2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

CONSORTIUM FOR GRADUATE STUDIES IN GENDER, CULTURE, WOMEN, AND SEXUALITY
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Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Building 14N Room 211
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Annual Report Compiled by: Stacey Lantz, Program Manager
GCWS Board of Directors

Boston College
Andy Crow, Department of English

Boston University
Sandra McEvoy, Departments of Political Science and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Brandeis University
Gannit Ankori, Departments of Fine Arts, Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Schusterman Center for Israel Studies

Harvard University
Durba Mitra, Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (Fall 2020)
Linda Schlossberg, Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality (Spring 2021)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Catherine D’Ignazio, Department of Urban Studies and Planning

Northeastern University
Gloria Sutton, Department of Contemporary Art History

Simmons University
Denise Horn, Departments of Political Science and International Relations and Women’s and Gender Studies

Tufts University
Tasha Oren, Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies

University of Massachusetts, Boston
Thea Quiray Tagle, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Critical Ethnic and Community Studies

Board of Directors, Co-Chairs
Denise Horn, Departments of Political Science and International Relations and Women’s and Gender Studies, Senior Co-Chair
Sandra McEvoy, Departments of Political Science and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Junior Co-Chair

GCWS Program Manager
Stacey Lantz
GCWS and COVID-19

COVID-19 continued to dramatically impact the GCWS courses and events in the 2020-2021 academic year much like higher education institutions across the country and around the world. Faculty, board members, staff, and students associated with the GCWS remained committed to providing an engaging, supportive, and educational environment throughout the year at each of our courses and events.

Our academic courses (Feminist Inquiry, Death and Feminism, Women in Science and Academia: Challenges and Policy Solutions, Workshop for Dissertation Writers in Women’s and Gender Studies, and Visual Transgressions: Gendered Identities in Art and Culture) operated remote synchronous lessons for students around the world. Students were able to engage with faculty and each other over Zoom classes, Slack message boards, the class discussion board, and email. Faculty and staff surveyed students at the start of and throughout the semester to ensure that they were supported and able to engage to the best of their ability considering everyone’s work-from-home conditions.

The GCWS program staff worked with a team of graduate students to create an entirely virtual graduate student conference. The planning meetings, which began in summer 2020, were remote but still fostered a community building and skills building opportunity for graduate students across the member institutions. More than ten students worked together to design the theme, write the call for papers, review abstracts, create panels, and moderate breakout sessions over a three-day conference. The conference attracted papers and attendees from around the world and was a truly international affair with papers from students in Greece, Turkey, India, and more. It was our first virtual conference and we look forward to creating a hybrid version in the future.

Events at GCWS (including our Feminisms Unbound panel series, graduate student conference, and Women Take the Reel) ensured accessibility at virtual events through the use of live captioning services. We also encouraged dialogue and discussion through use of the chat and Q&A functions within Zoom.

The GCWS board meetings occurred at the same frequency as in previous years though they were all held remotely. Board members were still able to review, revise, and approve curriculum for future years and new courses. We welcomed several new members to the board and to the Boston area.

The 2021-2022 academic year will look different from all previous years. The GCWS remains committed to incorporating new methods and models into our courses and events. We expect that many lessons from this past year will be used to create entirely new ways of supporting students and offering courses and events.
The Mother Board & Past Faculty

The ‘Mother Board’ consists of the six founders, feminist faculty who conceptualized and brought the GCWS into existence: Carol Hurd Green (BC), Joyce Antler (Brandeis), Alice Jardine (Harvard), Ruth Perry (MIT), Laura Frader (NEU), and Christiane Romero (Tufts). We continue to rely on their institutional knowledge, insight, and expertise in feminist scholarship as the GCWS evolves. We draw on the Mother Board and other past faculty members as we continue to respond to the changing needs and opportunities within the field of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

GCWS Mission Statement

The Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality housed at MIT brings together feminist scholars and teachers from nine Boston area institutions for the purpose of advancing interdisciplinary, intersectional feminist scholarship and teaching in the areas of women’s, gender, and sexuality studies. The consortium is committed to the following:

- Exploring the intersections of power and identity, including but not limited to gender, race, ethnicity, class, physical ability, nationality, religion, and language
- Cultivating collaborative intellectual communities across fields and disciplines
- Supporting innovative pedagogical practices
- Contributing to the professional development of students and faculty
- Providing a sustainable model of institutional collaboration

In line with the history of women’s studies, GCWS relies on shared expertise, wisdom, and vision to work toward a more just and equitable future for all people.

Student comment:

The professors were by far two of the most profound people I have ever met. I am so grateful for the commitment to the course and to the students. The topic of death is immense, and inevitably brings up difficult realities within individual experiences, and both Jyoti and Harleen went out of their way to care for and support their students. I felt able to be my full self at all times, literally from day one. The feedback I received was critical to my growth, helping me to understand and connect to other ideas and considerations. The two are brilliant and know so much about the topics without making others feel less than. In fact, both faculty managed to make students feel powerful and worthy as scholars and people. Phenomenal professors!
2020-2021 Courses

Workshop for Dissertation Writers in Women’s and Gender Studies
Fall and Spring semesters: Mondays, 4:00-7:00PM  
September 14, 2020 – May 3, 2021  
Karl Surkan, Lecturer, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, MIT

Feminist Inquiry
Spring semester: Wednesdays, 3:00-6:00PM  
January 27, 2021 – May 5, 2021  
Roberta Micallef, Professor, Department of Practice in Middle Eastern Literatures and Coordinator of Turkish Language Program, Boston University  
Anne Blaschke, Lecturer, Department of American Studies, UMass Boston

Visual Transgressions: Gendered Identities in Art and Culture
Fall semester, Tuesdays, 2:00AM-5:00PM  
September 1, 2020 – December 8, 2020  
Karl Surkan, Lecturer, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, MIT  
Gannit Ankori, Professor, Department of Fine Arts and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Brandeis University

Death and Feminism
Spring semester: Wednesdays, 11:00AM – 2:00PM  
January 27, 2021 – May 5, 2021  
Jyoti Puri, Professor, Department of Sociology, Simmons University  
Harleen Singh, Associate Professor, Programs in South Asian Studies and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Brandeis University

Women in Science and Academia: Challenges and Policy Solutions
Spring semester: Tuesdays, 5:00-8:00PM  
January 26, 2021 – May 4, 2021  
Kathrin Zippel, Professor, Department of Sociology, Northeastern University  
Gerhard Sonnert, Lecturer, Department of Astronomy, Harvard University

Faculty comment:
The collaboration with my co-instructor was pure joy. She is such a skilled educator and knowledgeable scholar. She also has a wide network of colleagues whom she could ask to give guest talks. Together with the guest speakers I recruited, we had an expansive list of interesting guests, whom, in my observation, the students appreciated very much. Our general pedagogical approaches also worked well.
Workshop for Dissertation Writers in Women’s and Gender Studies

Fall and Spring semesters:
Mondays, 4:00-7:00PM
September 14, 2020 – May 3, 2021

This course provides support for students in multiple aspects of the dissertation process, including preparation of the dissertation proposal, conducting research, and writing. Together we will establish a writing community to share resources and strategies, create individualized writing plans, and facilitate peer review and feedback. The course will be flexible to help students at different stages of the process, which might include:

- identifying or refining their dissertation topics
- conducting a literature review
- creating a conceptual framework or research design
- writing a plan for completing the proposed research and disseminating the results
- forming a dissertation committee
- developing an application to receive the ethics approval for human subject research
- preparing for the oral defense of their proposal
- developing a data collection plan
- conducting, documenting, and analyzing their research
- identifying their argument, developing a theory, and articulating their findings in writing
- publishing and presenting their dissertation to relevant audiences

Participants will hone their ability to interpret and synthesize ideas by discussing fellow colleagues’ works in progress, reading and discussing assigned articles, leading discussions, and presenting guiding questions on assigned texts.
The course uses a combination of instructional approaches and learning methods intended to help students complete their proposal and/or dissertation. Together we will establish a community of academic and personal support for each other as we engage in the dissertation process.

Specific course goals will necessarily be tailored to the scholarly trajectory of each student, but may include the following:

- establishing a regular writing routine that incorporates accountability to deadlines and peer support and feedback
- learning writing practice techniques for drafting and revision
- developing organizational skills such as storyboarding, reverse outlining, and strategies for translating graduate essays and chapters into publishable articles
- learning to give constructive feedback in peer review
- balancing feminist voice with the demands of particular audiences
- considering methodological and theoretical issues specific to interdisciplinary feminist research

**Student comment:**
The instructor was invested in our development and our projects which was great! The writing groups were really helpful as were the guest speakers.

