



NEWSLETTER

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Ceta Ramkhalawansingh (back to camera) leading a Women's Studies class at UofT in 1975. Classes were held in a former chapel at 97 St. George Street which housed the Interdisciplinary Studies Department.



2021 Incoming Graduate Student Orientation with Faculty and Staff.

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the
1971 - 2021
WGSI

WELCOME BACK
*Taking a moment to connect with, congratulate,
and learn more about the folks who have fostered—
and continue to foster—the WGSI community.*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. *Director's Message (3-5)*
2. *WGSJ 50th Anniversary (6-8)*
3. *50th Anniversary Moments (9)*
4. *Remembering Professor Emerita Margrit Eichler (1942-2021) (10-11)*
5. *Professor June Larkin Retirement (12-14)*
6. *WGSJ Administrative Staff (15-17)*
7. *Faculty Spotlight (18-19)*
8. *Postdoctoral Fellow Spotlight (20-22)*
9. *Congratulations to Doctoral Graduate Aarzo Singh (23)*
10. *Congratulations to the 2021 MA Class (24)*
11. *Faculty News (25-27)*
12. *Work-Study Students (28)*
13. *Undergraduate Student Union (29-30)*
14. *Postdoctoral Fellows' News (31-32)*
15. *Graduate Student Union (33)*
16. *Meet the 2021-22 Graduate Student Union Executive Team (34-35)*
17. *Celebrating Student Achievements (36-37)*
18. *Faculty News (38-44)*
19. *Doctoral Research Seminar (45-47)*
20. *WGSJ Research Seminar Series, 2020-21 (48-49)*
21. *In Honour of Margrit Eichler - WGSJ Research Seminar (50)*

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF WGSI

ALISSA TROTZ



This is a significant moment in planetary history and in the ongoing life of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto. At WGSI, 2021 marks the 50th anniversary of the establishment of two undergraduate courses on our campus. One was co-taught by two newly minted faculty members in the History department, the late Jill Ker Conway and Professor Emerita Natalie Zemon-Davis. The other came out of a collective effort involving the community, faculty and students, including Ceta Ramkhalawansingh, then an undergraduate student; fifty years on and following Ceta's remarkable career at City Hall, we will be awarding the scholarship established in Ceta's name (and shared between Women and Gender Studies and Caribbean Studies) at the end of this academic year.

These initiatives laid the groundwork for the institutionalization of Women and Gender Studies

with the establishment of our undergraduate programme in 1974, making 2024 the culminating year of our 50th anniversary celebrations. Thank you to all of our colleagues, some of whom are back with us participating in anniversary conversations, for your commitment and determination in the face of a not-always-welcoming environment.

There is much to reflect on and learn from these earlier efforts which constituted the conditions of possibility for WGSI today. We hope to engage these varied legacies over the next three years – what else are we but an imperfect work in process? Process and motion are critical



principles of our transnational feminist focus, which we began to explicitly think about under the visionary leadership of the late Margrit Eichler, who was WGSI's inaugural Director when it was established in 1999.

It was Margrit who helped us secure the funds from then Provost Shirley Neuman to launch the Transnationality, Gender and Citizenship lecture series that led to the transformation of our undergraduate and graduate curricula, and it was her leadership that enabled us to recruit M. Jacqui Alexander to join us in Toronto for this work. Margrit passed away on July 8th, and we will be honouring her life's work at our inaugural research seminar on September 22nd. We hope you will join us. This year the Margrit Eichler Student Leadership Award was awarded to outgoing Graduate Student Union Chair and doctoral candidate Sam Sanchinel, and we are grateful that this news was shared with Margrit earlier this summer.

The work of connection extends, particularly in relation to Indigenous survivance and resurgence in the face of the violence of settler colonialism and its ongoing effects. This summer we have again heard the devastating stories of the Indigenous children lost to violence at residential schools across these lands, losses that Indigenous communities have known and felt for centuries.

For many years now we have been working to deepen the work at WGSI by Indigenous scholars and with Indigenous communities. This year we were honoured to welcome Kristen Bos who has been appointed Assistant Professor of Indigenous Science and Technology Studies in Women and Gender Studies at UTM with a graduate appointment downtown.

Today WGSI is a dynamic, interdisciplinary space of study in its most capacious sense – you can learn more about the research and public commitment of some of our amazing students and faculty members in this newsletter and always on our website.

Several of our colleagues are doing beautiful work across the university: for example, Marieme Lo is Director of African Studies at New College and was the inaugural Associate Director, Education at the School of Cities; Bonnie McElhinny is Principal of New College; Victoria Tahmasebi-Birgani is currently Director of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto Mississauga; and Lisa Yoneyama is Associate Chair, Graduate at the Department of East Asian Studies.

This summer we said farewell to Professor June Larkin, who has retired after an outstanding three decades of teaching in our programme. Our current emphasis on feminist technoscience owes much to the energies of folks like June and Professor Emerita Kathryn Morgan. June's popularity among students is a well-established fact, as is her work in establishing the Gendering Adolescent Aids Prevention Programme which brings students and non U of T communities together in creative and sustained ways. June has left much for us to work with and learn from, and WGSI has established the June Larkin Teaching Assistant Award to honour her example of feminist pedagogy.

The emphasis on community engagement and conversations is key to much of the work that our faculty and students do at WGSI, ranging from public intellectual engagement to collaborative



events and work, like the “Community Roundtable on Anti-Asian Racism and Intersectional Violence” organised by colleagues in the Winter term.

It is work that crucially recognises that the university is also a site of struggle and critical engagement, represented by WGSU’s decision to honour the academic censure imposed on the University of Toronto by the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT) and the active participation by several of us in the censure campaign (if you have not already done so, please take time to learn about the censure at censureuoft.ca).

And care. The sudden and sharp changes in our lives over the course of the past one and a half years have made clear that WGSU would be nowhere without the loving labour of care, our foundation. The work we do here has helped us think about the uneven and devastating local and transnational effects of the Covid-19 pandemic, even as so many of us have had to learn to rejoin the world after facing unspeakable losses. The WGSU staff – Paul Tsang, Marian Reed, Joanne Saliba de Chery – held us together while teaching themselves and each other the new ropes; we all moved offices overnight but it is the staff who have the records of every single faculty member and student, past and present, who field all of our requests as if we are the only ones asking for an answer.

We should never underestimate just how much this has entailed, and particularly over the last 18 months. Professors Dina Georgis and S. Trimble (T) were remarkable this year as graduate and undergraduate coordinators. Thanks to the dedication of T. and Karyn Recollet who together

organised an online teaching retreat in summer 2020, our colleagues began the term supported by what we learned together. Our student unions organised to hold space for each other in new ways. Our research seminars turned out to be a wondrous experience, gathering attendees across time zones and place into a virtual community. We met and now prepare to say goodbye to an amazing cohort of MA students whose entire experience was online – to you we say please know that our plan is to celebrate your achievements in person as soon as we can do so safely. It has been an extraordinary year of loss, learning and love, all of which we bring with us as we prepare to welcome all of the new students (undergraduate, MA and PhD). Change, Connection, Community, Conversation and Care. As we begin this 50th anniversary year, we celebrate the fact that we are a beautiful, imperfect work in process.



WGSI 50TH ANNIVERSARY

*Innovative A&S Faculty and
Student-led Courses Ignited
Popular Demand for Women's
Studies Program 50 Years Ago
at U of T*

By Peter Boisseau

The story behind one of the oldest women's studies programs in Canada begins with the tale of two courses launched 50 years ago in the face of daunting odds and withering skepticism.

Women's studies became part of the curriculum in 1971 when history professors Natalie Davis and Jill Ker Conway began co-teaching "History of Women," while undergrad Ceta Ramkhalawansingh played an instrumental role in a collective that started "Women in the Twentieth Century," one of the first interdisciplinary courses at U of T.

"It's a story about years of caring, collective labour in the face of and despite obstacles, to move from these courses into a fully fledged undergraduate program in 1974," says Alissa Trotz, director of the Women & Gender Studies Institute.



Ceta Ramkhalawansingh (centre) leading a women's studies class at U of T in 1975.

Photo credit: University of Toronto Archives/ Robert Lansdale.

"That's why our 50th anniversary in a sense begins in 2021 with the first courses and then culminates in 2024. It has been a process from which we can learn so much, a process that is still unfolding in exciting new directions."

The popularity of those early courses largely silenced skeptics and demonstrated a groundswell of demand.

"A few male faculty and colleagues had their doubts there was enough material to support a course, and whether this could be a significant intellectual contribution to the field. But we



didn't care what they thought," says Davis, professor emerita at U of T.

"The women just felt: Here we are, now it's our turn."

