



The department is excited to introduce five new hires this semester, each from a variety of backgrounds with significant strengths to contribute. [See pg. 4](#)



DIRECTOR'S FAREWELL



Since assuming this role, it has been my pleasure to meet and interact with so many inspiring students, faculty and staff across all departments and disciplines. I have loved serving as your director, and these last seven semesters have been exceedingly rewarding because of the unique individuals who I have been privileged enough to work beside. I strongly believe the intellectual energy of this program is without parallel. As you will see in this newsletter, and those past, our faculty and students have an impressive list of accomplishments.

I am particularly delighted that demand for our classes has grown, and with this, we have welcomed excellent joint-faculty into our program. [Our graduate minors](#) continue to showcase all that we have to offer, proving Women's & Gender Studies to be a program that enables diverse scholarship and success.

This issue is about hellos, goodbyes and catching up with old friends. Please take the time to meet our brilliant new faculty and staff, catch up with some of last year's alumni, see what's been happening and what's to come!

I know that Jackie will find the experience as positive as I did, and I am delighted to turn over Women's & Gender Studies to just about the best person I could imagine as director. In my departure, I wish that you welcome her with open arms and continue to support this program as it flourishes.

Also in this issue

Alumni Focus	6
Announcements	7
Berkowitz Returns	2
#Feminism	5
WGSO.....	3

Sarah Becker's WGS 2500 class held a panel featuring other graduate and undergrad students and community activists on their experiences and personal definitions of feminism. Students learned about the importance of feminism(s) and how to apply it in their own lives.

Take Back the Night, held on October 19, promoted the strong message that "It's on us" to stop sexual violence and domestic abuse. The event featured students, faculty, local government and community activists spreading a call of action to end interpersonal violence.



Generation Action, the new name of Vox, is out every week for "Free Condom Friday" in Free Speech Alley.

The department is glad to welcome **Dana Berkowitz** back from her writing and research sabbatical in Argentina. During this time she was able to advance in preparing her book, *The Rise of Botox*, for publication with NYU Press. "I had to get away from the chaos of New Orleans in the spring," Berkowitz said. "Sabbaticals are important." Taking leave to focus on research production allows faculty to temporarily leave the demands of campus and focus entirely on scholarship. Berkowitz joked about the many Argentinian coffee shops that acted as her post during the production of *The Rise of Botox*. "I missed my students," she said. "I'm excited to start teaching WGS classes again." Although writing abroad is productive, Berkowitz commented on how it can become isolating. "It is nice to be able to bounce ideas and be with my colleagues." Now that Berkowitz has written a complete draft of her book, she can take advantage of the collegiate environment to edit and polish. Berkowitz also plans on reinvigorating the Engendering Scholarship Lecture Series.

Our volunteers worked diligently at **Fall Fest**, helping with the #Feminism Campaign and handing out candy!



The **Women's & Gender Studies Graduate Organization** recently held a potluck dinner hosted by their advisor, Pallavi Rastogi. They also hosted a literary salon with Keija Persinnen and hope to begin a pedagogy series.



Various WGS faculty and students were spotted at the die-in on December 1st protesting racialized police brutality. Pictured are **Sarah Becker** and **Ray Siebenkittel**.



Spectrum members were in Free Speech Alley with their notable Rainbow Door in celebration of Coming Out Day.

Feminists in Action members proudly, and loudly, showed their support at **Take Back the Night**.

INTRODUCING



Debbie Goldgaber | Assistant Prof. of Philosophy and WGS

BA Economics/Political Science, Vanderbilt; MA Philosophy, New School; PhD Philosophy, Northwestern

Previously: Visiting Assist. Professor of Philosophy, NEIU, Chicago, IL

Research Interests: Contemporary Continental Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy

Hometown: Providence, RI

Favorite thing at LSU: Seeing whooping cranes on my way to the office

Favorite quotes: "Under what obligation do I lie of making such an abuse of time?"

– David Hume

"If they come for me in the morning, they will come for you in the night."