**Faculty**

*Karl Surkan*, Ph.D., has been teaching in women’s and gender studies at MIT since 2005. His research is primarily concerned with technologies of the (trans)gendered body, gender identities, and their representation in film, literature, and medical texts. His recent publications explore expressions of nonbinary gender identity in gendered medical environments.
Feminist Inquiry

Spring semester: Wednesdays, 3:00-6:00PM
January 27, 2021 – May 5, 2021

Feminist Inquiry is an interdisciplinary exploration of feminist ways of learning, thinking, collaborating, listening, and speaking in the interest of producing innovative scholarship and meaningful public engagement. Our seminar will study feminist approaches, theories, and epistemologies that form the intellectual framework necessary to conduct feminist research both within and across the disciplines. Students will produce a range of written work based on their course reading and research—for example, primary and secondary source analyses, teaching documents, and an academic article-quality research essay. We will learn to understand and teach our respective research foci through a feminist lens, and to extend this feminist approach into our public engagement outside academia.

Given the range and diversity of feminist inquiry, the course will not attempt to examine all areas of the field; instead, we will study a curated selection of works that range from the classic to the innovative. Throughout the course, we will consider the complexity and multiplicity of modern feminisms while learning to understand the core power dynamics of feminism across place and time.

Faculty

Anne Blaschke is a historian of twentieth-century U.S. political culture. She teaches in American Studies at the University of Massachusetts Boston and in Boston University’s Writing Program. She specializes in gender, race, capitalism, diplomacy, and sport. Blaschke has published academic articles on U.S. political economy, diplomatic engagement, athletes' immigration, and civil rights. She also writes publicly for the Washington Post’s Made by History column and other outlets. She is revising her

**Roberta Micallef** is a professor of the practice with a joint position in World Languages and Literatures and Women Gender and Sexuality Studies in Boston University. Her area of study is 19th and 20th century Ottoman Empire and Turkish women’s narratives oral, written and visual. Micallef is currently working on early modern travel narratives.

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**Student comment:**

I enjoyed having a teaching team because both professors had different areas of expertise with the overlap being engagement with feminist theories. Their feedback on assignments was always very encouraging, detailed, and specific, which helped me understand my strengths and ways to improve throughout the course.
Visual Transgressions: Gendered Identities in Art and Culture

Fall semester: Tuesdays, 2:00-5:00PM
September 1, 2020 – December 8, 2021

In this course we will examine, analyze, contextualize, and interpret explicit and coded representations of gender, race, class, and sexual identity as manifested in art, film, exhibitions and visual culture. We will be considering issues of authorship, spectatorship (audience), and the ways in which images reflect, inscribe, amplify, deconstruct, or challenge social and political structures that pertain to gender, race, and class. We will focus on taboo-breaking modes of art-making, as they depart from traditional (binary) social and cultural conventions of representation. We employ a variety of theoretical and methodological frameworks, ranging from iconographical analysis to feminist, queer, and postcolonial theories. Grounding our discussion in an historical overview, the course examines modern and contemporary works from diverse geographical and cultural contexts, and discusses non-European and non-U.S. forms of visual expression, focusing on the Middle East, Latin American and the African Diaspora.

Student comment:
This course was always showing us so many transgressive visual artwork, which is often hidden in society. The instructors were responsiveness to the students’ interests and genuinely enthusiastic in the subject matter and our work.
Faculty

Gannit Ankori, PhD, is Professor of Artist History and Theory and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis University. She has published numerous books and articles, curated exhibitions, and lectured extensively about modern and contemporary art from global perspectives, with emphasis on gender, identity, hybridity, trauma, and exile.

Karl Surkan, Ph.D., has been teaching in women’s and gender studies at MIT since 2005. His research is primarily concerned with technologies of the (trans)gendered body, gender identities, and their representation in film, literature, and medical texts. His recent publications explore expressions of nonbinary gender identity in gendered medical environments.
Death in feminist thought and writing is both a metaphor and a means to unearthing material conditions that place gendered, sexualized and racialized bodies and non-human entities at risk. Feminists have written extensively on death, highlighting matters such as sexual and physical violence, reproductive politics, colonial and postcolonial genocides, slavery and its wakes, war, the environment, mourning, witnessing, memorializing, funeralizing and deathways, and more.

Drawing on feminist thought from academic and activist literatures, fiction, and performance, this course assembles an archive of readings on death through a geopolitical lens. It engages matters of governance, nationalisms, empire, settler colonialism, slavery, and migration across a variety of sites—Central and Southern Africa, South Asia, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, Middle-East, and North America, while turning to feminist scholarship in Critical Race Studies, Indigenous Studies, Postcolonialism, Queer and Trans Studies, Disability Studies, Environmental Studies, among others.

Student comment:

These two phenomenal professors made for such powerful and thoughtful leaders. I appreciated the depth and breadth of content, and the ways in which the professors encouraged the class to engage with materials in a deeply personal and academic way. The readings were fabulous and I will be revisiting them in the future. The multidisciplinary aspects of the course were truly phenomenal and spoke to the reality of our class make up, and the universal elements of death and feminism.
Faculty:

**Jyoti Puri** is Professor of Sociology at Simmons University. Her current book project is on death and migration in North America. Her previous publications, including *Sexual States: Governance and the Struggle against the Antisodomy Law in India*, address sexuality, gender, state and nationalism. She draws inspiration from postcolonial, Black and Indigenous feminist thought and sexuality and queer studies.

**Harleen Singh** is Associate Professor of South Asian Literature and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis University. She is the author of *The Rani of Jhansi: Gender, History, and Fable in India* (2014). She teaches courses on the Novel from South Asia, Indian Film, Immigrant Literature, Colonialism, and Postcolonial Feminist Theory.
Women in Science and Academia: Challenges and Policy Solutions

Spring semester, Tuesdays 5:00-8:00PM
January 26, 2021 – May 4, 2020

Using a variety of disciplinary lenses (history, psychology, policy studies, and sociology), this course explores the factors that impede women from successful participation in academia. We focus on the academic workplace and explore organizational factors that create gender inequities in academic careers as well as factors deeply rooted in culture and gender socialization. Furthermore, we discuss programs that promote the advancement of women in academia. A special focus is on science where the underrepresentation of women is most pronounced, and we examine how the situation is different and how it is similar for women in science and women in other academic fields. This seminar is of particular interest for anyone who aims to pursue an academic career and wants to learn about theories of the underrepresentation of women in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine (STEMM) and in academic leadership positions more broadly.

Faculty

Gerhard Sonnert is a lecturer on astronomy at Harvard University and a research associate in the Harvard College Observatory. His research interests include women in science, science education, the history of science, science policy, migration, and astrosociology.

Kathrin Zippel, Professor of Sociology at Northeastern University, has explored gender and global transformations of science and education, see her book Women in Global Science: Advancing Careers Through International Collaboration, SUP. She directs an NSF-funded network analysis to study the diffusion of ideas on gender equity interventions among U.S. Universities.

Student comment:
I think both professors did a great job! They were enthusiastic, knowledgeable, and encouraged student discussion.
# Breakdown of Student Enrollment for all GCWS Courses

## Institution data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Applied</th>
<th>Accepted</th>
<th>Completed</th>
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<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td>106</td>
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## Disciplines of students who completed a course

<table>
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<th>Discipline</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<td>AeroAstro</td>
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<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
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<td>Nuclear Science and Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biological Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
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<td>Chemistry</td>
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<td>Political Science</td>
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<td>Classical Studies</td>
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<td>Religion</td>
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<td>Romance Languages</td>
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<td>Fine Art</td>
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<td>Romance Studies</td>
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<td>Social Policy</td>
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<td>Global Inclusion and Social Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Sciences and Technology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theatre Dance and Performance</td>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
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<td>Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies</td>
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</table>
### Breakdown of Faculty Participants in all GCWS Courses

#### By Institution

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
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<td>Boston University</td>
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<td>Tufts University</td>
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<tr>
<td>UMass Boston</td>
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</table>

Total Teaching Faculty: 9

#### By Discipline

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<th>Discipline</th>
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<td>Fine Arts</td>
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<td>Middle Eastern Languages</td>
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<td>Sociology</td>
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<td>South Asian Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Microseminars are five-week, un-graded, reading, writing, and discussion-based graduate seminars that explore feminist, queer, or other gender and sexuality related lines of inquiry. They provide students and instructors the opportunity to delve into ideas not covered in existing courses at their home institutions. Seminars are open to member institution graduate students, seniors in WGS or a related major, and to faculty. Seminars meet for two hours each week.

Microseminar Topics

Spring 2021 Semester

The Art of Leadership – Growing Your Internal Power
Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 PM
February 10, 2021 – March 10, 2021
Faculty: Angeliki Diane Rigos, Tata Center for Technology and Design, MIT

Summer 2021 Semester

Queer RomCom
Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00 PM
May 4, 2021 – June 1, 2021
Faculty: David Sherman, English, Brandeis
The Art of Leadership: Growing Your Internal Power

Spring 2021
Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00PM
February 10, 2021 – March 10, 2021
Meets remotely via Zoom, synchronous learning

The focus of this seminar is to introduce the participants to the personal development aspects of leadership: self-awareness, self-confidence/internal power, biases, vision, crucible experiences, empathy, resilience, motivation, and values. Self-discovery can happen through written meditations and through reflection of our interactions with important people and events in our lives. The final product of the micro-seminar is for each student to create a leadership plan for their work/life based on their strengths, weaknesses and their WHY.

