

This Year in WGS

Feminist Trajectories

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR

Special Topics of Interest:

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I begin with celebratory news! In December the Board of Governors approved our recommendation that Deborah Vargas be granted tenure: we are fortunate indeed to have her on our faculty as the Henry Rutgers Term Chair in Comparative Gender, Sexuality, and Race. Second, in April the Board approved Sylvia Chan-Malik for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure AND approved Kyla Schuller for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure. In terms of promotions and tenure this has been a red letter year, as we have forwarded five promotion packets—we are still waiting on two more. Congratulations all around!



Dr. Mary Trigg

As the Faculty Highlights of this newsletter demonstrate, ours is a stellar faculty that have accrued a number of important awards this year. Teaching is one of our most important missions, and a number of our faculty members have been recognized for their pedagogical gifts. Susan Carroll received a Rutgers Faculty Scholar-Teacher Award, Sylvia Chan-Malik won the 2018 SAS Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education at the Assistant Professor rank, Mary Gossy won at the Professor rank, and Carlos Decena won the Warren I. Sussman Award for Excellence in Teaching. We are proud to count them among our colleagues.

A WORD FROM OUR CHAIR (Cont.)

We have also finished some important departmental work this year. School of Arts and Sciences approved our request for a departmental name change from the Department of Women's and Gender Studies to the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. We are optimistically awaiting final word from the Board of Governors and the state Commission on Higher Education. In addition the faculty worked together to revise the department's bylaws for the first time since 2008. Interim Graduate Director Ed Cohen led the writing of our inaugural departmental bylaws for the graduate program. Our undergraduate program joined Triota, a national academic honor society for the field of women's and gender studies. We inducted 23 new Triota members at our wonderful departmental graduation in early May.

Thanks to the generosity of the Henry Rutgers Term Chair we reinvigorated our departmental lecture series: this year's spring theme was "Transforming Texts" and featured books by our own Brittney Cooper, Kyla Schuller, and Jasbir Puar (in conversation with Sherene Seikaly, J. Kehaulani Kauanui, and Paul Amar). In January Deb Vargas gave her inaugural lecture "Brown Pride, Black Love: On Musical Matter." In addition we brought in David Eng in the fall and Maria Josephina Saldana Portilla and David Kazanjian in the spring, who engaged in a conversation about racial geographies in the Americas. We eagerly anticipate our WGS graduate student conference to be held October 5th, entitled "Bodies of Power/Theory in the Flesh."

There is much to be proud of, and much still to accomplish. We held a productive faculty dialogue on May 1, and we are now planning a fall faculty retreat. Potential topics include rethinking our curriculum, brainstorming about ways to strengthen our undergraduate and graduate programs, and thinking collectively about our shared intellectual project and our department's future. I must thank our outgoing Graduate Director Ed Cohen and Undergraduate Director Ethel Brooks. They both stepped up to serve in an interim capacity with a new Chair this year, and we are all in their debt. On July 1 we welcome Jasbir Puar back as the Graduate Director and Yana Rodgers as the Undergraduate Director. I so much appreciate their willingness to serve.

In closing I would also like to thank our staff members Monique Gregory, Feronda Orders, and Suzy Kiefer, who kept our department running smoothly this year. On behalf of the department I want to thank everyone—staff, faculty, students, supporters—for your hard work and good cheer and I look forward to an excellent year ahead!

Academic Freedom

WGS STATEMENT ON ACADEMIA AND FREE SPEECH RIGHTS:

It is inherent to the discipline of Women's Studies to deal with complex subjects through theoretical lenses, which question conventional knowledge production. This department, one of the most distinguished departments of WGS in the country, has a highly visible faculty of national and international reputation invited to speak in various fora on sometimes highly controversial subjects. Such faculty members, as scholars, have not only a right, but also an obligation to produce and disseminate knowledge within and beyond the academy. Moreover, as private citizens, our faculty continue to enjoy the same freedoms of speech and expression as any private citizen and in accordance with university policy the department supports their protection from institutional discipline in the exercise of these academic and free speech rights.

On April 18, 2018, Presidents and the Chancellors of the Association of American Universities endorsed a statement reaffirming their commitment to free speech on campus.

A group of 62 distinguished research universities that includes Rutgers

The free and open exchange of ideas and information is fundamental to the educational mission of AAU universities. The robust discussions and debates that occur at research universities have been central to the advancement of democracy, the creation of new knowledge, the fostering of educational excellence, and the promotion of social progress. As heads of these institutions we are unequivocally committed to preserving and honoring this proud heritage.

While we may deem some speech to be odious, disgraceful, and antithetical to our values, our campuses are and should remain places where ideas can be expressed free of disruption, intimidation, and violence.

We are committed to preparing our students, faculty, and staff to engage in thoughtful, non-disruptive debate. Our collective responsibility to educate our campus communities on their rights and responsibilities is of the utmost importance and one we embrace. While protecting the expression of ideas, we will also take all steps necessary to promote an inclusive and non-discriminatory learning environment, and protect our communities from those who seek to promote conflict rather than conversation, debate, and advocacy.

We will continue to prepare students, faculty, and staff to engage in frank, open, and often challenging discussions. Our universities will also work to ensure that campus policies on speech, events, dissent, and other protected activities are publicly and conveniently available. We believe these actions are critical for our institutions to remain at the forefront of ensuring that substantive and non-violent speech is fully protected and welcomed in our society.

In restating these values, we aspire to be a model for society of how a free and democratic people should work through disagreements and arrive at a deeper understanding of important issues and of each other.

Scarlet and Black Project

Scarlet and Black Project Holds University to Account for Histories of Disenfranchisement and Enslavement

The Scarlet and Black Project researches Rutgers University's role in the disenfranchisement and enslavement of indigenous peoples and African-Americans. As a public history project, Scarlet and Black also makes recommendations to the university about how to acknowledge these histories. Scarlet and Black is run by the Committee on Enslaved and Disenfranchised Populations in Rutgers History, which was convened by Rutgers University–New Brunswick Chancellor Richard L. Edwards in 2015 in anticipation of Rutgers' 250th anniversary. WGS Associate Professor Marisa Fuentes is the committee's Director of Research and is joined by Carolina Alonso Bejarano, Rutgers WGS Ph.D. graduate, Dr. Kendra Boyd, Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis postdoctoral fellow, and other professors, students, and administrators.

