

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

# WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES PROGRAM

NEWSLETTER



**Women's and  
Gender Studies**  
College of Arts and Sciences

**FALL 2021**

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# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

## DR. ED MADDEN

This has been quite a semester—an unexpected change in program leadership, new classes in our new office space, a new textbook tailored to our program, and two new faculty searches that we know will strengthen the program. Yet in a year of so many losses, we also lost one of our most amazing and respected faculty members, Dr. Lynn Weber.

A few weeks before the fall semester began, Dr. Carla Pfeffer shared the bittersweet news that she was offered a position on the tenured faculty at the School of Social Work at Michigan State University and the position of Director of the Sexual and Gender Minority Health Research Consortium there, an amazing opportunity. As she wrote after accepting the position, “Leaving is also heartbreaking given the connections we’ve made here in Columbia and the wonderful Sociology and Women’s and Gender Studies communities. I’m hopeful that the WGST Program will continue on its upward trajectory with this excellent team of faculty, students, and staff and, hopefully, with some additional new faculty as well.” In addition, our associate director, Dr. Emily Mann, and our graduate director, Dr. Lauren Sklaroff, are both on sabbatical this fall, with Dr. Leah McClimans ably filling in as graduate director.

I agreed to step in for the year as interim director. As you know, I served as director of the program 2014-2019, and I was happy to step in at this moment of promise and transition. During the pandemic, we moved into our new office space on the fifth floor of Close-Hipp, a large suite of offices and conference room that we share with the Department of Philosophy. We have recently installed a photo exhibit in our main hall, a series of stunning photos from last year’s Black Lives Matter protests by local photographer Catherine Hunsinger. Also, we have displayed digital prints by Professor Meena Khalili of the USC School of Visual Art and Design. These prints use the texts “ask more questions” and “think critically” in posters that incorporate

Photo by Forrest Clonts

augmented reality animation. (We invite you to stop by to see this work.) This art joins other work that has become part of the program, such as the suffragette portrait by Edmund Yaghjian that was donated by Candy Waites during our 40th anniversary celebration. Because of the pandemic, we have also installed air filters in the main office area and also in our conference room.

This fall we also began use of our new textbook for WGST 112, the Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies. (See related article in this newsletter.) The book was edited by our own Dr. Dawn Campbell with assistance from Dr. Mary Baskin Waters, and it includes contributions from members of our faculty alongside major and integral publications in feminist thought. In addition to providing a tailor-made text for our program, the proceeds from the book will go back into our community work by supporting the Women's Well Being Initiative.

The other exciting news for the program is that the College of Arts and Sciences authorized two new faculty hires—an assistant professor position in gender, race, and health (open field) and an external search for a new director (also open field). Stay tuned for more news about research presentations and campus visits.

Finally, it is with great sadness I share the news that Dr. Lynn Weber, who directed the WGST Program from 1996 to 2007, passed away on October 13. As the founder of our Women's Well Being Initiative, Lynn made community engagement central to the work of our program. A preeminent feminist scholar, she also made intersectionality central to our scholarship and teaching. She was a brilliant scholar, an amazing leader for the program, and a dear friend.

Thanks to the initiative and generosity of Dr. Sally Boyd, a longtime supporter of the program (and twice serving as chair of our Partnership Council), and others, we have created a scholarship memorial fund in Lynn's honor. The fund is a tribute to Dr. Weber and to her enduring legacy, providing support for scholarships in Women's and Gender Studies in her memory.

If you would like to donate to the memorial fund, you can make a check payable to the USC Education Foundation, with this in the memo line: A32549—Dr. Lynn Weber Endowed Scholarship Fund. Checks can be mailed to University of South Carolina, Attn: Development Office of Gift Processing, 1600 Hampton Street, Suite 736, Columbia, SC 29208.



Photographs of local Black Lives Matters protests by Catherine Hunsinger



"Transform + Grow nos. 1 and 2" by Meena Khalili

# IN MEMORIAM: DR. LYNN WEBER

Women's and gender studies scholars and communities around the world mourn the loss of Dr. Lynn Weber, Ph.D., a preeminent feminist scholar of intersectionality, who directed the University of South Carolina's Women's and Gender Studies Program from 1996 to 2007. During her tenure as director, Dr. Weber was instrumental in expanding the interdisciplinary reach of the program by hiring core faculty in public health, nursing, and medicine, as well as in art, philosophy, and other fields, leading the program to become one of the top programs focused on intersectionality and social justice. In addition, active community engagement was a hallmark of her directorship, exemplified by the establishment of the Women's Well-Being Initiative, an umbrella for community-engaged research and service learning.

