



SUMMER / FALL 2020

# 25TH ANNIVERSARY NEWSLETTER

GSU's WGSS Special Anniversary Newsletter



## REFLECTIONS FROM THE WGSS DIRECTOR

*Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans*

It is a pleasure to present the Institute for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) 25th Anniversary newsletter. Though this academic year has held many challenges resulting from a global pandemic, we are pleased to share this reflection of the Institute's effort to embrace hope in a time of hopelessness. This newsletter will add to our capacity to build community amid chaos. Within these pages lies a small introduction and affirmation about who we are as a collective. The community within and beyond the WGSS Institute appreciates being a part of what makes Georgia State University a compelling place to work, study, and research.

Archival pictures and past newsletters reveal that our current efforts are directly in line with longstanding traditions of expanding critical thinking about feminism (bell hooks visit in 1991), politics (Women's Vote '96 discussion), course discussion (ecofeminism and African American women in 1998), and programs ("Gender, Family, and Labor" in the 2012 WGSS Speaker Series). Along with our growing affiliate faculty (over forty members), we are following in the footsteps of former WGSS Directors Diane Fowlkes, Linda Bell, Amira Jarmakani, and Susan Talburt. (Continued on Page 2)

## WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Reflections from WGSS Director
- Upcoming 25th Anniversary Events
- College To Career Grant
- Anne L. Harper Lecture
- Student Organizations
- Faculty Book Publications
- Alumni & Student Profiles

# REFLECTIONS

*WGSS Director Dr. Stephanie Y. Evans*



Now is a crucial time to ensure our collective voices are heard on issues from the significance of the 50th anniversary of women's studies programs in higher education to politics in an election year on the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote. As we begin our formal academic review process, we celebrate the immediate....

As you will see in this newsletter, our faculty are especially productive in research and publication. We also want to highlight our students: in just one academic year, our cohort of 15 students delivered 26 academic papers. Eight students presented more than one paper, while 12 out of 15 presented at least one. With work spanning topics from several academic disciplines, our students are fulfilling the charge of our profession. Faculty and students presented together and supported each other at the NWSA national conference in San Francisco, reflecting an active engagement in our field and preparation of the next generation of scholars.

I would like to extend a special thank you to WGSS graduate students Neidegar Martinez and Brittany Williams who worked with George R. Greenidge Jr. to pull this newsletter project together. Neidegar worked in the archives, with the guidance of Morna Gerrard, and Brittany gathered the stories for faculty and student features. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this project, in ways big and small. The redesign of the WGSS logo to commemorate our 25th anniversary was not simply a cosmetic update; together, creating this newsletter to honor the work we have done this year and for the past two and a half decades, we are truly demonstrating what it means to be "A feminist space at Park Place" in a way that radiates far beyond one physical location.

In her message at the close of the 2019-2020 academic year, Sara Rosen articulated a commitment in her Dean's Newsletter to move the College of Arts and Sciences forward, despite the challenges of our present time.

I echo her final message:

**" Much has changed recently, and many more changes are still ahead. However, our core mission remains the same. We remain committed to academic and career success for our students, steadfast in our support for research and discovery. Regardless of where and how we do it, we will continue to strive for the highest levels of excellence in all that we do. "**

Several times through this first year of my leadership, I was able to connect with the founding Director of GSU Women's Studies, Diane Fowlkes. Her ongoing encouragement and support were critical factors in providing me with a sense of clarity and reassurance that we are moving the Institute in the right direction. The former director, Susan Talburt, offered a lion-share of support with my transition, while also giving me ample space to define my own unique contribution in shaping the Institute's next steps. Our Business Manager, Andy Reisinger, is certainly the hub of the Institute (as he has been for the past decade) and his professionalism and knowledge ensured a smooth transition not only of Directors, but of the entire operation as we usher in a new era. This beautiful retrospective provides a sense of satisfaction and appreciation for the collective work of the Institute, even as we mourn and share the pain of loss during this unprecedented time of national and global upheaval. WGSS will continue to strive for the highest levels of excellence in all we do, amid uncertain times, with a steadfast commitment to move our unit onward at a time when there is a dire need for critical social change.

Peace y'all.

## Stephanie Y. Evans

Director, Institute for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

August 2020

Atlanta, GA



A FEMINIST SPACE AT PARK PLACE



# "BUILD A BETTER WORLD"

## Overview of the Institute for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies



Mary McLeod Bethune in Washington D.C.



The Institute is a collective of core and affiliate faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, staff, alumni, and community partners that collaborate to create meaningful research and practice. We have three concentration areas of problem-solving work that addresses historical and contemporary issues: race and globalization, sexuality studies, and social change. Several areas overlap to create a dynamic work space that fulfills and advances foundational purposes of our critical academic discipline. These areas include faculty publications, student organization activity, public lectures, along with campus and community programming. Through our multifaceted work, we examine social constructions and intersections of race, class, and gender; evaluate political and social equality; posit the creative power of art and artists; and reinforce commitment to advance human rights. The Institute began formally taking shape in 1994 and as we celebrate our 25th anniversary in 2019, we mindfully situate ourselves within the long view of women's studies programs in higher education nationally, which will begin 50th anniversary commemorations in 2020. Located in the heart of downtown Atlanta on the 22nd floor of 25 Park Place, the physical space of the Institute mirrors the intellectual space where we connect with several related disciplines including Communication, English, Political Science, African American Studies, Sociology, History, Anthropology, Religious Studies, Philosophy, Education, and Social Work. In addition to our BA majors and minors, and certificate and MA students, we engage a critical mass of GSU students across campus through general courses, including the popular WGSS 2010 Intro to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Theoretically, our faculty research profile is rigorous, with strengths in various branches of feminist theory (Black feminist theory, womanism, critical race theory, psychoanalysis, affect theory, feminist geography, narrative history, and so on). We specialize in methodological approaches that incorporate the humanities and social sciences, and practice critical pedagogy that includes training the next generation of educators, non-profit leaders, community advocates, artists, and innovators of new ideas in a range of careers. Our mission to serve the institution by advancing critical thinking is evident in our classes that challenge students to study ontology, epistemology, and axiology (our being, knowing, and doing). We teach and learn in ways that analyze sex, gender, and sexuality in individual, social, national, and global contexts. By doing so, we support the ongoing human quest to, in the words of Mary McLeod Bethune, **"build a better world."**

40 YEARS OF STRUGGLE

20 YEARS AS AN INSTITUTE



Here at the 20th anniversary celebration of WGSS with the directors: Amira Jarmakani (2014-2016), Diane Fowkles, Susan Talburt (2004-2014, 2016-2019), Linda Bell (1998-2004)



# A WGSS TRIBUTE TO DR. DIANE L. FOWLKES



## **Dr. Diane L. Fowlkes 1939-2020**

*This Georgia State University Institute for Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies 25th Anniversary newsletter is dedicated to Dr. Diane Fowlkes, founding director of the Women's Studies Institute.*

