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Sexual Health Initiative to Foster Transformation
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White House Collaborative for Women and Girls
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The Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Council was founded in 2013 by Alondra Nelson, then Director, Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality, and Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies and Yasmine Ergas, Director, Gender and Public Policy Specialization at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). The WGSS Council is a network of leaders from centers, institutes, and initiatives at Columbia University dedicated to programming, teaching, and research in the areas of women’s, gender, and sexuality studies.

The goal of the WGSS Council—established with the generous support of the Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Planning (later the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion) and with the co-sponsorship of the Office of the Dean at SIPA and the Office of the Executive Vice President for Arts and Sciences—is to bring together a network of scholars from across the university to share information, about the various projects and initiatives in which their institutes, programs, and centers are actively involved. The hope is that these conversations will yield a better understanding of the broader scope of gender and sexuality studies at Columbia, and possibly lead to fruitful collaborations in curriculum, research, and programming.

The fall meeting of the Council’s third year took place on September 22, 2015 at the Faculty House, and was attended by twenty members from Barnard College, Teacher’s College, the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (FAS), the Mailman School of Public Health, the Medical Center, SIPA, the Columbia Libraries, the Office of the Provost, and the Office of the President. At this meeting, we heard short presentations from Dennis Mitchell, Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion, regarding the Provost’s support for faculty recruitments in the area of LGBTQ scholarship; from Andy Davidson, Vice Provost for Academic Planning, on the American Association of Universities survey on campus sexual assault; and from Professors Jennifer Hirsch and Claude Mellins, Co-Directors of Sexual Health Initiative to Foster Transformation (SHIFT), a comprehensive research project that examines the many factors that shape sexual health and sexual violence for undergrads at Columbia.
The spring Council meeting took place on January 26, 2016 at Faculty House, and was attended by eighteen representatives from women's, gender, and sexuality studies initiatives from the schools mentioned above, as well as the Columbia Business School. At this meeting, Jesse Matthew McCormick, Associate Director at the Center on Global Energy Policy, discussed the Women in Energy Program; Farah Jasmine Griffin, William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African-American Studies, along with Alondra Nelson, Dean of Social Science (FAS), spoke about Columbia's role in the White House Collaborative on Women and Girls of Color; the Council created a program subcommittee for the Fall 2016 LGBT Scholarship Conference; and the Council brainstormed ideas and themes for the Spring 2016 “Keywords” event.

In January, the WGSS Council also launched its website. Designed by Suzanne Toma, A&S Web Designer, and Vina Tran, Associate Director for Decanal Affairs, the website includes information about council members and student groups; faculty research and publications; faculty media appearances, and an events calendar of all gender- and sexuality-related events across the university. The website also aggregates social media feeds for all council member units and contains on-campus resources for faculty, students, and alumni.

This WGSS Council spring event, was a third cosponsored panel with the Center for the Study of Social Difference organized around a “keyword” that women's, gender, and sexuality studies scholars could approach from their distinctive disciplinary practices. The “Choice” panel featured Rachel Adams, Director, Center for the Study of Social Difference and Professor of English and American Studies; Ester Fuchs, Director, Urban and Social Policy Concentration and Professor of International and Public Affairs and Political Science, School of International and Public Affairs; Jack Pula, Instructor of Clinical Psychiatry, College of Physicians & Surgeons and Chairperson of the Transgender Committee; Maya Sabatello, Assistant Professor of Clinical Bioethics, Department of Psychiatry, College of Physicians and Surgeons; Carol Sanger, Barbara Aronstein Black Professor of Law, School of Law; and Josef Sorett, Associate Director, Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life and Assistant Professor of Religion and African-American Studies.
2015-2016
Council Members

Rachel Adams
Director, Center for the Study of Social Difference

Melanie Brewster
Co-Founder of the Sexuality, Women, & Gender Project

Walter Bockting
Co-Director, Initiative for LGBT Health, Medical Center

Laura Ciolkowski
Associate Director, Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality

Vishakha Desai
Special Advisor for Global Affairs, Office of the President (Ex officio)