Faculty

Dr. Angeliki Diane Rigos is a scientist, educator, and consultant interested in working across disciplines to promote sustainable solutions to global problems. She is the Executive Director of the Tata Center for Technology and Design. Dr. Rigos has been a visiting scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University and Northeastern University. She volunteers in startup accelerators, as an industry mentor in Cleantech Open and an industry champion at MassChallenge.
Queer Romcom

Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00 PM
May 4, 2021 – June 1, 2021
Meets remote via Zoom, synchronous learning

This micro-seminar explores queerness in romantic comedy and comedic dimensions of queer theory. As a meet cute between romcom and queer theory, our investigation will play with ideas of laughter, desire, and identity. The crucial idea is that, despite romcom’s powerful ideological machinery for fashioning genders, sexualities, and marriages, it exposes the fragile limits of normativity. We’ll identify romcom’s queer capacities with several questions: how has romcom been a useful genre for imagining queerness and assessing feminism? How do compelling romcoms play with other aspects of identity, including ethnic, religious, racial, and class identities, as a part of their explorations of romance? How have romcom’s aesthetic strategies and sensuous effects—especially its distinctive techniques for representing desirable faces, bodies, and voices—been used to articulate queerness? How do romcoms use comedy to stage the politics of desire across public, private, and counter-public spheres? Our films and readings will focus on queer romcom as an imaginative political and philosophical discourse. Our collaborative, creative work will be in playing with possible romcom plots and characters.

Faculty

David Sherman is faculty in the English Department at Brandeis University and co-organizer of the Brandeis Justice Initiative. He teaches courses on comedy, public sphere theory, the politics of elegy and commemoration, literature in the criminal justice system, and storytelling performance. His academic research focuses on modern literature as a secular world-making project, the contemporary mortuary imagination, and the philosophical stakes of comedy.
Breakdown of Student Participants in all GCWS Microseminars

**By Institution**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Applied</th>
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<td>Boston College</td>
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**By Discipline**

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2020-2021 Workshops, Events, and Initiatives

The Mother Board Writing Prize

In 2006-2007, the GCWS Board proposed an annual student support initiative: The Mother Board Writing Prize. The Prize commemorates the founders of the GCWS: carrying on the spirit of intellectual leadership that the Mother Board modeled when they created the GCWS in 1992. It is awarded annually for outstanding student research and writing in the field of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. All graduate students matriculated in GCWS member institutions and who have taken or are currently taking a GCWS seminar are eligible for this prize.

The 2020-2021 prize was awarded to the following student:

Erin Tatz, Boston University, PhD, Political Science

Paper title: *Witnessing Wrongful Imprisonment: An Analysis of the Telling of Kalief Browder’s Story and the Biopolitics of Black Innocence*

An honorable mention was also awarded to:

Chloe Chapin, Harvard, PhD, American Studies

Paper title: *Masculine Renunciation or Rejection of the Feminine? Revisiting J.C. Flügel's "Psychology of Clothes"

This year's prize committee included:
- Sandra McEvoy, Boston University
- Andy Crow, Boston College
- Linda Schlossberg, Harvard University
Featured Books and Authors

While COVID safety precautions prohibited us from meeting in person and celebrating recent publications, the GCWS still made a sizeable effort to recognize the books that faculty from our member institutions published. The Program Manager added a section about publications to the home page of the website and started featuring books and their authors on the GCWS Instagram. Our Instagram posts feature quotes from the books, pictures of research or fieldwork, and other details that the author deems important.

Aaron Lecklider – UMass Boston
Love’s Next Meeting: The Forgotten History of Homosexuality and the Left in American Culture (2021)

Alice Jardine – Harvard
At the Risk of Thinking: An Intellectual Biography of Julia Kristeva (2020)

Alison Crosby & M. Brinton Lykes – Boston College
Beyond Repair? Mayan Women’s Protagonism in the Aftermath of Genocidal Harm (2020)

Andrés Henao Castro – UMass Boston
Antigone in the Americas: Democracy, Sexuality and Death in the Settler Colonial Present (2021)

Anita Hannig – Brandeis
Beyond Surgery: Injury, Healing, and Religion at an Ethiopian Hospital (2017)
Anjali Vats – Boston College

Ann Pendleton-Jullian – MIT

Becky Thompson – Simmons
*Teaching with Tenderness: Toward an Embodied Practice* (2017)
*Making Mirrors: Righting/Writing by and For Refugees* co-edited with Jehan Bseiso (2019)

Caley Horan – MIT

Carol Hardy-Fanta, UMass Boston

Catherine D’Ignazio – MIT
*Data Feminism* (2020)

Choi Hee An – Boston University

Chris Barcelos – UMass Boston
*Distributing Condoms and Hope: The Racialized Politics of Youth Sexual Health* (2020)

Chris Bobel – UMass Boston
*The Palgrave Handbook of Critical Menstruation Studies* (2020)
*The Managed Body: Developing Girls and Menstrual Health in the Global South* (2020)

Christiane Zehl Romero – Tufts University
*Anna Seghers. The Challenge of History* (2020)

Christie McDonald – Harvard
*The Life and Art of Anne Eisner: An American Artist Between Cultures* (2020)
Cinzia D Solari – UMass Boston

Deborah Jaramillo – Boston University
The Television Code: Regulating the Screen to Safeguard the Industry (2018)

Dian Fox – Brandeis
Hercules and the King of Portugal: Icons of Masculinity and Nation in Calderón’s Spain (2019)

Durba Mitra – Harvard
Indian Sex Life: Sexuality and the Colonial Origins of Modern Social Thought (2020)

Elora Chowdhury – UMass Boston
South Asian Filmscapes: Transregional Encounters (2020)

Gowri Vijayakumar – Brandeis

Hillary Chute – Northeastern

Jennie C Stephens – Northeastern
Diversifying Power: Why We Need Antiracist, Feminist Leadership on Climate and Energy (2020)

Joanna Davidson – Boston University
Sacred Rice: Identity, Environment, and Development in Rural West Africa (2016)

Jyoti Puri – Simmons
Sexual States: Governance and the Struggle over the Antisodomy Law in India (2016)

Kathleen Weiler – Tufts
Maria Baldwin’s Worlds (2019)

Kevin Ohi – Boston College
Inceptions: Literary Beginnings and Contingencies of Form (2021)

Kudrat Chaudhary – Tufts
Laiza- Sometimes the End is Only a Beginning (2016)
Laura Prieto – Simmons
Crossings and Encounters: Race Gender and Sexuality in the Atlantic World (2020)

Leslie Wang – UMass Boston
Chasing the American Dream in China: Chinese Americans in the Ancestral Homeland (2021)

Lynn O'Brien Hallstein – Boston University
Mothering Rhetorics (2018)

Kareem Khubchandani – Tufts
Ishtylye: Accenting Gay Indian Nightlife (2020)

Marcia C. Inhorn & Nancy J. Smith-Hefner (eds) – Boston University
Waithood: Gender Education and Global Delays in Marriage and Childbearing (2020)

Martha Davis - Northeastern

Mary Ann Hinsdale – Boston College
T & T Clark Handbook of Theological Anthropology (2021)

Mary Churchill – Boston University
When Colleges Close: Leading in a Time of Crisis (2021)

Meg Heckman – Northeastern
Political Godmother Nackey Scripps Loeb and the Newspaper That Shook the Republican Party (2020)

Megan Goodwin – Northeastern
Abusing Religion: Literary Persecution, Sex Scandals, and American Minority Religions (2020)

Moya Bailey – Northeastern
#HashtagActivism: Networks of Race and Gender Justice (2020)
Misogynoir Transformed: Black Women's Digital Resistance (2021)

Nancy J. Smith-Hefner – Boston University
Islamizing Intimacies: Youth Sexuality and Gender in Contemporary Indonesia (2019)

Patricia Davis – Northeastern
Laying Claim: African American Cultural Memory and Southern Identity (2016)
Paula Austin – Boston University
Coming of Age in Jim Crow DC: Navigating the Politics of Everyday Life (2019)

Philip Brenner – UMass Boston
Understanding Survey Methodology: Sociological Theory and Applications (2020)

Rachel Brule – Boston University
Women, Power, and Property: The Paradox of Indian Laws for Gender Equality (2020)

Sandra McEvoy – Boston University
The Oxford Handbook on Global LGBT Politics (2020)

Sarah Pinto – Tufts
The Doctor and Mrs A: Ethics and Counter-Ethics in an Indian Dream Analysis (2020)

Sari Edelstein – UMass Boston
Adulthood and Other Fictions: American Literature and the Unmaking of Age (2019)

Sasha Costanza-Chock – MIT
Design Justice: Community-Led Practices to Build the Worlds We Need (2020)

Sarena Parekh – Northeastern
No Refuge: Ethics and the Global Refugee Crisis (2020)

Shahla Haeri – Boston University
The Unforgettable Queens of Islam: Succession, Authority, Gender (2020)

Sheldon George – Simmons
Reading Contemporary African American and Black British Women Writers: Narrative Race, Ethics. (2020)

Siri Suh – Brandeis
Dying to Count: Post-Abortion Care and Global Reproductive Health Politics in Senegal (2021)

Suzanne Leonard – Simmons
Imagining ‘We’ in the Age of ‘I’: Romance and Social Bonding in Contemporary Culture (2021)

Yoon Sun Yang – Boston University
From Domestic Women to Sensitive Young Men: Translating the Individual in Early Colonial Korea (2017)
Our Voices, Our Histories: Asian American and Pacific Islander Women

October 27, 2020
Virtual Zoom

Join a panel of authors featured in a new anthology for an intergenerational conversation on the voices and histories of Pacific Islander, South Asian, and Southeast Asian American women in this contemporary period.

