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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 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 WGSS Council's fourth year took place on September 20, 2016 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, School of Professional Studies, Columbia Law School, 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 Andrew Dolkart, Professor of Historic Preservation, on the New York City-LGBT Historic Sites Project; and from Alondra Nelson, Dean of Social Science, on plans for the Queer Disruptions Conference. Council members also gave brief updates on their program activities.
The spring Council meeting took place on February 1, 2017 at the Faculty House, and was attended by 24 representatives from women’s, gender, and sexuality studies initiatives from the schools mentioned above, as well as the Columbia Business School and the University Senate. At this meeting, we recapped the Queer Disruptions Conference and heard from Sarah Witte, Reference Librarian/Women’s Studies Selector at Butler Library, who discussed her “Telling LGBT History” course and student exhibition; and from Brennon Mendez, Columbia College Student Council Vice President and Grant Pace, Columbia College Student Council Representative, who shared personal stories and highlighted the urgent need for spaces on campus for LGBTQ+ students and students of color. The Council also discussed the difficulty in creating gender neutral bathrooms on campus and decided to convene a subcommittee to discuss strategies and to schedule a meeting with Facilities Vice President Scott Wright in Fall 2017.

In March, the WGSS Council and the Center for the Study of Social Difference cosponsored the annual “Keywords” interdisciplinary roundtable conversation. The panel is organized around a “keyword” that women’s, gender, and sexuality studies scholars could approach from their distinctive disciplinary practices. This year's panel focused on the keyword “justice” and featured Kathryn Kolbert, Constance Hess Williams Director of the Athena Center for Leadership, Barnard College; Carla Shedd, Assistant Professor of Sociology; Jennifer Wenzel, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies; and Rachel Adams, Professor of English and Comparative Literature and director of the Center for the Study of Social Difference.

In April, the Council also cosponsored a panel discussion with leading advocates on current policy campaigns to protect New York’s most vulnerable communities titled, “Despair is not a Political Strategy.” Panelists included: Katharine Bodde, Policy Counsel at the New York Civil Liberties Union; Charlene Gossett Navarro, Regional Outreach Manager at the New York Immigration Coalition; Yul San Liem, Co-Director of The Justice Committee, a Voting Member Organization of the Communities United for Police Reform (CUPR); Jose Schiffino, Long Island Popular Education Coordinator at the Rural & Migrant Ministry; and Pete Sikora, New York Communities for Change member.
2016-2017

Council Members

Rachel Adams
Director, Center for the Study of Social Difference

Walter Bockting
Co-Director, Program for the Study of LGBT Health, Medical Center

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

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

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

Jeanine D'Armiento
Chair, Commission on the Status of Women, Columbia University Senate

Patricia Dailey
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, Program for the Study of LGBT Health, Medical Center
Yasmine Ergas  
Director, Specialization on Gender and Public Policy, SIPA and Lecturer in the Discipline of International and Public Affairs

Katherine Ewing  
Director, Center for Study of Religion and Sexuality and the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life

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

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

Kaiama L. Glover  
Collaborative to Advance Equity through Research on Women and Girls of Color

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

Mark Hatzenbuehler  
Co-Director, Gender, Sexuality, Health and HIV Primary Research Area, Columbia Population Research Center

Rebecca Heino  
Executive Director of the Communication Division, School of Professional Studies

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

Jean E. Howard  
Director, Women Creating Change

Merit Janow  
Dean, School of International and Public Affairs

Kathryn Kolbert  
Director, Athena Center for Leadership Studies, Barnard College

Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland  
Associate Director of the Women, Peace, and Security Program, AC4, Earth Institute

Sharon Marcus  
Orlando Harriman 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

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

Dennis Mitchell  
Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion (Ex officio)
Catherine Monk
Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Director of Research, The Women’s Program, CUMC

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

Connie Nathanson
Co-Director, Population Research Center

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

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

Katherine Phillips
Paul Calello Professor of Leadership and Ethics and Senior Vice Dean, Columbia Business School

