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SWG Welcome Back Dinner, September 12, 2017
Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism

Written by Callie Swaim-Fox ('21)

Meridians Interns (left to right): Gracie Elliot ('18), Sushmitha (Sushi) Ram ('18), Callie Swaim-Fox ('21)

Housed at Smith College, Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism is a scholarly journal committed to publishing work by and about women of color. Professor Ginetta Candelario and Leslie Marie Aguilar helm the publication as Editor and Editorial Assistant, respectively. This semester, Meridians is thrilled to welcome three student interns: STRIDE Scholar Callie Swaim-Fox and Quigley Fellows, Gracie Elliot and Sushmitha (Sushi) Ram. As student interns, they assist with editorial projects, archive Meridians documents, solicit scholars to serve as reviewers for the journal, and are currently planning a student special issue of Meridians on transracial adoption.

Sushi Ram ('18) is a Quigley Fellow for Meridians this year. She is double majoring in History and Economics with a concentration in Community Engagement and Social Change. Sushi first heard about Meridians after taking a course with Professor Emerita Paula Giddings last year. Her work with Meridians, thus far, focuses on archival work and the student special issue. She is very excited about this incredible opportunity to vitalize her senior year. She encourages others to get involved with Meridians.

Gracie Elliot ('18) is also a Quigley Fellow for Meridians. She is double majoring in Sociology and Women and Gender Studies. The “Where and When I Enter”
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symposium and a class with Professor Emerita Paula Giddings introduced her to the work of Meridians. So far, she has worked on developing promotional material for Meridians to take to conferences, compiled contact lists of Meridians contributors over the years, and proofread new editions of the journal. She is fascinated to learn about the publishing side of the academic world and loves getting exposure to cutting edge academics in a field of paramount importance.

Callie Swaim-Fox (‘21) is a STRIDE fellow, working for Meridians and alongside Professor Candelario on her research into Dominican Feminisms. She plans to major in SWG and be an Archives concentrator. At Meridians, she works on inviting reviewers for submissions and revitalizing the “In the Archives” section of the journal. Her work for Meridians has deepened her understanding of transnationalism and women of color feminisms. She is so grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such an important project.

“Meridians is a peer-reviewed, feminist, interdisciplinary journal whose goal is to provide a forum for the finest scholarship and creative work by and about women of color in U.S. and international contexts. The journal is a venture of Smith College and is published by Indiana University Press.” Beginning next year, the journal will be published by Duke University Press.

Meridians is found on Smith College campus, and is now located at its new home in Henshaw B. You can find information about the journal online at https://www.smith.edu/meridians/.
Interview with SWG Senior, Lily Pearl!

What is the internship or extra-Smith activity that you have had that has most informed your identity/academic interests/major?

The Bridge Program has been the most impactful activity that has informed my identity. Bridge is a pre-orientation program that helps prepares students of color at Smith with a support system and community that help them to succeed in their Smith careers. I was both a student in the program and a leader. It cultivated my love for mentoring younger students and building community for students who are not always welcomed on campus with open arms.

Is there a class or experience that you would do/take again at Smith if you could?

I would want to take "This Bridge Called My Back" again because it totally shifted the way I think about academia and the world around me. It showed me that revolutions are not just about memorable events or people. I think that if I took it again I would have a much deeper appreciation for each hour of class and be able to gather a greater understanding of the material.

Any lessons or words of advice that you have for new SWG majors?

Always be questioning what you are hearing and reading in class. One of the points of this major is to never let things be assumed as total truths and forever be searching for the silences and gaps.

What would be a Smith or SWG class that you'd love to see, that maybe doesn't exist yet?

I would love to see a Smith class about queer love and relationships. Many classes touch on the rights of queer people to be in relationships or engage in sexual activity but seldom do they focus on romance, passion, emotions and how queer love is experienced.

Anything funny (jokes, riddles, fun facts) that you'd like to share?
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There was an underground lesbian club at Smith during the 1970's that would meet at different locations around campus late at night.

Lily is one of seven SWG student liaisons (see here for more), who are your connection to the SWG faculty and the program in general. Contact them with general questions, ideas about teas you might like to organize, faculty readings, movie nights, or anything else on your mind.