After earning a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, Dr. Weber returned to the University of Memphis, where she had received her B.A., as a professor of sociology. There she founded the Center for Research on Women, which won national awards for early work on intersectionality and southern women. Internationally renowned for her efforts to broaden the focus of feminist scholars and activists beyond gender, she advocated for the ongoing examination of the complex intersections of race, class, gender, sexuality, and other axes of difference. Her scholarship focused on the strategic interdependence of knowledge and activism in implementing effective strategies to promote social justice. Her pioneering text, *Understanding Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality: A Conceptual Framework*, first published in 2001, served as a framework for feminist scholars, activists, and practitioners as they engaged with diverse constituencies. Believing that to have meaning theory must provide the basis for action, her own research applied intersectionality methodology to inequities in public health and in recovery from disasters. A scholar-activist, Dr. Weber led efforts to uncover and expose social inequalities in the recovery efforts after Hurricane Katrina.

Dr. Lynn Weber embodied feminist values of community and connectedness. She was a brilliant feminist scholar, a thoughtful advocate for social justice, an amazing leader, and a dear friend. We will miss her dearly, but she and the work



she did will continue to inspire us to challenge and address social inequities in our teaching, our scholarship, and our daily lives.

[with thanks to Dr. DeAnne Messias and Jean Bohner]

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Virginia Lynn Weber, 72, of Wilmington and South Bethany, DE, died on October 13, 2021, surrounded by her family.

Born in Nashville, TN, to Frank V. and Virginia Marbury Weber, Lynn dominated singles and doubles tennis in Nashville and Tennessee in the 60s and 70s and was ranked in the top five women in the USTA Southern Region. Her favorite victory was winning the state high school tennis team championship for her small school, St. Bernard's Academy—when she was the only member of the team.

Lynn earned her B.A. from the University of Memphis and her Ph.D. in social psychology from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. Returning to Memphis as a Sociology professor, she was a founder of the Center for Research on Women, which won national awards for early work on intersectionality and southern women. In 1996, she became director of the Women's and Gender Studies program at the University of South Carolina, Columbia, hiring faculty from Public Health to Art to Nursing to Philosophy and leading it to become one of the top programs focused on intersectionality and social justice. Before retiring as Distinguished Professor Emerita in 2015, Lynn used a large gift in her honor to found the Women's Well Being Initiative, devoted to improving the lives of women and girls and, ultimately, boys in an underserved community adjacent to Columbia, SC.

Believing that to have meaning theory must provide the basis for action, Lynn's latest research applies intersectionality methodology to both inequities in public health and in recovery from disasters. Her foundational book *Understanding Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality* delineates the conceptual framework of intersectionality and offers a model of how to apply its tenets.

She is survived by her wife of 27 years, Jean A. Bohner, and her stepchildren: Christine, Russell and his wife Diane, and Kate; her brother, Frank "Buster" Weber (Pat) and their four children: Angela (Mike), Amy (Kenny), Leslie, and Adam; her sister, Lisa Reid (Woody) and their three children: Erin, Robbie (Hayley), and Weber; five grandnieces and grandnephews; and her two beloved grandchildren – Isabelle and Michael Bohner.

### Dr. Lynn Weber Memorial Scholarship

A memorial fund has been established as a tribute to Dr. Weber and her enduring legacy in our Program, providing support for scholarships in the Women's and Gender Studies Program in her memory.

If you would like to donate, checks can be made payable to the USC Education Foundation, with this in the memo line: A32549—Dr. Lynn Weber Endowed Scholarship Fund. They should be mailed to University of South Carolina, Attn: Development Office of Gift Processing, 1600 Hampton Street, Suite 736, Columbia, SC 29208.

# WGST AWARDS

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS OF THE FALL 2021 WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES AWARDS!

