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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

By Prof. Bonnie McElhinny

In the book *Hope: New Philosophies of Change*, Mary Zournazi interviews Ghassan Hage. Hage argues that communities are not only imagined, but felt, and that feeling part of a community is "objective in the sense that you want to be part of a community only if you feel you are capable of achieving more by being part of it than you can on your own—and subjective in that you kind of 'take on' the greatness of so many more people when you are living in a community" (p. 162). In the community that is WGSJ, there are a number of outstanding achievements this year, achievements that are made possible by the challenging, complex, enriching and stimulating discussions and interactions we regularly have with one another. I am regularly proud, and honoured, to be in a unit with with such active, energetic, productive and innovative faculty, staff and students. Four faculty in WGSJ published books this year. One faculty member received a national teaching award. Three students received major national awards—one winning a Rhodes scholarship and two winning the national women's studies essay prize. One staff member received an outstanding service award. This year, thus, marks, and continues a record of which we can, collectively, be proud as we also recognize individual achievements.

We continued to mark the long year of our 40th anniversary with a series of innovative and well-attended events which linked scholars across the university, but also intellectuals and activists in a variety of community sites with the university. We honoured **Audre Lorde**, Elder **Josephine Mandamin** and **Kristyn Wong-Tam**. We welcomed **Selma James** and **Andrea Smith**. We were enthralled by storytellers, activists, musicians and artists who addressed our first year class to mark International Women's Day. Students in a third year course on Women and Revolution organized a day-long event, with the support of the Shahidian Fund. Students in a course on Dreams of Freedom installed artwork in the WGSJ lounge.

This fall, we are thrilled to announce the launch of our Ph.D. program, with the admission of five very talented students, and a day-long celebration in early September. We invite you to join us for further discussions on what philosophies of hope and change might look like, as we continue to build on and towards a half century of rigorous and innovative feminist scholarship and pedagogy at the University of Toronto.

TWO WGSJ UNDERGRADUATES WIN NATIONAL ESSAY PRIZE

Two winners of the National Women and Gender Studies Undergraduate Essay Prize are students enrolled in the Undergraduate Program in Women and Gender Studies.

First prize went to **Johanna Lewis**. The title of her paper is “Canadian Imperialism, Queer Diasporas, and Pinkwashing Jason Kenny,” a paper written in WGS434H: Black Diasporic Feminisms: Modernity, Freedom, Citizenship, a course taught by Prof. **Alissa Trotz**.

Johanna Lewis graduated with a double major in Women and Gender Studies and Global Health. She has been extensively involved in various activist initiatives on campus over the course of her studies here, including sitting on the board of OPIRG and organizing with the University of Toronto General Assembly. She is also a research coordinator with the Women and HIV Research Program, where she works on with a diverse team that seeks to advocate for the needs of women living with HIV through transformative, community-based research. She is invested in a range of academic and activist pursuits, from exploring anti-oppressive and anti-capitalist approaches to health, to critical and self-reflective historiography. In this paper and in her other work, she engages with a variety of disciplines to critically analyze public discourses and interrogate queer complicities in imperialist and nationalist projects. In her free time, Johanna likes to bike around the city, make jewelry, learn ASL, think about radical family making, read science fiction novels, and spend time with her amazing community, friends, and cats.

Co-winner of the second prize is **Tyler Carson**. The title of his paper is “He’s Got a Rainbow Gun’: Homonationalism and the Israel-Palestine Conflict,” a paper written in WGS451H: Independent Study in Women and Gender Studies, taught by Prof. **Dina Georgis**. The paper will be published in the spring issue of *Interstitial: A Journal of Modern Culture and Events* and was recently presented at the 2013 International Gender Congress in Istanbul, Turkey. Tyler is entering his fourth year of study as a Specialist in Women and Gender Studies and will be serving as Co-President of the Women and Gender Studies Student Union in 2013-14.

Tyler will be writing his undergraduate thesis on the politics of 2014 World Pride. Interested in the areas of queer theory, psychoanalysis and postcolonial feminist studies, Tyler in his research grapples with the complex intersections and assemblages of race, nationalism and sexuality. This summer Tyler has been granted a University of Toronto Excellence Award in the Social Sciences and Humanities (UTEA-SSH) to work under the supervision of Dr. Heather Sykes at OISE on her SSHRC-funded project. He will be working on a chapter that examines how anti-globalization activists use the concept of “pinkwashing” to expose how contemporary mega sporting events in Palestine/Israel are structured within and by the logics of settler colonialism and homonationalism.

Both students were invited to an awards ceremony at Congress, in Victoria, in June, and were honoured there. Congratulations to Johanna and Tyler!



Johanna Lewis



Tyler Carson

GEORDIE KENYON SINCLAIR, JACKMAN HUMANITIES INSTITUTE UNDERGRADUATE FELLOW, 2013-2014

Geordie Kenyon Sinclair, a student majoring in Women and Gender Studies, will be an undergraduate fellow at the University’s Jackman Humanities Institute (JHI) in 2013-14. Geordie will undertake a research project under the JHI’s 2013-14 theme of “Translation and the Multiplicity of Languages,” supervised by JHI faculty research fellow Prof. **Ruth Marshall** (Political Science/Religion). Every year, the JHI hosts a group of final-year undergraduates from departments across the university in the humanities, who conduct year-long independent research projects for credit in their home departments.

Geordie’s projected research, on “translatability” and gender, will bridge between gender analysis and a major in Russian language and literature, investigating how translation relates to the construction and gendering of literary canons. Over the last years, studying at the Women and Gender Studies Institute, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and elsewhere, Geordie has developed an interest in the political and social processes that form our understandings of the literary histories that are such a rich and rewarding part of our cultures. This research project will be an intervention into socio-literary questions, asking such questions as: whose writing gets translated? How is gender part of literary judgments around translation? How is gender being translated when a text or an author is translated?

All undergraduates in the humanities entering their final year are encouraged to apply for JHI Undergraduate Fellowships, which are advertised during the winter term and awarded in the spring. The theme for 2014-15 is “Humour, Play, and Games.”



UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS 2012–2013

Women and Gender Studies Grant (\$500)
Farhin Jahan
Major in the Undergraduate Program in Women and Gender Studies.

The Elsie Gregory MacGill Prize
Elizabeth Horton
Specialist in Women and Gender Studies. Awarded to most outstanding student graduating with a Specialist or Major degree in Women and Gender Studies.

The Helen Gregory MacGill Prize
Danielle Lum
Minor in Women and Gender Studies. Awarded to the student who achieves the highest standing in WGS160Y.

GRADUATE AWARD WINNERS 2012–2013

Kay Armatage Graduate Women and Gender Studies Entrance Prize (\$500) **Angela Lytle**
Ph.D. Collaborative Program in Women and Gender Studies.

Janka Seydegart Scholarship in Feminist Studies (\$500)
Angela Lytle
Ph.D. Collaborative Program in Women and Gender Studies.

City of Toronto Graduate Women’s Studies Scholarship (\$3000)
Grace Yoo M.A. in Women and Gender Studies, and
Yukyung Kim-Cho Ph.D. Collaborative Program in Women and Gender Studies.

Vida Heydarian Gender Justice Award (\$3,000)
Alyssa Teekah and **Caitlin Currie** M.A. in Women and Gender Studies.

Hammed Shahidian Graduate Award in Women and Gender Studies (\$10,000) **Sahin Acikgoz** and **Shaheen Lotun** M.A. in Women and Gender Studies.

WGSITA Award
Sahin Acikgoz and **Caitlin Gladney-Hatcher** M.A. in Women and Gender Studies.

WGSJ Student Joanne Cave, Rhodes Scholarship winner

by Ashifa Rajwani

Joanne Cave, from Alberta, who graduated this year from WGSJ, has been named a Prairie Rhodes Scholar for 2013. The prestigious and highly competitive scholarship, awarded to eleven Canadians a year, is one of the world's most celebrated academic honours. It comes with a stipend and tuition expenses to pursue a degree at the University of Oxford.