Study of Women and Gender Classes, Spring 2018

SWG 100 - Issues In Queer Studies, Kelly Anderson: M 7:30PM - 9:00PM

This course introduces students to issues raised by and in the emerging interdisciplinary field of queer studies. Through a series of lectures by Smith faculty members and invited guests, students learn about subject areas, methodological issues and resources in queer studies.

SWG 150 - Introduction to the Study of Women and Gender: M W F 11:00AM-12:10PM

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.

SWG 270 - Colloquium: Oral History and Lesbian Subjects, Kelly Anderson: T Th 9:00AM-10:20AM

Grounding our work in the current scholarship in lesbian history, this course will explore lesbian, queer, and bisexual communities, cultures, and activism. While becoming familiar with the existing narratives about lesbian/queer lives, students will be introduced to the method of oral history as a key documentation strategy in the production of lesbian history. Our texts include secondary literature, oral history theory and methodology, and primary sources from the archives. Students will create their own oral histories that will be housed with the Documenting Lesbians Lives Collection in Smith’s Special Collections.

SWG 271 - Colloquium: Reproductive Justice, Carrie Baker: M W F 1:10PM-2:30PM

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.

SWG 314 – Seminar: Documenting Queer Lives, Jennifer DeClue: T 1:00 PM-4:00 PM

This course examines visual and literary documentations of queer life by reading memoirs and screening short and feature length documentaries films. We consider the power and value of documenting queer lives while examining the politics of visibility as impacted by race, class and gender. We will attend to the expansiveness of the term “queer” and consider the performativity of gender and the fluidity of sexuality in our analysis of each text. Students will produce a short film, write a short biography or propose another mode of documenting experiences of queer life as members of, or in solidarity with, the LGBT community.

For cross-listed classes, see here.
Faculty, Alum and Student News Corner

SWG Director Carrie Baker published a feature article in the fall issue of Ms. magazine on how the Trump administration is dismantling civil rights enforcement in the United States. On November 15, Baker shared the stage with Gloria Steinem to celebrate the 45th anniversary of Ms. at Hunter College in New York City (see video here). You can follow Baker’s blog here.

History and SWG Professor Liz Pryor won the 2017 Ralph D. Gray Prize for Best Original Article, given by the Journal of the Early Republic.

Sociology, LAS and SWG Professor Ginetta Candelario and Biology and SWG Professor Laura Katz win the 2017 Sherrerd Prize for Distinguished Teaching!

Recent SWG grad Becca Damante ‘17, now at Media Matters for America, is covering reproductive justice in the media here.

SWG Alumna Emily Rider-Longmaid '13, now in medical school at University of Pennsylvania, helped organize the 2017 Racism in Medicine Conference in Philadelphia on November 11, 2017.

SWG Alumna Melissa Finnell '08 has a new film Sensitivity Training....check it out!

SWG Alumna Jenn Maer '93, Design Director at IDEO, visited Smith on November 6 to talk about Design for Change.

SWG major Micaela Brinsley ‘20 is blogging for Ms. magazine here.
Upcoming Events

**Nancy MacLean** will discuss her new book, *Democracy in Chains; The Deep History of the Radical Right’s Stealth Plan for America* on January 25 at 7 p.m. in the Campus Center Carroll Room.

**Loretta Ross** will be giving two lecture series next semester on “White Supremacy in the U.S.” and “Organizing 101.” For more information, visit SWG’s Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/SmithSWG/](http://www.facebook.com/SmithSWG/).

Feminist activist and filmmaker **Rochelle G. Ruthchild** will be screening her film *Left On Pearl* during Women’s History Month.

**SWG Presentation of the Major and Minor** will be on Tuesday March 27 from 12-1 p.m. in Campus Center 103/104 (lunch provided).

**Alix Kates Shulman**, feminist activist and author of the 1970s bestseller *Memoir of an Ex-Prom Queen* will be speaking at Smith in the spring on a date to be determined!

**Dean Spade** will be speaking Friday, March 30, at 4:30 in Weinstein Auditorium followed on Saturday, March 31, by a screening of *Major!* and panel discussion with Miss Major Griffin-Gracy and Dean Spade, moderated by Professor Jennifer DeClue.