elena Shih, and Prof. Claire Pamment

Dr. Elena Shih, Manning Assistant Professor at Brown University, came to our campus for a screening of Red Canary Song's "Fly in Power," a discussion of her book "Manufacturing Freedom: Sex Work, Anti-Trafficking Rehab, and the Racial Wages of Rescue," and a lunch with students and faculty. The advocacy of anti-trafficking researchers like

Dr. Shih focuses on the sex-worker led movement of "rights not rescue," which comes in response to the exploitative intervention by the US' military industrial complex. By donning a humanitarian persona, global anti-trafficking raids target immigrant communities (primarily massage workers) and of-age sex workers, placing workers into detention where their rights truly are stripped. This "global sheriff

## "Manufacturing Freedom: Sex Work, Anti-Trafficking Rehab, and the Wages of Rescue" by Dr. Elena Shih

nature" allows for a moralistic justification of racial profiling based on characteristics most associated with low-income immigrant communities, like sleeping in places of work seemingly not having control over documents, and even not speaking English. Workers are even further exploited through "rehabilitation" programs, which funnel "trafficking victims" into primarily the jewelry industry, subjected to very restrictive moral and disciplinary contracts, while companies market themselves off of the appearance as a savior to trafficking victims.

- Ava Wladar ('26)

## "Queering Reproductive Justice: An Invitation" by Candace Bond-Therault ('10)

In this talk about her book, Candace Bond-Therault presented on the teaching of black feminism, intersectionality, and power, privilege, and oppression. She discussed the three major concepts of queer reproductive justice, including the rejection of state control and criminalization, the government playing a role in the liberation of its people, and calls for the development of social programs that aid all individuals and families, particularly families of color. A Black queer feminist lawyer, professor, writer, mother, and social justice advocate, I was amazed by her accomplishments in life and her workings toward reproductive justice for all.

- Katelynn Headly ('25)

## "When the French Use « iel »" by Dr. Vinay Swamy

I think what I found most notable from the talk was the idea of using *iel* to queer French agreement rules...The French language is a particularly interesting site to explore the intersection of gender and linguistics because of its highly rigid gender system, and because of the political and linguistic environment in France, which is typically intolerant of change and, as they call it, *le wokisme*... By challenging hegemonic institutions such as *l'Academie Française* [the official institution governing rules of the French language] by integrating gender inclusive French language, we can continue to create and observe positive change.

- Miranda Yañez '24

## GSWS Homecoming Lecture

### "Looking for Lesbians in All the Wrong Places" by Prof. Leisa Meyer



In her homecoming lecture, Dr. Meyer presented on the representations of lesbians across media and history, but specifically the continued sidelining of

lesbian-identifying characters and portrayals. The universalizing approach of queer theory has contributed to a a scrutiny over when and how to categorize sapphic relationships throughout history and in media, in turn reinforcing a heteronormative study of women. The distinct lack of historical evidence of lesbians/queer women of color has also contributed to a whitewashing of "lesbian history."

- Ava Wladar ('26)

Dr. Vinay Swamy, Professor of French and Francophone studies at Vassar College, gave a lecture on the gender-inclusive French subject pronoun "iel," an equivalent to the singular "they." Dr. Swamy was moved to consider the inclusivity of the French language several years ago, when students came to him seeking a more inclusive pronoun option for class. The experiences of Swamy's students reflect the modern state of the Francophone world, "grappling with trans and non-binary identities." As Swamy reveals, "one way [the Francophone world] is doing so is through language." Dr. Swamy's research focuses on how the French language's gendered structure poses limitations, especially for trans and non-binary people, but also on the possibilities for inclusive lingual and cultural change. Swamy noted that "it is important to look beyond the structural rigidity of the French language, and consider the rigidity of certain cultural and political positions that hinder inclusive thought and action."

