

## WGSS Department News

**December 2020**, Read Jennifer Itzkin's (BA '20) [interview](#) with the College of Arts & Sciences on her experiences as an undergraduate in our department. Check out our [Twitter post!](#) [#WGSSGraduation2020](#).

**December 2020**, Congratulations to our very own WGSS doctoral candidate, [Val Moyer](#), who has received a research grant from [Surveillance Studies Network](#) (SSN) for her work on "Hormonal Surveillance in Women's Athletics."

**November 2020**, Check out our [WGSS Fall 2020 Newsletter!](#)

**October 2020**, Brooklogue is here! [sbrooklogue.com](#) is a new **Undergraduate Journal for Humanities & Social Sciences for SB students of all majors**. Founded by our very own WST BA, Sophia Garbarino. Check out the [Upcoming Submissions Contest](#). Deadline is Nov. 30th!

**August 2020**, We are thrilled to announce that our very own doctoral candidate, Yalda Hamidi, has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of Gender & Women's Studies at Minnesota State University Mankato. [Check out her faculty bio!](#) Congratulations, Yalda! We are so proud!

**June 2020**, WGSS professor, [Mary Jo Bona](#), is the 2020 recipient of the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Faculty Service - a great, big congratulations to MJ!

**June 2020**, Congrats to WGSS PhD student [Hafza Girdap](#) on her recent publication: "[Human Rights, Conflicts, and Dislocation: The Case of Turkey in a Global Spectrum](#)" in the American Journal of Qualitative Research.

**April 2020**, [Dr. Joy Schaefer](#) completed the WGSS Graduate Certificate while finishing her PhD in Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies. She just accepted a position as Senior Lecturer of Critical Media Studies at [Lawrence Technological University](#). Congrats, Joy!!

**March 2020**, Check out Doctoral Candidate in Sociology and WGSS Certificate Student, Helena Darwin's new publication in *Gender & Society* - [Challenging the Cisgender/ Transgender Binary: Nonbinary People and the Transgender Label](#) - Congrats, Helena!

**January 2020**, Check out the [WGSS Spring 2020 Newsletter!](#) Includes Commencement Highlights with invited graduation speaker, Rose Berktaş, Undergraduate Alumni in the Spotlight (Maureen Ahmed '11 and Sophia Pierre-Antoine '13), Interview with New Faculty, Cristina Khan, and more!

**November 2019**, WGSS PhD Student, [Shruti Mukherjee](#) authors an article for Social Epistemology: A Journal of Knowledge, Culture and Policy - [Gendered Embodiment of the Ethnographer during Fieldwork in a Conflict Regi](#)

**January 2019**, Congratulations to PhD student, [Shruti Mukherjee](#), on her recent collaborative work, "Geographies of Occupation in South Asia." South Asian feminists rethinking nation-states through the lens of occupation.

**December 2019**, Congratulations to all of our WGSS graduates! Check out this [great piece](#) on one of our outstanding graduating majors, Olivia Garrison! *"Each day, my WGSS courses left me feeling empowered, and more importantly, like I was learning something worthwhile."* Congrats, Olivia - we are so proud of you!

**November 2019**, PhD Student, [Val Moyer](#), has received a Guiliano Global Fellowship from Stony Brook to support her travel to the Olympic Studies Centre in Switzerland where she will do ethnographic and archival work for a dissertation chapter on "Regulating Hormones in International Women's Track and Field." Congrats, Val!

**September 2019**, WGSS welcomes its newest faculty member, Dr. Cristina Khan! Cristina received her PhD in Sociology with a graduate certificate in Feminist Studies from the University of Connecticut in 2019. Her research and teaching interests include: feminist methodologies, sexualities, race/ethnic studies, body/embodiment, Latina/o/x studies, qualitative methods, sex work, and women of color feminisms. **Get to know Cristina by reading more here!** Read Cristina's publication: [Constructing Eroticized Latinidad: Negotiating Profitability in the Stripping Industry](#) in Gender & Society.

**July 2019**, Check out this informative op-ed by WGSS PhD student, Val Moyer: "[Threatening the Gender Hierarchy in Women's Sport](#)" published in Nursing Clio. Nursing Clio is an open access, peer-reviewed, collaborative blog project that ties historical scholarship to present-day issues related to gender and medicine.

**May 2019**, Rachel Corbman's dissertation, "Conferencing on the Edge: A Queer History of Feminist Field Formation, 1969-89," was selected as a finalist for the ASA's Ralph Henry Gabriel Prize! Congrats, Rachel!