Attendees can purchase the book for 30% off and free domestic shipping. A code will be sent after the event.

About the book:

Our Voices, Our Histories brings together thirty-five Asian American and Pacific Islander authors in a single volume to explore the historical experiences, perspectives, and actions of Asian American and Pacific Islander women in the United States and beyond.

This volume is unique in exploring Asian American and Pacific Islander women’s lives along local, transnational, and global dimensions. The contributions present new research on diverse aspects of Asian American and Pacific Islander women’s history, from the politics of language, to the role of food, to experiences as
adoptees, mixed race, and second generation, while acknowledging shared experiences as women of color in the United States.

*Our Voices, Our Histories* showcases how new approaches in US history, Asian American and Pacific Islander studies, and Women’s and Gender studies inform research on Asian American and Pacific Islander women. Attending to the collective voices of the women themselves, the volume seeks to transform current understandings of Asian American and Pacific Islander women’s histories.

At this event, the authors will review the following chapters:

- The Mother’s Tongue: Language, Women, and the Chamorros of Guam by Sharleen Santos-Bamba and Anne Perez Hattori
- “Defiant Daughters”: The Resilience and Resistance of 1.5 Generation Vietnamese American Women by Linda Trinh Vo

**Moderator:**

Shirley S. Tang, UMass Boston

Shirley S. Tang, Ph.D., is Professor of Asian American Studies in the School for Global Inclusion and Social Development at the University of Massachusetts Boston. A national leader in developing a model of curricular innovation for digital storytelling, pedagogies of wholeness, and AANAPISI/MSI-centered knowledge production, she received the Chancellor’s Award for Distinguished Teaching at UMass Boston in 2016, making her the first woman of color to receive this honor in the university's history.

**Speakers:**

Shirley Hune, University of Washington Seattle (Editor)

Shirley Hune is both Professor Emerita of Urban Planning at UCLA and of Educational Leadership & Policy Studies at the University of Washington. Her publications focus on Asian American immigration history, women's and gender studies, and Asian Pacific Americans in higher education.
Gail Nomura, University of Washington (Editor)

Gail M. Nomura is Associate Professor Emerita of American Ethnic Studies at the University of Washington. A historian, she has researched and published numerous works on Asian American history, Asian American women, Japanese Americans, and regional studies of the Pacific Northwest.

Sharleen Santos-Bamba, University of Guam

Dr. Sharleen Santos-Bamba is the Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences at the University of Guam and an associate professor of English, CHamoru Studies, and Micronesian Studies. Her research, outreach and engagement, and advocacy are rooted in Chamoru values and epistemology and she continues to search for opportunities to share Guam’s history, culture, and people with the world.

Nazli Kibria, Boston University

Nazli Kibria is Professor of Sociology and Associate Dean of the Faculty for the Social Sciences, CAS at Boston University. Her teaching and research interests are in the areas of family, immigration, race, and childhood, with a focus on South Asia as well as the Asian American experience.

Linda Trinh Vo, UC Irvine

Dr. Linda Trinh Vo is a Professor in the Department of Asian American Studies at the University of California, Irvine and co-authored Vietnamese in Orange County and co-edited Asian American Women: The “Frontiers” Reader. She was president of the Association for Asian American Studies and director of Viet Stories: Vietnamese American Oral History Project.

Kim Soun Ty, UMass Boston

Kim Soun Ty is Instructor in the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Massachusetts Boston. She is a PhD student in the Global Inclusion and Social Development program at UMass Boston, with a research focus on intergenerational healing, health, and education in the Khmer diaspora.

Linda Thiem, Middlesex Community College

Linda Thiem is Program Specialist in the Asian American Student Advancement Program at Middlesex Community College and Instructor in the Asian American Studies Program at the University of Massachusetts Boston.
Feminisms Unbound

Feminisms Unbound is currently in its seventh year and continues to gain popularity as a panel series across the member institutions and the greater Boston feminist academic and activist communities. This series, organized by GCWS affiliated faculty, features debates that focus on feminist concerns, theories, and practices in this contemporary moment. The goal of Feminisms Unbound is to foster conversations and community among Boston-area feminist intellectuals and activists. The series, in its open configuration, endeavors to allow the greatest measure of engagement across multiple disciplinary trajectories, and a full array of feminist investments.

This year, we held four virtual Feminisms Unbound panels. Over 300 people attended our virtual Feminisms Unbound panels, including faculty, graduate and undergraduate students, as well as members of the public.

The Feminisms Unbound series is curated by a faculty team, all of which are affiliated with a member institution. The current team includes Kareem Khubchandani, Mellon Bridge Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies and in the Program in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Tufts University; Faith Smith, Associate Professor of African and African American Studies and English at Brandeis University; and Elora Chowdhury, Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at UMass Boston.

Feminisms Unbound Panel Discussions 2020-2021

The Neoliberal University and Academic Feminism

- Eng-Beng Lim, Associate Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Dartmouth College
- Iyko Day, Associate Professor of English and Critical Social Thought, Mount Holyoke College
- Roderick Ferguson, Professor of Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Yale University
- Moderator: Faith Smith, Associate Professor of African & Afro-American Studies and English, Brandeis University
Stillness And (Social) Movement

- Harvey Young, Dean, College of Fine Arts, Boston University
- María Regina Firmino-Castillo, Assistant Professor, Critical Dance Studies, Co-Director of Indigenous Choreographers Gathering, University of California Riverside
- Shoniqua Roach, Assistant Professor in African and African American Studies and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Brandeis University
- Suraj Yengde, Fellow, Shorenstein Center, Post-Doc, Harvard Kennedy School

Global Protests

- Ather Zia, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Northern Colorado Greeley
- Ghassan Moussawi, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Illinois
- Marcela Fuentes, Associate Professor of Performance Studies, Northwestern
- Maria John, Assistant Professor of Native American History and Director of Native American and Indigenous Studies, UMass Boston
- Nusrat Chowdhury, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Amherst College

Going Viral

- Adia Benton, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Northwestern University
- Gowri Vijayakumar, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality, Brandeis University
- Jih-Fei Cheng, Assistant Professor of Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Scripps College
- Shaka McGlotten, Professor of Media Studies and Anthropology, Purchase College
The Neoliberal University and Academic Feminism

September 17, 2021
Virtual via Zoom

This panel takes its inspiration from our insistent critique of the academic corporation in which we find ourselves working today. Increasingly, our new colleagues are temporary and underpaid hires, who are nevertheless often expected to give service beyond teaching. Our senior administrators, compensated at the same levels as the corporate structure, are hired as much for their fundraising abilities as for their academic inclinations or interests. Juggling multiple jobs, our students are enmeshed in an aggregation of precarity that is not only financial: their protests of the institution’s raced, gendered, sexed and classed inequities, for instance, are repurposed into website photographs designed to advertise the institution’s openness to critique. Particularly as women, as queer, as trans, and as first-generation, the discomfort with an institution that is hostile to them is transformed into a burden to reform the institution. Does our activism and theorizing alleviate or intensify these inequities? How is the genealogy of such processes, which we often hear ourselves take for granted as deeply unethical, connected to the humanist values we espouse and teach? Some senior administrative positions, such as Diversity Officers, for instance, are the result of our successful struggles to force the administration to be ethical. What if the neoliberal university is not, in fact, antithetical to our goals or practices as feminists and principled social actors in the institution? Finally, how might we think both critically and imaginatively about the temporal implications of the neoliberal university today and our place in it: the claim now made on all of our time; our conception of “free” time; our justification of time spent away from the institution’s demands; the disproportionate burden of time placed on some students, staff and faculty?
Roundtable discussion participants

**Eng-Beng Lim, Associate Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Dartmouth College**

Eng-Beng Lim is Associate Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and author of Brown Boys and Rice Queens: Spellbinding Performance in the Asias (NYU, 2014). The book was recognized with two national awards, one by CLAGS (Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies, CUNY Grad Center), and the other AAAS (Association of Asian American Studies). His fields of study are performance and cultural studies, Asian/American studies, postcolonial/diaspora studies and queer/transnational studies. He is currently working on a book project about megastructure and performance, and another on the visual cultures of "ethnocuties." He is part of the Social Text editorial collective, MLA division for Drama and Performance, the International Standing Review Board of Hong Kong's Research Grant Council, among other professional appointments. At Dartmouth, he is part of the Steering Committees of GRID (Gender Research Institute at Dartmouth) and the Women's and Gender Studies Program.

