

women's & gender studies

womensstudies.unt.edu

Spring 2018 Newsletter

A Note from Professor Alicia Re Cruz, Program Director

Greetings from the WGST tower at UNT!

As the spring semester comes to a close, we are very proud to share WGST's major accomplishments of during the 2017-18 academic year. It has been a busy, innovative and adventurous year with quite a few milestones in our efforts to play a central role in the academic, activist and communally engaged life of our institution. In many ways, this was an inaugural year for the program: the first of my role as permanent director and the first of our MA in WGST, which has a deep commitment to social justice embedded in a curriculum focused on scholarly, creative and action-based research.

Additionally, in an effort to engage our affiliated faculty community and to bring awareness of the interdisciplinary richness in our program to our students, we created a lecture series, *Speaking of Intersections: Accents and Actions in Women's & Gender Studies*. The goal of this series is to showcase an affiliated faculty member's particular discipline each semester. We kicked off this series with Dr. Jara Carrington and Dr. Jamie Johnson, who provided an extraordinary presentation on Anthropology through their innovative research.

Collaborations with departments and programs at UNT resulted in a great variety of organized events and co-sponsorships. These events not only allowed WGST to establish a rapport with other disciplines, programs and groups, but also enabled students from outside WGST to learn about our program. In particular, I would like to highlight the tripartite celebration for Women's History Month, which focused on grassroots activism. With the Multicultural Center and Pride Alliance, we organized a program that started with a tabling event where UNT students shared what activism meant to them. Then we hosted a panel of local leaders representing the African-American community of Southeast Denton, descendants of Quakertown (Mrs. Clark and Mrs. Cole), the Latinx community (Lilyan Prado), and the LGBTQ community (Kat Ralph). These events revealed just how much our UNT student community need to know about our local activists and community organizers! The tabling event and the panel presentation were the preamble to receive and honor Dolores Huerta, an icon of social transformative activism in this country, who presented the documentary *Dolores* and invigorated a packed Lyceum with the power of "Si se puede!"

With joy, we have noticed an increase in students and faculty coming to our tower. And although our office is windowless and hidden on the 4th floor, we would love for you to continue to visit us and share your feedback and comments.



CONGRATULATIONS! Dr. Sandra Spencer is now an Emerita Director of WGST!!

At its meeting in November 2017, the UNT Board of Regents approved Dr. Spencer's emerita status. This designation recognizes her many years of distinguished service to the University of North Texas and the Women's & Gender Studies Program.



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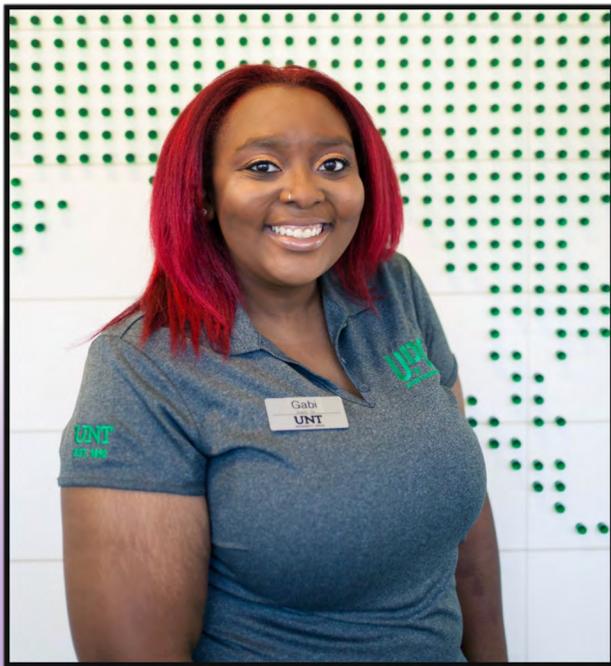
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UNT
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OF NORTH TEXAS

2018-2019 Student Ambassadors

Kalin Elizabeth LaPlace

Kalin Elizabeth LaPlace is an Anthropology major and a Women's and Gender Studies minor. Her main scholarly focus is on cultural anthropology and how culture affects identity, status, and expectations in society. Kalin plans on going to graduate school and continuing in either anthropology or women's and gender studies. When she's not reading stuff for school, she is either working (at Lush or at the UNT Applied Arts and Sciences Program's front desk), playing video games, or watching *Judge Judy* or *The Office*.



