

EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Newsletter



A NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD

Greetings alumni, current students, faculty, and supporters of Women's and Gender Studies at Eastern Michigan University. After a long hiatus, we are restarting our newsletter. In this first issue you will find information about exciting developments in our department.

2020 was a difficult year for everyone. Like other institutions, EMU moved to virtual instruction and remote working in March 2020. This shift has been challenging, but we have persisted. In April 2020 we hosted a virtual awards ceremony. During the 2020-2021 academic year, we maintained our usual diverse set of courses, advised students online, and held our lecture series virtually. The 4th annual Women of Color Feminisms and Leadership Symposium was also held virtually and the final stages of the multi-year Survey on Sexual Misconduct Culture took place over zoom.

At this time, we don't know what fall 2021 will bring, but we know that we will continue to connect with and support our students regardless of whether or not we are able to gather physically.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. I am grateful for the design work of Katie Kiacz, one of our Graduate Assistants.

In solidarity,

Beth Currans, Associate Professor and Department Head (Interim)

**FIRST WGST DEGREE
PROGRAM IN
MICHIGAN
EST. 1975**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:



THE WOMEN OF COLOR FEMINISMS AND LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM:

The Women's Resource Center, the Center of Race and Ethnicity (CORE), and the Department of Women's and Gender Studies hosted the 4th Annual Women of Color Feminisms and Leadership Symposium on March 16th and 17th, 2021. This year's theme was Reimagining, Rebuilding and Recreating Ourselves as Women of Color. The hope for this symposium was to provide a breathable space for Women of Color to: envision a world without limitations, unlearn false narratives of who THEY told us we should be; and to prioritize healing so that we can create new versions of ourselves without fear.

In spite of the ongoing Coronavirus Pandemic, this virtual event garnered 240 registrants from various regions across the United States and abroad. Activist Tarana Burke was our featured keynote speaker. Burke and other speakers including Mariel Buque and Christina Castro focused on healing from white supremacist and patriarchal violence. A panel of Michigan-based activists included Nada Al-Hanooti, a recent graduate of EMU's Women's and Gender Studies MA program. Each session provided attendees with a safe space to receive motivation, resources, advice, and strategies, from local and national activists, self-care advocates, entrepreneurs, and performers. Attendees actively engaged with the speakers and attendees during the lively Q & A discussions throughout the event and the musical breaks provided by DJ Lixxer.

We are beyond proud of the contributions of our WGST students, faculty and staff and we look forward to continuing to collaborate on this much needed and powerful initiative.

- Dr. Dyann Logwood and Simone Dixon (WGST MA student)



Keynote speaker and #MeToo movement founder Tarana Burke (left).

Some of the EMU students who helped host the virtual event (right)



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TITLE IX CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY

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(left) Pittsfield Township Women's History Month display for 2020 by WGST students Hannah Bollin and Barbara Draheim.



(right) Pittsfield Township Women's History Month display for 2021 by WGST students Katie Kiacz, Hannah Bollin, and Barbara Draheim.

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MA STUDENTS PRESENT THEIR RESEARCH

ZHANAR TULEUTAYEVA

"To what extent do university prevent efforts address existing issues of campus sexual misconduct and sexual assault in the U.S.?"

Tuleutayeva writes, "This study investigates whether existing university sexual misconduct prevention efforts address campus sexual harassment, sexual assault, coercion, and stalking. Among those initiatives, primary and secondary interventions such as bystander interventions, women's self defense classes, programs for fraternities and athletes implemented in 33 American universities were analyzed in the framework of this research. The analysis showed that universities are not fully and comprehensively implementing prevention efforts using feminist and victim-centered approaches."

Zhanar Tuleutayeva is earning a M.A. in Women's and Gender Studies. Tuleutayeva plans to enter the workforce upon degree completion.

Presented on April 6, 2021.



