FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER

PROGRAM FOR THE STUDY OF WOMEN & GENDER

[Images of protest signs and crowd]

Smith College
A Message from our
SWG Director

BY CARRIE BAKER

This fall we were thrilled to welcome SWG faculty human rights activist and scholar Loretta Ross, who is taught a course on white supremacy in the age of the trump. We also welcomed SWG alumna Vange Heiliger, who graduated in 2000 and has returned to teach for the next three years as a Visiting Assistant Professor in American Studies. Vange taught Queer Ecologies this fall. Five College Professor Angie Willey taught a class on Theorizing Queer Feminism and Jina Kim taught a new course on Gender and Sexuality in Asian America.

We had several exciting events this semester, including a 40th anniversary celebration of Jean Kilbourne’s film Killing Us Softly, a workshop series on calling in and calling out by Loretta Ross, a talk by SWG Alumna Cat Dawson on “Technology, Representation, and Social Justice,” and a talk by Jacquelyn Dowd Hall on her new book, “Sisters and Rebels: A Struggle for the Soul of America.”

We have seven Quigley Fellowships this year on a range of topics, including third worldist transnational feminism, women’s rights journalism, reproductive justice, and the political economy of contemporary dispossession. We welcomed ten students back from studying abroad in the Netherlands, Denmark, Spain, Italy and Israel. Four students are pursuing honors theses this year:

- **Marcela Rodrigues**, Queer Brazilian Women: Processes of Identity (Re)Formation
- **Shea Leibow**, Mapping the Gendered Implications of Militarism and Resource Extraction
- **Razi Beresin-Scher**, Bearded Women, Freakhood, and the Construction of Normative Gendered Bodies
- **Clara Kaul**, ‘The Beginning of . . .?’: Colonial Violence, Affect, and the Monstrous Other in Israeli State Archives

Many faculty went to the National Women’s Studies Association annual conference in San Francisco, joined this year by several students, including Marcela Rodrigues, Clara Kaul, and Shea Leibow.

Please follow our activities on the SWG Facebook page and the SWG webpage. And all graduated SWG majors, please sign up on our SWG Alumnae Network so that current students can reach out to you with questions and for your guidance!
Validating”  
Ruby Lowery ’21

Fascinating”  
Jada Ficarra ’23

Empowering”  
Mary Luna ’21

Collaborative”  
Anastasia Lynge  
’20

Resilience”  
Lizbeth Oquita ’22

Catalyst”  
Huiling Christine Qian ’21

World-analysis”  
Olivia Rynberg-Going ’22
WHAT IS GOING ON IN SWG CLASSROOMS?

"This semester I am taking Introduction to SWG with Professor Armstrong and I love the class. Learning everything we are talking about and especially being more educated to be a better ally (for gender non-conforming people on campus, students of other ethnicities, etc). I also love doing research with Professor Armstrong. It's helping me to learn useful skills. I'm researching a socialist conference and it's really cool to learn about people fighting economic oppression even back in 1949."

Jada Ficarra '23

"This semester I'm taking a lot of SWG classes about cultural influences on feminism - my favorite one is Gender and Sexuality in Asian America which focuses on how general topics that feminists often discuss influence the Asian American diaspora. We analyze how these issues are dealt within by viewing how Asian people are portrayed by white people and the struggles faced when accepting a transnational identity."

Becca Alonso '22

"I am taking White Supremacy in the Age of Trump, and Loretta Ross has really emphasized calling in and focusing on those who are working against us, not people who may be making mistakes but are fighting the same fight. In a time where everyone is at each other's throats and it seems like a PC race, she reminds us to keep the real goals and the real enemies in the focus in order to successfully work towards our collective goals."

Alexandria Rodriguez '20
"I am taking Gender, Land, and Food Movements with Lisa Armstrong. Our class studies regional and transnational movements to develop an understanding of current trends in economic globalization, as well as map the history of land and food. The class is a community-based learning (CBL) class, and I found the integration of project-based and experimental learning to be incredibly valuable. Through volunteer (or as we call 'sweat-equity') shifts, I have gotten to connect to local food movements and get to know my peers outside of the classroom. "

Tessa Finkelstein '23J

"This semester I am taking Gender, Land, and Food Movements with Lisa Armstrong. This class has reminded me of the importance of honoring knowledge consistently deemed incompetent by capitalist, racist, and sexist systems. Knowledge produced in everyday life and everyday existence of marginalized people, particularly by Black, Indigenous, and women of color, is so essential to eco-feminism and feminism in general. Language should be accessible and knowledge outside of academia should be held at a higher standard."

Lizbeth Oquita '22

"Taking Global Migrations in the 21st with Professor Payal Banerjee has been such a wonderful chance to read really interesting work on topics such as migration, citizenship, and surveillance, but my favorite part is hearing from my classmates and professor about their interpretations and ideas. It's such an energizing classroom to be in and it makes me excited to be learning!"

