

*From the Director's Desk*



**DR. BONNIE MORADI**  
DIRECTOR

The start of this academic year was a whirlwind. Feelings of deep pain, fear, anger, and alarm about the natural and sociopolitical climate have been front and center in our community along with the routine work of the academic year. In this context, we have been having many conversations to check in, support each other, and think through our roles, responsibilities, and strategies as scholars, teachers, and leaders committed to learning, producing knowledge, and building equitable and just communities.

I am not a sports enthusiast and I don't own any orange and

blue paraphernalia. But, over the past few months, watching our faculty, students, and staff come together in action to voice our shared values in peaceful protest, create space for discourse (UF Student Leaders' Virtual Assembly), build community (#TogetherUF), and do good (#DoGoodUF), among so many other constructive forms of learning and activism, gives me hope. These efforts remind me of Patricia Hill Collins' call for building "coalitions of conscience" grounded in empathy, ethics of social justice, and intersectional understanding of community. Collins describes such communities as the site of conscience that is expressed through community members' principled commitments and actions against injustices that result from intersecting systems of power. I am

unequivocally proud to be part of the community that each of you helps to build and sustain each day, our own UF coalition of conscience.

With this hope and inspiration, we continue onward with our Center mission of feminist intersectional scholarship, teaching, and service. This year, we are thrilled to welcome a new colleague, Dr. Maddy Coy, to the Center. Dr. Coy comes to us from the internationally recognized Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit at London Metropolitan University. Dr. Coy's work exemplifies feminist praxis; she focuses on violence against women and girls, with a particular interest in sexual exploitation, the sex industry, and the media and sexualized popular culture. Having Dr. Coy, an expert on violence against women and girls, join UF is a timely milestone to celebrate.



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OF THE COMMUNITY  
THAT EACH OF YOU  
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COALITION OF  
CONSCIENCE."  
-BONNIE MORADI,  
DIRECTOR

*From the Director's Desk, continued from page 1*

*(Continued from page 1)*

We are also continuing our growth with a search for a new faculty member, an assistant professor position housed fully in the Center. Look for the applicants' visits and exciting talks in early spring. In addition, this semester, our Yeomans Chair (Dr. Zucker) cosponsored "Absolutely Safe" a film screening and talk by Carol

Ciancutti and Our Bodies Ourselves co-found Judy Norsigian. We also partnered with the Diabetes Institute and several other units to hold a panel on "Women, Diabetes, and Health Equity." We will continue to feature our students' outstanding field research collaborations between the Center and the Samuel Proctor Oral

History Program. In October, students presented their field research on the Equality March for Unity & Pride in Washington DC. In spring, as part of the Social Justice Summit, students will present a theatrical production of their field research to the Women's March. I hope you will join us for these and many more wonderful programs this year.



*Another Exciting Fall Reception*

The Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research held its annual Fall Reception on September 18 in the Atrium in Ustler Hall. Director Bonnie Moradi welcomed over 100 guests including core and affiliate faculty,

students, and friends of the Center. Dean Richardson offered words of pride and encouragement for the Center. New and returning graduate students, new and continuing affiliate faculty, and campus and community partners were celebrated. Student awards included the O. Ruth McQuown Awards, Madelyn Lockhart Dissertation and Emerging Scholars Awards, and the Cindy Colangelo Award for Breast Cancer Awareness. The inaugural Distinguished Affiliate Contribution Awards were presented to Center Affiliates Dr. Sophia Acord

and Dr. Paul Ortiz. After an inspiring talk to reception attendees, Dean Laura Rosenbury, Levin, Mabie, and Levin Professor of Law and Dean of the Levin College of Law, was honored with the Uppity Woman Award for her feminist leadership.



CENTER DIRECTOR BONNIE MORADI,  
AFFILIATES DR. PAUL ORTIZ AND DR. SOPHIA ACORD AND  
DEAN DAVID RICHARDSON



DIRECTOR BONNIE MORADI  
PRESENTED THE ANNUAL  
UPPITY WOMAN AWARD TO  
DEAN LAURA ROSENBERY



## Welcome New Graduate Students

We are delighted to welcome our new graduate students to the Center's MA program: **Mirela Cardinal, Corinne Futch, Meaghan MacPherson, Karleen Schlichtmann, Jane Stanley, Matthew Stern, Nik Wiles,** and **Alexandria Wilson**. These students bring a rich range of experiences and interests:

**Mirela Frantz Cardinal** graduated from the Universidade Federal de Santa Maria in 2014, where she earned a BA in Psychology and completed a Residency Graduate Program in Mental Health. Her research interests include queer people, colonialism and alternative media and their possible anti-dominant discourses. Her biggest projects as an undergraduate included an analysis of the consequences of illegal abortion for Brazilian women, the mass media representation of people in abusive use of drugs in Brazil and the public mental health care system for adolescents in abusive use of drugs in Brazil.

**Corinne Futch** recently graduated from the University of Florida with her BA in Linguistics. She is interested in the intersection of gender and language, as well as in lavender (queer) linguistics. Corinne also hopes to explore the representation of gender and sexuality in contemporary art in the Americas.

**Meaghan MacPherson** graduated from the University of South Florida in 2011 with a BA in English/Creative Writing. Her research interests include feminist media and cultural studies

with emphasis on sexual education and sexual violence survivor discourse, and comic and visual rhetoric studies.

**Karleen Schlichtmann** graduated from the University of Nevada Las Vegas in 2017 with a BS in Kinesiology and two minors in African-American Studies and Family Studies. Her research focuses on black women's health, specifically HIV and mental health. She is investigating the relations of race and gender with quality of care. She situates her work in the field of Black Feminist Health Science Studies.



