A Note from the Director

Dear CSGS students and colleagues,

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Critical questions raised by the 2022 Supreme Court decision in Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health Organization will be explored in a panel discussion featuring Michele Goodwin, Dorothy Roberts, and Mary Ziegler on Tuesday, Oct 10 at 5pm titled, “After Dobbs: Reproductive Freedom, Justice, and the Power of the State.”

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long-standing involvement with CSGS.

In our current moment, it strikes me that CSGS, and centers like it, are more urgently needed than ever. Living with and respecting diversity in connection to gender and sexuality seem commonplace, cultural, and ethical, and yet bodies and ways of being in the world often find themselves under scrutiny and attack, and at times feel like they should or should be shared ground午餐不期不期待, one of the most important things that the Center can do is to provide a site for conversation, debate, and listening in a space of nurture, safety, and intergenerational collaboration.

As I embark upon my term as Director, I would like to express my particular gratitude to Kris Trujillo, who has agreed to serve again as the Center’s Director of Studies. I also would like to acknowledge the membership of the faculty Board of Directors; we welcome to the Board this year Lisa Moore (Crown), Hillary Wa Lien (Obstetrics and Gynecology), Malika Chishiti (Divinity), and Rokhaya Mamadou (South Asian Languages and Civilizations/Cinema and Media Studies, starting her term in 2024), and will continue to count on current members Eman Abdelhadi (Comparative Literature), Angie Heo (Divinity), Wadlo Johnson, Jr. (Crown), C. Riley Snorton (Gender and Sexuality Studies, English), Kris Trujillo (Comparative Literature), Gary Bellet (Political Science), and SG Zhang (English). We are also thrilled to welcome back(!) to CSGS Red Vaughn Tremmel. A UChicago Ph.D. (History, ’06) and former CSGS fellow, Red joins us as an Instructional Professor who will expand and enrich our course offerings and provide support to students at all levels. And finally, I wish to express my appreciation for the exceptional CSGS staff, Gina Olson, Bonnie Kanter, and Tate Bezaas, whose knowledge and kindness have smoothed my entry into this new role.

In the spirit of meeting people, I would like to signal to two upcoming events on Monday, October 2 from 4:30-6:00pm, we will cel- ebrate the beginning of the new year with the 5733 Open House, with the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture. And on Wednesday, October 4 from 5:00-6:30pm, we will celebrate new works by fifteen of our colleagues at the annual CSGS Faculty Book Party. At both events, we’ll celebrate the start of the new academic year with delicious food, beverages, and great company.

Curriculum News

GSNJE Major and Minor

Undergraduate students are interested in Gender and Sexuality Studies. The Center’s major has almost doubled over the last few years with 55 total declared majors and minors at the end of 2023. Seventeen students graduated with GNJSE majors in Spring 2023; Shira Aronson, Bella Campana, Julia Dillman, JQ Lee, Mimi Magee, Dantes Morenocho, Cristina Molina, Ariana Quintero, Stella Reed, Shira Silver, Alison Tsool and Alessandra Tufino. We are so proud of all the work that our students put into their theses and co-valorize the time to which present the theses of their work on our 2023 BA Symposium Workshop. We wish all of our graduates great luck in the coming year!

Autumn 2023 Courses

Our Core offering, Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations, has once again expanded. Not only did we add another section—our 10th—this year, making our program as full as ever, and we also add a full group of 25 on our second Study Abroad offering underway in London this quarter. GNJSE Civ 1 on campus will be chaired by Professor Daisy Delogu (our new Faculty Director) this Autumn and she will also be teaching a section. The remaining sections are being taught by Professor Ghenwa Hayek (Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations), our new Instructional Professor Red Tremmel (History), the returning Teaching Fellow Jordan Johansen (Classics/ GNSE), returning Lecturer Rhianon Arleni (Political Science at Northwestern) and our new Teaching Fellows Olivia Bustin (History) and Rachel McDaniel (English) who will be teaching in the Future of Reproductive Justice: Theory and Practice. In the Fall of 2023, the lecture course “The Escalating Political Violence Accompanying the LGBTQ Community” will be taught by Professor Shreya Ram (Political Science) and will be held Thursday, January 25 from 5:00-6:30 pm. The seminar course “Gender and Sexuality in World Civilizations” will be taught by Professor Shreya Ram (Political Science) and will be held Thursday, January 25 from 5:00-6:30 pm. 

Event Highlights

Please join us at the CSGS this fall! All our events are free, open to the public, and will be held in the Community Room on the first floor of the Center at 5733 South University Avenue, unless noted otherwise.

