

From the Director's Desk

DR. BONNIE MORADI
DIRECTOR

We continue to make our way through a new reality. Our faculty and students are still navigating the challenges of teaching and learning remotely and in-person while managing health, safety, and familial care. At the same time, the precariousness of academic freedom has become acutely apparent in the aftermath of administrative decisions disallowing (and later allowing) faculty expert testimony in a claim that a new Florida law restricts voting access. These decisions have garnered national rebuke. They have also resulted in collective action across faculty

coalitions and shared governance to preserve scholarly and curricular autonomy for the faculty and the institution.

It is important to ground these conversations and actions around academic freedom in the concrete and specific reality at hand. That is, these encroachments on academic freedom are not random. Many specifically limit or have a chilling effect on anti-racism and social justice efforts. This chilling effect is happening at the same time that UF and other institutions are making rhetorical and symbolic commitments to anti-racism and social justice efforts, and calling on faculty, students, and administrators to advance these commitments.

This dual reality is not new to scholars and

students who have been doing anti-racism and social justice work all along. This work has always been precarious. This work has always involved the paradox of trying to survive in a system at the same time as challenging and stretching that system. This work has always involved wrestling with questions about when one is contributing to healing and transformation versus capitulation and enabling of harm.

It is heartening to see many faculty and students acting in coalition to protect academic freedom. I hope that we will continue this coalition work beyond a single moment. I hope that we will connect the dots across all the decisions that got us here. I hope that we will name the reality

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From the Director's Desk, continued

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that encroachments on academic freedom are often

specifically curbing anti-racism and social justice work. I hope that our ongoing work to preserve academic freedom

will center the freedom to engage in anti-racism and social justice work, fearlessly.



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*-BONNIE MORADI,
DIRECTOR*

Welcome New Graduate Students

We are excited to welcome our new graduate students to the Center's MA program: Eboneye Brown, Ecem Ece, Beth Holden, Kelsey Malles, Nagdeska Paulino, and Elisa Rios. Their research interests cover a myriad of topics, and they each bring a rich range of experiences and accomplishments.



Eboneye Brown graduated from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia with a BA in Literature in 2021. She is a current first-year MA candidate in the Center. An Atlanta native, her research investigates the intersections of regional

Blackness, gender, and performance in sonic culture. She argues that the rappers of Atlanta's trap genre employ and emphasize spatial tropes in their respective texts to refine, re-imagine and queer the concept of Black masculinity.



Ecem Ece graduated from the Middle East Technical University, Turkey, in 2013 with a BA in Sociology and a minor in Political Science, and in 2017 with an MS in Sociology. They are completing a joint MA/PhD degree -MA in the Center and PhD in

Sociology- at UF. They are a queer activist and feminist researcher from the Middle East. They are a co-founder of two LGBTIAQ+ organizations in Turkey. Moreover, they work with queer refugees from Syria, Egypt, Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and Afghanistan residing in Turkey. In addition to their ongoing activism in the LGBTIAQ+ organizations in Turkey, they are currently working on LGBTIAQ+ social movements and activisms focusing on their transformation in time and space. Their research interests also include queer migration, queer space, feminist geographies, qualitative research methods, and feminist and queer methodologies.



Beth Holden graduated from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2020 with a BA in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She is currently a first-year MA candidate in the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research at UF. Her research interests include analyzing alcohol and drug recovery programs and how they impact minoritized communities. Specifically, her thesis project hopes to deconstruct the current

popularized notion that AA and 12-Step recovery programs are a one-size-fits-all model, while it will also investigate the helpful and/or harmful nature of new for-profit online recovery schools.



Kelsey Malles graduated from the University of Florida with a BA in Women's Studies and a BS in Psychology in 2021. She is an avid volunteer at

multiple farms and pet rescues—activities that inspire her research interests in ecofeminism. She enjoys creating fluid art in her free time and hopes to further pursue this passion. Her research interests include health disparities and their relationship with diet and education, as well as the overrepresentation of POC in the food industry and how this impacts other aspects of life.



Nagdeska Paulino graduated from SUNY New Paltz in 2020 with a bachelor's in sociology and two minors in women's, gender and sexuality

studies, and anthropology. She is now a first-year MA student in the Center. Her general interests include creating art and journaling. Nagdeska is currently working on a thesis based on the importance of an intersectional lens in analyzing our current climate emergency.