*Diane L. Fowlkes was a leader in women's advocacy and helped to develop the Women's Studies Institute at Georgia State University. Fowlkes received her B.A. in French language and literature from Southwestern at Memphis, her M.A. in political science from Georgia State University and her Ph.D. in political science from Emory University. The recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship, Fowlkes attended the Open University in the United Kingdom, 1985-1986. She worked at Georgia State University for over 25 years, and was instrumental in establishing the women's studies program. During the 1990s, when dedicated women's rights activists approached GSU with a detailed plan to create a women's archives (which became the Donna Novak Coles Georgia Women's Movement Archives), Fowlkes represented the Women's Studies Institute in supporting their endeavors. Fowlkes's book, *White Political Women: Paths from Privilege to Empowerment*, was nominated for the Victoria Schuck Award for the best book on women and politics of the American Political Science Association, the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians Book Award, the Elliott Rudwick Prize of the Organization of American Historians, and the Joan Kelly Memorial Prize in Women's History of the American Historical Association (1992). In addition to producing many papers, publications, and presentations, Fowlkes also participated in various professional associations: She was active with the American Political Science Association, the Southern Political Science Association, the Women's Caucus for Political Science (nationally and regionally), as well as the acting as co-chair of the Program Committee and coordinator of the NWSA '87 Quilt Project for the National Women's Studies Association. At Georgia State University, Fowlkes served on a variety of panels including the University Senate (1995-1998) and the Committee on Faculty Women's Concerns (1989-1992). Her research and teaching interests included feminist theory, women and politics, and the scope of women's studies.*

*In 1998, the year she retired from Georgia State, Fowlkes was appointed Professor Emerita, and during the spring commencement of that year, she was honored with the University's Exceptional Service Award.*

*Biography courtesy of the GSU Archives and pictures courtesy of GSU Special Collections and Archives.*



# A WGSS TRIBUTE TO DR. DIANE L. FOWKLES

*Dr. Diane L. Fowlkes 1939-2020*

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Condolences were shared with WGSS, particularly from Dr. Linda Bell, also former Director of the Institute. Dr. Bell shared several stories depicting the struggles to develop the early program while challenging both sexism and racism in efforts to institutionalize women's studies. Below is a page from the archives that chronicles the establishment of the Institute.



## WOMEN'S STUDIES

More than two decades ago, Women's Studies programs started with just 17 courses at a few institutions of higher education across the nation. Full-fledged programs now number more than 620, a 20 percent increase over the 1988 count.

Recognizing the growing interest and need for the further development of the program at Georgia State University, an introductory class for Women's Studies was recently approved by College of Arts and Sciences faculty.

The new course (WST 202) will explore the history of women's studies including the relationship between women's studies and the contemporary women's movement, and the diverse realities of women's lives. Also covered is the portrayal of women in literature and how women's studies affects anthropology, psychology, sociology, history, political science and philosophy.

The first courses on women's studies at Georgia State were offered in 1977, and later became part of the bachelor of interdisciplinary studies degree program. This degree program offers a variety of educational opportunities not available under the traditional degree programs.

The focus of the Women's Studies program is on developing knowledge from a variety of disciplines in the liberal arts and sciences and in interdisciplinary research about women, sex and gender.

"Our women's studies program has evolved to the point of recognizing the great diversity among women, the intersections of sex and gender with race, ethnicity, class and age," said Dr. Diane Fowlkes, associate professor of political science and interim director of the Women's Studies program. "I will be contacting departments about becoming more involved with the program either through the inclusion of current courses that address women's issues or the development of new courses."

Faculty for the program teach in numerous areas including anthropology, communication, English, history, mental health, music, philosophy, political science, psychology and sociology. Classes range from Perspectives in Women's History and Sex Roles in Modern Society to Black Women's Fiction and Sociology and the Family.

Options available to Georgia State students interested in women's studies include an undergraduate bachelor of interdisciplinary studies (BIS) degree, an undergraduate minor area of concentration and individual course selections at both the undergraduate and graduate levels of study.

Fowlkes will teach Introduction to Women's Studies during spring quarter. The course is required for the BIS in Women's Studies degree and counts as an elective for B.A. and B.S. degree requirements.

For further information on the program contact Fowlkes at 404/651-3152 or 3153.







## HIGHLIGHTS

Clearly, our first **25 years** have been meaningful. As we reflect on the big picture and long view, we also celebrate what we have accomplished in just this past year.

Our **highlights** include:

- **Fall Open House and Art Party**

Collaborative art project displayed in the WGSS conference area.

- **College-to-Career Grant Initiative**

Events and class presentations to enhance our focus on critical thinking and professional preparation to support the GSU College-to-Career Initiative.

- **Faces of Feminism and SPEAK organizations**

Cam Clayton, Amna Ali, Justina Trim, and Taina Brown led WGSS student organizations in hosting events including Open Mic Night; Trans and Queer Art event; Panthers for Black Feminism meetings; Trans Week; Iran Teach-In; Art and Activism; unfortunately some events were canceled due to the pandemic, but plans included attending a SEWSA conference in Florida and hosting a "Solidarity in Action" conference at GSU.

- **Co-sponsoring Campus Events**

WGSS partnered with several campus offices including LGBTQ Health Equity Series in Public Health; Multicultural Center; Center for the Study of Stress, Trauma, and Resilience; Department of African American Studies for "Beyond the Culture" conference.

- **Anne L. Harper Lecture**

Macarena Gomez-Barris, *Submerged Perspectives: The Arts of Land and Water Defense*. We extend our sincere appreciation to Anne Harper for her encouragement and support.

- **Book Publications** Tiffany King, *Black Shoals: Offshore Formations of Black and Native Studies* and Susan Talburt, *Youth Sexualities: Public Feelings and Contemporary Cultural Politics*.

- **Touching Base with Community Partners**

Formal and informal discussions with The Counter Narrative Project, Feminist Women's Health Center, Sister Song, Stephanie Evans in a panel conversation with Stacey Abrams and Mo Ivory at the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. Eight students collaborated with Sister Song's community based research initiative to survey participants at the October 2019 "Let's Talk About Sex" conference. Dennis Hardy, who graduated in May with a BA and will start the graduate program this fall, completed an internship with the Counter Narrative Project.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## Continued Highlights:

- **National Conference**

**Presentations** Several faculty and students presented papers at the National Women's Studies Association conference in San Francisco; presentations included Beth Gibson, Taina Brown, Neidegar Martinez, Justina Trim, Müge Yüce, Laura Brannan, Tiffany King, Julie Kubala.

- **International Research**

Megan Sinnott presented a paper at the European South East Asian Studies conference in Berlin and traveled to Southern Thailand to research a festival for her book manuscript on Thai spiritual traditions, tentatively titled *Ghostly Meanings, Spectral Affects: Transformation and Possibilities of the Spirit World in Thailand*.

- **Media Makeover**

Working with College of Arts and Sciences and university staff, Cam Clayton assisted with our move to a new WGSS website and George R. Greenidge, Jr. provided design support for social media posts to update the WGSS online presence.