Gabi Ramdhanny

Gabi Ramdhanny is a Journalism/Public Relations major and a Women's and Gender Studies minor. She spent the 2017-2018 year as Education Coordinator for UNT's University Program Council, coordinating events that improve awareness throughout campus.

Undergrad Spotlight

UNT Honors Day Recipient: Ariantze Otto, Outstanding WGST Activist Award

Nominated by: Kristin Alder



Ariantze Otto is a junior English major. Being a Women's and Gender Studies minor has impacted her beyond the classroom. "It has become a way of life, a frame of mind" she says, one that has filled her with a "consuming need for social [and] political education and participation." While at UNT, Ariantze has reached far beyond her comfort zone and engaged in a myriad of causes that have helped her develop as a formidable activist. She has been active in the fight to remove the Confederate monument from Denton's downtown, taking part in not only demonstrations at the monument itself, but also attending public forums and the Commissioner's Court addressing the issue. Active in Planned Parenthood fundraising, the Women's March, the March for Gun Control, Denton Transgender Day of Remembrance, SB4 and DACA advocacy, LGBTQ+ issues, and repro-

ductive justice issues,

Ariantze is a strong believer in everyday resistance and reaches out to call or write government representatives daily while also working on the campaigns of local candidates. She works to engage others in the process, acting as a voter registrar and educating potential voters on the importance of voting. While engaging her passions in these varied issues, she continually addresses her own privileges and oppressions while stressing the importance of a continued focus on education, intersectionality, and systemic oppression.

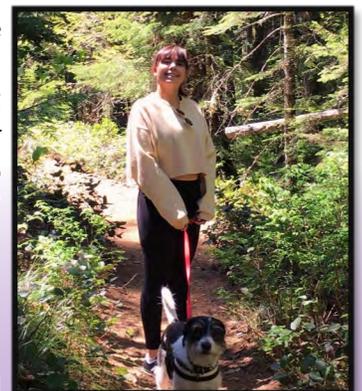
UNT Honors Day Recipient: Erica Lett, Outstanding WGST Scholar Award

Nominated by: Dr. Özlem Altıok

Erica Lett is a Sociology major and Women's & Gender Studies minor. She transferred to UNT last semester, and so far has taken "Race, Class, Gender, and Ethnicity" and "Gender and Society." She has a GPA of 3.75 right now. This semester Erica is enrolled in both my seminar style class, "Gender and Sustainable Development" and my online class, "Introduction to WGST." In addition, she is taking "History of Women in the U.S. since 1900." I think it is safe to say that she has a scholarly interest in gender!

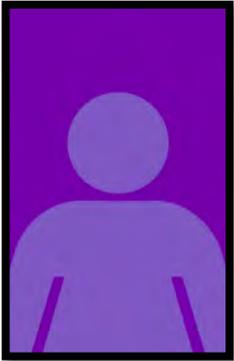
After graduation, Erica is hoping to attend graduate school studying sociology (but who knows, perhaps she will first pursue a master's in WGST!). She wants to work in a non-profit organization such as Planned Parenthood or another women's health/rights organization. Increasing the exposure people have to women's health and women's rights is one of her main goals moving forward.

Erica is also a budding activist having taken part in the Women's March in Austin in January of 2017, and some pride parades. Though she is not sure whether that counts as "activism", I am sure it does. I look forward to seeing Erica's scholarly and activist interests grow and support one another.