Elisa Rios (she/her/hers) graduated from The College of New Jersey in 2019 with BAs in Psychology and

Women and Gender Studies. She is an Afro-Latina of Dominican and Colombian descent hailing from New Jersey. Her research aims to explore the self-identification and negotiation of racial and ethnic identities of Afro-Latin(x) Women from the United States, Dominican Republic, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Panama, and Cuba. She also aims to explore the social constructs of triple consciousness, colorism, and anti-blackness that affect Afro-Latin(x) Women's racial and ethnic identities.

Welcome Back, Second-Year MA Candidates

We are delighted to welcome back our second-year MA candidates as they continue their endeavors and their theses and projects.



Terri Bailey is a Yaya, community advocate, educator, poet, and second-year MA student. In addition to her studies, she

continues working with her nonprofit the Bailey Learning and Arts Collective (BLAAC2basics.com), and BLAAC's 1st official program, The Queens Room Women's Empowerment Group (queensroom.org). Terri has been busy working on distributing heirs

property information in gentrified communities in Gainesville, reading poetry and hosting art and community education events such as the Independence Day Sip and Create and Warrior Women's Wellness: Self-care for the Divine Feminine. She participated in the recent Women's March by reading poetry and giving away menstrual products, self-care booklets and masks. Her MA project is entitled The Manifesto of the Divine Feminine and the Laws of S.H.E. (self-care, healing, empowerment).



Priya Gurjar is a second-year MA student working on her thesis project under the supervision of committee chair

Dr. Maddy Coy. Priya's research explores the healing narratives that emerge in the wake of sexual violence. This semester, she will continue her research and graduate assistantship work.

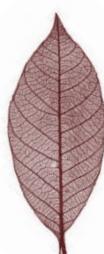


Bailey Haas is a second year student in the Women's Studies MA program. She is currently working on her non-thesis project under the supervision of Dr. Broad. Her project aims to explore the role of self work and healing in working in coalition with

(Continued on page 4)

"FEMINIST THEORY
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RESEARCH AND
TEACHING.
MY GENDER AND
WOMEN'S STUDIES
EDUCATION IN THE
CENTER WAS
INTEGRAL TO SHAPING
THESE
COMMITMENTS."

-MOLLY GREEN,
M.A. WOMEN'S STUDIES
UF CLASS OF 2014



Graduate Student Update (continued)

(Continued from page 3)

others towards social change. She will spend her remaining semesters in the program producing a podcast that will feature conversations with activists and organizers about their experiences. She hopes to center a queer disabled feminist perspective in her project.



Maria Saldana is a second-year Women's Studies MA student. She is currently working on her thesis which centers the cuentos from the Queer Peruvian Diaspora under the supervision of committee chair, Dr. Jillian

Hernandez. She will continue her research and aims to work full-time with her community doing healing and storytelling work.



Jess Trochez (she/they) is a second year Women's Studies MA candidate. Their scholarship interrogates the colonial

violence against queer communities in Central America, currently focusing on Honduras for their MA project. Her project centers sex workers and the creative, collective ways they promote their wellness and liberation such as through poetry, performance, and grassroots organizations. Positioning sex work as a site of queer resistance and decolonization, sex work illuminates and unravels the racialized heteropatriarchal values of Honduras, reminding of Honduras' colonial legacy enforced by U.S. imperialism, in the violent targeting of sex workers.



Lucy Xie Lucy is a second year MA student and TA in the Women's Studies program at the University of Florida. She studies the experience of racism and sexism in transnational Chinese American families that has emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. In her free time, she loves to roller skate, cook, and create jewelry.



FIRST YEAR GRADUATE STUDENTS GATHER IN THE CENTER FOR A GROUP PHOTO. PICTURED ARE (LEFT TO RIGHT STANDING) KELSEY MALLE, EBONEE BROWN, (LEFT TO RIGHT SEATED) NAGDESKA PAULINO, BETH HOLDEN, AND ELISA RIOS.