John Santelli
Chair, Heilbrunn Department of Population and Family Health

Josef Sorret
Director, Center on African American Religion, Sexual Politics and Social Justice
Neferti Tadiar
Director, Center for the Study of Ethnicity and Race

Maya Tolstoy
Commission on the Status of Women and Professor of Earth and Environmental Sciences

Vina Tran
Executive Director, Division of Social Science, Faculty of Arts and Science

Sarah Witte
Reference Librarian/Women’s Studies Selector, Columbia University Libraries
Dennis Mitchell, Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion, discussed the LGBTQ Diversity Initiative: faculty positions dedicated to LGBTQ scholarship. The proposals that were approved included: the recruitment of Jack Halberstam, Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity, Gender Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Southern California by the Department of English & Comparative Literature and the Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality (IRWGS); the recruitment of George Chauncey, Samuel Knight Professor of History & American Studies at Yale University by the Department of History; the recruitment of a junior or senior scholar engaged in research at the intersection of religion and gender/sexuality studies from the Department or Religion; and the recruitment of a senior scholar in lesbian and bisexual women’s health from the School of Nursing.

This initiative marked the first time in university history for recruitments of new scholars whose work and scholarship is in LGBTQ studies. The selections were based on recommendations from a committee of senior faculty members from both the Morningside and Medical Center campuses.

Mitchell also 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 also included funding for “Queer Disruptions: A Conference on Gender & Sexuality.”
Andrew Dolkart, Professor of Historic Preservation at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, gave a presentation on the NYC LGBT Historic Sites Project—a scholarly initiative and educational resource that aims to document historic and cultural sites associated with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in the five boroughs. The project, a collaboration with Ken Lustbader and Jay Shockley, began in 1994 while they were part of the Organization of Lesbian and Gay Architects + Designers (OLGAD), to help create the nation’s first map for LGBT historic sites following the anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

Dolkart discussed co-authoring the Stonewall nomination, which resulted in the first-ever National Register of Historic Places (1999) and National Historic Landmark (2000) listings for an LGBT site and explained the goal of the project: to broaden people’s knowledge of LGBT history beyond Stonewall and to place that history in a geographical context. The project will feature an interactive map that highlights sites that are important to LGBT history as well as those that illustrate the community’s influence on America. The map will also include historic narratives about each site. Currently they have identified 600 sites, but they are expecting 1000. These sites will show the impact that the LGBT community has had in fields such as the arts, literature, and social justice, as well as important gathering spaces, such as bars, clubs, and community centers that, until fairly recently, were the only places where LGBT people could come together and be themselves in a way that they often could not be in their personal and professional lives.

In addition to documenting and adding sites, they will nominate five sites to the National Register of Historic Places to amend existing national register sites to incorporate ignored LGBT history. The first will be Julius’ Bar, which is the oldest gay bar in New York City and became known for its “sip-in’s.” The intent was to challenge New York State Liquor Authority regulations that were promulgated so that bars could not serve drinks to known or suspected gay men or lesbians. They will also add LGBT flags at Woodlawn and Greenwood cemeteries.
Sarah Witte, Reference Librarian/Women’s Studies Selector at Columbia Libraries, discussed her new course on “Telling LGBT History” which she co-taught with David Eisenbach. The course grew out of the Queer Disruptions Conference planning meetings and marked the 50th anniversary of the formation of the first officially recognized LGBT student group, The Student Homophile League, here at Columbia in 1967.

The course taught students about the process of telling popular history from gathering archival material, to writing a good story, to presenting it in books, film/television and museum exhibits. Students worked directly with artifacts in the archives; met with curators, authors, and oral historians; visited the New York Public Library, the LGBT Community Center National History Archive and the Museum of Sex; and took a walking tour of LGBT New York. The course also explored the issue of protecting historical landmarks by examining the current battle to preserve the Stonewall Inn. Students curated an exhibition as a final project which displayed at the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, in Butler Library through June 30.

