

Women's & Gender Studies

Newsletter

Sonoma State University

Vol.13, No. 2

Message from the Chair

Special Interest Articles:

- What to do with a WGS Major: Alumni Perspectives
- Meet the New Tenure-Track Faculty
- WGS Queer Lecture Series is Back--Spring 2009

Greetings! I am so thrilled to say that this semester, WGS has welcomed two new faculty members, Drs. Lena McQuade and Don Romesburg. Both professors have already garnered an enthusiastic following among our current students and are already sharing their expertise on the SSU campus. Don Romesburg participated in the "It Matters!" election lecture series sponsored by the Schulz Library, speaking on October 22nd on issues of gender and race in this election year! There's much to delve into there for sure. And Lena McQuade has revived the WGS-sponsored faculty colloquium as "Gendered Intersections". Faculty from across the University are coming together to share their work on the intersectionality of gender, race, ethnicity and sexuality (for example). This past Fall, Dr. Ada Jaarsma (Philosophy), Dr. Tryon Woods (Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies), Dr. Patricia Kim-Rajal (Chicano Latino Studies), and Dr. Lena McQuade (WGS) shared their work. We look forward the continuation of this series next semester! (See inside for more details on the talks).

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This semester, the department is completing the CSU-mandated Assessment. As part of this, we are having an External Reviewer from San Diego State University come to campus to assess our department and interview with our students and faculty. This has been a wonderful opportunity to take a moment to consider the past, present and future of the WGS department. Results of the Assessment will be made available on our website---likely in Summer of 2009.

Finally, alumni and community members, please do keep in touch! Hopefully we saw some of you local folks at our Fall Tea on October 29th. Any news, please send to our new Newsletter Editor, Lena McQuade (mcquade@sonoma.edu). I will be on sabbatical leave in Spring 2009, looking forward to a new research project on immigrant women domestic workers. Meanwhile, the Interim Chair will be Don Romesburg (romesbur@sonoma.edu), so feel free to contact him as necessary, or our Administrative Coordinator in the WGS office, Jo-Ann Smith.

Dr. Charlene Tung

Fall 2008 Activities:

WGS Student, Alumni & Faculty Tea

The WGS Department Fall Tea was a great success! It brought together the larger WGS community including current majors, minors, and their families in addition to alumni, and professors. Both alumni and professors shared their experiences post graduation, providing encouragement and mentorship for job hunting and navigating through graduate school.



WGS Students at the Fall Tea



WGS Faculty: Don Romesburg, Lena, McQuade & Charlene Tung

Students for Social Change Club (SSCC)

The SSCC is an expansion of the Women's and Gender Studies Club. Our goal is to spread social awareness along with promoting acts of social change on the SSU campus and in Sonoma County. We focus our efforts on women's and diversity issues. Our meetings are on **Thursdays at 3pm** in the Charlie Brown Café. If you have any questions, or would like to get involved, please email Emma Smales at: smales@sonoma.edu

Everyone is Welcome!

Gendered Intersections: Faculty Research Colloquium

Gendered Intersections is the continuation of the WGS faculty colloquia series. This fall semester 2008 featured faculty research that engages intersectional analyses into gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, and/or nation. Presentations included:

"How does Gender Mean? Trans Studies and Transcendence" Ada Jaarsma, Philosophy

Attending especially to feminist existentialism, I take seriously the challenge, raised from within trans studies, that feminist philosophy must interrogate its own history and take responsibility for either precluding or failing to take up solidarity with trans activism and academic inquiry.

"Each Day a New Being: Social Reproduction and Death-in-Life" Tryon P. Woods, Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies

I focus on women in Chiapas and in the Niger River Delta, in the southernmost regions of Mexico and Nigeria, respectively, out of recognition that the subordination of women across contexts reveals precisely how central women are to cultivating alternatives to the violent global order that attempts to disintegrate their communities.

"Bringing Betty To America: Transforming a Telenovela For U.S. Mainstream Television" Patricia Kim-Rajal, Chicano and Latino Studies

When "Ugly Betty" premiered on ABC-TV in the Fall of 2006, it became the first series derived from a Latin American telenovela to air in prime-time on a major broadcast network. My work posits that its success derives, in part, from the producers' decision to transform Betty's appearance to fulfill the expectations placed on Latina bodies in American culture.

"Troubling Reproduction: Birth and Belonging in New Mexico" Lena McQuade, Women's and Gender Studies

From the U.S.-Mexico War when the inhabitants of the New Mexico territory were described as a "mongrel race" to contemporary debates about teen pregnancy, the reproductive potential of New Mexicans has been deemed problematic. In this presentation, I explore the historical entanglements between reproduction, racial hierarchies, economic inequities, and New Mexico's liminal position within the nation.