With an Attitude of Gratitude

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

- ♥ Mr. Gregory R. Allen
- ♥ American Association of University Women, Gainesville Chapter
- ♥ Arts Association of Alachua County
- ♥ Association for Academic Women
- ♥ Mr. Steven R. Berry
- ♥ Dr. Marni A. Brown and Mr. Casey A. Brown
- ♥ Reverend Glen A. Busby & Mrs. Linda C. Busby
- ♥ Mr. Fred H. Cantrell, Jr.
- ♥ Mrs. Jean Chalmers
- ♥ Mr. Evan G. Coe
- ♥ Ms. Carrie Cotten
- ♥ Community Foundation of North Central Florida
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- ♥ Dr. Angela Lindner & Mr. James H. Lindner
- ♥ Dr. Madelyn Lockhart
- ♥ Dr. Mary K. Lockwood
- ♥ Mr. Grady McClendon
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- ♥ Mr. Juan Luis Rodriguez
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- ♥ Ms. Lynne E. Roy
- ♥ Mrs. Lori L. Saxon and Mr. Robert S. Saxon
- ♥ Ms. Christine N. Sheridan
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- ♥ Ms. Clara J. Smith
- ♥ Dr. John M. Spivack
- ♥ Ms. Anita R. Sundaram
- ♥ Ms. Kathryn Chicone Ustler
- ♥ Ms. Deborah Whippen
- ♥ Mr. Robert Wilder
- ♥ Mr. John H. Williams, Jr.
- ♥ Mr. Chuck Woods

Gifts to the Center are used to fund conferences, 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 major gifts and other naming opportunities, please contact

Christy Popwell, Director of Development, CLAS: (352) 392-1964 or cpopwell@ufl.edu.

Bridging the Community Through Health Equity: The Center Welcomes Dr. Nilufer Akalin

By Ebonee Brown

“YOU CANNOT BE
INCLUSIVE AND
SUPPORT
DIVERSITY
WITHOUT
ADDRESSING
STRUCTURAL
INEQUALITY AND
TALKING ABOUT
GENDER, RACE,
ABILITY, AND
DOCUMENTATION
STATUS.”

—DR. NILUFER AKALIN



DR. NILUFER AKALIN

The Center warmly welcomes Dr. Nilufer Akalin as a new Lecturer and faculty colleague.

From very early on, Dr. Akalin has felt a commitment to civic engagement and presenting solutions to health disparities in her community. In 2013, Dr. Akalin moved from Turkey to the United States, where she met a much different healthcare system than she expected. “I came to this country in 2013 as a Ph.D. student. And I know before coming here, I had many pre-made conceptions about this country, you know, because, as a person who is raised and born in Turkey,

there's an image created about the United States. It's presented and promoted as a first-world country- A very wealthy country. I thought that.” This realization influenced her research as a Sociology Ph.D. student at Binghamton University in New York. Dr. Akalin worked with documented Haitian immigrants and explored their relationship with the US healthcare system. Dr. Akalin recently defended her dissertation, “Healing the Immigrant Patient.”

In the Center, Dr. Akalin is teaching courses such as Introduction to Health Disparities, Discrimination and Health, and the Practicum in Health Disparities. Closely related to her research, she is also launching a course in Gender, Race, Immigration, and Health. Dr. Akalin enjoys working with medical students and other pre-health students because she recognizes the importance of studying how

social factors such as gender, sexuality, and race are integral to public health. “You cannot be inclusive and support diversity without addressing structural inequality and talking about gender, race, ability, and documentation status, so I feel very lucky that students have this avenue.” While teaching, Dr. Akalin prioritizes creating a safe space in her classroom. It is essential to her that she and the students can be vulnerable without judgment.

Dr. Akalin looks forward to finding ways to build bridges between the community and the University. She aspires to become active in organizations around campus, building mentorships with students, and building relationships with faculty in other departments at the University. When she is not working, Dr. Akalin enjoys making friends and indulging in television shows such as *Insecure*.



The Health Disparities in Society (HDS) minor in the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research is the largest minor in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The HDS minor provides an interdisciplinary and intersectional framework to examine how multiple inequities (e.g., along class, gender, race, sexuality) intersect to produce disparities in health and how to work toward preventing and mitigating such disparities.



Expanding an Incomplete History: The Center Welcomes Dr. Hilary Coulson

By Ebonee Brown



DR. HILARY COULSON

The Center is excited to welcome Dr. Hilary Coulson as a new Lecturer and faculty colleague.

Dr. Coulson earned her Ph.D. at UC San Diego in history with a background in Interdisciplinary Humanities. Dr. Coulson's research focuses on the history of institutions with a particular interest in prisons, hospitals, asylums, and universities in The Early Republic era in the United States. She became interested in her research while working on her doctorate and assisting with a project about women's clubs in California in the early 20th century. She was surprised that these women's clubs were often heavily involved in prison reform and helped build the first women's prison in California. This inquiry birthed other questions for Dr. Coulson: "Why wasn't there a women's prison before that?