- Lizzy Gale ('25)



# GSWS FACULTY COLLOQUIA EVENTS

## “Mad Women in Shakespeare: Lady Macbeth’s Rage”

by Prof. Alicia Andrzejewski

Affiliate Professor of GSWS and Assistant Professor of English Dr. Alicia Andrzejewski presented one aspect of her current research projects—the depiction of mental illness in Shakespeare’s women, particularly in Lady Macbeth. Compared to Shakespeare’s men, whose “madness” is righteous or tragic, the mental illnesses of women are maligned, written off, and often “cured” by “penetration [or] marriage.” Through close reading of *Macbeth*, Dr. Andrzejewski suggests Lady Macbeth’s madness as a means of escape from the male-dominated violence of the play. The explicit “performance” of her madness, along with the stage directions “a cry of women” reveals Lady Macbeth as a martyr for women who wish to achieve more than is allowed for them.

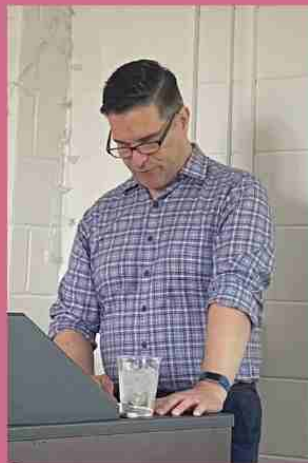
- Ava Wladar ('26)

## “Experiments in

### Empathy” by Prof. Molly Shilo

Molly Shilo (she/her) is a PhD candidate in American Studies who will be graduating this year and who has taught and contributed service to GSWS. In her colloquia, Molly Shilo provides insight into her graduate theses by delving into empathic experiments: structures where individuals simulate another person’s lived experience. Ms. Shilo draws on empathic experiments such as the period pain simulator and a 2006 FX reality television show called *Black. White.*, in which participants use cosmetics to temporarily “switch races” in order to illustrate how seeking the affective knowledge of another through embodied simulation can lead to dangerous, rather than transformative outcomes. Through empathetic experiments, participants seek the knowledge of what it feels like to experience oppression, but in trying to capture this knowledge they reduce its specificity and negate its context. Thus, Shilo argues that empathic knowledge should remain opaque, recognizing that “the will to know—accomplished through empathy—is almost always a will to control.” Congrats, Molly!

- Joey Houska ('24)



## “Denial of Care: Framing the Loss of Abortion Rights Post-Dobbs” by Prof. Claire McKinney

Assistant Professor of Government and GSWS Claire McKinney discussed the long-lasting effects of the Dobbs v. Jackson case, the Supreme Court ruling that overturned *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. McKinney’s research centers the relationship between medicine, politics, and gendered citizenship. Couching abortion politics in terms of freedom and inclusion provides an alternative account of the harm of *Dobbs*.

- Chloe Jones ('25)

## “Nothing’s Straight in Tristram Shandy” by Prof. Brett Wilson

Professor Brett Wilson is Professor and Chair of the English Department and a GSWS Affiliate. In his talk, he discussed the novel *Tristram Shandy*, their characters, and its history. With even a queer timeline, the novel explores the unintelligible shapes of life and the potentials of non-normativity which “scrambles formula” against the straight confines of societal rules. Wilson’s humorous talk brought contemporary life to this eighteenth-century work.

- Chloe Jones ('25) & Ava Wladar ('26)



## “The Goddess Isis in Roman Literature: Gender, Ethnicity, and Identity” by Prof. Vassiliki Panoussi

Chancellor Professor and Chair of Classical Studies and Affiliate Professor of GSWS. Dr. Vassiliki Panoussi shared her current research on the representation of the Egyptian Goddess Isis in Roman Literature, highlighting how the goddess’ representational power relates to the literary goals of ancient texts such as the *Metamorphoses* of Apuleius. Ultimately, Dr. Panoussi argues that these texts invoke Isis as a means of displaying the fluidity of categories previously assumed to be stable, functionally providing a symbol of universality for the Roman Imperial Enterprise. In essence, this research reveals how literary representations of Isis can answer questions about group and individual identity in terms of gender and ethnicity in the Roman Empire. Drawing on themes of gender, ritual, and identity, Dr. Panoussi looks to the ancient world to help us better understand humanity and society by asking what we have forgotten, what we can do better, and who we are.

- Joey Houska ('24)

# GSWS Braithwaite Event

## Muriel Miguel and Spiderwoman Theater

### Rappahannock Powwow

On October 8th, 2023, students traveled to King George, Virginia to attend the Rappahannock Powwow and meet Muriel Miguel.



