
SPRING 2023 EDITION

DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

DR. STEPHANIE MITCHEM



We knew, going into the academic year of 2022-2023, that it would be momentous. After all, Women's and Gender Studies was granted department status, after nearly 50 years. Moving from a program to a department is no small matter. Dr. Ed Madden had submitted the initial paperwork in his year as interim Director. But then, we had to follow up and get the rest of the paperwork completed. In addition to the raft of paperwork, there was much more that needed to be done. Many faculty and staff have worked to move us forward. I mention only a few here.

The 50th anniversary of WGST is next year and Dr. Lauren Sklaroff with (now, newly minted) Dr. Archie Crowley began the tedious process of building out our schedule of events. Rebecca Dobson and I will move into the logistics over the summer months to have the 50th set up by the start of next academic year.

Dr. Dawn Campbell and one committee began revising the WGST textbook. With another committee Dr. Campbell set an online WGST degree in progress. Both these projects require more paperwork!

And then Dr. Drue Barker suddenly died. This was traumatic to our fledgling department, this loss of a colleague and friend. We continue to recover from her loss even as we grieve. We've begun an endowment fund in her honor, aiming to provide scholarships for graduate students. More details about donating are on the next page.

What will next year bring? We know the 50th anniversary will begin with a two day conference, "Women's and Gender Studies at 50: From the Past into the Future." The founders of the program will be invited, there will be different conference panels, and we'll look toward what the future may hold. The conference will be September 8-9, 2023, and is partially funded by the South Carolina Humanities Council. Registration information will be coming out soon. This conference will be the first of events through 2023-2024.

Today, we continue to plan for our future. We consult, study, and consider what is best for this new Department in this College, this University, and the State of South Carolina. Women's and Gender Studies is looking forward to another exciting year. We welcome your ideas and input to build our preferred future, together.

DR. DRUCILLA "DRUE" BARKER IN MEMORIAM

The Department of Women's and Gender Studies mourns the passing of Professor Drucilla "Drue" Barker.

Drue Barker truly was one of a kind. She loved books, arts, contemporary dance, opera, movies, a fun party, lively conversations, good wine, the colors of patchwork quilts, and her beloved cat, Mozart. Honest, forward-thinking, encouraging, caring, generous, brilliant, humble, warm, and joyful.



Drue will be deeply missed by cherished friends and colleagues, the many students she mentored at Hollins University and University of South Carolina, and by members of her professional affiliations, including the International Assoc. for Feminist Economics, National Women's Studies Assoc., the Assoc. for Economic and Social Analysis, and others. Her full obituary is available [here](#).

The Department of Women's and Gender Studies is establishing a graduate student scholarship in Dr. Barker's honor. Donations made to the WGST Endowment Fund will contribute to the scholarship being established.

Make a donation by visiting <https://tinyurl.com/6jcppv8x> or scanning the QR code on the right.



Reflections and memories from Dr. Barker's friends and colleagues:

Drue and I started at USC in the same year (2007). In fact, she was one of the first people I met at new faculty orientation. I had not previously published in women's and gender studies but was interested in working in that area. When I told her this, she was so welcoming. Over the years, she was first a selfless mentor and then a dear, dear friend. We shared a love of opera, classical music, dance, independent films, prestige TV shows, good food and wine, social justice, and many other things. I cherish the times that we had together, and as special as she made me feel, I know that I was not alone in feeling loved and supported by Drue.

- Dr. J. Daniel Jenkins, Associate Professor of Music Theory

I first met Drue at a dinner when she was interviewing for her position here at USC years and years ago. We had such a laugh that evening—the first of many laughs we’d have over the years. We were opera buddies, went to performances in Charleston, Charlotte, Atlanta, and Columbia together, along with other members of the USC opera mafia. Whether it was Spoleto or Opera at USC or the Met in HD, we’d sit down and dissect what we’d seen and heard over a drink or dinner or just on the ride home. She was excited about going to New York for a new production of “Norma” in March, something that I’d love to have done with her. The last production we saw together was the live stream of the Met’s beautiful and enormously moving adaptation of Michael Cunningham’s “The Hours.” We both cried at the closing trio, whose lyrics seem so fitting now: “Here is the world and you live in it, and you try to be...” Drue never stopped trying to be... a mentor to her junior colleagues at the university, a staunch advocate for the oppressed, and a good friend. I will miss her.

- **Dr. Yvonne Ivory, Associate Professor of German & Comparative Literature**



I first met Drue Barker in 2007 when she was interviewing to become the third director of the then Women’s Studies Program (WOST) at USC. I immediately loved her inviting smile, calm manner, and stunning intellect. I knew we would be long-time friends beyond the university environment as we soon discovered that we shared a love of the opera. We would often dine out before going to live performances of Mozart’s Don Giovanni or sometimes we would just silently cherish coruscating arias of Maria Callas’ Medea while savoring one of Drue’s piquant vegetarian stews. I will never forget the day that Drue called to ask if I would be interested in designing and teaching a service-learning section of Introduction to Women’s and Gender Studies 112. I have immensely enjoyed my service-learning students ever since.

Thank you Drue for your friendship and support. I will always remember you – and Yoda – with fondest affection.

- **Dr. Mary Baskin Waters, Affiliate Teaching Faculty of Women’s and Gender Studies**



A Classics prof in the LLC department, I was involved in WGST by virtue of our cross-listed courses on Sexuality and Gender in Greco-Roman Antiquity. As Director of WGST, Drue was always warmly supportive of our courses, but we joked amicably about the ivory-tower sheltered nature of academic Classics; if Drue didn't think studying ancient Greek and Roman sexualities was pushing the boundaries of social justice, she never let on to me.

When in 2010 I became Asst./Undergrad. Director in WGST, one of my favorite duties was mentoring and observing interns. I was very impressed with the internship program and tried to observe every intern on site. I well remember my conversation with Drue in her office when I returned from observing our intern at the Free Medical Clinic in Columbia, told her how worthwhile the Clinic was as an internship site, and described the waiting room packed with visibly sick people who presumably had no other recourse for medical treatment. Drue looked up at me with a radiant smile and responded brightly, "Well! I bet that was a shockeroo!"