Affiliated Faculty Highlights

We would like to introduce and welcome our new Affiliated Faculty members to the WGST community!



Dr. Regina Branton, Department of Political Science

Dr. Branton is a Professor in the Department of Political Science, and a member of the LMAS Executive Board at UNT. Her research examines the behavioral, electoral, and institutional implications of race and ethnicity. It is tied together by the intrinsic interest in determining when and how race and ethnicity plays a role in American politics. It extends the existing research by broadening the focus to include multiple racial and ethnic groups. Further, it bridges the gap between the minority politics literature and general political science literature by incorporating theoretical and methodological approaches from both areas of research.



Dr. Jara Carrington, Department of Anthropology

Jara M. Carrington is a Lecturer in the Department of Anthropology. Jara's teaching and research interests focus on the intersections of gender, sexuality, and race; migration and citizenship; and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and social movements in the United States.

How did you become involved with the Women's & Gender Studies Program?

I gave a presentation as part of the "Speaking of Intersections: Accents and Actions in Women's & Gender Studies" lecture series, and through my connection to Dr. Alicia Re Cruz. Also, I taught Gender Studies class before at Monmouth University in New Jersey.

How does any of your current research use gender as an analytical lens?

My approach to gender is founded on a robust understanding of intersectionality as a theory and a method. I understand gender as culturally constructed in and through normative hierarchies of race, sexuality, class, religion, nationality, and immigration status. For instance, I have recently begun a new oral histories research project with Latinx LGBTQ communities in North Texas. In this project, individual narratives reveal the ways that gender identity and presentation in the southern United States are intricately connected to other embodied forms of social difference.

Tell us a little bit about your educational background, especially anything that pertains to women or gender.

Working at UNT is a bit of a homecoming for me—I received my PhD in Anthropology at the University of New Mexico, but I also hold a BA in Psychology and a MA in Applied Anthropology from the University of North Texas. As a graduate student, I completed coursework in Women's and Gender Studies, and used the perspectives and methods I learned to formulate and conduct my dissertation research.

Affiliated Faculty Highlights

Our affiliates have been staying busy! Here are some notable accomplishments...



Dr. Tracy Everbach, School of Journalism

- Published edited book, *Mediating Misogyny: Gender, Technology and Harassment* with Dr. Jacqueline Vickery of UNT's Department of Media Arts



Dr. Kate Imy, Department of History

- Presented her research at the Southern Conference of British Studies and the Modern British Studies colloquium in the United Kingdom.
- Organized a successful panel on "War and Society: New Approaches and Directions" at the Western Association of Women Historians' annual meeting.
- Coordinated a mentoring group consisting of WGST, History, Anthropology, LMAS, and English faculty around the theme of "Borderlands and Migrations." As part of this, she gave a seminar talk, entitled "Soldiers at the Borderlands," about her research. This mentoring group also hosted a successful Junior Faculty Series with talks by assistant professors from History, Anthropology, and Spanish. The group hosted Cynthia Bejarano (NMSU) and Junaid Rana (Illinois) for talks on campus.
- Traveled to Denver to receive "10 under 10" award from MSUD, which honors the top 10 alumni from the past 10 years.



Dr. Nada Shabout, Department of Art History

- Presented with UNT's Presidential Excellency Faculty Award for 2018.
- Co-edited book, *Modern Art in the Arab World: Primary Documents*.
- Received a 2018 grant from The Creative Capital | Warhol Foundation Arts Writers Grant Program
- Awarded The Crow Collection of Asian Art's Achievement in Asian Arts and Culture Award (2017)

Event Snapshots

WGST has stayed involved and active in the community, hosting and co-sponsoring various events on campus.



Event Snapshots

WGST has stayed involved and active in the community, hosting and co-sponsoring various events on campus.

