

WGSGO

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

This year young people from marginalized communities have had to face a number of direct threats to their livelihoods: from budget cuts in higher education, to war-on-women bills, to anti-trans* reactionary rhetoric, to increasing violence against African Americans and Black Lives Matter activists. Yet, as we continue on this election year we are reminded of the power of activism and organizing.

The Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Organization has dedicated its time and effort to promoting, supporting, and bringing together those graduate students who are most vulnerable to oppressive systems both outside and within the academe. This year, we have been especially productive in working with different groups, notably LSU's Justice Together and their #blackout event in the quad protesting police brutality, and Generation Planned Parenthood, who joined us during our Pink Out event in support of reproductive justice.

This semester, WGSGO has also been working with Bike Baton Rouge to honor the memory of our fellow WGS student and friend Zach Wood, who was killed by a car while on his bike in the Fall. With Bike BR, I spoke at the senate committee last month in support of SB 171, a bill that introduces higher penalties for drivers who hit pedestrians and bicyclists.

In addition, I am glad to report that our Yard Sale event was a success! The funds raised will go a long way to supporting events in the future semesters.

As I look back on my year as WGSGO President, I am particularly grateful for the commitment of my fellow graduate students and their dedication to working together, bridging the gaps between academic disciplines, and adding to already busy schedules the time to serve their community and beyond.

Looking forward to next year's projects led by our new President Charla Hughes and Vice-President Alex Torres!

-Amandine Fauchaux

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25 Years of WGS

1991-2016

DIY Zines with WGS 2500

By Gabby Domangue

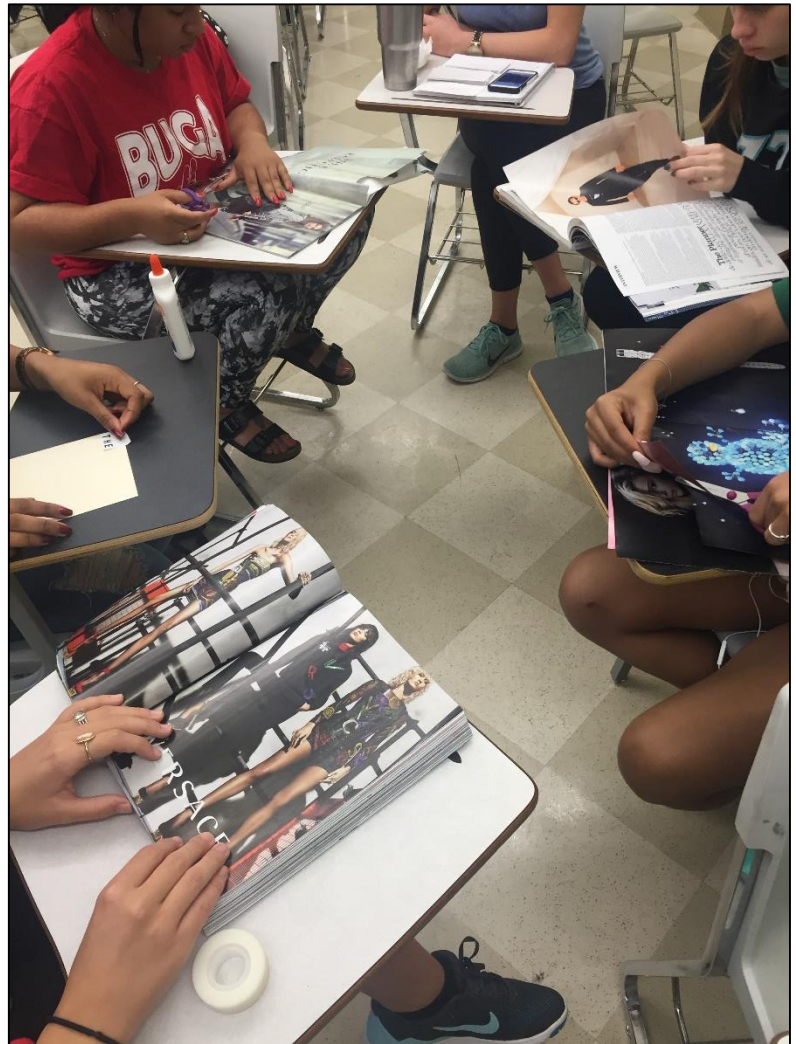
Graduate Teaching Assistant Grace Liew brought a new element to her WGS 2500 course this semester. She introduced a project centered on students creating zines for various topics. You may be asking: "What is a zine?" Well, it is an inexpensively produced, self-published and underground publication. The zine project allows students to work together and discover their topics to the best of their ability. Students chose topics ranging from transnational feminism to the effects of pop culture, and much more.

Derick Bercegeay, a junior Political Science major, said that his group was working on double standards between sexes. He stated that the project made him "realize all the problems women are facing."

Megan Chesnut, a Bioengineering senior, talked about how she learned what a zine was—a way to self-publish information which may not be distributed through mainstream media. Her group's zine centered on feminism in different cultures.

Another group's topic focused on the mass effects of pop culture on society. The zine discussed media and body image, the effects of pop culture on children and parenting, cosmetic products and society, and toxic masculinity. Madison, a sophomore Business major in the group, said she learned how "pop culture has a big impact on people from all ages."