- **Dr. Catherine J. Castner, Distinguished Professor Emerita of Classics, Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures**

The last time I saw Drue was just a few days before she passed at Railroad BBQ. My oldest daughter and I were picking up food for a large family dinner during winter break. When I saw Drue (also picking up for a meal, with her neighbors), she told my daughter (who is currently attending college in Pasadena) about her childhood in Pasadena, which I had no prior knowledge of. She chatted so cheerfully with my daughter, obviously enjoying the memories of Pasadena, and it reminded us both of the time many years earlier that Drue had visited us in Berlin. When my daughter and I left Railroad BBQ with our food we talked about what an adventurous traveler she was, how well she looked, and how we should make an effort to get together with her.

That was not to be, but I am glad I ran into her that day during winter break and glad to learn about a time and place of her life that she looked back on with such fondness.

- Dr. Agnes Mueller, Professor of German and Comparative Literature



I served on many search committees while I was at USC, including those for the first three WGST directors, and I always remember Drue's application letter as the very best I ever saw. In addition to her University role, Drue forged strong community ties in many directions, evidence of her belief in the connection between scholarship and academia and the larger world. She faced many challenges but they never defeated her. Our department is the better for her positive contributions. We're grateful for them, and we miss her.

- Dr. Sally Boyd, Faculty Emerita of WGST and English Language and Literature



I didn't know Drue very well, but I would see and talk with her when Affiliates came together at meetings or events. I always found Drue to be one of the "brighter lights" in the room and always found her to be a positive and supportive force for WGST colleagues. I will miss her presence and light.

- Dr. Barbara Koons-Witt, Associate Professor of Criminology and Criminal Justice



I'll forever remember Drue as a fighter for human rights and a person who cared deeply about those she loved. The last time we met was a few weeks before her passing. We had coffee at one of her favorite spaces, discussed politics and the state of the world, and ended our time together celebrating the wondrous people in her life – the activists and scholars who are fearless and making an impact. It had been years since we'd connected in that way, and it felt like a new and powerful beginning. As she walked to her car and I walked to mine, I remembered that we were going to take a photo together for a dear friend living in Canada. I knew she had a meeting and said to myself, 'next time'. We'd made a date to continue our conversation and celebration. Next time... I wish I had taken that photo. Drue, we miss your clarity, energy, and depth. You'll forever be present for us.

- Dr. Deborah Billings, Adjunct Associate Professor of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior

It was my first or second year at South Carolina. I was lonely and suffering from impostor syndrome. Drue asked me to work with her on an NEH grant. The grant wasn't successful, but her support was. She took me in. Fed me. Watered me (by water, I mean wine) and made me laugh. She was the first person to make me feel welcome here. The first person who made me feel seen.

- **Dr. Leah McClimans, Professor of WGST and Philosophy**



My memories of Drue echo many others' who appreciated her friendship and mentorship of junior faculty. I met Drue at the new faculty orientation when we arrived here in the Fall of 2007. We became fast friends and only years later did I realize how important those casual lunches, dinner parties, and trips to the opera in my early years would be: she taught me how to survive in academia; she introduced me to people who advanced my career; she urged me to guard my time and prioritize the work that was meaningful to me. She was generous, kind, witty, and refreshingly honest and I will miss her beautiful spirit.

- **Dr. Sarah Williams, Associate Professor Music History**



I was first introduced to Drue when she served as director of the WGST program in 2012. I was an adjunct instructor for the program. Under Drue's leadership, I was tasked with developing an online version of the Women in Culture course. This was my introduction to online teaching – a skill that has developed over the years thanks to the opportunity Drue provided all those years ago. I never forgot her kindness and faith in me, and I'm glad I was able to tell her years later when we became friends, how much that opportunity changed my life.



It wasn't until years later that we became close friends, realizing that we had similar backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives. I loved Drue's wit and radical way of being, her sensitivity and strength, and her boldness. She is ever-present in my life. On a nice afternoon, I reach for the phone to call her and ask if she would like to meet for an early dinner at Pasta Fresca. I respected Drue's wisdom and admired her brilliance. Her passion for WGST was contagious and I am thrilled that there will be an endowment in her name. She would have been overjoyed and honored. Drue's presence carries on in the upcoming 50th anniversary and in our everyday lives.

- **Dr. Dawn Campbell, WGST Undergraduate Director and Senior Instructor**

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE

The Life of Drue Barker

APRIL 28 | 5-8 PM

701 WHALEY - THE MARKET

RSVP at bit.ly/druebarker

Please join us to share fond memories,
photos, and stories.

The event will include speeches and
performances from 6-6:30PM.
Refreshments will be provided.

Cosponsored by the Department of Women's and Gender Studies,
Department of Anthropology, and College of Arts and Sciences.

CONGRATULATIONS, SPRING 2023 WGST GRADUATES!

WGST GRADUATE CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS:

Sydney Leimbach

Elizabeth Sholtis

GRADUATING WGST MAJORS:

Danielle Bent

Josie Galasso

Samantha Johnson

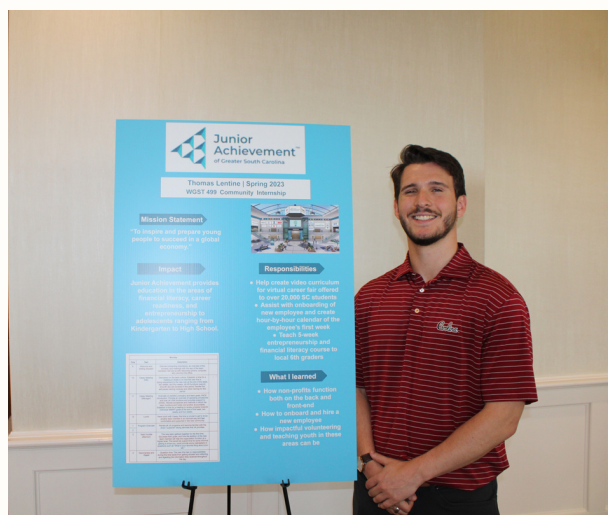
Thomas Lentine

Carlissa Mundle

Caroline Swords



WGST students displaying their internship posters for faculty.



WGST major Thomas Lentine presenting on his internship with Junior Achievement.



WGST majors Carlissa Mundle and Danielle Bent presenting their WGST internship posters.