What to do with a WGS Major:

Alumni Perspectives

Alli Deering: Double Major WGS and English, 2006

What are you doing now?

I am substitute teaching here in Sonoma County for all ages and all grades. I'm also working as an independent contractor through Sonoma County Social Services as a Family Coach where I provide in-home coaching to families who are being reunified with their children.

How has your experience in the WGS Department contributed to your life now?

I firmly believe that my degree makes me qualified for every single job I pursue, whether it is in teaching, social work, chemical dependency treatment, the legal system, or essentially anything dealing with other people. I genuinely feel that I am qualified because of the education and experience I gained in WGS. It is so nice to look back on my college years and the times when I was worried about "where my degree would take me" or "what my degree makes me qualified to do," and just smile because I know now that I am fully-qualified for many different jobs.

"I firmly believe that my WGS degree makes me qualified for every single job I pursue"

What advice would you offer a new WGS major?

Get involved and enjoy yourself! I believe one reason I look back so fondly on my years at SSU and in WGS was that I was involved. I served as a TA, organized events, worked on campus, and stayed in the loop because everything that happened on campus affected me in some way.

Stacey Wood: WGS Major, 2004

What have you been doing since you graduated?

After working for nearly four years at Girls Inc. of Alameda County, I decided to return to school for graduate study. I'm currently pursuing a Masters of Education at San Francisco State, where my special interest has been queer pedagogy. I am partnering with outreach workers to develop queer curriculum and target school policy surrounding gender non-conformity safety and empowerment.

How has being part of the WGS Department contributed to your life now?

I am thankful that the WGS Department takes a very interdisciplinary approach to analyzing society. I feel I am able to deconstruct oppression from a holistic perspective and, more importantly, am able to construct new visions for the future that take into account the complexities of lived experiences. WGS challenged me to be self reflexive and question how I personally occupy space, thus, making me more able to sensitively and intellectually view issues of transnationalism, race, gender, sexuality, and class.

"I believe that in choosing to critically examine issues of oppression we enlist ourselves as agents of empowerment and change."

What words of advice would you offer WGS majors?

I would like to commend them for choosing WGS! I believe that in choosing to critically examine issues of oppression we enlist ourselves as agents of empowerment and change.

Meet the New Tenure-Track Faculty



Dr. Lena McQuade

Lena grew up in California and attended SSU as an undergraduate majoring in Women's and Gender Studies and Hutchins. After graduating with her BA, she went on to graduate school in American Studies at the University of New Mexico. Last year, while finishing her dissertation, she was a fellow in the Feminist Studies Department at UC Santa Barbara. She earned her PhD in the summer of 2008 and has been overjoyed to return to SSU as a professor in the very department that helped launch her academic career.

Her scholarly research centers on the intersections of reproduction, gender, race, sexuality, and class. She is working on a book project tentatively titled "Troubling Reproduction: Birth and Belonging in New Mexico" that traces the history of reproductive health in the US-Mexico border state of New Mexico.

Lena is very excited to join the WGS department and to continue building its reputation for academic rigor, community involvement, and strong student mentorship. She sees Women's and Gender Studies as a dynamic and growing field that prepares students to think critically about our complex world and to work as leaders for women's empowerment and all forms of justice. Lena looks forward to furthering our department's focus on women's health initiated by Dr. Cindy Stearns and to developing the GE course "Women's Bodies: Health and Image." In addition, she has enjoyed getting to meet current and potential WGS majors and minors. If you have not met Lena yet, please come by her office in RCH 31 and say hi.

The last good book Lena read was "Places Left Unfinished at the Time of Creation" by John Santos Phillips—a beautifully written novel about three generations of a Mexican/ Mexican-American family that move back and forth across the US-Mexico border. Lena also really enjoyed, Elaine Brown's autobiography "A Taste of Power" about her empowering and heartbreaking experiences as the first female leader of the Black Panther Party in Oakland, California. For her research, Lena is currently reading Elena Gutiérrez's ground breaking study "Fertile Matters: The Politics of Mexican-Origin Women's Reproduction" that refutes negative stereotypes about Mexican American and Mexican immigrant women's reproduction.

Spring 2009 Course

Circle of Sisters

WGS 311.1

1-unit

Thursdays 12-12:50

SSU students will have the opportunity to work with Circle of Sisters, a local after school program.

Meet the New Tenure-Track Faculty



Dr. Don Romesburg

Don grew up in Juneau, Alaska, but was always a big-city boy at heart. He has mostly lived in San Francisco since 1994 and got his Ph.D. in U.S. History with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender, and Sexuality from UC Berkeley in 2006. He is the board co-chair of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Historical Society and co-curator of its new major exhibit, "Passionate Struggle: Dynamics of San Francisco's GLBT History." He and his husband are one of the 18,000 same-sex marriages now in legal limbo in California due to the passage of Proposition 8. Since May, they have been proud papas to a three-year-old daughter. She tries to boss them around, but with Don she may have met her match.