### ARNEY ROBINSON CHILDS STUDENT AWARD

*Zola Jane Aplin*

### HARRIOTT HAMPTON FAUCETTE AWARD

*Samantha Moser*

Our Debt or Your Debt? How Couples Manage Student Loan Debt

### JOSEPHINE ABNEY FACULTY FELLOWSHIP AWARD

*Jaclyn S. Wong*

Housework Gender Equity Intervention Study

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## UPCOMING WGST AWARDS – SPRING 2022

### WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES TEACHING AWARD

The Women's and Gender Studies Teaching Award was established to recognize outstanding teaching in Women's and Gender Studies undergraduate and graduate courses. A \$1,000 award will be presented to a faculty member, staff member, or adjunct faculty and a \$250 one-time scholarship award will be presented to a graduate student. Application deadline: January 31.

### CAROL JONES CARLISLE AWARD

This award is designed to assist faculty and professional staff in the conduct of women-centered research, which is consistent with the research mission of WGST to reconceptualize knowledge, create new knowledge, and/or reinterpret existing knowledge about women and their experiences through the lens of gender and the prism of diversity. The \$1,000 award can be used for travel, software, books, supplies, and/or equipment. Application deadline: March 15

Find out more about these awards and how to apply on WGST's  
Fellowships and Awards website page.

# STUDENT AND FACULTY KUDOS



**TRAVIS WAGNER**, WGST instructor and PhD candidate in the School of Information Science, was awarded an Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award from the Graduate School's Spring 2021 awards. Travis was nominated by former WGST Director Dr. Carla Pfeffer.

Congratulations to **ARCHIE CROWLEY**, Linguistic PhD candidate and WGST instructor, for receiving an NSF DDRI for their trans dissertation project. Their project is titled "Language Ideologies and Linguistic Activism in Transgender Communities."



**KATHRYN LUCHOK, PHD**, WGST Senior Instructor, is getting national attention for her work in promoting reproductive health literacy among staff and youth in the SC Foster Care System. She presented her work with colleagues Linda Robinson, Xumie Fan, and former and/or current students Sarah Christenbury, Isabella Bubier and Zola Jane Aplin at the American Public Health Association meetings in October, 2021 and will be presenting at the City MatCH Leadership and MCH Epidemiology Conference in December, 2021. The APHA presentation, "[How much do sticky messages stick? Short and long-term evaluation of reproductive health literacy workshops in foster care group homes](#)," is available online to APHA members. She and former student Jessalyn King are also presenting at the City MatCH conference on Jessalyn's Honor Thesis work on the backlog of sexual assault kit testing in North and South Carolina.

Dr. Luchok also had a publication from a College of Nursing doctoral intervention study of HPV in Nigeria. [Intervention to Reduce Stigma and Improve Knowledge of HPV and Cervical Cancer in Nigeria: A Community-Based Assessment](#) is available in Family & Community Health.



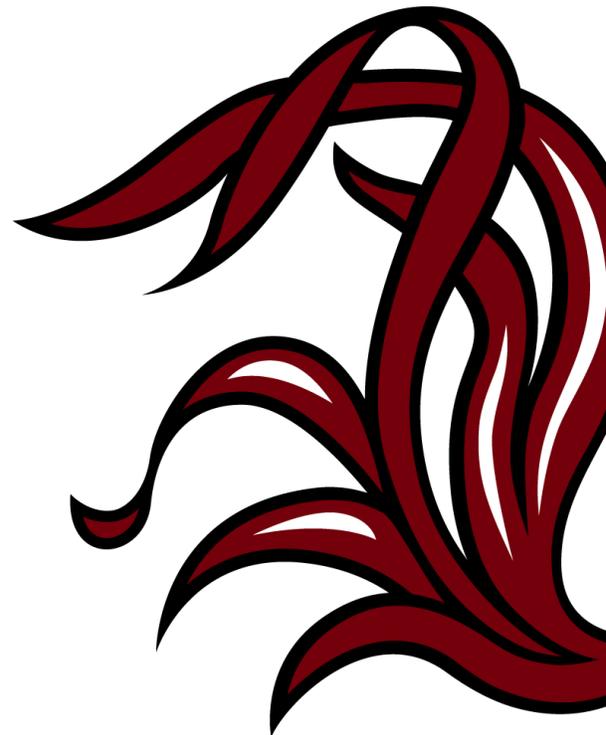
**NIK LAMPE**, Sociology PhD candidate and WGST instructor, presented on two virtual conferences with WGST faculty:

- “Teaching with TikTok in Online Sociology Courses.” at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting with Dr. Carla A. Pfeffer.
- “Maintaining Cisnormative Accountability: Medical Providers’ Negotiation of Transgender Healthcare” at the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction Annual Meeting with **DR. EMILY MANN** and William Stallings,

**LAUREN SKLAROFF**, Professor of History and WGST Affiliate, contributed a Perspective article to the *Washington Post*. The article, [“The '70's are back in 2021 -- but not in the way you think,”](#) explores why the spirit of disco is so relevant today.