2022-2023 WGST AWARD WINNERS

ARNEY ROBINSON CHILDS STUDENT AWARD, FALL 2022

Samantha Johnson

DR. LYNN WEBER AWARD, SPRING 2023

Ayaan Hawkins Regis

HARRIOTT HAMPTON FAUCETTE AWARD, FALL 2022

Atticus Wolfe for "Stress, Coping, and Equity: LGBTQ+ Health Care Professionals During COVID-19"

EMILY THOMPSON STUDENT AWARD, FALL 2022

Elizabeth Cates Collins

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING AWARD, SPRING 2023

Archie Crowley

JOSEPHINE ABNEY FACULTY FELLOWSHIP AWARD, FALL 2022

Dr. Tarlan Chahardovali for "College Athletics after the overturning of Roe v. Wade: The Impact of Reproductive Rights Restrictions on Women Sport Programs in the National Collegiate Athletic Association"

and

Dr. Alyssa Collins for "Cellular Blackness: Black Feminist Posthuman Ontologies"

DR. MARY BASKIN-WATERS SERVICE LEARNING AWARD, SPRING 2023

Dr. Olga Ivashkevich

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES TEACHING AWARD, SPRING 2023

Dr. Ed Madden

CAROL JONES CARLISLE AWARD, SPRING 2023

Dr. Jennifer Augustine for "Gender Inequalities in Mothers' and Fathers' Experiences of Remote Work"

CELEBRATING WGST AWARD WINNERS



SAMANTHA JOHNSON - ARNEY ROBINSON CHILDS AWARD, FALL 2022

I am deeply honored to receive the Arney Robinson Childs Award and extremely grateful for the incredible WGST professors and advisors who are committed to sharing their wisdom and experiences with me and every WGST student. The WGST department has been an integral part in nearly every experiential learning experience I have had throughout my undergraduate years, from my involvement in maternal and child health research, key presentation events, and interning for the League of Women Voters working towards Medicaid Expansion in SC. Many faculty members have supported me through reviewing materials and connecting me with colleagues for next fall as I obtain my Master's in International Health Policy in France. I will continue to embody Dr. Robinson Childs' spirit through my commitment to research and advocacy for evidence-based women's health policy, as I strive towards creating a safer, healthier, and more equitable world for young girls and women around the world.



AYAAN HAWKINS REGIS - DR. LYNN WEBER AWARD, SPRING 2023

I use my WGST studies in every aspect of my day-to-day life. Being able to educate not only my family and friends, but also legislators and patients has made me even more appreciative of the WGST professors and the classes they teach. WGST employs a diverse set of disciplines, including sociology, criminal justice, psychology, anthropology, and public health (to name a few). The interdisciplinary nature of the major has allowed me to become a well-rounded individual, both in the classroom and out.

I will be forever grateful for not only the WGST Department as a whole, but the involved faculty and associate professors. Their passion has been infectious and has taught me confidence in myself, and who I am. This program is a hidden gem. I have been honored to be involved in the growth of the program to department in gaining recognition for the amazing work the department has done on campus and in the greater-Columbia area.



Weber award winner Ayaan Hawkins Regis, WGST's Undergraduate Director Dr. Dawn Campbell, and Childs award winner Samantha Johnson.



ATTICUS WOLFE - HARRIOTT HAMPTON FAUCETTE AWARD, FALL 2022

The WGST Harriot Hampton Faucette award will fund the collection and analysis of novel data through a survey of LGBTQ+ health care professionals and students in the US. During the COVID-19 crisis, many health care professionals faced increasing workplace stress to accommodate changing care modality, technological advancement, and emergent conditions. While the documented additional strain placed upon professionals of color and women professionals in care settings has been used to inform equity interventions, LGBTQ+ professionals have been left out of studies. This research investigates the conditions and needs of LGBTQ+ professionals to address unmitigated inequalities. The Faucette award will fund equipment to make this work and my development as an emerging scholar feasible.

ELIZABETH CATES COLLINS - EMILY THOMPSON STUDENT AWARD, FALL 2022

Someone recently asked me what I liked best about what I do. I am passionate about the anthropology of birth. I am most interested in how individuals learn about and choose alternative birth in a cultural dynamic where institutional birth is the overwhelming norm and social pressures for conformity is strong. My research, to this point, involves interviewing women about how they engage their agency in choosing the maternity care they feel is best for them and their family. I am also identifying the cultural factors that support this exploration and resistance. I see in the people I interview an appreciation for the opportunity to be heard beyond an often very small sub-culture.



By hearing and documenting their stories, I let them know that their voice is important in the larger cultural context. My informants are often surprised that someone in academia is interested in their lives and what they have to say about woman-centered care. Receiving the Emily Thompson Award for this work encourages me that WGST is invested in the multiplicity of voices in our community. By sharing this honor with my informants, I hope to encourage them as they quietly stand as examples for other women to find their voice and agency. "



ARCHIE CROWLEY - WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES GRADUATE STUDENT TEACHING AWARD, SPRING 2023

I am deeply honored to have been selected as the recipient of the 2023 Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Teaching Award. I am grateful for the opportunity to have taught and learned alongside my students in the Language, Gender, and Sexuality course, and it means so much to be recognized for my dedication to creating inclusive and empowering learning environments for my students. This award motivates me to continue centering feminist pedagogy in my teaching practice and to inspire students to think critically about the intersections of language, gender, and sexuality.



Abney award winner Dr. Tarlan Chahardovali and WGST Interim Chair Dr. Stephanie Mitchem.



Faucette award winner Atticus Wolfe, Graduate Teaching Award winner Archie Crowley, and WGST Graduate Director Dr. Lauren Sklaroff.

DR. TARLAN CHAHARDOVALI - JOSEPHINE ABNEY AWARD, FALL 2022

I am honored to have received the WGST Josephine Abney Award this year. This award will help fund my research on the role of reproductive rights in women's sport and how restrictive abortion laws can impact women athletes in collegiate athletics after the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in 2022.



In the context of sport, abortion restrictions can make the already uneven playing field even more unequal, especially for women from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. A pregnancy for younger women who may have relied on their athletic prowess as a ticket to higher education could also mean a lost chance at getting a college education. The Josephine Abney Award will support my research by funding research participant incentives and transcription services. I hope this project will be a step towards advocating for gender equality not just in sport, but across other segments of the society where women's rights are under threat after the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.



DR. ALYSSA COLLINS - JOSEPHINE ABNEY AWARD, FALL 2022

The WGST Josephine Abney Award will primarily support additional archival research in the papers of Audre Lorde at Spelman College in Atlanta, GA. The award will also support the drafting and revision of my book project, *Cellular Blackness: Black Feminist Posthuman Ontologies*. *Cellular Blackness* is an investigation of moments of black female embodiment, human evolution and symbiosis, and black post humanity as theorized and represented in the work of Octavia E. Butler, Nnedi Okorafor, NK Jemisin, and other contemporary black science fiction writers. I very am excited to continue this work with the support of this award.