## Muriel Miguel, a Retrospective

Spring 2024



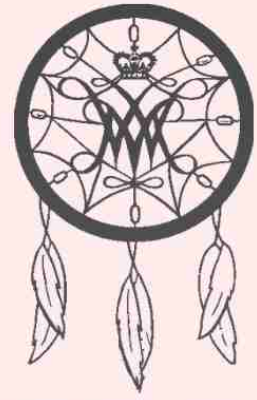
Muriel Miguel (Kuna/Rappahannock) is the founder & Artistic Director of Spiderwoman Theater, the longest running Native feminist theater in the Americas. Miguel is an award-winning activist artist, director, choreographer, actor and educator and has worked and toured extensively in the US, Canada and across the globe for over fifty years. Miguel is a 2024 United States Artists Fellow, a 2018 Doris Duke Artist and a 2016 John S. Guggenheim Fellow. She holds an honorary DFA from Miami University in Ohio and an honorary Doctor of Letters from Trent University in Canada. She serves on the NYC Cultural Affairs Advisory Commission. Directorial credits include *The Unnatural and Accidental Women* - National Arts Centre in Ottawa; *Fear of Oatmeal* - American Indian Artists; *Material Witness* and most recently the premiere production and tour of *Misdemeanor Dream*. She has developed "storyweaving", Spiderwoman Theater's signature Indigenous performance practice and is active in the training of Indigenous actors and dancers in this culturally based method. Muriel has presented "Muriel Miguel: A Retrospective" and facilitated storyweaving workshops and residencies in conservatories and universities in the US, Canada and Europe.

In the retrospective, she shared her fascinating journey from the streets of Red Hook, Brooklyn to her pioneering contributions to the contemporary feminist and Indigenous theatre movements in the United States, Canada and around the world.

I admired Muriel Miguel's ability to transfix an audience and deliver her message passionately. She passionately renounced the land acknowledgment and the reversal of *Roe vs. Wade*. It's crucial to question power relations, especially in academics... calling into question passive activism on campus." - Sarah Kinlaw

# GSWS Braithwaite Event

## Muriel Miguel and Spiderwoman Theater



### Storyweaving Workshop

Participants investigated the unique process that the women of Spiderwoman Theater use to create their plays and productions through "storyweaving", an Indigenous aesthetic, a deeply cultural place where each element of cultural life is an integral part of the whole. Participants were able to tell their own stories (traditional or personal) and collectively build scenes from their stories in the space.



*"There are no words to describe how much I learned from these four hours of the Storyweaving Workshop with Muriel Miguel. I was so pleased to share a story about my grandfather with others, as he was and still is such an important part of my life. I loved how everything was leveled out. There was no hierarchy in our work, just play. I loved being given the freedom to move my body in weird and wonderful ways. The way Muriel's mind works is so remarkable. We built such a trust in that room in such a short period of time, and created some very fun short performances. The entire residency with Muriel was life changing. I want to story weave everything now." - Livi Greco '25*

### Pulling Threads, Fabric Workshop

Participants were invited to tell their stories as they sit and work with their hands to create a quilt square out of scraps of fabric, stitching together what has been torn apart.

Base Layer Who are you? [how do you see yourself as multi dimensional?]

2nd Layer What or who do you love?

3rd Layer What stories do you carry around violence-real or imagined-yours or someone else's.

4th Layer What is window of hope for you? What are you reaching for?

5th Layer What is something you want to pass on or carry forward? Your legacy  
Stitching How do you walk through the stories? How do they interact? How are they attached to

each other? What does the stitch look like? What do you want to bring to light? What do you want to hide? What's in the shadows you want to eliminate?



Co-Sponsored with American Indian Student Association, The American Indian Resource Center, Theatre and Dance, and Art and Art history

# UNDERSTANDING YOUR LGBTQA+ STUDENTS: A DISCUSSION

The School of Ed collaborated with the GSWS program to host a panel for SOE students to learn how to support LGBTQA+ students in K-12 schools.