Enrolment for the history department course far exceeded expectations and a series of public lectures offered by the collectively taught interdisciplinary course drew thousands to hear noted feminists such as journalist June Callwood, writer Margaret Atwood, who earned her bachelor of arts from U of T in 1961 as a member of Victoria College, and future Supreme Court judge Rosalie Abella, who earned her bachelor of arts from U of T in 1967 as a member of University College.

Politics kept interaction between the courses to a minimum. Some considered the interdisciplinary course with its uncredentialed teachers too radical, while many of the students and activists behind the interdisciplinary course viewed the history course with suspicion for its ties to the University establishment.

But in tandem, they helped achieve the same goal.

"The women's studies program would not have happened without the advocacy around the interdisciplinary course, and the fact we demonstrated such great public interest," says Ramkhalawansingh, who earned her bachelor of arts in economics and political science as a member of New College in 1972, earned diplomas in 1974 and 1976 from what is now the Dr. Eric Jackman Institute of Child Study, and received a master's degree from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education in 1980.

"The history course was also significant because it was taught by two formidable scholars in their own field, which certainly gave a lot of credibility to what was happening in the interdisciplinary studies course."

After a minor in women's studies was approved in 1974, the Women's Studies Program at New College added major and specialist degrees in 1980 before becoming the Institute for Women & Gender Studies in 1999. It was renamed the Women & Gender Studies Institute (WGSi) in 2005 when it earned departmental status. True to its interdisciplinary roots, WGSi now collaborates with 33 other departments and units and seven faculties, more than any other program.

The ripple effect from those first courses and the program beyond U of T was also undeniable. Course materials and syllabi — largely assembled from scratch by faculty and students — were widely shared, helping in the creation of women's studies programs across North America and around the world.

Davis helped establish women's studies programs at UC Berkeley, Princeton University and the University of Oxford during a series of teaching appointments. Conway was appointed U of T's first female vice-president in 1973 and continued teaching the history course until becoming president of Smith College in Massachusetts in 1975.

After completing her residency requirements for a PhD, Ramkhalawansingh joined Toronto City Hall to help develop its equity and diversity programs. In 2020, she established a scholarship for undergraduate students enrolled in a major or

specialist program in women and gender studies or in Caribbean studies at U of T.

Tutorial assistants and students from those early courses went on to take leadership roles in women's studies programs across Canada and champion equity in government and the private sector.

Linda Kealey, who earned her bachelor of arts in sociology as a member of St. Michael's College in 1969, a bachelor of library sciences in 1970, a masters of arts in 1974 and a PhD in 1982 from U of T, developed women's history courses at the University of New Brunswick (UNB) and helped found the women's studies program at Memorial University in the early 1980s.

"There is no question the pioneering course in women's history at U of T combined with Conway's encouragement and my involvement in the women's movement shaped my career," says Kealey.

"I have always taken seriously the obligation to be a mentor and to contribute to the field," adds Kealey, professor emerita at UNB.



Ceta Ramkhalawansingh. Photo: Lisa Macintosh



Natalie Davis (left) and Jill Ker Conway received honorary degrees in 2005 from UNB

Monika Simon recalls enrolling in the new interdisciplinary course because it sounded intriguing.

"At the time, I didn't have a sense of being part of something larger but later I realized the course gave me a broader perspective of the role of women in the world," says Simon, a retired business executive who earned her bachelor of arts in political science from Woodsworth College in 1974.

"This knowledge allowed me to confidently work in different jobs where most of the time I was the only woman executive in the office and board rooms."

Ramkhalawansingh says she feels a sense of pride when she looks back on the campaign to establish the interdisciplinary course and the way women's studies has evolved since then.

"I'm thrilled we did this. And certainly, when we set out in 1970, we had no idea how transformative this would become — even in our wildest dreams."

50TH ANNIVERSARY MOMENTS

In 1971, Professors Natalie Zemon-Davis and the late Jill Ker Conway offered a jointly taught course: *'History of Women'* at the University of Toronto. Current MA student, Ayo Gariba, directed a short video of Professor Zemon-Davis speaking with WGSJ/History Professor Shauna Sweeney on the conditions of possibility for the course and her experience teaching it fifty years ago. (Ayo is editing the video - look out for it on our website this anniversary year!)



Shauna Sweeney (left) interviewing Natalie Zemon-Davis (right.)



REMEMBERING PROFESSOR EMERITA MARGRIT EICHLER(1942-2021)

Margrit Eichler passed away July 8, 2021. She was Professor Emerita at the Department of Sociology and Equity Studies (now Social Justice Education) at the Ontario Institute for Studies (OISE/UT) and the inaugural Director of WGSJ.

Under Professor Eichler's visionary leadership WGSJ was established in 1999 and grew from a small college program to an Institute that has advanced the field in transnational feminist scholarship. Bold and determined, she laid a foundation that provided a pathway for the creation of our free-standing graduate programs, the consolidation of Institute faculty and the building of a wide network of women and gender studies scholars across and beyond UofT. Her tough administrative style was matched by her generosity, collegiality and an incredible sense of humour. Undaunted by the bureaucratic labyrinth of the wider university, Margrit moved us forward to a place we had not dared to imagine. The Margrit Eichler Student Leadership Award was established to honour her legacy and inspire upcoming generations to continue, deepen and extend the beautiful work Margrit did to build WGSJ.

Born in Berlin, in 1942, Professor Eichler received her MA from Duke University in 1968 and her PhD in 1972. She made Canada her



home where she became one of the early architects of women's studies, beginning at the University of Waterloo before moving on to OISE and WGSJ. While at Waterloo, Professor Eichler and University of Windsor colleague, Marylee Stephenson, co-founded the Canadian Newsletter on Research on Women, which rapidly evolved with Professor Eichler at OISE into "Resources for Feminist Research", a keystone of communication about the emerging research and teaching in then-Women Studies in Canada and farther afield.

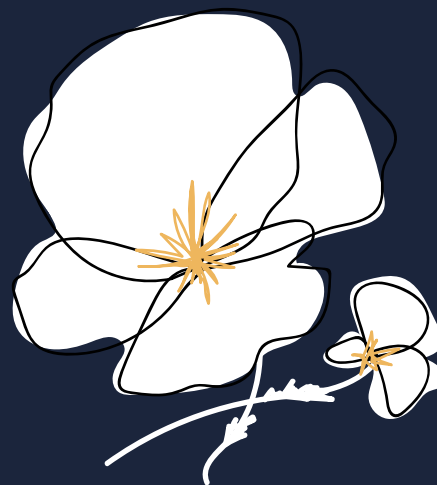


Professor Eichler's extensive publication record in the areas of "non-sexist research methods", new reproductive technologies, contemporary families and feminist ecosociology also includes a best-selling children's book, "*Martin's Father*". For many years SSHRC advised applicants to refer to Professor Eichler's publication *Nonsexist Research Methods* (Routledge 1989) when designing studies. Her "Bias Free Framework" (with Mary-Anne Burke), published in the *Global Health Research Forum*, has a wide international reach.

Academic milestones in Professor Eichler's path-breaking career include memberships in the Royal Society of Canada and the European Academy of Sciences, among other honors. She held the Nancy Rowell Jackman Chair in Women's Studies at Mount Saint Vincent University (1992-93). Her expert knowledge and strategic thinking were valuable contributions in the work she did with the committee to establish five new university research chairs in Women's Studies, the coalition to call for a Royal Commission on New Reproductive Technologies and as a consultant to the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Prior to her leadership role in WGS, Professor Eichler was President of the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women and President of the Canadian Sociology and Anthropology Association. In 2013 she founded ORK: Our Right to Know -- an advocacy group of concerned citizens committed to public science that serves the public good.

We were fortunate to benefit from Margrit's experience, initiative, humour and energy as the first Director of the Institute. In her outgoing statement in the newsletter as she ended her term, Margrit wrote: "I believe that IWSGS [now WGS] has a solid basis on which to build exciting new endeavours." So, so true. We are indebted to Margrit for the solid and vibrant institution she has left behind for us to carry forward.

By June Larkin



PROFESSOR JUNE LARKIN RETIREMENT

For June Larkin, retiring from Arts & Science's Women & Gender Studies Institute (WGSi) after 30 years means she'll have more time to immerse herself in everything the institute does.

"I'm going to try to be at even more of the events the institute offers because I'll have the time to do it," says Larkin, who was an associate professor, teaching stream, at WGSi and in Critical Studies in Equity and Solidarity. She was also vice-principal of New College from 2007 to 2014 and 2017 to 2020 after coming to U of T in 1991 as a teaching assistant in the Scientific Perspectives of Sex and Gender course.

"I'm looking forward to growing intellectually even more when I retire because I can make that my focus. It's just been such an enriching experience so far and will continue to be so."