DR. JENNIFER AUGUSTINE - CAROL JONES CARLISLE AWARD, SPRING 2023

Flexplace is a widely touted and increasingly sought-after workplace support. Yet mothers who work from home face unequal challenges balancing work and family compared to fathers, including more stress, greater role blurring, greater feelings of guilt, and more caregiving and housework demands. It remains unclear, however, how and why flexplace contributes to gender inequality in these ways. Thus, this study aims to understand how and why flexplace contributes to gender inequalities in parents' time, wellbeing, and positive and negative subjective experiences of their home and work lives. It will do so by conducting a comparative in-depth qualitative interview investigation with mothers and fathers who work from. Funding from the Carlisle Award will be used to provide compensation for participants and purchase qualitative data analysis software.

DR. OLGA IVASHKEVICH - DR. MARY BASKIN-WATERS SERVICE LEARNING AWARD, SPRING 2023

The Dr. Mary Baskin-Waters Service-Learning Award is very meaningful to me and I'm very humbled and thankful to be recognized. I am profoundly grateful for my mentors, Lynn Weber and DeAnne Messias, who established the Women's Well-Being Initiative over 2 decades ago. I share their fundamental belief that feminist theory and praxis are closely intertwined, and that feminist work must make a tangible difference in disenfranchised communities to move the needle in advancing the intersectional justice for girls and women.



Women's Well-Being Initiative Graduate Assistant Elizabeth Sholtis accepting the Dr. Baskin-Waters Service Learning Award on Dr. Olga Ivashkevich's behalf from Dr. Mary Baskin-Waters.

DR. ED MADDEN - WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES TEACHING AWARD, SPRING 2023

I am delighted and honored by this award. I am especially pleased that the award acknowledges my work over the last decade in developing LGBTQ courses for the program—classes that I love to teach.



Photo by Forrest Clonts

Find out more about Fall 2023 awards and how to apply on [WGST's Fellowships and Awards website page](#).

WELCOME NEW WGST AFFILIATES

Women's and Gender Studies welcomes our new affiliate faculty members for Spring 2023! Learn more about becoming an affiliate faculty member on [WGST's Affiliate Faculty webpage](#).



Dr. Kathleen Broussard, Assistant Professor of Sociology

Dr. Broussard completed her PhD in Sociology at the University of Texas at Austin (2022), where she specialized in Demography as a Fellow at the Population Research Center. Broussard's core research agenda describes the individual, social, and structural determinants of reproductive health-seeking behaviors and outcomes. Her research seeks to understand how people make meaning of sexual and reproductive health events in their lives and how social institutions and technologies shape their experiences and outcomes. Her work appears in *Social Science & Medicine*, *Population Studies*, *American Journal of Public Health*, *Contraception*, and *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health*, among others. It has also been featured across major news outlets, including *The New York Times* and *The Atlantic* and has been cited in Amicus briefs for two cases related to abortion access and provision, *June Medical Services v. Russo* and *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization*.



Dr. Stephanie Milling, Head of Dance Education

After performing in the early stages of her dance career, Dr. Milling has taught in a wide variety of artistic and educational environments, including company classes for Dallas Black Dance Theatre I and II, several public schools within the New York City Department of Education, Texas Christian University, Texas Woman's University, and the University of North Texas. She also served in the capacity of Assistant Dean for the College of Visual and Performing Arts at Winthrop University prior to her appointment at the University of South Carolina. Dr. Milling's creative and scholarly work revolves around the intersections of Women's Studies and Dance, assessment, advocacy, and pedagogy. Her work has appeared in venues such as the Joyce Soho in New York City, the D.U.M.B.O. Dance Festival in Brooklyn, N.Y., Piccolo Spoleto, the annual conference for the National Dance Education Organization, and the *Journal of Dance Education*, *Dance Education in Practice*, and other national and international publications.

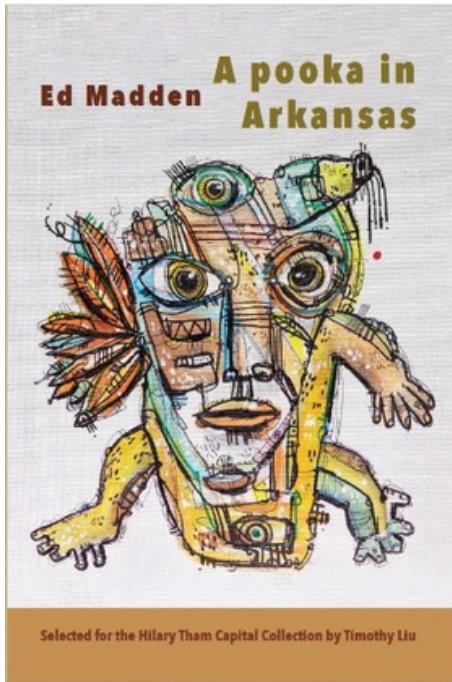


Dr. Chas Thompson, Clinical Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership and Policies

Dr. Chas Thompson (he/him/his) holds a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Arkansas. His research is centered around minoritized college students' experiences at U.S. institutions of higher education, with a particular focus on college students with minoritized sexual and gender identities. He has published works on queer students' experiences in higher education history, college student fashion activism, and preparing higher education and student affairs professionals. Thompson has served in leadership roles with several national organizations. Most recently, he served as a member of the Research and Scholarship Group through the National Association for Campus Activities.

NEW FACULTY PUBLICATION

A pooka in Arkansas by Dr. Ed Madden



Dr. Ed Madden's new book of poetry, *A pooka in Arkansas*, was selected by poet Timothy Liu for the Hilary Tham Capital Collection and published this spring by The Word Works press.

According to the press, "In this collection, Madden's mastery of the American lyric combines intellect, heart, and grit to explore the stakes of belonging." These poems work through the landscapes of memory, the loss of a parent, and the surprises of queer love. Growing up gay in rural culture, Madden suggests, one learns to be a shapeshifter. One learns that some stories can be told, some can't, and many get told slant. As he sifts through songs, scripture, folklore, and memory, he finds in the Irish pooka (or púca)—shapeshifter, trickster, beast—a figure for longing. The pooka haunts these pages, embodying risk and resilience, sorrow and hope.

Series judge Liu says, "This book redeems the curse of where and what we are born into by conjuring spells. Bestial. Animistic. The poet retroactively strutting around his flanks like a mythic centaur, or if you like, a domestic ass. This book flies in the face of making the rough places plain and the crooked straight. You won't have to have grown up queer in the deep rural South to be touched by the lyrical antics that go on here, this alternative gospel spreading its haunches in the hay till every knee bow, every tongue confess, this chorus of Hallelujah inflected/infected by its own down and dirty twang."