Where were women going in prison? I started asking what's going on south of the Mason-Dixon Line in terms of prisons. I started kind of following their lives and their experiences within that institution and their facilities, their treatment." Dr. Coulson's research extends into incarceration and motherhood and childbirth in prison.

Dr. Coulson is excited to incorporate her research interests and her experience teaching history into her courses in the Center, such as History of American Medicine. Since the onset of the pandemic, she has also been able to incorporate her weekly history podcast with Dr. Geoffrey West, "An Incomplete History," as a supplementary resource in her classes. "I ended up using several podcast episodes in the asynchronous offering of one of my courses to supplement the students' learning and say, hey, if you want to know a little bit more about this topic, go ahead and listen to this. And I got some really positive feedback on it. It's been a really good tool for students."

Dr. Coulson's interdisciplinary research on gender and institutions has also led her to different research projects.

Currently, Dr. Coulson is co-authoring a book about women in leadership at the University of Houston, in particular. "I'm working on a piece right now about transformational leadership. I'm writing about the president and chancellor of the University of Houston system, Renu Knator, who is the first woman and immigrant to head such a research system."

A California native, Dr. Coulson has lived and taught in over five states at institutions such as UNC and, most recently, the University of Mississippi. She is overjoyed to be an addition to the Center, noting, "I think it's amazing. I am so happy, not only that I am teaching, which is my favorite thing to do, but also that I'm teaching in a field that I think is so important and where I find the most enthusiastic engaged students; it's really a huge privilege to me to be here." When she is not teaching class five days a week or working on her podcast, Dr. Coulson enjoys cooking and baking, playing piano, hiking with her two dogs, spending time with her adopted daughters, and preparing for her newest addition this winter.

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DR. HILARY COULSON



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

COME EARN YOUR MASTER'S WITH US! 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.

STUDY WITH FACULTY MEMBERS IN THE CENTER

- [Nilufer Akalin, PhD](#)
- [Anita Anantharam, PhD](#)
- [Kendal Broad, PhD](#)
- [Hilary Coulson, PhD](#)
- [Manoucheka Celeste, PhD](#)
- [Maddy Coy, PhD](#)
- [Jillian Hernandez, PhD](#)
- [Bonnie Moradi, PhD](#)
- [Hina Shaikh, PhD](#)
- [Constance Shehan, PhD](#)
- [Trysh Travis, PhD](#)
- [Alyssa Zucker, PhD](#)

PARTICIPATE IN A VIBRANT COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS

We have twelve core faculty members who have expertise in Black and Latinx feminisms; critical girlhood studies; critical health studies; feminist/ethnic studies; feminist technoscience; gender, race, and sexualities; interdisciplinary history studies; Latinx, Afro-Latinx, Haitian, and Caribbean studies; LGBTQ+ studies; media, cultural, and literary studies; migration studies; and transnational and postcolonial feminist analysis. We apply this expertise in the study of critical domains such as data science, health and medicine, history of women, crime and violence, law and politics, leadership and business, literatures and cultures, media and art, migration, sexual violence and exploitation, social movement activism, and work. 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. [See our latest newsletter!](#)



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 and concurrent 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:

Data Feminisms
Ecofeminism
LGBTQ+ Health

Global Women of Color
Feminist Methods
Jobs, Gender, Justice

LGBTQ+ Movements & Activisms
Race, Sex & Representation
Critical Girlhood Studies

STUDENT FUNDING: We offer excellent funding to our MA students. This includes assistantships with tuition remission, supplemental scholarships, and generous research and travel funds. Financial aid applications should be submitted with admission materials. [Find more information on our website.](#) Contact [Dr. Kendal Broad](#) if you have questions.

Application Deadline is FEBRUARY 1st for graduate admission and funding.

The Center Congratulates 2021 Getty Center Scholars-in-Residence Grant Recipient, Dr. Jillian Hernandez

By Ebonee Brown

The Center is proud to announce that Associate Professor, Dr. Jillian Hernandez, is a recipient of the esteemed Getty Center Scholars-in-Residence grant for 2021-2022. This grant will provide her access to archival images, books, and extensive collections of rare materials during a three-month term at the renowned Getty Research Institute in Los Angeles, California.