**May 2019**, WGSS celebrates its very first PhD graduate, Rachel Corbman! Rachel successfully defended her thesis, "Conferencing on the Edge: A Queer History of Feminist Field Formation, 1969-1989" and accepted a position as [Visiting Assistant Professor at Wake Forest University](#) - congrats, Rachel!

**April 2019**, Professor Lisa Diedrich is awarded the 2019 Outstanding Provost's Mentor Award. Congratulations, Lisa!

**April 2019**, Congrats to Disability Studies Certificate holder and WGSS Doctoral Student, Andy Eicher, for earning a prestigious AHLSS Graduate Fellowship for 2019-2020.

**March 2019,** Congratulations to Stephanie Bonvissuto on her recently published co-authored article, "[Personal and Collective Trans-Mythologies: Creative Attitudes to Gender Incongruance Among Transgender Individuals](#) " appearing in Creativity Studies Journal.

**January, 2019** WGSS graduate student Rachel Corbman's article entitled, "Does Queer Studies Have an Anti-Empiricism Problem?" is published in GLQ Journal.[Article details here.](#)

**January 2019,** Check out this new article by WGSS professor Lisa Diedrich -"[Being-becoming-monster: Mirrors and Mirroring in Graphic Frankenstein Narratives](#)"published in Literature and Medicine.

**January, 2019** WGSS graduate students Alexandra Novitskaya and Rachel Corbman have their work published in the [Global Encyclopedia of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer \(LGBTQ\) History](#). Congratulations Alex & Rachel!

**January 2019,** WGSS associate professor, Ritch Calvin, weighs in on the new [Gillette ad](#) and its controversial message regarding masculinity in this [recently published Newsday article](#).

**December 2018,** WGSS associate professor Liz Montegary's book, [Familiar Perversions](#), has been named 2018 Outstanding Academic Title by the American Library Association Choice magazine. The book is declared "an indispensable text for all librarians" - congratulations, Liz!

**October 2018,** A statement of Solidarity with Trans People put together by the WGSS Graduate Students: [#WontBeErased](#) WGSS invites graduate students, undergraduates, faculty, and staff across the university to read our statement below, and sign as a statement of solidarity and support, and to elicit a response from the university administration. [Click here to add your name. View the Full Statement Here](#)

**September 2018,** Congratulations to WGSS PhD student, Rachel Corbman, for receiving two Mellon Fellowships and a Smithsonian Travel Award for her work on the history of feminist & queer social movements in the U.S. Stay tuned for an up-close interview to come out next from the College of Arts & Sciences. Way to go, Rachel!

**September 2018,** WGSS celebrates PhD student, Yalda Hamidi, for earning a certificate of recognition from Stony Brook University's LGBTQ Services for outstanding contributions in mentoring students. Congratulations, Yalda!

**September 2018, A statement from the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies:** In light of recent conversations about sexual harassment and emotional exploitation in academia, we, the faculty in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Stony Brook University, are reflecting on our own evolving practices and on our role as feminist advocates on our campus. We would like to take this opportunity to share our thoughts on these pressing issues.

**Addressing Sexual Misconduct:** The formal mechanisms in place at our institution and at universities across the country address sexual misconduct and hostile working environments in extremely restricted and unsatisfying ways. In response we have been working and will continue to work with our colleagues across the university to advocate for the strengthening of existing mechanisms, to make information about these policies more accessible and transparent, and to facilitate campus conversations about power imbalances in the academy. We are also working to create a departmental culture where survivors feel supported, where staff, faculty, and students trust that their questions and complaints will be heard, and where we can collectively explore alternative options beyond official institutional processes.

**Flexible Guidelines for Mentoring Relationships:** We are working to formalize our advisory practices for core and affiliate faculty as a way of reducing potential harm to graduate students. We will publicize general guidelines for what constitutes a generative and mutually rewarding mentoring relationship, and we will now be using templates for developing individualized agreements between faculty and their graduate students and teaching assistants on reasonable expectations and responsibilities as mentors and mentees. Additionally, we continue to support graduate student labor organizing, and we will seek input from the Graduate Student Employee Union at Stony Brook as we refine our policies and practices around graduate mentorship and employment.