The book is available now from the Word Works.

Upcoming Readings of *A pooka in Arkansas*:

- April 27 – Columbia, SC -- All Good Books, 6PM
- May 11 – Cambridge, MA – Grolier Poetry Book Shop, 7PM with Kevin McLellan and Timothy Liu
- May 13 – NYC – BGSQD, 4PM

NEW FACULTY PUBLICATION

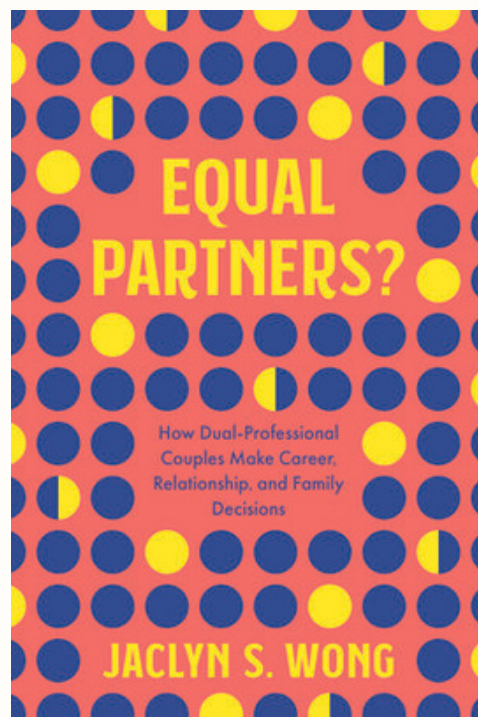
Equal Partners? How Dual-Professional Couples Make Career, Relationship, and Family Decisions

by Dr. Jaclyn S Wong

WGST faculty affiliate and assistant professor of Sociology Dr. Jaclyn S. Wong's new book *Equal Partners? How Dual-Professional Couples Make Career, Relationship, and Family Decisions* is now available from [UC Press](#).

Many young professionals seek egalitarian partnerships in which both partners work for pay and share unpaid housework and childcare. Yet working couples' realities often deviate from this ideal, with women trading off employment for family care. Will contemporary young adults repeat this pattern, or will they come closer to achieving equality in work and family? *Equal Partners?* seeks to explore this question.

Drawing on six years of interviews with the partners in twenty-one different-gender couples, Jaclyn S. Wong documents how supportive workplaces, partners' steadfast gender-egalitarian attitudes, and partners' jointly coordinated actions all need to come together for couples to experience gender equality in work and family. This book offers a compelling study of the dynamics of couples in ambitious partnerships who aspire to equality as they navigate the external pressures that come with life planning.



**ORDER THE BOOK
ON THE [UC PRESS](#)
[WEBSITE](#) TO SAVE
30%!**

Use source code
21W2240 at checkout.

Speaking with Grace Farrar of the Office of Communications and Marketing, Dr. Wong explained how her research led to this publication. After observing the difference in post-grad priorities of her female and male classmates, Wong began work on her graduate dissertation to observe the broader social forces at play.

In the interview, Wong explained that “her research culminated into a book, *Equal Partners?*, that explores how professional couples make work and relationship decisions. She concluded that while some couples were gender traditional or gender egalitarian, others fell into a third category somewhere in the middle.” Dr. Wong’s full interview with the Office of Communications and Marketing is available [here](#).

STUDENT AND FACULTY SPOTLIGHTS

Learn more about the recent work and accomplishments of WGST's faculty and students:

FACULTY KUDOS

The Department of Women's and Gender Studies faculty and affiliates received several 2022-2023 McCausland Fund awards.

Women's and Gender Studies received a McCausland Innovation Fund award to develop an online B.A. in WGST. The project will be led by **Dr. Dawn Campbell**. The women's and gender studies major gives students a deep understanding of women and other underrepresented groups through research and community involvement. In addition to gaining skills that translate well into future employment or graduate studies, WGST students learn to think critically, communicate effectively, solve problems and interpret human experiences with empathy and insight. The online program, to be launched in fall 2025, will embody the same major course requirements and learning outcomes as the traditional B.A. program, while contributing to equitable access to higher education. Faculty and graduate students will begin working on the project this summer.

The Department of Women's and Gender Studies also received funding from the McCausland Visiting Scholars Program. WGST will host Dr. Monica McLemore, a professor from the University of Washington Department of Child, Family and Population Health, for a talk, seminar and classes about health equity. The talks will be part of the department's 50th anniversary celebration. **Dr. Emily Mann** is the faculty host.

Two WGST faculty affiliates were also named McCausland Fellows for 2023:

Assistant professor of Art Education **Dr. Hyunji Kwon's** work in community-based art education has positively impacted local communities while producing exemplary scholarship. Kwon's research expertise lies in developing programs that support people who have experienced trauma. Most recently, Kwon and her art education students developed community-based art workshops for adults in underserved communities in Columbia.

Assistant professor of Sociology **Dr. Jaclyn Wong's** research focuses on the intersections of gender, family, work, aging and the life course. Wong has received praise from her colleagues and department leadership for her highly-creative research, as well as going above and beyond in her service work to the university, even beyond her own department. She serves as a faculty affiliate for the USC Carolina Consortium on Health, Inequalities, and Populations.

More details about the McCausland Foundation Programs are available [here](#).



Associate professor of Health Promotion, Education and Behavior and WGST **Dr. Emily Mann** received an Excel grant for "Contraceptive Autonomy and Coercion: Adolescent and Young Adult Women's Experiences in the Southeastern United States." Mann will be the project's PI with Co-PI assistant professor of Sociology and WGST faculty affiliate **Dr. Kathleen Broussard**.



Project summary: The ability to make autonomous, informed decisions about contraceptive use, which includes access to contraception, is a central aspect of reproductive health and rights. However, recent research suggests that adolescent and young adult (AYA) women may be disproportionately vulnerable to contraceptive coercion, which refers to the ways people with the capacity for pregnancy may be pressured or forced to use prescription contraception to prevent pregnancy. These studies focus primarily on how sexual partners and health care providers may engage in contraceptive coercion with AYA women. Limited research on contraceptive coercion examines how parents or laws exert undue influence over AYA women's contraceptive decision-making and use.