– Angela Davis



Cat Jacquet | Assistant Prof. of History and WGS

PhD in History concentration in WGS, University of Illinois at Chicago

Previously: Post-doc, Macalester College, St. Paul, MN

Research Interests: History of rape, movements against sexual violence, second-wave feminism, history of sexuality

Hometown: Greenwich, CT

Favorite thing in BR: Olive or Twist Cocktail Bar

Favorite quote: "The truth will set you free, but first it will piss you off." – Gloria Steinem



Liam Lair | Adjunct Instructor of WGS

BA Religious Studies, TCU; MA WGS, Roosevelt University, Chicago; PhD Candidate Women's Gender & Sexuality Studies, University of Kansas

Previously: Instructor of WGSS, University of Kansas

Research Interests: Feminist theory and pedagogy, transgender studies and theory, queer theory, LGBTQ studies

Hometown: Okinawa, Japan

Favorite LA things: Crawfish and Sazerac

Favorite quote: "I have this idea that every time we discover that the names we're being called are somehow keeping us less than free, we need to come up with new names for ourselves, and that the names we give ourselves must no longer reflect a fear of being labeled outsiders, must no longer bind us to a system that would rather see us dead." – Kate Bornstein



Mona Rocha | Instructor of WGS

BA Latin, UCLA; MA History, Cal State Northridge; PhD History, LSU

Previously: Adjunct Instructor of WGS and History, LSU

Research Interests: Anarcha-feminism, political activity of US women during 1960s and '70s, radical leftist groups

Hometown: Woodland Hills, CA

Favorite thing in BR: The ducks and herons in my backyard and around the LSU lakes

Favorite quotes: "Radical simply means 'grasping at the root.' We have to talk about liberating minds as well as liberating society." – Angela Davis

"If I can't dance, I can't be part of your revolution." – Emma Goldman



Ray Siebenkittel | GA Program Coordinator

BA Anthropology & WGS, LSU

Previously: Student Worker, LSU Office of President & Chancellor

Research Interests: Feminist anthropology, ethnography, queer studies, embodiment and performance of drag queens

Hometown: LaPlace, LA

Favorite LA thing: Drive-thru daiquiris

Favorite quote: "You're born naked and the rest is drag." – RuPaul

#FEMINISM

This year's photo campaign featured popular social media movements within feminism. Participants selected from a variety of hashtags and made a statement about one they could personally identify with, learning the importance behind the movements and the goals of feminism. For the full list of participants and their statements, please visit the WGS website, or [click here](#).

#FeminismMeans boys can play with Polly Pocket.



**All the guys who call me "baby."
#EverydaySexism**



**No, I don't need a ride. Yes, I'm sure.
I'm fine. #YouOKSis**



#FeminismMeans equality.



**#FourthWave feminists
can do duck lips.**

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Graduate minors in WGS are from a variety of departments and disciplines. The interdisciplinary program allows students to apply feminist thought to their own research, often influencing their dissertation topics to combine WGS and their respective fields. The department is proud to showcase some of its most recent graduates and their placements.

Ashley Bagget



PhD History
"Strike Me If You Dare: Intimate-Partner
Violence, Gender, and Reform, 1865-1920"
Assistant Professor
History, Philosophy & Religious Studies,
North Dakota State University
Fargo, North Dakota

Stephanie Krassenstien



PhD Philosophy
"Toward a Northern Irish Pastoral: Reading the
Rural in Seamus Heaney and Paul Muldoon"
Instructor
Department of English,
Indiana State University
Terre Haute, Indiana

Monica Miller



PhD English Literature
"Lopsided, Scarred, and Squint-Eyed: Ugly Women
in the Work of Southern Women Writers"
Marion L. Brittain Postdoctoral Fellow
School of Literature, Media, and Communication,
Georgia Institute of Technology
Atlanta, Georgia

Mona Rocha



PhD US History
"Militant Feminism and the Women of the Weather
Underground Organization"
Instructor
Women's & Gender Studies Department,
Louisiana State University
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Jaime Cantrell



