WOMEN’S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

315 William L. Harkness Hall, 203.432.0845
http://wgss.yale.edu

Chair
Inderpal Grewal

Director of Graduate Studies
Joseph Fischel

Professors Julia Adams (Sociology), Carol Armstrong (History of Art), Seyla Benhabib (Political Science), Jill Campbell (English), Hazel Carby (African American Studies; American Studies), Kang-i Sun Chang (East Asian Languages & Literatures), Jacqueline Goldsby (English; African American Studies), Inderpal Grewal (Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies; American Studies; Anthropology), Margaret Homans (English; Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies), Jennifer Klein (History), Marianne LaFrance (Psychology; Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies), Kathryn Lofton (American Studies; Religious Studies), Mary Lui (American Studies; History), Joanne Meyerowitz (History), Sally Promey (American Studies; Institute of Sacred Music; Religious Studies), Ana Ramos-Zayas (Ethnicity, Race & Migration; Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies; American Studies), Naomi Rogers (History of Science & Medicine), Alicia Schmidt Camacho (American Studies), Michael Warner (English), Laura Wexler (American Studies; Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies)

Associate Professors Rene Almeling (Sociology), Crystal Feimster (African American Studies; American Studies), Joseph Fischel (Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies), Moira Fradinger (Comparative Literature), Zareena Grewal (American Studies; Religious Studies), Angel David Nieves (Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies)

Assistant Professors Marta Figlerowicz (Comparative Literature), Greta LaFleur (American Studies), Edi Pepi (Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies), Dixa Ramirez (American Studies)

Senior Lecturers Becky Conekin (MacMillan Center; History), Andrew Dowe (Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies), Igor De Sousa (English; Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies), Maria Trumpler (Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies)

Lecturers Melanie Boyd (Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies), Igor De Souza (Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies; English), Karen Foster (Near Eastern Languages & Civilizations), Graeme Reid (Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies), George Syrimis (Hellenic Studies)

FIELDS OF STUDY

The Program in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies considers gender and sexuality as fundamental categories of social and cultural analysis and offers critical perspectives upon them as a basis from which to study the diversity of human experience. Gender (the social and historical meanings of the distinction between the sexes) and sexuality (the domain of sexual practices, identities, discourses, and institutions) are studied as they intersect with class, race, ethnicity, nationality, and other axes of human difference. The introduction of these perspectives into all fields of knowledge necessitates new research, criticism of existing research, and the formulation of new paradigms and organizing concepts.

The Certificate (previously known as the Qualification) in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is open to students already enrolled in a Ph.D. program at Yale. Interested students are strongly encouraged to register for the certificate by meeting with the director of graduate studies (DGS) during their first year. Students who wish to receive the certificate must (1) complete a graduate course on the theory of gender and sexuality; (2) complete two electives, including one course that must be drawn from the WGSS curriculum; (3) complete one term of WGSS 900, WGSS Certificate Workshop; (4) demonstrate the capacity to pursue independent, interdisciplinary research in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies by presenting a qualifying paper at a meeting of the WGSS Colloquium; and (5) fulfill a teaching requirement. Each of these requirements must be met in consultation with the DGS and the individual WGSS graduate adviser. Students who fulfill these expectations will receive a letter from the DGS, indicating that they have completed the work for the certificate.

Program information and the requirements for the certificate are available on the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies website, or by contacting 203.432.0845 or wgss@yale.edu.

COURSES
WGSS 625b, Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, and Human Rights  Graeme Reid
Examination of historical, cultural, and political aspects of sexual orientation, gender identity, and human rights in the context of globalization.

WGSS 651b / ANTH 651b, Intersectionality and Women’s Health  Marcia Inhorn
This interdisciplinary seminar explores how the intersections of race, class, gender, and other axes of "difference" (age, sexual orientation, disability status, nation, religion) affect women’s health, primarily in the contemporary United States. Recent feminist approaches
to intersectionality and multiplicity of oppressions theory are introduced. In addition, the course demonstrates how anthropologists studying women’s health issues have contributed to social and feminist theory at the intersections of race, class, and gender.

**WGSS 667b / FREN 900b / HIST 667b, History of Sexuality in Modern Europe**  Carolyn Dean
An introduction to the various lines of inquiry informing the history of sexuality. The course asks how historians and others constitute sexuality as an object of inquiry and addresses different arguments about the evolution of sexuality in Europe, including the relationship between sexuality and the state and sexuality and gender.

