Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop & Working Group

The Gender and Sexuality Studies Working Group welcomes students and papers from any field, discipline, or methodological tradition, as long as the research is relevant to gender and sexuality studies, broadly defined. Submitted work may be partial or rough, including rough drafts of papers or dissertation chapters, work nearing completion, survey designs, literature reviews, or methodological sections. Meeting time consists largely of discussion of the submitted research or work following brief comments from the presenter. We ask that only students, graduate or undergraduates, attend.

January 7: Xavier Ron-EL, Sociology, “Consumption and Gender: A Course Proposal”


February 18: Deirdre Lyons, History, “We are Living in a Different Era: Everyday Intimacy and Citizenship in the Post-Emanicipation Period, 1848-1872”


Papers are circulated in advance via e-mail.

If you have any questions, would like to be added to the Working Group e-mail list, or are a person with a disability who may need assistance, please contact the Working Group coordinators, Shammon Morrissey and Agatha Stupek at gssworkshop@gmail.com.

A Note from the Director

Dear Friends of the Center,

The beginning of a new decade is a great time to take stock of what has been accomplished and where we want to go. In 2016, we celebrated our 20th anniversary with two major symposia that brought together founders, former directors and graduate student fellows to reflect on the history and growth of the Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality. The establishment of the Center in the 1990s and its growth in the 2000s staked a claim for feminist and queer scholarship at the University of Chicago under the leadership of professors Leora Auslander (History), Lauren Berlant (English), Rebecca West (Emiritus, Cinema and Media Studies/Romanace Languages), George Chauncey (formerly of History), Deborah Nelson (English), and Jane Dailey (History). A space for scholars at all stages who took up gender and sexuality as an object of inquiry, the Center has developed a curriculum, established an undergraduate major and minor, and later a graduate certificate, and supported faculty and student research by hosting many significant programs and conferences.

Gina Olson, our Associate Director, was an integral part of this growth (beginning in July 2000), as she is today.

Prof. Linda Zerilli joined the University of Chicago in 2008 with half-line appointments in Political Science and Gender and Sexuality Studies. Under her leadership as faculty director, the 2010s ushered in a new era of growth for the Center. Linda funded faculty projects on a wide array of topics and methods of inquiry, for the Center. Linda funded faculty projects on a wide array of topics and methods of inquiry, expanded support for graduate student fellows and worked tirelessly on the much-needed renovations at 5733 S. University. Gina Olson was instrumental in these efforts, and in establishing and fundraising for two new endowed funds at the Center. These funds allow the Center to stand on firmer ground and will support graduate research and a new annual lecture series hosting LGBTQ speakers from the public sphere.

The Center added two full-time staff, Tate Brazas, our Program Coordinator (2014), and Bonnie Kanter, our Student Affairs administrator (2018), both of whom are essential to our continued successful growth.

Gina Olson, Tate Brazas, Bonnie Kanter

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Winter 2020 Gender and Sexuality Studies Workshop

January 14: Emily Bock, PhD Candidate, Anthropology, “Waiting in Ball Time” Discussant: C. Riley Snorton, Professor of English Language and Literature and Gender and Sexuality Studies

January 28: Annie Heffernan, PhD Candidate, Political Science, “All That’s Left: Are Damaged Kids? Disability Justice in the Wake of the Flint Water Crisis.” Discussant: Michele Friedner, Assistant Professor of Comparative Human Development


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continued success and whose stellar work is fostering ever-more-growthful centers. In 2018, Prof. C. Riley Snorton joined the Department of English as Professor and the CSGS as an affiliate, whose work focuses on intersections of Race, Gender, and Sexuality. Snorton serves as Director of Studies. Lucy Pick (Divinity), interim Center director for 2016-17, and Jennifer Wild (Cinema and Media Studies), our Director of Studies in 2016-2019, created new initiatives to expand our graduate certificate program. We now have certificate options with most of the MA programs on campus, including MAPSS, MAPH, SSA, and the Divinity School. Most notably in this decade, however, the first undergraduate Core sequence related to gender studies: Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations. Having started with two sections in 2012, we will expand to seven sections in 2020 – and begin a new Gen WiM study-abroad program in Hong Kong!

As our 25th anniversary approaches in 2021, we are looking to the next decade of the CSGS and how we will continue to build and expand the educational and support services we offer. This past year, we have created the CSGS Undergraduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies. The program offers students the opportunity to take courses that explore the intersections of gender and sexuality. The program is designed to be flexible and open to students from all majors. Students interested in the program can find more information on the CSGS website or by contacting the Program Coordinator, Lucy Pick (luciyp@uchicago.edu). The program seeks to support students in their exploration of gender and sexuality studies and to encourage them to think critically about their own identities and experiences. The program aims to foster a community of learners who can support each other in their academic and personal journeys. Students interested in the program can find more information on the CSGS website or by contacting the Program Coordinator, Lucy Pick (luciyp@uchicago.edu).