PhD English Literature
"Southern Sapphisms: Sexuality and Sociality
in Literary Productions, 1974-1997"
Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of English,
The University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring 2015 Special Topics

WGS 4500.1 Foucault and Feminism

Contemporary feminist theory maintains a remarkably lively critical engagement with the work of French philosopher Michel Foucault. While not explicitly a feminist (Foucault makes few references to women or gender in his work), feminist philosophers have found his exploration of the relations between power, the body and sexuality particularly productive. Foucault's work has contributed to feminist critiques of gender essentialism and to accounts of gendered embodiment even as some theorists point to the limitations of Foucauldian theory for emancipatory political projects. Most recently, Foucault's account of the neoliberal mutation of power—biopolitics—has attracted significant critical attention. The final third of the course will be focused on the uptake of biopower in post-Foucauldian feminist theory.

Debbie Goldgaber

T/Th 12:00pm – 1:20pm

WGS 4500.2

Radical Feminism and Consciousness Raising: From the Redstockings to Dworkin and McKinnon

Radical feminists are perhaps best known for claiming that "all sex is rape." Of course, they didn't really mean that, and none of the most famous radical feminists even claimed it. As happens to many political movements, radical feminists have largely been defined by their opposition. Yet, oppositional narratives lead to a biased historical perspective that loses the essential and empowering work done by radical feminists. This course aims to excavate the history and viewpoints that derived from radical feminists who took a leading role in defining the second wave movement. The course will examine radical feminism's main theoretical writers, such as Catherine MacKinnon and Andrea Dworkin, activist groups, such as Redstockings and Bread & Roses, and ideological positions, such as that the personal is political, sexual harassment is sexual discrimination, porn plays an essential role in the maintenance of the patriarchy, and rape is ubiquitous and not taken seriously enough (though that doesn't mean, that all sex is rape, as we will see!). These viewpoints may remain controversial today, but they also provide the foundation of much of feminist theory. Thus, to truly understand feminism today, we must take a closer look at the voluminous contributions of the radical feminists.

Mona Rocha

MWF 2:30pm – 3:20pm



For a full list of courses and descriptions, visit the WGS website.

Selected Accomplishments

Dana Berkowitz has coauthored three entries in the forthcoming SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies concerning ethical debates about surrogacy, reproductive outsourcing/international surrogacy and an entry on drag performance coauthored with **Ray Siebenkittel**.

June Pulliam has published two books this summer, *Encyclopedia of the Zombie* and *Monstrous Bodies*, and had two essays, "We're Them and They're Us" and "Real or Not Real – Katniss Everdeen Loves Peeta Melark," published in anthologies. She was also featured in Country Roads Magazine.

Sarah Becker spoke on Talk 107.3 concerning the NFL's domestic violence policies. She is also proud to announce the birth of **Idris James**.

Liam Lair presented "Embodied Knowledge and Accessible Community: An Oral History of *Four Rehearsals and a Performance*" at the Oral History Association meeting with a colleague.

Cat Jacquet has a chapter in *Understanding and Teaching U.S. Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender History*, entitled "Queer History goes Digital: Using Outhistory.org in the Classroom."

Solimar Otero presented at the Association for Higher Education in Theatre Conference, "Feeling Cuba" and a staged reading, "Intimate Acts, The Panza Monologues." Her work was also featured in the Latino Theatre Commons and the Theater Communications Group Circle Salon.

Benjamin Kahan has been making multiple appearances on campuses across Australia and is scheduled to speak at various universities throughout the year, including Brown University, Harvard, Hong Kong Baptist University and others.

Elaine Maccio has developed the LGBTQ Studies Minor and was featured in *USA Today* about her success. She was also featured in *The Times Picayune* to discuss the Michael Sam banner incident and in *Social Work Today* on LGBT substance abuse.

Laura Mullen's *a Sound uttered, a Silence crossed* is being performed by the La Jolla Symphony & Chorus at UC San Diego.

For more information on any of these announcements, and full titles of the works mentioned, please visit the WGS website, [or click here](#).