Medieval and Renaissance Colloquium
Distinguished Lecture

**Shakespeare, Race, and Performance:
What We Still Don't Know**

Ayanna Thompson
Professor of English
George Washington University



Thursday, October 5, 3:30
Wooten 322

Department of English | UNT | Women's and Gender Studies

Sponsored by the Department of History, Office of Faculty Success, & Faculty Mentoring Network in Borders and Migrations Presents:

Cynthia Bejarano

"No al Muro: Counternarratives from the Border Against Violence and Hate"

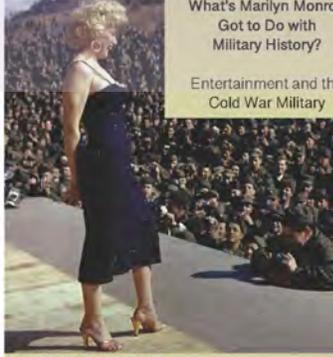
Cynthia Bejarano is a Regents Professor in the Department of Interdisciplinary Studies at New Mexico State University. She is the author of "Sin Onda? Urban Youth Cultures and Border Identity" (Arizona, 2005) and co-editor of "Terra Using Women: A Cartography of Feminicide in the Americas" (Duke, 2010).



April 13th 2018
12:30PM-2PM Terrill Hall 121
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Special Thanks to the Women's and Gender Studies Program

What's Marilyn Monroe Got to Do with Military History?

Entertainment and the Cold War Military



Dr. Kara Dixon Vuic
Lt.Col. Benjamin W. Schmidt Professor of War, Conflict, and Society in Twentieth-Century America, Texas Christian University

BLB 040 – 9:30am – Tuesday, March 20

Celebrate Women's History Month with UNT's Department of History and Women's and Gender Studies Program

April 3rd, 2018
Film Screening / Q & A
with Dolores Huerta
6 - 8 pm
Union Lyceum

A CARLOS SANTANA PRODUCTION & PETER BRATT FILM

DOLORES
REBEL. ACTIVIST. FEMINIST. MOTHER.

Sponsors:
Latino Mexican American Studies
Multicultural Center
Women's & Gender Studies
Department of Political Science
Department of Anthropology
Division of Institutional Equity & Diversity
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences




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**SPEAKING OF INTERSECTIONS:
CENTS AND ACTIONS IN WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES**
Towards a Lingua Franca: Engaging Conversations
in Gender Studies and Anthropology

LECTURE BY: Dr. Jara Carrington and Dr. Jamie Johnson

It will explore the convergences and emergences between cultural anthropology and gender studies. In particular, presenters will consider how a rich array of objects of research in each discipline can be used to more richly explain the processes of work in the production of social worlds. Presenters will exemplify from their own research, teaching of the intersections of these fields to demonstrate how interdisciplinary approaches connect macro-level cultural issues and micro-level lived experience.

Tuesday, Feb 20, 2018
3pm-5pm (reception to follow)
Union 2 & 382



1890 | UNT

femflicks
BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN

ALL SCREENINGS WILL BE IN THE WILLS LIBRARY FORUM AT NOON. BRING YOUR LUNCH!

KIKI
In New York City, LGBTQ youth of color gather to provide the performance-based art form Ballroom, which was made famous in the early 1990s by Madonna's music video "Vogue" and the film "Paris is Burning".

FEBRUARY 20TH

ANITA
This film follows the attacks that Anita Hill faces on her way to Supreme Court confirmation. It explores the gender-based discrimination in the workplace and the impact of the Supreme Court's decision on Anita Hill's life.

MARCH 21ST

UNSLUT
Featuring the stories of six women who experienced sexual assault, as well as insights from assault experts and media figures, *Unslut* explores the causes and effects of what is often called "rape culture," sexual harassment, and gender-based discrimination in North America.