Cave has been involved with public service since childhood. At the age of twelve, Cave founded and led Ophelia's Voice, a non-profit organization that serves to engage and empower girls and young women as leaders in their communities. With her amazing energy, Joanne has also recently co-founded a network of young non-profit professionals called Connect the Sector. In 2009, Cave won a prestigious Loran scholarship, which is awarded to incoming university students with outstanding leadership potential from the Canadian Merit Scholarship Foundation. Joanne was also the youth recipient of the Governor-General Persons Award. At U of T, she is a peer mentor with the Office of Student Life's First in the Family Program and is also co-president of the Women and Gender Studies Student Union (WGSSU). Congratulations Joanne!



Marian Reed, Dean's Administrative Service Award winner

by Prof. Bonnie McElhinny, Director

WGSJ is delighted to announce that **Marian Reed** won the Dean's Administrative Service Award this year. Marian has worked for WGSJ as the Undergraduate and Graduate Administrator since 2002. She has worked for the University of Toronto since 1990, in the departments of Political Science, South Asian Studies, and Geology. WGSJ has experienced tremendous growth since Marian's arrival, becoming a free-standing department, and adding an M.A. and Ph.D. program. Marian's award recognizes the crucial role she played in supporting and facilitating this expansion, and in doing so with creativity, energy, innovation, patience, and good humour. For instance, in order to support the new M.A. and Ph.D. programs, Marian developed all the supports for a new graduate program from scratch. With various graduate coordinators, she developed posters and promotional materials, a graduate handbook, an admissions system, a system for tracking funding, orientation sessions, took sessions on how to counsel students on such resources as housing, career support, mental health and accessibility, supports for international students, and more. She helped support the transition of our undergraduate program from being a New College program to being a free-standing one, and helps administer the largest Graduate Collaborative Program on campus. She also completed a degree in English literature in this same period, and has become an accomplished jazz vocalist. It's always complex to work in a unit which is changing so rapidly. There are many moments of celebration—Ms. Reed is always on hand to exuberantly and joyfully celebrate those. She knows the best places to order cake. There are also moments of exhaustion, and frustration, when we hit snags, or find ourselves up against another deadline, with too little time to meet it. At those moments, Ms. Reed is often funny, patient, generous, and thoughtful about how to move things forward. She has been indispensable to the growth of the Institute, to the well-being of the Institute, and to the reputation of the Institute.



Alissa Trotz wins President's Teaching Award

Originally posted by Office of the Vice-Dean and Provost, University of Toronto



Prof. **Alissa Trotz** was honoured in May 2013 with the University-wide President's Teaching Award, which recognizes sustained excellence in teaching, research in teaching, and the integration of teaching and research. She is an Associate Professor who has taught in the Department of Sociology and Equity Studies at OISE and is currently cross-appointed to Women and Gender Studies (WGSJ) and the Caribbean Studies Program at New College. Following a year of law school in the Caribbean, she completed her B.A. (Hons.) at York University, and her M.Phil. and Ph.D. at Trinity College, University of Cambridge. A Research Fellow at the Centre of Latin American Studies at Cambridge and a Queen's National Scholar in Women's (now Gender) Studies at Queen's University, she joined the University of Toronto in 2000.

Described by her students as an inspiring and dedicated teacher who excels at both the large lecture format and the small seminar, Alissa has received the Faculty of Arts and Science Outstanding Teaching Award (2010), the Award for distinguished contributions to graduate teaching at OISE (2007) and the SAC-APUS Undergraduate Teaching Award (2007). She has devoted much of her time to improving the classroom experience through curricular innovation. She played a key role in WGSJ conversations about how we might better equip our students with the critical capacities to comprehend the uneven transnational processes that shape and give meaning to our lives. These discussions have profoundly shaped the M.A. (2007) and now the Ph.D. programs (beginning Fall 2013), both of which distinguish WGSJ as offering "a particular focus on feminist colonial, post-colonial, diasporic and transnational studies."

Beyond the classroom, Alissa has recently created a writing workshop with the support of the New College Writing Centre, the Ivey Library and faculty members, for students enrolled in African and Caribbean Studies. She led an initiative to create a graduate network for students working on Caribbean-related topics across the GTA, and proposed the creation of a Senior Doctoral Fellows Program to integrate graduate research into college life, now highly successful and in its second year at New College.

Alissa was on a research trip to Guyana when she heard about receiving this prestigious award. Upon hearing the news Alissa noted that being in Guyana was probably the best and most appropriate place to receive such news. She would like to thank all of her students and colleagues who have provided support and inspiration over the years.

June Larkin wins national teaching award



Originally posted by the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education

Prof. **June Larkin** clearly has a transformative impact on her students to elicit comments such as "This course is life changing" and "All of my previous values and morals are being questioned and I love it." Now, the Society for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education is recognizing her exceptional teaching and educational leadership with a 3M National Fellowship.

The senior lecturer in Women and Gender Studies and Equity Studies is credited with an innovative approach to curriculum that includes community-based, collaborative, socially engaged research and teaching.

"One of June Larkin's many strengths is her ability to connect students to real-life experiences through meaningful social engagement in the local communities of Toronto and internationally in Namibia and Belize," said Prof. **Meric Gertler**, Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Science. "These experiences empower her students to apply, assess, and revise their knowledge about social justice."

Larkin's achievements are the direct result of a teaching philosophy that emphasizes the social relevance of academic knowledge and encourages students to take an active role in their education. "This means asking questions, proposing alternatives and considering diverse perspectives from an informed position," said Larkin. "My goal is to produce engaged global citizens equipped with the skills to apply their academic knowledge to real-life situations for social justice ends. This means defining education in the broadest sense, creating a learning environment that extends far beyond the university walls."

All of Larkin's courses include a community-learning component. Students have participated in teach-ins on globalization, anti-racist workshops and volunteered for community groups such as Project Share, International Women's Day events, the Daily Bread Food Bank and various school tutor programs – and she has played a leading role in creating institutional structures that support community-based learning. Larkin helped to establish the service-learning program at New College and the Equity Studies Program and co-created a new course on Foundations for Community Engagement to prepare students with the skills to do community-oriented research.

"Nelson Mandela said education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world," Larkin said. "I take my cue from Mandela. I want students to see the transformative power of their academic knowledge. In providing a learning environment that encourages community connections and global awareness I hope to equip them with the toolkit and the passion to affect social change through the process of meaningful civic engagement."

The award is the latest in a series of accolades for Larkin that includes membership in the President's Teaching Academy, the Ontario Confederation of University Faculty Associations Teaching Award and the undergraduate teaching award presented jointly by the Association of Part-time Students and the Students' Administrative Council. Maclean's magazine named her among the most popular professors at U of T for several consecutive years. June Larkin is also Vice-Principal at New College and director of Equity Studies.

AUDRE LORDE

by Prof. M. Jacqui Alexander

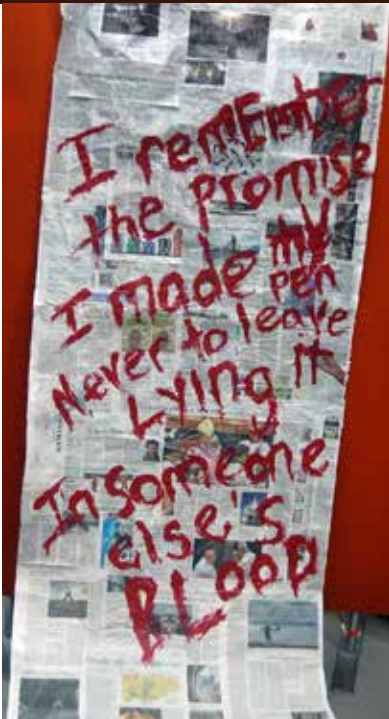
One of the events marking four decades of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto was **The Contemporary Urgencies of Audre Lorde’s Legacy**. Jointly offered by a unique collaboration among York University’s Community Arts Practice Program, the Women and Gender Studies Institute and Caribbean Studies at U of T, it began on the eve of International Women’s Day and ran throughout March 2013 having wended its way from the halls of the Program in Environmental Studies at York, the lounge of WGSJ and the William Doo Auditorium through the streets of Chinatown, culminating at the Whippersnapper Gallery.