Shea Leibow '20
The scholarly journal *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*, housed at Smith College, has an exciting year ahead of us. This year Meridians will be celebrating its 20th anniversary with hopes to expand its transnational and local outreach. Be on the lookout for upcoming calls for submissions, events, and the 2 new issues of Meridians to be released this year by the Meridians editorial team. Leading the team is Professor Ginetta E.B Candelario and Leslie Marie Aguilar as respective Editor and Editorial Assistant. Meridians is also excited to welcome our largest intern team yet, which includes a STRIDE fellow, two Quigley Research Fellows, and two interns. Meet our interns below:

**Gillian Mitchell-Love 'AC/2020** (Quigley Fellow) is an undergraduate student studying Psychology and Sociology in the Ada Comstock Scholars Program at Smith College. Originally from Peru she wishes to combine her studies and focus on political activism to help influence radical social, economic, and racial justice on a global scale.

**Emma Schubert '2020** (Quigley Fellow) is an undergraduate student studying Sociology and Urban Studies at Smith College. Her studies center around social, economic, racial, and reproductive justice. Emma hopes to continue justice work in her future career, using urban planning, policy, and the design of social infrastructure to foster thriving communities.
Rosie Poku ’2022 (Intern) is an undergraduate student at Smith College double majoring in Africana Studies and World Literatures. She combines these courses of study to examine black diasporic literatures written in French, English and Spanish. Rosie hopes to continue reading, writing (and one day teaching) about the expansiveness, diversity and power of the black world.

Sheilena Downey’ AC/2020 (Intern) is an undergraduate student studying U.S. History, concentrating on U.S. racial history, gender, and citizenship. She hails from Brockton, Massachusetts and intends on highlighting the trials, tribulations, successes, and importance of marginalized groups throughout history and plans on teaching this vital perspective of history to the future generation of citizens and leaders.

Riley Mayes’ 2023J (STRIDE Fellow) is an undergraduate student studying English and Comparative Politics at Smith College, where she aspires to examine the critical role of literature in social and political movements. She is originally from Portland, Maine.
Congratulations

Professor Jina B. Kim, Associate Professor of English Language & Literature and of the Study of Women & Gender, has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize, for her piece called *Love in the Time of Sickness: On Disability, Race, and Intimate Partner Violence*. The piece is forthcoming in The Asian American Literary Review.

Professor Kim has published on the topics of disability studies and ethnic U.S. literatures, furthering a critical framework she terms crip-of-color critique. In 2012, she received the Irving K. Zola Award for Emerging Scholars in Disability Studies from the Society for Disability Studies.

In the Spring, Professor Kim will be teaching the following courses:

- SWG 150  Introduction to the Study of Women and Gender
- ENG 100  Nature's Nation?: American Literature of the Environment
- ENG 363  Race and Environment
STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Isabel Fields '21
- The Fight for Menstrual Equity Marches on in Massachusetts, Ms. Magazine Online (10/29/2019)
- The Untold Stories of Larry Nassar’s Abuse, Ms. Magazine Online (11/13/2019)
- Attacks on Contraceptive Access Don’t Add Up, Ms. Magazine Online (11/13/2019)

Katie Fleischer '21
- Killing Us (Not) So Softly, Ms. Magazine Online (9/26/2019)
- What Candidates Aren’t Talking About at the Debates, and Why it Matters, Ms. Magazine Online (10/16/2019)

Marcela Rodrigues '20
- Activism is Survival for Brazilian Trans Women, Ms. Magazine Online (8/1/2019)

Claire Haug '20
FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

**Loretta Ross.** Visiting Professor

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**The New York Times**

**Mehammed Amadeus Mack.** Associate Professor of French Studies
- Why do Gender and Sexuality Come Up so Often When We Discuss Immigration? The London School of Economic’ Middle East Centre Blog (11/19/2019)

![Image](332x342 to 472x483)

**Carrie Baker.** Professor of the Study of Women & Gender
- Sexual Assault and Sham Investigations: Inside the Latest Headlines About Brett Kavanaugh, *Ms.* Magazine Online (9/18/2019)
- The Trump Administration’s Attempt to Allow Discrimination in Healthcare Was Just Struck Down, *Ms.* Magazine Online (11/7/2019)
- Two articles in this fall’s issue of *Ms.* Magazine, on the domestic gag rule and on Jeffrey Epstein and child sex trafficking. On the newsstands now!
PHOTO GALLERY
Fall 2019

SWG faculty and staff (top); SWG students and faculty celebrating the beginning of the fall semester (bottom).
On September 19, SWG students and faculty celebrated Jean Kilbourne and the 40th anniversary of "Killing Us Softly".
On October 24, Jacquelyn Dowd Hall spoke on her book *Sisters and Rebels: A Struggle for the Soul of America* (top); On December 3, Mimi Khuc spoke on decolonizing mental health.
SWG seniors Clara Kaul (top) and Marcela Rodrigues (bottom) presented their research at the 2019 National Women’s Studies Association in San Francisco. Clara’s research is on Leila Khaled’s "My People Shall Live" and Marcela’s research is on Queer Brazilian immigrant women and identity (re)formation.
On December 5, Jill Liddington spoke on Anne Lister and the story behind Gentleman Jack. Check out her full presentation through this link: https://youtu.be/wkvALY2arpI
An introduction to the interdisciplinary field of the study of women and gender through a critical examination of feminist histories, issues and practices. Focus on the U.S. with some attention to the global context. Primarily for first- and second-year students; the course includes lecture and discussion, and students are assigned to sections. Enrollment limited to 25.