## Panelists (left to right):

- Hosted by Dr. Jennifer Cross
  - Research Associate Professor and Director of Research, Center for Gifted Education
  - Created & coordinated the panel
- Prof. Leisa Meyer
  - Professor of American Studies, History, & GSWS
  - Close friend and mentor to both LGBT students and educators alike
- Joey Houska ('24)
  - Student representative; GSWS executive committee
  - Speaks to genderqueer/lesbian experience in private/ public/ Catholic/ boarding/ higher ed contexts
- Prof. Jennifer Putzi
  - Sara & Jess Cloud Professor of English & GSWS
  - Parent of a trans daughter and founding member of Williamsburg chapter of He She Ze and We
- Amy Wallace
  - PhD Student, Educational Policy, Planning, and Leadership, Gifted Education Administration
  - Closeted student in rural Kentucky, now an aspiring educator

## Questions Discussed:

- Introductions
- Define misgendering; How should I handle it in the classroom?
- What is the most important thing you want teachers and counselors to know about their LGBT+ students?
- What experiences have you had with schools that were positive? Negative?
- What behaviors would be most helpful and why? Harmful?
- Advice for new teachers or counselors?

*"Honestly, my most positive experience as an LGBT student was not until college when I got involved with the GSWS program. While it was certainly affirming to engage with explicitly queer materials for the first time, what served me the most was the way it encouraged me to take a phenomenological perspective on the world. Learning to question everything I had assumed was natural or right by default not only benefitted my scholarship, but ultimately led to my realization that being a feminine person did not mean that I was a woman. Coming into my identity as nonbinary was a euphoric experience in which I realized that identity can involve creativity and self-determination, too."*



# Congratulations Professor McKinney!

*"Professor McKinney is known by faculty and students as a brilliant scholar and beloved educator, who teaches core GSWS courses and has introduced curriculum innovations in areas of medicalized citizenship, reproductive justice, transgender theory, and disability justice. Her fierce intellectualism, passion, and care, continues to inspire scores of students and guides them in shaping their own characters, politics, and communities. We are very proud that Professor McKinney is the recipient of this prestigious award."*

- Claire Pamment, GSWS Director

## Recipient of the 2024 Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award

### What was your education like? Was feminist political theory your original intention? How did you decide to pursue becoming a Professor?

When I was an undergraduate at the University of Texas at Austin, I took a lot of classes on gender but I was convinced by a host of "theory bros" that feminist theory was derivative and uninteresting. I went to graduate school at the University of Chicago to study the political theory of race but found myself repeatedly drawn back to questions of gender...Finding my way to feminist political theory was a journey but one that had a huge payoff in that it allowed me to reflect on the importance of intuition in forging my academic life and in the possibilities of insurgent knowledge. I didn't go straight into graduate school from undergrad because I didn't know what I wanted to do with my professional life...I decided that at least in the short term, going to graduate school would be a rewarding experience because I wasn't done learning...I remain passionate about researching and teaching, but now that I'm a Professor, I think my impact on people is felt more directly through teaching than my scholarship. I also love the energy of the classroom. Thinking with students makes me better at research so I see these two parts of my job as intricately tied.

### What would you say your main tenet of teaching is?

My mother was a high school math teacher and we would often talk about teaching. What I learned from her still guides all my teaching. You should approach students with the certainty that everyone is capable of learning. The job of a teacher is to make the learning students want possible and within their reach...Teaching then becomes a collaboration where we work together to make a community of knowledge.

### Do you plan on continuing teaching, or do you prefer your other work and research?

I love teaching and I especially love teaching about gender, politics, and theory...I constantly find new ways to approach a text by having conversations with new students. My job would be much less satisfying if I wasn't in the classroom. I also love research. I have too many ideas to stop trying to publish them and engage other scholars in thinking with me. My forthcoming book is on abortion politics in the United States and makes the case that abortion politics are a key site for the articulation of gendered citizenship. Our ideas of womanhood and women's subordinated political status are formed not only through how abortion enters into politics but also how medical actors and medicalized thinking have used abortion to tell us the "truth" about gender, reproduction, and women's status as political subjects. Because of everything that has happened post-Dobbs, I had to drop a couple of the chapters of the book, so I'm already working on the next project on the political ethics of abortion. Being able to teach the politics of reproduction is another way my research and teaching will continue to intersect!