Anke A. Ehrhardt
Director, Initiative for LGBT Health, Medical Center

Yasmine Ergas
Director, Specialization on Gender and Public Policy, SIPA and Lecturer in the Discipline of International and Public Affairs

Andrew Davidson
Vice Provost for Academic Planning (Ex officio)

Tina Campt
Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies and Co-Director, Barnard Center for Research on Women
Katherine Ewing  
Director, Center for Study of Religion and Sexuality

Katherine Franke  
Director, Center for Gender and Sexuality Law, Columbia Law School

Jenna Freedman  
Associate Director of Communications and Women’s Studies Librarian, Barnard College

Suzanne Goldberg  
Executive Vice President for University Life and Co-Director, Center for Gender and Sexuality Law

Jennifer Hirsch  
Co-Director, Gender, Sexuality, Health and HIV Substantive Research Area Group, Population Research Center

Marianne Hirsch  
Director, Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality

Merit Janow  
Dean, School of International and Public Affairs

Rebecca Jordan-Young  
Tow Associate Professor and Chair, Women’s, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, Barnard College

Sharon Marcus  
Orlando Harritman Professor of English and Comparative Literature and A&S Dean of Humanities (Ex officio)
Jenny McGill  
Lecturer in discipline and Assistant Director of the Economic and Political Development Concentration, SIPA

Dennis Mitchell  
Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion (Ex officio)

Vani Natarajan  
Research and Instruction Librarian in the Humanities and Global Studies

Connie Nathanson  
Co-Director, Population Research Center

Richard Parker  
Director, Center for the Study of Culture, Politics, and Health, School of Public Health

Elissa Perry  
Professor of Psychology and Education, Teacher's College

Jully Merino  
Program Coordinator, Women in Energy, Center on Global Energy Policy

Alondra Nelson  
Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies and A&S Dean of Social Science

Katherine Phillips  
Paul Calello Professor of Leadership and Ethics and Senior Vice Dean, Columbia Business School
Dennis Mitchell, Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion, discussed the new proposals for faculty positions dedicated to LGBTQ scholarship as part of the LGBTQ Diversity Initiative. For the first time in university history, Columbia will recruit for new scholars whose work and scholarship is in LGBTQ studies. The selections are based on recommendations from a committee of senior faculty members from both the Morning-side and Medical Center campuses.

Mitchell noted that Columbia’s LGBTQ initiative is the first of its kind among peer institutions. These efforts reflect only a small fraction of the many initiatives underway at Columbia to further diversify intellectual and campus life. Other faculty-specific initiatives include: recruiting women and individuals from underrepresented groups to bring their cutting-edge scholarship and dynamic teaching to Columbia; providing grants for women and underrepresented junior faculty working towards tenure; and recruiting faculty in diverse areas of inquiry, such as LGBTQ scholarship. The initiative will include funding for a seminal conference in area of LGBTQ scholarship that will be organized by the WGSS Council.

Andrew Davidson, Vice Provost for Academic Planning, spoke about the recently released American Association of Universities survey on campus sexual assault. He highlighted key points in the AAU survey data. The report and tables containing Columbia’s data are posted on the Sexual Respect website, together with links to the tables and report with aggregate data for the 27 higher-education institutions in the AAU survey.

He also mentioned that Columbia released their second annual Report on Gender-Based Misconduct Prevention and Response, which provides both description and data regarding prevention programming and the gender-based misconduct disciplinary process at Columbia during the 2014-15 academic year.
Sexual Health Initiative to Foster Transformation

Jennifer S. Hirsch, Professor and Deputy Chair of the Department of Sociomedical Sciences at the Mailman School of Public Health, and Claude Ann Mellins, Professor of Medical Psychology in the Departments of Psychiatry and Sociomedical Sciences, co-Principal Investigators of the Sexual Health Initiative to Foster Transformation (SHIFT), opened their presentation by noting that this initiative grew out of the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Council meetings. Specifically, the Fall 2014 meeting provided an opportunity for Professor Hirsch to first discuss with Suzanne Goldberg her ideas about how research grounded in an interdisciplinary public health perspective could both advance knowledge about the factors shaping sexual health and sexual assault and help the university develop an innovative, institutionally-appropriate, multi-dimensional approach to prevention.