Dr. Hernandez is excited to use Getty's expansive Latinx and Black iconography. She will also take advantage of other resources in Los Angeles including the ONE National Gay and Lesbian Archives at the University of Southern California, in addition to the archives of Chicana/x activist art at Self Help Graphics and SPARC (The Social and Public Art Resource Center).

Dr. Hernandez plans to use her time at Getty to advance her research and

work on her next book, a project entitled *High Maintenance: Radical Femininity and the Transformation of Value*. *High Maintenance* will continue Dr.



Hernandez's work with cultural aesthetic production. She describes her book as a means of "examining how contemporary artists and cultural producers mobilize femininity as a radical politics that claims beauty, care, protection, and abundance for vulnerable populations, and shift

structures of value that are shaped by systemic racism and sexism." She goes on to state, "I'll be writing about visual artists Kenya (Robinson), Juliana Huxtable, Sadie Barnette, Pamela Council, and Yvette Mayorga, in addition to hip hop artists City Girls, Cardi B, Megan Thee Stallion, and Bia. *High Maintenance* calls for new imaginings of radical feminism and racial justice that transform the world through adornment." Dr. Hernandez is grateful to have been honored with the Getty grant: "To have recognition from an internationally renowned institution in visual arts research like the Getty as a transdisciplinary scholar means a lot to me, and I am excited to have dedicated time and space for thinking and writing."



Congratulations to Dr. Trysh Travis who is appointed Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Looking ahead in her role, Travis says her top priority is to create optimal conditions for faculty to provide the most meaningful education possible for students. 'Our students are smart — scary smart,' she said. 'And they are ready to think big thoughts.' For the full article in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Newsletter, visit [this link](#).

<https://news.clas.ufl.edu/longtime-faculty-member-becomes-clas-associate-dean/>

Building Community Technology Through Data Feminism: The Center Welcomes Dr. Hina Shaikh

By Ebnee Brown



DR. HINA SHAIKH

“WE CAN THINK
THROUGH HOW TO
SOLVE PROBLEMS
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WANT IT TO BE.”
DR. HINA SHAIKH

The Center is delighted to welcome Dr. Hina Shaikh as a new Assistant professor and faculty colleague. Dr. Shaikh has a background in Gender and Ethnic Studies and an interest in Artificial Intelligence (AI), data science, and feminism. She expressed her excitement for her new position because of the opportunity to build relationships with her community and provide resources from UF for the community. “The people that I work with deserve to be at the center of knowledge being made about these technologies because they’re often the objects of surveillance, and they deserve to be the subjects... I love thinking about surveillance not just from the state but also from the context of people in refugee camps or people

who are asylum seeking and how that transforms completely, the idea of what technology is by the people who are the object of it and interacting with it.”

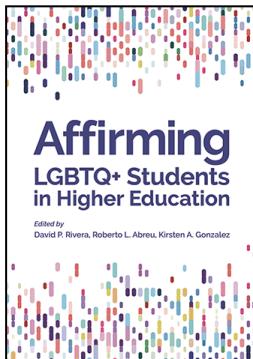
While reminiscing on her time at FAU Honors College for her undergraduate degree in Ethnic Studies, Dr. Shaikh remembered the influence that her women’s studies courses had on her life and career: “I didn’t really care about school at all or doing well or anything until I took my first women’s studies class. It was in that class that I finally understood how everything I, my family, and my communities go through always intersects with power.” After receiving a BA in Political Science and Women’s Studies, Dr. Shaikh completed her M.A. in Women’s Studies in the Center at UF. She then completed an M.A. and Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies at UC San Diego. She also received training in coding and a Certificate in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Dr. Shaikh is excited to incorporate technology with the humanities in her

classroom. She wants to reimagine systems of power associated with AI, generally reserved for the elite, to serve the community, beginning with establishing a Data Feminism Lab. “It’s fascinating to me to think about the lab. And for me, of course, I think about it as student-centered and community-centered; a space where people can have access to technologies. We can think through how to solve problems that affect people’s daily lives in ways that AI is often not considered. AI is not considered a Community Technology, but I want it to be.” Dr. Shaikh is currently working on academic and journalistic publications utilizing these community-centered principles of data analysis. She encourages everyone reading this to join her in collaboratively building a Data Feminism Lab on campus!