Her impact will continue to be felt at WGSi through the June Larkin TA Award, which recognizes outstanding graduate student contributions to undergraduate teaching and mentorship demonstrated through creative approaches to teaching and student engagement. The award honours Larkin's invaluable contributions to the training and mentoring of teaching assistants throughout her career.

Still, her departure creates a tremendous void at WGSi, says Michelle Murphy, a WGSi professor and one of Larkin's former students.



Photo credit: Brian Summers.

June Larkin receives the 2013 3M Teaching Award. Here, she's pictured with students, from left, Abinaya Balasubramaniam, Kamilah Apong, Maryam Khalid and Ricky Rodrigues.

By Michael McKinnon



"The beauty of WGSJ in general is that it's an institute with such dedicated teachers. Among that crew, June is a superstar," says Murphy, who started working with Larkin around 2001. "June immediately became an important colleague to me because I also work in gender and health, gender and science and reproductive justice, and she was teaching a lot of those courses. She was a mentor, and we developed a good relationship in terms of always thinking, 'How can we build up these courses?' She never stopped developing her curriculum, never stopped changing her courses and never stopped looking at ways to improve it."

Particularly through the introductory courses she taught, Larkin was key in igniting and fostering passions in students, many of whom were fresh out of high school. For many — including Murphy — the experience had a lasting impact.

"Those courses have been super important for bringing in and turning people on to women and gender studies. Women and gender studies is not something high school students really encounter; they learn about it at university," Murphy says.

Larkin earned her PhD from U of T's Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. Besides teaching a range of WGSJ courses, she served as its undergraduate coordinator from 1995 to 1997 and 1999 to 2008, acting director of what was then the women & gender studies program from 1997 to 1999 and director of the equity studies program from its launch in 1998 until 2018.

She's seen — and helped drive — tremendous progress in the institute as new courses were introduced and the master's and PhD programs were established.

Since 2001, Larkin has also coordinated the Gendering Adolescent AIDS Prevention (GAAP) project, which uses participatory approaches to working with young people in relation to sexuality, HIV prevention and AIDS awareness. Located at New College, with collaborators that include community groups and researchers from across U of T and beyond, the program helps create innovative, gender-sensitive HIV education programs that work for youth, often using arts-based approaches.

"The arts-based approach works well because it gives youth a variety of ways to express themselves," Larkin explains. "This approach allows youth to talk about their experiences in ways they might not be comfortable with if they had to put their thoughts into writing or do a presentation. Often, work produced through the arts can come more from the heart."

GAAP partners with WGSJ to host an annual World AIDS Day event. Larkin enlists her students for the event, which features peer education, workshops and a performance by SEt: Sex Education by Theatre, a sexual health education performance group led by students for students — plus sexy cupcake decorating and other sex-positive activities. WGSJ students also present research on sexual health and sexuality at the annual GAAP-organized Youth Sexual Health Research Symposium.



Larkin's retirement offers an opportunity to reflect on her 30-year career. There's a lot to be proud of; pressed to pick one thing, she fondly recalls WGSJ becoming an independent unit as a pivotal moment that signaled even better things to come.

"When I think about the 50th anniversary of the institute, for 30 of those years I was part of it — and that's pretty cool," she says. "I've grown so much through the connection to my colleagues, but I just have to give credit to the early faculty members — Kay Armatage, Kathryn Morgan, Mary Nyquist and Sylvia Van Kirk — who worked so hard and made great sacrifices to get the institute on the map. Not everybody was enthusiastic about women's studies in those days, so they had to sacrifice a lot."

"June's career and contributions are remarkable," Murphy adds. "If only we were all such amazing teachers, but only some get to be absolute geniuses at it, and she's one of them. I can't overemphasize what an incredible teacher June is, and that's a very special thing."



DONATE
to the June Larkin
TA Award.

MEET WGSI'S ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



Marian Reed, Undergraduate and Graduate Administrator - The Women & Gender Studies Institute has gone through a tremendous amount of change in the last decade. The upcoming 50th-anniversary event is a testament to all the work that faculty and staff have put into the Women and Gender Studies program from the 1970s until the present. That work saw us evolve from an undergraduate program within New College to a full department with a Master's and Ph.D. degree program within the Faculty of Arts and Science.

The work at times has been intense but when students thank us at the end of the academic year it makes it all worthwhile. I personally want to thank all the staff that I have worked with over the years - these individuals often go unsung and they have all made a contribution in their own way - Yvonne Pieteron, Laura Cunningham, Angela Fleury, Meghan Sbrocchi, and the list goes on. The staff that I work with today - Paul Tsang and Joanne Saliba - have done their very best to keep the department running efficiently during the COVID pandemic. With systems, procedures and policies changing on a monthly basis that has been no small task. I also want to personally thank all the Directors, Graduate Coordinators, and Undergraduate Coordinators that I have worked with over the years - Margrit Eichler, Kay Armatage, Alison Keith, Tara Goldstein, Bonnie McElhinny, June Larkin, Dina Georgis, Marieme Lo, Judy Taylor, Kerry Rittich, Rinaldo Walcott and Alissa Trotz to name a few! I hope that WGSi continues to innovate and evolve into the future.

Jo (Joanne) Saliba de Chery, Administrative Assistant: I began working at WGSJ in September 2013 which was also the launch of the PhD program. Here we are, 8 years later! WGSJ has expanded significantly since then and we now have multiple cohorts of PhD students as well as many new faculty members. Every year is busy and challenging; however, COVID made the last year particularly challenging, especially given I had never even heard of Zoom prior to my crash course! Hosting events on Zoom was beneficial though because it made them more accessible allowing people to join from all around the world, with audiences of over 500 people at times which was amazing and never would have happened on campus!

A highlight for me this past year, was being afforded the opportunity to audit WGS 160: Introduction to Women and Gender Studies and in the summer WGS: 271 Gender and Pop Culture, because they were taught online. Although I knew June Larkin was retiring, I had no idea it was the last class she was teaching before she retired. I had heard so much about what an incredible teacher June was and learning from her was truly an honour and privilege, one I am most grateful for. She along with dp, who taught the second term, made the online class so much fun while giving creative and engaging lectures. The TAs were outstanding, and the students brought so much energy to the class. Angie Fazekas and Aarzo Singh, who taught Gender and Pop Culture, along with TA Zarah Khan, were a dynamic team. They put so much effort into making each week interesting and fun. They were innovative by delivering weekly pre-recorded lectures allowing for a lively discussion at the



scheduled class time. While working on the 50th Anniversary of WGSJ, I had the pleasure of being part of the magical day when Shauna Sweeney interviewed Natalie Zemon-Davis in her beautiful home, and I could have listened to them for days. I also enjoyed hearing all the stories from others on the anniversary committee, especially Ceta Ramkhalawansingh and Kay Armatage, which were fascinating. Suffice it to say that much has changed over those 50 years and it took a great deal of tenacity and effort from many to get WGSJ where it is today. I look forward to seeing what the future brings to the department and seeing everyone in person again. This photo is of me in my lunchroom while working from home which has been my saving grace during COVID (yep that's Lake Ontario in the beaches of Toronto and this spot is right across the street from my home office!).



Paul Tsang, Business Officer - While it is great to continue supporting the wonderful work of the WGSJ community during this pandemic, work life has been challenging having to juggle childcare and eldercare. This was made very real during this past year, when just before the vaccines came out, some members of the family came down with COVID 19. Mom was placed in isolation at the quarantine hotel by the airport, granddad in the ICU with pneumonia, and grandma was alone in her condo in isolation. The rest of the family having been exposed to COVID, I gave my eldest son the contact information of his aunt and uncles in case they needed to be called to make medical decisions, or the kids needed to go live under their care in Calgary or Ottawa. Thankfully, everyone recovered, although granddad is still on his slow recovery 8 months later.

I keep the kids active at home, having them set aside their electronics and work in our garden of corn, pumpkin, and sunflowers. Personally, my work supporting community members impacted by sexual trauma has shifted to online facilitation, and I am currently working on my comprehensive requirement towards my PhD Adult Education and Community Development at OISE.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Karyn Recollet - On Land-ing Praxis: I explore assemblages (artistically created) as a series of technologies of land-ings. Inquiry through land-ings are material-discursive practices as we orbit within and through mutual entanglements, and rupturings in relation to gatherings of matter as possible ways in which to view the world(s). I write procession, as a central site where enunciations and thoughts gather. My latest gathering of material forms, whispers, breakages, sutures is a processual encounter with star quilting as a technology of land-ing, where the creative praxis itself becomes a technology of procession. Durational, ongoing, edgeless, engaged forms of processions as protest, quilting, making, creating, collaboration, a series of witnessing strategies, a dance. Centering land-ing practices prioritizes relations within an emergent space, a yet-to-be space that is being created as we fall into a set of relations, while paying attention to, and being accountable towards the processes of the fall- how we are falling, what worlds are emerging, and what remains opaque to us. Landing praxis is constitutive of a space to think about new grammars of relational praxis. Processions are speculative emergent choreographies and cartographies where together, and with our more than relatives, we imagine alternative worlds and create affectual atmospherics that conjure collective matter into form. Processions map anti-colonial practices of care, rendering unintelligible confinement, control and containments embedded in policing and other formulations of violence.