# GSWS AWARDS

2023 / 2024

## THE NANCY GRAY PRIZE

*This prize is awarded to one graduating senior in recognition of their academic and activist achievement, and their commitment to the ideals of the GSWS Program.*

Congratulations to Joey Houska, this year's recipient! Joey has been a fixture of GSWS during their years at William & Mary, as one of the founders of the revived Lips Zine Collective, an office worker, a member of the executive committee, and a pillar of our community. They have worked tirelessly to create a safe and welcoming space for queer people to come together, socialize, and express themselves on campus. Joey has also created extraordinary scholarship,

from a comprehensive literature review on eating disorders in the trans and non-binary population and a mythogeographic walking tour of nearby Toano, which has led to an ongoing partnership with the Toano Historical Society. They have enriched our community and will leave a lasting impact on GSWS.



Prof. Claire McKinney and Joey Houska

## GSWS STUDENT ACTIVISM AWARD

*This award recognizes an individual, group, or campus organization that has done outstanding feminist activist work outside the classroom.*

Alliston Stovall ('25) is founding president of the newly formed Student Accessibility & Disability Alliance (SADA) and a dedicated member of the Student Assembly cabinet. Allison has created and managed many initiatives for the advocacy, education and empowerment of women, particularly disabled women, on campus.



# 2023 / 2024 GSWS AWARDS

## GSWS PRIZE FOR STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP

*Awarded to students whose work is evaluated as the most successful in advancing our knowledge of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies.*



### UNDERGRAD FIRST PRIZE - SAGE FUTRELL ('26)

**"From the Underground to Academia: The Collection & Display of American Feminist Zines in University Archives"**

This paper thoughtfully analyzes the history of zines as a means of empowerment and activism. It integrates theories of the archive with the history of zines, while also attending to intersections of race, gender, and sexuality. The paper sheds critical light on how W&M Special Collections engages with zines, demonstrating how academia, and institutions more broadly, can effect change and support grassroots movements. Developed in Prof. Levesque's class "Cultures of Collecting"

### UNDERGRAD SECOND PRIZE - CALLIOPE KOESTERS ('26)

**"A Brief History of Lesbian Sex, Love, and Desire in the American South Through Media"**

Koesters' website captures how women in the American South have expressed their same-sex desire through use of multiple media, including photographs, music, diary entries, poetry, etc. The website is well-organized and thoroughly researched, covering a significant amount of detail spanning the last 100 years. Developed in Prof. Watkins class "The Queer South," accessible at the link: <https://queersouthproject.wixsite.com/lesbiandesire>



### GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP - CARLY BARNHARDT

**"Hiding in Plain Sight: Disability Aesthetics in Laura Swanson's Anti-Self-Portraits"**

This paper harnesses disability theory to offer a sophisticated analysis of Laura Swanson's work, *Anti-Self-Portraits*. The paper thinks through aesthetics and dis/ability, considering the gaze of the camera as it relates to making and unmaking subjectivity. The paper offers an innovative analysis of self-portraiture in its gendered valences, while also engaging with issues of subjectivity, embodiment, identity, and aesthetic representation. Developed out of Carly's master thesis, under the mentorship of Prof. Liz Losh and Prof. Francesca Sawaya

# GSWS CREATIVE ARTS AWARD RECEPTION

The GSWS Creative Arts Award Reception celebrated three brilliant creatives on March 28th: Logan Mishke, Alex Cooper, and Ella Jo Nguyen, who each presented original works of art that engage feminist and queer perspectives through lineage, literature, and embodiment. The second annual Creative Arts Award Reception continues a tradition of holding space for our community to come together to interact with diverse expressions of creativity, providing an opportunity for recognition and relationality.

Logan Mishke (they/she) presented a multimedia research project that explores how different mediums convey lived experience, using the women in her family as a case study. Logan draws upon ethnographic research to underscore the relationships between time, age, memory, space, and identity: ultimately creating a display of oral histories, objects, and photos. This piece highlights the importance of recording, sharing, and analyzing social history, particularly that of women— who are often overlooked in public scholarship. In doing so, Logan’s project unsettles the binary between the private sphere (of the home or bedroom) and the public (here a public academic forum), as well as the assumption that women are artistic objects rather than creative agents.

