A LETTER FROM THE PROGRAM

December 20, 2021

Dear WGST Community,

We mark the end of this eventful year with a recounting of our accomplishments, and a celebration of our resilience as a community. The biggest news we want to share is that Dr. Alicia Re Cruz will pass the mantle of WGST Director on to Dr. Megan Morrissey, Associate Professor of Rhetoric in the Department of Communication Studies.

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Dr. Re Cruz has been the heart and soul of our program for the past six years. An anthropologist by training, she often says that for her, “leading the WGST program was like getting a second Ph.D.” When she accepted the position as Interim Director, Dr. Re Cruz had expected her role to be temporary. At the request of the committee tasked with finding a permanent director through a national search, Dr. Re Cruz agreed to stay on as the Director. We are truly fortunate that she did. The national search had yielded many strong applicants, but none as strong as her.

Engaged in applied anthropology of immigration, Dr. Re Cruz focuses her teaching and research on social inequalities based on class, gender and race/ethnicity. It is not only her scholarship and intellectual prowess that account for Dr. Re Cruz’s strength as a leader. She is a rare human being whose grounded experiences and soft-spoken wisdom open up possibilities for others and empowers them. She is a dedicated teacher who shows extraordinary care as she advises graduate students on their theses, internships and special projects. She is a dedicated mentor and colleague, tireless in her support of those she works with. As a scholar and advocate who insists on the need to link theory to practice, our thoughts to our actions in the world, she exemplifies in her work, and embodies herself, a feminism that is both affective and effective.

During her tenure as WGST Director, Dr. Re Cruz strengthened our academic program and increased its visibility on campus, and beyond. During the past few years, we added several new courses to our curriculum, and incorporated action—research and community—engaged learning into existing courses. Dr. Re Cruz welcomed the WGST program the LGBT Studies program, which was previously housed in the Psychology Department. Given that Dr. Özlem Altıok holds a joint appointment in WGST and International Studies, Dr. Re Cruz advocated to create, for the first time, a full-time lecturer position in WGST. Since Fall 2020, Dr. Armaghan Ziaee has held that position, teaching several courses required of WGST minors and master’s students. Dr. Re Cruz has also secured funding for new Teaching Assistant positions, which are critical for our graduate students and the sustainable growth of our academic program.

Seeking opportunities for building community and collaboration across different WGST programs in Texas and beyond, before and during the pandemic, Dr. Re Cruz has increased the visibility and reputation of our program. Under her guidance and leadership, the WGST program hosted many distinguished scholars, artists and activists over the past six years.

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The 2021 recipient of the UNT Foundation’s Eminent Faculty Award, Dr. Re Cruz actively sought to bring different voices and accents into our program. Among the many wonderful speakers and performers WGST hosted was poet Denise Frohman, who performed for us in person at UNT in 2019. To remember Frohman’s poem Accents:

Her accent is a stubborn compass
Always pointing her
Towards home.

We had planned for a festive celebration of Dr. Re Cruz’s departure for her much-deserved faculty leave, and this new chapter in the history of WGST at UNT with Dr. Morrissey, our new Director. Sadly, we will not be celebrating this transition after all. Dr. Re Cruz’s husband, Jose, a pillar in her life, and a regular participant in many of our events, is very sick. Always caring, Dr. Re Cruz is now caring for Jose. Our hearts are heavy with the knowledge of what she is going through, and we hope that she will have healthier and happier seasons with Jose and their boys.

Though we may not celebrate it this season, we have confidence that the new chapter with Dr. Morrissey at the helm will involve continuity, creativity and cheer. In her research, Dr. Morrissey critically analyzes different types of texts pertaining to U.S. borderlands, LGBTQIA politics, and racial justice. Dr. Morrissey’s experience as the Graduate Advisor in Communication Studies will certainly benefit our WGST graduate students.