The project released a Rutgers University Press book in December 2016 entitled *Scarlet and Black, Volume 1: Slavery and Dispossession in Rutgers History*. Its key findings include the existence of Will, an enslaved man who helped build Old Queens. Additionally, the research uncovered that the family of Rutgers' first president Jacob Hardenbergh enslaved Sojourner Truth and her parents. The anthology collects the work of Rutgers students and faculty, who visited the Rutgers Libraries Special Collections and University Archives, the Sage Library at the New Brunswick Theological Seminary, the state archives in Trenton, and the National Archives in Washington, D.C. to explore a fuller history of Rutgers' relations to enslavement and dispossession.

In addition to publishing their research, the committee is also developing several public history projects to make these histories more apparent to the Rutgers community. In Fall 2017, Scarlet and Black began offering historical walking tours of the College Avenue campus with the intention of including these histories in all university-run campus tours. The project is also developing an app that would alert users of nearby sites of historical interest, allowing for self-guided tours.

Rutgers' new chancellor Debasish Dutta is beginning to implement the committee's initial recommendation that Rutgers place historical markers around campus. On October 25, 2017 the University dedicated three renamed campus landmarks. The James Dickson Carr Library, formerly the Kilmer Area Library, honors the first Black graduate of Rutgers College. Carr, a member of Phi Beta Kappa honor society, graduated in 1892. Rutgers also re-named the College Avenue Apartments as the Sojourner Truth Apartments, and dedicated the path from Old Queens to Voorhees Mall as Will's Way.

The committee has further charged the university with other ways of acknowledging these histories including by establishing retention scholarships and diversity course requirements, commissioning a work of public art memorializing the dispossessed and enslaved, and forming an exchange program with the Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas.

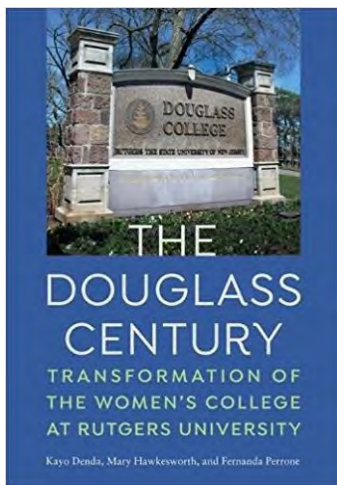
Graduate student researchers are currently working on the project's second volume spanning Rutgers' history from the end of the civil war through the 1940's. This work will specifically focus on race-making at Rutgers through the themes of campus climate, curriculum, and student experiences, contextualizing them within national histories such as the Great Migration.

To begin work on the project's final volume, Dr. Deborah Gray White, the committee's Chair, taught an undergraduate Spring 2018 seminar entitled "Scarlet and Black: Connecting African American Alumni to Rutgers, 1940-Present." As a part of the course, students used archival materials to write about papers addressing the history of African Americans at Rutgers in the latter half of the 20th century, some of which will be included in the third Scarlet and Black volume.

For more details visit: <https://scarletandblack.rutgers.edu/>

The Douglass Century

The Douglass Century: Celebrating Women's Education at Rutgers



In recognition of the 2018 Centennial of Rutgers' Douglass Residential College, the woman's college located within Rutgers University, *"The Douglass Century: Transformation of the Women's College at Rutgers University"* (Rutgers UP 2018) explores the campus's history. Women's Studies Librarian Kayo Denda, Distinguished Professor of Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies Mary Hawkesworth, and archivist Fernanda Perrone co-wrote the monograph, which analyzes changes at Douglass through the 20th and 21st centuries while also addressing broader questions about women in higher education. *The Douglass Century* begins with nineteenth-century campaigns for the admission of women to Rutgers and spans Douglass' founding as the New Jersey College for Women to today's Douglass Residential College. In doing so, the work addresses both local histories as well as the broader necessity of women's higher education.

The project emerged out of conversations in the Institute for Women's Leadership (IWL) about the need to showcase women's roles in the Rutgers 250th Anniversary celebration. Because Rutgers itself remained all-male until 1972, the IWL decided to highlight the diversity of women's roles staffing, housing and fundraising for Rutgers in addition to showcasing the diverse stories of women students at Douglass.

In Fall 2015, Hawkesworth, Denda, and Perrone co-taught an undergraduate research seminar in which students immersed themselves in existing secondary literature, oral histories, and archival materials related to the history of women at Rutgers. Students developed archival research skills as they pursued independent research such as visual analyses of women in yearbooks and in university publications and explorations of LGBTQ activism at Douglass in the latter half of the 20th century. Students presented their research in a spring 2016 forum "From Exclusion to Inclusion: 250 Years of Women at Rutgers."

This research also helped contribute to the documentary "From the Boarding House to the Board Room: 250 Years of Women at Rutgers," directed by June Cross and released in October 2016. WGS masters student Laura Transue worked on the set of the documentary as a part of her M.A. practicum project.

In April 2018, Douglass Residential College sponsored a Douglass Centennial Book Launch for *The Douglass Century: Transformation of The Women's College at Rutgers University*.

20th Anniversary Symposium

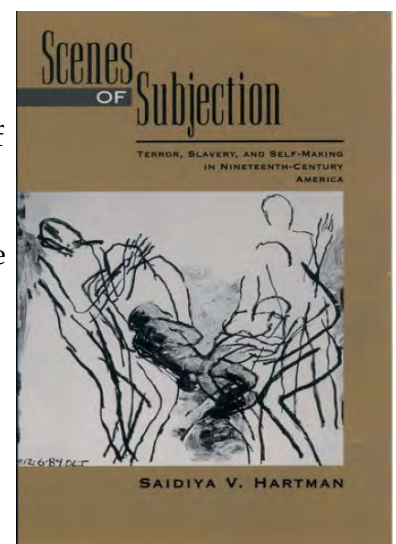
Symposium at Rutgers University celebrates the 20th anniversary of Saidiya Hartman's *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America*

In October 2017, Rutgers hosted a symposium in honor of the 20th anniversary of Saidiya Hartman's (Columbia University) foundational work, *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America*. This two-day symposium entitled "Scenes at 20: Inspirations, Riffs, and Reverberations" brought together scholars of slavery and critical black studies from around the country to address the on-going impact of Hartman's work for multiple fields.