Intended to commemorate the 20th anniversary of **Audre Lorde’s** passing, the series was a tangible re-membling of her life in a variety of languages and genres. It was a way of putting Lorde’s expansive vision for social justice without borders back into public memory through radical dialogues about contemporary cultural, political and environmental challenges within diverse communities, social and spatial locations. We wanted to mark the continued interplay of race, gender, and class within the institutional and ideological structures that shape our daily lives since these were the same axes of power that inhabit Lorde’s work and animated the civil rights, anti-war, feminist and LGBTQI struggles, of which she was a part. For us, the urgencies of Lorde’s poetics are even more compelling as we continue to think through an ethics and politics of connection and solidarity and to kindle a transnational moral imagination for the 21st century.

Litanies for our Survival: Visual and Performative Conversations with Audre Lorde served as the inaugural event at York as well as the opening of the Community Arts Practice gallery on March 7. Buoyed by a semester long art projects guided and curated by Profs. **Honor Ford Smith** (director) and **Heather Hermant**, with the assistance of Camille Turner, students transformed the halls and passageways of their classrooms into a magically capacious space filled with song, moving digital images and stationary portrayals, all inspired by Lorde’s poetry, prose and orature. The excitement and focus was palpable. **M. Jacqui Alexander** delivered the keynote lecture: *Medicines for Survival: Indigenous Knowledge and the Sacred*. A jazz quartet and dancing closed out the evening’s program, but only for that moment. Audre loved to dance.



I made a promise to my pen procession



I made a promise to my pen (Backward and Forward)

(Amsterdam); **Carol Allain**, manager of Drop In services for disenfranchised women at Sistering, Toronto; **Farrah Khan**, coordinator, Outburst! Young Muslim Women Safety Program, Toronto; and **Susan Blight**, Anishinaabe from Couchiching First Nation, visual artist, and co-coordinator, Idle No More.

The packed audience soaked in the immense generosity of the panelists; their staunch commitment to social justice; and their desire to be in conversation. Word continued to pour in days later about how people were moved by the evening, mostly because Black Europe doesn’t usually figure in discussions about the diaspora, but also because linking the urgencies of First Nations/Aboriginal, Muslim and Black communities in Toronto with those of Afro descendant communities in Germany and the Netherlands in the panel conversation was such a stunning example of Audre’s vision in motion.

After returning from a panel with Schultz and Kraft at the film’s screening at the Rainbow Reels Queer Film Festival in Waterloo, Wekker delivered a guest lecture to the WGSJ graduate course taught by Jacqui Alexander on transnational feminist methodologies and epistemologies. Wekker was also a feature speaker at the York University- hosted symposium, **What’s (Homo)Sexuality got to do with it?** Her lecture outlined some worrisome and contradictory developments in the contemporary Netherlands where white gay men voted overwhelmingly for the Islamophobic and nationalistic political party, PVV (Party for Freedom), in the midst of what amounts to a national white gay sexual attraction to Muslim men. Wekker deployed an intersectional analysis to foreground those contradictions and highlight the analytic and political perils of using sexual solidarity alone as a point of understanding the vagaries of power. The symposium was chaired by York University’s Enakshi Dua, Director of the Centre for Feminist Research; Anna Agathangelou, faculty in York’s Department of Political Science, and Jin Haritaworn, faculty in York’s Environmental Studies, served as respondents.

On Friday, March 15 as the series continued, WGSJ hosted the Toronto premiere of *Audre Lorde – The Berlin Years 1984-1992*, one of four films that colleagues from Germany curated for a travelling cultural festival celebrating Lorde’s life and legacy. Produced and directed by Dagmar Schultz, the film focuses on Audre’s catalytic role in the Afro-German feminist movement.

The post screening panel took up the questions of the contemporary urgencies of Lorde’s legacy by featuring a panel with **Dagmar Schultz**, archivist and **Marion Kraft**, Black scholar author, both of Berlin; **Gloria Wekker**, co-founder of Sister Outsider



U of T screening of Berlin Years. Photo by Ronique Williams

Backforward collective, founded by **Diane Roberts**, **Heather Hermant** and **Danielle Smith**, organized the culminating event on March 22nd—*After the 9-5 in Audre’s Livingroom*. The Whippersnapper Gallery on Dundas Street West was set up as a living room with an interactive installation, tea, and Toronto’s first ever Chinese Lesbian Haircuts Pop-Up Hair Salon by Melina Young and Alvis Parsley. Alvis @ Fantasy is Reality Unlimited extended the poetry marathon with a four-part *Falling in Love with Audre Lorde* walking tour, trekking through the neighbourhoods of Chinatown, Kensington Market and Alexandra Park, interweaving Lorde’s poetry with personal narratives.

The artist collective **unpack studio** generously gave over their newly renovated space at Willison Square for this closing chill-out dance-out poetry-marathon event, featuring DJ Nik Red, poet host Akhaji Zakiya of Write On!, and a screening of multimedia artist Natalie Wood’s video short *The Line Is Drawn*.

By the time the equinox had arrived and the energies of the equal vibrations of day and night were felt, close to 800 people had gathered, many of them youth, animated by the vision of a just world. They had mingled, eaten and sipped tea together; crafted poems and read them; fashioned art projects and installed them; directed and produced films and screened them; written lectures and delivered them; set up altars and petitioned at them; walked neighbourhoods, crossed fictive divisions between political art and public intellectual work. Volunteers, poets, artists, colleagues and friends contributed to these events plus twenty-one fiscal sponsors and supporters across both institutions. It took all of this and more. Seizing a moment. Making community.



Without community there is certainly no liberation, no future, only the most vulnerable and temporary armistice between me and my oppression...

Audre Lorde, *Cancer Journals*

SEXY BINGO AND CONDOM CUPCAKES

by Cassandra Dang Nguyen



Gendering Adolescent AIDS Prevention (GAAP), a team of researchers led by Prof. June Larkin, partnered last November with Empower, Central Toronto Community Health Centre, and the Sexual Education Centre University of Toronto (SEC) to set up a fun and informative event for World AIDS Day.

The night started off with guests from the University of Toronto and the community enjoying a hearty meal from Fabarnak, a restaurant located at 519 Church Street Community Centre. While the guests dined, they partook in a game of Sexy Bingo: “What are your top three strategies for talking about harm reduction?” “What colour is your underwear?” These were some of the questions on the bingo

sheet—questions meant to help participants break the ice while easing them into an atmosphere that was both informative and sex positive. After the game was finished, bingo winners received gift certificates to Come As You Are.

Once dinner was finished, Empower Youth Mentors **Lydia Hernandez** and **Greg Khaymov** began their HIV/AIDS workshop. After another fun icebreaker, One Truth and One Lie, the Empower Youth Mentors began the first part of their workshop. In this phase, Lydia and Greg spoke about the differences between HIV and AIDS, the five fluids, routes of entry, the transmission equation, and ended this phase by enlisting participants to help with a fun game of safer sex-y Pictionary.

The second phase of the workshop included a discussion of harm reduction. Here, the Empower Youth Mentors did sexy condom demos, the female condom and male condom, and sexy dental dam demos. During this time, Lydia and Greg also took on the role of mythbusters as they unravelled the many falsehoods surrounding HIV/AIDS. Next, they spoke about the politics of testing and confidentiality, how testing works, and offered info sheets that listed clinics in Toronto that offer HIV testing. To finish this phase, Lydia and Greg started a discussion about disclosure and personal choice and the social determinants of health and HIV/AIDS.