**Jane Stanley** is the Center's first accelerated BA/MA student. She is very excited to become more involved in Women's Studies and make new friends. Her areas of interest include media studies, harm reduction in women's drug use, and the intersection of law and women's studies. Jane hopes to meet more Women's Studies majors at future events within the center!

**Matthew Stern** graduated from Stony Brook University in 2017 with a BA in Women's and Gender Studies and a

minor in Cinema and Cultural Studies. His research is focused on using feminist theory to analyze video games. He wrote his undergraduate thesis on the fetishization of queer female characters in the popular video game series Mass Effect. He plans to extend this work with his MA in Women's Studies at UF by examining representations of marginalized groups in indie games.

**Nik Wiles** is a University of North Florida graduate with an MA in English Rhetoric, Composition, and Creative Writing. They are hoping to pair their previous degree with a degree from the Center to advocate for awareness and social change in areas such as gender identity and sexual identity, especially in conjunction with gender dysphoria and parenting. As a mental health and chronic/invisible illness advocate, they are further concerned with where those areas overlap with mental health struggles such as depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, etc., as well as how chronic pain conditions or invisible illnesses, such as lupus, further complicate understandings of issues like gender dysphoria. Nik is spouse to one very understanding wife, parent to one cute but maddening toddler, and wrangler of four cats they like to call their own (but, as every cat owner knows, it is never the person who owns the cat).

**Alexandria Wilson** is pursuing the PhD in Political Science and MA in Women's Studies. Her dissertation

*(Continued on page 4)*

## *Welcome New Graduate Students (continued)*

*(Continued from page 3)*

focuses on anti-human trafficking policies in Central and Eastern Europe and the role of women's rights organizations in negotiating this legislation. Her research interests include Central and Eastern European feminisms, feminist theory, public policy and violence against women.

### News from Current MA Candidates

Our new students join our current MA candidates who have been hard at work on their exciting and diverse research projects, and have news and updates to share:

**Taylor Burtch's** MA research project, with the supervision of Dr. Kendal Broad, is about gender-responsive, intersectional education and reversing the school-to-prison pipeline. She is currently interning with PACE Center for Girls, a local academic organization that centers these frameworks. She will spend the remainder of the year promoting efforts for the organization's latest fundraising campaign and applying for PhD programs in public policy and administration that center social justice.

**Angelica Jazmin Carlos** is working on her non-thesis project, with the supervision of Dr. Alyssa Zucker, to develop online materials in the form of educational videos on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and healthy relationships and behaviors. In addition, she is currently working as a peer educator for STRIVE, which is a program with GatorWell that conducts outreach, education, and advocacy focused on IPV prevention. Angelica is also working as a Sexual and Reproductive Rights Peer Trainer for Amnesty International USA. Angelica plans to graduate at the end of the spring term of 2018, after which she will pursue a PhD in Public Health.

**Aishwarya Krishna Iyer** is a second year MA student at the Center and a second year S.J.D candidate at the UF law school. For her final project,

with the supervision of Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland, she plans to continue working on Gender budgeting in the United States. She plans to graduate in Spring, 2018 and would like to continue working on women, tax and policy issues.

**Marcela Murillo** continues to work on her thesis project "Empowerment and Agency through Domestic Practices: A qualitative study of Laundry Practices in UF's Family Housing," with the supervision of Dr. Constance Shehan. Her research takes a feminist approach to domestic practices and examines their implications for understandings of femininity, family, gender roles, and cultural traditions. At this year's National Women's Studies Association Conference, Marcela presented her work as a UF research correspondent for the Women's March on Washington research project.

**Eva Newbold** spent the summer doing research for her MA thesis with the supervision of Dr. Marsha Bryant, which examines discursive self-formation and the themes of displacement, belonging, and citizenship in the poetry of Jackie Kay. She intends to continue analyzing Kay's poetry and reviewing the available literature in the coming semester and will contextualize it through a critical feminist lens. Eva plans to graduate in May 2017 and take a gap year, after which she will pursue a PhD in English.

**Anthony Dustin Rollins** is beginning his second year as an MA/PhD student in the Center. He continues to focus his research on intersectionality and contemporary HIV/AIDS activism within a queer context. His thesis will address the Sexual liberation narratives of queer college men using Tuvada as pre-exposure prophylaxis. He is excited to continue contributing to the Center and queer intersectional scholarship.

## *With an Attitude of Gratitude*

Thanks to everyone whose generosity helps the Center continue to thrive, including the following donors:

- ♥ Ms. Kathryn Chicone Ustler
- ♥ Association for Academic Women
- ♥ Mr. Gregory R. Allen
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- ♥ Mr. Charles C. Kafoglis
- ♥ Mr. Sid Kennedy
- ♥ Dr. Angel Kwolek-Folland & Mr. Nathan O. Folland
- ♥ Dr. L. David Leverenz & Dr. Anne Rutledge
- ♥ Dr. Madelyn Lockhart
- ♥ Dr. Mary K. Lockwood
- ♥ Ms. Deborah McTigue
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- ♥ Ms. Eleanor C. Smeal
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- ♥ Dr. John M. Spivack
- ♥ Ms. Anita R. Sundaram
- ♥ Ms. Deborah Whippen
- ♥ Mr. Robert Wilder
- ♥ Mr. John H. Williams, Jr.

Donations to the Center are used to fund conferences, symposia, educational travel for graduate students, scholarship funds, speaker honoraria, and exhibit support.



## USTLER HALL

### Center for Gender, Sexualities and Women's Studies Research

Offers an interdisciplinary forum for the study of gender and sexualities, their intersections with race/ethnicity, class and other sociocultural systems, and their functions in cultures and societies.