The symposium was organized by Dr. Marisa Fuentes, a Rutgers professor in Women's and Gender Studies and History, alongside Dr. Carter Mathes from Rutgers English Department and Drs. Myisha Priest (New York University) and Lisa Ze Winters (Wayne State University), all of whom were advisees of Hartman's in UC Berkeley's African American Studies Department. Fuentes explains how this symposium was framed "not to say that [Scenes] is a seminal work but really highlight how the work has produced whole fields of study."

Following this expansive and multidisciplinary vision, the symposium convened panels addressing key themes emerging from Hartman's work, including "Slavery and Its Afterlives," "The Tenses of Freedom," "Agency," and "Performance and Practice." In keeping with the event's cross-generational focus, the keynote on "Feminist Touchstones and Intellectual Genealogies" featured the work of scholars at different career stages: Hartman's PhD advisor Hazel Carby, Fred Moten, and Rizvana Bradley. The symposium closed with a moving third-person address by Saidiya Hartman. All panels were filmed and are available through Rutgers' YouTube channel.

"Scenes at 20" was convened as a part of the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis' two-year project (2017-2019) entitled "Black Bodies" which is spearheaded by Drs. Marisa Fuentes and Bayo Holsey.



For more information visit:

<https://africandiasporaphd.com/2017/10/06/videoconf-scenes-at-20-inspirations-riffs-and-reverberations/>

Women's Economic Empowerment

EU@UN Talk: Women's Economic Empowerment—What Works?

In preparation for the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, Professor Yana van der Meulen Rodgers spoke on a panel hosted by the European Union delegation to the United Nations on February 23rd, 2017. The talk, part of a series called EU@UNTalks, centered on the theme, “Women’s Economic Empowerment- What Works?” The panel explored the ways in which women’s economic empowerment is not only the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do. Keeping gender equality and women’s empowerment at the center of our development efforts will be key to the success of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

While this was Professor Rodger’s first time to speak at the EU UN delegation, she has spoken at various UN agency functions over the years and has written reports for them. Her current research examines women’s economic empowerment in relation to access to contraception and reproductive health services.

Professor Rodgers, the only academic on the panel, spoke alongside Aaron Holtz (Advisor, United Kingdom mission to the United Nations), Tracy Nowiski (Associate Partner, McKinsey & Company), and Bénédicte Leroy de la Brière (Lead Economist, World Bank) on the relation between women’s economic empowerment and development. The panel was moderated by João Vale de Almeida, Head of the European Union to the United Nations.



Pictured Above: From left to right, Aaron Holtz (Advisor, United Kingdom mission to the United Nations); Yana Rodgers; Tracy Nowiski (Associate Partner, McKinsey & Company); and Bénédicte Leroy de la Brière (Lead Economist, World Bank).

The 16 Days Campaign

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

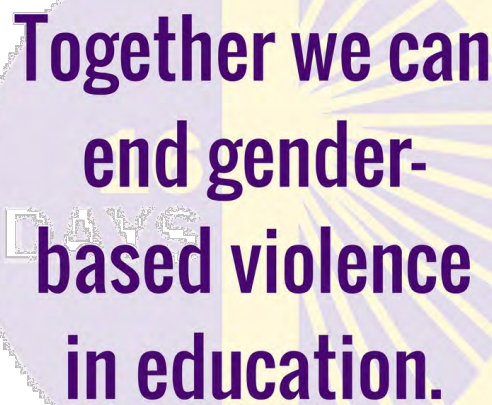
The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence campaign, coordinated through the Center for Women's Global Leadership (CWGL), situates violence against women as a global human rights issue. This year's theme addressed violence against women in education. The 16 Days Campaign spans the globe, with the CWGL publishing activist toolkits to help people participate in the campaign by leading events in their own communities. Participants also connected through social media through the CWGL's twitter teach-ins. Thus, the campaign is able to address the connections between local and global systems of violence against women.

16 Days events at Rutgers included a day of events on November 29th, 2017 focused on "LGBT Rights Under Fire in Uganda: The Influence of U.S. Fundamentalism and the Repression of a Movement" which featured a film screening followed by a panel discussion. Following the screening of *Call Me Kuchu*, Rutgers WGS doctoral candidate and CWGL campaign program coordinator Rasha Mounneh spoke alongside Frank Mugisha, executive director of Sexual Minorities Uganda, and Pamela

Spees, senior staff attorney at Center of Constitutional Rights. The campaign this year also includes events around the world as well as digital campaigns in twitter teach-ins, and a blog parade.

The campaign began when participants in the CWGL's first Women's Global Leadership Institute in 1991 decided to found a campaign spanning the 16 days between International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25 November) and International Human Rights Day (10 December) to link the themes of both days. Their petition to encourage the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights to address the issue of gender violence reached 124 countries and changed the trajectory of the U.N.'s work on gender violence in human rights campaigns. The

events have grown to include over 700 organizations in 92 countries.



Together we can
end gender-
based violence
in education.

For more details visit:

<http://16dayscwgl.rutgers.edu/>

*Islam in /and America***Rutgers Professor Brings Insights on Islam to the Big Ten**

In Fall 2017, Professor Sylvia Chan-Malik's course "Islam in/and America" reached beyond Rutgers' campus with a digital classroom that connected Nebraska, Michigan, and Maryland. Through the Big 10's Digital Islamic Studies Curriculum (DISC), Chan-Malik taught across 4 states with live video conferences. The course focuses on the histories and cultural representations of Islam in the U.S. through a focus on African American Muslims and Muslim women. Course readings address three main questions: "What does it mean to be Muslim in the U.S.? What does Islam signify in the national imaginary?, and How do race, gender, sexuality, and class shape "Muslim-ness" in America?"

Every week students in the course participated in an in-person group discussions on their home campus and digitally mediated cross-campus discussions while also attending a lecture. Political science and middle eastern studies double major Yasmin Bennane says "I was able to interview an Imam and Chairperson of a nearby Masjid and hear their stories and interaction with Islam and how they practice religion on a daily basis."

As a part of the course, Chan-Malik also traveled to give in-person lectures at the participating campuses. Chan-Malik, appointed in WGS and American Studies, also has a forthcoming book on the subject, *Being Muslim: A Cultural History of Women of Color in American Islam* (NYU Press, Spring 2018). *Being Muslim* analyzes how U.S. Muslim women's identities are expressions of Islam as both Black protest religion and universal faith tradition.



For more details visit:

<http://sas.rutgers.edu/news-a-events/news/newsroom/faculty/2578-islamic-studies-in-the-big-ten>

The Paris 8 Exchange Lecture Series

Visiting Lecturer Anne Emmanuelle Berger Asks: Is Psychoanalysis a Theory of Gender?