The third phase of the workshop had participants leaping out



of their chair as they happily decorated the delicious cupcakes, with sexy decorations of course, that Lydia baked. After the participants got their taste of sweetness, they settled down as Dylan from SEC spoke about the resources that are available to youth at U of T. After participants engaged in an open discussion about sex and HIV/AIDS, everyone went home with a grab bag filled with an assortment of condoms, lube, and dental dams.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

by Prof. June Larkin

The International Women's Day celebration, **Gender, Activism and the Arts**, was an evening with musicians, spoken word artists, digital storytellers and film makers who promote social change through creative works and performance. This public event filled the Medical Sciences Auditorium with an audience that included students from the introductory course in Women and Gender Studies and members of the University and Toronto communities.

The evening began with a series of digital stories. WGS alum **Sarah Switzer**, a community arts educator and health worker in Toronto, opened the event by introducing EMPOWER youth, **Tumaini Lyaruu** and **Mimi Duong**. EMPOWER is an arts-based HIV prevention peer education project for youth. Tumaini and Mimi shared their digital stories on identity and body image which they connected to their own journey to becoming EMPOWER HIV peer educators. Renee Monchalin, a Public Health student at Brock University, showed the digital story she created as a participant in the *Taking Action! 2 Project: Art and Aboriginal Youth Leadership for HIV Prevention* project. Her story describes the loss of traditional knowledge through colonization and how she is reclaiming her cultural identity and promoting awareness of HIV prevention in the Native community.

A group of talented spoken word artists performed pieces that addressed themes of racism, gender violence and survival. **Trevlyn Kennedy**, a student in the introductory WGS course, is a poet that brings to life the trials and triumphs of growing up in the inner city of Toronto. Her spoken word piece 'Worked' was a tribute to the strong women in her life. **Kayla Carter**, also a WGS student, believes that academia and art both inform and depend on one another. In a powerful rendition of Sojourner Truth's



Raging Asian Women Taiko drummers

'Ain't I a woman' Kayla brought to life the famous speech delivered at the Women's Convention in Akron, Ohio, in 1851. Award winning poet **Lishai Peel**, who mentors young artists in the youth poetry scene, performed "Stones", a courageous poem that explores violence and the power of breaking the cycle of silence through the medium of storytelling and spoken word.

Karine Silverwoman, artist, counselor and community activist, showed her award-winning video, *Hello, My Name is Herman*, which has screened internationally. The touching document-

tary explores intergenerational and interracial relationships, coming out, aging and the process of accepting difference and love by describing the relationship between Karine and her 91-year-old grandfather.

The event grand finale was a fiery and passionate performance by the **The Raging Asian Women Taiko Drummers (RAW)**, a community collective of East and Southeast Asian Women in Toronto that uses drumming as a critical response and challenge to both systemic and internalized oppressions. RAW traces its lineage through the North American taiko movement's history that is linked to the Asian American Movement of the 1960s and 1970s when Asian Americans and Canadians mobilized en masse around issues of racial equality, social justice, and political empowerment.

In displaying a wide terrain of artistic activism, the performances showed the power and the possibilities of using creativity as a tool for social change. Thanks to the Women and Gender Studies Student Union, students, and Profs. **June Larkin** and **Alissa Trotz**, instructors for WGS160Y: Introduction to Women and Gender Studies, for organizing the event.

Celebrating the City of Toronto Women's Studies Scholarship

by Prof. June Larkin

To mark the 25th anniversary of the City of Toronto Women's Studies Scholarship, WGSI organized a wonderful evening of exploring **Social Justice and the City**. The evening featured a conversation with **Kristyn Wong-Tam**, Toronto's only out queer City Councillor. Councillor Wong-Tam shared her insightful reflections about gender, sexuality, and social justice in city politics with an enthusiastic audience that included previous scholarship winners. The event also honoured the labour of **Ceta Ramkhalawansingh**, who not only was one of the founding instructors of Women's Studies at the University of Toronto in the 1970s, but was also instrumental in setting up the scholarship and a longtime champion of equity as Manager of Diversity Management and Community Engagement at Toronto City Hall. The City of Toronto Women's Studies Scholarship encourages gender analyses of community studies and public policy, including studies in the areas of transportation, housing, urban planning, employment, public works and municipal services. The evening energized students and faculty at WGSI to do more to connect feminist, anti-racist and queer scholarship and teaching with the politics of city governance.

CKA event - Violence No More: Decolonizing ways to end violence against Indigenous women

by Audrey Huntley

Stoh:lo elder Lee Maracle describes **Andrea Smith** as "one of the most exciting people on the planet" for her groundbreaking analysis of, and work around, violence against Indigenous women and women of colour in the U.S. No More Silence (NMS) wholeheartedly agrees and was thrilled to have the opportunity on April 29th to bring Andrea together with other powerful voices in the struggle to end violence against Indigenous women for the event **Violence No More** – an evening of public discussion on decolonizing ways forward.

Andrea inspires and informs the work of NMS members who share her understanding of the nature of violence against Indigenous women as intrinsic to colonization and genocide. As Andrea put it succinctly in her talk, "Organizing against violence in this way is subversive to this system because it shows how the logic of domination is replicated and how colonial processes are structured by sexual violence." Nowhere is the goal to render "Native bodies rapable, the land takeable and resources extractable" more evident than in those areas most affected by the Canadian resource extraction industry such as the tar sands where the levels of violence against Indigenous women are sky rocketing.

NMS and the community partners with whom we organize are interested in shaping a different kind of politic – a politic based in healthy and loving relationships and governance structures that break out of the colonial framework to empower grassroots activists working towards protecting our women and the land that sustains us.

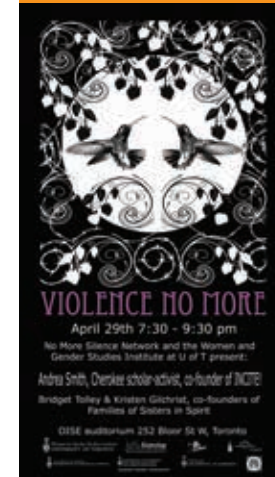
Along with Andrea Smith (via Skype), Families of Sisters in Spirit (FSIS) co-founders **Bridget Tolley** and **Kristen Gilchrist** spoke about their work to support the loved ones of missing and murdered Indigenous women. Bridget has spent the last twelve years fighting for justice for her mother who was killed by Quebec police. As a group of Indigenous women and

CKA Event: Water Journey

by Prof. Bonnie McElhinny

On March 22nd, WGSI and Aboriginal Studies/Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives jointly sponsored the screening of the film *Water Journey*, directed by Jeff Bear and Marianne Jones. The film follows Grandmother Josephine Mandamin who has spent the last 10 years on a remarkable journey on foot to raise awareness of the importance, fragility and sacredness of water, including walking around all of the Great Lakes down to the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. For the last decade, an annual walk led by Anishinabe grandmothers has been organized around the Great Lakes area and beyond to raise recognition of the importance and sacredness of water to all life.

The screening was preceded by a meal and followed by a panel discussion, facilitated by **Jill Carter**, an Anishinabe playwright, actor, writer and teacher. The panel included three water walkers. The first was **Grandmother Josephine Mandamin**, who initiated the Mother Earth Water Walk with her sister Melvina Flamand to pray for water's health and promote awareness that water needs protection, an awareness that she noted is more than just environmental, but also and primarily spiritual and cultural. The second panelist was **Dawnis Kennedy**, an Anishinabe woman from Roseau River Anishinabe First Nation who grew up in Brandon, Manitoba and who studies law and Anishinabe inendamowin (philosophy). The third was **Sylvia Plain**, who, in 2011, participated in the Mother Earth Water Walk as the lead walker of the western direction, covering Washington, Idaho, Montana, Ontario, Michigan and Wisconsin. Sylvia is also involved with the Native Students' Association at U of T and enjoys working with youth on leadership initiatives. Miigwetch to Profs. **Deborah McGregor** and **Michelle Murphy** for the work they did in coordinating this event!



settlers working (as grassroots volunteers) in alliance, FSIS has taken on the phenomenal task of replacing the support once delivered through the now-defunded National Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) Sisters in Spirit program. They were joined by Colleen Cardinal who has lost two sisters and is now making a film about the sixties scoop and the impact of colonial violence on her family's life. Victoria-based writer **Sarah Hunt** spoke about her role, as outlined in West Coast potlatch ceremonies, as a witness to the violence with a responsibility to speak out. Sarah advances a decolonizing approach in her chapter in the newly released book *Selling Sex* in which she explores

Aboriginal people's involvement in sex work. Acknowledgement of the risk faced by sex trade workers due to stigma and the law has too often been absent from this organizing and the time to centre these important voices is now. **Lisa Yellow Quill**, a member of the Vancouver Downtown Eastside Memorial March Organizing Committee, was also present and able to share the experience of a community that held its 22nd memorial march last February 14th.