- **Gender Studies in Georgia Leadership Lunch**

(originally scheduled in March; moved to an online meeting in July) The GSU WGSS Director brought together department chairs and directors of WGSS programs around the state of Georgia to discuss the state of the field. Welcome was offered by Provost Wendy Hensel and supported by Dean Sara Rosen.

- **Mastering Online Teaching**

Along with the rest of campus, WGSS faculty moved informally online for the end of spring 2020. In the summer months, faculty enrolled in the GSU 's Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL) online teaching course to not only formalize skills for online teaching, but Julie Kubala and Chamara Kwakye are working together to reshape our WGSS 2010 introductory course into one of several campus models for online pedagogy for civil and human rights.

- **Alumni News**

Sesali Bowen's (MA, 2016) book *Notes From a Trap Feminist* is under contract with Amistad with a 2021 release date. Yolo Akili Robinson Founder/Executive Director of BEAM (Black Emotional And Mental Health Collective) received national recognition for his work during the annual BET Awards ceremony which aired in June. Robinson's work was given an "Empowerful Spotlight," accompanied by a check for \$25,000 from Wells Fargo to support the mission of BEAM.





# WGSS EVENT HIGHLIGHTS 2020



## GSU Center for the Study of Stress, Trauma and Resilience Lecture

Dr. Stephanie Evans was the guest speaker for the Center for the Study of Stress, Trauma, and Resilience in the Spring Semester 2020. Her talk was on "Black Women's Yoga Memoirs Before and After 1975: An Intellectual History of Inner Peace, Self-Care and Stress".

## GSU Service Award to Andy Reisinger

Andy Reisinger was recognized for his 10 years of service to GSU. It is my pleasure to thank Andy personally for being such an outstanding Business Manager for WGSS. Andy is universally recognized as a central part of the Institute but his support and encouragement to all of us is truly appreciated.



## WGSS Anne Harper Lecture features Dr. Macarena Gómez-Barris

Our Annual Anne Harper Lecture featured the work of Dr. Macarena Gomez-Barris, "Submerged Perspectives: The Arts of Land and Water Defense". Gómez-Barris is Professor and Chairperson of Social Science and Cultural Studies at Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York. She is also Director of the Global South Center (GSC), a research center that works at the intersection of social ecologies, art / politics, and decolonial methodologies. Her instructional focus is on Latinx and Latin American Studies, memory and the afterlives of violence, decolonial theory, the art of social protest, and queer femme epistememes.



**COLLEGE**  
to **CAREER**

## College To Career Grant

Georgia State aims to make career preparedness a large part of a student's academic pursuits. The College to Career initiative develops curricular enhancements that help students become aware of career competencies, connect those competencies to the work they do in the major and demonstrate their proficiency of transferable skills. In 2019 - 2020, WGSS received a college to career grant to support our collaboration with community organizations and the integration of career preparation into our courses.



# WGSS EVENT HIGHLIGHTS 2020



## National Women's Studies Association Conference

In November 2019, several WGSS students presented their research at the National Women's Studies Association conference in San Francisco.



Tiffany Lethabo King discusses her recent book at the Troy Moore Library.





# CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WGGGS GRADUATES

*Here is a list of our recent graduates.  
We are so proud of you! Your Charge:*

**"BUILD A BETTER WORLD!"**



#### Summer 2019 BA

Tyler McPherson

#### Summer 2019 Graduate Certificate

Dafna Kaufman

#### Summer 2019 MA

Laura Brannan & Bryana Jones

#### Fall 2019 BA

Ansley Henson

#### Fall 2019 Graduate Certificate

Navid Darvishzadeh

#### Fall 2019 MA

Kara Lawrence & Hannah McShane

#### Spring 2020 BA

Meaghan Goodman, Dennis Hardy,  
Molly Taylor & Jake Unhoch

#### Spring 2020 Graduate Certificate

Quinn Ouellette-Kray

#### Spring 2020 MA

Nia Byrd & Muge Yuce



# GSU HOSTS GENDER STUDIES IN GEORGIA LEADERSHIP RETREAT & CONFERENCE

"BUILD A BETTER WORLD!"



On July 16, 2020, the GSU Institute for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) hosted an online, day-long retreat for department chairs and directors of WGSS programs throughout the state. Dr. Stephanie Evans, the Institute Director, convened the Gender Studies in Georgia Leadership Retreat, where unit heads discussed strengths, challenges, and strategies. During the leadership retreat, Evans announced a partnership with the Southeastern Women's Studies Association (SEWSA). GSU will host an online Gender Studies in Georgia Conference from October 22nd - 23rd, 2020 and SEWSA will co-sponsor the event. The virtual gathering will feature over a dozen WGSS programs in the state discussing their programs from the perspective of undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, alumni, and community partners. The gathering commemorates the 25th Anniversary of the GSU WGSS Institute, 50th Anniversary of the discipline of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and the 100th Anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment for women's right to vote.

## SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23 | 12:00pm - 1:00pm | ONLINE



**MARTHA S. JONES**  
Johns Hopkins University



**MICHELLE DUSTER**  
Columbia College



**CAROL ANDERSON**  
Emory University

## RACE, GENDER, & THE VOTE

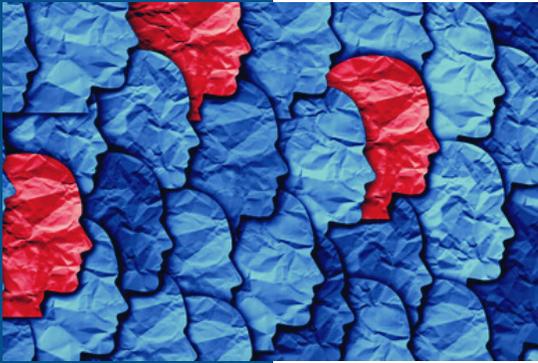
[WGSS.GSU.edu](http://WGSS.GSU.edu)

October 22-23, 2020

Gender Studies in Georgia

Virtual Conference

STEPHANIE Y. EVANS  
Georgia State University  
Panel Chair



# COVID Stories Project

A WGSS PROJECT COLLECTING OUR VOICES

## Tiffany King, Associate Professor

On March 12, Georgia State faculty, staff and students received notice that campus would close indefinitely due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Less than a week later the City of Atlanta issued a “shelter in place” order like many states around the nation. Georgia State informed the faculty that we would have to conduct all of our classes online. As teachers many of us did not know how to respond. As the university prepared us to become online pedagogues within a matter of days, we turned to our colleagues for support. Some of us even took to social media to engage the digital community of university scholars and teachers. During these conversations we discussed the kinds of adjustments we would make. We considered whether issuing grades was appropriate given the circumstances. We wondered how we would restructure assignments to account for the kinds of stress (care work, personal health crisis, loss of employment) that students might experience. And with a great deal of angst we agonized over how we would remain present and provide support to our students when we could only connect with them virtually. As I made my less than perfect plans to finish teaching the remaining eight weeks of Gender and Sexuality in the African Diaspora, I decided to add an additional option for the final project. For undergraduate students who were not working on original research, I invited them to complete a project with practical and reflective components more suited for our moment. The first part of the project invited students to post links to three Atlanta based community resources (i.e. COVID testing sites, food banks, mutual aid projects) on our class discussion board. The second part of the project was designed to have students slow down, check in with themselves and reflect on the moment. The reflection portion of the assignment included a 500 word essay that addressed the following questions:

- 1.) **What have you and your family done to support yourselves and survive/thrive through this pandemic?**
- 2.) **What have you learned about yourself?**
- 3.) **What have you learned about friends and loved ones?**
- 4.) **What advice do you have for young people who will be in college 25 years from now?**

The response to the questions were elegant, raw, insightful and model feminist knowledge production that provides a unique lens for understanding the crisis we currently face. The excerpts that follow offer us accounts of how students are responding to and navigating COVID 19. The reflections are intimate stories of relationships under stress, heartbreak, joy, care, shifting perspectives, ideas about justice, uncertain futures and advice to college students of the future. I am so grateful to Jessica Cao, Shanbrae McFarland, Toni Moore, Gabrielle Scott, and Lily Urich for sharing their reflections with us. Our department will continue collecting “Covid Stories” throughout the summer and fall. If you would like to submit your own responses to the four questions (above) please send them to [tking37@gsu.edu](mailto:tking37@gsu.edu) and [aschkolnik1@student.gsu.edu](mailto:aschkolnik1@student.gsu.edu). We will also accept stories about social justice work (i.e. Black Lives Matter) during the pandemic. WGSS plans to publish versions of them on a website devoted to chronicling stories, art and *reflections on the pandemic*.



## INTRODUCING OUR VOICES AND OUR STORIES DURING COVID 2020

### Toni Moore

Reflecting on my isolation the week after spring break, (during quarantine) my boyfriend of over a year broke up with me. I was in my room sobbing like my innards were falling out for about half an hour. My mom called. She knew that I had just been crying and asked if I wanted to come over. I don't think I realized the seriousness of the situation at the time and I was hurting from a very deep place, and I didn't think there was anything my dad, who I live with, was willing to do to support me at the time aside from perhaps offer a few kind words, so I went over to my mother's place. We talked and made a pact to bleach our hair; a mother-daughter rebirth. What I have learned is that I deserve more from myself, from others. I learned that I was not entirely satisfied with the life I was heading into (time to change it). I learned that I don't need to cling to friendships in the way that I had before because I have gotten to a place where I am comfortable being alone with my thoughts. Something I learned about myself and a friend is that I am a better friend to myself than I thought. If I could give any advice to a person who will be in college in 25 years, I would say don't go to college unless you really want to! Be a carpenter! Be a farmer! Go to the library and read about how to dye fabrics. Learn another language like Korean, or the harp! Get a telescope to put on your patio. Talk to your neighbors. Talk to your grandparents. Talk to the sky. The world is so big. Don't spend so much time resume building that you never actually get around to doing the things that make you happy. Take a pottery elective. You are not too young to live your wildest dreams. There is no order to how your life must be lived. Be responsible with your love. Let love in, say thank you before it leaves, and then, let it go. Lavish in your beauty, your presence, your breath, your time! Sleep when you can. Eat your vegetables.



**COVID**  
Stories Project

### Shanbrae McFarland

If you were to ask me two months ago if what is currently happening is even possible, I would look at you and seriously laugh. I would laugh not because I wouldn't believe that a pandemic could happen in the U.S. (because it has occurred several times before), but because I wholeheartedly believe that corporations and the current administration would never completely halt potential profit the way that other countries have in order to protect public health; this is common knowledge amongst marginalized communities. When white America catches a cold, Black America catches COVID-19. To minimize potential harm in our household both my mother and older brother have taken a leave of absence from their job at the nearby warehouse. If I were to speak to younger students coming into college twenty-five years from now, as an instructor I'd tell them that their academic performance will only be as strong as their emotional health. If you are well, you will produce. If you are angry, you will put forth anything and be done with it. If you are happy, you will create quality. When you are passionate, you will imagine a world outside of life's constraints. As a stranger, I'd tell them to do what makes sense and to always ask yourself, "Who am I doing this for?"



# INTRODUCING OUR VOICES AND OUR STORIES DURING COVID 2020

## Gabrielle Scott

In the time of Covid-19 my capacity to do things have shrunken and I often work in spurts of energy where I can finish multiple things at one time. I often find myself forgetting things that are important to remember, tasks that are assigned to me by family, zoom calls I'm supposed to be on. To support myself right now in this moment I practice compassion. This compassion is extended to myself when I make grave mistakes or when I'm not the best at being everyone's comfort. This compassion is extended when I fail at certain assignments. Its extended when I'm not the best organizer and friend in this mysterious and terrifying moment. Self-compassion looks like putting my hand over my heart and saying out loud "Gabbi I know we fucked up but look at the full picture and see all the things on your plate right now." It's looking like me writing love notes to myself and saying them all on my bad days. It's looking like holding all the bad things and feeling I don't want to hold like fear, guilt ,and shame for as long as it resides within me. It looks like not comparing myself to my dope ass friends and comrades doing work efficiently even in this time of crisis. The advice I give to young people 25 years from now is to create pods. Pods serve as safety and support systems that are outside of family that you can rely on. Pods can vary in needs or situations. The second advice I give is to learn how to see through propaganda and understand how systems of oppression can change health outcomes. The third advice I give is to not tie your worth to production. The fourth advice I give is to have a grieving ritual. The fifth advice I give is to have a spiritual or wellness practice that can support you in times of uncertainty. My last advice I would give support ahead of time and even in the moment. The seventh advice I give is to love Black people and if you are white give back reparations.



**COVID**  
Stories Project

## Lily Urich

I like to think that I knew myself fairly well before this pandemic, but I have learned more about myself these past few weeks than I thought I would. I have learned that I do better when classes are online, I get more schoolwork done in a timely manner. I am more organized; I have a workout schedule and feel more structured than when I physically went to school. I love being able to spend time with my animals and mom and have started cooking and baking more often which I really enjoy. I have always considered myself to be an introvert who liked to go out occasionally, but I never realized just how much of an extrovert I really was. I miss going out with my friends and dancing and laughing. I miss being able to hug and embrace the people I love who make my life better. I think my favorite part of this whole experience is that I am also spending more time with myself, which I absolutely love. I am listening to myself, my body, my mind, everything. I have more chances to take care of me, to take personal care of myself, both in and out, which is extremely important to my mental health. My advice for young people who will be in college 25 years from now is to enjoy your life. Don't let school or people weigh you down too much. Don't let people make choices for you, take control of your life and be happy. Of course, do well and concentrate on school if you are in it, but don't let it take away from other parts of your life to the point that you are unhappy and alone. Make sure to spend time with yourself and your loved ones. Take a look at the world around you and appreciate the time you are given, appreciate how rich your life is and appreciate the many opportunities you have that others may not.