In Fall 2017, Rutgers hosted feminist theorist Dr. Anne Emmanuelle Berger as a part of Rutgers' faculty exchange with the University of Paris VIII for a series of four lectures. Berger is the chair of women's studies at the University of Paris VIII and her most recent book is entitled *The Queer Turn in Feminism: Identity, Sexuality and the Theater of Gender* (2014).

The Rutgers Department of Women's and Gender Studies sponsored this inaugural lecture, entitled "Is Psychoanalysis a Theory of Gender?" Dr. Berger gave two other talks hosted by the French Department and the Program in Comparative Literature entitled "Irigaray's Breath: Poetry after Poetics" and "Gender Studies Today and the Resistance of Translation."

Her visit closed with a lunchtime talk at the Institute for Research on Women focused on her ongoing research on the Maghreb.

Rutgers University Presents

The Paris 8 Exchange Lectures 2017

Please join us for a series of talks by feminist theorist Anne Emmanuelle Berger, who is Chair of Women's Studies at the University of Paris VIII. She is visiting us as part of the exchange program that Rutgers University has with Paris VIII. Please join us for this stimulating series of talks.

<p>Wednesday, Sept. 20, 4:30 PM</p> <p>Is Psychoanalysis a Theory of Gender?</p> <p>@ Conference Room, Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building (DRC). Hosted by the Department of Women's and Gender Studies.</p>	<p>Wednesday, Oct. 4, 10:30 AM</p> <p>Irigaray's Breath: Poetry after Poetics</p> <p>@ Seminar Room 4052, New Academic Building (15 Seminary Place CAC). Hosted by The French Department.</p>
<p>Wednesday, Sept. 27, 4:30 PM</p> <p>Gender Studies Today and the Resistance of Translation</p> <p>@ Seminar Room 4052, New Academic Building (15 Seminary Place CAC). Hosted by The Program in Comparative Literature.</p>	<p>Thursday, Oct. 12, Noon</p> <p>Lunchtime talk on Anne's research on the Maghreb</p> <p>@ Conference Room, Ruth Dill Johnson Crockett Building (DRC). Hosted by The Institute for Research on Women.</p>



Welcoming Professor Deborah Vargas

Professor Deborah Vargas

Henry Rutgers Term Chair in Comparative Sexuality, Gender and Race

WGS is thrilled to welcome Dr. Deborah Vargas, who joins the faculty as the Henry Rutgers Term Chair in Comparative Sexuality, Gender, and Race. Dr. Vargas is a welcome addition to the department with her expertise in Latina/o studies, sexuality, and aesthetics. The Henry Rutgers Term Chairs were initially formulated in Rutgers' 2014 strategic plan, with 5 tenured positions at the associate professor level established across the entire university to build emerging institutional strengths.

The Term Chair positions come with an institutional mandate to build programming around the comparative study of sexuality, gender, and race, which Dr. Vargas has already embraced. Since joining Rutgers, Dr. Vargas has sponsored multiple departmental and university-wide events from David Eng's visit to the Scenes at 20 conference.



Dr. Vargas' inaugural Henry Rutgers Term Chair lecture, entitled "Brown Pride, Black Love: Musical Matters," explored her formulation of "a queer feminist notion of 'brown soul' that reimagines

Chicanidad/Mexicanidad by tracing Blackness through musical sounds, visual aesthetics, and performances." After an introduction by WGS graduate faculty member Dr. Nelson Maldonado-Torres, Vargas turned to the mattering of music and sound, to ask: "why does

blackness have to be retrieved thru descent and normative genealogies" in Chicano studies. The lecture focused on Quetzal's 2017 album, *The Eternal Get-down* and the east L.A. group's cover of "La Bamba." Vargas identified the song's lyrics and usage of the tarima as central to its "reimagining of brown pride through black love."



Susan Carroll received a Rutgers Faculty Scholar-Teacher Award for 2017-2018.



Brittney Cooper's book *Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women* won the 2018 Merle Curti Intellectual History Prize from the Organization of American Historians (OAH).

Brittney Cooper was awarded two fellowships for the 2018-2019 academic year. She has accepted the Anschutz Distinguished Fellow in American Studies Award at Princeton.



Sylvia Chan-Malik won the 2018 SAS Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education at the Assistant Professor rank.

Sylvia Chan-Malik has been awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor, April 2018.



Carlos Decena won the 2017-2018 Warren I. Sussman Award for Excellence in Teaching from Rutgers.



Marisa Fuentes has been appointed (2018) to the Organization of American Historians' (OAH's) Distinguished Lectureship Program.



Judith Gerson is the 2017-2018 Ina Levine Scholar, one of two Senior Invitational Scholars at the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, DC.



Mary Gossy won the 2018 SAS Award for Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education at the Professor rank.



Max Hantel joined our department as an Assistant Teaching Professor in Fall 2017.



Mary Hawkesworth has been invited to be a Visiting International Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at the University of Warwick (U.K.), in academic year 2018-2019.



Maya Mikdashi was awarded a fellowship from the Rutgers Center for Historical Analysis (2016-2017).



Jasbir Puar released The 10th anniversary reissue of *Terrorist Assemblages: Homonationalism in Queer Times* published by Duke University Press in 2017.



Zakia Salime is a 2017-2018 Fulbright Fellow at the University of Fez in Morocco. In academic year 2016-2017 she was Yale University's Presidential Visiting Professor in Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies.



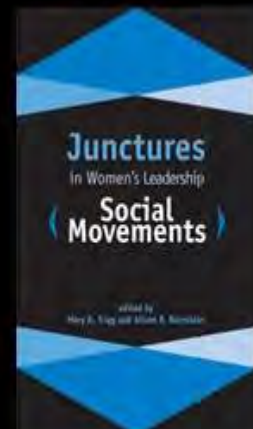
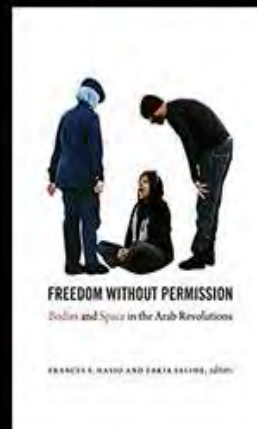
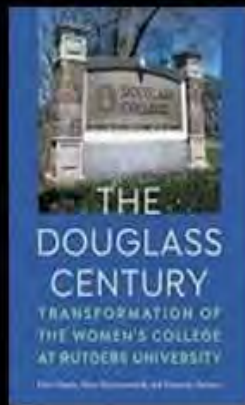
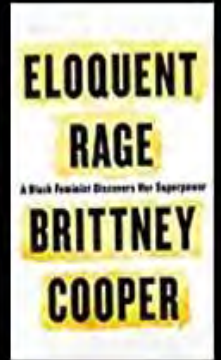
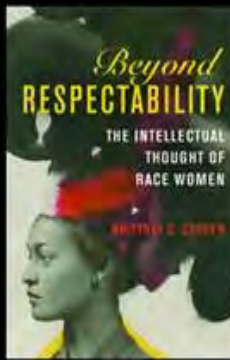
Kyla Schuller is a 2017-2018 External Faculty Fellow at the Stanford Humanities Center. She is working on her next book project, *Gender Studies After Gender: Toward Interactionist Feminism*.