The proposed mixed-methods study will use survey methods and qualitative interviews to examine contraceptive autonomy and coercion in the lives of AYA women residing in the southeastern United States, where unintended pregnancy and unplanned birth rates are higher and abortion restrictions are increasingly severe. Study findings will be used to inform future research, policy advocacy, and clinical practice to support reproductive health equity for adolescents and young adults.



Dr. Dawn Campbell, senior instructor of WGST, will serve as faculty co-chair for the Provost Advisory Committee for Women's Initiatives (PACWI). PACWI serves as an advocate for women-identifying faculty, staff and graduate students at the University of South Carolina (USC Columbia and Palmetto College) by providing engagement and educational opportunities and creating awareness and effectuating change for benefits, pay, equality and equivalent and unimpeded opportunities at USC.

Dr. Campbell also led a session in the College of Arts and Sciences Office of Undergraduate Studies Gamecock Teaching Days. Dr. Campbell presented on her Winter Term Women's and Gender Studies courses as part of a conversation on innovative and high-quality online courses.





Professor of English and WGST **Dr. Ed Madden's** new book of poetry, *A pooka in Arkansas*, is available now. More details about the book are available on page 15 of the newsletter. Dr. Madden will have a reading of *A pooka in Arkansas* at All Good Books (734 Harden St.) on April 27th at 6PM.

Madden also participated in the Columbia Museum of Art's Binder Podcast on the Bullets and Band-aids project. Bullets and Band-aids matches veterans with writers and artists to tell their stories through original collaborative artwork. The podcast episode is available [here](#).



Dr. Kathryn Luchok, senior instructor of WGST, gave several interviews related to her work on birth equity. She spoke with [CountOn2 News](#) for the article "Thousands of SC women are living in maternity care 'deserts,' map shows." Luchok also gave an [ABC 25 interview](#) discussing rural counties in South Carolina with no or few childbirth-related health services.

Taylor Olson completed her Honors Thesis on birth equity on a under Luchok's direction. Olson won an MCH Award for third best abstract for a map of perinatal services presented at the SC Public Health meetings in Myrtle Beach in March 2023.



Dr. Deborah Billings, adjunct associate professor of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior and WGST faculty affiliate, published an article in *Frontiers Global Women's Health* on the research topic "Roe v. Wade overturned: what is the impact on women's health?" The article, "Qualitative analysis of anti-abortion discourse used in arguments for a 6-week abortion ban in South Carolina" was co-authored by Victoria C. Lambert and Emily E. Hackworth. The article is available at doi: 10.3389/fgwh.2023.1124132

**Do you have news to share with the
Department of Women's and Gender Studies?
Email your update to wgst@sc.edu.**

Dr. J. Daniel Jenkins, associate professor of music theory and WGST affiliate, worked with his colleague, Claire Bryant, assistant professor of cello, to lead a version of the Lullaby Project at Oliver Gospel Mission in Spring 2023. The Lullaby Project, a project of Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute, pairs new and expecting parents and caregivers with professional artists to write and sing personal lullabies for their babies, supporting maternal health, aiding childhood development, and strengthening the bond between parent and child. During this project, students in Dr. Jenkins's public music theory class used their musical talents and abilities to work with four mothers to compose original lullabies for them and their children. The lullabies will be recorded in late April, and the women will receive a professional quality recording of the lullabies that they helped to compose.



Dr. Stephanie Milling, Head of Dance Education and WGST Affiliate, will be offering a Culturally Responsive Dance Pedagogy Institute for K-12 dance educators this summer focused on Jazz Dance. This project began last summer with an ASPIRE grant and has continued with grant funding from the Department of Education.

In the last few years, culturally responsive pedagogy has become a widely discussed topic in dance education research, at national conferences, and in professional development venues. In addition, recent research on the history and cultural origins of jazz dance has resulted in publications, presentations, and films that have made significant contributions to the field of dance. The history and aesthetic development of jazz dance has been greatly influenced by the development of music, culture, and sociocultural events throughout U.S. history and the world: Studying jazz dance illustrates a larger dance lineage that connects to African and Caribbean dance forms, American social dance, the development of jazz music, historical developments in the United States such as the Harlem Renaissance, and allied forms of dance such as musical theatre and contemporary jazz dance. The specific focus on jazz dance and the new research that highlights its historical and cultural origins opens curricular possibilities beyond jazz and extends into many other areas of the field.

The Culturally Responsive Dance Pedagogy Institute will provide educators with daily instruction, resources to take with them, and opportunities to plan lessons around culturally responsive approaches to jazz dance. Institute staff will include: Dr. Stephanie Milling, Prof. Jessica Moore, Dr. Meredith Sims, Prof. Gabrielle Tull, Ms. Ellie Kumer, and a guest artist.

WGST GRADUATE STUDENT KUDOS

Atticus Wolfe's most recent publication applies the stress process model to propose connections between professional identity and personal LGBTQ+ identity and calls for additional attention for the ramifications of “conveniently invisible” minorities. Wolfe, A. (2023). Incongruous identities: Mental distress and burnout disparities in LGBTQ+ health care professional populations. *Heliyon*, 9(4) e14835. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2023.e14835>.



Wolfe is working over the Summer term as a researcher for the organization Community Education Group evaluating health equity intervention initiatives with minoritized communities in West Virginia. He was awarded a “Two Thumbs Up” award from USC SDRC!

Wolfe has also begun collecting survey data for his dissertation and he would deeply appreciate folks passing the link to participate along to their networks! This research investigates connections between social identity, professional identity, and stress and coping. LGBTQ+ healthcare professionals and health professional students (including psych, public health, lab tech, clinical students, and more) are eligible! The survey should take around 20 minutes and participants are eligible to receive one of 12 \$50 gift cards: https://uofsc.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_03rWkpgXhBWg0Fo



Archie Crowley successfully defended their dissertation in Linguistics on Friday, March 17th. Their dissertation "Language Ideologies in Transgender Communities in the U.S. South" explores the ways in which ideologies of language and gender are shaped by region, age, race, and audience. Drawing on interviews with 41 trans individuals living in South Carolina, the analysis illustrates how trans South Carolinians simultaneously navigate expectations of regional linguistic practices of the South, changing norms of community language use over time, growing awareness of processes of linguistic appropriation, and mainstream discussions of trans linguistic affirmation.



Ultimately, the dissertation investigates how localized social contexts and intersections of identity are crucial in understanding discussions about language practices within transgender communities.

Crowley has accepted a tenure track position as an Assistant Professor in the English Department at Elon University in North Carolina starting in the fall!