**August 2018,** A statement from Mary Jo Bona, Department Chair, on behalf of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department: "I want to assure graduate students that we as a department support you and recognize how upset you might be regarding recently published information on sociology professor, Michael Kimmel. Should you have any further concerns or should you require more information regarding personnel matters in a confidential setting, I direct you to the [Offices of Title IX and Institutional Diversity and Equity](#)."

**July 2018,** Alumni news! WGSS alumnus Nicki Loder is presenting a paper at the Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association. Nicki finished her BA in 2017, and is currently in a MLS program at St. Johns University. Her paper is titled "Diversity and Stereotypes: Non-Human Characters in Children's Literature." Congratulations, Nicki!

**May 2018,** "It was only a matter of time"- Mother-Daughter Duo Graduate with Class of 2018. Anastasia Roura (BA in Women's and Gender Studies) and her mother, Helena Roura (BA in Anthropology and Sociology), graduated together, and we congratulate them both! [Read more about their story here.](#)

**May 2018,** Congratulations to several WGSS PhD students featured in the Celebration of Success event hosted by the Graduate School. Accomplishments include: Rachel Corbman received a 2018-2019 Mellon Public Humanities Fellowship from Humanities New York; a 2018-2019 Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship in Women's History from the New-York Historical Society; and a CLAGS fellowship for a dissertation, first book, or second book in LGBTQ Studies. Rachel also received an honorable mention for the Gregory Sprague Prize,

awarded by the AHA's Committee on LGBT History. **Yalda Hamidi** was accepted into the Iran Student Workshop at the University of Pennsylvania in May 2018, while Alexandra Novitskaya was accepted into "The Eurasian Migration System: A Sponsored Summer Workshop for Researchers" at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in June 2018. **Congratulations Rachel, Yalda, and Alex!**

**May 2018**, Current WGSS MA student Joie Meier was just accepted into the PhD program in Gender Studies at Indiana University Bloomington. Congratulations, Joie!!

**April 2018**, WGSS had seven outstanding undergraduate students participate in the URECA celebration held on Wednesday, April 25th. WGSS students included, Nicole Grima, Serra Izmirligil, Nicole Lado, Paulina Micek, Maylene Navarra, Brianna Rodriguez, and Genevieve Ruzicka. Congratulations to all participants. [Click here to view the full program.](#)

**April 2018**, Undergraduate Recognition Awards for Academic Excellence, Congratulations to WST majors Nicole Lado and Brianna Rodriguez for receiving Undergraduate Recognition Awards for Academic Excellence. Awards for Academic Excellence are given for academic accomplishments that go beyond the classroom experience. [Find out more about the awards here.](#)

**March 2018, Celebrate Women's History Month!** Stony Brook University salutes Women's History Month with educational and social programs that commemorate the historical achievements of women and address the contemporary issues that affect them. Cheryl Chambers, Associate Dean for Multicultural Affairs, assembles Stony Brook's first Women's History Month committee to help facilitate and communicate the array of educational, cultural, social, and community-building programs offered throughout the month.

**March 2018, Stony Brook's brand new LGBTQ\* Center is now open!** The LGBTQ\* Center, creates an open and inclusive environment for LGBTQ\* people in the Stony Brook community interested in finding community, developing their understanding of LGBTQ\* issues, and seeking support or advocacy for their needs. A 1,967 square-foot, the Center includes a multipurpose lounge, a fully functional collaborative learning area (CoLA) featuring state of the art technology for students to utilize, and a spacious conference workroom. The Center is open for all in the Stony Brook community to come and relax, meet up with friends, study, and engage in a wide range of discussions. The LGBTQ\* Center is the most recent addition to the Stony Brook University campus. It is the latest of several initiatives created by the University to support LGBTQ\* communities, including the adoption of the Preferred or Chosen Name Policy (P400), the addition of all-gender restrooms, and the creation of more gender-inclusive housing options on campus. [More information on the Center can be found here.](#)

**February 2018, SBU Statesman article addresses the topic of sexual harassment in academia in response to the #MeToo movement.** WGSS faculty members Vicky Hesford and Teri Tiso share their thoughts, along with many other SB faculty members. [Read the full article here.](#)

**January 2018, The WGSS Department would like to officially congratulate and welcome Nicole Lado as our first department ambassador!** Nicole will be doing important work, including promoting the WGSS program on campus and beyond, and building a community among WST majors, minors and other WGSS allies at Stony Brook. Over the course of the Spring 2018 semester, Nicole will be involved in planning social events and discussion groups for current WST majors/minors, managing WGSS social media accounts, building our alumni database and tracking our students post-Stony Brook, serving as a liaison between our department and feminist or LGBTQ-focused campus groups, and helping to promote and recruit the WGSS program to prospective students. We are so excited to have Nicole with us!