Trained as an historian with interdisciplinary gender/sexuality studies emphases, he has published on early 20th-century U.S. social science, cultures, and discourses of adolescence and homosexuality, the social history of queer performers, and male intimacy in popular culture.

Don is excited to continue to build the queer studies and masculinities studies components of the department as well as foregrounding the central role that Women's and Gender Studies plays in the growth and meaningful gender, sexual, racial, and socioeconomic diversity on campus.

The last good book Don read was "Outsiders Within: Writing on Transracial Adoption" edited by Jane Jeong Trenka.

Spring 2009 Course

Queer Studies Lecture Series

WGS 301

1-unit

Tuesdays 12-12:50

Come to the Queer Studies Lecture Series and learn about current issues in queer communities. Open to students and the public.

WGS Queer Lecture Series is Back – Spring 2009

Sonoma State's WGS Queer Studies Lecture Series for Spring 2009 is more exciting and diverse than ever. It will be focused around two major themes: "Community and Care" and "Queer Cultural Productions." The first will feature speakers on everything from LGBT community centers and transgender counseling to issues of race in same-sex marriage politics and drag as HIV/AIDS outreach. The former will bring in a lesbian porn director, a Hollywood filmmaker/documentarian, a leader in the queercore punk movement, and the publisher of a lesbian and feminist publishing company, among others. Interested students should sign up for WGS 301--it's a one-unit course that meets on Tuesdays from noon to one. The campus community and public are always welcome to attend these free events.

WGS Alumni News

Lauren Castro (2005), WGS minor, was accepted into the Higher Education Administration Master's Program at Boston College. The knowledge she gained from the WGS program at SSU really put her ahead of other students because she already had foundational theories to use in discussions and coursework. She is also working at MIT in the Public Service Center, assisting students interested in volunteering both nationally and internationally.

Corey Hale (2000), WGS major, writes: "I am completing my dissertation on 'The Soul and Language of Fire,' with an emphasis in Ecopsychology. I'm also working from home, for a national training company that works specifically with Coaches and Holistic Practitioners."

Heather Hendrickson (2003), WGS major, is now working as a consultant developing "The Grove" as one of Wine Country's premier wedding sites. She is also the owner manager of Floral Designs by Heather a floral design business that caters to local and destination brides. In February, she is planning a trip to Ethiopia to work with children whose parents have died from AIDS/HIV at Selmata in Addis Ababa.

Jessica Hernandez (2008), WGS and Psychology major, works for the Professional Association for Childhood Education Alternative Payment Program (PACEAPP). PACEAPP is a childcare subsidy program serving low-income families and their childcare providers in 25 counties in northern California. She is a Case Manager and assists families with self-sufficiency, advocacy and helps them find any community resources needed to support their families.

She writes: "I remember reading the book *Flat Broke with Children*, in Cindy's Gender and Work class and, to say the least, it readily applies to this job! I'm using my WGS major everyday!"

Claire Hogue (2008), WGS major, is still volunteering with UASA, but spends most of her time working at a local group home for adolescent boys. She writes: "At the Greenhouse Children's Project I work closely with boys who struggle with behavioral, emotional and delinquency problems. My WGS education has helped me to understand how age, class, and gender have influenced our boys' subjectivity in society. It is really exciting to apply my degree at work and come home feeling that I'm doing something I really care about."

Wendy Kale (2005), WGS minor and Psychology major, received a Masters Degree in Behavioral Psychology in May of 2007 from University of the Pacific. She is now the Director of Another Way, a supported living agency for developmentally disabled adults in Stockton, California.

Erica Klescewski (2007), WGS major, moved to San Francisco and is working as a Job Coach for The Arc of San Francisco, a non-profit that provides a variety of services to people with disabilities and their families. She provides job training and support services to a caseload of clients that work at various job sites throughout the city. She loves the challenge of the work and ultimately the most rewarding aspect of the job is getting to see her clients achieve their goals and become their own advocates. This fall, She will be applying to Master's in Social Work programs. She writes: "When I left SSU I was

constantly questioned about how I was going to make use of my degree, but now I can say with even more confidence, the possibilities are endless!"

Hilary Moore (2003), WGS and Human Development major and Anthropology minor, currently is pursuing a graduate degree in Environment Studies, with a Social Ecology focus, from Prescott College in Arizona.

