

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY OF LONG BEACH

**DEPARTMENT
OF
WOMEN'S,
GENDER, AND
SEXUALITY
STUDIES**

2023-2024

Newsletter

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A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Our newsletter provides an opportunity to reflect on the past year and share our accomplishments with our Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies alumni and community. In October, the National Women's Studies Association and the Palestinian Feminist Collective issued statements regarding Palestine as a feminist issue and calls to action to confront systemic gendered and colonial violence and oppression. Heeding the call, our department engaged in a variety of collaborative campus events throughout the year that centered the ongoing violence and oppression in Palestine, feminist transnational solidarities, Jewish feminist solidarity with Palestine, and Queer solidarity with Palestine. It was a reminder of the importance of anti-colonial feminist perspectives and activism on our campus and in our communities.

The culmination of these events was the Transnational Feminist Solidarities Conference this Spring. The College of Liberal Arts Thematic Initiative, with generous support from former CLA Dean Dorothy (Dee) Abrahamse issued a call for proposals last year. The proposal for the Transnational Feminist Solidarities theme was co-constructed and submitted by five interdisciplinary feminist CLA faculty, including three WGSS faculty. This theme was selected and the conference organizers, which consisted of faculty, staff, and students, did an incredible amount of work to create a timely and inspiring two-day conference of academic discussions, activism, and art.

This year we also developed a Queer Studies Minor Advisory Committee to connect faculty who teach courses for the minor across our campus and engage collectively in queer and trans studies scholarship, events, and curriculum.

I am proud of all that we have done this year. We could not do the work that we do without our incredible Administrative Department Coordinator (and alumna!), Emily Ramirez-Urbe, who joined us during a particularly busy year and kept everything running smoothly, our WGSS student interns, who have done an excellent job with our social media and supporting our events, and our incredible faculty who give so much of their time and energy to create an engaging and dynamic academic program for our students.

As I end my first three-year term as chair and enter my second term, I am excited to continue to work with such incredible colleagues, students, and staff. I hope to connect with more of our alumni, continuing to build an engaged feminist community. We love hearing from you, so please reach out (lori.baralt@csulb.edu) and follow us on Instagram (@csulbwgss). It is an honor to be part of the WGSS community and to support the work of our students, faculty, and department.

In solidarity,
Dr. Lori Baralt

NWSA CALLS FOR AN END TO ISRAEL'S WAR ON PALESTINE

"As we conclude our Annual Conference in Baltimore, MD, we express our strong opposition to the genocidal war on Gaza and the violence and repression against Palestinians in the West Bank and within Israel.

NWSA strongly condemns the ongoing and persistent U.S. government's support for Israel's vengeful war on Gaza. Sponsoring violence against a caged population in the name of "self-defense" makes us complicit in crimes against humanity!

Expressing solidarity with Palestinians is not Anti-Semitism, nor is it an endorsement of Hamas. We are alarmed by the criminalization of free speech and academic freedom on college campuses. We call on university leaders to endorse AAUP's recent statement, which states:

'College and university officials are obligated to defend academic freedom; they must resist demands from politicians, trustees, donors, students and their parents, alumni, or other parties to punish faculty members for exercising that freedom. At this moment of heightened tension on college and university campuses, the AAUP calls on college and university administrations to fully protect the academic freedom of their faculties to teach, conduct research, and speak out about important issues both on and off campus.'

We further plead with college administrators to extend their commitment to address antisemitism to include concern for anti-muslim and anti-Arab hate speech and violence. We affirm our support for Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and other student groups expressing solidarity with Palestinians. NWSA will continue to center Palestine in our work and unequivocally support faculty, staff and students who address the war and its root causes.

