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 WGSi, 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 such active, energetic, productive and innovative faculty, staff and students. Four faculty in WGSi 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 WGSI 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 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 Pinkwatching 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 OPRGR 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 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 WGS434H: Independent Study in Women and Gender Studies, taught by Prof. Dina Georgis. The paper will be published in the spring issue of Interstitch: 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 research project 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, Tyler has developed an interest in the political and social processes that form our understandings of the literary histories that are such a reward and 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 JH Undergraduate Fellowships, which are advertised during the winter term and awarded in the spring. The theme for 2014-15 is “Humour, Play, and Games.”

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 JH 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 proposed 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 reward and 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 JH 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)
Farah 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.

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 Yu
M.A. in Women and Gender Studies, and Yukyung Kim
Ph.D. Collaborative Program in Women and Gender Studies.

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

Hammed Shahidian Graduate Award in Women and Gender Studies ($500)
Sahin Acikgoz
M.A. in Women and Gender Studies.

WGSI TA Award
Sahin Acikgoz
M.A. in Women and Gender Studies.

Allysa Trotz
A graduate of the Graduate Women’s Studies Program, Allysa Trotz is dedicated to gender justice and equality. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Toronto, focusing on the intersection of gender, race, and colonialism. Allysa’s research explores the ways in which gender and colonialism intersect to shape political and social landscapes.

Vida Heydarian
Vida Heydarian is a graduate student in the Women and Gender Studies Program. Her research focuses on gender, sexuality, and the law in the Middle East. She is particularly interested in the intersection of religion, politics, and gender and has conducted research in Iran, Iraq, and Jordan.

Alyssa Trotz
Alyssa Trotz is a graduate student in the Women and Gender Studies Program. Her research focuses on gender, sexuality, and the law in the Middle East. She is particularly interested in the intersection of religion, politics, and gender and has conducted research in Iran, Iraq, and Jordan.

Angela Lytle
Angela Lytle is a graduate student in the Women and Gender Studies Program. Her research focuses on gender, sexuality, and the law in the Middle East. She is particularly interested in the intersection of religion, politics, and gender and has conducted research in Iran, Iraq, and Jordan.
Joanne Cave, from Alberta, who graduated this year from WGSI, 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 UAN 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 (WGSSSU).

Congratulations Joanne!

Marian Reed
Dean’s Administrative Service Award winner

by Prof. Bonnie McEehing, Director

WGSI is delighted to announce that Marian Reed won the Dean’s Administrative Service Award this year. Marian has worked for WGSI 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. WGSI 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 support to 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
President’s Teaching Award

by Prof. Bonnie McEehing, Director

Alissa Trotz was honoured in May 2013 with the University-wide President’s Teaching Award, which recognises 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 (WGSI) 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 WGSI 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 WGSI 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.

Prof. Alissa Trotz
President’s Teaching Award

Congratulations Alissa!

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 understands 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 unfamiliar points of view,” 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 urban service-learning projects, volunteered at homeless shelters 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 social 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 by Prof. M. Jacqui Alexander 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 WGS@ 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-membering of her life in a variety of locations. Wekker deployed an intersectional analysis to foreground those contradictory developments in the contemporary Netherlands and the contemporary urgencies of the contemporary urgencies of 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.


By the time the equinox had arrived and the energies of the equal day and night were felt, close to 800 people had gathered, many of them young, 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.

The second phase of the workshop included a discussion of harm reduction. Here, the Empower Youth Mentors did sex education, the female condom, the male condom and male sex, and how sexual harm can be minimized. The session was led by Cassandra Dang Nguyen of SExY bInG o AnD ConDoM CuPcAKES

Gendering Adolescent AIDS Prevention (GAAP), a team of researchers led by Prof. June Larkin, partnered with Empower, Toronto Sexual Health and Harm Reduction, and the EDU Centre for Sexual Health, the Weston Centre for Rural Health and the Weston Centre for Rural Health. They all worked together to provide a safe space for youth to express themselves and their experiences.

The night started off with a panel discussion featuring various experts and concluded with a dance performance. The panelists included Dr. Lydia Hernandez and Dr. Greg Khaymo, who shared their insights on the current state of the AIDS epidemic and the role of mythbusters as they unravelled the many falsehoods about HIV/AIDS.