## INTRODUCING OUR VOICES AND OUR STORIES DURING COVID 2020

### Jessica Cao

I write this paper both vulnerably and cohesively and honestly I do not know if that's possible at the moment. During this pandemic I've been staying at my apartment with my partner and my roommate. Due to my high anxiety and hearing testimonies from classmates and online I was worried for the safety of others and my family, I was worried about the livelihood of the most vulnerable who are at higher risk due to the failure of the State. I thought critically about how the work of community grassroots organizers have made such an impact on people's lives throughout this pandemic and felt guilty because what am I doing? I think that's an overwhelming question looming over my head at the moment, throughout my time at GSU in the WGSS department I have been learning about the effects of complacency and the importance of praxis and yet I am still. I am too scared to move, too scared to make a difference, I feel powerless. At this very moment, as I am organizing my thoughts, I wonder if this is just self-pity: am I really being critical of myself? In my erotic project, I expressed the same sentiment of this immobilized state, this fear that keeps me alone. Am I afraid because I am afraid of doing this alone? What do I lose when I move forward? But I guess another question that is more suited for what I'm thinking about is: what do I gain? I'm thinking about this word, gain, and honestly it leaves me feeling nervous and antsy. When I think about it another word comes into mind: big. Am I afraid to be bigger? Am I scared to grow and to take up space all while still being seen. If I had any advice for college students it would be a couple of things. First, change will happen and growth can sometimes be painful and that is okay; don't shy away from your own potential. And secondly, take the time to question what the institutions did for their students, staff, and faculty during this time, you want to apply to a school that not only values their students but people in general.



# COVID Stories Project

A WGSS PROJECT COLLECTING OUR VOICES

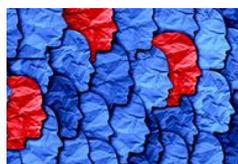
**Again,** our department will continue collecting “Covid Stories” throughout the summer and fall.

If you would like to submit your own responses to the four questions (above) please send them to

**tking37@gsu.edu** and **aschkolnik1@student.gsu.edu**.

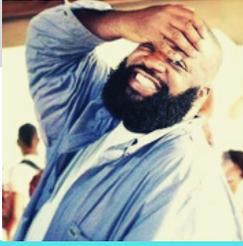
We will also accept stories about social justice work (i.e. Black Lives Matter) during the pandemic.

**WGSS** plans to publish versions of them on a website devoted to chronicling stories, art and **reflections on the pandemic**.



# BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTESTS

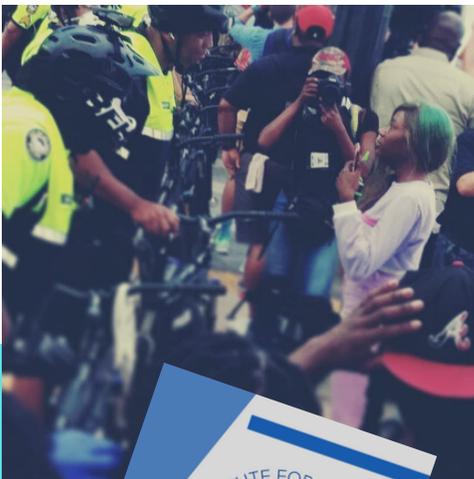
## in June 2020



Urban Photographer and WGSS GRA **George R. Greenidge, Jr.** who helped put this newsletter together added this special section of pictures from the Summer 2020 **Black Lives Matter Protests** in Atlanta and Boston with young women in the lead! Greenidge is also President of the Greatest MINDS of Georgia State University - a student organization that highlights race, class and gender identity on campus.



**GREATEST MINDS**  
MENTOR • VOLUNTEER • PARTICIPATE



# UNsung HEROES: HONORING MIMI JONES (1947 - 2020)

A CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST WHO VISITED GSU

There are many people who were involved in the civil rights movement - some are well known but many others have been yet to be recognized. The importance of the WGSS to to highlight and bring forth those voices to the forefront Mrs. **Mimi Jones**, an overlooked civil rights foot soldier who put her life on the line as a teenager when she and other high school and college students participated in a "swim in" on June 18, 1964 to desegregate a hotel swimming pool. In this picture, Ms. Jones holds the iconic photo taken of her in the pool in St. Augustine during the protest in 1964. The white motel owner poured muriatic acid into the pool as she and other black protesters were swimming. She talked about being involved in black protests in her teenage and adult years and **gave advice to students on how to organize** in today's political climate. **Rest In Power Mimi Jones** thank for your voice of protest, activism and sharing your story to the students of the College of Arts and Sciences.



## SWIMMING WHILE BLACK PART II

PUBLIC PLACES AND BLACK FACES



# GREATEST MINDS



## WGSS FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI AND STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS: BUILDING A BETTER WORLD



# Charles Stephens

Meet our WGSS alum, Charles Stephens! He is the Founder and Executive Director of the Counter Narrative Project, a Black gay advocacy organization. Much of his work as an advocate has focused on HIV justice, combating anti-black racism, narrative change, and community memory. Some of his accomplishments thus far as our alum include: being Co-Editor of BlackGay Genius: Answering Joseph Beam's Call, Conference Organizer of "Whose Beloved Community? Black Civil and LGBT Right Movements" Conference, founded the CNP Fund to support grassroots organizing, and his writings have appeared in AJC, The Advocate, Georgia Voice, Lambda Literary Review, Poz, Creative Loafing, RH Reality Check. When asked what he enjoyed about his time in our department, he shared, "I am grateful for the amazing professors I studied with such as Dr. Layli Maparyan and Dr. Julie Kubala. Additionally, I am very proud of co-founding Black Out, which was one of the first Black LGBTQ student organizations in the country. This was made possible by the department giving me the space to be able to take what I was learning and use it in my organizing work. What I took most from my experience at GSU in the WGSS department, was the importance of not just being a consumer, but being a critical thinker. This is something I have taken with me throughout my journey. My ability to craft messaging, solve problems, develop strategies, and build not only programs but institutions, I gained as a student at GSU in WGSS." Congratulations Charles for all of your many achievements thus far!