In the immediate future – Winter 2020 – we have a great schedule of events. On Fri, Jan 31 will hold our annual alumni annual Alumni Young/Young Distinguished Faculty Lecture, featuring Martha Feldman, the Edwin A. and Betty L. Bergman Distinguished Service Professor, Professor, Music, Romance Languages and Literatures, and the Humanities in the College, speaking on “The Castraatro: Phanom: Masculinity and the Sacred Vernacular in Twenty-First Century Rome”. Prof. Feldman is a cultural historian of European music, with a focus on Italy, and is on the faculty of the Departments of Music and Romance Languages and Literatures. She is the author of several monographs, including Open and Sovereignty: Transforming Myths in Eighteenth-Century Italy (University of Chicago Press, 2015). On Fri, Feb 7 at 4:30pm, Lost Marxist (Political Science and African Studies, Union College) will give the talk, “Dear Dick: Feminist Politics of the Epistemology at the Center. The Lexicon Project, a working group of scholars of the first decade of the first undergraduate Core sequence related to gender studies: Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations. Having started with two sections in 2012, we will expand to seven sections in 2020 – and begin a new Gen WiM study-abroad program in Hong Kong!

Winter final also features a variety of speakers and events organized through our Graduate Council. The Graduate Council and the Lexicon Project, a working group of scholars of the first decade of the first undergraduate Core sequence related to gender studies: Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations. Having started with two sections in 2012, we will expand to seven sections in 2020 – and begin a new Gen WiM study-abroad program in Hong Kong!

In February, the Center will co-sponsor two events around Indigenous and Native Studies. The LGBTQ Speaker Series will be co-sponsored with Prof. Lauren Berliner’s Working, Writing project at 3CT on Feb 12. Prof. Kim TallBear (Native Studies, University of Alberta) will talk about her book “Heart” on Mon, Feb 10 at 5pm at 3CT and a lunchtime seminar on the CSGS on Tues, Feb 11. Prof. Anna Elena Torres (Comparative Literatures) is organizing a discussion with Elissa Washuta and Theresa Wurbutton, editors of Shapes of Native Nonfiction—a new anthology of essays by twenty-seven contemporary Native women—on Fri, Feb 21 at 12:30pm in the Social Science Research Building. On Fri, Feb 21 we will co-sponsor with LGBTQ Student Life, a visit by multi-disciplinary Two Spirit Ojibwe artist from the Lac du Flambeau reservations, Ryan Young, whose work focuses on intersections of cultural, gender and sexual identity. They will lead a workshop and discussion, “Nizh Manidowag (Two-Spirit) Resistance.” Location TBA.

Continuing our tradition of the last four years, the Center has again designated February as Care/UCHicago month. During the month, we will host weekly free yoga sessions on Fridays at 4:30pm in the Social Science Research Building. On Fri, Feb 21 at 5pm, the Center will host a talk by two of the midwives from the Family Birth Center at UChicago Medicine as they discuss the wide variety of health and medicine related activities that can be accomplished as a certified Nurse Midwife. This event will be held on Thu, Feb 27 at 5pm as part of Care/Chicago.

Winter Undergraduate Events

Friday, Jan 17

GNE Office Hours

Thursday, Jan 30

Feminist/Queer Praxis: Drag King 101

Thursday, Feb 13

Galentine’s Day Study Break

Friday, Feb 21

GNE Office Hours

Thursday, Feb 27

Feminist/Queer Praxis: Call the Midwife

Undergraduate Student Internships for 2020

Once again, CSGS will offer funding for up to four internships at gender- and LGBTQ-related service, educational, or activist organizations in the US. The deadline to apply for funding is February 29, 2020. For more information and a link to the application, go to https://gendersexuality.uchicago.edu/fellowships/undergraduate-student-internships.html or contact Bonnie Kanter at bontannick@uchicago.edu or 773-702-2365 for more information.

Undergraduate Major/Minor

Undergraduate students interested in the topics of gender and/ or sexuality are welcome at the Center and have the option to major or minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies. Students can take GNE coursework as an independent major, or as a double major where their gender coursework can provide a lens through which they study another discipline. A minor is also available for students who may not be able to complete all the major requirements while also studying another discipline. Currently we have students who are also majoring in Linguistics, Biology, English, Sociology, Cinema and Media Studies and many other areas.

If you have questions about the major or minor and want to talk about how they might fit in with your general academic goals, email Student Affairs Administrator Bonnie Kanter (bontannick@uchicago.edu) to set up a time to talk. We look forward to seeing you over the winter quarter.