WGST Adjunct Professor **DAWN CAMPBELL** was featured in the UofSC article [“A collection of firsts”](#) which recognized the accomplishments of first generation college students at the University of South Carolina.



Do you have news to share with the WGST community? Complete the [WGST@UofSC Community Member Update Form.](#)

# NEW INTRODUCTORY WGST TEXTBOOK

The Women's and Gender Studies Program is proud to present the first edition of its introductory textbook. Beginning this semester, the textbook will be used in WGST 112: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies.

The textbook was edited by Dr. Dawn Campbell, with associate editor Dr. Mary Baskin-Waters and proofreader Madeline Atwell, and features contributions from many of the program's faculty members.

Each chapter of the textbook focuses on a different area of Women's and Gender Studies, reinforcing the interdisciplinary nature of WGST 112 and the Women's and Gender Studies Program as a whole. Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies engages students in feminist theory and social justice issues from many perspectives.

The textbook's introduction describes the focus of the text: "a more sustainable future depends on our ability to continue to improve the lives of women and other underrepresented groups and their families locally, nationally and internationally. This program represents that effort by integrating the scholarship and perspectives of women and the LGBTQ community."

Proceeds from the sale of the textbook will support the [Women's Well-Being Initiative](#) (WWBI). The WWBI engages faculty, staff, and students in campus-community partnerships that promote the well-being of women and girls in the Midlands and enhance the recognition of the full diversity of women's experiences across race, class, age, ethnicity, ability, and other dimensions of difference.



# UPDATES FROM THE WOMEN'S WELL-BEING INITIATIVE

Article provided by WWBI's Andrea Acosta, Kelsey Collins, and Olga Ivashkevich

The Women's Well-Being Initiative's (WWBI) art sessions in conjunction with the Lexington County Juvenile Arbitration program of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit were back face-to-face this fall, facilitated by graduate students Kelsey Collins and Andrea Acosta. During the four-week sessions, middle and high school girls participated in the "Unlayered" mixed-media project which invited them to add a different layer of poetry, images, and textures each week. The final product is mixed-media collages that they took home with them. During each session, they also engaged in different activities that discussed the topics ranging from trauma, self-esteem, anger management, self-advocacy, and sexual rights, while also being introduced to a variety of coping mechanisms like guided meditation, journaling, crafting, and grounding techniques. During the last session, girl participants conveyed how important it was for them to have a safe space to express themselves freely and artistically.

Images of girls' mixed media artwork will be on display at the upcoming exhibition, *The Layers of Us*, held at the Stormwater Studios (413 Pendleton Street) between December 8-19. The exhibition will also feature artwork from other WWBI sites, women's shelter Hannah House and Harriet Hancock LGBTQ Center, created under facilitation of Dr. Hyunji Kwon and art education graduate students. The exhibition reception will be held on Thursday, December 9 at 6:30 p.m. and we invite all WGST faculty and students to join us. See the flyer on the next page for more information.

To the left is one of the images that will be on display.



**CLICK TO DONATE TO THE WOMEN'S WELL-BEING INITIATIVE**

Fund Name: Women's Well-Being Fund (1A1427)

The School of Visual Arts and Design at the University of South Carolina presents

# LAYERS OF US II

## A COMMUNITY ART EXHIBITION

**DECEMBER 8, 2021 - DECEMBER 19, 2021**

### **About the Exhibit:**

The works in Layers of Us II were created by participants of community art projects in Columbia, SC. Three different sites include the Hannah House (a transitional home for women and children), Harriet Hancock LGBT Center, and the Lexington County Juvenile Arbitration Program. The participants, who have felt silent and invisible due

to their statuses of home ownership and sexual orientations, or as first-time offenders, unpack and share their lives and experiences with us through a variety of different mediums including painting, collage, sculpture, crafts, and poetry.

The uniqueness of these participants and their artworks reveal the countless layers of who they are, but such uniqueness also embodies a common strength behind this project — a sense of community.