# Fernanda Cunha

Meet our WGSS alum, Fernanda Cunha! She summarizes her current work and research as, "Looking at contemporary autobiographical narratives by queer migrant and Two-Spirit (2S) and queer Indigenous women, my research explores the ways in which practices of intimacy, kinship, and the erotic for these women work to create forms of belonging that disrupt nation-state sanctioned modes of belonging (i.e. citizenship). Following the late José Muñoz's call to find the queer/utopian/future in the elsewhere of the present moment, my research aims to unearth the ways in which 2SQ Indigenous and migrant women practice resistant modes of belonging in the present moment that gesture to an elsewhere beyond the logics of the nation-state." When asked to highlight some of her accomplishments thus far since being a student in our program, she shared, "I was accepted into UC Berkeley's Ethnic Studies PhD program with the Chancellor's Fellowship and 5 years of full-funding. In 2018, Catapult published my essay, "Untimely Immigrants," which is a more personal exploration/translation of my undergraduate thesis. In fall of 2019, I presented my undergraduate thesis at the American Studies Association Conference in Honolulu, HI. In Spring of this year, I was accepted into the Gender and Women's Studies designated emphasis program at UC Berkeley. I am currently working towards taking my M.A. exams in June." When asked what she enjoyed about her time in our department, "I think what stands out about the department is the sense of kinship I felt with the professors, who I felt were really looking out for me, as well as other undergraduate and graduate students. I also still deeply appreciate the knowledge that was passed on to me, both in my classes and in my individual research and time with professors. I appreciate that the department takes seriously the problems posed to Western feminism via processes of globalization/neoliberalism, and I'm still grateful to have had professors in the department who encouraged me to explore rather than shy away from those problems." Congratulations Fernanda on all your accomplishments thus far!



## WGSS FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI AND STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS: BUILDING A BETTER WORLD



# Lesya Pagulich

Meet our WGSS alum, Lesya Pagulich! When asked about their current work and research, she summarized, “My research interests lie in the field of postsocialist, critical race, decolonial, and queer studies. I focus on the ways in which liberal politics travel transnationally and affect queer politics in East Europe; and also, the ways in which imperial formations and transnational circuits of sexually progressive multiculturalism facilitate the reconstitution of the Cold War logic and reproduction of racial liberalism. In particular, I am interested in examining how these circuits narrow down the transformative potential of queer politics in East Europe and submerge the experiences of racialized populations...GSU WGSS MA program has provided me with a strong foundation for further research. I have taken some ideas with which I continue to work, however, my research is taking some new shapes and directions that I probably cannot even foresee at this moment.” Likewise, when asked to share some of the accomplishments thus far since being a student in our program, she highlighted, “I am a Ph.D. candidate and graduate teaching associate at the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the Ohio State University. I passed my candidacy exam this Fall. I have also completed the graduate minor in Video Production. I have published an article in a peer-reviewed book. And two interviews in collaboration with other scholars, activists, and artists are going to be published soon.” When reflecting on what she enjoyed about her time in our department, she expressed, “The faculty and students in the department are very supportive. I enjoyed classes as an intellectually stimulating space and a space of collective thinking. The knowledge that I received in classes reminds me of seeds that are still growing in my projects and thinking, and that became foundational for my research and what shape it takes.” Congratulations on your Ph.D. candidacy and your contributions to our field, Lesya!



# Brittany Williams

Brittany Williams is a 2nd year graduate student within our M.A. program with a concentration in Social Change. She is also one of our GRAs collaborating on our 25th Anniversary newsletter. In 2020, she founded GSU's first Queer, Trans, & Intersex People of Color Affinity Network - sponsored by our Alliance for Sexual & Gender Diversity student org, the oldest Queer-Straight alliance in all of Georgia. She serves as the affinity network's coordinator & as one of five co-facilitators. When asked about QTIPOC's mission, she expresses, “Through the support of Alliance's 2019-2020 president, Maliyah Worthy, & our other amazing E-board members, we were finally able to establish our QTIPOC bi-weekly meetings! QTIPOC is a safe space dedicated to advocating for & celebrating all POC identities in the LGBTQ+ community. For us, all allies & LGBTQ+ POC are welcome to come learn & support each other.” When reflecting on the work & achievements made with QTIPOC, she explains, “My wonderful co-facilitators (Meera, Samaria, Ariel, & Kenneth) & I are deeply grateful that all our peers have responded so positively to our topic discussions! With each meeting, our meeting attendance continues to flourish, & we're happy to expand our QTIPOC family. We're also excited to continue serving our community with even better topics & affirming discussions in collaboration with other organizations on & off-campus. So far, we've had great collective dialogues about chosen family, navigating familial homophobia & transphobia, prioritizing mental health & self-care, & honoring POC Trans & Gender Non-conforming identities in the US & internationally, to name a few.” Lastly, when asked about what she loves about being a part of Alliance's QTIPOC affinity network, she describes, “So many things! One of them being that we – our co-facilitators, attendees (new & returning), our board members, etc. – have grown even closer as a supportive tribe for one another, & that's exactly why I created this sacred space for us – LGBT+ POCs & our friends. Even before being accepted into our program, I regularly attended Alliance's meetings during my gap year to meet new people & cultivate friendships with peers who shared similar intersections as me. As a Queer Afro-Jamaican girl, I searched for a QPOC network on-campus, but I couldn't find an active one at the time, so I set a goal of creating this inclusive & representative network if I was accepted into GSU. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity to serve my community & that it's manifested in even better ways than I imagined. Thank you all for your collective contributions to making our sacred space possible for the next generations to come.” Thank you for your impactful leadership, Brittany!



## WGSS FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI AND STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS: BUILDING A BETTER WORLD



**Amna Ali &  
Camden  
Clayton**

Meet Amna Ali, Faces of Feminism's Co-Chair who has been with the org for 2 years! Meet Camden Clayton who also is a co-chair. Faces of Feminism (FOF) is a student organization that is dedicated to raising awareness surrounding the oppression of minority groups along gendered, raced, classed, and sexed lines. They are an Unite for Reproductive and Justice Equity (URGE) chapter, meaning they are a reproductive justice organization that centers Bisexual, Intersex, Queer, & Trans People of Color (BIQTPOC). Building coalitions with fellow peer organizations (at GSU and surrounding universities in Atlanta), at surrounding universities, and in Atlanta) and creating an opening and welcoming environment for everyone to feel safe and uplifted is a high priority for them.

FOF strives to positively affect our community by facilitating real conversation and advocacy about the lived experiences of marginalized peoples. When asked for their reflections on their work and achievements made with Faces of Feminism, they said, "We've done a lot of queer shit! We are most proud of our ability to create radical spaces where learning, listening, growth, and affirmation are centered. Aside from our bi-weekly meetings we have had open-mics, panels, advocacy days, workshops, and parties. We are happy to have built long-lasting relationships with other social justice orgs on campus including Panthers for Black Feminism, Alliance for Sexual and Gender Diversity, and the Left. As an org who receives a good amount of money, we love being the sugar daddy to our fellow sister orgs and the WGSS department." When asked what they enjoy and love about being a part of their organization, they expressed, "We love creating connections. We have built many lovely friendships and coalitions through this org and learned so much from the people we meet. This has also been a wonderful learning opportunity of understanding what leadership outside of a traditional sense, and how everyone has the power to lead, facilitate, and teach. Further, we have learned how to navigate the dreadful bureaucratic system that is the university institution. As difficult as this has been, it has prepared us for the unfortunate capitalistic hellhole that is the real world." They also eager to share the love and invite all to join Faces of Feminism by expressing, "Come to meetings! Come to events! They're fun and we have snacks! Also we are looking for folks to take over leadership as both of us are unfortunately graduating soon. If you are interested please email us at [urgesu@gmail.com](mailto:urgesu@gmail.com) or hit us up on Instagram @facesoffeminismgsu." Thank you so much for your amazing leadership, Cam! Thank you so much for your amazing leadership, Amna!