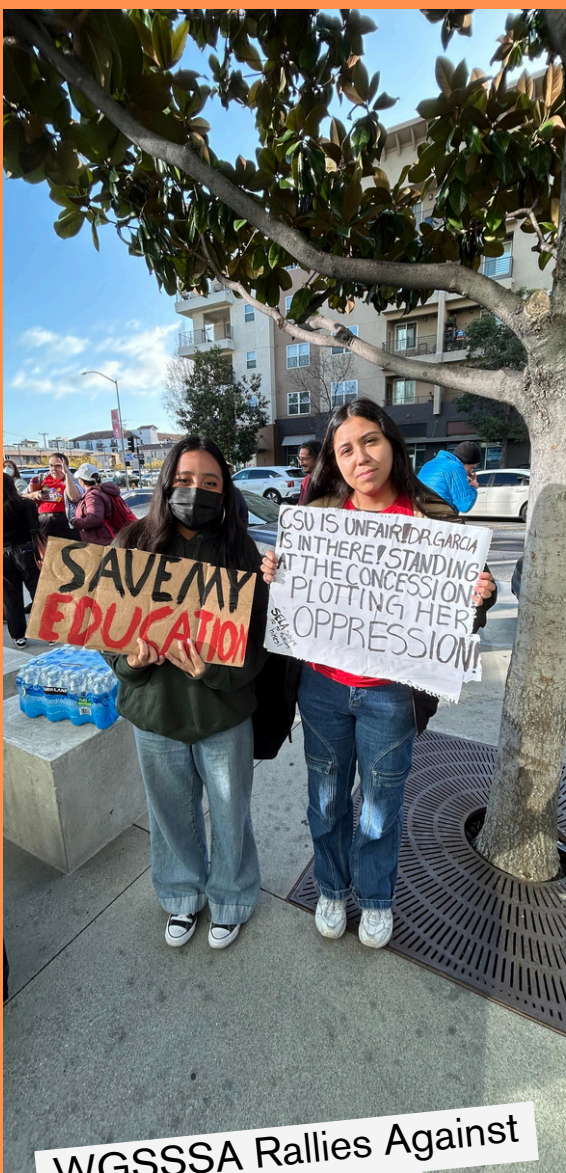
We cannot remain silent in the face of a genocidal war.

In Solidarity,
The National Women's Studies Association"

October, 29th 2023

WOMEN'S, GENDER, SEXUALITY STUDIES STUDENT ASSOCIATION

WGSSSA



WGSSSA Rallies Against Tuition Hikes

Throughout the Spring 2024 semester, the CSULB Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Student Association (WGSSSA) has been distributing reproductive health products to the campus community, sharing information on reproductive justice, and fostering a supportive community within the department and campus.

WGSSSA's members have participated in the Advocates for Youth and Emergency Contraception for Every Campus (EC4EC)'s emergency contraception distribution training and have received a large supply of free emergency contraception to distribute to the Long Beach and campus community. Every other Monday, WGSSSA tables in a high traffic area on campus to give out supplies like emergency contraceptives, condoms, dental dams, lube, pregnancy and ovulation tests, and more to students, staff, and faculty. Additionally, we hold all these supplies in the newly renovated space in the WGSS Department Office, so students may stop by and pick up necessary supplies when needed.

"We look forward to continuing the growth of the organization and supporting the department community." -WGSSSA Board

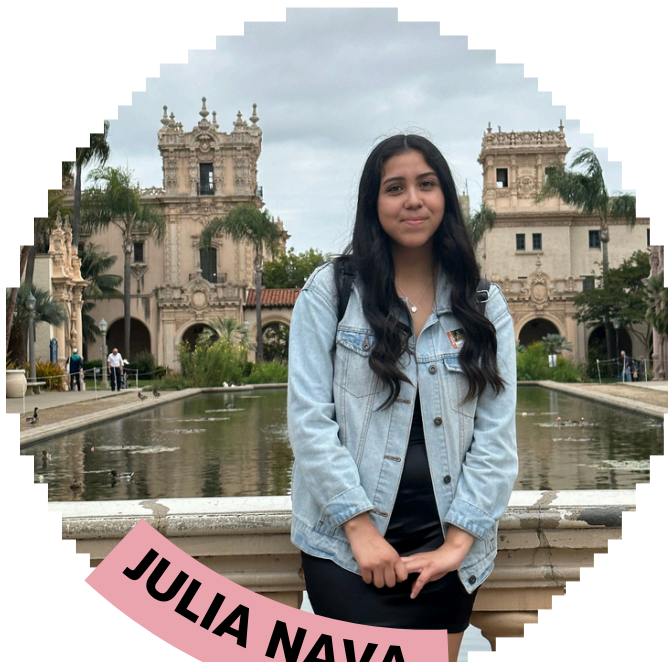
WGSSSA is also proud to have joined CSULB's Students for Quality Education, La FUERZA, and various other CSU student organizations from different regions in a rally against tuition hikes. As reproductive justice advocates, we have identified this tuition increase as a reproductive health and justice issue. By forcing students to pay more for their education each semester, many low-income students and students who do not receive aid will be faced with the difficult decision between meeting their basic needs and paying for their education. We demand a rollback on the multi-year tuition increase immediately.