Graduate students in Art Education and Women's and Gender Studies programs provided art workshops.

This exhibition is supported by Stormwater Studios, the School of Visual Art and Design, and the Women's Well-Being Initiatives in the Women's and Gender Studies program at the University of South Carolina, as well as by a grant from the Knight Foundation fund at the Central Carolina Community Foundation.

**Reception: 6:30pm on Thursday, December 9, 2021**  
**Stormwater Studios, 413 Pendleton St, Columbia, SC 29201**

# BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

# THE SC HONORS COLLEGE, SERVICE LEARNING, AND WGST

This fall the Honors Beyond the Classroom service-learning section of *Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies 112*, taught by Dr. Mary Baskin-Waters, is presenting opportunities for students to engage in a learning experience by becoming involved with ongoing programs of local Columbia organizations. The desired outcome is to foster increased student civic engagement through active participation with local, national, and global partners. The Leadership and Service Center at the University of South Carolina, states that service-learning "can have significant positive effects on many areas of students' lives by increasing academic performance through self-exploration and community connections." Additionally, students who become "civically engaged have greater opportunity to become responsible, educated citizens in local, national, and global communities." According to the Center for Integrative and Experiential Learning, this Carolina Core course has been approved as a graduation with leadership distinction (GLD) course by the Faculty Senate. When the students complete the full GLD requirements, this important distinction will be recognized on their transcripts which will demonstrate to graduate/professional schools and future employers their commitment to civic engagement.

This semester, the students chose to volunteer for twenty-five hours with an approved nonprofit organization they felt would complement their majors and future career goals. The students applied for positions, and upon acceptance, partnered with a designated liaison within the organizations. This partnership of student and professional liaison created a community initiative with the following organizations: SC Women in Leadership (WIL); The American Red Cross; The HIV/AIDS Healthcare Foundation; the National Association of Mental Health (NAMI); the Women's Rights and Empowerment Network (WREN); Sistercare, Inc.; Planned Parenthood; Let's Meat Less; and Historic Columbia. The class also chose as their collaborative class project to volunteer with The FriendShip, a "nonprofit organization dedicated to helping older adults lead healthy, independent, and active lives in their own homes and communities." According to their website, the organization brings together senior members and volunteers "to help with transportation, home maintenance assistance, and opportunities for social engagement to enable members to age in place." The students worked together with a board member, Will Brown, to create a volunteer survey with the goal of increasing the volunteers needed to assist the FriendShip as it addresses the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The text "Great work!" is written in a large, black, cursive font. The letters are thick and have a fluid, connected quality. The exclamation point is also in cursive and has a long, sweeping tail that curves under the word "work".



Lauren Puttock, a freshman psychology major, stated that “Dr. Waters’ *Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies* class has been one of the few classes I’ve taken that I feel has opened my eyes to the American society I live in. I have enjoyed working with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) to design greeting cards to be sent out to clients during this time of isolation. Together, Ms. Zee Brown, my partner site liaison, and I collaborate to form ideas for sketches and then I turn the sketches into final drawings to be

used for the cards. This is the first time that my passion for art was used to benefit the community. The newly published reader for the course was edited by Dr. Campbell and Dr. Waters and is comprised of writings from many different women about their experiences over time. I am grateful to have this amazing opportunity.”

The curriculum for the class provides trainings in diversity, social justice and violence against women. To facilitate the training, guest speakers who are prominent in their fields are recruited for the class. Dr. Kimberly Seibles, Associate Director of Diversity and Social Justice Education at UofSC, presented “Creating LGBTQIA+ Inclusive Communities” which provided students with valuable insight for navigating their future lives and careers. Dr. Seibles’ personal research interest includes locating support systems for African Americans in higher education as well as developing civic engagement and social justice curricula.

Additionally, Dr. Valerie Ekué, Director of Member Support and Community Justice with the South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (SCCADVASA), conducted a workshop on centering and supporting survivor’s experiences with interpersonal and sexual violence. Dr. Ekué’s training focused on the importance of future leaders understanding the intersections of domestic and sexual violence, particularly for marginalized communities in South Carolina.

Michelle Zornes, Esq., current Director of the Incarcerated Victims Program at Sistercare, Inc. presented “Human Trafficking and The Rule of Law” to highlight the distressing statistics of women and girls that are trafficked through South Carolina each year.” Ms. Zornes, a graduate of UofSC in Criminology and Criminal Justice and Public Administration, is an experienced advocate for domestic violence survivors and their families.