Kyla Schuller has been awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor, April 2018.

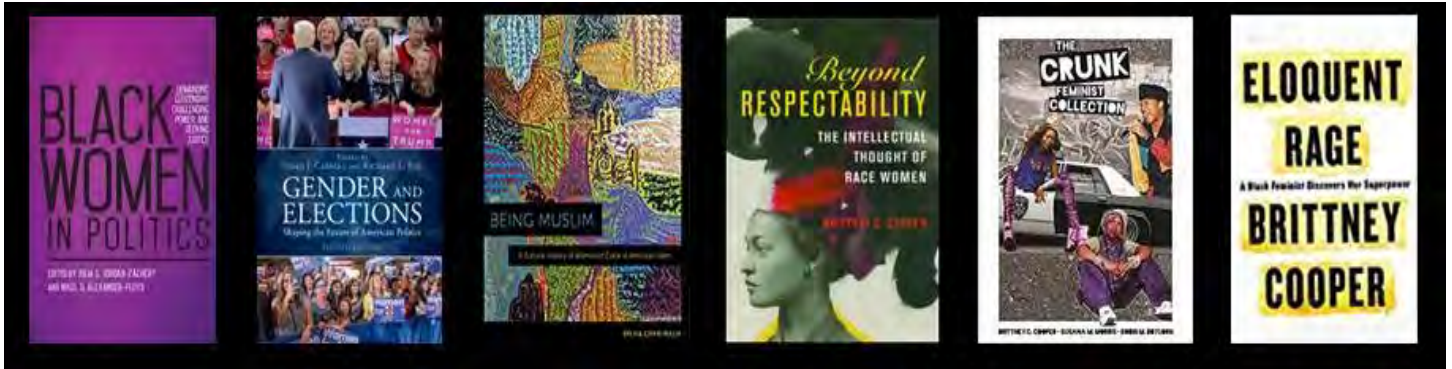


Mary Trigg's co-edited volume (with Alison R. Bernstein) *Women's Leadership: Social Movements* (Rutgers University Press, 2016) was selected as a 2016 *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title.

Publications



Publications



Julia Jarden-Zachery and Nikol Alexander-Floyd, editors, *Black Women in Politics: Demanding Citizenship, Challenging Power, and Seeking Justice* (SUNY Press, 2018)

Susan J. Carroll and Richard L. Fox, editors, *Gender and Elections: Shaping the Future of American Politics*, 4th ed. (Cambridge University Press, 2018)

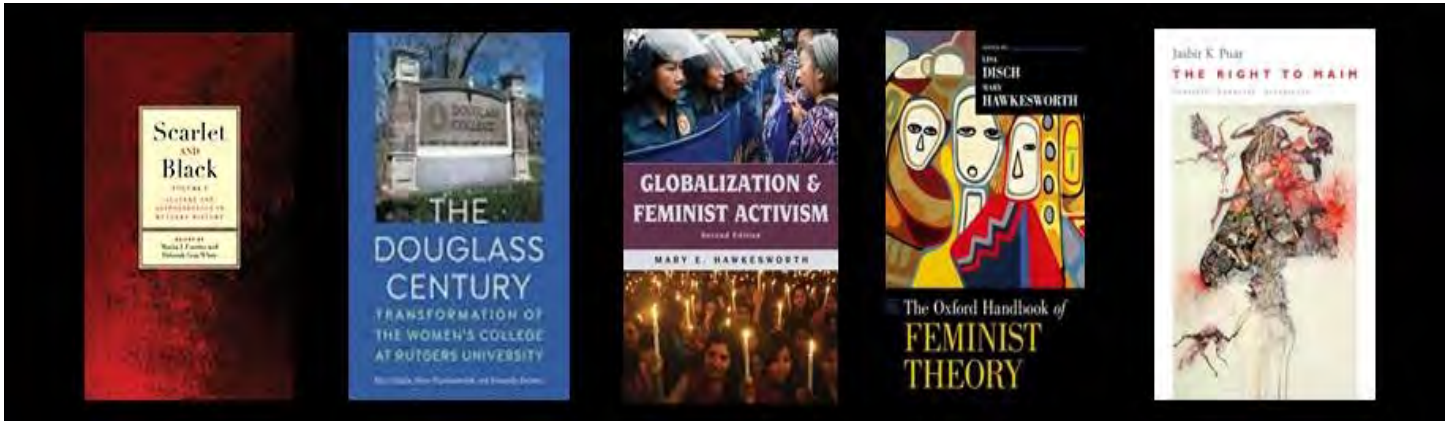
Sylvia Chan-Malik, *Being Muslim: A Cultural History of Women of Color and American Islam* (New York University Press, 2018)

Brittney Cooper, *Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women* (University of Illinois Press, 2017)

Brittney Cooper, *The Crunk Feminist Collection* (Feminist Press, 2017)

Brittney Cooper, *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower* (St. Martin's Press, 2018)

Publications



Marisa Fuentes and Deborah Gray-White, eds., *Scarlet and Black, Volume 1: Slavery and Dispossession in Rutgers History* (Rutgers University Press, 2016)

Mary Hawkesworth, Kayo Denda, and Fernanda Perrone, *The Douglass Century: The Transformation of Women's Education at Rutgers* (Rutgers University Press, 2018)

Mary Hawkesworth, *Globalization and Feminist Activism*, Revised and expanded Edition (Rowman and Littlefield, 2018)

Mary Hawkesworth and Lisa Disch, *Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theory* (Oxford University Press, 2018)

Jasbir Puar, *The Right to Maim: Debility, Capacity, Disability* (Duke University Press, 2017)

Publications



Yana Rodgers, *The Global Gag Rule and Women's Reproductive Health: Rhetoric versus Reality* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

Kyla Schuller, *The Biopolitics of Feeling: Race, Sex, and Science in the Nineteenth Century* (Duke University Press, 2017)

Zakia Salime and Frances Hasso, *Freedom Without Permission: Space and Bodies in the Arab Revolutions* (Durham: Duke University Press)


Mary K. Trigg and Alison R. Bernstein, (Eds.), *Junctures in Women's Leadership: Social Movements* (Rutgers University Press, 2016). Eight graduate students in WGS contributed to this volume as researchers and co-authors.