**December 2017, Congratulations to our December 2017 graduates:** Giselle Hill, Jenna Martuscello, Joseph Seck, Jennifer Calix, and Moyse Romane!

**November 2017, WGSS major Nicole Lado is honored with an Academic Achievement Award** for having completed four semesters with a 4.0 GPA. Congratulations, Nicole!

**November 2017, Grace Drewes, B.A. in Women's and Gender Studies and Political Science ('13) has accepted a position as Administrative Business Partner for Google's Policy Team in Washington, D.C.** While at Stony Brook, she served as the Vice President of the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, a Teaching Assistant for Professor Hesford's "Sexual Citizens" course, and a member of the co-ed a capella group on campus, The Stony Brook Vocalists. Grace also spent a semester abroad in Florence, Italy studying globalization and European politics, while also interning with Oxfam Italia. After Grace graduated from Stony Brook, she went on to intern for Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone and Democratic Leader Charles Schumer. A year after the internship ended, Grace was offered a position for the Leader as Deputy Scheduler in his NYC office.

**October 2017, Professor Lisa Diedrich (WGSS) and Assistant Professor Benjamin Tausig (Music) author a New York Times Op-Ed entitled, "Mysterious Sounds and Scary Illnesses as Political Tools."** [Read the full article here.](#)

**October 2017, WGSS Professor Teri Tiso is honored with the "MVP" - Most Valuable Professor award by student-athletes.** Teri will be honored live on the field at an upcoming football game, and receive a gift bag from Stony Brook Athletics and King O'Rourke auto dealership. Congrats, Teri!

**September 2017, "A Prescription for Nutrition - Researchers Promote Food to Improve Health."** Former WGSS student, Aron O'Donnell, along with members of UC San Francisco's Division of HIV, Infectious Diseases & Global Medicine are working to increase the understanding of food insecurity, poor health, and chronic diseases like HIV and Type 2 diabetes. The team will be in New York from October 3 - 18th providing presentations at request on this topic. [Read more about UCSF's team here.](#)

September 2017, From SBU to CNN - Journalist Tanzina Vega ('96) is interviewed for the alumni spotlight feature of [Stony Brook Matters](#). Tanzina, a WST minor, credits her women's studies seminar course in her senior year as her most important class: "One of my fondest memories at Stony Brook and perhaps the most important class I took was a women's studies seminar in my senior year, where we had to defend a thesis in which we attempted to solve a problem affecting women," she said. I chose an issue that was close to my community — teenage pregnancy among low-income women of color. I spent an entire semester conducting interviews, doing research and coming up with creative and holistic solutions to a very real problem. That experience prepared me for delving deep into complex societal issues, an important and fundamental skill that journalists need." [Read the entire interview here.](#)

September 2017, WGSS PhD student, Rachel Corbman, has been awarded a 2017 CLAGS (Center for LGBTQ Studies) Award. The award was given for Rachel's dissertation project, "Conferencing on the Edge: A Queer History of Feminist Field Formation, 1969-1989," and comes with an honorarium of \$2,000. She will be presenting her work at CLAGS--information on time and date to come. Congratulations, Rachel!

September 2017, Ashley Barry is a double major in English and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, who participated in the 2017 URECA Summer research program. Her senior thesis project on "Feminine Fear: Affect Theory and Horror Films in the Twenty-first Century" developed out of a paper Ashley wrote for a class on Transnational Feminism taught by Prof. Joy Schaefer where Ashley analyzed the film, *The Babadook*. For her senior thesis, supervised by Prof. Justin Johnson (English Department), Ashley plans to focus on four 21st Century films: *The Babadook*, *The Witch*, *Antichrist*, and *Dark Water*, analyzing them through the lens of Affect Theory.

Last April, Ashley presented at the SUNY Undergraduate Research Conference /SURC East at Suffolk County Community College, on "Teaching Hatchet and Masculinity." This fall, she will be taking a graduate seminar class with Prof. Susan Scheckel (English Department), and plans to apply to Ph.D. programs in English/Women's Studies. Ashley is from Centereach NY, and is a first generation college student. For the full article, click [here](#).