**Iyko Day, Associate Professor of English and Critical Social Thought, Mount Holyoke College**

Iyko Day is Associate Professor of English and Critical Social Thought at Mount Holyoke College and Faculty Member in the Five College Asian/Pacific/American Studies Program. Her research focuses on Asian North American literature and visual culture; settler colonialism and racial capitalism; Marxist theory and queer of color critique. She is the author of *Alien Capital: Asian Racialization and the Logic of Settler Colonial Capitalism* (Duke, 2016) and she co-edits the book series *Critical Race, Indigeneity, and Relationality* for Temple University Press. Her current project examines nuclear colonialism in North America, Africa, and Asia and the aesthetics of racial capitalism.

**Roderick Ferguson, Professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Yale University**

Roderick A. Ferguson is professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Yale University. He received his B.A. from Howard University and his Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego. An interdisciplinary scholar, his work traverses such fields as American Studies, gender studies, queer studies, cultural studies, African American Studies, sociology, literature, and education. He is the author of *One-Dimensional Queer* (Polity, 2019), *We Demand: The University and Student Protests* (University of California, 2017), *The Reorder of Things: The University and Its Pedagogies of Minority Difference* (University of Minnesota, 2012), and *Aberrations in Black: Toward a Queer of Color Critique* (University of
Minnesota, 2004). He is the co-editor with Grace Hong of the anthology *Strange Affinities: The Gender and Sexual Politics of Comparative Racialization* (Duke University, 2011). He is also co-editor with Erica Edwards and Jeffrey Ogbar of *Keywords of African American Studies* (NYU, 2018). He is currently working on two monographs—*The Arts of Black Studies* and *The Bookshop of Black Queer Diaspora*.

Ferguson’s teaching interests include the politics of culture, women of color feminism, the study of race, critical university studies, queer social movements, and social theory.

**Moderator**

**Faith Smith, Associate Professor of African and Afro-American Studies and English, Brandeis**

Faith Smith is an Associate Professor of African and Afro-American Studies and English at Brandeis University. Her research engages aesthetic strategies of writers and artists contending with the legacies of slavery and indentureship, feminist engagements with the state in the wake of globalization, and the resonance of archival histories of intimacy and loss in the present. She is completing "Strolling in the Ruins: The Caribbean’s Non-Sovereign Modern in the Early Twentieth Century," a reading of the imperial present just before the First World War. Another project, “Dread Intimacies,” examines sovereignty, intimacy and violence in twenty-first-century fiction and visual culture.
Stillness and (Social) Movement

November 19, 2021
Virtual via Zoom

Taking our cue from activist organizing around statues and other monuments that has been at the center of movements for social justice here in the US and around the world, we invite your reflections on what it means to move, to be moved, and to be still, and how these can become resources for feminist and antiracist reflection and organizing. As some statues are torn down and disappear before our very eyes, some quietly deteriorate unseen and unheralded, raising questions about posterity, and about the extent to which movements for justice depend on visual representation: what, then, of the resources of opacity and abstraction? Recent protests convened nightly vibrate with energy as statues are made to move differently, countering a terrible decades-long visual sovereignty. In this way removal also prompts reflection on the ways in which subaltern creativity has long been fueled by ingesting rather than excising the objectionable element. Finally, how do these public forms convene us (publicly or otherwise) as mourners, as defenders of the republic, as newly independent, as agents of reparative justice?

Statues invite reflection in multiple directions:

- theorizations of stillness and quiet, but also of multiple registers of waiting: hope, resignation, the pause before starting up again;
- theorizations of memory, commemoration, repudiation and amnesia (recall that many Confederate statues in the US were installed at the moment of the Civil Rights Act);
of aesthetic debates around accretions of color, pigmentation, and classical integrity
of repatriation and the ethics of museum collection.

Roundtable discussion participants:

**Harvey Young, Dean, College of Fine Arts, Boston University**

Harvey Young is Dean of the College of Fine Arts, Professor of Theatre Arts and Professor of English at Boston University. His research on the performance and experience of race has been widely published in academic journals, profiled in the *New Yorker*, the *Wall Street Journal* and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*. As a commentator on popular culture, he has appeared on CNN, 20/20, and Good Morning America as well as within the pages of the *New York Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Vanity Fair* and *People*. He is the author/editor of eight books, including *Embodying Black Experience*.

**María Regina Firmino-Castillo, Assistant Professor, Critical Dance Studies, Co-Director of Indigenous Choreographers Gathering, University of California, Riverside**

María Regina Firmino-Castillo is a transdisciplinary artist, researcher, writer, and educator. Born in Guatemala and raised in Miami, she works across national and colonial borders. Her research and writing critically engage dance and performance studies, anthropology, decoloniality, ontology, and “new” materialisms. Firmino-Castillo’s current book project, tentatively titled Choreographies of Catastrophe, is a multi-sited work that investigates how bodies are sites of ontological violence in the context of genocidal coloniality and its complex and transnational reverberations across the hemisphere. Through the work of artists in Guatemala, México and the United States, the book also attends to ways that those affected by the multiplicitous catastrophes of coloniality deploy insurgent corporeal strategies not only to survive, but also to enact otherwise bodies, worlds, and lives despite ongoing necropolitical control and violence. Firmino-Castillo is also co-editing an anthology on critical Indigenous dance studies with Jacqueline Shea Murphy (UCR) and Karyn Recollet (University of Toronto).
Shoniqua Roach, Assistant Professor in African and African American Studies and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Brandeis University

Shoniqua Roach (PhD, Northwestern) is assistant professor of African and African American Studies & Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis University. Her research and teaching focuses on Black Feminist Theory, Queer/Sexuality Studies, and Black popular and quotidian performance. Her peer-reviewed work appears or is forthcoming in outlets such as Feminist Theory, The Black Scholar, Signs: journal of women in culture and society, Journal of American Culture, differences: a journal of feminist cultural studies, Feminist Formations, antipode: a radical journal of geography, and Feminist Studies. She is currently at work on her book manuscript, Black Dwelling: Home-Making and Erotic Freedom, which offers an intellectual and cultural history of the ways in which Black homes have been tragic sites of state invasion, as well as paradigmatic entry-points for Black women artists, activists, and intellectuals to imagine, rehearse, and enact Black freedom. She sits on the editorial board of Signs: a journal of Women in Culture and Society.

Suraj Yengde, Fellow, Shorenstein Center, Post-Doc, Harvard Kennedy School

Suraj Yengde is one of India's leading public intellectuals and a noted scholar of caste. He is the author of the bestseller Caste Matters and co-editor of award winning anthology The Radical in Ambedkar. Suraj is currently a senior fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School and an inaugural postdoctoral fellow at the Initiative for Institutional Anti-racism and Accountability (IARA) at Harvard University. Suraj has been nominated for India's highest literary award "Sahitya Akademi" and is a recipient of the "Dr. Ambedkar Social Justice Award" (Canada, 2019) and the "Rohit Vemula Memorial Scholar Award" (2018). Suraj is an academic activist and a noted public intellectual in the transnational movement of Dalit rights. He is actively involved in building solidarity between Dalit, Black, Roma, Indigenous, Buraku and Refugee people's in the Fourth World project of marginalized peoples. Suraj has worked with leading international organizations in Geneva, London, and New York. Suraj is also an activist in the transnational movement of Dalit rights. He is a co-convener of Dalit-Black Lives Matter symposium and the Dalit and Black Power Movement. He runs a monthly Ambedkar Lecture Series at Harvard. He is an associate editor of Southern Journal of Contemporary History, and former associate editor of CASTE: A Global Journal on Social Exclusion published by Brandeis University Library. Suraj also holds a research associate position with the department of African and African American Studies, and a non-resident fellow at the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research. He is also a convenor of the Dalit Film Festival.
Tina Campt, Owen F. Walker Professor of Humanities and Modern Culture and Media, Brown University


**Moderator: Faith Smith** is an Associate Professor of African and Afro-American Studies and English at Brandeis University. Her research engages aesthetic strategies of writers and artists contending with the legacies of slavery and indentureship, feminist engagements with the state in the wake of globalization, and the resonance of archival histories of intimacy and loss in the present. She is completing "Strolling in the Ruins: The Caribbean’s Non-Sovereign Modern in the Early Twentieth Century," a reading of the imperial present just before the First World War. Another project, “Dread Intimacies,” examines sovereignty, intimacy and violence in twenty-first-century fiction and visual culture.
Global Protests