2020-2021 LECTURE SERIES

CRYUS DUNHAM

DEC. 2ND 2020

"A YEAR WITHOUT A NAME"

MEG DOBBINS

FEB. 4TH, 2021

"READING THE WRITING ON THE WALL: USES AND ABUSES OF RUDYARD KIPLING'S 'IF'"

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT

MARCH 8TH 2021

"THE GLOBAL IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON WOMEN: INTERSECTIONS OF GENDER, RACE, ETHNICITY, WORK AND IMMIGRATION"
FT. NAOMI LIGHTMAN,
BANDANA PURKAYASTHA, & DENISE PIMENTA

HANNAH BOLLIN

"Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies and Intersectional Mentorship"

Bollin's research explores Alim and Paris' (2017) description of Western schools as having the primary purpose "to forward the largely assimilationist and often violent White imperial project, with students and families being asked to lose or deny their languages, literacies, cultures, and histories..." Bollin's paper "intends to discuss Alim and Paris' theory of Culturally Sustaining Pedagogies alongside the Project BIG program at Eastern Michigan University. This discussion will outline the foundational overlaps between the two theories such as the necessity for safe spaces for students, validating every student's identity, and the teaching of critical consciousness."

Hannah Bollin is completing a M.A. in Women's and Gender Studies this summer. Bollin's goal upon completion is to pursue her Ph.D.

Presented on April 6, 2021



ALUMNI FOCUS: NICOLE CARTER



Since graduating from the MA program in Women's and Gender Studies in 2010, Nicole Carter completed a PhD in Educational Studies with a research emphasis in Black feminist epistemological practices as emphasized through public art and performance. For the last 5 ½ years, she has worked as the Director of the Women's Center at Wright State University. She is faculty in the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and African and African American Studies programs. She is also the Sis Brand, a company dedicated to actualizing wellness through writing and art.

She described the MA program in Women's and Gender Studies at Eastern Michigan University as providing her "with an understanding of relationships between social identity, social structure, and injustice and oppression" that have, in turn, given her "an opportunity... to educate and advocate for myself and others while simultaneously activating change."

"We can begin by doing small things at the local level, like planting community gardens or looking out for our neighbors. That is how change takes place in living systems: not from above but from within, from many local actions occurring simultaneously."

- Grace Lee Boggs

2020-2021 EMU DEPT. OF WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES AWARDS

Distinguished Leaders Award

Zhanar Tuleutayeva

Margaret Smith Scholarship

Katie Kiacz

Lloyd-Russell Award

Joci McMichael

Honorable Mentions

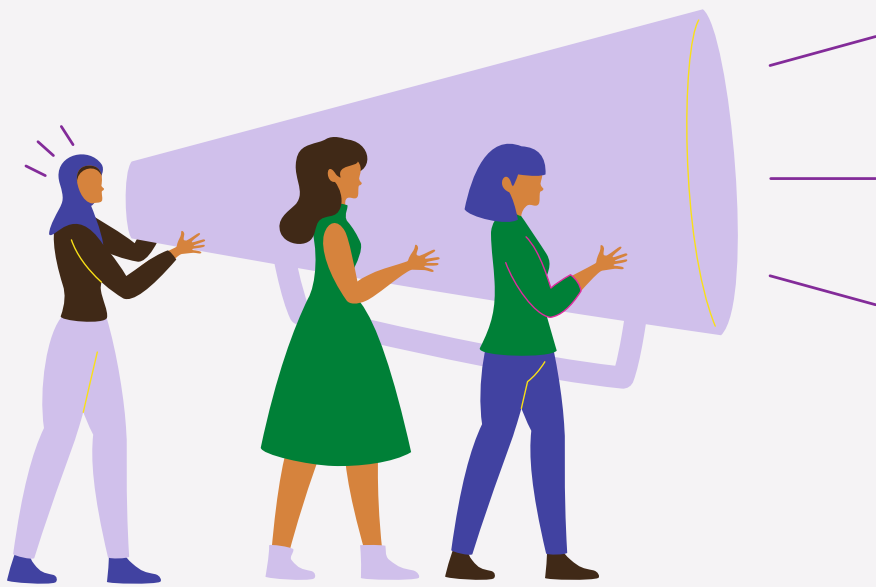
Natalie Anderson & Taylor Younce



Department Member

Service Award

Meg Dobbins



*Join the
women's and
gender
studies club*

An EMU Student Organization

The Women's and Gender Studies Student Organization (WGSSO) works to create inclusive feminist spaces on campus. WGSSO is open to undergraduate and graduate students from all fields of study. The Women's and Gender Studies Student Organization is committed to upholding feminist values and fighting for equality and social justice on Eastern Michigan University's campus and across greater Ypsilanti and Southeast Michigan communities.