**WGSS 730b / HIST 943b / HSHM 736b, Health Politics, Body Politics**  Naomi Rogers
A reading seminar on struggles to control, pathologize, and normalize human bodies, with a particular focus on science, medicine, and the state, both in North America and in a broader global health context. Topics include disease, race, and politics; repression and regulation of birth control; the politics of adoption; domestic and global population control; feminist health movements; and the pathologizing and identity politics of disabled people.

**WGSS 740b / CPLT 639b / ITAL 705b, Gender and Genre in Renaissance Love Poetry**  Ayesha Ramachandran
This course interrogates a persistent theme in the literature of the European Renaissance: the love for a much-desired, frequently unattainable beloved. How and why does love—erotic yearning, sexual passion, unfulfilled desire, religious devotion—become a key subject and metaphor from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century? Focusing on two main poetic genres of the Renaissance—the lyric and the epic-romance—we investigate questions of desire, love, and gendered subjectivity become a potent means for articulating psychological, social, political, philosophic, and spiritual concerns. Engaging with normative views of gender, erotic discourse, and romantic love from a long historical perspective, this course investigates the development of modern poetry and sexuality in conjunction with each other.

**WGSS 761b / AMST 761b, Race and Affect in the Americas**  Staff
The course explores how Latinx and Latin American/Caribbean populations have been historically imagined and racialized affectively—usually as being “hyper” emotional (but more recently as lacking any affect at all)—and the impact of this characterization on issues of power, inequality, and personhood, particularly under neoliberalism. The course examines the ways in which Latinx and Latin American populations have been produced affectively in medicine/mental health, corporate and media images, U.S. foreign policy, education, and urbanism. We analyze psychological and public health literature and consider a variety of pathological claims about Latinos’ physical and mental states and disorders; in particular, we consider concepts like “ataque de nervios” (Guarnaccia), fatalism; hysteria and the “Puerto Rican Syndrome”; and disordered eating (obesity, body image, diabetes). We explore how concepts from the sociology and anthropology of emotion (Illouz’s emotional capitalism, Berlant’s lateral agency, Stewart’s ordinary affects, Hochschild’s emotional labor/feeling rules) operate in the case of Latinx and Latin American populations, as well as alternative ways of understanding affect in terms of racialization theories. We draw from the works of feminist/queer/critical race theorists, including bell hooks, Gloria Anzaldúa, Cherrie Moraga, and others.

**WGSS 767a / PSYC 777a, Research Topics in Gender and Psychology**  Staff
The “Gender Lab” meets weekly to consider research being done in the Psychology department that bears on some gender-related issue.

**WGSS 815b / AMST 810b, American Public Sculpture: History, Context, and Continuing Significance**  Laura Wexler
Building on a new partnership between the Smithsonian Institution and Yale University, this course offers a broad-based and multidisciplinary exploration of public sculpture in the United States. Course work includes field trips and digital projects as well as readings in the scholarship of public memory, cultural heritage, conservation, and aesthetics.

**WGSS 850b / ENGL 982b, Sex and Citizenship**  Jill Richards
This course surveys political theories of gender/sexuality through attention to citizenship, the nation-state, rights discourses, civic society, migration, biopolitics, criminality, security, and social death. The course looks to establish a foundational understanding of the conjunctures between liberal governance and the regulation of reproductive, sexual, and family life. At the same time, our wider conceptual arc takes up more recent critical debates on the entanglements of sexual intimacy, race, and national belonging. Textual selections move across a variety of disciplines, including anthropology, sociology, history, literature, critical race theory, queer theory, indigenous studies, environmental studies, and law. Key authors include Hobbes, Locke, Marx, Engels, Habermas, Arendt, Foucault, Orlando Patterson, C.B. Macpherson, Wendy Brown, Ann Laura Stoler, Saidiya Hartman, Joan Wallach Scott, Cheryl Harris, Lauren Berlant, Michael Warner, Jasbir Puar, Elizabeth Povinelli, Paul Gilroy, Pheng Cheah, Inderpal Grewal, Frank Wilderson, Salamishah Tillet, Achille Mbembe, Adriana Petryna, Lisa Marie Cacho, Mark Rifkin, José Muñoz, Dean Spade, Lisa Lowe, Talal Asad.

**WGSS 900a or b, WGSS Certificate Workshop**  Joseph Fischel
Built around the WGSS graduate Colloquium and Working Group series, with the addition of several sessions on topics of interdisciplinary methodology, theory, and professionalization. Offered in both fall and spring. Enrollment in one term of WGSS 900 is required of all students for completion of the certificate in WGSS. Graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.