September 2017, the WGSS department would like to highlight the achievements of several SBU alumni and their successful leadership roles in LGBTQ affairs in Higher Education. Lowell Kane was the founding director of the Pride Center at UT Austin, and is now the inaugural Director of the [Purdue University LGBTQ Center](#). Erin Furey is currently the Assistant Director of the [LGBTQA & Social Justice Center at Pace University](#). Chris Tanaka is the acting coordinator of [LGBTQ\\* Services here at Stony Brook University](#). We would like to congratulate all of our former students on their continued success and ongoing dedication to the field and helping others.

June 2017, WGSS graduate certificate student [Lisa Rosenthal](#) (PhD in Social and Health Psychology, Stony Brook University 2011) was just named a recipient of the George A. Miller Award for an Outstanding Recent Article on General Psychology by Division 1 (General Psychology) of the American Psychological Association. Lisa credits her coursework in WGSS for introducing her to the concept of intersectionality and for inspiring her areas of research. Lisa will give an invited address at the APA Convention in San Francisco in summer 2018. [Read Lisa's article.](#)

June 2017, WGSS Prof. Melissa M. Forbis is co-editing a special issue of *WSQ* on Protest. Here is the [call for papers](#).

June 2017, WGSS PhD student Rachel Corbman presented a paper, "To Theorize As a Queer Feminist?," at the triennial [Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders, and Sexualities](#).

May 2017, WGSS Prof. Liz Montegary, WGSS PhD student Andy Eicher, and WGSS certificate student Brent Smith-Casanueva are all presenting papers at the 2017 Cultural Studies Association conference on Culture in the Age of Mass Debt (and Dealing with Trump). The CSA conference is being held from May 25-27 at Georgetown University.

May 2017, Extra special graduation kudos to Emily Whearty who earned an MA in Women's, Gender, and Studies this semester! After launching an MA in 2014, Emily is the second graduate student in the history of Stony Brook to complete an MA in WGSS. Thus far, all our MA candidates have completed the program in two years. Emily's culminating thesis is titled "Animating Food: Analyzing Choice, Control, and Disability."

May 2017, Congratulations to the class of 2017! This year, WGSS graduated one MA student, eighteen majors, and twenty-one minors. During convocation, Shaniza Nizam was awarded the Activism and Excellence award; Carinna Emilo won the [Terry Alexander Award](#); and Masooma Kazmi and Matt Stern were acknowledged for their Academic Excellence. We hope all our students will keep in touch and send news and testimonials for the growing [alumni section](#) of our website!

May 2017, WGSS PhD students Rachel Corbman and Yalda Hamidi won this year's [Vivien Hartog Best Graduate Student Teacher Prize](#). Awarded annually in the memory of WGSS certificate student Vivien Hartog, the \$3000 award is given to the WGSS Ph.D. or certificate student who has not only received consistently high evaluations for their teaching, but has also demonstrated a strong commitment to social justice in and beyond the academy.

May 2017, Alex Novitskaya was awarded a GSO Travel award! The GSO travel awards are competitive awards that are given to graduate students who are presenting at prestigious international conferences in their area of research. Alex's award will allow her to attend the Queering Paradigms VIII Conference in Vienna this summer where she will present work on



transnational academic solidarity in the fields of post-socialist studies and queer studies.  
Congratulations, Alex!

May 2017, WGSS professors, graduate students, majors, and alumni- including Victoria Hesford, Liz Montegary, Rachel Corbman, Stephanie Bonvissuto, Shruti Vaidya, Val Moyer, Yalda Hamidi, Jxhn Martin and Genie Ruzicka- are all teaching classes this year in our annual May Day- Free University. See the [facebook event page](#) for the full schedule and more information.

April 2017, WGSS certificate student Michelle Ho (advisor: Victoria Hesford) has been awarded a 2017-2018 MIT Diversity Pre-Doctoral Fellowship. Congratulations, Michelle!

April 2017, Eight WGSS majors and minors are participating in Stony Brook's undergrad research conference URECA this year! Drop by on April 26 to hear about projects by Joshua Bravo, Carinna Emilio, Jillian Ferretti, Jenna Kalvig, Alyssa Meano, Arani Nirmalan, Joe Seck, and Kalie Smith.