This has been a challenging summer in so many ways. My heart broke, sank, shattered with every announcement of more Indigenous children's bodies being found. I have found it helpful to think about my relations to rock as kin- to architectures- as speculative architectures. I come to realize that we are in a space of witnessing practices around these speculative cartographies of residential school landings. How do I as an Indigenous adoptee, for instance, think through and alongside the mortar, the rock, that builds the speculative architectures of residential schools- in a way that recognizes that these are not edged matter, that there is an ongoingness that spills over the rock, the mortar in ongoing kinstillations. My orientation to these memories, these fractals, these cellular synopses- of school yards, of cold, sickness- I place somewhere; difficult conversations around care as yearnings for flight. Speculative cartographies and architectures set into motion various possibilities to be in relation with more than human and otherwise kinships. This summer, I teach myself how to make a star blanket, I listen to what the older aunties tell me and continue to suture, stitch, unstitch, rupture, break apart, undo, draw blood, push, hold tension, and hold my breath into an elsewhere - a space anew.



Shana Ye - In 2021, I published an article titled "'Paris' and 'Scar': Queer Social Reproduction, Homonormative Division of Labour and HIV/AIDS Economy in Postsocialist China" in *Gender, Place & Culture: A Journal of Feminist Geography*, and a book chapter "Queering Postsocialist Coloniality: Decolonizing Queer Fluidity through Postsocialist Condition" in *Postcolonial and Postsocialist Dialogues: Intersections, Opacities, Challenges in Feminist Theorizing and Practice*, edited by Redi Koobak, Madina Tlostanova and Suruchi Thapar-Björkert. London, UK: Routledge. My article "The Drama of Chinese Feminism: Post-socialist Trauma and Decolonization of Affect" will be out in *Feminist Studies* in this fall as well.

I recently received the Jackman Humanities Institute Program for Arts for my project "Pleasure of the Dispossessed: Queer Arts of the Chinese Working Class". I was also recently

awarded the Connaught New Research Award for my project "Sexting the Empire: the Economy of Sexuality and the Rise of Global China."

I was invited for two lectures this year to present my work "Queer 'Chimerica': Global China and the Political Economy of Ku'er" at University of Westminster, and "Chimerica: Queering Sino-US Interdependency" at University of California Irvine. I was also the guest speaker for "Race to Academia" podcast and for "Reel Asian Film Festival."

I am currently finishing my book manuscript and another two journal articles on boy's Love web series in China and feminist/queer pedagogy.

POST DOCTORAL FELLOW SPOTLIGHT

Finding Our Way - Life Promotion Bundles

Debby Danard, Provostial Post-Doctoral Fellow (supervisor, Dr. Bonnie McElhinny) - The following excerpt Conclusion & Future Directions (pp. 196 - 200) is from my doctoral thesis, "Medicine Wheel Surviving Suicide-Strengthening Life Bundle" (Danard, 2016). Back in 2019, I proposed to engage my writing to further mobilize this research as a graphic novel. However, the past two years, like the doctoral journey (9 years) took its own path.

To provide some background context, my thesis was in response to the suicide epidemic in our communities and in my own family lineage. It was my way of bringing together traditional knowledge and placing it at the centre of my research as a significant knowledge base.

"Forget Everything You Think You Know" refers to a dream where Peter O'Chiese (iban) explained that our life is an intersecting spiritual and a physical journey. He reminded me that thinking can become limited when informed by societal systems and structural constraints and that the human being through the human spirit has an unlimited source of possibility in connection to our Mother earth.

I keep coming back to the thought that life is a shifting, dynamic presence that often feels like a multiple choice test. Along with the global community, I made choices that seemed limited



Lodge in the New College Quad

from a lens of global pandemic, isolation, and health policy. Many of my initial goals and intentions over the past two years, simply required another way forward. I learned to be more adaptive, more creative and more compassionate towards my self, my family, my community and the world.

At the conclusion of this post-doctoral journey, I want to express my deep gratitude for all the support in changing direction and perhaps accomplishing more than my original goals and objectives had intended.





In response to the pandemic, Askaakamigokwewigamig (Ah-skaw-kom-ih-goh-kweh-whi-gah-mig) Mother Earth Learning Lodge was raised in the New College quad at the St. George campus. The vision was to create an open air space for physically distanced learning on the land while engaging Indigenous knowledge/teachings/ceremony. In reflection, this lodge became the extension of my research and thinking around life promotion, traditional knowledge and building relationship with the land as the foundation for mobilizing health and well-being.

As I move through this life journey, it continues to present challenges and great opportunities for resiliency. I hope that I have been able to share and gift to others, inspiration and determination for strengthening land, healing and reconciliation.



"Forget Everything you Think you Know" (Peter O'Chiese (Iban))

Letting go
of planned outcomes
original research plans
emerges new levels of understanding
My personal vision to answer the question
What are you asking of me?
leads to relationships with other communities,
these relationships take time
I continue to ask for guidance
to carry forward the possibilities of our ancestors
rooted in traditional knowledge and ways of knowing.
I allow the research vision to journey its own path.
Seeing community readiness
As readiness within each other
Within Me
Stuck in a pattern
Where outcomes must meet our expectations
And challenges become lessons
*
Despite all the best practices
All the recommendations
I simply must have faith
And experience life as the connection to spirit.
**
When I was lost
in my own research
When I was lost
in my own desire to bring forth
the teaching of my grandfather's drum
Each time I asked for help
A teacher arrived
A helper arrived
Leading me into the future
The place I am sitting now
A place I could not imagine arriving
so long ago
When I asked that first question...

I sit with my feast bundle
And spirit offering for my Grandfather
A beaded belt made by his son, my uncle
And traditional food of rice, berries and maple syrup
I realize the full impact of how much he loves me
For the spirit of his drum to give me
Such a gift of learning to love life
Despite its man-made barriers, conflicts, and control
Life is a wonderful expression
And extension of the Creator's love for each
And every human being
And other than human being
All of Mother Earth.

The mind is the space that holds time
time measured by the
physical body
Inside the heart the sacred space
Ode (heart)
Ways of knowing



intuitively and with reason
knowledge is knowing
belief and faith
is Being
the heart connection
to the spirit
at the centre of all of life.
*
I don't have all the answers
yet I know I am strong
because of the land where I was born
Where I come from
My spirit cannot be broken
Who I am
My body can travel all over Mother Earth
Where I am going and what my purpose is
Is up to me, the unlimited potential
I know
I can never truly be lost
When the map is a part of me
Embodied in something simple
As my hand...the map
My heart the guide.
All I know is embodied
In my connection to Mother Earth
My connection to all ancestors who have
returned to Mother Earth
and those yet to be born.

Letting go of the suicide spirit
Manifested by the disconnection to the Spirit of Life
We stand by the shores of the water
Offering our spirit bundles to those we love
And who love us
We ask for reconnection to our own spirit
Through ceremony
I release the spirit of my grandfather
offering my tobacco
the words of a grand daughter denied the knowing
her grandfathers life, left only to know him in death
I release the wound of my own heart
For my brothers, my sisters, my grandmothers, my mothers and my fathers
I offer a prayer for all of those
Lost and forgotten
Living in their own shadow
The tears fall and heal
Move to love
I release you grandfather
I forgive you
And more importantly I forgive myself
For not always seeing the beauty and light
In my own life, in my own heart
And now we are one
I carry you in the sacred space in my heart.
*
Meegwetch

CONGRATULATIONS TO DOCTORAL GRADUATE AARZOO SINGH



This summer I successfully defended my doctoral dissertation: "Object Stories: Tracing South Asian Colonial Histories of Displacement through Affective Archives." My research was supervised by Dina Georgis, with committee members Rinaldo Walcott and Robert Diaz.