Best news of all, Dr. Morrissey has already been an engaged member of our community for years! Having served on the WGST Executive Committee since 2018, she has been involved in the Decision-making processes concerning the functioning of our program. Dr. Morrissey has also served on the LGBT Studies Curriculum Committee. We are happy that she is bringing all of this experience and cannot wait to hear her heartfelt laughter, which she manages to keep and share even through challenging times...

Challenging times, these are, but let us share, with this newsletter, our joys and accomplishments, and hope that we will have more good news to highlight in the new year.

~ The WGST Program
FEATURED GRADUATE STUDENTS

**BAYLEY VOTAW**

Bayley is a first-year, first-generation WGST master’s student from West, Texas. Since earning a B.S. in Integrative Studies with a minor in Anthropology from UNT in 2018, Bayley has spent time working in civil service and NGO community groups. Areas of research include political and sociocultural movements, socialist feminist theory, and queer/LGBTQ+ studies; interests are poetry, film, music, and literature.

**ANNIE HEFFLEY**

Annie Heffley is a first year graduate student from Denton, TX. She graduated from the University of North Texas in May of 2020, earning her bachelor’s degree in English with a concentration in writing and rhetoric and a minor in music. Annie is new to the field of Women’s and Gender Studies, and is excited to learn as much as she can in the coming semesters. Outside of school, she enjoys snare drumming and spending time with her friends, family, and two cats, Remi & Peaches.

**ELAINA CASSITY**

Elaina is a first year graduate student & program TA from Kansas City, Missouri. She graduated from UNT with a bachelors in International Studies & a minor in women and gender studies. Her research interests lie in racial formation, immigration policy, Latin America, the U.S./Mexico borderlands, and citizenship. After obtaining her graduate degree, she hopes to go to law school. In her free time Elaina loves to watch the Kansas City Chiefs play football, watch movies, and hang out with her papillon Milo.
ABBHEY ROACH
Abbey is a second-year Women and Gender Studies graduate student with a primary focus on reproductive justice. Currently, Abbey resides in Washington, DC, where she actively volunteers for Women’s March, The National Action Network, the American Civil Liberties Union, and six other non-profit organizations.

Before acceptance into the WGST program at The University of North Texas, Abbey coached high school strength and conditioning, track, and volleyball. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology and an Associates of Science degree in Health Promotion. Her experience coaching strength and conditioning led her to pursue Women and Gender Studies, providing her a platform to speak on the injustice ingrained in sports.

KARINA SAUCEDO
Karina es una estudiante de primera generación! She is a second-year graduate student. She completed her undergraduate studies at Texas women's University and received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Her research interests include critical race theory, queer theory, spiritual activism, and immigration reform.

Calling All Artists!
Do you have art you want displayed? Ideas for WGST sticker designs or a mural? Email wmst@unt.edu your ideas for a chance to have your art used in the WGST community!
Need something new to watch? Here's program suggestions for diverse and inclusive TV shows & movies from the past year!

NEVER HAVE I EVER (S2)
SEX EDUCATION (S3)
POSE (S3)

THE HARDER THEY FALL
PRAY AWAY (DOCUMENTARY)
ENCANTO
THE DRAGON PRINCE

The function of art is to do more than tell it like it is – it’s to imagine what is possible.

bell hooks (1952 - 2021)
FEATURED WGST & LGBT MINORS

**she/her/hers**
Mackenzie is a senior Psychology major with a minor in WGST. McKenzie has been nominated for the Lavender award & hopes to use her WGST knowledge in any way possible in the future.

**they/them/their**
Sar is a senior Psychology major with a minor in WGST. In the future, they hope to study the psychology of women and LGBTQ+ people, specifically their mental health.