Hello!



MYAH PHILLIPS



JULIA NAVA

MEET OUR SOCIAL MEDIA INTERNS



MARIA DE LA CRUZ



CHINA MOORER

**WE THANK OUR
2023/2024 INTERNS
FOR ALL THEIR HARD
WORK THIS YEAR**

Hello!

In Fall 2023, we welcomed Emily Ramirez-Urbe as our WGSS Administrative Support Coordinator. Emily is an alumna of our department, receiving her Bachelor's in WGSS from CSULB in 2020 and Master's in Women's Studies from SDSU.



Farewell

DR. ANAT SCHWARTZ- MERON



Dr. Anat Schwartz-Meron joined our department in Fall 2022 as a lecturer. Dr. Schwartz has provided insight and expertise in our lower and upper division courses. She prioritizes creative mediums and outlets for students' critical engagement and expression. She has uplifted student work through multiple events such as the Queer Zine Workshop and WGSS Student Symposium. Dr. Schwartz will begin her tenure track position at CSU Dominguez Hills in Fall 2024. She will be greatly missed by our department and we wish her well in her new position.

TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST SOLIDARITIES CONFERENCE

Throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, members of our faculty were busy planning the Transnational Feminist Solidarities Conference. In collaboration with the College of Liberal Arts' Dean's office, faculty from the departments of English, Chicanx and Latinx Studies and American Studies, Dr. Azza Basarudin and Dr. Stacy Macias co-organized the two-day conference at CSULB. Students enrolled in Dr. Basarudin's WGSS 490: Feminist Organizing, Radical Visions, and Transformative Justice in a Transnational World, also helped with the conference planning.

The conference featured interdisciplinary feminist scholars, activists, and artists. CSULB students, faculty and staff along with our alumni, friends and community attended the conference.

Please visit the conference website for more information and background on the conference [here](#).

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS THEMATIC INITIATIVE PRESENTS

TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST SOLIDARITIES CONFERENCE



CSU LONG BEACH | THURSDAY APRIL 18 & FRIDAY 19, 2024 | SCAN QR FOR PROGRAM

Join us in conversation about transnational feminist scholarly activism and thought. Conference themes span postcolonial, anti-capitalist, abolitionist, women of color, and queer feminisms. Panelists include Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Ana Castillo, Margo Okazawa-Rey, Nada Elia, Karma R. Chávez, and Amira Jarmakani, among other essential feminist voices.



[HTTPS://BIT.LY/TFSIC](https://bit.ly/tfsic)



TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST SOLIDARITY COLLECTIVE



Dr. Azza Basarudin
WGSS Faculty



Dr. Araceli Esparza
English Faculty



Dr. Stacy I. Macias
WGSS Faculty



Dr. Felicia "Fe" Montes
Chicanx/Latinx Faculty



Dr. Preeti Sharma
American Studies
Faculty



Sabella Moreno, M.A.
CLA Dean's Office Staff

TFS CONFERENCE APRIL 18TH



Sarah O'Neal, Dr. Rob Chlala and Dr. May Lin, Queer Solidarity with Palestine Panel



Conference audience

TFS CONFERENCE APRIL 19TH



Dr. Kimberly Roberston, Reflections on Transnational Feminist Solidarities: Past, Present, Future Panel



Dr. Margo Okazawa-Rey and Artist Mary Hazboun



CLA Associate Dean Donna Nicol with Dr. Martha D. Escobar and TFS Conference Attendee



Mary Hazboun's artwork



Opening Remarks by Dr. Azza Basarudin

WGSS 490: FEMINIST ORGANIZING, RADICAL VISIONS, AND TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE IN A TRANSNATIONAL WORLD

Curriculum Spotlight

In Spring 2024, Dr. Basarudin taught WGSS 490: **Feminist Organizing, Radical Visions, and Transformative Justice in a Transnational World**. The course explored intellectual, social, and creative dimensions of contemporary feminist organizing and mobilization in a transnational context.



WGSS 490 class with guest speaker Dr. Jake Alimahomed-Wilson

The course focused on the interventions and contributions that radical feminist praxis generates across borders, identities, and subjectivities to engage intersectional work of societal and structural change. The students of WGSS 490 participated in feminist organizing by collaborating with faculty and staff on the Transnational Feminist Solidarities Conference.