The evening public event was preceded by a workshop co-organized by NMS and our community partners at the Native Youth Sexual Health Network, where Indigenous community members and allies strategized about next steps.

Both events were co-sponsored by the Women and Gender Studies Institute (Community Knowledge Alliance Fund) with the generous support of others in the university community, namely, New College, CUPE 3907, CUPE 3902, the OISE Graduate Student Association (GSA), the Graduate Geography and Planning Student Society (GGAPSS), Canadian Studies and the Departments of Political Science and Anthropology, as well as the community group Sistering and the Native Youth Sexual Health Network.

Launching our Ph.D.

by Prof. Michelle Murphy

Please join us on **September 13th**, when we will be celebrating our new Ph.D. program with the first cohort of five fabulous incoming students. We will be honouring this moment with two public lectures on the theme of the Politics of Hope. What might a politics of hope that can recognize the realities and complexities of injustice look like? Our speakers will be the rousing **José E Muñoz**, author of *Cruising Utopia: The Politics and Performance of Queer Futurity* and *Disidentifications: Queers of Color and the Performance of Politics*, and the inspiring **Andrea Smith**, author of *Conquest: Sexual Violence And American Indian Genocide* and co-founder of INCITE! Women of Color Against Violence and founder of the Boarding School Healing Project. It should be an afternoon to spur us to continue the collective work of imagining and struggling for better worlds.

The talks will be followed by a late afternoon reception for faculty, students and friends, and an evening dance party. The party is organized by one of our talented M.A. alumni, **Hiba Alhomoud**, who runs CUE POC queer people of colour and friends parties here in Toronto. In addition to kicking up our heels, we'll be fundraising for our PhD Student Fund. Stay tuned for details!



Back row (left to right): Prof. Alissa Trotz, Prof. Jesook Song, Meghan Sbrocchi, Prof. M. Jacqui Alexander, Ashifa Rajwani, Prof. Dina Georgis, Prof. Sarah Trimble, Marian Reed. Front row (left to right): Prof. Bonnie McElhinny, Prof. Kathryn Morgan, Prof. Judith Taylor, Prof. June Larkin

Lisa Yoneyama



Prof. **Lisa Yoneyama** joined the Faculty of Arts and Science in July 2011. She is jointly appointed to the Women and Gender Studies Institute and the Department of East Asian Studies.

Prior to joining the University of Toronto, she taught courses in cultural studies, critical gender studies, U.S., Japan, Asian and Asian American studies at University of California, San Diego (1992-2011), where she also served as Director for the Program for Japanese Studies (2008-09) and as Director for the Critical Gender Studies Program (2009-11). Yoneyama received her Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology at Stanford University, California (1993). Her research concern has centered on the philosophy of history especially in relation to the studies of memory concerning war and colonialism, issues related to gender and militarism, and the cultural dimensions of transnationalism, neo-colonialism, the nuclear age, the cold war and post-cold war U.S. relations with Asia. Yoneyama was born in the United States and received most of her primary and secondary education in Kyoto, Japan.

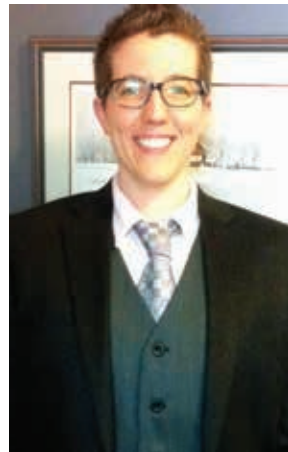
Yoneyama's first book, *Hiroshima Traces: Time, Space and the Dialectics of Memory* (University of California, 1999), examined the politics of remembering and forgetting the Japanese history of colonialism, the Asia-Pacific War and the atomic destruction of Hiroshima. Through the exploration of city space, nuclear ruins, survivors' testimonials, and ethnic, colonial and gendered narratives around various memorial icons, including the Korean victims' memorial and the monument dedicated to mothers and children, the book identifies ethno/nationalization, feminization, globalization and other cultural forces that come into play in the struggles over Hiroshima memories. *Hiroshima Traces* was translated and published in Japanese as *Hiroshima kioku no poritikusu*, Ozawa Hiroaki, et. Al., trans. (Iwanami Shoten, 2005).

Her second single-authored book, *Violence, War, Redress: The Politics of Multiculturalism* (*Bōryoku sensō, ridoresu: tabunkashugi no poritikusu*) was published in Japanese with Iwanami Shoten, 2003. It includes a number of essays on multiculturalism, feminism, cultural studies, neo-nationalism and the conflicts over historical memories in the global culture wars in the United States and Japan. She is also the co-editor of *Perilous Memories: Politics of Remembering the Asia-Pacific War(s)* (Duke University Press, 2001).

Yoneyama is currently completing her third single-authored book, tentatively titled *Cold War Ruins: Feminism, Colonialism, and the Americanization of Justice*, in which she critically explores the trans-pacific Cold War management of knowledge and post-World War II transitional justice but especially in relation to transnational feminism, anti-colonialism, and the Asian/American critique.

Her research has been supported by a number of fellowships and grants over the years: a SSHRC-McArthur Fellowship in International Peace and Security, an East-West Center Postdoctoral Fellowship in Program for Cultural Studies, a SSRC-Japan Society for the Promotion of Science Postdoctoral Fellowship, the University of California, San Diego, Academic Senate Grant, and the University of California Humanities Research Institute Resident Fellowship, etc.

Sarah Trimble



Since joining WGSJ in July of 2012, I've had the pleasure of talking with brilliant, engaged students about everything from Britney Spears to the zombie apocalypse. The students here have been generous, thoughtful, and excited about the questions that animate my research and teaching: What possible futures become fleetingly discernible in visions of apocalypse? Which histories of violence, exploitation, and resistance do such visions reanimate, and to what end? What can we tell about the current pop cultural landscape if we take those that it frames as "monsters" as our point of departure? What reading and viewing practices allow us to encounter pop cultural texts in all of their complexity? And why are we so obsessed with zombies, anyway?

My research is currently organized around two projects. The first is a book project provisionally entitled *Reading the Ruins: Contested Re-beginnings in Contemporary Visions of The End*. Through close examinations of films from *28 Days Later* (2002) to *Beasts of the Southern Wild* (2012), this book interrogates the gendered, racial, and generational politics of survivalist fantasies. I argue that these fantasies—which valorize fortifying territory, hoarding resources, annihilating threatening others, and securing reproductive labour—conduct a neoliberal pedagogy; they teach audiences to "read" ruined landscapes and precarious lives as risky but, if (re)mastered, potentially profitable sites of investment. Yet, these films can also be read against the grain for the ethical, affective, and political alternatives that they inadvertently expose. Though typically relegated to the background of apocalyptic visual culture, it is often women and children who figure the unrealized possibilities that haunt survivalist fantasies—possibilities that, I suggest, are embedded in the ruined landscapes that they negotiate.