**she/her/hers**
Katherine is a junior Journalism major with a WGST minor. She knew she wanted to study feminism from an early age, and hopes to be an advocate for women everywhere no matter her future career.
she/her/hers
Mary is a sophomore majoring in Communications and minoring in WGST. She came into the study of WGST while questioning her own sexuality & is currently learning more about the different types of attraction and how they intertwine.

they/them/theirs
Marel is a sophomore Anthropology major. They are also working towards two minors: English & LGBTQ studies. In addition to their school work, Marel works as a student ambassador for both the WGST program and the Anthropology program.

When we speak we are afraid our words will not be heard or welcomed. But when we are silent, we are still afraid. So it is better to speak.

- Audre Lorde
CURRENT EVENTS

"Stinky Jewelz" Owner & UNT WGST Alum Madeline Modesti Sells to the Stars


Edra Bogle (1934-2021), first WGST Program Director

https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dentonrc/name/edra-bogle-obituary?pid=200348388&fbclid=IwAR0v059SwByfKthBUpnXUKzrct9kcSRUIzNWASMj8zSdwG0nKCofwHEgCpY

LJ BROOKS-HALL: NEW WGST PROGRAM COORDINATOR

This is LJ's first semester as the WGST/LGBTQ Studies Program Coordinator! LJ graduated from the UNT WGST program in 2020. They wrote the first thesis to be successfully composed and defended in the UNT WGST program titled "'In the Near Future': Decolonial Perspectives on Subjectivity in Her and Ex Machina." They completed a second master's degree at UNT in Communication Studies (2021) with a focus on rhetoric. LJ is invested in exploring critical cultural questions emerging at the intersection of communication, technology, and intimacy. LJ's paper, "Queer Digintimacy: Transforming AI-Human Relationality Toward Queer Futurity," is the recipient of the National Communication Association (NCA) Feminist & Gender Studies Division Top Graduate Student Paper Award!

they/them/she/her
October 13
6:30pm via Zoom


“Who’s On Top?” (2020) is a feature documentary that portrays 15 members of the LGBTQ community who challenge stereotypes about gender and sexuality and demonstrate their diverse journeys in overcoming physical and figurative boundaries.

Be sure to watch the film before the discussion at internet.com/TTWOTDiscussion.

Register to advance and join the discussion at internet.com/TTWOTDiscussion.

La Cocina de las Patronas!

September 22
6-8pm via Zoom

Join us for a discussion of the film “La Cocina de las Patronas!”

Day after day, for over 50 years, a group of women in Mexico, prepare and give meals to Central American migrants who walk along the border.

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Sandra, yourself, and Dr. David Naran to join us in our discussion.

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Dr. Ziaee has kept busy since her appointment as lecturer with the program in August, 2020! This year she organized a professional panel on Transnational Feminism at the National Women’s Studies Association & presented on "Mapping Gender Segregation and/or De-segregation in Public Spaces: A Transnational Feminist Perspective" at the same conference.

Additionally, she became an Associate Editor for Design and Culture, moving up from her previous position of Reviews Editor. Starting in January she began work with the committees for the Society of Architectural Historians and IDEAS (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accountability, Sustainability. Dr. Ziaee also serves as a faculty member on thesis committees and as a mentor for four separate masters students.

Dr. Altıok has been productive over the past year. Her manuscript “Violence Against Women as a Global Social Problem” that focuses on policy solutions will be published in Global Agenda for Social Justice 2022 (Policy Press).

Dr. Altıok was recently nominated for the UNT Foundation's Outstanding Lecturer Award, the J.H. Shelton Excellence in Teaching Award, and the CLASS Advisory Board’s Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award.

Happy to be back to teaching in person again, Dr. Altıok takes special pride in having incorporated in her Gender & Globalization course community-engaged learning. She is most proud of her students who conducted research and interviews, and fundraised in support of Opening Doors International Services, a local community organization that serves low-income immigrants and refugees.

Dr. Altıok is also engaged in feminist advocacy across borders. Her recent public writing (in English and Turkish) and invited talks highlight Turkey’s unlawful withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, and the important work of the Women’s Platform for Equality (ESIK). In August, just before the academic year began (!), she helped organize international meetings in solidarity with women of Afghanistan that brought together hundreds across five continents, and remains active in global networks of solidarity.