Local poet and author, Ann Chadwell Humphries presented a workshop on writing poetry which ended with the students writing poems about their partner site placements. Ms. Humphries recent book, *An Eclipse and A Butcher*, has won numerous awards and her life story has been

highlighted in several books relating her journey from childhood in Texas to writing poetry in South Carolina. Ms. Humphries reads and writes with assistive technology and is an avid hiker. She has been named the first blind Ultimate Outsider, an award only presented to individuals that have visited all forty-seven of South Carolina's state parks. Ms. Humphries, excitedly expressed that the students' poems may be included in Mrs. Pastidies's UniVerse poetry initiative which "gives this project an extra surge of electricity."

The Anne Frank Center, located in the Barringer House on the University of South Carolina campus is the "first museum in North America and the fourth in the world where visitors can walk through the famed story of the teenage Holocaust victim." (August 11, 2021 AP) The student's tour of this museum was conducted by Diane Serhal, who worked in Amsterdam at the Anne Frank House for three years before joining the Center staff.

Dr. Waters expressed that she is "incredibly fortunate to be able to teach this unique service-learning opportunity to such motivated students. I am so proud of these students and their community liaisons who are still volunteering/working under stressful conditions due to COVID-19 restrictions. Their tenacity and fortitude is heartwarming and, in my view, their intellect and collaborative spirits are refreshing and enlightening." Dr. Waters continued that she also "has the added benefit of working with talented Graduate Teaching Assistants like Rebecca Hall whose research interests include the history of sexuality and the American birth control movement and material culture."



In addition to being a member of the teaching faculty of the Women's and Gender Studies Program, **DR. MARY BASKIN-WATERS** currently serves on the Alumni Council of the College of Arts and Sciences. Her current community service includes serving on the board of the Historic Heathwood Neighborhood Association, and serving on the Advisory Councils for the South Carolina Philharmonic and is a founding member of Women in Leadership (WIL), South Carolina Women's Leadership Network.



Graduate Teaching Assistant **REBECCA HALL** is a Public History MA Student at UofSC. Ms. Hall has a BA in Anthropology and History from the College of William and Mary and has worked at the National Museum of American History, Colonial Williamsburg, George Mason's Gunston Hall, and Historic Columbia.

# FALL 2021 CO-SPONSORED EVENTS

The Women's and Gender Studies Program co-sponsored several events this semester including a virtual talk with author Jacqueline Woodson. Part of the University Library's Fall Literary Festival, Jacqueline Woodson's talk was sponsored by The Dorothy B. Smith Charitable Foundation, the UofSC African American Studies Program, the UofSC Women's and Gender Studies Program and the UofSC School of Information Science. Learn more about the Literary Festival on the [University Libraries webpage](#).



WGST and the Honors College co-sponsored Dr. Julia Elliott's Season of the Witch: Gender, Monstrosity and Occult Power. Season of the Witch used horror films to explore the theme of the femme fatale throughout history. The series features presentational and marketing material created by students in Julia Elliott's Gender and Monstrosity in Horror Films course. Learn more on the [Honors College website](#).

The Women's and Gender Studies Program also co-sponsored the second annual Violence (In)Justice Lecture Series: Hostile Climates. See the flyer on the following page for more information. Visit [go.sc.edu/themesemester](http://go.sc.edu/themesemester) for event recordings.



# HOSTILE CLIMATES

## The Second Annual Violence and (In)justice Lecture Series

Three virtual events featuring scholars from across the United States discussing how racism, homophobia and sexism foster hostile climates and how those climates affect people and societies. Get links for each lecture at [go.sc.edu/ThemeSemester](https://go.sc.edu/ThemeSemester)



**Sept. 20, 4 p.m.**

### **Transgressed: Intimate Partner Violence In Transgender Lives**

Examines the dynamics of abuse and intimate partner violence in the lives of transgender people. Led by Dr. Xavier L. Guadalupe-Díaz, associate professor of sociology at Framingham State University.

**Oct. 18, 4 p.m.**

### **Intersectionality and Youth Violence: Examining the Trends and Effects of Victimization Among LGBTQ Youth of Color**

Discusses youth violence, why LGBTQ youth of color experience higher risk of victimization and the consequences of this victimization. Led by Dr. Lindsay Kahle Semprevivo, teaching assistant professor of criminology at West Virginia University.