Witte said that the Libraries would like to continue to support this kind of work and to engage with students and their coursework and learning more directly.
Brennon Mendez, Columbia College Student Council Vice President and Grant Pace, Columbia College Student Council Representative, presented their co-authored proposal for a staffed center and meeting space to serve Columbia’s lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) students and an adjacent meeting space for students of color in Lerner Hall. Mendez discussed how a coalition of different racial, sexual, ethnic and gender identities came together to form this proposal.

He talked about how Columbia is the only Ivy League campus without a unified center to support LGBTQ+ students. While LGBTQ+ students sometimes gather in spaces like the Stephen Donaldson Lounge in Furnald Hall, the Intercultural Resource Center, or Q House, none of them are fully accessible to LGBTQ+ students across all four undergraduate colleges. In addition, accessing the Donaldson Lounge requires students to out themselves by putting a rainbow sticker on their IDs. It is also inaccessible to students with physical disabilities. A priority of the proposal includes the appointment of a full-time director for the LGBTQ+ center. Columbia currently lacks a staff member solely dedicated to LGBTQ+ students’ needs. While LGBTQ+ groups are currently advised by Associate Director of Multicultural Affairs Chris Woods, he only works part-time and also advises Latinx and Muslim student groups.

The proposal was unanimously passed by the Columbia College Student Council and Engineering Student Council in January and was approved by the University Senate Student Affairs Committee in March. WGSS Council members who endorsed the proposal included: Rachel Adams, Director of the Center for the Study of Social Difference; Walter Bockting and Anke Ehrhardt, Co-Directors for the Program for the Study of LGBT Health at the Columbia University Medical Center; Melanie Brewster, Riddhi Sandil, and Aurelie Athan, Co-Directors of the Sexuality, Women, and Gender Project at Teachers College; and Mark L. Hatzenbuehler, Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Culture, Politics and Health at the Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health.
PROGRAMMING

Queer Disruptions Conference

On October 13 and 14, 2016, the Council convened scholars, activists and artists from the U.S. and abroad for a two-day conference to explore the ways that queer studies, policies and practices theorize, transform and reimagine scholarship and generate new social possibilities. The conference opened with a visual keynote panel in which Mariette Pathy Allen, fellow photographer Zanele Muholi, and film producer Darren Dean discussed the significance of disseminating works related to trans and queer identities through visual representations. The panel was moderated by Juana María Rodríguez, Professor in the Gender and Women’s Studies, University of California, Berkeley.

The conference continued with four panels that explored the divergent perspectives that have emerged around marriage, disabilities, vulnerability and resilience, and the relationship between feminisms and gender expression. The second day of the conference featured the following participants: Rachel Adams, Walter Bockting, Wendy Bostwick, Susan Bost, Gabriela Cano, Mel Y. Chen, Christina Crosby, Katherine Franke, Jack Halberstam, Tey Meadow, Robert McRuer, Mignon Moore, Sari Reisner, Margaret Rosario, Darren Rosenblum, C. Riley Snorton, Karess Taylor-Hughes, Angela Willey, Patrick Wilson, and Janson Wu.
During lunch, guests also participated in open roundtable discussions on the following topics: “Disrupting Monogamy” led by Melanie Brewster and Aaron Breslow; “Gender-queer and Non Binary Identities” led by Walter Bockting; “Intersections between Queer and Disability Studies” led by Rachel Adams and Christopher Baswell; “Queer People of Color After Orlando” led by Steven Thrasher; “Queering the Past” led by Patricia Dailey; and “Transnational Transgender” led by Katherine Ewing. The conference also partnered with the Columbia Libraries to showcase materials on LGBTQ activism at Columbia featuring archival materials of the Student Homophile League marking the 50th anniversary of its founding.