WGSS 490 students having class outside with Dr. Basarudin

WGSS 424: GENDERING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Curriculum Spotlight



WGSS 424 Spring 2024 having class in one of the new outdoor learning spaces

Every Spring semester, our department offers WGSS 424: Gendering Environmental Justice, taught by Dr. Lori Baralt. This upper division course is open to all student but is often taken by WGSS and Environmental Science and Policy students. The course critically analyzes the ways in which gender, race, class, and other structural inequalities shape environmental injustices as well as alternatives for an environmentally just future.

Dr. Baralt utilizes the book, *The Intersectional Environmentalist*, which provides an intersectional feminist environmental justice lens for understanding environmental issues. The authors and creator of the Intersectional Environmentalist are guest speakers for the course each year, providing the students with an opportunity to discuss the book with the authors and to explore environmental justice activism, organizations, and careers.

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

For the 2023/2024 academic year, WGSS has sponsored and co-sponsored over 20 events.

WGSS Fall Mixer



Our second annual fall mixer with WGSS faculty, students and alumni provided a space for students to connect with faculty, students, alum, and our student organization (WGSSSA) outside of the classroom.

WGSS Graduate School Panel



WGSS students were invited to listen to a panel of alumni speak about their experiences in a variety of graduate programs.

DEPARTMENT EVENTS

WGSS 316 Guest Speakers Series

WGSS DEPARTMENT
PRESENTS

**THE FUTURE IS NOW:
NEW HERSTORIES IN US
FILM** *WGSS 316/FEA 317
Guest Lecture Series*

NOV. 7TH, 2023

LUIE P. GARCIA
SET DESIGNER/FILM
CREW/ART DIRECTOR
UNION MEMBER

NOV. 14TH, 2023

KARLA LEGASPY
INDIE FILM DIRECTOR,
ACTOR, AND
PRODUCER

EMAIL DR. HIDALGO FOR ZOOM
INVITATION

**9:30-
10:45
AM**

Dr. Melissa Hidalgo invited set designer/art director Luie P. Garcia and indie film director, Karla Legaspy to WGSS 316 (Women in the History of U.S Film History) to discuss their experiences in the film industry.

WGSS 424 Guest Speakers

The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department
and WGSS 424: Gendering Environmental Justice present

**The Intersectional
Environmentalist**

Leah Thomas

Diandra Marizet Esparza

**Monday, February 19th
12:30-1:45pm
LA1-204**

Come join us for a talk by Leah Thomas,
author of *Intersectional Environmentalist*
and Diandra Marizet Esparza, executive
director and contributing author of
Intersectional Environmentalist.

Dr. Lori Baralt invited author Leah Thomas and executive director of *Intersectional Environmentalist*, Diandra Marizet Esparza, to WGSS 424 (Gendering Environmental Justice) to speak about their book, *Intersectional Environmentalist: How to Dismantle Systems of Oppression to Protect People + Planet*.

DAY AT THE BEACH AND CLA DAY



WGSS students and staff with CSULB Mascot, Elbee

WGSS students with CLA Dean Deborah Thien



In the fall, the college hosted CLA Day, inviting students to mix and mingle with CLA departments and clubs. This spring, the university hosted the Day at the Beach event for newly-admitted students to learn more about CSULB and its departments. Our WGSS interns, student volunteers, and faculty engaged with those wanting to learn more about all things WGSS!

DISCOVER CLA 
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS SHOWCASE

EXPLORE

more than 100 majors, minors
and certificate programs

CONNECT

with CLA faculty and alumni

LEARN

about internships, study abroad
and research opportunities

To learn more about the CLA showcase,
scan the QR code or visit:
CLA.CSULB.EDU/DISCOVERCLA



Fall Co-Sponsored Events

CONDITIONAL BELONGING: THE RACIALIZATION OF IRANIANS IN THE WAKE OF ANTI-MUSLIM POLITICS

Dr. Sahar Sadeghi

Sahar Sadeghi is an Associate Professor of Sociology at Muhlenberg College. Her research is organized around race, migration, and the Iranian diaspora. Her recently published book *Conditional Belonging* details Iranians' complex and contradictory relationship with race and belonging through a comparative analysis of the Iranian experience in the United States and Germany, focusing particularly on the immigrants' different processes of racialization.

Tuesday, October 10, 2023
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM
AS Anatol Center Patio
Conference Ctr ASI21

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
LONG BEACH

Sponsors:
Global Middle East Studies Program,
Departments of Women's,
Gender and Sexuality Studies,
International Studies, and Sociology.