All the students claimed they enjoyed working on the assignment and the freedom Liew had given them to work on it. Chesnut added that it was "fun to collaborate with peers and explore a topic of choice."



Faculty and graduate students had a great time at **WGS Happy Hour** at Radio Bar on March 2.

The Program of Louisiana and Caribbean studies hosted a screening and discussion of the documentary **Mala Mala**, co-sponsored by WGS, the LGBTQ Project at LSU, Spectrum and Qroma. The event was introduced by **Solimar Otero** (right) and **Ray Siebenkittel** (left).



Benjy Kahan (right) and guest speaker **Heather Love** (left), Assoc. Professor of English at UPenn, enjoyed a celebratory dinner after her talk on Samuel Delany and Empiricism on February 25. Love's visit was co-sponsored by Comparative Literature.

Kate Lilley (left) and **Melissa Hardie** (right), both from the department of English at the University of Sydney, each presented a guest presentation on January 19. Lilley discussed queer transmission and Hardie presented on representations of Djuna Barnes.

WGS Awards

Ann Veronica Simon Outstanding Gender Studies Dissertation Award



Madoka Kishi

"Erotics of Race Suicide: the Progressive Era, Whiteness, and the Death Drive"

This award is endowed by the family and friends of Ann Simon, the first WGS program coordinator.

Outstanding Feminist Activist Award



Cat Jacquet

Feminist Idol: Ida B. Wells

Award for Outstanding Contribution by a WGS Supporter



Maria Wallace

Feminist Idol: bell hooks

Outstanding WGS Undergraduate Minor Award



Jem Martin

Feminist Idol: Audre Lorde

Annette Massé and Beatrice Remillard Award for Outstanding Non-Traditional Student



Sarah Marcello

Feminist Idol: Maya Angelou

Outstanding Faculty or Affiliate Contribution to WGS Award



Liam Lair

Feminist Idol: Kate Bornstein

Outstanding WGS Graduate Teaching Assistant Award



Cristina Rosell

Feminist Idol: Gloria Steinem and Katherine Hepburn

Outstanding WGS Graduate Minor Award



Ray Siebenkittel

Feminist Idol: Sylvia Rivera

Seirra Fowler with LSU's Lighthouse Program (left) and **Camille Faircloth** with We're Committed (right) visited **Cat Jacquet's** WGS 2500 class to discuss sexual violence on college campuses with students.

Guy Davidson (right) from the University of Wollongong gave a guest presentation on April 13. He discussed Gore Vidal's bestselling satirical novel, *Myra Breckinridge*, and its cultural implications.



All smiling faces at the **WGS Happy Hour** at Radio Bar on April 18.

Sarah Becker presented her research on community gardens at a meeting of the Children's Coalition of Greater Baton Rouge on April 21. The event focused on food access in Baton Rouge and the environment.

FALL 2016 SPECIAL TOPICS

WGS 4500.2

Gender and Bodies

This course invites you to go beyond typical understandings of the body to look deeper at how bodies are shaped by social norms. We will pay particular attention to the ways in which cultural ideas about the body affect our everyday, lived experiences. We will examine bodies that are pregnant, disabled, fat, tattooed, scarred, sick, diseased, surgically-modified, used for sport, used for personal profit, and used to sell products for others. How are individuals, institutions and social processes simultaneously embodied and gendered? What contemporary and historical body politics shape how different bodies are perceived, valued and controlled? How do these politics vary in different communities, societies and time periods? This course will study the body as the vessel and expression of the self, as the object and subject of shifting race, gender, class and sexual meanings and struggles, and as the product of complex social processes, including culture, science, medicalization, objectification, commodification and globalization. While primarily focusing on the U.S., it also has a strong comparative focus emphasizing transnational linkages and globalization.

Dana Berkowitz

T/Th 1:30pm – 2:50pm

WGS 4500.3

Mother-Daughter Relations in Fiction, Film, and Theory

One of the most common portrayals of mother-daughter relations in western culture shows the daughter as her mother's reflection, as another version of the mother's self. Very often, then, when the daughter seeks to distinguish herself from her mother, this causes conflict and confusion for both mother and daughter. The readings and films in this course, chosen from several historical periods and cultural traditions, are designed to examine this relational pattern, explain its persistence, and consider options to it. Readings include novels, letters, and memoirs such as selections from Madame de Sévigné's letters to her daughter; Amelia Opie's *Adeline Mowbray*; Amy Tan's *The Joy Luck Club*; Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. Films featured are "Now Voyager" and "White Oleander." Theoretical readings include Adrienne Rich's *Of Woman Born* and various articles by feminist critics on mother-daughter relations. Students will have the opportunity to choose their own novels or memoirs on mothers and daughters for their final paper.

Kate Jensen

T 3:00pm – 5:50pm

For a full list of courses and descriptions, [visit the WGS website](#).



GRADUATING STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to these students graduating in 2016!

Michael Beyer
Tori Callais
Kayla Davis
Jem Martin
Jian Massucco

Darien Hickey
Tony Ramstetter
Ray Siebenkittel
Jordan Von Cannon