## *Opportunities for Giving to the Center*

We appreciate the generosity of our donors at all levels. For those thinking of a significant gift to the Center, we have some suggestions:

- \$250 Garden walk pavers for the Yardley Garden (honor a recent graduate or teacher)
- \$500 Send a student to a regional or national meeting, or fund a student's research trip
- \$1000 Garden enhancement and plants for the Yardley Garden:  
Name a section of the garden for a friend or loved one (a plaque will indicate contribution)
- \$1000 Inscription for an existing bench in Yardley Garden in honor of a friend or loved one
- \$2000 A bench in Ustler Hall in honor of a friend or loved one, with an inscribed plaque
- \$5000 Sponsor a major named lecture (one time event)
- \$5000 Support faculty research for the summer (Faculty Summer Research Fellowship)
- \$5000 Course development (New Course Development Grant)
- \$10,000 Inscription on the Yardley Wall

For majors gifts and other naming opportunities, please contact  
Christy Popwell, Director of Development, CLAS: (352) 392-1964 or [cpopwell@ufl.edu](mailto:cpopwell@ufl.edu).



## *Women's Studies Alum on a Mission: Addressing Inequities from the Inside Out*

“MY  
BACKGROUND  
AND  
EDUCATION IN  
WOMEN'S  
STUDIES AT UF  
HAS HAD A  
PROFOUND  
IMPACT ON MY  
PROFESSIONAL  
AND PERSONAL  
LIVES.”

-MYESHIA BENNETT



Alum Spotlight: **Myeshia Bennett** graduated with a BA in Women's Studies in 2012. Since then, she worked for a non-profit called Grassroots, Inc. before enlisting in the United States Air Force, in January of 2013, as a Signals Intelligence Analyst. She is a Staff Sergeant in the United States Air Force, and is currently stationed in Maryland, where she works for the National Security Agency (NSA).

*My background and education in Women's Studies at U.F. has had a profound impact on my professional and personal lives, though the impact has been different in each domain.*

*Professionally, my Women's Studies foundation enables me to identify, address, and prevent further inequalities in my career field. Both the military and the intelligence field are grossly imbalanced on racial and gender scales, so I have made it my mission to speak up on the inequities in the military institution. For example, I recently addressed the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force to advocate and petition for revision of the current hair and grooming standards - which are terribly archaic, exclusive, and contain racist verbiage. My goal is to have dreadlocks become an authorized hairstyle for female Airmen of color.*

*On the personal front, I have a three-year-old son and a passion for rehabilitating survivors of domestic violence. I volunteer as a reintegration*

*specialist at a local shelter that serves as a transitional home for women and children who are survivors of domestic violence. I chose this volunteer opportunity as my off-duty philanthropy because my son and I escaped an abusive home in April of 2016. I know first-hand that a community of determined women is far more powerful at uplifting a fallen sister than the system designed to keep her down. Having benefited from the compassion and tenacity of that community, I feel it is only right that I plant myself in it and make a way forward for others like me.*



**Feminist Praxis**, or the inextricable link between feminist scholarship and practice, is at the heart of the transformational power of gender, sexualities, and women's studies. **The Center** is proud to place nearly 100 students a year in internship and practicum experiences where students put their academic learning into practice that **transforms** themselves, their communities, and the world. Our **Preceptor Profiles** feature our community partners who contribute to this important aspect of the Center's mission (see next page).

## Preceptor Profile: Jeffrey Solius

By Dr. Laura Guyer



**JEFFREY SOLIUS**  
B.S., UF CLASS OF 2016  
HIV PREVENTION ASSOCIATE  
WELLFLORIDA COUNCIL

The 7.0 magnitude earthquake that struck the island of Haiti on January 12, 2010 left more than one-half million people dead or injured and marked a turning point in the life of eighth grader, Jeffrey

Solius. The loss of family and friends gave birth to a desire to help others as a member of the health care team.

When a much loved uncle on kidney dialysis died in 2012, Jeffrey remembered thinking, “if he (my uncle) had lived in the U.S., he would still be alive.” He vowed that he would do what was possible to help other families avoid sorrow and wondered, “is there something I can do to help save lives?” Shortly thereafter, his family immigrated to the large, multicultural environment of south Florida and after graduating from high school, Jeffrey found himself enrolled at the University of Florida as a pre-medical student. When his friend Jeff – also from Haiti – urged him to enroll in the Center’s course *Introduction to Health Disparities*, Jeffrey complied and for the first time, found himself surrounded by students who shared his interests in health and passion to help the less fortunate.

“As a young Black male, I identified with people who have health disparities. I identified with people who are disadvantaged and shared health concerns of underserved Americans with limited access to health care. I wanted to tackle the health disparities in society that are based

on social class, privilege and power inequalities.”

The capstone experience of Jeffrey’s major in *Health Education and Behavior* and the Center’s minor in *Health Disparities in Society* (HDS) was a practicum with the District 3/13 Minority AIDS Coordinator at the Alachua County Health Department. Working with community-based organizations was very satisfying and helped him build the skills needed for a position he now holds in the High Impact Prevention Program at the WellFlorida Council. Jeffrey has come full circle, from a student in the Center’s HDS minor, to now, a preceptor for other students in the minor. At WellFlorida, Jeffrey works with a dedicated team of professionals and HDS students to reduce the effects of HIV on communities and the lives of individuals.

As a preceptor, Jeffrey “wants to help students leave the ‘bubble’ of the university environment and see the populations living with disadvantage.” He believes that they need to answer questions such as, “Why can’t these individuals access health care? Why is it difficult to access fresh fruits and vegetables?” He wants students to see life through the experience of others. Jeffrey explains, “like me, most HDS students come from the larger cities in South Florida and when they don’t understand how other people live, it is easy to blame them for their life outcomes. Going into the community gives them first-hand experience that is eye-opening and life-changing.”