WGST UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT KUDOS



WGST major **Sierra Perry** will be studying abroad in Osaka, Japan for the 2023-2024 academic year. Perry says "my academic and professional objectives for my study abroad experience are to explore how I can combine my minor in Japanese Studies with my major in Women's and Gender Studies to pursue a career that I am passionate about. It will be crucial to have firsthand knowledge of Japanese culture. I am a first-generation study abroad student, and I honor my mother, a strong-willed and inspirational single mother who is my role model, for giving me the strength to make this significant and life-changing decision."

If you are interested in supporting Sierra's journey, visit <https://gofund.me/d3dbeb50>



Samantha Johnson, a major in Women's and Gender Studies, was awarded an Open Study Fulbright-France award to study International Affairs at Sciences Po. This program is a part of an International Affairs double-degree program that she will be completing at both Sciences Po and London School of Economics (LSE)!

At the end of this two year program, Johnson will be awarded two master's degrees: a Master in International Public Management from Sciences Po and an MSc in International Political Economy from LSE.



WGST major Samantha Johnson, Dr. Tia Stevens Andersen, and WGST minor Shakya Cohen.

WGST minor **Shakya Cohen** will be beginning a two year appointment with Teach for America this fall. This semester, Cohen worked as an WGST Community Service Intern for the USC Women's Well-Being Initiative Adolescent Mentoring Program.

SPRING 2023 EVENTS

The Department of Women's and Gender Studies welcomed several guest speakers this semester, as well as co-sponsoring a variety of university events.

Post-Roe in the US: Lessons Learned Globally to Inform Local Action with Dr. Deborah Billings

Dr. Deborah Billings has worked globally on sexual and reproductive health, rights and justice, including access to safe abortion, contraceptive care, prevention of intimate partner and sexual violence, prenatal-birthing-postpartum group care for the past 35 years. She is an adjunct associate professor in Arnold School of Public Health's Department of Health Promotion, Education, and Behavior.



Dr. Billings joined the Women's and Gender Studies Department in January. Her talk examined the larger global context of the US Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade- including trends and actions taken by activists, health systems, and government entities around the world- to discuss next steps in the US context and pay particular attention to the Green Wave throughout Latin America. The event recording is available on [WGST's YouTube page](#).



Close-up of a collaborative weaving project by girls in the juvenile arbitration program.

Girls Speak - Women's Well-Being Initiative Exhibition

The Women's and Gender Studies Department partnered with the School of Visual Art and Design to host an exhibition featuring video films, multimedia collages, sculptures, installation, and other artwork created by adolescent girls in Lexington County Juvenile Arbitration Program.

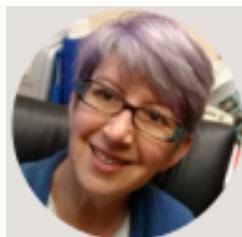
The exhibition included a public forum, “Decriminalizing Youth with Art and Digital Media Making” facilitated by WWBI Director Dr. Olga Ivashkevich with guest speakers Debbie Hester (Director of Lexington County Juvenile Arbitration), Dr. Tia Stevens Andersen (USC Criminology), Jessie Rogers (USC Art Education graduate student), and Elizabeth Sholtis (USC History graduate student and WGST certificate student).

Teaching Social Justice Seminar

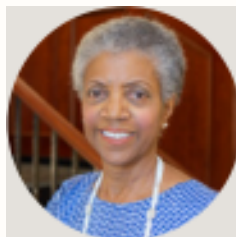
On February 6th, the Department of Women and Gender Studies and Walker Institute held a teaching seminar for faculty and graduate students working with social justice content in their courses. The event began with a panel presentation moderated by Dr. Mylene Culbreath and was followed by a conversation with the participants, aiming to build networks through sharing information and strategies for best teaching practices.



Moderator: Dr. Mylene Culbreath
Vice Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion



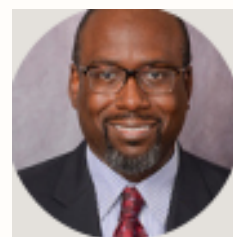
Dr. Carol Harrison
Professor of History



Dr. Stephanie Mitchem
Professor of Religious Studies and Women's and Gender Studies and Interim Chair of WGST



Dr. Caroline Nagel
Professor of Geography



Dr. Todd Shaw
Associate Professor of Political Science and African American Studies



Troubling the Public During Troubling Times with Dr. Tressie McMillan Cottom

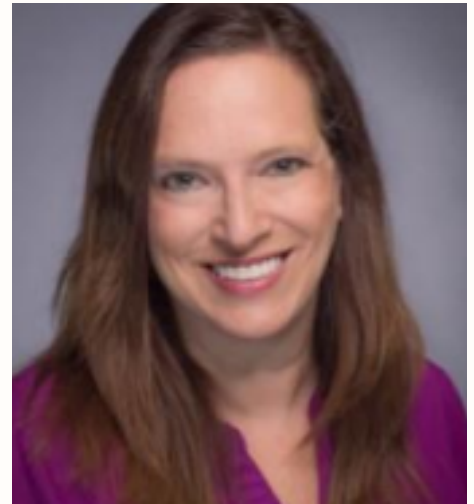
Dr. Tressie McMillan Cottom joined the Departments of African American Studies and Women's and Gender Studies for the 26th Annual Robert Smalls lecture.

Dr. Tressie McMillan Cottom writes bold, empirically-driven but emotionally resonate narratives about our most deeply held ideas: fairness, mobility, education, justice, and public life. She is an award-winning writer, sociologist, cultural critic, professor with the Center for Information, Technology and Public Life at UNC Chapel Hill, and MacArthur Fellow.



Stigma, Sensitivity, and Surveys: Measuring Abortion Post-Dobbs with Dr. Laura Lindberg

In March, the Department of Women's and Gender Studies along with Department of Sociology sponsored a lecture by Dr. Laura Lindberg. Dr. Lindberg is a professor at the Rutgers School of Public Health and directs the program in sexual and reproductive health. As a social demographer, Dr. Lindberg focuses on measuring the trends, determinants, and consequences of sexual and reproductive health in the U.S.