**Mandy van  
Deven**

Meet Mandy van Deven, an alum of WGSS! When asked about her current work and research, Deven summarized, "Several years ago, I transitioned into philanthropy because it afforded the opportunity to direct wealth back to the communities that created it. In this role, I've developed grantmaking and communications strategies that center the knowledge and lived experiences of those who feel the effects of injustice most acutely. My work is grounded in a deep commitment to elevate the voices and collective action of those who advocate for justice." Then, when asked to share what she enjoyed about her time in our department, Deven reflected, "I have enormous appreciation for the many ways my curiosity and desire to understand the world around me were cultivated during my time at GSU. The courses often infused scholarship with real-world application in ways that I now know are uncommon for academic institutions. For example, Julie Kubala's course on activism culminated in the students organizing a groundbreaking protest that brought attention to how media analysis in the aftermath of 9/11 lacked rigor and, ultimately, contributed to the government's uncritical invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan. While many Americans found this position preposterous at the time, it is widely accepted today - which taught me the importance of speaking out against injustice even when it is unpopular to do so." Congrats on all your philanthropic accomplishments, Mandy!



## WGSS FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI AND STUDENTS HIGHLIGHTS: BUILDING A BETTER WORLD



# Neidegar Martinez

Meet Neidegar Martinez! She is a 2nd year WGSS graduate student and a Graduate Research Assistant in our master's program. While in Venezuela, she received her bachelor's in Psychology. Her practicum and professional experiences focus on social & cultural topics, educating undergraduates, and working with communities in both Venezuela and the US. Her academic interests are situated in the visual representation of diasporas. Specifically, she analyzes the role of social media in the circulations of emotions and memories from Venezuelan diasporic subjects and their versions of the nation. When asked about her reflections on her archival work in our WGSS department, she said, "Working for the first time in archives, I realized the curator's great social responsibility in making visible stories to historicize memories and inspiring present generations to continue advocating for social justice. It is a curator's responsibility to move far from the institutionalized version of a sole story to a more complete and more integrative version of past events. Keeping such responsibility in mind, the curator can consciously exercise a significant source of power." What she loves and enjoys most about being a part of our WGSS department is "[t]he cooperative and supportive environment of the department helps [her] to navigate academia as an international student; faculty, staff, and classmates were crucial to managing difficult times [for her] over these years." For the 2019-2020 academic year, her research project was awarded the Diane L. Fowlkes Research Award. Congratulations Neidegar!



# Julie Kubala

Meet Julie Kubala! Her current research focuses on investigating what is happening in feminist classrooms. To develop her pedagogical practice, she researches the ways in which the circulation of feelings in the classroom can both contribute to & complicate community formation and theorizing strategies for navigating social inequality. In the past year, she had two articles accepted for publication: "Of Trauma and Triggers: Pedagogy and Affective Circulations in Feminist Classrooms" & "Teaching 'Bad Feminism': Mary Daly and the Fraught Legacy of 70s Lesbian-Feminism." She recently began a project, "From the Academy to the Streets: Connecting WGSS Classroom Skills to Non-Profit/Activist Leadership Success," co-written with WGSS alumni, that theorizes concretely how critical thinking competencies learned in WGSS classrooms connect to the world outside the university. Regarding our departments 25th Anniversary at GSU, she reflects, "[O]ne of the first things I am struck by is the transnationalization of our courses...Also, changing from Women's Studies to Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies both contributes to and reflects a shift from a sole focus on "women's experiences" to a greater consideration of the role of gender & sexuality, in terms of subject formation, its fundamentally intersectional connection to race, class, ability, & nation, & in terms of how we conceptualize broader issues, such as capitalism & militarism. This shift also encompasses a greater attention to transgender issues & to masculinity itself... When I first taught here, we only had a handful of courses, including Feminisms (now Feminist Theories), Black Feminist Thought, Black Lesbian & Gay Activism, & Girls...[I]n general, I would say our department has become much richer & more varied, in terms of our areas of professional expertise, and courses offered." Regarding WGSS 50th Anniversary as a field of study, she ruminated, "I would argue that much of what I said about our department represents the field as a whole. One of the central questions that WGSS has been navigating is its role as a discipline or a site of interdisciplinary studies. While I am committed to interdisciplinarity, it is difficult to figure out how that works in the context of the structure of the university itself. Wendy Brown's provocative essay, "The Impossibility of Women's Studies" (2001) provoked a great deal of questioning about the status of women's studies, which in most places has evolved into some version of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. This change represents a reiteration of the centrality of such interrelated fields as critical race studies, disability studies, animal studies, environmental studies, to WGSS. In other words, while Women's Studies & WGSS continually struggle with questions of racism, classism, nationalism, ableism, and homo/transphobia within the fields themselves, we are continuing to pay attention to the recursive structures that can work to center whiteness, ability, & class privilege in our work & the field overall." Thanks Dr. Kubala!



## WGSS FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI AND STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS: BUILDING A BETTER WORLD



# Susan Talburt

Meet Dr. Susan Talburt! She is a Professor within our institute and published her newest book, *Youth Sexualities: Public Feelings and Contemporary Cultural Politics*. "From sexting to transgender bathroom wars, the sexual actions of young people reflect a rapidly changing society and culture with which the adult population must come to terms...These volumes offer an in-depth analysis of youth sexualities as they shape and are shaped by public feelings and by American social, cultural, political contexts." Her specializations include youth and sexualities, feminist and queer theory; ethnographic and qualitative methodologies; gender, sexuality, and knowledge creation in higher education; neoliberal cultural politics in the academy. "I'm grateful to the struggles of GSU faculty and students who made WGSS possible and I'm committed to honoring their legacy." Thanks, Dr. Talburt!



# Jennifer Esposito

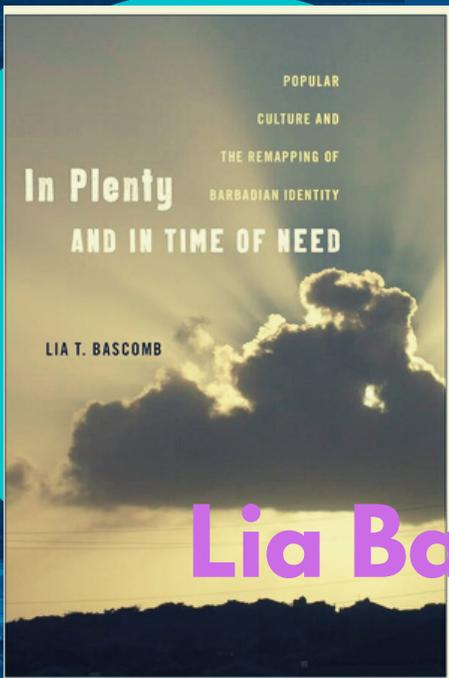
Meet Dr. Jennifer Esposito! She is an affiliate of WGSS and the co-author of *Intersectional Analysis as a Method to Analyze Popular Culture: Clarity in the Matrix*. "The book uses intersectionality to analyze the ways race, class, gender, and sexuality are constructed by and represented within popular culture such as Instagram models, Black Panther, *Fresh off the Boat*, *Black-ish* and other artifacts." She is also the Department Chair and a Professor of Educational Policy Studies in the College of Education and Human Development and an Affiliate faculty member of the Alonzo A. Crim Center for Urban Educational Excellence. We appreciate your great contributions to our department, Dr. Esposito!