APRIL 18TH

APRIL 10TH, 2018

STEPHANIE ELIZONDO GRIEST

PRESENTING ON HER NEW BOOK
ALL THE AGENTS AND SAINTS:
DISPATCHES FROM THE U.S. BORDERLANDS

5:30 - 7PM
LANGUAGE BUILDING 310
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

Sponsored by the Department of English, American Studies Colloquium, and Women's and Gender Studies



IT'S CRIMINAL
— A TALE OF PRISON AND PRIVILEGE —

FREE Screening @ UNT Gateway Center 43/47
Wednesday, March 7 @ 7:00PM
Presented by the American Studies Colloquium and the UNT English Department and the UNT Women's and Gender Studies Program




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Writing and Beyond in Indigenous North America:
The Occom Network

3:30pm, Wednesday, March 7, 2018; LANG 316

Dr. Ivy Schweitzer, Dartmouth College

Dr. Schweitzer specializes in American literature, especially early American novels, women's literature and culture, and feminist theory. She also works in digital humanities and public humanities. She is author of *The Occom Circle*, a digital edition of documents by and about 18th-century Mohegan writer and orator Sassamon Occom. Dr. Schweitzer is currently working on a second book about the year 1842 in the life and poetry of Emily Dickinson. *It's Criminal: A Tale of Prison and Privilege* is a full-length first book about the justice she teaches in and about the first and second female in our country to be sentenced to life in prison for a crime she did not commit.



women's & gender studies

OPEN HOUSE

THURS, SEPT. 28, 2017
1000-2:30PM
GRB 467

MEET AND TROUBLE WITH WGST FACULTY, AFFILIATED FACULTY, STAFF, & STUDENTS
A LIGHT LUNCH BUFFET WILL BE PROVIDED

Please RSVP to openhouse@unt.edu to help us plan enough refreshments for everyone!

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WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2018

03.22
TABLING
LIBRARY MALL
11AM-2PM

3.28
COMMUNITY PANEL
UNION 382
6PM-8PM



SEEKING A SAFE HAVEN: UNT REFUGEE SUMMIT
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY CONVERSATION

Featuring a film, a panel discussion, and a keynote address presented through a panel conversation with the Council on Social Work Education, members of UNT's Council on International Programs, including UNT's Anthropology, History and History, Women's and Gender Studies, Latinx and Latino American Studies, International Studies, Peace Studies, Political Science, UNT's Student Park, the College of Health and Public Affairs, as well as several UNT student organizations (Asian Student Society, Muslim 170, Social Work Student Association, Student Government, International and Latino Student Organizations) in North Texas.

Monday, October 2, 2017 | Room - 300
Student Union Building at UNT | Room 314
1355 Union Circle, Denton, TX 76201

9:00-9:30 am	Continental Breakfast & Check-in
9:30-10:00 am	Keynote: Social Work Department Chair
10:00-10:30 am	Keynote: Executive Director, Center for the Study of the Americas, UNT
10:30-11:00 am	Screening of Video from the Interview with refugees and panelists
11:00-11:30 am	Panel: The Refugee Journey
11:30-12:00 pm	Lunch Keynote Speaker: Assistant Dean, UNT's Law Center
12:00-12:30 pm	Panel: Refugee Service Providers
12:30-1:00 pm	Panel: Scholarship on Refugee and Displacement
1:00-1:30 pm	World Café
1:30-2:00 pm	Networking Reception



WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES



Who we are...



Dr. Alicia Re Cruz,
Program Director



Dr. Özlem Altıok,
Senior Lecturer



Kristin Alder,
Adjunct Instructor



Maia Cudhea,
Adjunct Instructor



Jennifer Aglio,
Program Coordinator



Emilia Capuchino,
Student Assistant

Phone: 940-565-2098

P.O. Box 305097

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What we do...

The mission of the Women's and Gender Studies program at UNT promotes teaching, research, and outreach with a critical analytical 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. Students in Women's & Gender Studies may interact with more than 40 members of the Women's & Gender Studies affiliated faculty, expanding understandings of gender differences, cultural diversity, and social changes while strengthening critical thinking and communication skills.