He says “as a Haitian-American, I work to overcome the fear and stigma associated

with HIV/AIDS. While growing up in Haiti in the 1990s, I lived in fear of contracting HIV. My internship at the Alachua County Health Department provided opportunity to work with people in the community who were diagnosed with HIV. As a young Black man, I began to wonder how I could help eliminate stigma and be part of the social change that was needed. The prevalence of HIV is higher in communities of color and I wondered how I could build relationships and change the social perspective.”

HDS students who work with Jeffrey report, “He is extremely easy to talk to because it’s almost like he’s a mentor we would have in school.” Notes another, “When interacting with community members he tests, Jeffrey brings a level of empathy and down-to-earth attitude that encourages everyone to get tested and get the health information they need. I am fortunate to be able to work with a person who focuses on community members and works so hard to serve his community.”

Jeffrey says that he loves the diversity of students in the HDS minor. Their differences are complimentary and he loves their enthusiasm and passion for others. He is excited to learn how to plan and implement community programs that are effective and hopes that the future might bring opportunities to return to Haiti as a physician assistant and open clinics that improve quality of life. When he looks back at the early years of his career, Jeffrey hopes he will be able to say with confidence that he impacted his community.

*Speaking Queer to Power:**Experiential Learning Research at Equality March for Unity and Pride**By Robert Baez*

ROBERT BAEZ  
MA, WOMEN'S STUDIES  
CLASS OF 2016  
CURRENT PH.D. STUDENT,  
UF DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIOLOGY,  
CRIMINOLOGY, AND LAW

Following the success of the experiential learning trip to the Presidential Inauguration and the Women's March on Washington in January 2017, students were eager to pick back up their recorders and cameras to document the Equality March for Unity and Pride (EMUP). Through a continued partnership between the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research (CGSWSR) and the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP), undergraduate and graduate students from a variety of disciplines at the University of Florida had the opportunity to travel to Washington, DC in June 2017.

The goal of the research trip was to document the living histories of LGBTQ+ people, and to contextualize how EMUP came to fruition. According to its organizers, EMUP was a direct action response "to peacefully and clearly address concerns about the current political landscape and how it is contributing to the persecution and discrimination of LGBTQ+ individuals."

Maximizing on the events taking place in DC during Pride season, our research team split up into groups in order to be in multiple places at once. We attended events hosted by the Trans Women of Color Collective, No Justice No Pride, and Capital Pride. Each organization had their particular mission and style of protest—ranging from singing and dancing to obstructing the annual pride parade.

Holland Hall, a project coordinator at SPOHP and graduate student in mental health counseling, believes organizing experiential trips like this are a valuable experience. She explained, "Attending DC Pride weekend this summer and observing all of the festivities felt really energizing on a personal level, but to be able to engage the LGBTQ+ community and movement through critical research gave the experience even more meaning and significance."

Overall, the team of nine was able to collect 65 interviews that will be used in various public-programming events. We hope to spark a conversation about the issues impacting the lives of LGBTQ+ people within our communities. This research is also an opportunity to carve out physical, virtual, and textual spaces that collectively push for care and community, and this is true for the city of Gainesville *and* the halls of the University.

It is critical for a group as vast as the LGBTQ+ community to interrogate the intersections and categories of our identities in hopes of developing effective organizing strategies that address our collective concerns, not just those advantageously positioned to be heard. Documenting the Equality March for Unity and Pride is our contribution to building a collective memory of LGBTQ+ resistance.

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— ROBERT BAEZ





## LGBTQ Affairs Launches Faculty Fellow Initiative, Names Dr. Manoucheka Celeste First Faculty Fellow

By Billy Huff,  
Director of UF LGBTQ Affairs



DR. MANOUCHEKA CELESTE  
LGBTQ FACULTY FELLOW  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

This year, University of Florida's LGBTQ Affairs launched its new Faculty Fellow initiative. The

purpose of the Faculty Fellow initiative is to blur the sometimes rigid boundary between academic and student affairs through direct collaboration between LGBTQ Affairs and a UF faculty member who demonstrates, through scholarship, teaching, and service, alignment with LGBTQ Affairs' core mission. This unique initiative allows students to have rich and meaningful interactions with faculty in a non-classroom setting. In addition to mentorship, the faculty fellowship encourages more personal connections between faculty and students that promote a desire for learning and increase student retention.

UF LGBTQ Affairs is honored to announce **Dr. Manoucheka Celeste**, Assistant Professor in the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research and the African American Studies program, as the founding LGBTQ Affairs' Faculty Fellow for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Dr. Celeste, a proud Gator alum, was chosen as Faculty Fellow for her commitment to the University of Florida's most marginalized students, as well as her scholarship that centers marginalized

identities and principles of social justice. She offers, "I am honored to serve as a fellow and excited about the opportunity to support our students and LGBTQ Affairs. I remain grateful for my time working in housing at UF as an RA and graduate hall director where I began to learn what it means to be ally in my personal and professional life. This is an ongoing learning process for me. In the classroom, I work to help students understand the ways that our identities and experiences as racialized, gendered, sexualized, and classed individuals are shaped by larger systems, systems that impact our everyday lives. As a teacher, researcher, and mentor, my goals are to make space for all of who we are, and to engage with the ways in which we are connected to each other; moving us away from the language of tolerance toward doing the work of eradicating systemic injustice and building communities."