In order to create a more accessible organization, **Triota**, the women's and gender studies honors society, is now incorporated within WGSSO. Students graduating with the required GPA will still have an opportunity to become members of the honors society.

(Iota Iota Iota) is a national academic and service-based Women's and Gender Studies honor society. The Greek letter, Iota, was selected to represent the three goddesses Inanna, Ishtar, and Isis. Triota strives to maintain feminist values central to women's and gender studies:

- Egalitarianism
- Inclusiveness
- Analyses of structures of power in society
- Celebration of the diversity of Women's and LGBTQ experiences

Contact us to join or for more information by emailing kkiacz@emich.edu



FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Amanda Allen:

"Young Adult Romance." *Routledge Research Companion to Popular Romance Fiction*. Eds. Eric Selinger, Jayashree Kamble, and Hsu-Ming Teo. Routledge, 2020.

"Betty Cavanna," "Mary Stolz" and "Maureen Daly." *Dictionary of Literary Biography 389: Young Adult Authors, First Series*. Ed. Anne Hiebert Alton. Brucoli Clark Layman. Forthcoming 2021.

"'(972): It's not my fault I help girls realize they're lesbians': Compulsory *Homosexuality* as Communication in the Online *Wentworth* Fandom." *Wentworth Is the New Prisoner*. Eds. Craig Batty, Tessa Dwyer, Radha O'Meara, Stayci Taylor. Peter Lang. Forthcoming 2021.

Beth Currans:

"Transgender Women Belong Here: Competing Feminist Visions at the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival," *Feminist Studies* 46, no. 2 (2020) 459-488.

"'Creating the Community I Want to Be Part Of': Affinity-Based Organizing in a Small, Progressive Rustbelt City," "Placing LGBT+ Urban Activisms," special issue of *Urban Studies*, January 2021: <https://journals-sagepub-com/doi/full/10.1177/0042098020966258> (forthcoming in print).

Elizabeth Donovan:

"Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act & Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act: A Shield for Jane Doe," *Connecticut Law Review* 52, no 1, (2020) 85-122.

Rob Halpern:

Fertility (Sancho Panza Press 2020).

"The 'Queen Under the Hill,' or, Robert Duncan's Lesson in Essential Autobiography," *Sillages critique* 2020.<https://doi.org/10.4000/sillagescritiques.9858>

"Poetry Under Lockdown," *Tupelo Quarterly* 20.

Peter Higgins:

"Migration Justice and Legitimacy," *Res Publica* (forthcoming 2021)

"Gender and Migration" (co-authored with Amy Reed-Sandoval), *Handbook of Migration Ethics*, edited by Johanna Grdemann, Andreas Niederberger, and Uchenna Okeja, Springer, (forthcoming 2021)

"Covering and the Moral Duty to Resist Oppression," *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*, December 2019: <https://doi.org/10.1080/13698230.2019.1709027> (forthcoming in print)

Melissa Jones:

Bodies/Objects/Agents, *Journal of Narrative Theory* 49, no. 3 Edited by Holly Dugan and Melissa J. Jones (2019)

Konnie Kustron:

Brainstorm writing. In *Guide to Making Time to Write: 100+ Time and Project Management Tips for Textbook and Academic Authors*. San Diego, CA: Textbook and Academic Authors Association (TAA), 2020.

Case Studies on Women in Business, Third Edition. San Diego: CA: Cognella Publishing. (forthcoming 2021)

Dyann Logwood:

Critical Black Feminist Mentorship: A Review of a Middle School and University-Sponsored Program for Adolescent Black Girls (Doctoral dissertation, Eastern Michigan University), 2020.

Laura McMahon:

"Religion, Multiculturalism, and Phenomenology as a Critical Practice: Lessons from the Algerian War of Independence." *Puncta: Journal of Critical Phenomenology* 3, no. 1 (2020): 1-26.

"'The Separation That is Not a Separation but a Form of Union': Merleau-Ponty and Feminist Object Relations Theory in Dialogue." *Human Studies* 43 (2020): 37-60.