Queer Disruptions extends Columbia University’s rich tradition of debate and research on themes relating to gender and sexuality. It was supported by the Provost’s Office for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion and the Office of the Dean of Social Science in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences. The conference planning subcommittee included: Rachel Adams, Walter Bockting, Melanie Brewster, Yasmine Ergas, Katherine Ewing, Suzanne Goldberg, Jennifer Hirsch, Sharon Marcus, Dennis Mitchell, Vani Natarajan, Alondra Nelson, Richard Parker, Vina Tran, and Sarah Witte. The exhibition, photographs and videos from the conference can be found on our website: wgssc.columbia.edu/queer-disruptions.
On March 23, 2017, the Council cosponsored our fourth 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, “Justice.” Rachel Adams, Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University and Director, Center for the Study of Social Difference introduced the panelists and commented on the challenges the new presidential administration presented to minority groups like people of color and the LGBT community, calling into question the U.S. government's commitment to social problems and inequality. She said that for people with disabilities, the legal definition of “justice”—the administration of fairness—posed a problem because the definition for “fairness” varies for those with disabilities. She also discussed how the surge in public protests presented problems for those individuals because of their difficulties with mobility, crowds, marching, and speaking. She concluded with a call for “activism for justice when you don’t have a body for protest.”

Kathryn Kolbert, Director of the Athena Center for Leadership at Barnard College, examined “justice” through the lens of U.S. constitutional law, saying that the Constitution provided “multiple and overlapping guarantees” of justice with legal protections of free speech and press; due process and equal protection; and the protection of liberty. While the Trump Administration threatens all of those freedoms, vigilance against incursions against them by any governmental agent is always necessary, she said.

Kolbert discussed the four prerequisites that underpin the notion of American justice and all of them are currently being challenged. First, the system of governmental checks and balances keeps political powers in the three branches separate so they won’t unduly influence the administration of justice. She said that civil debate was the second guarantee of justice and that the lack of it in current U.S. politics was problematic. According to Kolbert, freedom of speech and the press were also crucial measures that were in danger. The fourth prerequisite for justice she cited was access, which is currently being undermined by the huge income disparities within our society.

Carla Shedd, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Columbia, presented herself as an urban sociologist who is intrigued by the power public institutions have over people’s lives. She described the awesome power within the concept of parens patriae—the legal framework
through which the state acts as the surrogate parent for its citizens and through which governmental actors are allowed to intervene in the lives of individuals (particularly those in juvenile court) and their families with the ultimate goal of building better citizens.

She also explained the phrase “carceral continuum” a term she uses to describe the expanding systems of social control and punishment that are experienced at different levels of severity according to one’s social status. She said her work explored how societal structures such as neighborhoods, schools, and courts unjustly shape the trajectory of young people’s lives. She explained that these institutions are often used to distribute criminal justice unequally, with racially subordinated groups receiving a disproportionate amount of the carceral system’s punishments.

Jennifer Wenzel, Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literature and Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies at Columbia, discussed her work on justice in relation to the environment and climate. She talked about environmental racism and the toxic burdens borne disproportionately by racialized minorities. The case is similar to climate change, in which the industrialized Global North is responsible for the production of most of the greenhouse gases on the planet but the most severe effects of climate change are felt in the Global South. In conclusion, Wenzel called for an “environmentalism of the poor” that would demand a healthy environment for everyone.
Despair is not a Political Strategy

On April 20, 2017, the Council cosponsored a panel discussion with leading advocates on the current policy campaigns to protect New York’s most vulnerable communities titled, “Despair is not a Political Strategy.”

The community organizers who participated included: Katharine Bodde, Policy Counsel at the New York Civil Liberties Union; Charlotte Gossett Navarro, Regional Outreach Manager at the New York Immigration Coalition; Yul-San Liem, Co-Director of Justice Committee, a Voting Member Organization of the Communities United for Police Reform (CPR); Jose Schiffino, Long Island Popular Education Coordinator at the Rural & Migrant Ministry; and Pete Sikora, member of New York Communities for Change.

The panelists discussed current policy advocacy work in New York, focusing on specific legislative targets that could buffer the impact of the new administration’s agenda. A discussion followed and audience members were invited to join the community organizations in their activist campaigns.