Dr. Ziaee

Dr. Armaghan Ziaee

Dr. Özlem Altıok
By the end of November 2021, the book Dr. Ahmed co-authored, *The Routledge Handbook of Development and Environment*, will be published. He and Dr. Chatterjee published three issues of the *Journal of Human Geography*, including special issues on Friedrich Engels and Geography & Spaces of Palestinian Solidarity. The Institute of Human Geography, who owns the *Journal of Human Geography*, and Dr. Ahmed have given out more than US$ 162,000 as grants to faculty and graduate students.

In 2021 Dr. Breuning had two papers published that she co-authored: "Anxiety on the Onset of COVID-19: Examining Concerns of Historically Excluded Scholars," and "the Great Equalizer? Gender, Parenting, and Scholarly Productivity During the Global Pandemic". Dr. Breuning and the other three authors knew each other from the Women’s Caucus of the International Studies Association and began to work together during the pandemic.

On this, Dr. Breuning said, "As we worked on the project, we became more than just colleagues with compatible interests, we became friends, and we all found that this friendship was an important part of coping with the isolation that the pandemic imposed on us."

This year Dr. Chatterjee published "The Alt-Right Movement: Dissecting Racism, Patriarchy, and Anti-Immigrant Xenophobia". In her own words, "This book explores how the Alt-Right views its own identity, what kind of identity violations it claims to address? Who they identify as 'others'? [It] argues that what makes acceptable differences distinct from unacceptable differences (patriarchy, racism, classism, imperialism) is the history of exploitation." For her work, Dr. Chatterjee won the 2021 Excellence in Book Production from the Federation of Indian Publishers.
Although on faculty development leave, Dr. Pomerleau was busy this semester! He is half way through drafting his book manuscript, "A Consecrated Life in Her Times." In October he gave an invited lecture called "Out and Outed in U.S. LGBTQ+ History" for Tarrant County College's National Coming Out Day.

In November he lectured on "Ethical Vegetarianism and the Theosophical Society" for an invited lecture at Gonzaga University. He also organized a roundtable for the NWSA about teaching LGBTQ+ Studies using the first peer-reviewed, free online open access textbook, "LGBTQ+ Studies: An Open Textbook".

Dr. Pomerleau

In the Spring of 2021 Dr. Rachel Louise Moran became a tenured professor! She had two articles published. The first was "A Women’s Health Issue?: Framing Post-Abortion Syndrome in the 1980s", published in the *Journal of Gender and History*. The second "Gender, Sexuality, and the State", was co-authored with Jennifer Mittelstadt and published in the *Companion to American Women’s History*.

Dr. Moran

Dr. English's work "Is it a four-star movement? Policy transformation and the U.S. women's national soccer team's campaign for equal pay" was published by *Social Science Quarterly*. The piece uses policy, players' personal statements regarding wages, and Congress members' speeches to analyze the fight for equal pay.

Dr. English

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Dr. Cox

Dr. Cox's article, "Merging the Personal and Academic for Greater Learning: A Successful Assignment" is soon to be published in *Feminist Pedagogy*. Dr. Cox's article, in her own words, "... explains how I was able to create an assignment that allowed students to merge the academic and the personal, to provide opportunities for higher forms of learning and deeper understandings."

Dr. Rachel Moran

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Dr. Moran
The Women's and Gender Studies program at UNT promotes teaching, research, and outreach with a critical focus aimed at interrogating gender-related stereotypes, especially as our identities intersect with sexuality, race, and ethnicity in a global context. Our program's interdisciplinary scholarship supports and sustains campus-wide discussions in areas including, but not limited to: global contexts, feminist approaches, women's social movements, feminist activism, and explorations of the connections among gender, class, ethnicity and race in social and cultural constructs.