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the interdisciplinary field of queer studies, including its historical formations and recent innovations. We will explore the roots of queer theory in feminist theories of subjectivity and desire, queer of color critique, and queer critiques of traditional domains of knowledge production, including psychoanalysis and visual culture. Students will examine a wide range of media and forms of documentation ranging from archival material and oral histories, to critical theory. Throughout the course we will attend carefully to race, class, gender, sexuality, and disability, and will put these and other topics/identifications in conversation with course material and discussions.

Flickers of global finance capital across computer screens cannot compare to the travel preparations of women migrating from rural homes to work at computer chip factories. Yet both movements, of capital and people, constitute vital facets of globalization in our current era. This course centers on the political linkages and economic theories that address the politics of women, gender relations and capitalism. We will research social movements that challenge the raced, classed and gendered inequities, and the costs of maintaining order. We will assess the alternatives proposed by social movements like the landless workers movement (MST) in Brazil, and economic shifts like the workers cooperative movement. Assignments include community-based research on local and global political movements, short papers, class-led discussions & written reflections.

This course will analyze the history, prevalence, and current manifestations of the white supremacist movement by examining ideological components, tactics and strategies, and its relationship to mainstream politics. We will also research and discuss the relationship between white supremacy and white privilege, and explore how to build a human rights movement to counter the white supremacist movement in the U.S. Students will develop analytical writing and research skills, while engaging in multiple cultural perspectives. The overall goal is to develop the capacity to understand the range of possible responses to white supremacy, both its legal and extralegal forms. Enrollment limited to 50.
**SWG 271 01 Colloquium: Reproductive Justice**  Carrie N. Baker | M W F 1:20 PM-2:35 PM

This course is an interdisciplinary exploration of reproductive health, rights and justice in the United States, examining history, activism, law, policy, and public discourses related to reproduction. A central framework for analysis is how gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, disability and nationality intersect to shape people's experiences of reproductive oppression and their resistance strategies. Topics include eugenics and the birth control movement; the reproductive rights and justice movements; U.S. population control policies; criminalization of pregnant people; fetal personhood and birth parents' citizenship; the medicalization of reproduction; reproductive technologies; the influence of disability, incarceration and poverty on pregnancy and parenting; the anti-abortion movement and reproductive coercion and violence. Prerequisite SWG 150 or permission of the instructor. Enrollment limited to 20.

**SWG 300 01 Special Topics in the Study of Women and Gender Queer Visual Studies**  Catherine Victoria Dawson | M 1:20 PM-4:00 PM

Topics course. As representations of queer subjectivities has left the largely coded citations of the closet, they have come to rely on discursively complex and intersectional forms of representation that at once exceed, and rely on, queer cultures, communities, and even subjects. Queer visual culture has long offered a way for queer subjects to both represent and come to understand, who they are and how meaning is inscribed onto and through [their] bodies. We will leverage history and theory to explore a range of media from fine art to popular culture, and develop a queer lens with which to interrogate visual culture. This class will map the trajectory from the early twentieth century to our present moment, and ultimately seek to describe what queer visual representation is—and perhaps is not—today.

**SWG 321 01 Marxist Feminism**  Elisabeth Brownell Armstrong | T Th 10:50 AM-12:05 PM

Marxist feminism as a theory and a politics imagines alternate, liberatory futures and critiques present social orders. Beginning with a simple insight: capitalism relies on the class politics of unpaid, reproductive "women's work." Marxist feminists in the 19th century sought to imagine new social connections, sexualities, and desire to overthrow patriarchy, slavery, feudalism and colonialism. Today, queer of color & decolonial feminist theory, alongside abolition, environmental, and reproduction justice movements rejuvenate this tradition of Marxist feminism. This seminar will focus on theoretical writings from around the world to better understand radical social movements from the past and the present. Prerequisite: SWG 150 and permission of the instructor.

**SWG 360 01 Memoir Writing**  Cornelia D.J. Pearsall | T 1:20 PM-4:00 PM

How does one write a life, especially if it's one's own? This writing workshop addresses the profound complexities, challenges, and pleasures of the genre of the memoir. through intensive reading, discussion, and both analytical and creative writing. Our readings will be drawn from a range of mostly contemporary memoirists with intersectional identity locations—and dislocations—drawing from a range of voices, experiences, and representations, pursuing what the class comes to identify as our own most urgent aesthetic and ethical questions. Our attention will be to craft, both in the memoirs we read and those we write. Writing sample and permission of the instructor required. Enrollment limited to 12.

SWG also has many cross-listed courses [here](#)
If you have any questions, feel free to CONTACT US
Program for the Study of Women and Gender
Phone 413-585-3390
www.smith.edu/swg

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Newsletter designed by Marcela Rodrigues ’20