April 2017, WGSS prof. Liz Montegary's article "[Cruising to Equality: Tourism, U.S. Homonationalism, and the Lesbian and Gay Family Market](#)" was included in a special issue of *WSQ on At Sea*, edited by Terri Gordon-Zolov and Amy Sodaro. Liz's article is about Rosie O'Donnell's gay family cruise and the production of gay and lesbian parents as consumer citizens. WGSS certificate student Sofia Varino's "[Aquapelagic Assemblages: Performing Urban Ecology with Harmattan Theater](#)" (with May Joseph) was included in the same issue! There will be a launch party for the issue on May 11 at the New School.

April 2017, WGSS PhD student Alexandra Novitskaya just published "[Patriotism, Sentiment, and Male Hysteria: Putin's Masculinity Politics and the Persecution Non-Heterosexual Russians](#)" in *Norma: International Journal for Masculinity Studies*. Congratulations, Alex!

April 2017, WGSS PhD student Allyse Knox-Russell has been awarded a [Humanities New York Public Humanities](#) Fellowship for 2017-18! Her project, an outgrowth of pilot studies with Long Island environmental education programs, will be the development and implementation of an environmental justice curriculum for youth summer programs in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

March 2017, Laura Abbasi-Lemmon, who completed her M.A. at Stony Brook in 2016, will be starting a Ph.D. program in Women's Studies at the University of Maryland in the Fall.  
Congratulations, Laura!

March 2017, WGSS doctoral candidate Rachel Corbman won a [Mary Lily Research Grant](#) from the Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture, as well as a [dissertation grant](#) from the Schlesinger Library! Both grants will support research for her dissertation "Conferencing on the Edge: A Queer History of Feminist Field Formation, 1969-1989."

March 2017, WGSS is one of the institutional co-sponsors of Duke's annual [Feminist Theory Workshop](#), which will help this year on March 24 and 25. WGSS offers [Vivien Hartog travel grants](#) to support the participation of Stony Brook grad students. This year, the Hartog awardees are Rachel Corbman, Allyse Knox-Russell, and Shruti Mukherjee. Check out photos of WGSS@SBU from [FTW](#).

March 2017, Nancy Tomes- distinguished professor of History and associated faculty of WGSS- was awarded [the Bancroft Prize for History](#) for her book *Remaking the American Patient* (2016)!

March 2017, WGSS Prof. Nancy Hiemstra contributed ["What Would You Do to Save Your Kids? The Outrage of Separating Immigrant Families at the Border"](#) to HuffPost.

March 2017, WGSS Prof. Melissa Forbis and PhD student Rachel Corbman are on the planning committee of an upcoming Interference Archive exhibition on ["Take Back the Fight: Resisting Sexual Violence from the Ground Up."](#) The exhibition will open on June 1, 2017.

February 2017, Ula Klein- SBU English Ph.D. and WGSS grad certificate alum- was profiled this month in the [faculty spotlight](#) put together by Texas A&M's English department. Check out [the placements](#) of Ula and other graduates of the certificate program!

January 2017, Certificate students Sofia Varino and Joy Schaefer are curating the first [New York Feminist Film Festival](#) in March! [Check out the full schedule.](#)

December 2016, The new issue of *Feminist Formations* includes a dossier on Annmarie Jagose's *Orgasmology* (2012). WGSS Prof. Kadji Amin responds to Jagose's book with ["Against Queer Objects."](#)

December 2016, Lisa Diedrich's [Indirect Action: Schizophrenia, Epilepsy, AIDS, and the Course of Health Activism](#) was just published by University of Minnesota Press. Congratulations, Lisa!

November 2016, WGSS faculty Lisa Diedrich, Victoria Hesford, and Nancy Hiemstra, along with Cynthia Davidson and Kristina Lucenko from Writing and Rhetoric, are collaborating on Diversifying Wikipedia/Enhancing Online Education at Stony Brook. The project received a TALENT grant from TLT and the Faculty Center. Read more [here](#).

November 2016, Stony Brook is introducing a new [graduate certificate program in Disability Studies](#). Applications for Spring 2017 are being accepted now!

November 2016, Stony Brook will be well represented at the [National Women's Studies Association conference](#) this year in Montreal. WGSS graduate students Alexandra Novitskaya, Shruti Mukherjee, Allyse Knox, and Yalda Hamidi are all giving papers, as are certificate students Joy Schaefer, Kimberly Coates, and Liz Schmermund. WGSS chair Mary Jo Bona and associated faculty Shirley Lim will also give papers at the NWSA, while WGSS prof. Melissa Forbis will

moderate a session on "Problematic Resistances: Re-Examining Postcolonial Imaginations in India and Russia" that features Alex and Shruti's papers.