## WGSS FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI AND STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS: BUILDING A BETTER WORLD



# Chamara Kwakye

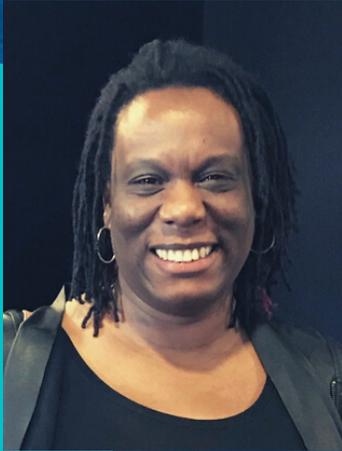
Meet Dr. Chamara Kwakye, a Lecturer within our institute! She identifies as a womanist scholar-educator with interdisciplinary interests at the intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, ethnography, performance and pedagogy. She explains further, "I am especially interested in the stories Black women and girls tell that examine their power and agency in oppressive spaces. I co-edited, *Wish to Live: The Hip-hop Feminism Pedagogy Reader* and I have also co-written, starred, and produced several ethnographic performances based on the lives of Black women and girls. I have also published works on qualitative methods, hip-hop feminist pedagogy and I am currently working on a monograph that examines Black women and girls' pedagogy and praxis of love and labor." When asked about her reflections on our institute's 25th Anniversary, she said, "This is my second year in WGSS, I'm excited to be a part of the institute. In fact, one of the things that drew me and continues to inspire me about WGSS at GSU is its commitment to intersectional feminist pedagogy and praxis. That commitment and our student's willingness to engage intersectional feminism, both inside and outside of the classroom continues to inspire me." When asked about her reflections on WGSS as a field's 50th Anniversary, she expressed, "The field of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies is at an interesting moment. Our scholars and researchers are in many different disciplines across the humanities, social sciences, education, law, natural, physical and agricultural sciences, outside academia and inside academia. At the outset I'm not sure our forepersons could have imagined that we'd be here. Yet there is so much more work to be done. In particular, we need to be sure that we double down on our commitment to transnational solidarity, prison abolition, and grassroots organizing while centering the most marginalized amongst us. I look forward to the field continuing to do substantial and amazing work towards freedom." Thank you, Dr. Kwakye, for your meaningful contributions to our department!



# Lia Bascomb

Meet Dr. Lia Bascomb! She is an Affiliate Faculty member within the Institute for Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and the author of *In Plenty and in Time of Need: Popular Culture and the Remapping of Barbadian Identity*. She is also an Assistant Professor within the Department of African American Studies and an Affiliate Faculty member at the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies. Thank you for your meaningful work Dr. Bascomb!

# WGSS FACULTY, STAFF, ALUMNI AND STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS: BUILDING A BETTER WORLD



## Tiffany King

Meet Dr. Tiffany King. During these trying times, it is a treat to share good news. This is a very special celebratory announcement, sharing the great news that Dr. Tiffany King has earned Tenure and Promotion in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Georgia State University! A general description of Dr. King's research is below so those few who are not familiar can gain an introduction and insight to her work. One of the greatest satisfactions of my arrival to WGSS was to be greeted so warmly by Tiffany and to be able to dive right into her book *Black Shoals: Offshore Formations of Black and Native Studies*, as she celebrated its release in 2019. Learning about her work and witnessing her commitment to student development has been a highlight of this year. It is a pleasure to congratulate such a greatly respected and impactful colleague on her promotion and due reward for work well done. Dr. Tiffany King joined Georgia State University (GSU) in 2013 as Assistant Professor in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS). She also serves as Affiliate Faculty in African American Studies. She earned her BA in Architecture from University of Virginia, MA in Sociology of Education from University of Toronto, and her PhD in American Studies with a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies from University of Maryland. This background converged to create a scholar who focuses on studying ideas behind social construction of identity and geographies of human relation beyond existing black/white racial paradigms. Dr. King is an interdisciplinary scholar of gender and critical ethnic studies. Her expertise in feminist theories and methods bring Black Studies into conversation with Native Studies. Specifically, her decade-long project identifies comparative and relational aspects of Black and Indigenous populations in the Americas. Interdisciplinarity is a foundational tenet of women's, gender and sexuality studies and Dr. King's training, research, and pedagogy place her solidly at the center of this field. Her portfolio is a model in the creative ways that a dual focus on race and gender enable not only critical thinking, but intellectual ingenuity and critical engagement with a diverse community of scholars for our 25th Anniversary. Thanks, Dr. King!



## Justina Trim

Meet Justina Trim! She is a 2nd year WGSS graduate student and is the Co-chair of Students Promoting Engagement through Activism and Knowledge (SPEAK). SPEAK is a student organization whose mission is to primarily provide activism among Georgia State graduate students by creating a supportive space that encourages conversation about our lived experiences and current events from a feminist perspective. When asked for reflections on her work and achievements made with SPEAK, Trim explained, "Our previous cohort set a strong foundation for the organization. We hope to continue this energy by creating space to discuss intricate topics. One event we were really proud of is the Iran Teach-In we hosted this semester. Emma Wakeman (who is also a member of SPEAK) and her co-facilitator Navid did an amazing job educating us about the history of Iran-U.S. relations and how that impacts society today." When asked what she enjoys and loves about being a part of your organization, she declared, "I love being able to engage with different students who have similar goals in mind (equality and understanding of each other) and learn from everyone who provides their own perspective to the issues at hand." Thank you for your leadership, Justina!

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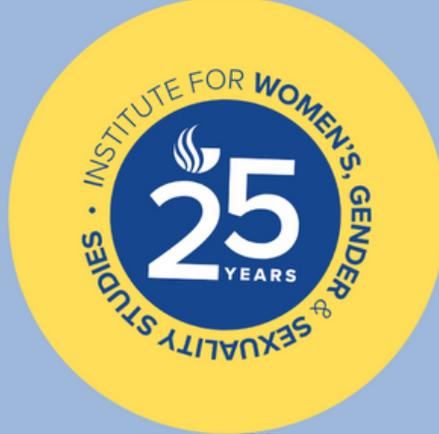
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A FEMINIST SPACE AT PARK PLACE