Kristen Schilt

Director for the Center of Study for Gender and Sexuality Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
continued success and whose stellar work is fostering ever-more

growth at the Center. In 2018, Prof. C. Riley Snorton joined the

department of English as Professor and the CGS as an affiliate,

where he is in residence, teaches in the core curriculum and serves

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the next decade of the CGS and how we will continue to build and

expand the interdisciplinary community at the University of

Chicago. We remain committed to advancing schol-

arship at all stages – from student research grants and dissertation

fellowships to faculty research funding. Each year we fund a va-
riet of faculty projects, supporting ongoing faculty research on

campus. This year, we are launching a junior faculty research grant
to support the work of our newest faculty affiliates, while contin-

uing to foster course development through small research grants.

We will continue our efforts to support the hiring of gender and

sexuality scholars across campus, as we witness through our cours-
es and certificate program that this area of inquiry is deeply rele-

vant to many student and university constituencies. Finally, we plan
to launch new fundraising efforts in 2021 that will allow us to

expand the possibilities of support we can offer. Stay tuned!

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events. On Fri, Jan 17th, join us for the annual Jani

Maron Young Distinguished Faculty Lecture, featuring Martha
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Prize from the UChicago Press in 2010 – making Prof. Feldman

the second woman on the faculty to ever win the prize since it
was established in 1963. [Jean Comaroff won in 1992 and the prize
too will feature a founding director of the Modernizing Women in

Asia Project, J. Lai Prizes and the Varnden Prize for Feminist

Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign]. For more

information about this new opportunity for our students.

Gender and Sexuality Studies Go Beyond!

The inaugural GNS Study Abroad quarter is coming Autumn 2020 in Hong Kong. Applications are currently available through

the UChicago Study Abroad website and are due January 27, 2020.

There will be three courses offered – two GNS Civ courses:

taught by Dominique Blecher and Kristen Schilt) and one Civ course
taught by Katherine and Parikh). Students can use this course to meet

the Art Core requirement. There is a lot of excitement about this new opportunity for our students.

Winter Courses

This Winter Quarter we are offering a great selection of courses. For our Foundations courses, the January 15 deadline for

students interested in learning about feminism and political thought is

Rebecca Ewert will teach “Foundations of Masculinity Studies.” Our Con-

cepts course for the quarter, “The Life and Afterlife of Cleopatra” is being taught by Classics Ph.D student

Jordanna Johannson. We have two Problems Courses available: “On ‘Women and Writing’ with German Professor Sophie Salvo and ‘Medieval Masculinity’ with historian Jonathan Lyon. Finally, our six sections of GNS Civ will continue in Winter Quarter, taught by Professors Lena Auslander (History), Sonali Thakkar (English) and Linda Zer-

ill (Political Science, Gender and Sexuality Studies) and Anthro-

pology Ph.D student/CSGS Dissertation Fellow, Emily Bock.

Winter Quarter Feminist Queer Praxis

We have two great FQP, where we consider practices of feminism and queer theory post-debate, planned for Winter Quarter. The first, on Thu, Jan 30 at 5pm in conjunction with the Foundations in Masculinity Theories class, is a workshop entitled “Drag King 101.” Local Drag King PeChop will be talking about the experi-

ence of playing with gender on stage and will also give students a chance to try on different drag personas.

The second FQP will be a talk with two of the midwives from the Family Birth Center at UChicago Medicine as they discuss the wide variety of health and medicine related activities that can be accomplished as a Certified Nurse Midwife. This event will be held on Thu, Feb 27 at 5pm as part of Care@Chicago.

CSGS Field Trip

Rather than stay inside all winter, we’re planning to get out and see

some of the local gender-related arts and culture options available in

the coming months. We’ll be going to see the play Roe at the Good-

man. On Fri, Feb 21, we’ll be on the lookout for Sarah Weddington and plaintiff Norma McCorvey (“Jane Roe”) in the years following the Supreme Court decision. The play ties in nicely with the Reproductive Rights section of our Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations class and is a great opportunity for students to learn about the history and context of the case.

Undergraduate Summer Internships for 2020

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Studenet News

The Edwin A. and Betty L. Bergman Distinguished Series Event:

Errant Voices: Performances beyond...
Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality

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https://twitter.com/UChicagoCSGS
https://www.youtube.com/user/UChicagoCSG
https://www.instagram.com/uchicagocsu/

FEATURED EVENTS

Wed Jan 22
2020 Distinguished Faculty Lecture: Martha Feldman, “The Castrato Phantom”

Thu Jan 23
Rafiki with Erin Moore

Thu Jan 30
Feminist/Queer Praxis: Drag King 101

Fri Jan 31, Feb 7, 14, & 21
Core Chicago: Gentle yoga with Anna Schabold

Mon Feb 10
Kim TallBear, “Settler Love Is Breaking My Heart”

Fri Feb 21
Elissa Wapshat and Theresa Warburton, “Shapes of Native Nonfiction”

Mon Feb 24

Thu Feb 27
Feminist/Queer Praxis: Call the Midwife

Mon Mar 9
Megan Tobias Neely, “Hedged Out: Inequality and Insecurity on Wall Street”

Tue Mar 10
Ryan Young, “Nizh Manidowag Resistance”

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