Book Nook: Recently Published Books by Center Faculty and Affiliates

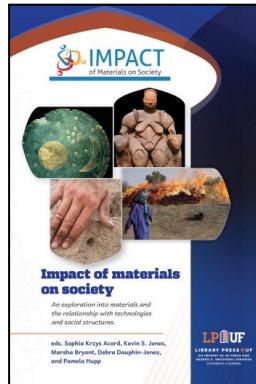


Roberto L. Abreu, *Affirming LGBTQ+ Students in Higher Education*, Edited with David P. Rivera and Kirsten A. Gonzalez, American Psychological Association, 2022

Dr. Abreu is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology and an affiliate of the Center.

Sophia Acord, Marsha Bryant, *Impact of Materials on Society*, Library Press@UF, 2021

Dr. Acord is an Associate Dean in the College of the Arts and Dr. Bryant is a Professor and Distinguished Teaching Scholar in the Department of English. Both are affiliates of the Center.



Meghan Moe Beitiks, *A Lab for Apologies and Forgiveness*, Candor Arts, 2021

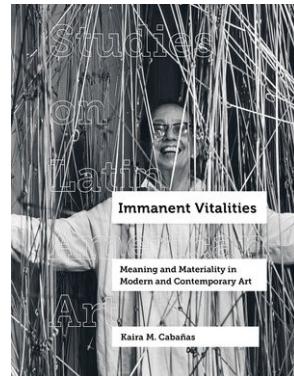
Meghan Moe Beitiks is a lecturer in the School of Art and Art History and



an affiliate of the Center.

Kaira M. Cabañas, *Immanent Vitalities: Meaning and Materiality in Modern and Contemporary Art*, University of California Press, 2021

Kaira M. Cabañas is a Professor in the School of Art and Art History and an affiliate of the

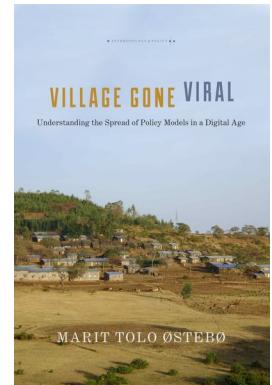


Women in the Law Courts of Classical Athens
Konstantinos Kapparis



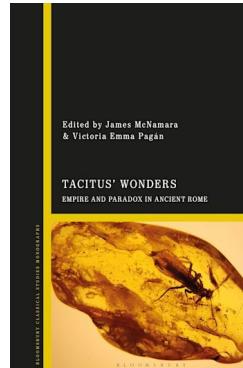
Konstantinos Kapparis, *Women in the Law Courts of Classical Athens*, Edinburgh University Press, 2021

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



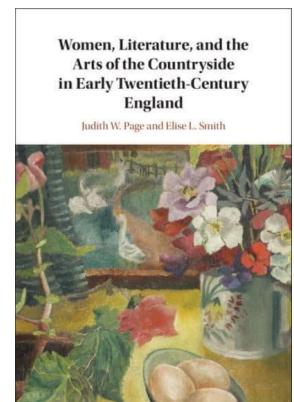
Marit Tolo Østebø, *Village Gone Viral: Understanding the Spread of Policy Models in a Digital Age*, Stanford University Press, 2021

Dr. Østebø is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Anthropology and an affiliate of the Center.



James McNamara and Victoria Emma Pagán, *Tacitus' Wonders: Empire and Paradox in Ancient Rome*, Bloomsbury Publishing, 2021.

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



Judith W. Page and Elise L. Smith, *Women, Literature, and the Arts of the Countryside in Early Twentieth-Century England*, Cambridge University Press, 2021

Dr. Page is a Professor and Distinguished Teaching Scholar Emerita at the University of Florida, an affiliate, and a former Director of the Center.

Turning Internship into Career: Developing a Vision for the World I Want to Help Create

"MY WOMEN'S STUDIES EDUCATION IS A FOUNDATION FOR ALL THE WORK I DO, BUT MY EXPERIENCE AT THE CENTER HAS HAD A DEEPER IMPACT ON MY LIFE THAN THE PRACTICAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE I'VE BEEN ABLE TO APPLY TO MY PROFESSIONAL LIFE."

-ANDREINA FERNANDEZ



ANDREINA FERNANDEZ
M.A., WOMEN'S STUDIES
UF CLASS OF 2020

Andreina Fernandez graduated with an MA in Women's Studies and Graduate Certificate in Latin American Studies in 2020. She works in book publishing at the University of North Carolina Press and as Operations Manager for Girls Rock North Carolina.