The event was cosponsored with the Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality; the Department of Sociomedical Sciences; the Offices of the Dean of Humanities and the Dean of Social Sciences; the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion; the Center for Contemporary Critical Thought; INCITE; the Society of Fellows and the Heyman Center for the Humanities.
Below includes a sampling of 2016-17 gender and sexuality events from WGSS Council centers, institutes, and programs:

September 19-October 30, 2016
Sexual Respect and Community Citizenship Initiative
*Panel discussions and programming*
Sponsored by the Sexual Respect and Community Citizenship Initiative at Columbia

October 3, 2016
*A Conversation with Shaun King*
*Discussion*
Sponsored by Men of Color Alliance at Columbia University

October 5, 2016
Brigitte Amiri - “Reproductive Rights for Refugee and Immigrant Women”
*Lecture*
Sponsored by the Center for Gender & Sexuality Law

October 6, 2016
**MASCU**

**LINES REDUX**
*Student panel*
Sponsored by the Gender and Public Policy Specialization at SIPA

October 6, 2016
Social Policy, Elections, and Gender Equity with Hon. Christine Quinn
*Discussion*
Sponsored by SIPA Urban and Social Policy Concentration and the SIPA United States Specialization Concentration

October 10, 2016
Feminism, Power and the End of Heterosexuality
*Graduate salon*
Sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality

October 11, 2016
Maja Horn - “Queer Caribbean Studies after Orlando?”
*Lecture*
Sponsored by the Institute of Latin American Studies

October 12, 2016
Susan Sommer - “From Obergefell v. Hodges to Trinity Lutheran v. Pauley: Protections and Pitfalls for LGBT People”
*Lecture*
Sponsored by the Center for Gender & Sexuality Law

October 12, 2016
Tonda Hughes - “Twenty-five Years of Advancing Sexual Minority Health: Building a Research Career Focused on Sexual Minority Women’s Drinking”
*Lecture*
Cosponsored by LGBT Health and the Division of Gender, Sexuality, & Health
PROGRAMMING

WGSS Council Events

October 12, 2016
Gabriela Cano - “The Feminist Debate In 20th Century Mexico”
Lecture
Sponsored by the Institute of Latin American Studies

October 17, 2016
Tim Lawrence - “New York City Party Culture 1980-83: Conjuncture, Queers, Women”
Lecture
Sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality

October 18, 2016
Gender and the Environment: African Perspectives
Conversation
Cosponsored by the Institute for African Studies and the Institute for the Study of Human Rights

October 18, 2016
Faith In America with Michelle Alexander
Lecture
Sponsored by Union Theological Seminary

October 20, 2016
Whap!: The Women’s Health Project: Sharing our Stories through Photovoice
Seminar
Sponsored by the Narrative, Health, and Social Justice Seminar

October 20, 2016
Women in Energy Luncheon with Hosnia Hashim
Roundtable discussion
Sponsored by Women in Energy, Center on Global Energy Policy

October 20, 2016
Implementing Human Trafficking Law and Policy: Implication for Survivors
Lecture
Sponsored by Columbia Population Research Center

October 26, 2016
Seminar Series in Gender, Sexuality and Health: A Talk with Nicholas Bartlett
Seminar
Sponsored by Sociomedical Sciences Pre-Doctoral Training Program in Gender, Sexuality and Health (GSHTP)

October 26, 2016
Rebecca Solnit: City of Women
Lecture
Sponsored by Columbia University School of the Arts

October 27, 2016
Implementing Human Trafficking Law and Policy: Implication for Survivors
Lecture
Sponsored by Columbia Population Research Center

October 28, 2016
Hurston@125: Engaging with the Work and Legacy of Zora Neale Hurston
Conference
Sponsored by Barnard Center for Research on Women
October 28, 2016
Celebration of the Life and Work of Elaine Combs-Schilling
Celebration
Sponsored by the Institute for Research on Women, Gender, and Sexuality

November 3, 2016
FEMININITIES
Student panel
Sponsored by the Gender and Public Policy Specialization at SIPA

November 3, 2016
Framing Religion and Gender Violence: Beyond the Muslim Question
Lecture
Sponsored by Women Creating Change at the Center for the Study of Social Difference

November 3, 2016
Neville Hoad - “Polygenism & Polygamy: African Challenges to Universal Sexuality”
Lecture
Sponsored by the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies (MESAAS)