Adam Elmahrek

Investigative Reporter,
Los Angeles Times

"Media Misinformation and the Fog of War in Gaza"

October 19, 2023

Anatol Conference Room AS 119
11 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.

Moderator: Jake Wilson

Discussants: Sabrina Alimahomed and Justin Gomer

Sponsoring Departments:

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Romance, German, Russian Languages and Literatures, International Studies, Anthropology, Asian and Asian American Studies, American Studies, and Sociology.

Telling Joteria Historias: Sequins, Sonic Memories, and Queer Brown Archives of Resistance and Desire

with Dr. Eddy F. Alvarez

2:00-3:30 PM | 16 November 2023 |
Anatol Conference Room (AS-119)

Light refreshments after the presentation

Featuring art, photography,
testimonial, and ephemera,
come learn how Dr. Alvarez
incorporates a joteria
studies approach to
consider how Brown queer
and trans community
members survive and thrive.



photo credits: Jesus Barajas
Contreras

Dr. Eddy F. Alvarez

Associate Professor, Chicana
and Chicano Studies, CSU,
Fullerton and Exhibition
Curator, "Finding Sequins in
the Rubble: Archives of Joteria
Memories in Los Angeles,"
Museum of Social Justice



**SCHOLARLY
INTERSECTIONS
GRANT**

Co-sponsored by the Women's, Gender,
and Sexuality Studies, Chicano and
Latino Studies, and Sociology
departments.

"Not in My Name" - Jewish Solidarity with Palestine: An Intersectional Feminist Perspective

DR. PENNY ROSENWASSER



November 9, 2023
11am - 12.30pm
COB-140A

Penny is a white queer Ashkenazi Jewish educator and intersectional feminist activist. Her recent award-winning book is *Hope into Practice: Jewish Women Choosing Justice Despite Our Fears*. Penny co-teaches an Antisemitism / Anti-Arabism class with a Palestinian colleague at City College of San Francisco. She chaired the Jewish Caucus of the National Women's Studies Association, where she is a member of *Feminists for Justice in Palestine*. A founding board member of *Jewish Voice for Peace*, Penny helps lead racial justice work at Kehilla Community Synagogue in Oakland. PennyRosenwasser.com

Sponsoring Departments: Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Sociology, Romance, German, Russian Languages and Literatures, American Studies, and Asian and Asian American Studies.

PALESTINE: OCCUPATION, SETTLER COLONIALISM & APARTHEID

DAVID LLOYD



February 21
11AM-12:30PM
LA4-120 CSULB

David Lloyd is Distinguished Professor of English at UC Riverside and a founding member of the US Campaign for the Academic and Cultural Boycott of Israel

Sponsored by the Departments of Sociology, Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies and English

BUY BLACK: HOW BLACK WOMEN TRANSFORMED US POP CULTURE

FEBRUARY 22, 3.30PM-5PM
LA4-120



Dr. Aria Halliday

Associate Professor
University of Kentucky



Buy Black examines the little explored role of American Black women play in shaping and disseminating the of consumption of Black culture in the US and worldwide, with a focus on their pivotal role in packaging Black feminine identity since the 1960s.

Sponsored by the Departments of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Africana Studies, Sociology, Human Development, English and the American Studies Program

Weaponizing Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones

MARCH 20, 11-12.30 PM
ANATOL CENTER (AS 119)



Nada Elia is Visiting Associate Professor in Cultural Studies at Western Washington University, where she is also affiliated with the Program in Women's Gender, and Sexuality Studies. A scholar activist, she has served on the steering collectives of AWSA, RAWAN (Radical Arab Women's Activist Network), INCITE! Feminists of Color Against Violence, and is currently on the Coordinating Committee of the Palestinian Feminist Collective. Nada is the author of *Greater Than the Sum of Our Parts: Feminism, Inter/Nationalism, and Palestine* (Pluto, 2023) and is currently working on *"Falastiniyyat: A Century of Palestinian Feminisms,"* forthcoming from Verso in 2025.