In her role as Faculty Fellow, Dr. Celeste will conduct some of her office hours in the Rainbow Suite (located in Multicultural and Diversity Affairs on the second floor of the Reitz Union). She presented a timely research talk, "Mediating Race and Immigration: Travelling Blackness," on November 9 in the Reitz Union. Dr. Celeste and LGBTQ Affairs will co-sponsor (in collaboration with the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research and Hispanic/Latino

Affairs) a Spring semester lecture series, "Bodies (Performing) on the Edge: Deconstructing Identities, Culture, and Law." The series will feature talks by *Vibrator Nation* author Dr. Lynn Comella, Intersex activist and scholar Dr. Georgiann Davis, and critical cultural scholar Dr. Bernadette Calafell, author of *Monstrosity, Performance, and Race in Contemporary Culture* (more information forthcoming).

LGBTQ Affairs is a part of Multicultural and Diversity Affairs in the division of Student Affairs at University of Florida. Our mission is to strive to provide an affirming and welcoming space for all LGBTQ+ identified students. We work to empower LGBTQ+ student leaders and ambassadors as change agents on campus and in the community. Recognizing that sexual identity and gender identity and expression work through and are influenced by race, ethnicity, culture, age, disability, faith, and other social characteristics, LGBTQ Affairs offers support and educational programming that incorporate principles of social justice to reduce heterosexism, genderism, homophobia, and transphobia in all of their forms on the UF campus and beyond.



*Center Lessons Bring Future into Focus for Alum*

**YUKAI CHEN**  
MA, WOMEN'S STUDIES  
UF CLASS OF 2016

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"MY EXPERIENCE  
HERE NOT ONLY  
PREPARED ME FOR  
LIFE AS A  
GRADUATE  
STUDENT, BUT ALSO  
OFFERED ME THE  
THEORETICAL  
TOOLS AND  
CRITICAL LENS TO  
FURTHER EXPLORE  
MY RESEARCH  
INTERESTS."  
— YUKAI CHEN

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Alum Spotlight: **Yukai Chen** graduated with the MA in Women's Studies in 2016. He started his PhD studies that same year in the area of Media Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder (CU Boulder), where he continues his studies today.

*In my first semester at the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research (CGSWSR), every time I walked out of Dr. Trysh Travis' Proseminar in Women's Studies and Dr. Kendal Broad's Social Movements course, I would have a headache from the discussions. However, more than two years later, I would still bring up materials from these classes in conversations over Game Studies as an academic discipline or the current men's rights movement with my colleagues here at CU Boulder.*

*CGSWSR harbored me for my first two years in the United States as an international student with a helpful and supportive community of wonderful staff and faculty members. More importantly, my experience here not only prepared me for life as a graduate student, but also offered me the theoretical tools and critical lens to further explore my research interests. Benefiting from the interdisciplinary approach of the program, I took classes and worked with faculty from multiple colleges and departments. My studies at the CGSWSR provided me with the methodological and theoretical tools to understand and articulate the*

*intersectionality of gender and race in media. After graduating from UF, I continued my Ph.D. studies where I carried with me the academic questions and tools that I garnered at the Center and have kept working on projects related to these topics, including the construction of transgender subjectivity in Chinese reality television, the anti-black racism within Chinese digital gaming culture, and so on.*

*My teaching experience at CGSWSR was another thing that I have dearly treasured. I was the teaching assistant for many wonderful faculty members from the Center. These faculty members have provided me with the inspirations for my own teaching. Dr. Carolyn Kelley, as one of them, exemplified for me what it means to be a good educator and offered me valuable opportunities to practice my skills in the classroom.*

*This fall, I will be attending the annual conference of the American Academy of Religion and have a book chapter scheduled for publication next year on the topic of race and media in Asia. While I am still on the journey to seek a voice of my own as a researcher and an educator in academia, the people, the courses, and the program itself at the CGSWSR will always be my reminder for who I have always aspired to be.*





## UF | Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research

**CONSIDER A MASTER'S DEGREE IN THE CENTER FOR GENDER, SEXUALITIES, AND WOMEN'S STUDIES RESEARCH:** The Center offers an interdisciplinary forum for the study of gender and sexualities and their intersections with race/ethnicity, class, and other sociocultural systems. Our vision is to use the tools of gender, sexualities, and women's studies research to produce and support scholars, leaders, and social change agents who work collaboratively and build coalitions to advance knowledge, contribute to their communities, and promote equity and opportunity for all members of our global society. A Master's degree from the Center will provide you with a high quality graduate education in an engaged community of scholars, tailored to prepare you for a variety of PhD programs and/or careers.

**PARTICIPATE IN A VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS:** We have eleven core faculty members who have expertise in gender, race/ethnicity, and sexualities/LGBTQ+ studies; feminist intersectional analysis; transnational and postcolonial feminist analysis; Chicana/o Latina/o, Afro-Latino Studies, Haitian and Caribbean studies; and cultural and literary studies. They apply this expertise in the study of critical domains such as collective identity and activism, health and medicine, law and politics, immigration, work, leadership and business, history, literatures and cultures, media and art, and social movements. In addition, we have over 100 affiliate faculty members with wide-ranging expertise who offer courses and serve on graduate committees. We also have a strong group of PhD and MA graduate certificate and affiliate students engaged in our program.