**Nov. 8, 4 p.m.**

### **Radicalized State Violence and the Paradox of Mothers' (In)visibility**

Explores how social institutions restrict mothers of color from equal opportunities while simultaneously penalizing them for surviving their circumstances. Led by Dr. Janet Garcia-Hallett, assistant professor of criminal justice at the University of New Haven.



**South Carolina**

# 6TH ANNUAL WATERS LECTURE RUHA BENJAMIN



Women's and Gender Studies is pleased to present Dr. Ruha Benjamin's virtual talk, **A NEW JIM CODE? RACE, TECHNOLOGY, AND IMAGINATION IN EVERYDAY LIFE**, on **MARCH 31, 2022**. From everyday apps to complex algorithms, technology has the potential to hide, speed, and even deepen discrimination, while appearing neutral and even benevolent when compared to racist practices of a previous era. In this talk, Dr. Benjamin will present the concept of the "New Jim Code" to explore a range of discriminatory designs that encode inequity: by explicitly amplifying racial hierarchies, by ignoring but thereby replicating social divisions, or by aiming to fix racial bias but ultimately doing quite the opposite. We will also consider how race itself is a kind of tool designed to stratify and sanctify social injustice and discuss how technology is and can be used toward liberatory ends. This presentation takes us into the world of biased bots, altruistic algorithms, and their many entanglements, and provides conceptual tools to decode tech promises with sociologically informed skepticism. In doing so, it challenges us to question not only the technologies we are sold, but also the ones we manufacture ourselves.



Dr. Ruha Benjamin is Associate Professor of African American Studies at Princeton University, founder of the JUST DATA Lab, and author of *People's Science: Bodies and Rights on the Stem Cell Frontier* (2013) and *Race After Technology: Abolitionist Tools for the New Jim Code* (2019) among other publications. Her work investigates social dimensions of science, medicine, and technology with a focus on the relationship between innovation and inequity, health and justice, knowledge and power. Professor Benjamin is the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships including from the American Council of Learned Societies, National Science Foundation, Institute for Advanced Study, and the President's Award for Distinguished Teaching at Princeton. For more info visit: [www.ruhabenjamin.com](http://www.ruhabenjamin.com)

# UPCOMING COURSES

## HPEB 627/WGST 627: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) Health

Spring 2022 | Tuesdays & Thursdays | 2:50-4:05pm | Dr. Emily Mann & Nik Lampe



**Course Description:** This course examines health issues among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual populations. Topics include LGBTQIA+ history, terminology, and measurement; theoretical and methodological approaches to LGBTQIA+ health research; LGBTQIA+ health disparities; and how intersectional inequalities of race, class, gender, sexuality, and age affect the health and well-being of LGBTQIA+ people.

**Restrictions:** Must have upper-level (junior/senior) undergraduate or graduate standing to enroll. 28 seats available: 18 HPEB and 10 WGST. No overrides

*Questions? Contact Dr. Mann ([emily.mann@sc.edu](mailto:emily.mann@sc.edu)),  
Associate Professor of Health Promotion, Education & Behavior and  
Women's & Gender Studies*

# CONNECT WITH WGST ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow WGST on social media for information about upcoming WGST events, courses, news, and more.



<https://www.facebook.com/wgstuofsc>



@uofsewgst



@uofsewgst



UofSC WGST

Have news you would like to share with the WGST community? Fill out the

**WGST @UOFSC COMMUNITY MEMBER UPDATE FORM.**

Email WGST administrative assistant Rebecca Dobson ([rdobson@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:rdobson@mailbox.sc.edu)) with any questions or concerns.

When you give to the Women's and Gender Studies Program, you help support our critical programming and events, our students through fellowship and awards, and our faculty research and recruitment efforts. Please consider a gift today.

Giving is simple with the following three options:

1. Click on the following URL:  
<https://tinyurl.com/6jcppv8x>
2. Scan the QR code to the right by taking a photo with your cell phone
3. Call 877-349-2106 and indicate that you wish to make a donation to the Women's Studies Endowment Fund (1b1305).

# NEWS

# WGST

# LETTER



**Women's and  
Gender Studies**  
College of Arts and Sciences

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