Celebrating Our Graduates

Recent Ph.D. Graduates:


2018

 **Jenna Brager:** Dissertation: *"Bodies of Evidence: The Image, the Flesh, and The Modern Crisis of the Human"*


2017


 **Carolina Alonso Bejarano:** Dissertation: *"Ningún ser Humano es Ilegal: Decolonial Feminisms & Immigrants' Rights Grassroots Organizing in New Jersey"*

Dr. Bejarano is a Teaching Instructor, Latino & Hispanic Caribbean Studies, Rutgers University.

 **Rosemary Ndubuizu:** Dissertation: *"Where Shall the Monsters Live? Low-income Black Women and the Politics of Urban Disposability"*

Dr. Ndubuizu is an Assistant Professor in African American Studies at Georgetown University.

 **Stephen Seely:** Dissertation: *"A World of Difference: Life, Sex, Ontology"*
Dr. Seely is a Post-Doc Fellow at University of Warwick, IAS, Institute of Advanced Study.

 **Nafisa Tanjeem:** Dissertation: *"Can Workers of the World Unite?" A Multi-sited Ethnography of Transnational Labor Organizing Across the Apparel Commodity Network"*

Dr. Tanjeem is an Assistant Professor of Globalization Studies at Lesley University.



Celebrating Our Graduates

Recent MA Graduates:

2017



Hiba Akhtar

Practicum: *"Redefining Home through a Practicum Internship at Karamah Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights."*



Manira Alva

Practicum: *"The Semantics of Advocacy: The Re-Framing of the Global Movement against GBV."*



Kelle Carbone

Thesis: *"Access Denied: The Case for Inclusive Sex Education for Special Education Students."*



N'Bsrat Gebreegziabher

Thesis: *"Horror @ Home: Affordable & Permanent Housing for Women Survivors of Domestic Violence at Dina's Dwellings."*



Emily Michaelis

Practicum: *"Building Long-term Supportive Housing for Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence."*



Celebrating Our Graduates

Recent MA Graduates:

2017



Anne Napatalung

Practicum: *"Thinking Local, Thinking Global: Race, Policy, & Reproductive Freedom."*



Jasleen Singh

Thesis: *"Sikh Queer Community Navigates Invisibility as the 'Terrorist-Monster.'"*



Karuna Srivastav

Practicum: *"Intersectionality in Action: How Cognizance of Multiple Identities Shapes the Work of Sakhi for South Asian Women."*



Laura Transue

Practicum: *"The Making of Documentary Film, 'From Exclusion to Inclusion: 250 Years of Women at Rutgers.'"*



Natasha YingLing

Practicum: *"Co-Pilot: A Study of Disability, Criminality, & the 'Post'-Human."*

Recent MPhil Graduate:



Kevin Allred

Practicum: *"Politicizing Beyoncé."*

(GAY) PANIC ATTACK: DAVID ENG SPEAKS AT RUTGERS

In October 2017, The Henry Rutgers Chair in Comparative Sexuality, Gender, and Race and the Ph.D. Program in Women's and Gender Studies hosted Dr. David Eng (U Penn) for a graduate seminar and lecture.



The graduate seminar brought together students from multiple departments to read Eng's 2016 *Social Text* article "Colonial Object Relations." The essay served as an entry point for a discussion of Eng's larger book project "Reparations and the Human" which "investigates the relationship between political and psychic genealogies of reparation in Cold War Asia." The seminar gave graduate students the opportunity to consider psychoanalysis and queer studies in the context of Asian American experiences while also analyzing discourses of diversity and the residues of multiculturalism.

Following the seminar and a reception, Eng gave a public talk entitled "(Gay) Panic Attack" which emerged from a book project with psychotherapist Shinhee Han entitled *A Dialogue on Racial Melancholia and Racial Dissociation: On the Social and Psychic Lives of Asian Americans* (Duke, forthcoming 2018). In both the seminar and the lecture, Eng showed graduate students the possibilities of long-term intellectual collaborations across disciplines in discussing his work with Han. In interrogating disciplinary and methodological norms, Eng's visit was a rich start to the Henry Rutgers Chair's programmatic work.

TRANSFORMING TEXTS SPRING 2018 WGS LECTURE SERIES

This Spring semester Professor Deborah Vargas in conjunction with Professor Ed Cohen, successfully organized the highly anticipated Women's and Gender Studies Spring 2018 Lecture Series titled "Transforming Texts."

The series included esteemed guests María Josefine Saldaña-Portillo, New York University and David Kazanjian, University of Pennsylvania. This series also provided the opportunity to showcase publications by WGS faculty members Kyla Schuller, Brittney Cooper and Jasbir Puar.

RUTGERS
School of Arts and Sciences

**Department of Women's and Gender Studies
&
Henry Rutgers Term Chair in Comparative Race, Gender, and Sexuality**
presents
Spring 2018 Lecture Series
"TRANSFORMING TEXTS"

Prof. Kyla Schuller
Rutgers, Dept. of Women's and Gender Studies
The Biopolitics of Feeling: Race, Sex, and Science in the Nineteenth Century
February 15, 2018
6:00pm-7:30pm
Academic Building 4052 (College Ave. Campus)
(Co-sponsored with Americanist Seminar at CCA)
~Reception to follow~



Prof. María Josefine Saldaña-Portillo
New York University, Social and Cultural Analysis
Indian Given: Racial Geographies across Mexico and the United States
In dialogue with
David Kazanjian
The Brink of Freedom: Improvising Life in the 19th-century Atlantic World
March 22, 2018
4:30pm – 7:00pm
RDJC – Conference Rm 103
4:00pm – Light Refreshments