My dissertation was an interdisciplinary study of unheard narratives of the 1947 Partition of India as they inform legacies of trauma, violence, and displacement for South Asian diasporic communities. In exploring the limitations of official state accounts of Partition, I turned to alternative epistemological sites in archives of the personal, in my own familial story of Partition, as a point of analysis. These sites take up the form of what I call "affective objects": sites, things, heirlooms, and artifacts that, because

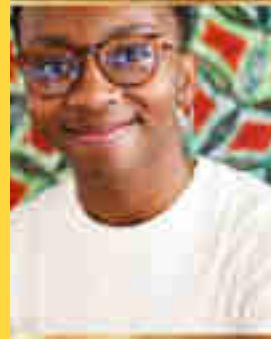
they are intimately linked to familial and community histories, are laden with inarticulable feelings. I argue that affective objects can be space- and knowledge-making for unheard intergenerational narratives of displacement as they ruminate in realms of undefinition and nonverbal modes of communication. The turn towards the affective object, archives of the personal, and the sharing of familial stories creates spaces of possibility and potential for knowing Partition and its legacies of violence differently.

Plans for the future: I will be starting as an Assistant Professor, teaching stream, at the University of Toronto Scarborough at the Department of Historical and Cultural Studies.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2021 MA CLASS!



Bennette Baguisa
MA Research Paper (MRP):
*"Performing Diasporic
Womanhood: Feminist
Aesthetics 'Babae.'"*



Ayisha Lineo Gariba
(they/them)
MRP: *"Beyond the Return:
Unsettling Narratives of
Home, Belonging and
Proper Sexual Citizenship
in Ghana"*



Reese Carr
MRP: *"Somewhere Between
Trans and Parent: Erasure a
and Care of Trans Masculine
Parents Within Social Service
Spaces"*



Ashley Gold (she/her)
MRP: *"Uprooting the Zionist
National Family: Jewish
Masculinities, Settler
Relationality, and the Family
Politic of Israeli Apartheid"*



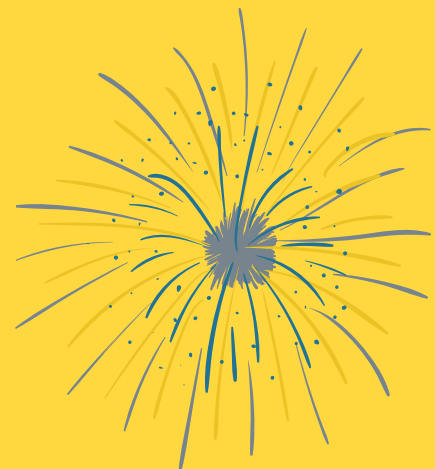
Cecilia Federizon (she/her)
MRP: *"Queer Parables of the
Filipinx Diaspora: Mapping
Filipinx-Canadian
Catholicisms"*



Arshi Noor Semy
MRP: *"Hopeful Spaces:
An Analysis of Radical
Spiritual Access and
Islamic Feminist
Leadership"*



Daisy Fraser-Boychuk
MRP: *"Transaesthetics and
the Trans Imperial Reach"*



FACULTY NEWS



Nicole Charles - This year, Tonya Haynes (University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Barbados) and I were awarded a New Frontiers in Research Award,

Exploration Grant (\$246,694): Sugar Made Us Free? Diabetes and the Afterlife of Slavery in Barbados: Art, Archive & the Gendered Dimensions of Risk.



Wafaa Hasan - Since beginning with WGSJ on June 1st 2021, I have presented a project documenting anti-Palestinian racism in the TDSB and surrounding public school boards to the Hearing Palestine Steering Committee and the project has been approved for funding and research support. My paper called, "Palestinian Women, Interrupted: Colonial Dialogues in Anti-Occupation Solidarity Work" was accepted as part of a panel to the Middle Eastern Studies Association Conference this Fall.

I have also published an Op-Ed in *Politics Today* called, "How Did We Get Here?" Facing the Political Histories of Islamophobia and Anti-Arab Racism in Canada - *Politics Today*" in the wake of the killing of the Afzaal family in London, Ontario. I have also submitted an abstract for a book project with the Institute of Islamic Studies called, "Qualitative/Quantitative Study of Anti-Palestinian Racism in Public School Boards of the Greater Toronto-Hamilton Area" on the topic of priorities for the Islamophobia Summit.

I attended a library workshop and a grant writing workshop for professional development, and I created a new syllabus for Gender and Violence as well as for the 4th year Honours Seminar. I met with the National Council for Canadian Muslims and the

Institute of Islamic Studies to give academic direction for topics at the Islamophobia Summit in relation to the colonial nature of GBA+ directives in the Department of Global Affairs and the Department of Defense, as well as the need to centre anti-Palestinian racism, and the importance of centring home-less and impoverished Muslim women navigating a heavily under-funded women's shelter system during COVID. I have met with public educators, community members and MP Jennifer O'Connell to discuss the violence and ethnic cleansing in Sheikh Jarrah as well as the inequitable learning environments in Ontario public school boards pertaining to Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism.

R. Cassandra Lord - What is the impact of gender and body image on post-surgery pain?

Along with co-principal investigator [Dr. Massieh Moayedi](#), I will lead a diverse team of researchers examining how changes to gender identity and body image contribute to an individual's pain experience. Read more [here](#).

My most recent publication "We have Always Been Here: Pelau MasQUEERade Disturbing Toronto Pride History" was published in the *Journal of Canadian Studies*, vol. 54, no. 2-3, [spring/fall 2020 issue](#).



Michelle Murphy - In collaboration with Professor Kristen Bos and members of the Indigenous feminist-led Environmental Data Justice Lab that they co-direct, we launched version 2.0 of the Pollution Reporter App that serves members of Aamjiwnaang First Nation, a community that lives surrounded by over 50 facilities in the area known as Canada's Chemical Valley. This past year I was inducted as a member of the Royal Society of Canada. I also started a new SSHRC funded project titled "What is Chemical Pollution? Prototyping a Feminist, Place-Based Approach."



Judith Taylor - I am returning as interim Undergraduate Coordinator, delighted to reconnect with students in this 2021-2022 year. I teach courses in research methodologies, community engagement, social activism, and the graphic novel and am also pleased to be working closely with faculty this year to think about exciting additions to our curriculum. I work on scholarship relating to the ways NGO feminists think about the (Canadian) state.



TRIMBLE



The 2020-21 academic year was one for the books. As Undergraduate Coordinator, I had the honour of witnessing WGSU's faculty and instructors tackle online teaching with energy, creativity, compassion, and good humour. After reinventing my own courses to include more opportunities for engagement than ever before, I was humbled by how our students rose to the occasion each week. There was letter writing, playlist building, and impromptu poetry, and the chat box that accompanied our meetings became a weekly stream of wit, insight, curiosity, and mutual care. It was a challenging year, to be sure, but it was also an experience I'll never forget. My sincerest thanks to the students and stellar teaching assistants who came on board with such enthusiasm.

And while most of my energy went into teaching this past year, I also had the pleasure of writing for Bitch Media in the summer of 2020, translating my work in the field of feminist cultural studies for non-academic audiences. You can find my articles on pop culture, pronouns, and conspiracy theories right here. I'm on leave for the 2021-2022 academic year, busily laying the groundwork for a new oral history project that will look back on fifty years of doing and teaching feminist cultural studies in the academy.

MEET WGSI'S WORK STUDY STUDENTS



Radhika Dhawan (BA): I've been one of two work-study students in the Women & Gender Studies department this past year! I've worked on many different communication tasks, such as helping run our Zoom Webinars and redesigning certain pages on our website. I'm currently in my third year doing a Specialist in Women & Gender Studies and a Minor in Sexual Diversity Studies. I'm looking forward to two more years in this program at this department - I have really enjoyed my time working with different members of WGS! these past few semesters!



Natalya Motluk (BA): Since the Fall of 2020, I have been working as a Communications Assistant for WGS!. Primarily, my tasks have focused on increasing our social media presence. My goal has been to make the Institute more accessible online (particularly during the pandemic) as well as to create a (relatively) safe space on our social media accounts where students can access resources and important news/information. Currently, I am entering my fourth and final year at the University of Toronto, majoring in Women and Gender Studies with minors in History and English, and I am excited to be able to finish my time at UofT working with WGS!

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT UNION

Despite the challenges that online learning posed during the 2020-21 academic school year, the Women and Gender Studies Student Union (WGSSU) remained a safe haven for eager Women and Gender Studies students. Through zoom chats, WGSSU was able to connect to both former and current students in order to provide a small sense of community. Although the fully online semester did not allow us to operate at the same degree we once have, we persevered and found new ways to stay connected and provide support, and to maintain the links between students and administration. Furthermore, we found that the online formatting increased community desire for WGSSU programming and engagement.

Now that we have experience with the challenges and advantages of our new online reality, the WGSSU will become a more efficient and desirable space for Women and Gender Studies students. Our goal is to create programming in our upcoming year that commits to students' academic goals such as - graduate school information, meetings with professors, opportunities to present work, and talks and presentations with educators. Moreover, we hear and are listening directly from our student body who are eager for more social programming that encourages a strong sense of community and solidarity with like-minded folks. We understand that a consequence of the ongoing pandemic means increased personal and academic challenges for students. As a result, we hope to provide a safe space for students to feel comfortable and relaxed despite continuing troubles.