This multi-year project, which is supported by funding from the Office of the President, aims to describe undergraduate students’ sexual attitudes, intentions and behaviors, as well as examine and understand students’ patterns of socializing - how they interact with one another both sexually and socially. The initiative will situate patterns of sexual beliefs and behaviors in a cultural context.

There are two components to SHIFT: an ethnographic study and quantitative research. The ethnographic research, which includes participant observation, interviews with individual students and others knowledgeable about student life, and focus groups, has been underway since the fall of 2015. The daily diary study, which was carried out in the fall of 2015, involved 400 students who filled out 5-minute surveys every day for 60 days. In the spring of 2016, SHIFT implemented a population-based survey to identify individual and/or social-structural risk and protective factors associated with sexual health and misconduct at Columbia. The research includes substantial engagement from the Columbia community, with an Undergraduate Advisory Board (20 undergraduates from Columbia College, School of Engineering and Applied Science, General Studies, and Barnard College), an Institutional Advisory Board consisting of key administrators involved in student life, and a faculty advisory board. Data analysis for all three components of the research is currently underway, and discussions with the Institutional Advisory Board about the policy implications of SHIFT’s research are ongoing.
CENTERS AND INITIATIVES

Sexual Health Initiative to Foster Transformation

In addition to Jennifer S. Hirsch and Claude Ann Mellins as Principal Investigators, the study includes faculty grounded in multiple disciplines from across the university: Shamus Khan, Associate Professor of Sociology; Louisa Gilbert, Associate Professor of Social Work; Constance A. Nathanson, Professor of Sociomedical Sciences and Population and Family Health; John Santelli, Harriet and Robert H. Heilbrunn Professor of Population and Family Health and Professor of Pediatrics; Melanie Wall, Chief of Biostatistics in Psychiatry; and Patrick Wilson, Community Psychology in the Department of Sociomedical Sciences.
Jesse McCormick, associate director for the Center on Global Energy Policy discussed the wide range of programming, academic and policy research, and programming for students, externals and faculty that the Center offers. The Women in Energy (WIE) program aims to help recruit, develop and retain women working in the energy space. The WIE program partners with senior energy leaders, universities, energy employers and other related organizations to: build a “Women in Energy” community to support networking and other opportunities for students to connect with women professionals and leaders in the field; provide leadership skills training, workshops and mentoring; facilitate opportunities for internships, full-time roles and related practical experience in the energy space; and provide funding to exceptional students to support academic research and summer internships.

The program encourages and facilitates women who are interested in energy-related fields, and helps them get jobs in the energy field. They are currently working on having partner employers reserve internships for WIE students and building a robust and sustainable mentorship program. There is also a two-year seed grant available for students doing research in the energy field. They will create an advisory board that meets quarterly. The center has hired a new program director, Jully Mériño, who has a background in women in the workplace and women’s employment. She will be responsible for spearheading the growth of the program.
Farah Jasmine Griffin, William B. Ransford Professor of English and Comparative Literature and African American Studies, and Alondra Nelson, Dean of Social Science and Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies, discussed the White House-sponsored Collaborative to Advance Equity Through Research, a national effort to engage colleges, universities and other mission-driven organizations in meaningful action to support research and improve public policy regarding women and girls of color.

The Collaborative envisions a 5-year initiative with support from the Office of President Lee Bollinger and outside donors. The initiative seeks to heighten the understanding and awareness of projects working on the rubric of women and girls of color through providing research support for those already engaged in this area and providing seed grants for new research, events, conferences, and workshops. In addition to financial support, the initiative will sponsor yearly research conferences highlighting Columbia’s work as a leader in this area as well as creating an interactive website that showcases these scholarly activities. The initiative hopes to expand upon existing partnerships with community stakeholders as well as to build an encompassing network of Columbia faculty, students,
CENTERS AND INITIATIVES

White House Collaborative for Women and Girls

and local and national leaders in order to sustain a long-term vision.