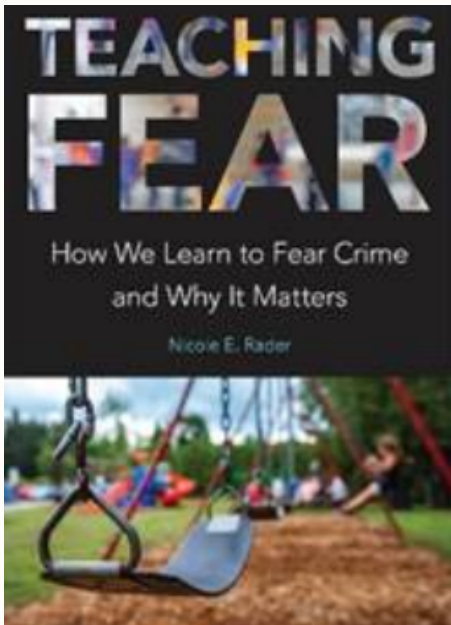
Dr. Lindberg presented a body of recent research on abortion measurement and pathways forward post-Dobbs. This included a series of quantitative analyses to identify the scope and correlates of abortion underreporting for three national fertility surveys in the United States and survey experiments to evaluate methodological approaches identified through formative mixed-methods research to improve the measurement of abortion in surveys.



Violence (In)Justice Lecture Series

The Department of Women's and Gender studies cosponsored the 3rd annual Violence and (In)justice Lecture Series: "Push Play." The series included the following lectures:

- ***"Getting Zucked:" Examining Digital Violence and Injustice Online and IRL with Dr. Kishonna Gray-*** In this presentation, Dr. Kishonna Gray explores the concept of getting "zucked," a concept Black women refer to as the disparate ways they are punished online. These carceral logics have pervaded digital platforms especially when minoritized populations express commentary about inequalities they experience online and IRL. While these spaces are mostly safe havens and spaces of support, they have also become spaces of extreme violence (i.e. the Twitter takeover).
- ***How Violence is Depicted, Perpetrated, & Resisted in Media-*** While much of the research on extremism has focused on the violence associated with these movements, scholars have paid less attention to the seemingly nonviolent activities of these groups, like music. Although white power music appears nonviolent at face value, the lyrics often depict extreme violence as a means to a pure, white-dominated society. Using lyrics from over 700 analyzed songs from 64 geographically diverse, white power bands, this talk detailed the narrative that emerges in the songs with a particular focus on the very clear picture that details an urgent call to action, often extreme violence, due to perceived injustices and the overall decay of society.



Dr. Nicole Rader presented *Teaching Fear: How We Learn to Fear Crime and Why It Matters*

A gender-fear paradox shows that although women are less likely to be victims of most crimes (sexual assault aside), their fear of crime is greater. In *Teaching Fear*, Dr. Nicole Rader zooms in on the social learning process, tracing the ways that families, schools, and the media have become obsessed with crime myths, especially regarding girls and women. Rader's talk was cosponsored by the Department of Women's and Gender and Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice.



***Birthing Justice* Film Screening and Discussion**

March of Dimes and the Department of Women's and Gender Studies presented a screening and panel discussion of *Birthing Justice*. *Birthing Justice* tells the story of the crisis faced by Black mothers and their children and the solutions needed to transform the maternal care system.

The event's panelists included WGST's Dr. Kathryn Luchok, family medicine physician and community activist Dr. Kari-Claudia Allen Harrington, SC Bureau of Maternal and Child Health Director Kimberly Seals, and nurse-midwife Dr. Gwenneth Simmonds.

Learn more about *Birthing Justice* on the [film's website](http://birthingjustice.com).



[Click here to follow WGST on social media for information about upcoming events](#)

UPCOMING COURSES

Summer 2023

WGST 112

Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies

WGST 113

Women's Health

WGST 304

Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality

WGST 554

Women and Crime

Faculty Affiliate Summer Course Offering:

EDHE 832: Special Topics

Queer Student and Faculty Experiences in Higher Education

Summer Session I: May 8-June 15

Online

For more information, contact
Dr. Chas Thompson

ct64@mailbox.sc.edu

This course is designed to share historical and contemporary research on the experiences of queer people in higher education. Students will engage with scholarship on campus climate, best practices, and the development of sexual identity.

Sexist Oppression
 objectification
 bell hooks
Intersectionality
 Black Feminist
 Marxist and Socialist Feminism
 patriarchy
 voice
 Antiracist Politics
 Audre Lorde
 Sara Ahmed
 voice
modernity
Sexist
 stereotyping
 Transnational Feminisms
 global feminism
 womyn
 Identity Politics
 sexualized
 "Ain't I a Woman?"
 Angela Davis
 intersex
 Radical Feminisms
 Gender Inequality
 sexual sexology
 objectification
 Liberal Feminisms
 discrimination
 Movement

WGST/POLI 307

Feminist Theory

Interested in learning about these topics?
 Take this course to learn about the historical development of feminist theory and contemporary debates within feminism.

Online and face to face sections available for Fall 2023:

- CRN: 20291, web asynchronous with Dr. Leah McClimans
- CRN: 25943, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:15- 2:30pm with Dr. Emily Mann



ANTH /WGST 392

GLOBAL WOMEN'S HEALTH

Dr. Kathryn Luchok

Interested in the health of women and girls around the world? How are health risks, treatments and programs shaped by culture? This class will take a life cycle approach to explore critical life or death issues such as being born female; gender discrimination; poverty; unequal access to education, food, paid work and health care; and various forms of violence. Also examined will be programs aimed at improving women's lives world-wide.

Required for medical anthropology minor.
Elective for Medical Humanities, Global Studies, HPEB, and WGST.

M/W 3:55-5:10pm
Close-Hipp Room
502
CRN WGST: 25040
Questions?
Contact Dr. Luchok
luchok@mailbox.sc.edu

Women's groups across the globe, like the Congo's PAIF, are defying odds, organizing to build respect for women's rights, support survivors of sexual violence and shatter the stigma and silence around rape.



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

ENGL 736/WGST 796

QUEER FORMS

WITH DR. ED MADDEN

Fall 2023

Thursdays, 6:00-8:45pm

This course will explore the relationship between queer sexual politics and aesthetic form. It will focus on a specific set of literary and film texts, mostly post 1972, from the U.S., Ireland, and Brazil. We will think about form in multiple ways, including literary and aesthetic forms, structures, kinship, bodies, performances, temporalities, formality, and breaking form.



Women's and
Gender Studies

College of Arts and Sciences

The Department of Women's and Gender Studies is currently raising funds for a scholarship to honor Dr. Drucilla "Drue" Barker.

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).



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



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<https://facebook.com/wgstuofsc>



[@uofscwgst](#)



**Women's and
Gender Studies**

College of Arts and Sciences