Prof. Brittney Cooper
Rutgers, Dept. of Women's and Gender Studies
Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women
April 12, 2018
4:30pm – 7:00pm
RDJC – Conference Rm 103
4:00pm – Light Refreshments



Prof. Jasbir Puar
Rutgers, Dept. of Women's and Gender Studies
The Right to Maim: Debility, Capacity, Disability
April 26, 2018
4:30pm – 7:00pm
RDJC – Conference Rm 103
4:00pm – Light Refreshments



This event concludes our series. Details to follow for the departmental celebration of all faculty books published this year

“BODIES OF POWER / THEORY IN THE FLESH”

2018 Rutgers Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Student Conference

The WGS Graduate Student Organization is proud to announce its
2018 Student Conference, *“Bodies of Power/Theories in the Flesh.”*

Friday, October 5, 2018

Rutgers University – New Brunswick
Alexander Library
169 College Avenue
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1163

Invited Scholars:

Virginia Grise, Theater Artist
C. Riley Snorton, Cornell University
Nicole R. Fleetwood, Rutgers University
Kyla Schuller, Rutgers University

We hope to see you there!

Organized by the Rutgers WGS Graduate Conference Planning Committee & WGS Graduate Student Association.

For full details visit: <https://2018ruwgsggrad.wordpress.com/>



Celebrating Our Graduates

Recent WGS Major & Minor Graduates:

2018

Women's and Gender Studies Major
47 Majors

Women's and Gender Studies Minor
95 Minors

Gender & Media Minor
23 Minors

Critical Sexualities Minor
10 Minors

Social Justice Minor
9 Minors

**Women's Global Health Leadership
Certificate Program**
4 Certifications

2017

Women's and Gender Studies Major
39 Majors

Women's and Gender Studies Minor
83 Minors

Gender & Media Minor
5 Minors

Critical Sexualities Minor
4 Minors

Social Justice Minor
10 Minors

**Women's Global Health Leadership
Certificate Program**
1 Certification

WGS Student Awards

Recent WGS Student Awards

2018

**Dorothy Hamilton Balliet Award for
Outstanding Research**

Victoria A. Piatnochka

**Eleanor Brilliant Award for Outstanding
WGS Senior**

Madeline M. Hehir

**Gilda Morales Award for Outstanding
Women's & Gender Studies Student Activist**

Michelle M. Hayes

Dee Garrison Award for Peacemaking

Pamela Hernandez

**Elizabeth Hallowell Award for Outstanding
Work on Women's Rights**

Helen Zhong

**WGS Founders Award in Honor of
Dr. Alison Bernstein**

Kai B. Durant

**Women's and Gender Studies Department
Award**

*Lorraine G. Delaney, Ariel C. Dell'Arena,
Michelle S. Fradkin, Melanie W. Hung, Daniel
Levin, Jessica Mazzeo*

Douglass Alumnae Prize

Madeline M. Hehir

2017

**Dorothy Hamilton Balliet Award for
Outstanding Research**

Kelly Hannavi

**Eleanor Brilliant Award for Outstanding
WGS Senior**

Gabriella E. Shypula

**Gilda Morales Award for Outstanding
Women's & Gender Studies Student Activist**

Mina E. Afayee

Dee Garrison Award for Peacemaking

Meryem R. Uzumcu

**Elizabeth Hallowell Award for Outstanding
Work on Women's Rights**

Maria C. Alba

**Women's and Gender Studies Department
Award**

*Hannah L. McGovern
Maegan Kae Z. Sunaz*

Douglass Alumnae Prize

Kim LeMoon

WGS Honors Presentations

2018 WGS Honors Thesis Presentations

Anjani Patel

"The Medicalization, Pornofication, and Internalization of Hair Removal"

Advisor: Dr. Mary Hawkesworth, Women's & Gender Studies and Political Science

Victoria A. Piatnochka

"I'm Proud of Who I Am, But It's Nobody's Business": Millennial Women and Sexual Orientation Disclosure in the Workplace"

Advisors: Dr. Mary Trigg, Women's & Gender Studies, Dr. Muchomba, School of Social Work

Dysis Omega Scarlett

"The Plight of Homelessness: Poverty, Public Perception, and Public Policy"

Advisors: Dr. Nikol Alexander-Floyd, Women's & Gender Studies and Political Science, Dr. Edward Ramsamy, Africana Studies, and Dr. Jason Torkelson, Sociology

Eric Weck

"Creating a New Queer Language: Queer Nation and the Fight Against Institutionalization and Commodification of Queer Activism and Media in the 1990s"

Advisor: Dr. Ed Cohen, Women's & Gender Studies, Second Reader: Dr. Carlos Ulises Decena, Women's & Gender Studies and Latino & Caribbean Studies



WGS Honors Presentations

2017 WGS Honors Thesis Presentations

Ariel C. Dell'Arena

"Pop Trans Discourse: Analyzing Dominant Institutional Impacts on Trans Identity in the Contemporary United States."

Advisor: Dr. Kyla Schuller & Dr. Sarah Tobias

Kelly Hannavi

"Making Good Christian Women": Girls' High Schools of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions' Eastern Turkey Mission 1885 – 1905."

Advisor: Dr. Tuna Artun & Dr. Maya Mikdashi

Mary Margaret Mumich

"Women of the Chrysler Herbarium: Barbara Palser and Erica Frank."

Advisors: Dr. Kyla Schuller & Dr. Lena Struwe

Meryem R. Uzumcu

"Nothing is Written: Gezi as Exception and the Curation of the Actorships of Reading Publics on the World Stage."

Advisors: Dr. Maya Mikdashi & Dr. Efe Khayyat



\$1 Million Hult Prize

Roshni Rides Startup Offers Ride-Shares for Refugees, Wins Million-Dollar Prize



In September 2017, Rutgers students including former WGS Minor/IWL Scholar Gia Farooqi won 1 million dollars in start up funds for their ride-sharing rickshaw business, Roshni Rides. Roshni Rides solves key transportation issues for refugees, starting with a fleet of three rickshaws in Orangi Town, Pakistan in the summer of 2017. Roshni Rides' mission is to provide "accessible, affordable and reliable public transportation for urbanized refugees living in informal settlements in South Asia."

Rutgers business students Gia Farooqi, Hasan Usmani, Moneeb Mian, and Hanaa Lakhani were selected from over 50,000 entries to win the Hult Prize, which grants 1 million dollars in seed money to student-founded start-ups that address pressing social issues. In 2017, proposals were charged with "reawakening human potential" by addressing refugee crises. The Hult Prize calls itself "the largest start-up program in the world for early stage social ventures." Roshni Rides founders have also been named "New Jersey's Social Entrepreneurs of the Year."