The second project that I'm developing is a collection of essays entitled "The Work of Return," which I'm co-editing with Nadine Attewell, a colleague at McMaster University. The project gathers together scholars who theorize various kinds of returns—temporal, discursive, geopolitical, economic, corporeal—while also attending to the operations and implications of the methodologies that are required to read, or that are activated in reading, these returns. My own contribution to the collection, "There Goes the Neighbour-Hood: On feral children and alien invaders," considers the narrative function and political utility of the trope of the "feral child" through a reading of the 2011 British horror film *Attack the Block*. Playing on slippages between its alienated youth and the furry, gorilla-style invaders that one character describes as "blacker than black," the film dramatizes the process of metaphorical substitution itself, staging its "aliens=hoodies" metaphor as untidy, still unfolding, and ultimately contested. It thus conjures a genealogy of postwar representations of racialized youth violence and ruined inner-city landscapes—one that currently finds expression in the emerging British sub-genre of "hoodie horror"—even as it makes available more complex counter-readings of how embodied subjects can re-turn the tropes that work on and through them.

I feel privileged to be developing these projects in the context of the creative, generous, and rigorous intellectual atmosphere at WGSJ.

The Better Story by Dina Georgis



The Better Story tries to think about how surviving trauma is deeply connected to the narratives and stories we tell about ourselves, our experiences, and our individual and collective histories. Thinking

about our subjectivities and histories through the lens of story helps explain how the meanings we make and live by are not just social constructions but acts of the imagination and creation. This is because all human events are experienced emotionally, not just intellectually, and get enacted or worked out in affective processes that bring language to, sometimes, hard to digest events. Stories embody all kinds of interesting truths about how we've survived painful experiences. I don't romanticize the stories that come to shape how we see or live in the world; rather, story is simply what we humans do. In other words, every story is the better story, which is to say it's the best possible story we have come up with to make sense of the events that have change us. So for me,

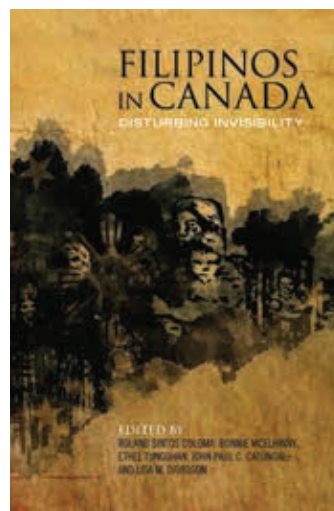
this view always begs the question: is there a better than the better story?

My hope is that "the better story" as a method of inquiry offers an emotional lens to think about postcolonial history and subjectivity. I turn to aesthetic texts about or from the Middle East that tell stories grappling with the painful complexities of our postcolonial present in the age of terror. Some of the aesthetic texts I've chosen represent postcolonial masculinities; others represent queer bodies. Stories, as I see it, link us to the queer forgotten spaces of these subjectivities and the collective strategies and histories they produce. In my book, the definition of queer references sexual affect, not social sexual identity. Queer affects, I argue, are our desires in excess of what we think we

want and think we care about, or in excess of what's socially sanctioned. When they appear, they threaten the normative or stable ties to each other and the collective logic. In this way, they threaten how we understand our social identities. The central argument of the book is that queer affects have transformative potential because they wake us up from the banality of our ideological beliefs and political values. Because queer affects undo us in ways that makes us more aware of our dependencies on the other, they create space for new meanings, new relationalities, and sometimes new political futures.

The Better Story: Queer Affects from the Middle East was published by SUNY Press in 2013. Dina Georgis is an Associate Professor at WGSJ.

Filipinos in Canada: Disturbing Invisibility



Editors: Roland Sintos Coloma, Bonnie McElhinny, Ethel Tungohan, John Paul C. Catungal, and Lisa M. Davidson

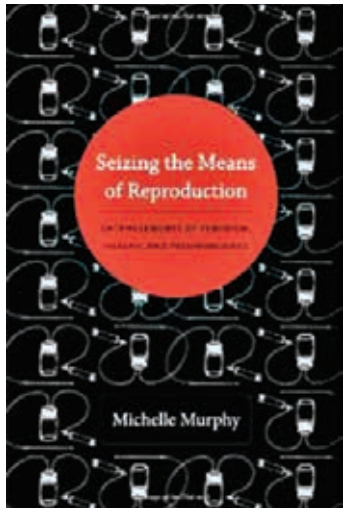
WGSJ congratulates the editors on the publication of *Filipinos in Canada: Disturbing Invisibility*.

Three of the editors are associated with WGSJ—**Bonnie McElhinny** is the director of WGSJ, and Associate Professor of Anthropology and Women and Gender Studies, **Roland Sintos Coloma** is an affiliate faculty member, and Associate Professor in the Department of Social Science, Humanities and Social Justice Education at OISE, and **Ethel Tungohan** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Graduate Collaborative Program, and in Political Science. **John Paul C. Catungal** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Geography, and Lisa M. Davidson is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Anthropology. The Philippines became Canada's largest source of short- and long-term migrants in 2010, surpassing China and India, both of which are more than ten times larger. Filipinos are also the fourth-largest racialized minority group in

Canada. Prevalent conversations in Canadian media, academic, and politicized public spheres tend to represent Filipina/os living in Canada within the tropes of victimized nanny, selfless nurse, and problematic gangster youth. These images render hypervisible in social and academic spaces certain problems facing Filipina/o communities, which are then calcified as Filipina/o stereotypes. Filipina/o communities are therefore put into the paradoxical position of being invisible and hypervisible: invisible because numerous kinds of people, problems, and achievements are ignored, and hypervisible because only the stereotypes are deemed relevant and significant for public circulation. In this landmark volume, the first wide-ranging edited collection of academic writings on Filipina/os in Canada, the contributors ask how

the contours of Canadian political, academic, and social institutions, both historical and contemporary, shape the politics of Filipina/o invisibility, visibility, and hypervisibility, how Filipina/o spectral figures haunt processes, representations, and agentive experiences of being and becoming Filipina/o Canadians, and how we can disrupt and intervene in the prevailing themes of the spectral figures that have come to define the lives of Filipina/os in Canada. The book has four sections (Difference and Recognition; Gender, Migration, and Labour; Representation and Its Discontents; and Youth Spaces and Subjectivities), with 14 chapters written by academics and activists. This volume also includes a selection of cultural works from community members and activists.

Seizing the Means of Reproduction by Michelle Murphy



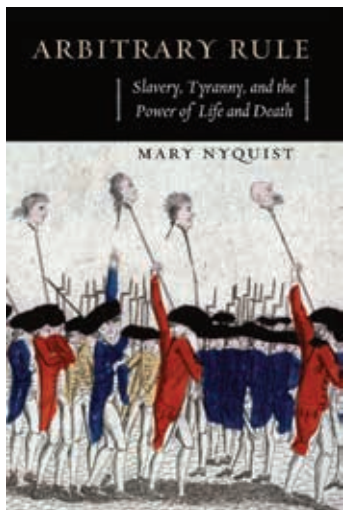
Prof. **Michelle Murphy's** book *Seizing the Means of Reproduction: Entanglements of Feminism, Health and Technoscience* was published this year by Duke University Press.

The book traces the uneasy and non-innocent relations between U.S. feminist health activists and Cold War/postcolonial expressions of transnational family planning, American imperialism, shifting economic logics, and new racial formations of the late twentieth century. Examining the rise of protocol feminism—a feminist mode invested in ethicizing the technical details of health and development practice—the book examines how feminisms were critically diagnostic of dominant biomedicine and inventive of new ways of practicing and conceiving of reproductive health, while at the same time feminisms were uncomfortably symptomatic of an emerging neoliberal politics of health and neo-colonial family planning that emerged in the late twentieth century. The heart of the

project follows low-tech practices as they moved through time and space, and in and out of feminist projects, with itineraries within the US and also to Barbados, Bangladesh, and Canada. In doing so, the book considers feminist health projects as a kind of biopolitics amidst a tangle of other biopolitical projects. Instead of emphasizing recent cutting-edge transformations of reproduction through genomics or molecular biology, the book argues that simple, cheap, mass produced, and transnationally distributed technologies, such as Pap smears, manual suction abortion, and oral contraception, were crucial to the emergence of new kinds of feminist-imbriated biopolitics ranging from transnational feminist NGOs to globalized feminist family planning projects. By following the divergent

itineraries of feminist health techniques, the book traces the contours of a late-twentieth biopolitical topology— an uneven, layered, and geographically extensive collection of modes for governing and differentially valuing living-being – in which feminism was uneasily entangled. Thus, the book aspires to revise the ways we historicize the women's health movement in a way accountable to our contemporary moment in which gender is embraced by the World Bank and South African Diamond Mine executives collaborate with prominent American feminist health NGOs. And yet, the book also recognizes the vital interventions into technoscience crafted by feminist projects of the late twentieth century.