November 9, 2016
Columbia Women Inventors Network: Venture Capital Investing in the Biotech Startup Space
Discussion
Sponsored by Columbia Women Inventors Network

November 11, 2016
The Muse’s Voice: A Celebration of Women Composers
Conversation
Sponsored by Barnard College

November 14, 2016
She Started It
Film screening
Sponsored by Columbia Organization of Rising Entrepreneurs (CORE)

November 16, 2016
Awakening Our Democracy: Feminism, Media, and the State of the Union
Panel discussion
Sponsored by University Life

November 16, 2016
Living LGBT: A Human Rights Panel
Panel discussion
Cosponsored by the Institute for African Studies and the Institute for the Study of Human Rights

November 17, 2016
The Human Rights Situation of LGBT People in Armenia: Challenges and Realities
Lecture
Cosponsored by the Harriman Institute and the Human Rights Advocates Program (HRAP) at the Institute for the Study of Human Rights

November 17, 2016
Women in Peace and Security Career Panel
Panel discussion
Sponsored by Women in Peace & Security (WIPS)
PROGRAMMING

WGSS Council Events

November 18, 2016
Incarcerated Women
*Panel discussion*
Sponsored by Columbia If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice

November 28, 2016
Women in Science Who Meditate
*Panel discussion*
Sponsored by Women in Science @ Columbia

November 29, 2016
Khroniky: Alternative Folklore of the Region - Hard Mountain Rap, Vintage Feminism & Filthy Karpaty Hip Hop
*Lecture*
Sponsored by the Ukrainian Studies Program at the Harriman Institute

November 29, 2016
Women in Public Interest Law
*Panel discussion*
Sponsored by the Athena Pre-Law Society

December 6, 2016
Radical Grace
*Film screening*
Sponsored by the Institute for Religion, Culture, & Public Life

December 6, 2016
#Bringbackourgirls: A Discourse on Islamist Militancy in Africa Conversation
Cosponsored by the Committee on Global Thought and Columbia Global Reports

December 8, 2016
Queer Geopolitics: Unsettling Security and Troubling Minority
*Colloquium*
Sponsored by the Center for Korean Research

December 8, 2016
Gay Wagner: Wagnerism and Homosexuality in Wilhelmine Germany
*Lecture*
Sponsored by Deutsches Haus

December 13, 2016
Good Girls Revolt
*Film screening and conversation*
Sponsored by Columbia University Journalism School

December 15, 2016
Columbia University Collaborative to Advance Equity Through Research (CAETR) on Women and Girls of Color
*Winter Reception*
Sponsored by Columbia University CAETR

January 14, 2017
Jewish Orthodox Feminist Alliance (JOFA)
*Conference*
Sponsored by Columbia/Barnard Hillel
PROGRAMMING

WGSS Council Events

January 26, 2017
Ron Gregg - “The Postwar Queer Avant-Garde Cinema”
Lecture
Sponsored by Columbia University Seminars

January 27, 2017
Theorizing Trans for Clinical Practice: Mirroring, Consciousness, and an Algorithm of Gender
Lecture
Sponsored by LGBT Health

January 27, 2017
LGBTQIA Meet Up: Strategies in the New Administration
Discussion
Sponsored by Barnard Student Life

January 30, 2017
Abortion: Stories Women Tell
Film screening and discussion
Sponsored by Columbia If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice

February 7, 2017
Women@IBM
Panel discussion
Sponsored by Lean In at Columbia University

February 7, 2017
Her Campus UGA Interest Meeting
Student meeting
Sponsored by Her Campus UGA

February 7, 2017
On Womanly Nihilism: Beauvoir and Us Seminar
Sponsored by University Seminar in Literary Theory

February 8, 2017
Feminism 101: Why Do We Need It Anyway?
Discussion
Sponsored by Columbia Law Feminist Society (CLFS)

February 9-12, 2017
Athena Film Festival
Film festival
Sponsored by Athena Center for Leadership Studies

February 13, 2017
T(ea) Party: Mixer for Transgender and Non-Binary Members of the Columbia Community
Social mixer
Sponsored by GendeRevolution