Gia Farooqi, CEO and WGS minor alumna, describes her work with the Institute for Women's Leadership (IWL) as key to her success. "Being a part of the IWL program gave me the opportunity to build a network of women whose dreams and goals are as ambitious as mine. While I was working on the initial rounds of the Hult Prize, I found a support system within my cohort who served as a sounding board for ideas. I am thankful for the IWL's role in my development as a leader both on campus and professionally."

While existing rickshaws are concentrated in urban areas far from the informal settlements where many refugees live, and thus are cost-prohibitive, Roshni Rides provides shared rickshaw rides that run on fixed routes within these informal settlements. By providing more affordable ride-sharing rickshaw shuttles that stop at key locations like hospitals and markets, Roshni Rides meets its social mission to address these issues faced by over 200 million refugees in the region. Payment is taken via pre-paid cards which are charged a fixed rate that is about one half the typical rickshaw ride.

*\$1 Million Hult Prize (Cont.)***Roshni Rides Startup Offers Ride-Shares for Refugees,
Wins Million-Dollar Prize**

Roshni Rides' social mission builds on its founders' Gia Farooqi, Hasan Usmani, Moneed Mian, Hanaa Lakhani's work with Muslim communities at Rutgers. Gia Farooqi, CEO, graduated in December 2017 from Rutgers Business School with a major in Supply Chain Management and minors in Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies. For the past two years, Gia has been the co-founder and Regional Director of the Muslim InterScholastic Tournament of New Jersey (MIST-NJ), an organization that seeks to provide a safe space for young Muslim-Americans. Hasan Usmani, COO, is a May 2017 graduate from the Rutgers Business School and majored in Supply Chain Management. During his time at Rutgers, Hasan served on the boards of Rutgers Jumuah and the Rutgers Muslim Student Association. Hanaa Lakhani is a May 2016 graduate majoring in Supply Chain Management. Previously, she worked as a Social Media and Logistics Intern at the Center for Women's Global Leadership at Rutgers. During her time at Rutgers, Hanaa was involved in the Muslim community on campus as a member of Rutgers Jumuah and The Muslim Student Association.



For more information visit: <http://roshnirides.com/>

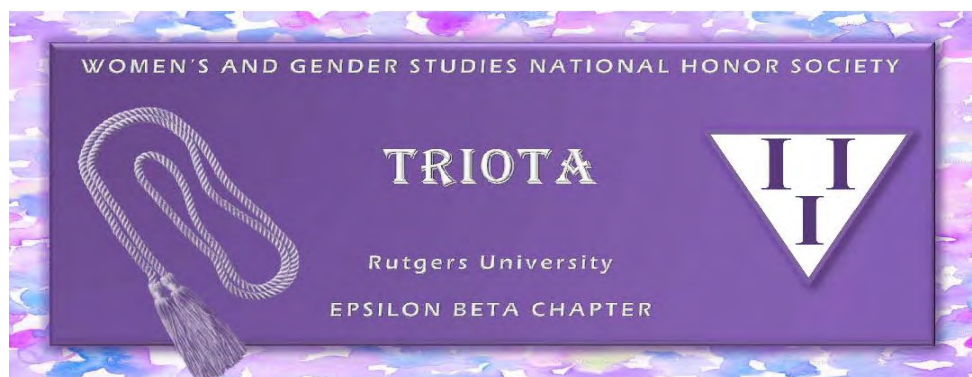
IOTA IOTA IOTA

Iota Iota Iota (Triota), is a National Women's Studies Honor Society with over 50 chapters nationwide. The Greek letter, iota, was selected for the name to represent the three goddesses Inanna, Ishtar, and Isis. Iota Iota Iota strives to maintain the feminist values central to Women's Studies and encourage diversity, egalitarianism, and a supportive academic environment for all students.

With the hard work and dedication of WGS students Pamela Hernandez and Nainika Paul our department was officially accepted into this prestigious society. Pamela, who serves as our chapters' President and Nainika as the Vice President, are both 2018 graduates who will continue to play a key role in this initiative.

The *Epsilon Beta Chapter* of Rutgers University, Department of Women's and Gender Studies held its first induction ceremony of 23 students in May 2018 to recognize the academic achievements of students in Women's Studies.

The purpose of Triota is to promote interest in Women's Studies, and research in social problems affecting all women. This society also encourages volunteerism, advocacy, and activism within the community as important methods for promoting and maintaining the feminist values central to Women's Studies.



Student Feature

Outstanding Scholar and Activist Maria Alba

M

aria Alba, a recent WGS

graduate, is an aspiring clinical psychologist who recently presented at her first professional conference, the Association for the Psychoanalysis of Culture & Society. This conference took place on October 21st and 22nd 2017 at our Rutgers New Brunswick campus. Her paper was titled "Unconscious Processes in Discussions of Campus Sexual Violence," a title that reflects the scope of her academic work and leadership while an undergraduate at Rutgers.

In her research, Alba looked at the effect of stress on health issues such as smoking and obesity, especially among minorities and women who identify as lesbian or bisexual. She also studied psychotherapy and counseling as it related to the gay liberation movement at Rutgers from the 1950s to the 1980s. As an activist and student leader, she was a member of the Rutgers' SCREAM

Theater, a violence prevention program, where Alba traveled throughout the state and country to educate people about sexual violence through improv theater. She also created a video titled "I Am Part of the Revolution," that showcased student leaders who spoke about why they choose to take a stand against sexual violence and domestic abuse.



An outstanding scholar and activist, Alba has received numerous awards for her academic performance and her work on women's and gender studies, women's rights, and violence prevention. She has recently been named as the 2017 recipient of the Riki Jacobs Livingston Pride Award, given by the Livingston Alumni Association of Rutgers University to Rutgers-New Brunswick graduating seniors who embody the spirit of Livingston College and its attributes of leadership and social action. Alba began her studies toward a Doctor of Psychology degree at Rutgers' Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology in 2017. The Department of Women's and Gender Studies wishes Maria the best on her journey!



2018 Graduation Gallery



2017 Graduation Gallery



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School of Arts and Sciences



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On behalf of the Department of Women's and Gender Studies we would like to thank both our Graduate Students Sarah and Jenny for their excellent work and support in making this Newsletter a success!

*Thank
you* 