Alex Cooper (he/she) aka Char (ze/it/she/any) displayed their skills as an artist, songwriter, and transhumanist drag performer in a live performance of their sci-fi/fantasy concept EP “Man/Monster.” The EP explores the nature of transgenerism, disability, conformity through recurring motifs of visibility, performance, and mortality. Alex performed the EP in drag, displaying an act of transfiguration in which they peel away layers of clothing to reveal dozens of eyes along their body staring back at the audience. As we stare, transfixed, their corporeal form gazes back at us, acknowledging their visibility in a visceral way. Through drag, Alex embraces being trans, queer, sick, and confused all at once. They dismantle distinctions between human/ non-human, masculine/ feminine, and creation/ destruction, affirming that the nature of self-determination is fluid and playful (and perhaps even a little grotesque).

Ella Nguyen (they/she) presented a “queer-washed” reimagining of Shakespeare’s *Twelfth Night* that insists on the representation of marginalized identities both textually and adaptationally. Fanfiction of classical literature and theater is a way of claiming ownership, of canonizing queerness. Ella’s script and associated performance invite the audience into a parallel world in which queer identity and desire define the terms of engagement. Drawing on Jill Dolan’s concept of the utopian performative, in which utopia can be momentarily accessed through moments of intense exchange between performers and spectators, Ella’s fanfiction utilizes utopian gesture to build a more inclusive world in which love, gender, and identity know no bounds.

- Joey Houska ('24)



Char preparing their testosterone



Logan's multimedia installation

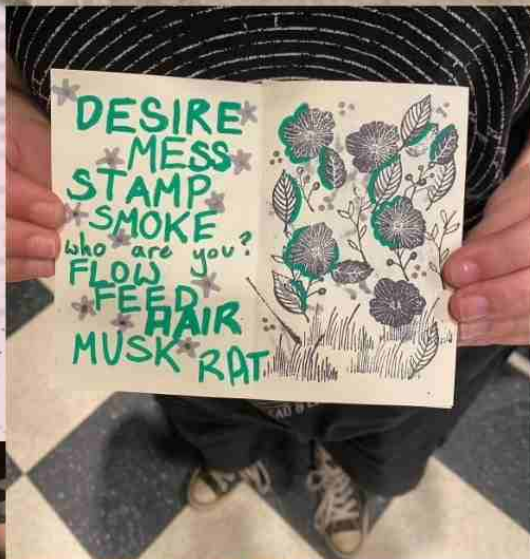


Ella (left) performing



# LIPS ZINE

*Lips Zine is a queer art collective and communication network dedicated to highlighting and disseminating subordinated scholarship and experience. We also produce a yearly drag show of student performers.*



**FALL:**  
*Lips' "Exploring Desire" education series aimed to incite conversations about scholarship surrounding desire with students and faculty.*

**SPRING:**  
*Lips has been producing series of mini-zines for distribution around Williamsburg by collaborating with other student political entities.*



# ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

This year, we launched a Zoom video series of conversations between GSWS alumni and current students on post-graduation GSWS trajectories. The goal of the series is to enable current students to understand the myriad pathways they can use their GSWS degrees.

Mari Nemeć (she/her) serves as Policy Counsel at the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association, where she provides substantive and legal support to the policy and programmatic work of the National LGBTQ+ Bar Association and Foundation. Prior to this role, she served as a Dorot Fellow at Alliance for Justice. Mari earned her J.D. at the University of Arizona and her B.A. from the College of William & Mary ('18). She lives in the Washington, D.C. area with her partner.



Neal Going (they/he) Neal graduated summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 2021 with a B.A. in Philosophy and in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's studies. They studied Philosophy at the University of Oxford from 2019–2020 and were a 2023 finalist for the Rhodes Scholarship. Since graduation, Neal has worked for The Trevor Project and 9-8-8; they are an appointee of the Washington, D.C. Mayor's Advisory Committee on LGBTQ+ Affairs. In the fall, Neal will begin their J.D. program.