*"I feel prepared and excited to use what I'm learning here—about how gender intersects with race, economics, sexuality, nationality—in both my professional and activist work..."*

*-Diana McCarley, Alum*

### CORE FACULTY MEMBERS IN THE CENTER

- **Anita Anantharam**, MBA, PhD (South and SE Asian Studies)
- **Kendal Broad**, PhD (Sociology)
- **Manoucheka Celeste**, Graduate Certificate (Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies), PhD (Communication)
- **Maddy Coy**, MA (Research and Social Policy), PhD (Social Policy/Sociology)
- **Laura K. Guyer**, RD (Dietetics/Nutrition), PhD (Curriculum and Instruction)
- **Tace Hedrick**, PhD (Comparative Literature)
- **Angel Kwolek-Folland**, PhD (Women's History)
- **Bonnie Moradi**, PhD (Psychology)
- **Tanya Saunders**, MPP (International Development Policy), PhD (Sociology)
- **Constance Shehan**, PhD (Sociology)
- **Trysh Travis**, MA (English), PhD (American Studies)
- **Alyssa Zucker**, Graduate Certificate (Women's Studies), PhD (Psychology)

*"[My Thesis] project has shown me that there is a way to blend technical tools like wikis and databases with feminist ethics of breaking down barriers to knowledge."*

*-Tim D'Anecy, Alum*

**PURSUE THE MA DEGREE THAT MEETS YOUR GOALS:** We offer an **MA, with thesis and non-thesis options**. We also offer combined **MA/JD** degrees, **concurrent MA** degrees, and **accelerated BA/MA** degrees. Students typically complete the MA in 4 semesters. The MA degree requires 30 credits, including three core courses (9-credits) that provide a strong foundation in women's, gender, and sexualities studies, and additional elective credits that students can choose from a wide range of courses, such as:

Feminist Media Studies

Intersectional Activisms

Feminist Pedagogy

Feminist Methods

LGBTQ+ Health

Women and Therapy

Gender and Diaspora

Gender and Social Movements

Feminist/Queer of Color Studies

**STUDENT FUNDING:** Assistantships with tuition remission as well as fellowships and other scholarships are available. Financial aid applications should be submitted with admission materials.

Find more information at <http://wst.ufl.edu>

Questions? Contact Dr. Kendal Broad, [klbroad@ufl.edu](mailto:klbroad@ufl.edu)

**Application deadline is February 1st for graduate admission and funding**

## *Feminist Praxis and Centering Women's Experiences as a Form of Knowledge: The Center Welcomes Dr. Maddy Coy*

*By Matt Stern, Women's Studies MA Student*



DR. MADDY COY

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*"THE PRACTICE  
BASED EVIDENCE OF  
SPECIALIST  
SERVICES WORKING  
WITH WOMEN WHO  
ARE VICTIM-  
SURVIVORS OF  
VIOLENCE IS A FORM  
OF KNOWLEDGE  
THAT THE ACADEMY  
SHOULD LEARN  
FROM.*

- DR. MADDY COY

---

The Center is excited to welcome our new faculty colleague, **Dr. Maddy Coy**, to the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research.

Dr. Coy's research focuses on violence against women and the connections between practices of violence and responses to violence in the form of "theory, policy, and practice." Her work has specifically focused on sexual exploitation and the prostitution system. Furthermore, Dr. Coy is interested in researching how the voices of survivors of violence are heard and valued; specifically, she argues that "the practice-based evidence of specialist services working with women who are victim-survivors of violence is a form of knowledge that the academy could and should learn from." Thus, Dr. Coy hopes that academia will privilege the voices, stories, and experiences of women who are victim-survivors of violence.

Dr. Coy received her Bachelor's degree in Women's Studies from Liverpool John Moores University. Afterwards, she worked directly with victim-survivors of violence for several years in women's services. She received her Master's degree in Research and Social Policy at the University of Birmingham and then her PhD from Loughborough University while working with women in the sex industry and in domestic violence services. She attended London Metropolitan University to receive a Postgraduate Certificate in Learning and Teaching in Higher Education. Dr. Coy is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (UK).

Dr. Coy entered academia in 2006 when she joined the Child and Woman Abuse Studies Unit (CWASU) at London Metropolitan University as a Research Fellow. She stayed

at London Metropolitan University for 11 years and became a Reader in Sexual Exploitation and Gender Equality. She also became the program coordinator for CWASU's MA in Woman and Child Abuse, where she also taught on all its core courses and supervised MA and PhD student dissertations.

In addition to direct-action work and research, Dr. Coy is involved in public policy on violence against women. This policy work included working with the End Violence Against Women coalition, All Party Parliamentary Group on Prostitution and the Global Sex Trade, UK Feminista, and the Centre for Expertise on Child Sexual Abuse. Dr. Coy hopes to continue working with these groups while she is here in the U.S.

Because Dr. Coy's career is characterized by a fusion of direct-action work, policy work, and research, her scholarship is centered in strong feminist praxis on violence against women. As such, her courses here at UF will focus on connecting students' concrete experiences with theory and concepts. "I hope [students] will take away the breadth and diversity of what we know about violence against women, how much change feminists have achieved and what there is still to do. ... If research, writing and teaching on violence against women isn't connected to the reality of survivors' experiences and those who support them, it will not be a valuable contribution to feminist movements."

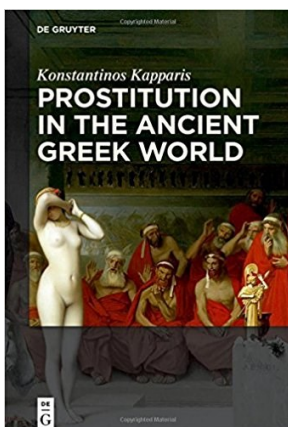
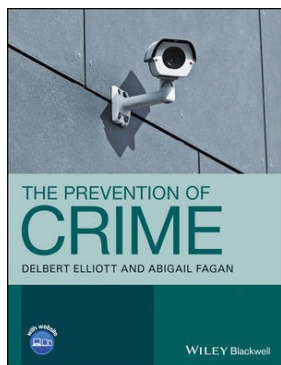
We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Coy to UF and we look forward to seeing her contributions to our feminist teaching, scholarship, and praxis here at the Center.