Among Columbia’s contributions to the Collaborative was, “Black Girl Movement,” a conference in spring 2016 on issues of concern to African American girls organized by Professors Farah Griffin and Carla Shedd, Assistant Professor of Sociology and African American Studies. The meeting of scholars, activists, artists, and girls was sponsored by the Office of the President, the Division of Social Science (FAS), the Division of Social Science, and the Institute for Research in African American Studies, and the Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality.

In the summer, the Division of Social Science hosted the annual “Feminist Seminar for Girls” which was launched in summer 2015 by Dean Nelson in partnership with the YWCA of New York City. The week-long program offered young leaders critical knowledge, support and networks to fight for gender justice in their communities. Participants collaborated with other NYC youth leaders, leading scholars, activists and artists to discuss and address issues around gender equity, feminism and equality.
The conference subcommittee discussed possible themes and participants for the LGBT Scholarship Conference over six planning meetings. Possible topics included discussions on: feminist and LGBTQ studies; disability and LGBTQ studies; LGBTQ and intersections; “Queering of” and implications; marriage; minority vs. majority and universalizing models; LGBTQ and/or queering citizenship; choice; and generational differences. The conference committee decided on opening the conference with a keynote panel with photographer Mariette Pathy Allen, filmmaker Darren Dean, and artist and activist Zanele Muholi, and moderated by Juana María Rodríguez, Professor in the Gender and Women’s Studies, University of California, Berkeley.

On the second day, there will be scholarly panelist presentations on representation, disability, marriage, and vulnerability, at the intersection of feminist and gender studies featuring the following participants: Rachel Adams, Walter Bockting, Wendy Bostwick, Susan Bost, Gabriela Cano, Mel Chen, Christina Crosby, Katherine Franke, Jack Halbertam, Tey Meadow, Robert McRuer, Mignon Moore, Sari Reisner, Margaret Rosario, Darren Rosenblum, C. Riley Snorton, Karess Taylor-Hughes, Angie Willey, Patrick Wilson, and Janson Wu.

The conference committee also discussed partnering with the Libraries to hold an exhibition on LGBTQ activism at Columbia featuring archival materials of the Student Homophile League as this year marks the 50th anniversary of its founding. Other archives that could be presented are human rights materials from the Amnesty International archives and materials on AIDS activism from the Mailman School of Public Health.

On March 31, 2016, the Council cosponsored our third panel with the Center for the Study of Social Difference around a “keyword” that women’s, gender, and sexuality studies scholars could approach from their distinctive disciplinary practices, “Choice.”

In a liberal democracy like that of the United States, much pride is drawn from a putative freedom to make choices and the existence of many options to choose from. The reality is much more circumscribed, according to the panelists at the seventh annual Keywords Roundtable Discussion on “Choice.” The event gathered participants from a wide range of disciplinary homes to discuss the varied interpretations of this fundamental critical and theoretical concept.

Ester Fuchs, Director, Urban and Social Policy Concentration and Professor of International and Public Affairs and Political Science at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs, immediately acknowledged that choice brings to mind the current U.S. presidential election and the common misperception of a lack of significant choice between candidates. Fuchs said the disenfranchisement of poor and minority communities via “trumped up cases of voter fraud” is an issue that critics should focus on instead of impugning the entire system. “Something important is at stake in this election,” said Fuchs, adding that 2016 will set the direction of U.S. politics for the current generation.

Maya Sabatello, Assistant Professor of Clinical Bioethics, Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, focused on obstacles to fully accessing choice in the field of precision medicine. Precision medicine uses biomedical and genetic testing to provide predictive health care and treatment of disease on a highly individualized basis. While most patients can choose whether or not to participate in precision medicine or what to do with the results of a genetic test, vulnerable groups like adolescents do not have equal access to such choices or an equal say in how their medical information might be used, she said.

Carol Sanger, Barbara Aronstein Black Professor of Law, Columbia Law School, addressed the fact that constitutionally protected choices are extremely limited because they are provided by law and therefore susceptible to the pressures of the state. Sanger discussed the problematic compromises associated with constitutional rights that can be waived by an
individual under legal duress, as when the state encourages accused criminal offenders to plea bargain, said Sanger. Ninety percent of all defendants choose a plea bargain, electing a year of jail time instead of a constitutional right to a trial by a jury of one’s peers, said Sanger.