Candace Bond-Therault, JD., LL.M. (she/her) is a Black queer feminist lawyer, professor, writer, mother, and social justice advocate working at the intersections of law, policy, reproductive health rights, racial justice, LGBTQIA+ liberation, economic justice, and democracy reform. She is Adjunct Professor of Sociology and Criminology at Howard University, and Associate Director for Movement Building at Dēmos: a think tank for the Racial Justice Movement. Bond-Therault sits on the SPARK Reproductive Justice NOW! Board of Directors, the ReproAction Advisory Council, and is an abortion and contraception context expert for Our Bodies Ourselves Today (Suffolk University). Her writing has been published in *The Nation*, *SELF* magazine, *Ms. Magazine*, *Colorlines*, *the Root*, *Blavity*, *Rewire*, *the Advocate*, *the Grio*, and *the Huffington Post*. She is the author of the forthcoming book, *Queering Reproductive Justice: an Invitation* (Stanford University Press).



If you are a GSWS Alum and would be willing to be featured in this Zoom conversation series and other exchanges with our students, please contact Prof. Claire Pamment [clpamment@wm.edu](mailto:clpamment@wm.edu)

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS



## Malise Foss (she/her)

Malise is a senior majoring in Sociology and GSWS. "When I came to William & Mary I was convinced I was going to double major in Government and History. Then, in my freshman year, I took one Sociology and one GSWS class and the rest was history, so clearly I've loved my time in the program! 100% would recommend everyone take at least one class during their time here!" After graduation, she plans to take a gap year and looks ahead to working for an organization or NGO that works to empower women overseas.

## Lizzy Gale (she/her)

Lizzy is a senior minoring in GSWS. "I have loved my time in the GSWS program! I didn't know what to expect when I signed up for a GSWS cross-listed course my freshman year, but I was blown away by how dynamic and supportive my professor and classmates were and how excited I was to participate in class discussion. Since declaring my minor, GSWS has not only introduced me to new ways of thinking about the world, but community!" After graduation, she will be pursuing a MA in Museum Studies at George Washington University.



## Tess Goldenthal (she/her)

Tess is a senior majoring in Public Policy and minoring in GSWS. "I've really enjoyed being a part of this [program]. Unlike my other classes, I feel like I really get to know my peers in these courses and form meaningful connections with them through our discourse. I have grown the most as an individual and as a student during my time in GSWS." After graduating, Tess plans to work for AmeriCorps within GSWS-related and environmental spheres.

## Katelynn Headley (she/her)

Katelynn is a senior majoring in Psychology and minoring in GSWS. "The professors clearly care for their students' learning experience and well-beings within the classroom. The class content has been extremely engaging and informative for GSWS within our society now and many decades ago." After graduation, she plans to begin working within the developmental psychology field working with children, women, and LGBTQ+ with developmental disabilities. She is currently applying to jobs and plans to attend graduate school in the future.



## Sterling Hodge (they/he)

Sterling is a senior majoring in GSWS and History. "GSWS has offered me the theory and methodological grounding for a career in history. It helps complicate my understanding of the dynamic forces of culture and politics which shape society. The GSWS program has greatly strengthened my academic work and contributed to my critical analysis." After graduation, they plan to travel, explore internship opportunities, and spend time with their cat before applying to a graduate program in history!

## Joey Houska (they/them)

Joey is a senior double majoring in GSWS and Psychology. "The GSWS program has been the heart of my college experience. The faculty is incredibly supportive and goes above and beyond to challenge and uplift its students. The program radically changed the way I perceive and interact with the world, tangibly changing my life. Despite the horrors of our current political context, the program has given me hope that a better future is possible, and that gift is invaluable to me as a scholar, activist, and young adult just trying to find my way." They plan to move back to their hometown of Kent, Ohio. After taking a gap year, they will pursue a masters degree in Liberal Studies at Kent State University.



## Dianne Hwang (she/her)

Dianne is a senior majoring in GSWS. "Being a part of the GSWS program has made college that much more worth it to me. The rigorous curriculum and lively community that is attributed to this department has made my experience in higher academia both enjoyable and enriching." A dancer on the Syndicate Hip Hop Dance Team, she hopes to find a way to continue dancing consistently after graduating.