## Book Nook: Recently Published Books by Center Faculty and Affiliates

Delbert Elliot & **Abigail Fagan**, *The Prevention of Crime*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2017.

Dr. Fagan is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology, Criminology & Law and an affiliate of the Center.

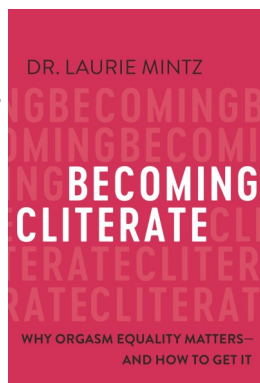


**Konstantinos Kapparis**, *Prostitution in the Ancient Greek World*, Walter DeGruyter, 2017.

Dr. Kapparis is an Associate Professor of Classics, and Director of the Center for Greek Studies. He is an affiliate of the Center.

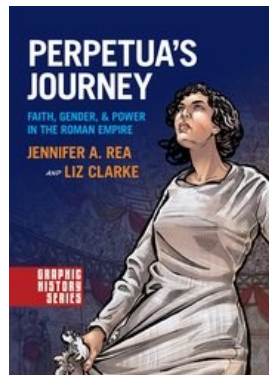
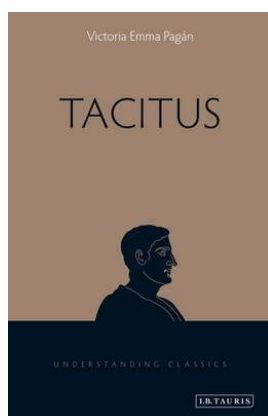
**Laurie Mintz**, *Becoming Cliterate: Why Orgasm Equality Matters---And How To Get It*, HarperOne, an imprint of HarperCollins, 2017.

Dr. Mintz is a Professor in the Department of Psychology and an affiliate of the Center.



**Victoria Emma Pagan**, *Tacitus*, I.B. Tauris, 2017

Dr. Pagan is a Professor in the Department of Classics and an affiliate of the Center.

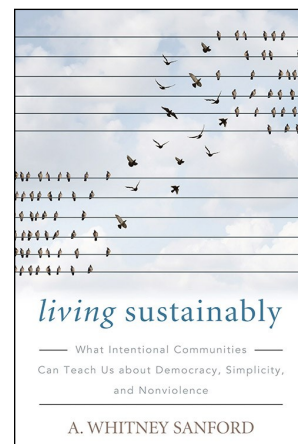


**Jennifer Rea**, *Perpetua's Journey: Faith, Gender, and Power in the Roman Empire*, Oxford University Press, 2017.

Dr. Rea is an Associate Professor in the Department of Classics and an affiliate of the Center.

**Whitney Sanford**, *Living Sustainably: What Intentional Communities Can Teach Us About Democracy, Simplicity, and Nonviolence*, University Press of Kentucky, 2017.

Dr. Sanford is a Professor in the Department of Religion and an affiliate of the Center.

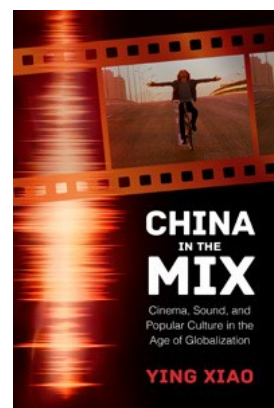


**Julia R. Varnes**, *Personal & Community Health*, Caduceus International Publishing, 2017.

Dr. Varnes is a Lecturer in the Department of Health Education and Behavior. She is an affiliate of the Center.

**Ying Xiao**, *China in the Mix: Cinema, Sound, and Popular Culture in the Age of Globalization*, University Press of Mississippi, 2017.

Dr. Xiao is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. She is an affiliate of the Center.



### *Celebrating Undergraduate Student Research*



The Center's undergraduate students are completing exciting research projects that translate their academic learning into advancing scholarship and addressing real-world problems. Through this research, these students help us realize the mission of the Center's academic program to offer students cutting-edge education in the field of gender, sexualities, and women's studies; the intersections of gender and sexualities with race/ethnicity, class, and other sociocultural systems; how these systems function in cultures and societies; and how to transform these systems to promote equity and opportunity across domains such as health, education, politics, and leadership.

#### **Apara Agarwal**



- Class of '18; double major in Biochemistry and Statistics, minor in Health Disparities in Society
- Project title: An Investigation of the Cultural, Social, and Environmental Barriers to Participation in the Living Healthy with Chronic Conditions Program in Alachua County
- University Scholars Program (USP); Mentor: Dr. Laura Guyer

#### **Cassandra Bell**



- Class of '18; double major in Behavioral and Cognitive Neuroscience and Women's Studies
- Project title: Feminist Interventions for Women in STEM
- Honors Thesis; Mentor: Dr. Alyssa Zucker



#### **Chanice Howard**



- Class of '18; double major in Anthropology and Women's Studies, minor in Health Disparities in Society
- Project title: Women's Empowerment and Health Ministries in the African American Church
- University Scholars Program (USP) & Honors Thesis; Mentor: Dr. Alyssa Zucker

#### **Ashley Moseley**



- Class of '18; double major in Psychology and Women's Studies
- Project title: Coerced Commitment from a Feminist Therapy Perspective
- University Scholars Program (USP) & Honors Thesis; Mentor: Dr. Alyssa Zucker

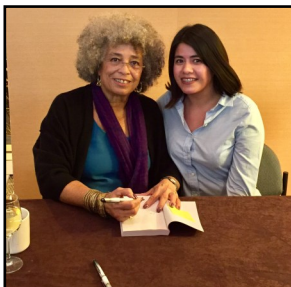
#### **Shalini Nair**



- Class of '20; major in pre-Public Health, minor in Health Disparities in Society
- Project title: Identifying Barriers to Health Careers for Florida's Hispanic Americans
- University Scholars Program (USP); Mentor: Dr. Laura Guyer

## UF well represented at NWSA Annual Conference

The University of Florida and the Center for Gender Sexualities and Women's Studies Research were well-represented at the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) annual conference, *40 Years after Combahee: Feminist Scholars and Activists Engage the Movement*, held on November 16-19, in Baltimore, Maryland.