Josef Sorett, Associate Director, Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life and Assistant Professor of Religion and African-American Studies, Columbia University, discussed the various false assumptions about agency within the African-American church that arise amidst the influences of religion, race, gender, and sexuality. Sorett explained how the black church might be imagined by white, middle class evaluators as reflecting a “liberal, rational, autonomous, agential self who acts to make choices for themself” in one instance and then “deemed irrational and overly emotional” and unable to make choices in another instance. Sorett said there are currently three prevalent “false choices” concerning the confluence of religion, race, gender, and sexuality. The assertion that LGBTQ rights and black civil rights are opposed to one another is a “faulty wedge strategy from the right” according to Sorett, and the existence of LGBTQ people of color disproves the allegation.

Rachel Adams, Director, CSSD and Professor of English and American Studies, Columbia University, said the concept of choice was fraught for people with disabilities, as it is often tied to ablest norms and assumptions about individuality, autonomy, and personal responsibility. “Prenatal testing marketed on a discourse of choice and personal responsibility in a context of bias may narrow women’s choices,” said Adams. Prenatal genetic testing is usually associated with increasing a mother’s choices around whether to abort a fetus with Downs Syndrome or not but biased data from genetic testing can also be used by physicians to lean on a woman to abort. Conversely, some states may also narrow choice by outlawing the abortion of Downs Syndrome fetuses, or they might falsely pit women’s abortion rights against disabilities rights.

During Q&A, Adams commented that all of the panelists agreed that in a liberal democracy, agency of choice was significantly more finite than one might assume. To think solely in terms of maximizing choice is limiting, said Adams, since all choices are ultimately constrained by their context—a point echoed by Fuchs. Overvaluing choice also creates false oppositions among groups, Adams said.
The WGSS Council launched a new website: wgssc.columbia.edu. It serves as a hub of information about the many programs and initiatives dedicated to women’s, gender, and sexuality studies across the University’s disciplines, centers, divisions and schools. It includes: information about Council members linking to their faculty profiles and research; a list of all institutes and centers at Columbia working on gender and sexuality issues; resources for faculty, students, and alumni; faculty research and publications; faculty media appearances; and an events calendar of all gender- and sexuality-related activity across the university. The site not only integrates the University’s new events calendar, Bedeworks, but also aggregates social media feeds for all council member units.

We encourage all members of the Columbia University community to submit information about events, campus resources, research opportunities, and ongoing scholarship to the website.
Below includes a sampling of 2015-16 gender and sexuality events from WGSS Council centers, institutes, and programs:

October 20, 2016

**Behind the Yellow Wallpaper: Literature and the Psychology of Change**

*Panel discussion*

November 11, 2015

**Remembering Beijing: 20 Years of Women's Rights as Human Rights**

*Discussion with Charlotte Bunch*

Co-sponsored by Mailman School of Public Health’s Women’s Collective (WC), Sexuality & Reproductive Health Action Group (SHAG), Advocates for Asian American Health, International Students Organization, Black and Latino Student Caucus, and Society for African Health Initiatives; and SIPA’s Gender Policy Working Group

November 20, 2015

**Recent Findings on Transgender Identity, Mental Health, and Sexual Risk**

*Lecture*

Sponsored by the Division of Gender, Sexuality & Health, HIV Center for Critical and Behavioral Studies, LGBT Health, Columbia University School of Nursing

November 23, 2015

**Women in Energy: Site Tour of NYU’s Natural Gas-Fired Co-Generation Plant**

*Tour*

Sponsored by Women in Energy, Center on Global Energy Policy, SIPA

December 2, 2015

**Merging the Personal and the Professional: Pathways to Justice**

*Discussion*

Sponsored by the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault, the Columbia School of Social Work and the Students Against Violence Caucus