Danielle Ronshausen Moreno (2007), WGS major and Women's Health minor, works for Social Advocates for Youth as a Community Advocate. She is the coordinator of the environmental prevention program, working to reduce youth access to alcohol in retail settings and at parties. She also assists the local police departments in recruiting volunteers for the minor decoy operations. In addition, she is still a doula and will be presenting at this fall's Women's Health Lecture Series. Danielle hopes to apply to UCSF's Nurse Midwifery Program within the next two years!

Tanya Wulff (2004), WGS and Sociology major, is a Case Manager for The Committee On The Shelterless, (COTS) in Petaluma. They offer not only emergency shelter for 100 adults every night, but they also provide trauma informed and transformative programs so that their members can begin to deal with their core issues surrounding their homelessness. She has a case-load of fifty clients, which is extremely challenging and equally rewarding. She has been invited to present during the fall Women's Health Lecture Series on women and homelessness. She is honored to be coming back to SSU in this capacity.

WGS Internships and Graduates Fall 2008

Internships

WGS students complete 120 to 145 hours of community involvement or internship for graduation. Each semester our students come into contact with a wide array of organizations building valuable reciprocal relationships between WGS/SSU and the wider community. Check out the various placements below through which our students just logged in over 2,205 hours just this past Fall!

Maureen Burch, Erin Garnett
The Family Connection (Santa Rosa, CA)

Ann Collins
Sonoma County Family YMCA
(Santa Rosa, CA)

Cassandra Holloway
Newsletter Intern, WGS Department

Stacie Jensen
Peer Advising, WGS Department

Dzidzonu Djugba
Outreach Intern, WGS Department

Megan Johnson, Marissa Oswald,
Rhonda Balzarini, Ashley Carrion
United Against Sexual Assault Crisis
Line Counselor (Santa Rosa, CA)

Marissa Oswald
Easter Seals of Northern CA

Sophia Eckert
Yellow Brick Homes for Children
(Santa Rosa, CA)

Laura Egelhoff
Circle of Sisters, girls after-school
program (Santa Rosa, CA)

Ashlee Herd
Santa Rosa OB-GYN

Amy Hudgens
Sutter Breast Care Center (Santa Rosa, CA) and Women's Health and Birth Center (Santa Rosa, CA)

Jacquelyn Weiss
Cross Cultural Solutions, teaching English and helping children at Tuleeni Orphans Home (Moshi, Tanzania)

Leslie Burns
COPE (Child or Parent Emergency) child abuse prevention (Napa, CA)

Ryan Conner
Kids Country, Teacher's Assistant (Danville, CA)

Rachel Higgins
AGAPE Counseling and Training Services, Peer Counseling Training Facilitator (Kisumu, Kenya)

Sarah Kaufman
Associated Students Productions, SSU

Julie Lewis
Women and Therapy Journal Intern, SSU

We love to hear from you (as do your fellow Alumni). Please contact the WGS Newsletter Editor at mcquade@sonoma.edu with your updates! Let us know how you are using your WGS degree and what your life looks like now that you have graduated.

Congratulations to Our December 2008 Graduates!

WGS Majors

Chelsea Marie Cardani

Holland Jennifer Flocke

Amy Jo Hudgens

Kristen L. Johnson

Erin M. Stewart

Jenacee M. Torri

WGS Minors

Michelle Lauren Johnson

Nina Renee Mihovilovich

Women's Health Minors

Chelsea Marie Cardani

Erin Marie Stewart



WGS Newsletter

Editor:
Lena McQuade
(mcquade@sonoma.edu)

Student Newsletter Intern:
Cassandra Holloway

Contributing Writers:
Alli Deering & Stacey Wood

Department Chair:
Charlene Tung

Administrative Coordinator:
Jo-Ann Smith

We're on the Web
[www.sonoma.edu/
womenstudies](http://www.sonoma.edu/womenstudies)

WGS Welcomes Your Support

Alumni and community members often ask us how they can stay involved or support WGS. There are numerous ways! Please see below! The WGS Foundation was set-up specifically to assist the department in providing quality curriculum enhancements and activities for students of WGS. Possibilities for use include travel grants, research opportunities, and technological innovations.

I am interested in:

- Sitting on a WGS Alumni Panel
- Contributing to the WGS Foundation*
 - \$5-\$50 Friend
 - \$50-\$75 Supporter
 - \$75 & above Advocate

- WGS Alumni Book Club
- WGS Alumni Facebook/MySpace or other online community

* Checks payable to: WGS Foundation

* Mail form/email interest to mcquade@sonoma.edu Department address below.

Contact Us

WGS Department Office. 707-664-2840. Joann.Smith@sonoma.edu

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WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES DEPARTMENT
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
1801 E. COTATI AVE. RCH 18
ROHNERT PARK, CA 94928**

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