Mary Nyquist launches *Arbitrary Rule*



In May, 2013, the Bob Miller Bookroom hosted a party launching Prof. **Mary Nyquist's** new book, *Arbitrary Rule: Slavery, Tyranny and the Power of Life and Death* (University of Chicago Press).

Arbitrary Rule is an interdisciplinary study that engages issues important to WGSU's focus on transnationalism and its interest in the legacies of Euro-colonialism. The following is a brief summary.

Slavery appears as a figurative construct during the English revolution of the mid-seventeenth century, and again in the American and French revolutions, when radicals represent their treatment as a form of political slavery. What, if anything, does figurative, political slavery have to do with transatlantic slavery? In *Arbitrary Rule*, Mary Nyquist explores connections between political and chattel slavery by excavating the tradition of Western political thought that justifies actively opposing tyranny. She argues that as powerful rhetorical and conceptual constructs, Greco-Roman political liberty and slavery

reemerge at the time of early modern Eurocolonial expansion; they help to create racialized “free” national identities and their “unfree” counterparts in non-European nations represented as inhabiting an earlier, privative age.

Arbitrary Rule is the first book to tackle political slavery's discursive complexity, engaging Eurocolonialism, political philosophy, and literary studies, areas of study too often kept apart. Nyquist proceeds through analyses not only of texts that are canonical in political thought—by Aristotle, Cicero, Hobbes, and Locke—but also of literary works by Euripides, Buchanan, Vondel, Montaigne, and Milton, together with a variety of colonialist and political writings, with special emphasis on tracts written during the English revolution. She illustrates how “antityr-

anny discourse,” which originated in democratic Athens, was adopted by republican Rome, and revived in early modern Western Europe, provided members of a “free” community with a means of protesting a threatened reduction of privileges or of consolidating a collective, political identity. Its semantic complexity, however, also enabled it to legitimize racialized enslavement and imperial expansion.

Throughout, Nyquist demonstrates how principles relating to political slavery and tyranny are bound up with a Roman jurisprudential doctrine that sanctions the power of life and death held by the slaveholder over slaves and, by extension, the state, its representatives, or its laws over its citizenry.

alumni profile



Talayeh Shomali

Talayeh Shomali works as the sustainability coordinator at Metropolitan Action Committee on Violence against Women and Children (METRAC). Preventing violence against women has always been a particular interest for Talayeh, who has volunteered for METRAC since 2007. Since joining the organization as a staff member in 2011, Talayeh has co-created, co-designed and managed May Be Me, an annual campaign that raises awareness and funds to prevent violence against diverse women and youth. May Be Me raised more than \$10,000 in its first year. Proceeds from the campaign has gone to various

METRAC's programs, including its youth violence prevention work, community safety audits and a sexual harassment app project called “Not Your Baby”. Talayeh hopes that in upcoming years, the campaign will expand to benefit more violence-prevention organizations and include more participants, partners and supporters. Originally from Iran, Talayeh Shomali came to Canada in 2002 with a law degree and went on to pursue a B.A in Law and Society/ English literature at York University, followed by an M.A. in Women and Gender Studies at WGSU in 2009.

program news

THE WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES STUDENTS UNION REPORT

by Sarah Hedges-Chou

The 2013-2014 school year was one of considerable growth and development for the Women & Gender Studies Student's Union (WGSSU). A committed team of nine executive members – all specialists, majors, or minors in Women & Gender Studies – planned a series of events for the undergraduate community in WGSU to build a sense of community and complement the critical feminist scholarship in the program.

In the fall, WGSSU screened the science fiction film *Children of Men* and invited Prof. **Sarah Trimble** to discuss the connections between apocalypse narratives, reproduction and sexuality, race, and biopolitics. Professor Trimble's talk was well-received and a great opportunity to introduce her research interests to the student body. WGSSU also hosted a student and faculty social and celebrated WGSU's 40th anniversary informally with birthday cake, historical displays, and faculty guests.

In the winter, WGSSU screened *Ma Vie En Rose* to start further dialogue among students about gender variance and trans identities. We also hosted our highly anticipated annual career seminar, featuring WGSU alumni and members of the community who approach their work from a feminist perspective in a variety of sectors. This year, the career seminar panel included **Robyn Hoogendam** of the Learning Enrichment Foundation, **Neemarie Alam** of Frontline Partners with Youth Network, and independent

filmmaker and WGSU alum **Dawn Wilkinson**. The conversation included such topics as burn-out and self care, applying academic feminist training in professional settings, finding career opportunities that align with social justice values, and approaching career paths from an independent or entrepreneurial perspective. Participating students arrived with many questions and were eager to network with the invited guests after the panel discussion.

WGSSU also actively supported other related campus initiatives, including an **International Women's Day Celebration** with the WGS160 class on the theme of arts-based activism, the Equity Studies Student's Union annual conference **Decolonizing Our Minds**, and a collaborative film screening of *Water Journey* co-hosted by WGSU, the Centre for Aboriginal Initiatives, and Aboriginal Studies.

2013 marks the fourth edition of WGSSU's interdisciplinary undergraduate student journal *Intersections*. Under the leadership of editors-in-chief **Maryam Khalid** and **Tyler Carson**, this year WGSSU announced that the fourth edition would be published online and submissions would be accepted from undergraduate students across Canada. Submissions to *Intersections* are welcome from undergraduate students of all disciplines, provided their paper submissions are intersectional in focus and address themes of feminism and social justice. Submissions are



blindly reviewed by a student-led editorial committee, and creative prose, visual art, and unconventional academic projects are welcome and encouraged. The fourth edition of *Intersections* will be published in the late summer or fall of 2013.

The 2013-2014 year concluded with an exciting general meeting and elections, in which many students from the WGS160 class opted to run for executive positions. We look forward to another exciting school year of activities and collaborations with our incoming WGSSU Co-Presidents, **Maryam Khalid** and **Tyler Carson**.

UNDERGRADUATE REPORT

by Prof. Judith Taylor, Undergraduate Coordinator

WGSJ has been fortunate to have many faculty members from professional schools with longstanding ties to our program teaching in our undergraduate program this year in the UCDF program, forging deeper connections between our program and OISE and the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work (FIFSW) in the process. Prof. **Shahrazad Mojab** taught Women and Revolution in the Middle East, that culminated in a conference planned by the students with internationally known scholars presenting their research and engaging in dialogue with students. Prof. **Ramona Alaggia** from FIFSW taught our Gender and Violence course, and Prof. **Kiran Mirchandani** taught Gendered Labour Around the World. In 2013-14, we have two UCDF teaching fellows, Prof. **Lance McCready**, teaching Men and Masculinities, and Prof. **Rupaleem Bhuyan** teaching Feminist Consciousness and Community Organization in North America. We are very grateful to have such committed inspiring graduate faculty teaching in our undergraduate program.

WGSJ continues to participate in the Arts & Science Writing Instruction for Teaching Assistants (WIT) Project to improve student writing, and we have benefitted immensely from our decision to make our program more writing intensive while also increasing student enrollments. **Amy Gullage** served as the WIT coordinator at WGSJ for two years, admirably developing materials and training graduate students while completing her Ph.D. at

OISE, and we are sorry to lose her! However, we have hired **Salina Abji** for 2013-14 who has ample experience with teaching writing and working with TAs, and whose own doctoral research focuses on citizenship status and domestic violence.