December 2, 2015

**Negotiation 101 Workshop**

*Workshop*

Sponsored by Women in Peace and Security, Women in Leadership, Gender Policy Working Group, and Gender & Public Policy Specialization, SIPA

December 3, 2015

**Recording Loss: Women Writers on Parental Grief**

*Discussion*

Sponsored by Columbia School of Social Work

December 17, 2015

**Economic Hardships and Obesity among Young Mothers and Children**

*Lecture*

Columbia School of Social Work

January 15, 2016


*Lecture*

Sponsored by the Division of Gender, Sexuality and Health, HIV Center for Critical and Behavioral Studies
PROGRAMMING

WGSS Council Events

January 19, 2016
Under the Skin, and Under the Covers: Body Image Concerns During Sex Among Transgender Individuals
Lecture
Sponsored by the Division of Gender, Sexuality and Health, HIV Center for Critical and Behavioral Studies, LGBT Health, Columbia University School of Nursing

January 21, 2016
A Conversation on “Women in Finance”
Discussion
Sponsored by the Gender and Policy Working Group, SIPA

January 22, 2016–April 14, 2016
Renee Cox: Revisiting the Queen Nanny Series
Exhibition
Sponsored by Columbia University School of the Arts

January 28, 2016
Identity in Gaming Panel and Exhibition
Panel discussion
Sponsored by the Sexuality, Women, and Gender Project

January 28, 2016
Marriage and Cohabitation in Contemporary China
Lecture
Sponsored by the Weatherhead East Asian Institute

January 28, 2016
Sexual Respect Initiative Interactive Workshops
Workshop
Sponsored by Partners in Sexual Violence Response (SVR), Office of University Life

February 1, 2016
Serbia: From Its Embrace of LGBTI Human Rights to Denial of War Crimes
Conversation with Goran Miletic
Sponsored by Harriman Institute

February 1, 2016
Women in Business Entrepreneur Roundtable
Discussion with Alicia Yoon, founder and CEO of Peach & Lily
Sponsored by Columbia Women’s Business Society

February 1, 2016
Music Psychotherapy with LGBT Clients: Exploring Gender and Sexual Orientation through Creative Psychotherapeutic Interventions
Lecture
Sponsored by the Division of Gender, Sexuality and Health, HIV Center for Critical and Behavioral Studies, LGBT Health, Columbia University School of Nursing

February 4, 2016
Film Festivals as Social Space: Local Queer Activism and Community in Japan
Lecture by Yuka Kanno
Sponsored by the Donald Keene Center for Japanese Culture and the Weatherhead East Asian Institute
February 4, 2016

Esther Eng and Other Challenges to World Feminism
Conference
Sponsored by MA in Film Studies Program, Columbia University School of the Arts and the Center for the Study of Ethnicity & Race
February 5, 2016

Modern Women in Local Tibetan History: The View from Biographical Sources
Lecture by Sarah Jacoby
Sponsored by SIPA
February 8, 2016

Love Objects, Everyday Life
Lecture by Ann Pellegrini
Sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality in collaboration with the Department of English and Comparative Literature
February 9, 2016

Everything You Wanted to Know about Black Women: But Were Afraid to Ask
Conversation Series
Sponsored by the Diversity Committee of the Teachers College Student Senate, The Sexuality, Women, and Gender Project, The TC Black Student Network, and the Office of Diversity and Community Development
February 9, 2016

CWBS Q&A with Columbia Trustee Lisa Carnoy, U.S. Trust Division Executive
Roundtable Discussion
Sponsored by Columbia Women’s Business Society
February 11, 2016

Bodies of Testimony: Biographical Fragments, Photographic Feelings
Lecture by Juana María Rodríguez
Sponsored by the Center for the Study of Ethnicity & Race
February 11, 2016

Someone You Love
Film Screening
Sponsored by the Sexuality, Women, and Gender Project, Teacher’s College
February 11, 2016

Natalie Boymel Kampen Memorial Lecture in Feminist Criticism and History
Memorial Lecture with Krista Thompson
Sponsored by the Barnard Center for Research on Women
February 15, 2016

Banishing Women: The Law and Politics of Abortion Travel
Panel discussion
Sponsored by Columbia Law School and the Center for Reproductive Rights
February 18, 2016