# SENIOR SPOTLIGHTS

## Cate Jones (she/they)



Cate is a senior majoring in Biology and minoring in GSWS. "I don't think it is an exaggeration to say that this program has changed my life, from being the reason I now claim my identity as disabled with pride to encouraging me to combine my love for Biology and Gender/Sexuality/Disability Studies in ways I had previously thought impossible. I truly cannot imagine what my college experience would have been like without the GSWS program and will carry all it has taught me for the rest of my life." After graduation, she plans to complete a post-bac at the NIH doing research into helicases, genomic instability, and related premature aging rare diseases, after which they hope to pursue a graduate degree that combines Biology and GSWS, looking at how queer and disability theories inform how we communicate science, and how we do science in a lab setting.

## Jordan McRitchie (she/her)

Jordan is a senior majoring in History and minoring in GSWS and is part of the Joint Degree Program in Scotland. "My experience in the GSWS program, though I came to it rather late in my educational journey, has challenged me to grow both intellectually and on a personal level. All the faculty I met went out of their way to help me fulfill my goals! Every class transformed the way I approached the world around me, and inspired me to be brave enough take unexpected fulfilling paths in my independent research that allowed me to meet amazing people!" After graduation, she plans to go to law school.



## Mel Pineda-Flores (they/them)



Mel is a senior majoring in GSWS and minoring in Sociology. "The GSWS program has allowed me to explore and develop my intersectional abolitionist feminist ideologies and turn it into praxis, with the support of our wonderful professors. They will forever impact the way I view and interact with the world." After graduation, they intend on going to graduate school to receive their Master's in Social Work (MSW) and becoming a sex therapist for survivors. They have been accepted to VCU and Widener University and will make their final decision soon!

## Maya Weech (she/her)

Maya is a senior majoring in Government and minoring in GSWS. "The program has professors who are extremely passionate about what they do and they have nothing but compassion and endless support for their students. I've learned so much about the ways Gender Studies intersects with my major in Government. The nature of the GSWS program allows students to take a wide range of classes to satisfy the requirements, which I appreciated greatly. All in all, I leave WM with enriching experiences brought to me by my GSWS professors and I'll miss them next year." After graduation, she is pursuing paralegal and legal assistant roles while she considers going to law school.



## Miranda Yañez (she/her)



Miranda is a senior majoring in GSWS. "My experience with GSWS has been enriching and invigorating, both academically and personally. Through the program, not only have I developed a capacity for complex critical thought and engagement with theory and praxis, but I've cultivated an understanding of the ways in which my position in and interactions with the world are shaped by my personal experiences, identities, and feminist consciousness. The coursework, professors, and my fellow students have challenged and stimulated me in unparalleled ways, and provided countless opportunities for growth, conversation, and support." After graduation, she will be teaching English through a teaching assistantship program in France.

GSWS additionally recognizes the following seniors: **Natalie Bavo-Chen (she/her)**, a senior double majoring in GSWS and Music; **Linda Li (she/her)**, a senior majoring in Government and minoring in GSWS; **Kendal Sanders and Mariah Thomas**

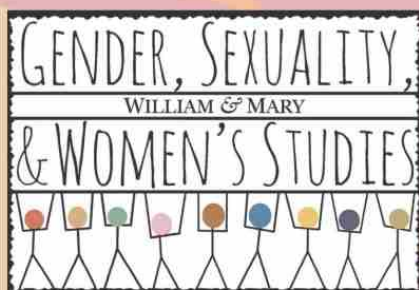
# GIVE TO GSWS

Your contribution to the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Program will help our faculty members provide the best learning experience to our students. You can scan the QR code to contribute online with your credit card, using our secure web server. The contribution form will be pre-selected to direct your gift to the general academic fund for the GSWS, which supports student and faculty needs directly.



Students in the Seminar Room during a painting night, organized by the Fall '23 OAs: Gabi Estrada , Lizzy Gale, and Mel Pineda-Flores.

*This newsletter was created by Rebecca Belkin, Chloe Jones, and Ava Wladar under the supervision of Professor Claire Pamment*



**Keep up with GSWS!**

Instagram: @gsws.wm

Linktree: [linktr.ee/gswswm](https://linktr.ee/gswswm)

Facebook: [facebook.com/williamandmarygsws](https://facebook.com/williamandmarygsws)

GSWS Calendar: [events.wm.edu/upcoming/gsws](https://events.wm.edu/upcoming/gsws)