President: Mackenzie Stephenson (she/her)



Vice President: Nawal Ali (she/her)





Of course, we also recognize and support student activism, particularly on a number of pertinent social issues that affect our communities. We plan on furthering programming that is relevant and speaks to the social, cultural, and political interests of our discipline.

Our new WGSSU executive team is very excited to meet students, engage in meaningful discussions, and host events that speak to student needs. We wish everyone a safe and healthy school year and look forward to upcoming activities.

In solidarity,

The 2021-2022 WGSSU Executive Team



POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS' NEWS

NIKOLI ATTAI



I end my Provost Postdoctoral Fellowship WGSJ (supervisor, Dr. Alissa Trotz) this October. Despite the ongoing disruptions caused by the COVID19 global pandemic, I completed my first monograph on queer community-making in the Anglophone Caribbean, which was submitted under contract to Rutgers University Press. I also completed a collaborative digitization project with community archivists in Trinidad and Tobago where over 5000 photos, posters and newspaper clippings and 50 videos have been converted to digital formats. This project will continue as the team explores options for developing an online repository to document and preserve Trinidad and Tobago's rich queer histories. I am also participating in other archival projects, having joined a team of scholars at York University for a project dedicated to the preservation of Toronto's Caribbean Carnival histories and the work of

prolific Caribana co-founder Kenneth Faiz Neamath Shah. In addition to these projects, I offer service to the Caribbean Studies Association as a council member for 2021-2022 and co-chair of the Book Exhibit Committee for the Association's annual conference at the university of the West Indies, Mona Jamaica. I work closely with the social justice groups CAISO: Sex and Gender Justice and Friends For Life, both based in Trinidad and Tobago, on several ongoing projects.

Although I leave WGSJ soon, I intend to remain closely connected to the Institute and U of T as I begin a new journey as Research Associate and Programme Coordinator of the Queer and Trans Research Lab (QTRL) at the Mark Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, located at University College on the St. George Campus.

Mary-Kay Bachour - I am a Faculty of Arts and Science Postdoctoral Fellow in the Women & Gender Studies Institute and an affiliate at the School of Cities, University of Toronto (supervisor, Dr. Marieme Lo). I completed my Master's Degree in the Women & Gender Studies Institute at the University of Toronto, where I unpacked the impacts of the civil war on the Lebanese diaspora in Toronto, Ontario, and received my Ph.D. in the Department of Geography and Planning at the University of Toronto, where I examined access to housing among government-assisted refugees based on the intersections of race, class, language, and citizenship status. I have also worked on several research projects, including "Urban Mobilities and Spatialities" at the Asian Pathways Research Lab. I most recently collaborated on the "Independent Refugee Youth Project" with a team of principal researchers at the University of Toronto, where I explored access to housing and wraparound services for young refugees who arrived in Canada alone before the age of 24.

My postdoctoral fellowship research is focused primarily on unpacking the intersectional politics of the housing crisis in Toronto through engagement with racialized refugee claimant women's lived experiences and their embodied and intersecting subjectivities. The central question that frames this study is: What are key barriers experienced by racialized refugee claimant women in accessing safe, secure and long-term housing in Toronto? With this underlying question, this study investigates the relationships between the changing landscape of housing and shelter service provision for refugee claimant women and the broader context of deepening inequality to accessing affordable, safe and secure housing in Toronto. I draw on critical feminist frameworks and intersectional analytics to enrich current conceptualizations and theorizing of housing (in)access and inequality in Canada and their intersections with gender, race, class, immigration status, language, and family size.

Tatiana Klepikova - As a Faculty of Arts and Science Postdoctoral Fellow (supervisor, Dr. Shana Ye), I spent my pandemic year exploring digital worlds, both in terms of work mode (less exciting) and research focus (much more exciting). I co-edited a special issue of *Digital Icons: Studies in Russian, Eurasian and Central European New Media*, titled "Digital Selves: Embodiment and Subjectivity in New Media Cultures in Eastern Europe and Eurasia," (with Cassandra Hartblay, director of the U of T Centre for Global Disability Studies; [available in open access](#)). I also edited and translated an anthology of [contemporary Russian queer plays](#), which will be coming out with Bloomsbury Methuen Drama this fall. I am currently working on a book project that will be a short introduction to a cultural and literary history of queer theater and drama in Russia between the early 1900s and today. On October 1, I will be taking up an offer from the University of Potsdam in Germany to join their Department of Central and Eastern European Culture and Literature for 3 years as a postdoctoral fellow with research and teaching privileges.



GRADUATE STUDENT UNION



It's been a hard year! All of us who ran the executive committee of the Women and Gender Studies Graduate Student Union (WGSU) were still learning the ropes of WGSU and to UofT itself, not to mention the ongoing pandemic as well. However, with all this we managed to run a variety of events and initiatives that worked towards our goal of student support (both mutual and departmental) and community building.

Our executive team, Sam, Binta, Esra, Ferdie, Darlyne and Keira, all come from differing academic and work backgrounds. This difference became our strength in developing events and initiatives like "Speaking to Power", the first-year WGSU graduate mentorship program, and our weekly writing rooms.

As we gravitated towards frameworks with intersectional concern and care, over the norm of graduate competitiveness, we wanted to capture the essence of what we think WGSU stands for: as

a transnational feminist group, capable and able of hosting gatherings that ask how we can use gender theories to work against the structure of power (be it power concentrated in sexism, racism, classism, colonialism, capitalism, homophobia, transphobia), and work toward goals of unity and community building.

For this incoming year we hope to bring in even more of our graduate students. Each person brings a unique and important perspective, so if you're a WGSU grad or collaborative student please reach out to us! Consider joining the union! We're always open to collaboration and support of ideas that can help our community of peers.

Here's to an exciting new year!

- WGSU



MEET THE 2021-22 WGS GRADUATE STUDENT UNION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

REESE CARR - CHAIR: Through my time as an MA at the WGSU I came to appreciate what this department offers to its students and what we as students offer to one another. Seeing the effort that others have put into making my time here a positive and rich experience, I am excited for the opportunity to get involved and contribute as a PhD student, in for the long haul.


As Chair, I hope to build on the wonderful foundations laid by growing the reach of the WGSU through an Instagram and Facebook presence, building on last year's writing group and continuing the work of the graduate student conference. In my previous leadership experience, as the undergraduate president of the gender studies department student collective, I was responsible for maintaining prompt and accurate communication between students and faculty, planning and implementing a range of events, and the publishing of the department's undergraduate journal. Pulling on this experience I would love to organize and publish a WGSU graduate journal as well as build a working relationship with the undergraduate WGSU union, as I believe graduate and undergraduate students have a lot to offer one another.

GUITA BANAN - TREASURER: I think groups such as GSU are crucial for building good relationships and support in the community and I'd like to contribute to those efforts. I have chosen the roles in which I think I can work better with the rest of the team.

GRACE CAMERON - SECRETARY: I'm an incoming MA student and I'm eager to get involved in the department in order to build professional connections and collectivity. In my role as a board member at the UofT chapter of the Ontario Public Interest Research Group (OPIRG) I have a lot of experience taking minutes, organizing agendas, and circulating information.

CAMERON POWELL - COMMUNICATIONS: Graduate students exist not only as thinkers and creative beings but also as practical workers who exist in a specific institutional context. They must build a corporate existence and cultivate political power within this context. Given my expertise in composition and professional writing, which I have taught for the past year, I believe that I can contribute to this effort in a communications role.


NATSINET TEWOLD - EVENTS COORDINATOR: I have been immersed in Women & Gender Studies since I was a student at George Brown College from 2014-2016. Through the Diploma to Degree Program I was accepted by UofT, where I double majored in WGS & Equity. Currently, I am doing my Masters of Education at OSIE where I am also doing a Collaborative specialization in WGS. I want to take the



passion I have for this field and apply it in a way that serves our community as a whole because I truly believe it is through collective resistance where transformative justice can begin to occur.

KEIRA MAYO - COLLABORATIVE GRADUATE

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE: I'd really like to get a collab student social off the ground! I'm a huge advocate for student life, and I learned a lot last year from the WGSGSU. Hoping to keep growing with the team and keep building a better community for grad students at UofT!



MEET SOME OF OUR AMAZING STUDENTS!