October 2016, WGSS graduate students put out a CFP for ["State of the Field: A Conference for Emerging Scholars in WGSS."](#)

October 2016, WSQ published a special issue on ["Queer Methods"](#) that includes WGSS Prof. Kadji Amin's article "Haunted by the 1990s: Queer Theory's Affective Histories." There will be a [launch party](#) for the issue on December 8 at the [LGBT Community Center](#) in New York City.

October 2016, Joy Schaefer- a WGSS certificate student & winner of the 2016 [Vivien Hartog teaching award](#)- published ["The spatial-affective economy of \(post\)colonial Paris: reading Haneke's Cache \(2005\) through Octobre a Paris \(1962\)"](#) in *Studies in European Cinema*. Congrats Joy!

October 2016, WGSS graduate student Shruti Mukherjee presented her paper "Mother India: Constructing Hindutva Nationalism in Post-Colonial India" at the [45th Annual Conference on South Asia](#).

October 2016, WGSS graduate student Rachel Corbman participated in a symposium on ["Seeking Sex, Procuring Porn"](#) at Fales Library.

October 2016, check out Lisa Diedrich's commentary on the election, ["Illness as a Metaphor, 2016,"](#) on her blog.

October 2016, WGSS introduces a new [semi-monthly brown bag series](#), put together by WGSS grad students Allyse Knox-Russell and Tara Holmes.

September 2016, This month, Nancy Hiemstra published a coedited book [Intimate Economies of Immigration Detention: Critical Perspectives](#)(with Deirdre Conlon) and a special issue of [Professional Geographer](#) (with Emily Billo). Congrats!

September 2016, Congratulations to Ritch Calvin, an Associate Professor of WGSS, on the publication of [Feminist Science Fiction and Feminist Epistemology: Four Modes](#)(2016).

September 2016, WGSS PhD student Stephanie Bonvissuto presented her paper, "Whose Trans it it Anyway? The Power Inherent in Naming and the Struggle over Gender Identity," at University of Arizona's International [Trans\\*Studies conference](#).

September 2016, Rachel Corbman became the first WGSS PhD student at Stony Brook to advance to candidacy after passing her comprehensive exams with distinction.

September 2016, WGSS welcomes three new PhD students and one MA student to the department. [Annu Daftuar](#), [Val Moyer](#), and [Shruti Vaidya](#) are the third cohort of WGSS PhD students at Stony Brook. Our new MA student is [Joie Meier](#).

August 2016, WGSS is now on Twitter! [@WGSSSBU](#)

July 2016, Mary Jo Bona, chair and professor of WGSS, was interviewed at Bretti and Oenotrians Museum in Consenza, Italy. [Check out the video.](#)

July 2016, Interference Archive did a podcast with WGSS PhD student Rachel Corbman about the Lesbian Herstory Archives. [Here is a link.](#)

June 2016, Prof. Nancy Hiemstra's class "Immigration Through a Feminist Lens" was included on Elle Magazine's list of [63 College Classes that Give Us Hope for the Next Generation.](#)

May 2016, congratulations to graduating majors and minors, and the entire class of 2016! WGSS is pleased to announce that Raven Dorsey is the winner of this year's Terry Alexander Award in Women's and Gender Studies. The Terry Alexander Award is given annually to a major who has completed coursework in Gender, Sexuality, and Public Health, and is interested in a career in health care and/or health.

May 2016, congratulations to Laura Abbasi-Lemmon on the defense of her thesis. [Read More.](#)

April 2016, students in Prof. Melissa M. Forbis's class, The Global Game: Soccer and the Politics of Sports (CCS 325), went on field trip to see a NYCFC soccer game. WGSS PhD student Tara Holmes and Celia Marshik, a professor of English and affiliate of WGSS, joined the class on their trip! [Read more.](#)

April 2016, a number of our undergrads participated in [URECA's annual symposium](#), celebrating undergraduate research and creativity. Joshua Bravo, Carinna Emilio, Jillian Ferretti, Maris Pozo, Shaniza Nizam, China Bailey, and Samhita Vupputuri all presented posters or projects. [Read More.](#)

April 2016, Bev Birns visits campus! Bev Birns was the first coordinator of Women's Studies at Stony Brook. She began her tenure as the coordinator in the late 1970s, while WST was housed in the Interdisciplinary Program in the Social Sciences. We have a library named in her honor. [See photos.](#)