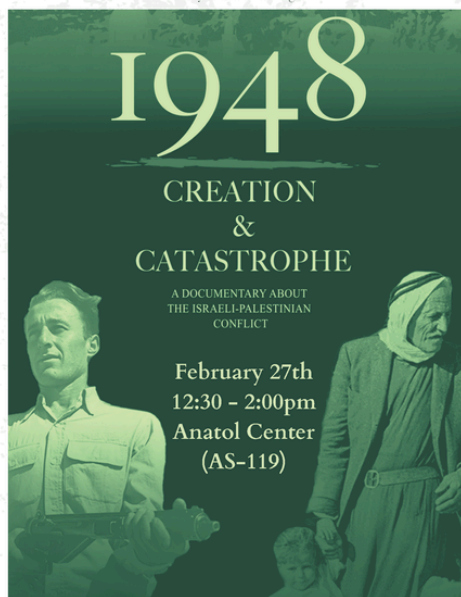


Tina Beyene is an Assistant Professor of Gender and Women's Studies at California State University, Northridge. Her research and teaching interests are in the areas of transnational feminism; African feminism; postcolonial theory; gender and conflict zones; African feminist movements; and imperial foreign policy. She was a former publisher and editor at South End Press, a progressive publishing collective based on a participatory economics model, where she worked on topics such as the global water rights; advanced capitalism and inequality; the prison industrial complex.

Sponsored by the Departments of Political Science, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Asian and Asian American Studies, Sociology, Africana Studies, Romance, German, Russian Languages and Literatures, and the Global Middle East Studies Program.

Spring Co-Sponsored Events

The Departments of Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies, Sociology, American Studies, and Anthropology invite you to a screening of



February 27th
12:30 - 2:00pm
Anatol Center
(AS-119)

Followed by a discussion with
Dr. Ahlam Muhtaseb, Co-Producer (CSUSB Media Studies) &
Dr. Steven Rousso-Schindler (CSULB Anthropology)

FEMINIST RESEARCH TALK

FEBRUARY 29, 2024 (1-2.30PM, PST)

Caring, Killing, Eating: Gendered Human-Animal Relations in Egypt

This talk explores home-rearing practices among women farmers in rural Egypt, particularly how women negotiate caring for, killing, cooking, eating, and selling food animals.

Meeting ID: 777 004 5181
Meeting Pascode: 952826



NOHA FIKRY ISMAIL

PhD Candidate,
Department of
Anthropology
University of Toronto



Sponsored by the Global Middle East Studies Program, the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and the Department of Anthropology

Sponsored by: The Department of Sociology and the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Global Capitalism and Genocide in Palestine

DR. WILLIAM I. ROBINSON
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF SOCIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

March 7, 2024
LA2-120
5:00pm-6:30pm



QUEER STUDIES MIXER

QUEER STUDIES MINOR

15 UNITS

CONTACT DR. JENNIFER REED
JENNIFER.REED@CSULB.EDU

FOR MORE INFO

REQUIRED TWO COURSES

- WGSS 205: INTRO TO QUEER STUDIES
- WGSS 416: QUEERING GENDER

CHOOSE THREE OF THE FOLLOWING COURSES

- ASAM 370: GENDER AND SEXUALITY IN ASIAN AMERICA
- AIS/WGSS 343: AMERICAN INDIAN GENDERS AND SEXUALITIES
- CHLS 330: CRITICAL ISSUES IN CHICANA AND LATINA STUDIES
- HIST 395: GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND DESIRE IN WORLD HISTORY
- R/ST/WGSS 303: QUEER SPIRIT
- WGSS 306: FEMINIST/QUEER ARTS AND CULTURES
- POSC/WGSS 317: QUEER LAW
- WGSS 356: LESBIAN HISTORIES AND CULTURES
- WGSS 370: MASCULINITIES
- WGSS 375: REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
- ENGL/WGSS 422: SEXING CHICANA LITERATURE



Queer Studies Advisory Board at BLACK LBC

In April, our department hosted the first annual Queer Studies Mixer to celebrate the establishment of the Queer Studies Advisory Board. The Queer Studies Minor is an interdisciplinary minor, offering courses across departments and colleges, that was developed by **Dr. Jennifer Reed** in 2013. The Queer Studies Advisory Board consists of faculty who currently teach courses in the minor or are interested in being involved in developing minor curriculum and events. The board met over pizza at BLACK LBC to socialize and discuss the future of the Queer Studies Minor. We hope the development of the advisory board will uplift the minor so that more students learn about it. We also hope to develop events related to the minor to sustain this intellectual community on our campus.

FACULTY ACHIEVEMENT SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Basarudin with other faculty attending the “Between Political and Climate Change in Southeast Asia” faculty development seminar at the Center for Khmer Studies in Cambodia.