In celebration of 25 years of the City of Toronto Women's Studies Scholarship, the undergraduate program hosted an event, Social Justice and the City: A Conversation with Councilor **Kristyn Wong-Tam**. Wong-Tam, representing Ward-27 Toronto Centre-Rosedale, really engaged faculty and students about what kinds of research would benefit city council deliberations, and how to make policy changes that markedly benefit diverse constituents, and create more equality in the city.

In 2013-14, we will be hosting an event to inaugurate our graphic novel collection in the Ivey Library, New College, with young graphic novelists from the city who are using this medium to explore questions of identity, activism, family, transnational ties, and social and economic adversity.

We compliment the WGSSU for organizing a spectacular year of events, from those that brought alumni in to talk about life after graduation, to film screenings, and a 40th celebration party, and welcome incoming officers for 2013-14 and look forward to supporting and publicizing their initiatives as well.

GRADUATE REPORT

by Prof. Jesook Song,
Graduate Coordinator

In 2013-2014, I returned from parental leave to my position as WGSJ Graduate Coordinator. My smooth transition would not have been possible without the help of many of my colleagues. My first thanks go to the wonderful administration team—**Marian Reed**, **Meghan Sbrocchi**, and **Ashifa Rajwani**, as well as the attentive leadership of **Bonnie McElhinny** and experienced colleague Prof. **Judith Taylor**. All of them worked with me so patiently and generously throughout the year. I am sincerely grateful to **Shahrazad Mojab**, who kindly served in the position of Interim Graduate Coordinator during the Winter 2012 session. Also, many thanks to Prof. **Alissa Trotz** who led the Graduate Admission Committee in Winter 2012, and Prof. Lisa Yoneyama who organized the WGS Research Seminar in 2011-2012 and 2012-2013. Finally, a big thank you to Prof. **Michelle Murphy**, who served as Interim Director in 2012-2013 and guided me with humor with regard to graduate administration in Summer 2012. My deep gratitude also goes out to my fellow graduate committee members: the Graduate Policy Committee (Profs. **Alissa Trotz**, **Jacqui Alexander**, and **Lisa Yoneyama**), the Graduate Admission Committee (Profs. **Dina Georgis**, **June Larkin**, and **Marieme Lo**), and the WGS Research Seminar Committee (Profs. **Lisa Yoneyama** and **Sarah Trimble**). Lastly, I would like to thank the WGS Master's and Collaborative students from 2011-2012 and 2012-2013—I enjoyed our interactions both in person and via email. Together, we shared many joys and challenges, and I continue to be impressed by your thought-provoking research projects.

WGSJ launches its Ph.D. program in the fall of 2013. The doctoral program focuses on transnational feminist studies with the promise that it will be a dynamic and unique intellectual space for those interested in engaging with issues such as capitalist patriarchy, race, sexuality, class, and indigeneity, as well as other urgent matters of our time, including

culture, rights, citizenship, diaspora, and activism. In 2013-2014, we admitted a total of 5 doctoral students. The admission result proves the new doctoral program's competitiveness, as we received acceptances from all top five applicants. Two of our incoming Ph.D. students will be receiving major awards in 2013-2014 – **Zoë Gross** is a SSHRC doctoral award recipient and **Nicole Charles** a domestic Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) awardee.

The Master's Program in Women and Gender Studies continues to thrive. In 2013-2014, we received approximately 75 complete applications, a significant increase from the previous year. We admitted a total of 8 students. Graduating M.A. students presented their research at the third annual Women and Gender Studies Research Symposium on September 6, 2012 in the WGSJ lounge. There were seven student presentations: **Jill Arkles** (on surrogacy services), **Sumaya Ahmed** (on South Asian immigration), **Mary-Kay Bachour** (on Lebanese nationalism), **Maria Cichosz** (on the allegory of drugs and method), **Hiba Alhomoud** (on posthumanism), **Amanda Warner** (on "skin"), and **Sarah Fuchs** (on affect in teaching praxis). The half-day event was well attended and including friends, former classmates, families of presenters and WGSJ faculty and staff.

There are currently 80 students in the Collaborative Program in Women and Gender Studies. In Spring 2012, Ph.D. students from the Collaborative Program presented papers in our highly successful WGS Research Seminar series: **Hannah Dyer**, **Lia Gladstone**, **Yukyung Kim-Cho**, **Natalie Kouri-Towe**, and **Vanessa McCarthy**.

Overall, it was a highly accomplished year with an outstanding effort from everyone involved with graduate administration. Well done!

Celebrating the launch of the PhD Program: PPEF for WGSJ

The Women & Gender Studies Institute has established the **WGSJ PhD Student Fund** through the Provost's PhD Enhancement Fund (PPEF) program to honour the introduction of the PhD program this fall.

The PhD program will now allow for an in-depth training, at the faculty level, in feminist theory and methods which specifically educate students to think about questions in an interdisciplinary way. Faculty, graduate and undergraduate programs in women and gender studies draw on, and contribute to, five fields: (1) feminist colonial, post-colonial, diasporic and transnational studies; (2) gender, sexuality and queer studies; (3) cultural studies; (4) feminist technoscience, environmental and biomedical studies; and (5) transnational political economy and development studies. The required focus on transnational feminism makes U of T's programming distinctive. We are proud of the growth and exceptionality of our curriculum.

In order to remain competitive in attracting the brightest students, the Faculty of Arts & Science, together with the Women & Gender Studies Institute, has identified a pressing need for funding for financial assistance. We invite you—alumni and friends—to make a contribution to this endowed scholarship as we take advantage of this exceptional match opportunity and double the impact of our collective gifts in support of PhD students.

For more information or to establish your own named fund, please contact: **Heather McLean**, Senior Development Officer Faculty of Arts & Science at 416.978.4179 or heather.mclean@utoronto.ca

Double your impact! PPEF for WGSJ

To encourage donations, the University of Toronto has established the Provost's PhD Enhancement Fund (PPEF) Program. The PPEF Program provides a remarkable leveraging opportunity that doubles the impact of gifts in support of PhD students.

Donations amounting to \$50,000 per award will be matched 1:1 through the PPEF.

The annual payout on the resultant \$100,000 endowment will create a scholarship of approximately \$4,000 per annum to benefit graduate students, in perpetuity.

This is a time-limited program – so we need your support today!

Help up to reach the required \$50,000 benchmark with your donation to the WGSJ PhD Student Fund.



Yes, I would like to make a donation to the Women & Gender Studies Institute!

The Women & Gender Studies Institute is proudly celebrating 40 years at the University of Toronto!

WGSJ trains students to think about the entanglements of gender, race and sexuality. We have founded a distinctive transnational approach that is critical for addressing how national borders, colonialisms, labour, and migration shape life, knowledge, and politics. Our undergraduate, graduate and now PhD level programming continues to grow—and we hope you will support our evolution and achievements.

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WOMEN & GENDER STUDIES INSTITUTE

EVENTSERIES



NOVEMBER 26, 2012 7:00–9:00 P.M.

GEORGE IGNATIEFF THEATRE

Sex, Race and Class: The New Terms of Unity
with Selma James

MARCH 13, 2013 4:00–6:00 P.M.

WILLIAM DOO AUDITORIUM

Social Justice and the City
with Kristyn Wong-Tam



MARCH 15, 2013 6:30–10:00 P.M.

WILLIAM DOO AUDITORIUM

Audre Lorde: The Berlin Years 1984–1992

MARCH 28, 2013 9:30 A.M.–4:00 P.M.

WILLIAM DOO AUDITORIUM

Youth, Sexuality & Reproductive Justice Symposium
with keynote speaker Jessica Fields



APRIL 7 + 8, 2013

OISE / UT

Revolution Came, Revolution Gone: Women (Re)making History Across
the Middle East and North Africa
with Shahrzad Mojab; Haideh Moghissi; Nasser Mohajer; and Zakia Salime

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