

GENDER, WOMEN & SEXUALITY STUDIES

The mission of Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies is to analyze and change society from the unique perspective of unequal gender relations in a world where violence and discrimination is still commonplace. In GWSS, students learn about the racialized and global dimensions of contemporary sexual discourses, practices, and histories and question the mechanisms by which non-normative sexual desire has been segregated and disciplined. GWSS generates knowledge through frameworks that are interdisciplinary, transnational, decolonial and intersectional.



Highlights

- ▶ In 2015 the Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies Department celebrated its 45th Anniversary at UW.
- ▶ In 2011, the Women Studies Department changed its name to Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies; the Ph.D. degree is in Feminist Studies.
- ▶ The graduate program in Feminist Studies is the first of its kind in the Pacific Northwest and one of twenty doctoral programs in the U.S.
- ▶ Women Studies/GWSS graduated its first two Ph.D. students in 2006, and has granted a total of 25 Ph.D. and 11 M.A. degrees as of Autumn 2016.
- ▶ Four Women Studies/GWSS students have received the Graduate Medal, which recognizes Ph.D. candidates whose academic expertise and social awareness demonstrate an exemplary commitment to the University and larger community.
- ▶ One of our Ph.D. graduate students won a Grammy award (2013) for best Latin Rock, Urban or Alternative album.

Education

The Department offers BA, MA, and PhD degrees, as well as a Graduate Certificate in Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies for graduate students in other UW departments.

Our **undergraduate major** provides a highly flexible and individualized approach while creating a learning community. We emphasize integrative courses that explore relationships among phenomena such as gender, race/ethnicity, and social class. Required courses focus on feminist theorizing of race/ethnicity and psychobiology of women, and synthesize these areas of academic inquiry through internships and a capstone class. The capstone culminates in a portfolio tracing the student's path toward achieving the department's learning goals. With over 2,000 students enrolled each year, Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies reaches far beyond our department into the entire University.

The **graduate program** is research intensive with a critical, theoretical orientation; its social science emphasis is distinct among women studies programs in the U.S.

Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies alumnae have translated their studies into successful careers in politics, law, medicine, public health, museology, research, and social policy. In keeping with our commitment to social justice, our graduates include both volunteers and paid workers at social service organizations such as women's health clinics, a drop-in center for lesbian and gay youth, homeless shelters, and organizations that serve those affected by domestic violence.

STUDENTS (Winter 2017)

75	Undergraduate majors
47	Undergraduate minors
18	Graduate students

DEGREES AWARDED (July 2015-June 2016)

24	Bachelor of Arts degrees
42	minors
3	PhD degrees

MAJOR STUDENT AWARDS (Since 2008)

1	American Association of University Women Fellowship
1	Association for Asian Studies & Inner Asia Council Fellowship
18	UW Graduate School awards
1	Harlan Hahn Award/Disability Studies
1	Huckabay Teaching Fellowship
1	MacFarlane Endowed Humanities Scholarship
4	Simpson Center Digital Humanities Summer Institute
1	Simpson Center Society of Scholars Dissertation Fellowship
1	Stroum Dissertation Fellowship
2	Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies Scholarship

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

16	Undergraduate Awards
10	Marie Doman Awards for Excellence in Teaching, Graduate Students

Faculty

Gender, Women & Sexuality Studies faculty honors include:

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| 1 ACLS Collaborative Research Fellowship | 1 Samuel E. Kelly Distinguished Faculty Lecturer |
| 1 Brotman Award for Instructional Excellence (to a Center directed by a GWSS faculty member) | 4 Society of Scholars Research Fellowships, Simpson Center |
| 1 East Asian Center, UW, Travel Award | 4 Summer Simpson Center Digital Humanities Commons Faculty Research Fellowship |
| 1 GPSS Gold Star Award to GWSS Graduate Program | 5 UW Distinguished Teaching Awards |
| 1 Innovation in Service Learning Award, Carlson Leadership and Public Service Center | 1 GO-MAP Diversity Award for Community Building |
| 2 Mellon Area Studies Grants | 1 UW Teaching Technology Fellowship |
| 4 UW Research Royalty Fund grants | |

Research and Scholarship

The Department of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies (GWSS) at the University of Washington is widely recognized as one of the leading programs in the field. It was established in 1970 as one of the first programs in Women's Studies in the United States, and the very first in the Pacific Northwest. It is currently one of twenty doctoral programs in the country.

GWSS is reputed for scholarly expertise in women of color and transnational feminisms. We have growing foci in the digital humanities, an area where we are well-known for innovative experimental exchanges with communities through music, dance, and visual cultures (via the making of documentary films, the curating of feminist art, and building new forms of archives) and in queer studies, especially queer of color and transnational queer scholarship.

Consistent with the interdisciplinary character of the department, our faculty conduct wisely varied scholarship across the humanities and social sciences, including: illustrative feminist analyses of global commodity chains, sociohistorical studies of immigrant communities, documentary film and ethnographic studies of Native women and the criminal justice systems, feminist science studies, investigation of methodological and ethical challenges of research on minority populations, investigations of the politics of reproductive technologies, the politics of gender and visual representation in transnational contexts, analyses of gender nonconformity in contemporary South Africa, and public scholarship in feminist Chicana/Latina and Chinese art, literature, and digital production.

Our faculty collaborate actively with colleagues across the UW, including interdisciplinary centers and programs such as the Center for South Asian Studies, African Studies, the Institute for Transnational Studies, Disability Studies, the Diversity Minor, Global Health, and the Native Voices Project.

Outreach

Feminists from community organizations as well as academia form our Visiting Committee. Our departmental perspective on development combines fundraising and community-building into one comprehensive plan. Through our development activities we seek a robust academic and activist network, relying on both our alumnae base and on the strong feminist groups in this region. Each year dozens of students devote thousands of hours to over 100 community agencies.

Please stop by to meet us and consider joining a nationally recognized community of faculty, staff and students devoted to social change around the world.

FACULTY (Winter 2017)

- 2 Professors
- 7 Associate Professors
- 2 Assistant Professors
- 2 Professors Emerita
- 1 Lecturer
- 2 Part-time Lecturers
- 98 Adjunct and affiliate faculty

AREAS OF RESEARCH

- Bioethics of Reproductive and Contraceptive Technology
- Critical Asian Studies
- Critical Race & Queer Studies
- Documentary film and Native Voices
- Feminist Science Studies
- Feminist Labor Studies
- Feminist Theory and Methods
- Gender and Historical Studies
- Globalization, Migration and Transnational Feminist Studies
- Histories of Racial and Ethnic Formation
- "Modern Girl" Studies
- Nationhood, Sovereignty and Indigenous Women's Studies
- Native American Women
- Postcolonial Studies
- Gender, Fandom & Speculative Fiction
- Sexuality/LGBTQ Studies
- Transnational Feminist Economics
- Visual Culture and Gender
- Whiteness and Anti-racism Studies
- Women of Color and Criminal Justice
- Digital Humanities
- Women and Minorities in Science and Engineering
- Psychological and Biological Studies of Women Across the Lifespan
- Rural Informal Economies

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