The second phase of the workshop focused on harm reduction. Here, the Empower Youth Mentors did sex education, the female condom, the male condom and male sex, and how sexual harm can be minimized. The session was led by Cassandra Dang Nguyen of SExY bInG o AnD ConDoM CuPcAKES.
Celebrating the City of Toronto Women's Studies Scholarship

by Prof. Jane Larkin

To mark the 25th anniversary of the City of Toronto Women's Studies Scholarship, WGS organized a wonderful evening of exploring Social Justice and the City. The evening featured a conversation with Kristyn Wong-Tam, Toronto’s only all-out queer City Councilor. Kristyn Wong-Tam shared her insights and reflections about gender, sexuality, and social justice in city politics with an enthusiastic audience that included previous scholarship winners. The event also honoured the following individuals: 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 long-time 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. Kristyn’s evening of art, scholarship and faculty at WGS was more to connect with feminist, anti-racist and queer scholarship and teaching with the politics of city governance.

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

by Audrey Huntley

Stoh:lo elder Lee Marcela describes Andrea Smith as “one of the most exciting people on the planet” for her groundbreaking analysis of, and work against, violence against Indigenous women in the U.S. No More Silence (NMS) while wholeheartedly agreed 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 de-colonizing ways toward.

Andrea Smith is a professor 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, “de-colonizing ways towards this violence in this is subversive to this system because it shows how the logic of domination is replicable and how colonial processes are structured by sexual violence.”

No one talks about the violence that has occurred against Indigenous people while also presenting the violence against Indigenous women more 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 skyrocketing.

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

The evening on April 29th was set up around the new release of the book Selling Sex in which she explores Aboriginal people’s involvement in sex work. Acknowledgement of the risk that the sex trade poses to Indigenous people has 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 Women of Substance (WOS) program, was able to share the experience of a community that held its 22nd memorial march last February 14th.

The event on April 29th 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 the creation of a research and policy agenda around violence against Indigenous women.

Both events were co-sponsored by the Women and Gender Studies Institute (Community Knowledge Alliance Fund) with the generous support of the donors in the community, namely, New College, CUPS, CUPF, CUP 3902, the OSIE Graduate Student Association (GSA), the Graduate Geography and Planning Student Society (GGAPS), Canadian Studies and the Departments of Political Science of Carleton and McGill as well as the community group Sistering and the Native Youth Sexual Health Network.
Lisa Yoneyama

Prof. Lisa Yoneyama joined the faculty at WGSI in July 2012. She previously served as Director for the Program for Japanese Studies (2008-09) and as Director for the Critical Gender Studies Program (2009-11). Yoneyama has received numerous fellowships and awards, including a Howard Fellowship at Stanford University, California (1993). Her research concerns have centered on the philosophy of history especially in relation to studies of memory, 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-colonialism. She is also interested in the global culture wars in the United States and Japan. She is the author of Vietnam, 2005). She has also co-edited with Trinh T. Minh-ha and Jeffrey Yamashita, Women Film/Makers: Experiences, Strategies, and Theories (Duke University Press, 2001). She also co-edited with Trinh T. Minh-ha, Women Film/Makers: Experiences, Strategies, and Theories (Duke University Press, 2001).

Since joining WGSI in July of 2012, I’ve had the privilege of working with brilliant young scholars and students about everything from Britney Spears to the zombie apocalypse. The students here have been generous, curious, and excited about the questions that animate my research and teaching. What possible futures might we currently be experiencing, and what are the implications of those futures for the global culture wars in the United States and Japan? She is also interested in the global culture wars in the United States and Japan. She is the author of Vietnam, 2005). She has also co-edited with Trinh T. Minh-ha and Jeffrey Yamashita, Women Film/Makers: Experiences, Strategies, and Theories (Duke University Press, 2001).

Yoneyama is currently completing her third single-authored book, which focuses on the process of metaphorical substitution itself, the creative, generous, and rigorous intellectual atmosphere at WGSI. She is also interested in the global culture wars in the United States and Japan. She is the author of Vietnam, 2005). She has also co-edited with Trinh T. Minh-ha and Jeffrey Yamashita, Women Film/Makers: Experiences, Strategies, and Theories (Duke University Press, 2001).