KEHKASHAN BASU
(Undergraduate)

Named to the *2020 Forbes 30 under 30 List*



ANGIE FAZEKAS (PhD in Women and Gender Studies)

Co-Recipient of the *2020-21 WGSI TA Award* - nominated by June Larkin for her work in WGS160Y



DARLYNE BAUTISTA
(PhD in Women and Gender Studies)

Co-recipient of the *2020-21 WGSI TA Award* - nominated by M. Murphy for her work in WGS260F



FERDIE LOPEZ (PhD in Women & Gender Studies)

2020 recipient of the *Award for Scholarly Achievement in the Area of Gender Based Violence*



CHERIE DANIEL (PhD in Social Justice Education with a collaborative focus in Women and Gender Studies)

Recipient of the *Dianne Medal for Social Justice Through Law*



ALEXANDRA MARIS (PhD in Exercise Science with a collaborative focus in Women and Gender Studies)

Recipient of the *2021 City of Toronto Graduate Scholarship in Women and Gender Studies*

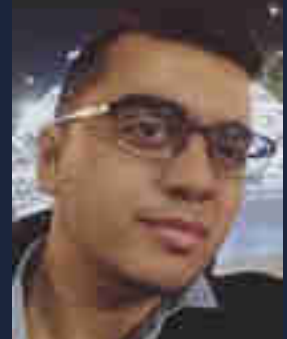


ROBYN MAYNARD (PhD in Women and Gender Studies)

2020 recipient of the *Talent Award from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.*

RYAN PERSADIE (PhD in Women and Gender Studies)

Recipient of the 2020–2021 *Teaching Assistant Award, Department of Historical Studies, Women and Gender Studies Program, UTM* – nominated by Beverly Bain, Jordache Ellapen and Cassandra Lord for his work with undergraduate WGS courses at UTM.



SAM SANCHINEL (PhD in Women and Gender Studies)

2021 recipient of the *Margrit Eichler Student Leadership Award*

MACKENZIE STEPHENSON (Double major in Women and Gender Studies & Sociology)

Recipient of the 2021 *City of Toronto Undergraduate Scholarship in Women and Gender Studies*



FACULTY NEWS

KRISTEN BOS

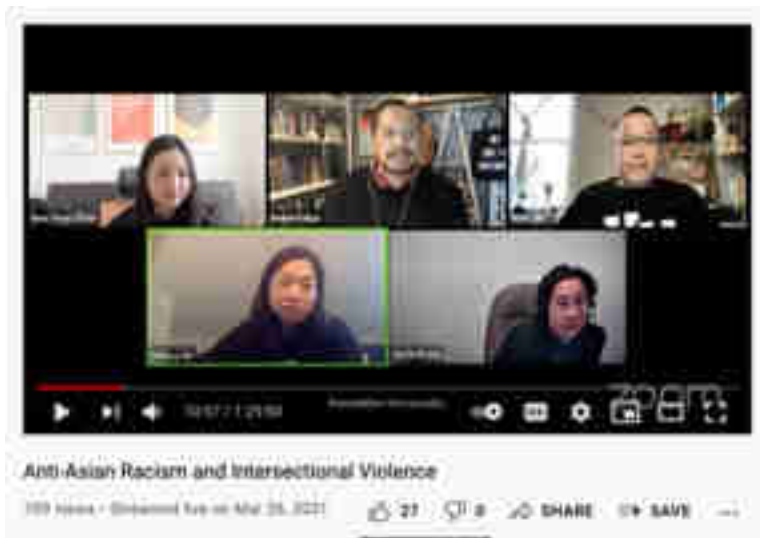


This year, I completed my first year at WGS! I was selected as one of four Inaugural Faculty Fellows for the Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society and received funding from the inaugural Black, Indigenous, and Racialized Scholar/Research Grant Program at the University of Toronto Mississauga (UTM). I presented at virtual gatherings for the Society for Social Studies of Science and Native American and Indigenous Studies Association. My lab, Technoscience Research Unit, which I co-direct with Professor Michelle Murphy, soft-launched version 2.0 of our app, Pollution Reporter, which now includes more data on chemical emissions and their relation to health harms as well as helpful functions like geolocation, which helps users identify specific facilities in Chemical Valley as well as browse their operation histories.

I have also developed three new courses: Sex, Gender and the Environment; Introduction to Histories of Extraction; and Histories of Extraction and the Future of the Environment. I continue to be an active member of my communities, which includes leading the Indigenous Caucus at the Toronto Rape Crisis Centre.



ROBERT DIAZ



Over the past year, I helped co-organize events that sought to resist anti-Asian racism in North America more generally and Canada more specifically. Working alongside Hae Yeon Choo, Alissa Trotz, Jo Saliba, and Paul Tsang, we held "Anti-Asian Racism and Intersectional Violence" on March 22, 2021. This community roundtable drew more than 500 participants. It featured frontline workers who reflected on how the Atlanta shootings directly targeted Asian women. Elene Lam (Butterfly), Justine Kong (Chinese Canadian Nation Council-Toronto), and Rick Sin (Asian Canadian Labor Alliance) examined how the shootings stemmed from American empire's enduring effects, the criminalization of sex work, and other barriers that sustain migrant precarity.

In collaboration with Richard Fung, Shellie Zhang, Monika Kin Gagnon, Min Sook Lee, and Beverly Bain, and with Scholar Strike Canada's support, we also organized "Anti-Asian Racism Undone," a two-day virtual gathering held on May 29-30, 2021. This teach-in placed sex workers, activists, artists, and scholars in productive conversation. Speakers sought to transform the violence in Atlanta into an enduring call to action, one that can build social movements against anti-Asian racism, Anti-Black racism, settler-colonialism, heteronormativity, and all forms of white supremacy. This gathering drew more than 500 participants as well. [More information available here.](#)

JORDACHE A. ELLAPEN



I join the Queer and Trans Research Lab, housed at the Bonham Center for Sexual Diversity Studies, as one of two inaugural faculty fellows. During this year-long fellowship, I will work on my book project tentatively titled *Against Afronormativity: Afro-Indian Intimacies and the Queer Aesthetics of Indenture in South Africa*. This book curates an archive of aesthetic practices by Indian and Black feminist and queer South African artists to re-imagine Afro-Indian intimacies and to re-orientate our understanding of race and racial formations. By tracing lines of embodied desire between Black and Indian queer and queered communities, this book puts pressure on the discrete racial identitarian categories Indian, Black, and African to reveal our interconnected pasts, presents, and futures. This is an urgent call to “imagine otherwise” in a context where the Indian continues to be racialized as the foreign-other and where Blackness has become a marker

of autochthony and the authentic national subject.

In 2021, I published three journal articles. The first is titled “The Brown Photo Album: An Archive of Feminist Futurity.” This article appears in the journal *Kronos: Southern African Histories* as part of a Special Issues titled *Other Lives of the Image*. My research on the Black queer-femme performance art duo FAKA has also been published in 2021. The first article, “Siyakaka Feminism: African Analogy and the Politics of Deviance in FAKA’s Performance Art Praxis” appears in the Spring 2021 issue of *Feminist Studies*. The second article, “Performing Blackness as Transgressive Erotics: African Futurities and Black Queer Sex in South African Live Art” appears in the Summer 2021 issue of *Feminist Formations*.

KERRY RITTICH



How is Covid - 19 transforming the world of work? How are problems of gender in the realms of work, health and family embedded in developments and decisions in the political economy and international institutions? And what might colonial governance practices tell us about such contemporary issues? These are the questions around which my current research projects revolve, some of which I am pursuing with critical and sociolegal scholars from Kenya, the US, Colombia, France, India, Israel and beyond.

Closer to home, I'm currently the Graduate Coordinator at WGSJ and I teach courses at the Faculty of Law on the Law of Work and Legal Theory. I also co-convene the WGSJ Research Seminar and the Critical Approaches to Law Workshop at the Faculty of Law.

SHAUNA SWEENEY



In 2020-21, I published “Black Women in Slavery and Freedom: Gendering the History of Racial Capitalism” in *American Quarterly* and “Gendering Racial Capitalism and the Black Heretical Tradition” in *Histories of Racial Capitalism* (Columbia University Press, 2021). I also co-organized the symposium ‘Food and Sovereignty’ in collaboration with historians Tracey Deutsch, Heidi Gengenbach and Amanda Herbert. Selected papers from the symposium will be part of a special issue of *Gender & History*, due out in 2022. Most importantly, I had my first child, Maceo, in November 2020, who brought much needed moments of joy to an uncertain year (he also made me appreciate anew the beauty of sleep, if and when it happens).

***VICTORIA TAHMASEBI
BIRGANI***



Last year I took on the role of the Director of the program at UTM and we finally changed the name of the program to Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies. I also had the pleasure of teaching the core graduate course WGS5001: Feminist Theories, Histories, Movements and working with our talented PhD students.

Last year was an extremely challenging time for everyone, and I am happy to see our gradual return to face-to-face sociality.