The Athena Film Festival: A Celebration of Women and Leadership
Film Festival
Sponsored by the Athena Center for Leadership Studies

February 18, 2016
Posthuman Feminism
Lecture by Rosi Braidotti
Sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality

February 18, 2016
Sexual Violence as Police Brutality
Conversation with Daniel Holtzclaw
Sponsored by Columbia Center for Intersectionality and Social Policy Studies

February 19, 2016
The Future of Racial Morality after Black Love and Black Rage
Lecture by Christopher Lebron
Sponsored by the Center for Race, Philosophy & Social Justice and the Institute for Research in African-American Studies

February 25, 2016
Becoming Feral - Sex, Death and Falconry
Lecture by Jack Halberstam
Sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality with the Department of English and Comparative Literature

February 26, 2016
Real Women Real Voices Symposium
Conference
Sponsored by The Ladies of Hope Ministries, Center for Justice, Center for the Study of Law and Culture, Heyman Center, Amplifi, Beyond the Bars Fellowship, Families for Justice as Healing and Women Who Never Give Up

February 29, 2016
The Classroom Climate for LGBTQ Students: How Does It Impact Learning?
Workshop
Sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning

February 29, 2016
God Is Emancipation To You? To Me, He Is Oppression: Secularism, Gender and the State
Lecture by Pascale Fournier
Sponsored by the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law and the Public Rights/Private Conscience Project

March 2, 2016
Feminist to the Core
Lecture by Ellie Hisama
Sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality

March 2, 2016
States and the Logics of Gender Justice: Family Law, Violence, and Care Work in Latin America and Beyond
Lecture by Mala Htun
Sponsored by the Institute of Latin American Studies and the Department of Political Science
March 3, 2016
Patriarchy Takes a Back Seat in Kurdish Syria: Implications for Gender Theory, the Middle East, and the Midwest
*Discussion*
Sponsored by the Heyman Center for Humanities

March 7, 2016
Women and Leadership in the 21st Century University
*Colloquium with Women Deans at Columbia University*
Sponsored by the Virginia Kneeland Frantz Society for Women Faculty, CUMC

March 8, 2016
Girl Rising
*Film screening and discussion panel*
Sponsored by Columbia University Coalition for Sustainable Development, CU Amnesty International, and HeforShe

March 9, 2016
Gender and Sexuality in the Middle East
*Discussion*
Sponsored by the Middle East Dialogue Group (MEDG)

March 9, 2016
Arrested Justice: Black Feminist Reflections on Carceral Feminism and Prison Abolition
*Lecture by Beth Richie*
Sponsored by the Institute for Research in African-American Studies

March 10, 2016
(Re)Producing The Feminist Image in Society
*Discussion*
Sponsored by Sexuality, Women & Gender Project, Teacher’s College

March 15, 2016
Caribbean Feminisms on the Page III: In Paris
*Lecture by Maryse Condé and Fabienne Kanor*
Sponsored by the Barnard Center for Research on Women

March 21, 2016
Woman and City
*Conversation with Wang Anyi*
Sponsored by the Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Heyman Center for the Humanities, Institute for Comparative Literature and Society, Center for Translation Studies at Barnard College, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, C.V. Starr East Asian Library, Columbia Law School Center for Contemporary Critical Thought, Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality, Literary Translation at Columbia, Columbia School of the Arts, and Columbia University Press

March 24, 2016
Sustaining Peace: A New Vision of Women, Peace and Security
*Conference*
Sponsored by AC4, Earth Institute

March 29, 2016
The Supreme Court Takes up Contraception...Again
PROGRAMMING

WGSS Council Events

Colloquium
Sponsored by the Public Rights/Private Conscience Project and the Center for Gender and Sexuality Law

March 29, 2016
Breaking Down Unconscious Bias
Discussion with Adam Quinton
Sponsored by Women in Leadership, SIPA

March 30, 2016
‘Delivering On Promises’: A Reflection on The Commission on the Status of Women Results and Gender Equality in the International Agenda
Discussion
Sponsored by SIPA, UN SWG, Gender and Policy Working Group, SIPA