Sarah Trimble

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 storytelling helps explain how the meanings we make available to the world are not just isolated 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 into being, sometimes, hard to digest events. Stories embody all kinds of interesting truths about how we’ve survived painful experiences. I don’t want to misrepresent the stories that come to shape who we are in the world; rather, story is simply one way that we human beings make the world. In other words, every story is the better story, which is to say it’s the only possible story we have come up with to make sense of the events that have changed 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’ve come to understand, are 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 sexual identity. Queer affects, I argue, are our desire 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 and create tensions with 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 affects undo us in ways that make us more aware of our dependencies on the other. How they create space for new meanings, new relations, and new social and 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 WGSI.
Seizing the Means of Reproduction by Michelle Murphy

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 prophylactic feminism—a feminist mode invested in ethicizing the technical details of health and development practice—the book examines how feminisms were critically dominant of 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 to Barbados, Bangladesh, and Canada. In doing so, the book considers feminist health projects as a kind of biopolitics amidst a tangle of other biopitical 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-embodied biopitics ranging from transnational feminist NG0s 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 topography—an uneven, layered, and geographically extensive collection of modes for governing and differentially valuing living-being—in which feminism was unusually 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 NGOs. And yet, the book also recognizes the vital interventions into technoscientific craft by feminist projects of the late twentieth century.

Mary Nyquist launches Arbitrary Rule

Arbitrary Rule is an interdisciplinary study that engages issues important to WGSSU’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 early modern European expansion; they help to create racialized “free” national identities and their “unfree” counterparts in non-European populations 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 “antyray discourse,” which originated in demotic Eurocolonial expansion, was then circulated by republican Rome, and revived in early modern Western Europe, provided counterpoints in non-European locations represented as inhabiting an earlier, private age.

In May, 2013, the Bob Miller Bookroom hosted a party launch of Prof. Mary Nyquist’s new book, Arbitrary Rule: Slavery, Tyranny and the Power of Life and Death (University of Chicago Press).
The Women & Gender Studies Institute has established the WGSI 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 with 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-colo-
nial, 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 focus required on transnational feminism makes U of T's programming distinctive. We are proud of the growth and successes of our current programs and will 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.

Celebrating the launch of the PhD Program: PPEF for WGSI

In 2013-2014, I returned from parental leave to my position as WGSI 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 Reay, Meghan Stroebel, and Ashifa Rajawalla, as well as the interdisciplinary leadership of Bonnie McElhinney and experienced colleague Prof. Judith Taylor. All of them worked with me so patiently and generously throughout the year. I am sincerely grateful to Shahzad Mobaj, 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. Lise Yoneyama, who organized the WGSI 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 to regard 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 Lise Yoneyama), the Graduate Admission Committee (Prof. Dina Georgis, June Larkin, and Mariene Le), and the WGSI Research Seminar Committee (Profs. Lise Yoneyama and Sarah Timble). Lastly, I would like to thank the WGSI’s 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.

WGSI launches its PhD 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 PhD students will be receiving major awards at the Graduation ceremony, including the WGSI-Adams Doctoral award, Jeannette Irene and Nicole Charles a doctoral Ontario Graduate Scholarship (OGS) awards.

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 WGSI lounge. There were seven student presentations: Jill Arluk (on surrogacy issues), Jasmine Ahmed (on South Asian immigrants), Mary-Kay Bachour (on Lebanese nationalism), Maria Chiosos (on the allegories of drugs and method), Hibah Alhomoud (on posthumanism), Amanda Warner (on “lor”), and Sarah Fuchs (on affect in teaching praxis). The half-day event was well attended and including friends, former classmates, families of presenters and WGSI 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 WGSI Research Seminar series; Hannah Deitz, Li Glodstein, Yokyung Kim-Choi, Natalie Kouns, Towe, and Vanessa McCarthy. Overall, it was a highly accomplished year with an outstanding effort from everyone involved with graduate administration. Well done!
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

OCTOBER 4, 2013
D.G. IVEY LIBRARY
Launch of Graphic Novel Collection
with Canadian graphic novelists