February 16, 2017
How Does Gender Inequality Persist in the Modern World Seminar
Sponsored by Columbia Population Research Center

February 22, 2017
Cosponsored by Barnard/Columbia American Studies and IRWGS
PROGRAMMING

WGSS Council Events

March 2, 2017
Women’s Entrepreneurship Symposium
Conference
Sponsored by Columbia Women Inventors

March 2-4, 2017
The Fairytale Lives of Russian Girls
Performance
Sponsored by CU Players

March 3-4, 2017
Scholar and Feminist Conference: Haptic Bodies: Perception, Touch, and the Ethics of Being
Conference
Sponsored by Barnard Center for Research on Women

March 6, 2017
International Women’s Day with UN Deputy Secretary-General Ms. Amina J. Mohammed
Conversation
Sponsored by SIPA’s IO/UNS Specialization and WIL

March 7, 2017
International Women’s Day Debate
Debate
Sponsored by Debate and Diplomacy Society

March 9, 2017
Women in Finance Conference
Conference
Sponsored by Columbia SIPA’s Gender and Public Policy Specialization

March 11, 2017
Women Picturing Revolution: Focus on Africa and the African-Diaspora
Seminar
Sponsored by the Institute for Research in African American Studies

March 13, 2017
Thomas A. Diprete - “Gender Inequality in Science and Engineering Education: Observations Based on Recent Research”
Lecture
Sponsored by Columbia Global Centers Latin America

March 20, 2017
Coping With Transgender Development in the Context Hasidic Traditions
Panel discussion
Sponsored by the Institute of African Studies

March 20, 2017
2017 Natalie Boymel Kampen Memorial Lecture in Feminist Criticism and History: Barbara Ransby
Lecture
Sponsored by BCRW

March 24, 2017
Double-Consciousness: Women of Color as Advocates for Ourselves and Others
Conference
Sponsored by Empowering Women of Color at Columbia Law School
March 24, 2017
LGBTQ Rights in Latin America: The Case of El Salvador
Discussion
Cosponsored by SIPA’s Spectrum, LASA and the HRWG

March 27, 2017
Insights into Gender, Land, and Corruption in Africa
Conversation
Sponsored by SIPA Center for Development Economics and Policy

March 27, 2017
About Abortion: Terminating Pregnancy In Twenty-First-Century America
Panel discussion
Sponsored by Columbia Law School

March 27-31, 2017
Columbia Women in Business Women’s Week 2017: #Weallrise
Panel discussions and programming
Sponsored by Columbia Women in Business

April 22, 2017
Celebrating 30 Years of Columbia College Women
Symposium
Sponsored by Columbia College Women

May 10, 2017
Columbia University Collaborative to Advance Equity Through Research (CAETR) on Women and Girls of Color Retreat
Strategic Planning Retreat
Sponsored by Columbia University CAETR

May 23, 2017
Sexual Assault and Sexual Health Among Undergraduates: Findings, Policy Implications, and Key Directions for Future Research
Panel discussion
Sponsored by the Sexual Health Initiative to Foster Transformation (SHIFT)

June 2, 2017
Pride of Lions: A Conversation on the History and future of LGBTQ Activism and Academics at Columbia University
Panel discussion
Cosponsored by the Office of the Dean of Humanities, Arts & Sciences, the Office of the Vice Provost for Faculty Diversity and Inclusion, the Columbia University Libraries, and the Center for Gender & Sexuality Law
PROGRAMMING

Future Plans

Continuing the work of the WGSS Council will generate even more fruitful interdisciplinary collaborations in curriculum, research, and programming. In future meetings, the WGSS 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 2017-2018 academic year. As before, we would hold one meeting each in the fall (October 2017) and spring (January 2018) semesters. We would also like to open one of the WGSS 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 the second Queer Disruptions: A Conference on Gender and Sexuality on March 2-3, 2018, 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.

Appreciation

The WGSS Council extends its appreciation to Vina Tran for strategic and administrative support of its work since its inception.