February 18, 2021
Virtual via Zoom

Unprecedented levels of global hardship and suffering in 2020 have been accompanied by stunning eruptions of people gathering on the streets and in public venues protesting systemic oppressions. From authoritarian regimes to white supremacy, police brutality to military occupation, caste discrimination to gendered and sexualized violence, economic inequality to policy failures, labor exploitation to health disparities, voluminous and vociferous crowds have peppered our visual landscape and living experience of the pandemic and illuminated the increasing urgency to co-imagine a different future. From Australia to Hong Kong, USA to UK, Brazil to Bangladesh people are marching – masked, undeterred and resistant-demanding attention and justice with bold messages like “Silence is Violence”, “I Can’t Breathe”, and “No Justice No Peace.” These messages and movements lay bare the asymmetries of privilege and oppression, the unevenness of growth and wellbeing, and simultaneously encourage a social transformation that takes seriously interdependencies of life, humanity, and ecology. We invite panelists to think through the lessons of their areas of research and expertise and to shed light on how they are thinking about the paradoxes and power of protests.
Roundtable discussion participants:

Ather Zia, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Northern Colorado Greeley

Ather Zia, Ph.D., is a political anthropologist, poet, short fiction writer, and a columnist. She teaches at the University of Northern Colorado Greeley. Ather is the author of Resisting Disappearances: Military Occupation and Women’s Activism in Kashmir (June 2019) and co-editor of Can You Hear Kashmiri Women Speak (Women Unlimited 2020), Resisting Occupation in Kashmir (Upenn 2018) and A Desolation called Peace (Harper Collins, May 2019). She has published a poetry collection “The Frame” (1999) and another collection is forthcoming. Ather’s ethnographic poetry on Kashmir has won an award from the Society for Humanistic Anthropology. She is the founder-editor of Kashmir Lit and is the co-founder of Critical Kashmir Studies Collective, an interdisciplinary network of scholars working on the Kashmir region. Find her on twitter @aziakashmir and here on Academia.

Ghassan Moussawi, Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Illinois

Ghassan Moussawi is Assistant Professor of Gender and Women’s Studies and Sociology at the University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign. His research and teaching lies at the intersections of transnational gender and sexuality studies, urban studies, race and ethnicity, queer theory and queer of color critique. His recent book Disruptive Situations: Fractal Orientalism and Queer Strategies (Temple University Press, 2020), examines queer strategies of survival amidst everyday life violence and disruptions. His work has appeared in Gender, Place, and Culture, Sexualities, The Sociological Review, Sociological Forum, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, and Introducing the New Sexuality Studies.

Marcela Fuentes, Associate Professor of Performance Studies, Northwestern

Marcela A. Fuentes’s work focuses on tactical media and performance in contemporary protests and activisms. Her book Performance Constellations: Networks of Protest and Activism in Latin America/ Activismos tecnopolíticos: Constelaciones de performance (University of Michigan Press, 2019; Eterna Cadencia, 2020) maps the entanglement between on and off-line organizing and mobilization in movements such as neo-zapatismo, the post-2001 Argentinazo, the 2011 Chilean student revolt, solidarity campaigns with the families of Ayotzinapa’s 43, and contemporary transnational feminisms. She offers the concept of
“performance constellations” to trace how notions that are central to studies of performance such as embodiment, liveness, eventness, and site-specificity are redefined in contemporary protest movements. She has been awarded national and international grants and fellowships such as the Fulbright Fellowship and the Andrew W. Mellon postdoctoral research grant. Her work has been published in Text and Performance Quarterly, e-misférica, the Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies, Conjunto, LatFem, Moléculas Malucas, Página 12, and edited volumes on transnational and activist performance.

Maria John, Assistant Professor of Native American History and Director of Native American and Indigenous Studies, UMass Boston

Maria John received her PhD in History from Columbia University. Before joining UMass Boston as an Assistant Professor of Native American History, she was an Indigenous Studies Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the American Studies Department at Wesleyan University. Her research interests include 20th-century urban indigenous histories, comparative histories of settler colonialism, social and political histories of health and healthcare, histories of health activism, and the history of Indigenous sovereignty. Her book-in-progress compares health struggles and Indigenous health activism among urban Indigenous communities in Australia and the United States from the mid twentieth century to the present. At UMass Boston, she teaches undergraduate and graduate classes on Native American history, Indigenous Studies, comparative colonialisms and decolonization, Native American health, Public History, and Oral History. She currently serves as the Director of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Program at UMass Boston.

Nusrat Chowdhury, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Amherst College

Nusrat Sabina Chowdhury is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Amherst College. She studies and teaches on topics such as protest, popular sovereignty, and political communication. Her first book, Paradoxes of the Popular: Crowd Politics in Bangladesh (Stanford University Press, 2019), is an anthropology of crowd protest. Her current book project explores the concept of sacrifice in relation to development megaprojects in Bangladesh by looking closely into the role and the ruse of language - of rumor, policies, politics, and international law. This new work is situated within a wider field of the philosophy of postcolonial development.

Moderator: Elora Chowdhury is Professor in the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Director of the Human Rights Minor at UMass Boston. Her teaching and research interests include transnational feminisms, gender violence and human rights advocacy, narrative and film with an emphasis on South Asia. She is the author of Transnationalism Reversed: Women Organizing Against Gendered Violence in Bangladesh (2011), which was awarded the National Women’s Studies Association Gloria Anzaldúa book prize in 2012; and

**Going Viral**

*April 15, 2021*
*Virtual via Zoom*

“Going Viral” is an opportunity to think with the logics and lessons of the Covid-19 pandemic about the ways that intimacy, mobility, information, body, nation, gender, and sexuality are imbricated through viruses, and other transmittable forms.

**Is the virus airborne?** The constantly shifting data on how the Coronavirus spreads has reconfigured breath and other normative bodily habitations, from mask-wearing and hand sanitizing, to elbow-taps and grocery wiping.

**Through what fluids is the virus transmitted?** Covid-19 has required reconsiderations of physical intimacy, with cities even publishing sex guides. The governance of intimacy is all too familiar to people considered “at risk” of HIV infection: queer and trans people, sex workers, migrants, and drug users.

**Does the virus know gender?** Computer viruses named Melissa and ILOVEYOU signal how gender, intimacy, and affect become vectors for digital migrations. But along with viruses travel
techniques of care and survival that are distinctly gendered; consider the recurring report that nations with women leaders handled pandemic response better.

**Is racism the virus?** Racist attacks have targeted Asian people, casting them as originators and spreaders of Covid-19. HIV, Ebola, H1N1, and Avian Flu have each been attached to particular racialized populations in ways that cast suspicion on their sexual and intimate proximities with humans and other animals. Further, reports of higher infection rates amongst Black and Latinx populations pulled the veil back on unequal structures of labor, housing, and access to medical care.

The current pandemic is an accumulation of many viral histories. This panel invites scholars to draw from their original research to explore the traffic in viral discourse and the pathways of transmission—of data, bodies, feelings, ideology—through feminist, queer, and trans lenses.

**Roundtable discussion participants:**

**Adia Benton, Associate Professor of Anthropology, Northwestern University**

Adia Benton is an associate professor of Anthropology and African Studies at Northwestern University, where she is affiliated with the Science in Human Culture Program. Her first book, HIV Exceptionalism: Development Through Disease in Sierra Leone, won the 2017 Rachel Carson Prize, which is awarded by the Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) to the best book in the field of Science and Technology Studies with strong social or political relevance. Her body of work addresses transnational efforts to eliminate health disparities and inequalities, and the role of ideology in global health. In addition to ongoing research on public health responses to epidemics, including the 2013-2016 West African Ebola outbreak, she has conducted research on the growing movement to fully incorporate surgical care into commonsense notions of “global health.” Her other writing has touched on the politics of anthropological knowledge in infectious disease outbreak response, racial hierarchies in humanitarianism and development, techniques of enumeration in gender-based violence programs, and racial capital in professional sports. She has a PhD in social anthropology from Harvard University, an MPH in international health from the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University, and an AB in Human Biology from Brown University. She has held a postdoctoral fellowship at Dartmouth College and visiting positions at Oberlin College and in the Department of Global Health and Social Medicine at Harvard Medical School.
Gowri Vijayakumar, Assistant Professor of Sociology and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Brandeis University

Gowri Vijayakumar is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Her research and teaching use feminist and transnational perspectives to illuminate the trajectories of social movements, the everyday life of the state, and the political economy of globalization. Most of her research focuses on India. Her first book, *At Risk: Indian Sexual Politics and the Global AIDS Crisis*, forthcoming with Stanford University Press, draws on ethnographic fieldwork from India and Kenya to consider the fraught relationship between sex worker and LGBTQ+ activists and HIV prevention programs. She is also engaged in ongoing collaborative research projects on sex work in Bangalore. Her work has been published or is forthcoming in *Gender & Society, World Development, Qualitative Sociology, Social Problems, Political Power and Social Theory, Global Labor Journal*, and *Signs*, and has been funded by the National Science Foundation and the Social Science Research Council.