RINALDO WALCOTT



In 2021 I published two books. *On Property* (Biblioasis) and *The Long Emancipation: Moving Toward Black Freedom* (Duke University Press). *On Property* has been longlisted and shortlisted for The Toronto Book Award. In August I participated in the first seminar for the new year at the Centre for Humanities Research at the University of Western Cape, South Africa on *The Long Emancipation* and in October I will do the same at the Africana Studies Program, Tulane University which selected *The Long Emancipation* as their program's book club read. I also recently published essays in the journals *Liquid Blackness* "The Black Aquatic"; *World Systems Research* "Neither Native or National: Against Sovereignty and Towards a New Commons" (this was for a symposium on Nandita Sharma's *Home Rule: National Sovereignty and the Separation of Natives and Migrants*); and I have an essay forth-

coming in *Small Axe*, "'Inner Plantations': Caribbean Studies, Black Studies and a Theory of Black Freedom" for a special section on the reconsideration of Kamau Brathwaite's 1975 "Caribbean Man in Time and Space". Finally, I am happy to be serving on a conference committee celebrating the 20th anniversary of the publication of Dionne Brand's *Map to the Door of No Return: Notes on Belonging* scheduled for York University November 3-6, 2021.



2021 DOCTORAL RESEARCH SEMINAR

On April 14th, 2021, WGSJ hosted its annual Doctoral Research Seminar via Zoom. Once again, WGSJ and Collaborative doctoral students spent an afternoon sharing their exciting and wide-ranging research:

STUDENT: Diana M. Barrero Jaramillo

TITLE: "Weaving Women's Stories: Colombian Women's Use of Textiles in Peacebuilding Pedagogies"

ABSTRACT: In Colombia, women have used the production of textile narratives as testimonial texts to document and transmit knowledge based on their individual and collective experiences of violence related to armed conflict. In this presentation, I focus on women-led community-based initiatives that use textile-based narratives to document specific histories of violence and resistance.

STUDENT: Cornel Grey

TITLE: "Keloid"

ABSTRACT: This paper reflects on the encounters that produced Black Synesthetics: On Queer Feeling, Real Contact and Black Flesh, my dissertation-project on touching and intimacy between black queer men.



STUDENT: Huda Hassan

TITLE: "Ciyaal Baraf"

ABSTRACT: This presentation is based on my doctoral project, which explores the ways in which Canada's Somali diaspora has been framed in mass media as the new national criminal subject.



STUDENT: Miriam Hird-Younger

TITLE: "Leave No One Behind: the politics of performing 'good' inclusion in development practice in Ghana"

ABSTRACT: While participation of "the poor" has been a dominant approach in development for decades, current participatory approaches to aid centre around including the most marginalized. This inclusivity agenda is referred to as "leave no one behind" under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS). Based on ethnographic research with national Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOS) that are implementing the SDGs in Ghana, I ask: how are NGOs fulfilling, navigating, and negotiating increasing expectations for "good inclusivity"?



STUDENT: Yasmin Khan

TITLE: "Between the Camps and the Sea: the gendered impact of climate change and Rohingya refugee aid policies on Bangladeshi host communities"

ABSTRACT: Within forced migration research, the social-environmental impacts of refugee aid policies on the vulnerability of poor non-refugee populations remains largely understudied and stronger links are needed between vulnerability research and aid policy and practice. I argue that donor-funded refugee aid policies (re)produced gendered climate vulnerability of already precarious host communities in Bangladesh.

STUDENT: Stephanie Latty

TITLE: "Black Women, Strip-Searching & State Violence in Canada"

ABSTRACT: This presentation is based on my doctoral research, which investigates the archives of three cases of the strip-searching of Black women and girls in Canada.



STUDENT: Kathleen Lahey

TITLE: "Listening to Silence: Shame, Secrecy and Intergenerational Trauma in Newfoundland and Labrador"

ABSTRACT: My ongoing doctoral research attends to aesthetic expressions of intergenerational trauma, shame, memory and secrecy in rural Newfoundland and Labrador.



STUDENT: Matthew Mucha

TITLE: "Dictatorial Cultures Across the Luzon Strait: Gendered Memory in the Martial Law Literature of Taiwan and the Philippines"

ABSTRACT: In novels about martial law in Taiwan and the Philippines, women authors bring to light larger historical and political metanarratives about Cold War in the Asia-Pacific region and textually represent putative historical truths for the sake of amending or refuting them. In this project, I analyze gendered trauma writing in the form of fictional narratives about martial law.



STUDENT: Emily A. Moorhouse

TITLE: "Facilitating Feminist Futures: Methods & Innovations"

ABSTRACT: Media and pop culture are key sources of information for youth to learn about sex, relationships and consent, yet limited research has explored the question, "how can media literacy approaches be used for sexual violence prevention?" This talk explores the multi-sited methods used in a study designed to answer this question.



STUDENT: Jaime Nikolaou

TITLE: "The Person is Political: Feminist Reflections on Dr Henry Morgentaler, a Charismatic Male Ally"

ABSTRACT: In this presentation, I focus on the case of Dr Henry Morgentaler - a physician and Holocaust survivor who was an unlikely icon in Canada's abortion rights movement from 1967-2013 - to explore the causes and consequences of involving men in feminist projects for change.

STUDENT: Sabrina Razack

TITLE: "Beyond the Score: How 'Networks of Hope' in feminist digital sport media influence gender and racial social movements"

ABSTRACT: This research explores the evolving content that is being produced by the Black Girl Hockey Club (BGHC) and the owner's involvement in advancing racial and gender equity movements.



2020-21 RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES



The 2020-21 WGS Research Seminar series featured another stellar line-up of guest speakers. On September 16, we kicked off the academic year with an event co-hosted with the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. Speakers Brenda Cossman (University of Toronto Faculty of Law), Robert Leckey (McGill University Faculty of Law), Kyle Kirkup (University of Ottawa Faculty of Law, Common Law Section) and Ummni Khan (Carleton University Department of Law and Legal Studies), presented an interesting and engaging webinar on the 1969 Criminal Law Reforms which was moderated by Kerry Rittich (University of Toronto Faculty of Law and WGS).



In October and November, The Hammed Shahidian Lecture Series spotlighted two creative and powerful interventions: On October 28, M. NourbeSe Phillip inspired attendees with her presentation, 'Ga(s)p: Experiments in Radical Hospitality.' The final seminar for 2020 was on November 18, with Dr. Hazel Carby offering provocations on 'Imperial Sexual Economies' from her recently published book, *Imperial Intimacies: A Tale of Two Islands*.



We started 2021 by welcoming Dr. Bedour Alagraa as she presented 'The Interminable Catastrophe' on January 20, based on her manuscript in progress.

On February 4, Dr. E. Tendayi Achiume, Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, shared their work on 'Racial Borders.' Closing the series on March 24 was WGSi's newest faculty member, Dr. Kristen Bos, with an insightful and important presentation on 'Visualizing Colonial Violence with Indigenous Feminisms, Chemicals and Seed Beads.'

Despite the logistical challenges hosting our research seminars this academic year, we discovered community in virtual space, with the zoom platform making our events more accessible across time zones and places. Webinar attendance numbers reached highs of close to 500 participants, with attendees joining from North America, and also tuning in from Albania, Australia, Barbados, Brazil, Finland, France, Germany, Guyana, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Israel, Kenya, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nigeria, the Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey and the United Kingdom. Our debut with international webinar audiences was a much celebrated experience.

By Jo Saliba de Chery

The recording of some of the webinars is available on our YouTube channel.

Information for WGS Research Seminars for the upcoming academic year will be posted on the WGSi website as they become available.



WGSI RESEARCH SEMINAR - CELEBRATING MARGRIT EICHLER (1942-2021)

On September 22nd, 2021, WGSI will be hosting its first Research Seminar for the 2021-2022 academic year. Please join us as we remember and honour Professor Emerita Margrit Eichler (1942-2021). Professor Eichler began teaching at the University of Toronto in 1975. From 1999-2003 she served as the first Director of WGSI. She was a friend, activist, and scholar who will be missed by the University of Toronto and wider communities that she was part of and dedicated her life's work to.



The poster for the WGS Research Seminar 2021-22 features the following text and elements:

- WGS Research Seminar 2021-22** (top left)
- WOMEN'S STUDIES INSTITUTE** logo (top right)
- University of Toronto** logo (bottom right of logo)
- September 22nd**
4:00PM-6:00PM EST
VIA Zoom - Registration Required
(see below to register)
- CELEBRATING**
MARGRIT
EICHLER (centered text)
- A black and white portrait of Professor Emerita Margrit Eichler (right side)
- Please join us as we remember and honour**
Professor Emerita Margrit Eichler (1942-2021). (bottom)

Register for
Research Seminar
here.

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