On Monday, October 2 from 4:30-6:00pm, we will co-host our annual welcome party, the 5733 Open House, with the Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture. And on Wednesday, October 4 from 5:00-6:30pm, we will celebrate new works by fifteen of our colleagues at the annual CSGS Faculty Book Party. At both events, we’ll celebrate the start of the new academic year with delicious food, beverages, and great company.

Student News

Prizes

We are pleased to announce that Sophia McCrea (Classics & English) and Shereya Ram (Political Science) were the winners of the 2023 Ruth Murray BA Thesis Prize in Women’s Studies, Feminist Criticism, Gender or Sexuality Studies. The committee was very impressed with the extraordinary level of work of the over 30 submissions, which came in from 17 different academic departments and showed the breadth and depth of the study of gender and sexuality across campus.

Samantha Usman (Ph.D. candidate, Astronomy and Astrophysics) is the recipient of the inaugural LGBTQ+ Campus Community Engagement Award. As an LGBTQ+ scientist, Samantha has proven herself a dedicated advocate and leader, demonstrating exceptional leadership and making numerous contributions to advance and support the interests of the LGBTQ+ community at UChicago, within her academic and professional field, and more broadly.

And we have added an exciting new offering to help graduate student teaching, the CSGS Course Design Prize, to encourage graduate students to create their own courses on the topics of gen-der/sexuality. Watch for details as the year progresses. Applications will be due in March.

Undergraduate Summer Internships

As in past summers, CSGS chose students from a competitive application process to provide students funding for unpaid in-ternships related to gender/sexuality. We’re proud to be able to support students who are doing important work while also learn-ing about potential career paths. This year’s interns were: Ryan Cairns (4th year) at the Chicago Abortion Fund, Artie Davis (4th year GNJSE major) at the Gender/Heritage Library and Archives, El-lie Gilbert-Bair (2nd year GNJSE major) at the PodCast Article of Interest, Daphne Hoang (2nd year GNJSE major) at Reproduc- tive Transparency Now, Sophie Knifton (4th year GNJSE major) at the Reproductive Justice and Innovation in Sexual and Reproductive Health, and Leticia Mercado (3rd year GNJSE major) at Chicago House. They’ll all be reporting back about their experiences at an information session in January.

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In November, Jules Gill-Peterson (History), John Hopkins, and author of Histories of the Transgender Child will visit campus as part of the OUTstanding Speaker Series, an annual distin-guished lecture series that brings to campus scholars, profession-als, and public figures who have made significant contributions to the LGBTQ+ community. On Thursday, November 2 at 5:00pm, Gill-Peterson will present “Great Society Transsexualism: On Transgender Rights” (History), with Joanne Watters (History) at 5:30 pm with the center of the University of Chicago. The talk is titled, “ Spi- mor, an annual event featur- ing the work of UChicago faculty. The talk is titled, “Spi- tor over life and death, raised by the 2022 Supreme Court de-cision in Dobbs v Jackson Women’s Health Organization. Michele Goodwin (Law, University of California, Irvine), Dorothy Rob- erts (Law and Sociology, University of Pennsylvania), and Mary Ziegler (Law, University of California, Davis) will be in conver-sation with Geoffrey Stone (Law, University of Chicago). The lecture is titled, “The Future of Reproductive Justice in the Dobbs Era.”

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In closing, I hope that you will find what you need, both per-sonally and professionally, at the Center. I hope too that you will join us in this challenge of respecting each other and the need to build a future where difference is a strength and not a weakness.

Looking ahead to Winter quarter, we are excited to announce that Professor Kimberley Kay Hoang (Sociology) will deliver the Iris Marinovich Young Distinguished Faculty Lecture, an annual event featuring the work of UChicago faculty. The talk is titled, “Spiderwebs Capitalism: How Global Elites Exploit Frontier Mar-kets” and will be held Thursday, January 25 from 5:00-6:30 pm.
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The working group will meet every other Tuesday from 5:00-6:00pm Central Time, and presenters will provide their preference for in-person or Zoom sessions. In-person meetings will take place at the CSGS, 5733 S University Ave, in room 103. Food and beverages will be provided for in-person meetings.


November 7: Alyssa Calder Holme, “Unexplored Ambition: The Failure and Holes in the Gender Data Gap” (in-person at the CSGS)

November 21: Xiaogao Zhou, “Uneven Transition: ‘Family-Centered’ Gender-Affirming Care in China” (Virtual/Hybrid)

December 5: Tanima Sharma, “Land as Rest: Caste and Social Reproduction from the perspective of Dalit Women Activists in North India” (in-person at the CSGS)

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.

If you have any questions or would like to be added to the Working Group e-mail list, please contact the Working Group Co-Coordinators, Malavika Pathasarathy (Law) and Lizette Arelano (Romance Languages) at csgswg@gmail.com.

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