Jih-Fei Cheng, Assistant Professor of Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Scripps College


Shaka McGlotten, Professor of Media Studies and Anthropology, Purchase College

Shaka McGlotten is Professor of Media Studies and Anthropology at Purchase College-SUNY, where they also serve as Chair of the Gender Studies and Global Black Studies Programs. Their work stages encounters between Black study, queer theory, media, and art. Their research focuses on networked intimacies and messy computational entanglements as they interface with QTPOC lifeworlds. They are the author of *Virtual Intimacies: Media, Affect, and Queer Sociality*, published by SUNY Press in 2013. They are also the co-editor of two edited collections, *Black Genders and Sexualities* (with Dana-ain Davis) and *Zombies and Sexuality* (with Steve Jones). Their book *Dragging: In the Drag of a Queer Life*, forthcoming from Routledge, is a work of creative non-fiction that features ethnographic portraits of drag performers in Berlin and Israel/Palestine as they navigate art, politics, and the global mediatization of drag publics. Their ongoing project, *Black Data*, works to bridge theoretical developments in critical data studies with those central to queer of color critique. Their work has been supported by the Alexander von
Humboldt Foundation, Akademie Schloss Solitude, Creative Capital | Andy Warhol Foundation, and Data&Society.

**Moderator:** Kareem Khubchandani is the Mellon Bridge Assistant Professor in the Department of Theatre, Dance, and Performance Studies and the Program in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Tufts University. He recently published *Ishtyle: Accenting Gay Indian Nightlife* (U. Michigan Press), a performance ethnography of queer social spaces in Bangalore and Chicago. He has published in Scholar and Feminist Online; Transgender Studies Quarterly; Journal of Asian American Studies; The Velvet Light Trap; Theater Topics; Theatre Journal; The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies; Queer Dance (Oxford UP); and Queering Digital India (Edinburgh UP).
Women Take the Reel: A Film Festival Celebrating Women’s History Month

March 19 – 25, 2021

This annual film festival, now in its eleventh year, is a collaborative effort among Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies departments involved in the Consortium for Graduate Studies in Gender, Culture, Women, and Sexuality (as well as select institutions/universities aligned with its mission) that features films directed by women and about issues relating to gender, race, sexuality, class, and/or feminism. All films are free and open to the public. The focus on intellectual investigation of these issues, as well as visibility for women directors, meant most films are accompanied by a Q&A and discussion with either the film director, producer, or a faculty member from the film screening’s host institution.

This spring, we collaboratively noticed Zoom and laptop exhaustion and fatigue and pivoted the logistics of this event. Typically, each campus selects and screens their own film(s) and has a speaker afterwards to encourage dialogue. This year, several campuses collaborated to feature two important films and host a panel of speakers for each film to further enrich the discussion.

Screenings of Films by GCWS Institutions

“13th” directed by Ava DuVernay
Online film screening: March 20, 2021 at 7:00PM
Panel Discussion: March 25, 2021 at 4:00PM

- Jenn Jackson, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Syracuse University
- Michael Cox, Black and Pink
- Carla Shedd, Associate Professor of Sociology and Urban Education, The Graduate Center, City University of New York
- Moderated by Janhavi Madabushi, Executive Director, Mass Bail Fund
“The Forty-Year Old Version” directed by Radha Black

Online film screening: March 19, 2021 at 7:00PM
Panel Discussion: March 22, 2021 at 4:00PM

- Dawn Simmons, Artistic Director, Front Porch Arts Collective; Executive Director, Stage Source
- Lyndsay Allyn Cox, Senior Director, Programs and Experiences, Boston Center for the Arts
- Kirsten Greenidge, Andrew W. Mellon/Howlround Playwriting Fellow, Company One Theatre; Acting Chair, Theatre Arts, Boston University
- Moderated by Dani Snyder-Young, Assistant Professor of Theatre, Northeastern University

Radical Love Across Difference
GCWS Graduate Student Conference

April 9 – 11, 2021
Virtual via Zoom

This year, we welcomed our first opportunity to host a multi-day graduate student conference for graduate and doctoral students from across the country and around the world. It was also our first opportunity to employ completely remote strategies into our planning and organizing strategies. This year, eleven students organized an interdisciplinary conference including 15 graduate student
panels, a keynote speaker, and plenary panel.

The graduate students who conceptualized and organized the conference include Badriyyah Alsabah (Harvard), Amirah Fadhлина (Boston University), Adrienne Young (Boston University), Deborah Dauda (UMass Boston), Sarah Ghods (Boston College), Melissa Teng (MIT), Krystal-Gayle O’Neill (UMass Boston), Monica Keel (Brandeis), Marina Wells (Boston University), Myriam Nitsche, Taylor Burns (Simmons)

“Without love, our efforts to liberate ourselves and our world community from oppression and exploitation are doomed.” - bell hooks

By using a praxis of love to highlight the struggles toward liberation, this conference examined what hooks suggests is a culture of refusing systems of domination. The importance of expressing, maintaining, and transforming radical love, especially across differences, is more pressing than ever. This conference sought to explore the role radical love plays in health crises, climate change, racial justice, migration, economic justice and further social justice movements through community and belonging, pedagogy and literacy, creative expression and storytelling, virtual life and presence, and further fields

The conference asked questions such as:

- How does radical love constitute a distinct mode of resistance?
- How is radical love represented in the histories, stories, and traditions of ancestors and peoples?
- How can radical love foster community and just societies across difference and challenge the status quo?
- How do the structures of white supremacy and capitalism impact radical love?
- Are there limits to loving radically?
- How is radical love expressed in the virtual, social, and material world(s)? Can radical love influence our biological markers or gene expressions.
Keynote Address:
Favianna Rodriguez

Favianna Rodriguez is an interdisciplinary artist, cultural strategist, and social justice activist based in Oakland, California. Her art and praxis address migration, gender justice, climate change, racial equity, and sexual freedom. Her practice boldly reshapes the myths, stories, and cultural practices of the present, while healing from the wounds of the past. Favianna's projects include Ben & Jerry's Pecan Resist, two large scale public art commissions with the City of San Francisco, a partnership with Jill Solloway to create 5050by2020.com, and an upcoming storytelling initiative at the US Mexico border. Her work serves as a record of her human experiences as a woman of color embracing joy, sexual pleasure and personal transformation through psychedelics as an antidote to the life-long impacts of systemic racism. Her signature mark-making embodies the perspective of a first-generation American Latinx artist with Afro-Latinx roots who grew up in Oakland, California during the birth of hip hop and the crack cocaine epidemic.

Favianna's practice includes visual art, public art, writing, cultural organizing and power building. She leads meaningful collaborations with social movements that lead to resilient and transformative cultural strategies. In addition to her expansive studio practice, she is the co-founder and president of The Center for Cultural Power, a national organization igniting change at the intersection of art, culture and social justice. In 2016, Favianna received the Robert Rauschenberg Artist as Activist Fellowship for her work around immigrant detention and mass incarceration. In 2017, she was awarded an Atlantic Fellowship for Racial Equity for her work around racial justice and climate change. In 2018, she received the SOROS Equality Fellowship for organizing artists activists. An artist entrepreneur, she has co-founded various institutions, including the EastSide Arts Alliance, a cultural center and affordable housing complex in Oakland, CA, and Presente.org, the largest Latino online organizing community in the US. She is currently working on a short form, web-based series about sex and consent.

Plenary Panel
Dina Gilio-Whitaker
Dina Gilio-Whitaker (Colville Confederated Tribes) is a lecturer of American Indian Studies at California State University San Marcos, and an independent educator in American Indian environmental policy and other
issues. At CSUSM she teaches courses on environmentalism and American Indians, traditional ecological knowledge, religion and philosophy, Native women’s activism, American Indians and sports, and decolonization. She also works within the field of critical sports studies, examining the intersections of indigeneity and the sport of surfing. As a public intellectual, Dina brings her scholarship into focus as an award-winning journalist as well, contributing to numerous online outlets including Indian Country Today, the Los Angeles Times, High Country News and many more. Dina is the author of two books; the most recent award-winning As Long As Grass Grows: The Indigenous Fight for Environmental Justice from Colonization to Standing Rock. She is currently under contract with Beacon Press for a new book under the working title Illegitimate Nation: Privilege, Race, and Accountability in the U.S. Settler State.

Dr. Mimi Kim
Dr. Mimi Kim is the founder of Creative Interventions and a co-founder of INCITE! She has been a long-time activist, advocate and researcher challenging gender-based violence at its intersection with state violence and creating community accountability, transformative justice and other community-based alternatives to criminalization. As a second generation Korean American, she locates her political work in global solidarity with feminist anti-imperialist struggles, seeking not only the end of oppression but of the creation of liberation here and now. Mimi is also an Associate Professor of social work at California State University, Long Beach. Her recent publications include “The Carceral Creep: Gender-Based Violence, Race, and the Expansion of the Punitive State, 1973-1983” (2020) and “From Carceral Feminism to Transformative Justice: Women of Color Feminism and Alternatives to Incarceration” (2018).