Congratulations to **Dr. Azza Basarudin** who was selected to participate in the Council of American Overseas Research Centers' (CAORC) two-week faculty development seminar entitled “Between Political and Climate Change in Southeast Asia” in Cambodia this summer. It was hosted by the Center for Khmer Studies in collaboration with the Inya Institute in Myanmar. During this seminar, Dr. Basarudin established a Memorandum of Understanding with the Center of Khmer Studies, which aims to enhance the educational relationship between the two institutions by encouraging joint research and exchange programs. We appreciate Dr. Basarudin’s ongoing efforts to strengthen transnational analysis in our department.

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING



FACULTY PROMOTIONS



Congrats Dr. Basarudin!

Congratulations to **Dr. Azza Basarudin** on her early tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Dr. Basarudin joined WGSS in Fall 2020 after teaching and holding visiting positions at UCLA, CSUN, Cerritos College, Harvard Divinity School, Syracuse University, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia, and the American University in Cairo. Her research and teaching interests are transnational feminisms, Muslim cultures and societies, feminist movements, and human rights, emphasizing Southeast Asia. We greatly appreciate Dr. Basarudin's teaching, research, and service, which have strengthened our department and campus community.

Congratulations to **Dr. Lori Baralt** on her promotion to full professor. Dr. Baralt joined the WGSS department in 2009 after earning her PhD in Sociology with an emphasis in feminist sociology, health, and social movements and a certificate in Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change from Michigan State University. She regularly teaches courses on gender, sexuality and the body, reproductive justice, and environmental justice. Her most recent research focused on faculty caregiving during the COVID pandemic and pedagogical approaches to teaching reproductive justice and interdisciplinary upper division courses. She is beginning her second 3-year term as WGSS Department Chair this year.



Congrats Dr. Baralt!

FACULTY RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT



Dr. Stacy I. Macias

Dr. Stacy Macias has returned to teaching in the WGSS department after a year of conducting multiple research projects that focused on the racialized queerness of Latina/x femmes and femininity. Since her return to teaching, Dr. Macias has continued to produce research and co-author multiple publications in the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*. In Fall 2023, Dr. Macias integrated her research into her special topics course, WGSS 490: Jotería Studies-Queer Gender and Sexuality in the Americas, which explores the emergent and dynamic interdisciplinary field of Jotería Studies in which “brown” racialized sexualities and genders serve as both the primary subjects of analysis and main methods of reading.

Dr. Melissa Hidalgo is currently a WGSS lecturer whose research interests and areas of expertise include Chicana/o/x-Latina/o/x literatures, 19th and 20th-century U.S. cultural studies, and queer and feminist cultural production. Dr. Hidalgo has written for a variety of popular publications, including the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, KCET.org, Boom California, and L.A. Taco. In Spring 2024, Dr. Hidalgo co-hosted a podcast episode titled, “From Potatoes to Tacos: How Mexican Food is Making Waves in Ireland,” under the Curious Broadcast Podcast. The episode spotlights the multicultural history of food in Ireland, with a focus on the emerging Mexican food scene in Dublin and beyond. You can listen to Dr. Hidalgo’s episode [here](#).



Dr. Melissa Hidalgo

WGSS GRADUATE AWARDEES

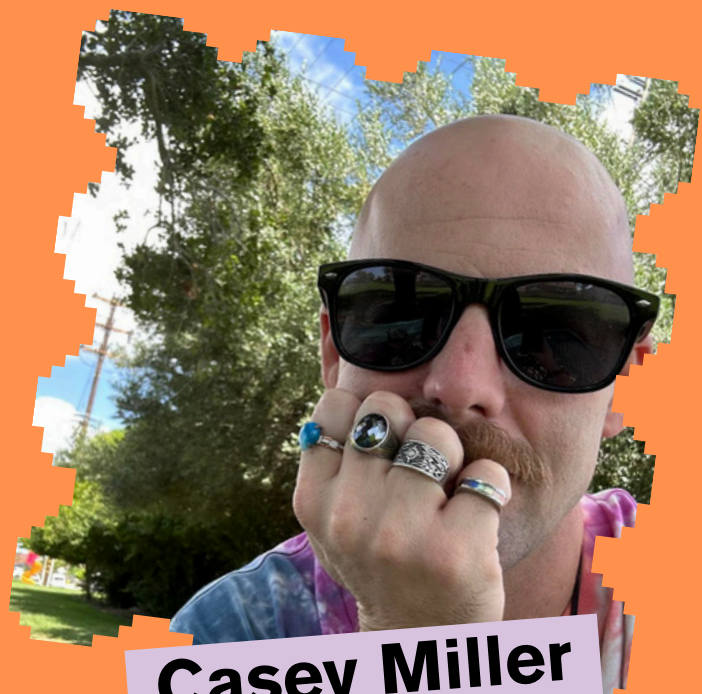
Since 2012, the WGSS department has awarded three departmental awards to graduating students. This year, the WGSS department awarded two students per award. Congrats award recipients of the 2023/2024 academic year!