April 1, 2016
Sexual Assault Awareness Month Events
Various Events and Lecture Series
Sponsored by Columbia Health Sexual Violence Response

April 4, 2016
Feminist to the Core
Lecture by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak
Sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality

April 7, 2016
Leadership in the Workplace: Tailored Skills for Women & Gender Non-Conforming Individuals
Lecture Series
Sponsored by SIPA Women in Leadership and the Gender and Public Policy Specialization, in conjunction with the Office of Career Services

April 7, 2016
An Education of the Senses: The Ethics and Aesthetics of Male Desire in Early modern Isfahan
Lecture by Kathryn Babayan
Sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality

April 7, 2016
Black Girl Movement: A National Conference
Conference
Sponsored by the Institute for Research in African-American Studies

April 7, 2016
Hearing the Feminine
Performance
Sponsored by the Institute for Religion, Culture and Public life

April 9, 2016
Seeking Solutions to End Sexual Violence
Symposium
Sponsored by Students Against Sexual Violence Caucus

April 13, 2016
Invisible No More: Racial Profiling and Police Brutality Against Women and LGBTQ People of Color
Discussion
Sponsored by the Center for Gender & Sexuality
**PROGRAMMING**

**WGSS Council Events**

- **Law, Columbia Law School**
  - **April 13, 2016**
  - **Masculinities! Discussion**
    - Sponsored by the Gender and Policy Working Group, SIPA

- **April 14, 2016**
  - **Take Back the Night Rally, march and speak out**
    - Sponsored by the Domestic Violence Project, Columbia Law School, and Columbia Take Back the Night

- **April 15, 2016**
  - **Frontlines: Women of Color on the Forefront of Activism Conference**
    - Sponsored by Columbia Law School

- **April 18, 2016**
  - **The Reorganization of Desire: Cultural Lives of Young Women in Globalizing India Lecture by Tejaswini Niranjana**
    - Sponsored by the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society and the Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality

- **April 23, 2016**
  - **Women in Science 1st Annual Graduate Research Symposium Conference**
    - Sponsored by Women in Science at Columbia

- **April 25, 2016**
  - **Conversations in Journalism 2016: Women in Media Conference**
    - Sponsored by Columbia University School of Journalism

- **April 28, 2016**
  - **Mai Masri Film screening and conversation**
    - Sponsored by the Center for Justice

- **May 3, 2016**
  - **Women's History in Motion Conference honoring Alice Kessler-Harris**
    - Sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality

- **May 24, 2016**
  - **A ‘New Look’ at LGB Research: Beyond Just Minority Stress for Health and Adaptation Lecture**
    - Sponsored by the Division of Gender, Sexuality and Health, HIV Center for Critical and Behavioral Studies, LGBT Health, Columbia University School of Nursing

- **May 25, 2016**
  - **Women in Energy Lunch and Roundtable Discussion with Dr. Ellen Williams**
    - Sponsored by Women in Energy program, Center on Global Energy Policy

- **May 25, 2016**
  - **Women Who Code Workshop**
    - Sponsored by Columbia University Medical Center
Continuing the work of the WGSS Council will generate even more fruitful interdisciplinary collaborations in curriculum, research, and programming. In future meetings, the Council would like to exchange pedagogical knowledge and faculty syllabi for courses related to women, gender and sexuality, as well as build our network and connect with gender and sexuality related forums happening on campus (ex. Women in the World and the World Leaders Forum). We hope to convene this group together again for the 2016-2017 academic year. As before, we would hold one meeting each in the fall (September 2016) and spring (January 2017) semesters. We would also like to open one of the Council meetings to student groups and will work with Suzanne Goldberg and the Office of University Life and Office of Multicultural Affairs (OMA) on this outreach. The WGSS Council will host Queer Disruptions: A Conference on Gender and Sexuality on October 13-14, 2016 which will gather esteemed scholars, activists, and artists from the US and abroad to explore the ways that queer studies, politics, and practices theorize, transform and generate new social possibilities and reimagine scholarship.