I find myself applying the skills and knowledge I learned during my time in the MA program at the Center in all aspects of my personal and professional life. My graduate work at the Center fundamentally changed the way I interact with the world and what I see and analyze in each situation.

My current work is highly impacted by my graduate studies at the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research. The MA program provided me with an interdisciplinary education that I was able to tailor to my interests and strengths. During my time in the program, I completed an internship with the University Press of Florida. This opportunity

was essential to get my foot in the door in publishing and gain experience in the industry in order to secure a full-time position. My interdisciplinary education at the Center and my studies with incredible professors like Dr. Jillian Hernandez, Dr. Manoucheka Celeste, and Dr. Tanya Saunders taught me how to engage generatively with complex academic texts and how to write and develop accessible academic work. These skills have been indispensable in my work at the University of North Carolina Press (UNCP), where I work on a variety of academic and general interest manuscripts and guide authors through the peer review process and towards publication. Because of my education in Women's Studies, I'm able to engage meaningfully with academic work in many different disciplines, provide feedback to authors on clarity of argument, writing style and organization, and help authors make the most of the peer review process. My women's studies graduate education helped me to develop practical skills that I need in order to be an effective editor, but more than that, it provided me with essential context to understand the vast issues of equity and marginalization that impact publishing writ large, including the people in publishing, from interns to authors.

In addition to my work with UNCP, I also work with Girls Rock North Carolina, a youth-centered

organization dedicated to building community and power among girls, transgender youth, and gender expansive youth through musical collaboration, political education for social change, and creative expression. Dr. Jillian Hernandez's teachings in Critical Girlhood Studies and the non-profit industrial complex provided essential context for the work I do with Girls Rock, where I work to create empowering experiences for girls and queer youth. I collaborate with a team of dedicated staff and volunteers to reimagine the organization's role in our community and ensure we are using our resources to effectively support our community.

My women's studies education is a foundation for all the work I do but my experience at the Center has had a deeper impact on my life than the practical skills and knowledge I've been able to apply to my professional life. The MA program was an immense growth opportunity for me and allowed me to develop my interests, knowledge base, and interpersonal communication. Through the guidance of my brilliant professors and peers at the Center, I was able to explore how my own identities have impacted my life, situate myself in the world around me, understand my own positionality, and develop my own vision for the world I want to help create.

Center Alum Turns Practicum Experience into Career in Community Service and Health Equity



KETSHIA ROBILLARD
B.A., WOMEN'S STUDIES
UF CLASS OF 2020

Ketshia Robillard graduated in 2020 with the B.A. in Women's Studies and a minor in Health Disparities in Society from the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research. She is now working as resource technician for the Gainesville Fire Rescue Community Resource Paramedicine Program (CRP) where she continues to serve the Gainesville community and work with Center practicum and internship students.

I found the Health Disparities in Society minor my sophomore year and added the Women's Studies major my junior year. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies on the pre-med track in 2020 and my minor in Health Disparities was the catalyst and precursor to what I do now. I currently work as a resource technician for the Gainesville Fire Rescue Community Resource Paramedicine Program (CRP). Before that, I was a student intern with the program as part of my Health Disparities in Society practicum. I never expected to fall so deep into public health and social services.

Now, I lead the Chronic Disease Management portion of the program. As part of my position, I assist people who are homeless and have low-incomes in the Gainesville community who need access to resources and help managing their chronic diseases. This means I may connect these individuals with housing, social, and mental health resources as well as with financial and food assistance programs that already exist in the Gainesville area. However, the work most definitely does not stop there.

The overall goal of the program is to reduce EMS burden by reducing non-emergency 911 calls and to improve the quality of life of our patients. To this end, CRP aims to use knowledge about social determinants of health

to create more positive health outcomes for patients. We also work to bridge the gap between what happens in the clinic with a patient's primary care physician and specialists and what happens at home. The first time I ever heard of "social determinants of health" was in my Introduction to Health Disparities course. I learned how even one determinant can affect the outcome of someone's health or recovery. In my role, I think beyond whether or not a patient is compliant with medications and eating properly. I ask does this patient have a stable housing situation, does this patient have transportation, do they have enough food, are they safe, can they read, and many more questions to get a comprehensive understanding of their unique situation. Through listening to their answers to these questions, I also work to develop a solid relationship with them to support their own capacity for self-management, to empower them to advocate for themselves, and to continue positive behaviors after they graduate from the program and no longer need my assistance.