bell hooks Transforming Lives Award Recipients

This award honors a graduating student who has demonstrated perseverance to accomplish a transformational, educational goal. An acclaimed feminist writer and prolific cultural critic, bell hooks is best known for exploring the interlocking connections among race, class, gender, and culture. Such work challenged feminist thinkers and activists to theorize gender oppression in the context of other critical social factors like class and race.



Liliana Barajas



Casey Miller

Dolores Huerta Activism Award Recipients

This award honors a graduating student who has demonstrated a serious commitment to feminist activism and social justice. Noted labor leader and civil rights activist, Dolores Huerta, co-founded the United Farm Workers with Cesar Chavez. Huerta has been an activist her entire life; her participation in non-violent civil disobedience has led to 22 arrests, while her commitment to progressive causes has earned her numerous awards such as the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.



**Dani
Autore**



**Julia
Nava**

Sharon Sievers Scholarly Achievement Award Recipients

This award honors a graduating student who has demonstrated an exceptional engagement with the field of WGSS through a culminating research project.

Sharon Sievers was a noted specialist in Japanese History and a feminist leader on the CSULB campus for 40 years. She co-founded the WGSS department and defended it in a legal suit against the university when anti-feminist forces attempted to shut it down.



**Jessica
Ruiz Arvizu**



**Audrey
Stallings**

SENIOR SEMINAR CAPSTONE

WGSS 301 &
WGSS 496

The WGSS Department is incredibly proud of our majors' capstone projects that seniors developed this year through WGSS 301: Feminist Research Methods (Fall) and WGSS 495: WGSS Senior Seminar (Spring) with guidance from Dr. Basarudin. They applied their feminist knowledge to a variety of feminist research projects based on their interests.



CONGRADULATIONS TO THE WGSS CLASS OF 2024

For our graduation celebration this year, we celebrated our graduates alongside their families and friends. We presented our department student awards and took photo booth pictures. Many of our students and faculty also attended the University Graduation at Angel Stadium as well as various Cultural Graduation ceremonies on campus.

It has been an honor and a privilege to co-create knowledge with our WGSS students. We know that they will go fiercely into the world and make their mark! Please stay connected to your WGSS faculty and friends.



**WGSS 2024 Grads at
Angel Stadium**



SPREAD THE WORD!

WGSS MAJOR, MINOR AND QUEER STUDIES MINOR

Our department offers a WGSS major and minor as well as an interdisciplinary Queer Studies Minor. For more information about our programs and curriculum, please visit our [department website](#). Please share this information with anyone who might be interested.

WGSS Major

45 units (15 courses)

WGSS Minor

18 units (6 courses)

Want to become a WGSS Major/Minor?

**Email our department chair, Dr. Lori Baralt with
any questions and inquiries**

Department Contacts

Department Chair: Dr. Lori Baralt/@csulb.edu

Department Coordinator: Emily Ramirez-Uribe/@csulb.edu



BUILDING OUR WGSS ALUM COMMUNITY

Since our last newsletter, we have connected with alumni and community members via Instagram and email. Alum have participated in WGSS events to share with current students about how they are using their WGSS education in their careers and lives since graduating. We hope to have more opportunities for faculty, students, and alum to connect in the coming years.

We love to hear from our alum! If you are an alum who would like to stay connected with our department, please fill out this [survey](#). You can also follow us on Instagram at @csulbwgss.

GET INVOLVED WITH WGSS

As we continue to build feminist community, we would love to hear from you! If you have ideas about collaborations, ways for our department to collaborate with your communities or organizations, or if you would like to be more involved in working with our department, please reach out to our chair at lori.baralt@csulb.edu

HOW TO SUPPORT WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

You can help to fund student scholarships and programs, bring scholars and practitioners to campus, and build alum connections by making a tax-deductible contribution to the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.



You can donate through our [website here](#) or contact Howie Fitzgerald, Director of Development, College of Liberal Arts: Howie.Fitzgerald@csulb.edu or 562.985.1619