Kimberly Drew
Kimberly Drew is a writer, curator, and advocate. Drew received her B.A. from Smith College in Art History and African-American Studies. She first experienced the art world as an intern in the Director’s Office of The Studio Museum in Harlem. Her time there inspired her to start the Tumblr blog Black Contemporary Art, sparking her interest in social media. Her book, Black Futures, which she is co-edited with Jenna Wortham, is now available via One World at Random House. You can follow her at @museummammy on Instagram and Twitter

Moderator: Ana Maria De La Rosa
Ana Maria is an Afro-Indigenous Organizer. She specifically works on Environmental Justice, Racial Justice and Climate Forced Displacement campaigns. She is a first generation daughter of Latinx immigrants and her
organizing style is rooted in diasporic analysis of the Black, Brown, and Indigenous experience in the U.S. She was raised in Florida where her connection to social justice movements was shaped by the political climate of the south, the resilience of her community and access to local, strong grassroots networks building for justice. She earned her bachelor’s degree in Political Science, Pre Law and International and Global Studies from the University of Central Florida, and her Master’s in Health Advocacy from Sarah Lawrence College. Ana Maria is also a full spectrum birth doula, birth educator, budding herbalist and photographer.

Graduate Student Panels

• Queering History
  o Renaissance Que(e)ries: Postmodern Theory in Early Modern Art History by Aidan Flynn (he/him), MIT, Architecture
  o Radical Love Shattering the World of the Elite by Anne Mary Shaju (she/her), University of Delhi, History
  o 'I get all the dirty work and you have all the fun': Transvestites and Transsexuals from the Baroque to the Cinema of Pedro Almodóvar by José Dominicci, Boston University, Romance Studies/Spanish
  o When a Man does not love a woman: How eunuchs affected royal decisions by Pantelis Kyrkos (he/him), University of Ioannina, Greece, History and Archaeology

• Reshaping Narrative
  o Radicalizing the Radical: Rewriting the Story of Revelation by Darian Rahnis (she/her), Simmons University, Gender and Cultural Studies
  o Beyond Mammy, Jezebel, & Sapphire: Reconceptualizing Negotiations through a Black Feminist Lens by Krystal-Gayle O’Neill (she/her), University of Massachusetts Boston, Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance
  o Retooling Respect by Morgan Easterly (she/her), Tufts University, English
  o "You are the Descendants of Gods": Indigenous Storytelling as an Act of Resistance by Taylor Eubanks (she/her), Simmons University, Gender and Cultural Studies

• Generations Past: Making Connections and Continuing Stories
  o Yet to be earned by Chu May Paing (she/her), University of Colorado Boulder, Anthropology
• **Infusing Justice in Community Praxis**
  - *In the Meantime, In Between Time: Abolition, The Role of Social Work[ers], and Liberatory Futures in the Lives of Black Youth* by Demond Hill (anything respectfully), Luca Suede Connolly (she/her), Keegan Freiburger (anything respectfully), University of California - Berkeley, Social Welfare
  - *Dreaming into Being: a Mindfulness Pedagogy of Liberation* by Jennifer Cannon (she/her), University of Massachusetts Amherst, Teacher Education & Curriculum Studies
  - *Holistic Advocacy: Transforming Legal Education with Restorative Justice* by Joanna Xing (she/her), Northeastern University, Law
  - *Restorative Civics Education: A Tool for Healing, Hope, and Intersectional Justice* by Samantha Pearl (she/her), Mennonite University, Restorative Justice

• **Queering the Subaltern**
  - *Queer Love in Karachi: On the Globalization of Emotions and the Making of Queer Selves in Urban Pakistan* by Hafsa Arain (she/her), Boston University, Anthropology
  - *Radical Love as Resistance Praxis: Queering Dissent, Kinship and India after Sec 377* by Sohini Chatterjee (she/her), University of Western Ontario, Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies
  - *Reconciling Religion and Sexuality: Oral Histories of LGBT Muslims from Turkey* by Zeynep Kuyumcu (she/her), Sabanci University, Cultural Studies

• **Reinscribing the Archive Process**
  - *Can Anything We Love Can Be Saved? Black women & radical love as praxis* by Breya Johnson (she/her or they/them), George Washington University, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies
• **Challenging Perspective through Agency and Storytelling**
  - *What Love Makes Us Do? Subverting Society in the name of Love: From Meerabai to Lajjo* by Harshita Kumari (she/her), University of Delhi, History
  - "He's Actually Got a Girlfriend!": *Challenges to the Asexual/Aromantic Perceptions of Autism in Theatrical Representations* by Jenna Lourenco (she/her), Emerson College, Theatre Education and Applied Theatre
  - *Amor Mundi: Arendt on Statelessness* by Magnus Ferguson (he/him), Boston College, Philosophy
  - *Year of Care: Seeing Networks* by Melissa Teng (she/her), Anna Schuessler (she/her), and Lily Xie (she/her), MIT, Urban Studies

• **Transcending Binary through Liberatory Knowledge**
  - *Becoming Everything: Constitutive Impurity in Arundhati Roy’s The Ministry of Utmost Happiness* by Carissa Ma (she/her), Ohio State University, English
  - *Epicene Love and Queer Emancipation in Anne Garréta’s Sphinx (1986)* by Elly Walters (she/her or they/them), University of Oxford, Women's Studies
  - *Empathetic Imagination and the Path to Liberation* by Jessica Holmes (she/her), University of Washington, English

• **Removing Hierarchy in the Transfer of Knowledge**
  - *Analyzing STEM Campus Climate through an Intersectional Lens* by Abigail Francis (she/her), University of Massachusetts Boston, Global Inclusion and Social Development
  - *Teacher/Student Conflict and the Possibilities of Forgiveness* by Andrew An Westover (they/them or he/him), Harvard University, Education
  - *I Can’t Hear Myself— I Can’t Hear You: How Characteristics of White Supremacy Effect the Practice of Compassionate Listening* by Carla Wilson (she/her), Multicultural Women’s and Gender Studies
  - *Embodying Radical Love through Unsettling Reflexivity and Critical Race Pedagogies* by Catalina Tang Yan (she/her),
Rabiatu Orlandimeje (she/her), Rachel Drucker (she/her), and Adam Lang (he/him), Boston University, Social Work

**Written in Stone: Radical Love in Cultural Production**
- Poetic Love across the Cyprus Partition: Postcolonial Women Writers against Ethnic Division by Daniele Nunziata (he/him), University of Oxford, Faculty of English
- An Emotional Revolution: Sculptures of Love in France, 1789-1799 by Elizabeth Saari Browne (she/her), MIT, History, Theory, and Criticism of Art and Architecture
- The Uranian Poetry of Lord Alfred Douglas by Kriti (she/her), University of Arizona, English

**Defying Patriarchy through Modes of Love**
- Earth Crises, Human Crises by Courtney Steininger (she/her), Princeton Theological Seminary, Theology
- Intergenerational Love and Its Radical Implications by Deborah Feingold (she/her), Brandeis University, Near Eastern and Judaic Studies
- Cannabis Entrepreneurship as Radical Love by Heatherjean MacNeil (she/her), University of Massachusetts Boston, Management, Organizations in Social Change
- Radical Self-Love in Aparna Sen’s Goynar Baksho (The Jewelry Box) by Madhurima Guha (she/her), Arizona State University, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

**Radical Love in Praxis**
- Mentorship for Men of Color by Anthony Curtis Martin (he/him), University of Massachusetts Boston, Critical Ethnic and Community Studies
- Geographies of care: decentering ACT UP to consider the role of mutual aid in the AIDS crisis by Caleb Simone (he/him), Simmons University, Library + Information Science and History
- Radical Love is us: A narrative report of the origins through artistic and activist expression of Radical Love in a local BIPOC community by Marlene Palomar (she/her), University of Colorado, Boulder, Education, Learning Sciences, and Human Development
- “How About Having a Person”: Legacies of Survival, Intimacy, and Care within Cognitively Disabled Communities by Safiya Karmy-Jones (she/her), University of Washington, English
• **Utilizing Individual Experiences for Community Care**
  - *Virtual Intimacy in the Arts: Navigating Beyond Disappointment and Unearthing Meaningful Connections in Online Scene Work* by Arlen Hancock (he/him), Emerson College, Theatre Education and Applied Theatre
  - "*I AM WITH YOU*” Victim Impact Statements as a Platform for Solidarity and Empowerment in the #MeToo Era* by Mira Revesz (she/her), Simmons University, Gender and Cultural Studies
  - *Zines for Love: Creating Zines to Heal from Trauma* by Taylor Burns (they/them), Simmons University, Gender and Cultural Studies

• **Visioning Radical Love**
  - *Radical Love and Cognitive-Emotional Injustice* by Hannah Read (she/her or they/them), Duke University, Philosophy
  - *Visioning* by Rhyann Robinson (she/her), University of Massachusetts Boston, Clinical Psychology
  - *Contemporary Love Stories: Love in the Trap, in Consumer Culture, and Hook-Up Culture* by Taylor Tate (she/her), University of Connecticut, Philosophy

• **Reexamining Health Norms**
  - *Women's Health Movement and Health Activism* by Katie Kicinski (she/her), University at Buffalo, Global Gender Studies
  - *Radical Love as a Legal Tool for Reproductive Freedom* by Kiman Kaur (she/her), Northeastern University, Law
  - “*We All Live in an Unwalled City*: Emma Donoghue’s The Pull of the Stars and Radical Love” by Noël Ingram (she/her), Boston College, English
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