DR. ANGELA DAVIS AND  
WOMEN'S STUDIES MA STUDENT  
MARCELLA MURILLO

**Alexandra Weis, Robert Baez, Marcela Murillo, Margaret Clarke, Aliya Miranda** "Issues of Intersectionality at the Women's March on Washington"

**Dr. Manoucheka Celeste**

- ◆ Roundtable: "A Transnational Dialogue on Island Feminisms"
- ◆ "Wailing Black Women: A Cautionary Tale and Response to State-sponsored Violence"
- ◆ Selected to participate in the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) *Women of Color Leadership Project*.

**Dr. Laura Sjoberg** (faculty affiliate)

- ◆ Roundtable: "Exploring Women's Agency Within and After Conflicts: Transnational Perspectives"

**Margaret Alice Galvan**

- ◆ Roundtable: "Digital Transformations: Scholarship and the Public Sphere"

**Roselyn Almonte** (MA alum)

- ◆ "Healing, Growing, and Loving: Restoring the Soul and Reimagining Futures"

**Lisa Wnek** (Grad Affiliate)

- ◆ "Subversive Intellectuals, Community Epistemologies, and Feminist, Anti-racist, Anti-imperialist Liberation"

**Chesya Burke** (Grad Certificate)

- ◆ "Black Girl Magic: Reimagining Black Women Speculative Fiction Writers"
- ◆ "Race and Gender on TV: Viewing as Resistance"

**Dhanashree Thorat**

- ◆ "Black and Asian American Solidarities after 9/11"

**Karina Vado** (MA alum)

- ◆ "Critical Utopianism and Chicana Feminist Futurity in the Works of Gloria Anzaldúa"



WOMEN'S STUDIES MA STUDENT  
MARCELLA MURILLO  
AND GLORIA STEINEM

**Dr. Manoucheka Celeste, Dr. Laura Guyer, Karleen Schlichtmann**

- ◆ Roundtable: "Black Health Matters: Counteracting State Violence and Disposability in Health Research and Pedagogy"

**Dr. Tanya Saunders**

- ◆ "Reflections on Why I am a Decolonial Black Feminist Artist"
- ◆ Selected for an "Authors Meet Critics" session: *Cuban Underground Hip Hop: Black Thoughts, Black Revolution, Black Modernity*



ROBERT BAEZ, MARCELLA MURILLO,  
MARGARET CLARKE, OLIVER TELUSMA,  
ALEXANDRA WEIS, AND ALIYA MIRANDA  
GATHER FOLLOWING  
THEIR ROUNDTABLE AT NWSA



CLARK ATLANTA UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AND FORMER GATOR  
DR. STEPHANIE EVANS, MA STUDENTS CORINNE FUTCH,  
KARLEEN SCHLICHTMANN, AND MATT STERN,  
DR. LAURA GUYER, AND DR. MANOUCHEKA CELESTE  
SHOW THEIR GATOR PRIDE AT NWSA.

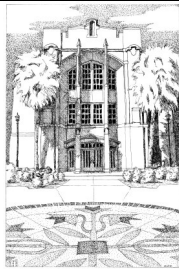
UF student **Oliver Telusma** and Women's Studies MA students **Mirela Cardinal, Corinne Futch,** and **Matt Stern** attended the conference. Some travel grant funds were provided by the Center, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, along with other departments and colleges at UF.



Center for Gender, Sexualities,  
and Women's Studies Research  
P.O. Box 117352  
Gainesville, FL 32611-7352

Phone: 352-392-3365  
Fax: 352-392-4873  
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**VISIT US IN  
BEAUTIFUL  
USTLER  
HALL, IN  
THE HEART  
OF THE UF  
CAMPUS.**



## *Two Graduate Certificates Offered in the Center*

The Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research congratulates **Mary G. Puckett**, who earned her Ph.D. in Religion and a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies, and is graduating in the fall semester, 2017.

We currently have 21 students working toward their graduate certificates in the Center.

Students pursuing graduate work in the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research will become acquainted with various feminist (and other appropriate) theoretical approaches and methodologies for examining the role of gender in cultural systems. Gender will be understood in intersection with other categories of difference, including race, ethnicity,

social class, sexuality, religion, physical ability, age, and nationality.

The Women's Studies Certificate (WST) is designed for graduate students from any discipline who wish to focus on interdisciplinary issues related to feminist theory and practice.

The Gender and Development (GAD) certificate is designed for graduate students from any discipline who wish to focus on issues related to gender and development.

All graduate students in an MA or PhD program from all colleges at UF are eligible to enroll in either

certificate program offered in the Center.

Students will earn 12 credits that include one Theory/Method course with a WST designation (see list), and 9 credits of electives with at least 50% gender content.

Applications for the certificate must be submitted to the Center's Graduate Coordinator. For more information visit the Center's graduate page at <http://wst.ufl.edu/graduate-studies/graduate-certificates/>