My time in the Women's Studies major allowed me to understand the population I work with on a deeper level because I see the intersections of race, class, and culture and I see how systems of power shape my patients' lived experiences. The health disparities minor allowed me to understand what patient-centric care looks like and I am fortunate enough to put that in to practice every day. The minor gave me a great opportunity and I wish to see more students gain hands-on experience with this population and grow their interest in public health and community health. To that end, I now work with Center students completing their practicum or internship with CRP and get to pay forward the learning and experience that I gained.



-KETSHIA ROBILLARD

*The Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies Research
Call for Proposals for Awards and Grants*

We invite students and faculty to submit proposals for the following Center awards and grants:



AAUW Gainesville Student Grant: The AAUW Gainesville Branch Student Grant provides up to \$1000 to support women's studies students to conduct research, education, or initiatives that align with AAUW's mission: <https://www.aauw.org/> and <https://gainesville-fl.aauw.net>
Applications are due on March 15th, 2022



CHARLES T. WOODS, JR.

Charles T. Woods Faculty Grant: The Charles T. Woods Faculty Grant supports faculty research or service intervention projects that benefit LGBTQ+ communities. Grants of up to \$6,000 will be awarded that can be used over a period of one academic year

in the form of salary (e.g., summer, course release) or reimbursement for expenses required for the

project. All projects should clearly connect research and praxis, with an applied component that benefits LGBTQ+ communities. Applications are due on March 15th, 2022

Charles T. Woods Student Grant: The Charles T. Woods Student Grant supports student research or service/community projects that benefit LGBTQ+ communities. Grants of up to \$4,000 will be awarded that can be used over a period of one academic year in the form of salary (e.g., summer, graduate assistantship) or reimbursement for expenses required for the project. All projects should clearly connect research and praxis, with an applied component that benefits LGBTQ+ communities.

All proposals are due March 15, 2022, and should be submitted via the application portal on the Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies website. Please visit <https://wst.ufl.edu/funding/> for more information.



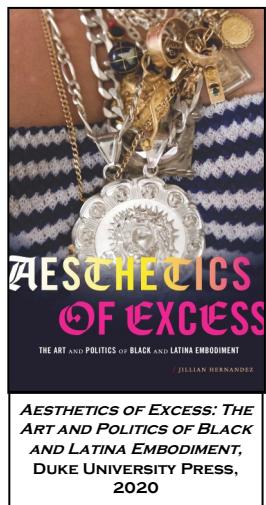


Remembering Feminist Leader bell hooks

We honor bell hooks, her vision, her work, and her love. bell hooks generated transformative knowledge and analysis through her activism, public engagements, and writing, including books like *Ain't I A Woman?* *Black Women and Feminism*, *All About Love: New Visions*, *Feminism is for Everybody: Passionate Politics*, and *Writing Beyond Race: Living Theory and Practice*. She died on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at her home in Berea, Kentucky at the age of 69. We feel this heavy loss with much gratitude to bell hooks for the inspiration and the unwavering feminist compass that she provides.



Congratulations Center Faculty Members



Congratulations **Dr. Anita Anantharam** and **Dr. Hina Shaikh** for being awarded College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Humanities Scholarship Enhancement Fund Awards! These awards are designed to stimulate "new or existing research activity in the humanities, particularly that which may lead to extramural funding."

Congratulations to **Dr. Manoucheka Celeste** and **Dr. Trysh Travis** for being awarded University of Florida Term Professorships! This year's awards recognize faculty with 5+ years at UF "who have established a distinguished record of research and scholarship that is expected to lead to continuing distinction in their field."

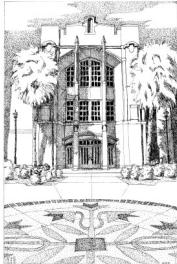
Congratulations to **Dr. Jillian Hernandez** whose book, *Aesthetics of Excess*, received honorable mention for the American Studies Association John Hope Franklin Prize. The committee selected her book from over 100 books and described it as "wildly brave and unique," "stunning," and "transformative."



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**VISIT US IN
BEAUTIFUL
USTLER
HALL, IN
THE HEART
OF THE UF
CAMPUS.**



Two Graduate Certificates Offered in the Center

Students pursuing graduate work in the Center for Gender, Sexualities, and Women's Studies 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, 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.

Graduate and professional students from all colleges at UF are eligible to enroll in either certificate program offered in the Center.

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