

Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies

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Carol Enns, Professor of Psychology

Gender, sexuality, and women's studies is an interdisciplinary program that emphasizes:

- Intersectionality, which highlights the diversity of human experience and the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, culture, class, sexuality, nationality, religion, and other social categories.
- Interdisciplinarity, which features the synthesis of theoretical and methodological approaches grounded in multiple disciplines.
- Social justice and feminist perspectives, which facilitate the investigation of power dynamics, oppression, and social change practices across historical and cultural contexts; and the integration of academic approaches, activism, and service.

In addition to a set of core courses, the program includes a wide range of cross-listed courses from disciplines as varied as art, biology, history, English, religion, politics, sociology, psychology, and others.

ACTIVISM AND OUTREACH

A vital part of our gender, sexuality, and women's studies program is an emphasis on activism and service learning. The Cornell community offers many opportunities for feminist social action and involvement in the surrounding community, including volunteering at places like local domestic violence shelters, anti-violence male coalitions, and organic local farms.

FEMINIST SYMPOSIUM

To promote research related to gender, sexuality, and women's studies, the GSS program and Third Wave Resource Group co-host a biannual Feminist Symposium. This symposium allows students and professors to present research, projects, and artwork that pertain specifically to feminist and women's issues. The keynote speaker for the 2016 symposium was Taté Walker, a human rights and social justice activist, editor of *Native Peoples Magazine*, author of the blog “Righting Red,” and a Lakota storyteller.

BENEFITS OF ONE COURSE AT A TIME

The One Course At A Time curriculum offers the freedom of long class periods and removes other academic priorities for students. Students and faculty take the time to dive in and discuss, challenge, and rethink real-world issues, as well as the personal and political dimensions of identities related to gender, sexuality, and other related multiple identities.

With One Course At A Time, gender, sexuality, and women's studies majors spend their capstone course engaged in full-time research for an entire block, without interruption from other courses. Students select their own research topics and have chosen to pursue topics including gender and science fiction; menstruation suppression; history of women's movements; and gendered division of labor and space in South Africa.

CURRICULUM HIGHLIGHTS

Gender, sexuality, and women's studies at Cornell is an interdisciplinary program offering both a major and

Faculty Bios & Courses

APARNA THOMAS

Associate Professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies and Associate Professor of Politics

Expert on the politics of South Asia and global feminism. Teaches the GSS cores courses Gender, Power, and Identity; and Social Justice Perspectives and Practices as well as Global Feminisms, Women and Politics, and Gender and Development (alternate years in India). Serves as Cornell's faculty advisor to the India Studies Program sponsored by the Associated Colleges of the Midwest. Ph.D. and M.A., Western Michigan University, B.A., Hope College.

TORI BARNES-BRUS

Associate Professor of Sociology

Serves as co-chair and advisor for the GSS program. Teaches Reproductive Practices, Reproductive Policies, and Media & the Public Mind. Ph.D., University of Kansas, M.A., University of Kansas at Lawrence; B.A., Cornell College.

ERIN DAVIS

Professor of Sociology

Serves as co-chair and advisor for the GSS program. Teaches Gender Diversity, Families and Family Policy, Sexualities, Gender Difference and Inequalities, Self and Identity, Sociology of the Body, and Traditional Culture and Contemporary Issues in Japan (taught in Japan). Ph.D. and M.A., University of Virginia, B.A., New College of Florida.

CAROLYN ZERBE ENNS

Professor of Psychology

Studies and publishes on feminist, multicultural, and transnational pedagogies and psychotherapies. Ph.D., University of California, M.A., California State University, B.A., Tabor College.



minor. The program includes an introductory course that is open to all students, a core course on social justice, and a capstone project for our majors, as well as a wide variety of cross-listed courses from a wide range of departments.

Each GSS major develops a planned program of study, drawing from a variety of disciplines with a brief rationale, which is approved by the major advisor and a secondary program advisor from a second division of the college. In consultation with these advisors, the student also: (a) selects courses and/or contexts in which she or he will acquire the theoretical and methodological skills to complete a capstone project, and (b) indicates how the proposed course of study provides intersectional, global, and historical perspectives relevant to the study of women, gender, and sexuality.

AFTER CORNELL

Graduates of the program have left Cornell with the knowledge and skills to pursue a wide range of careers and graduate studies, including work with victims of domestic violence, a directorship of a campus women's center, and graduate studies in social work, public health, women's history, sociology, and political science. Below are a few profiles that exemplify how former students' careers have evolved over time and enact the priorities associated with the gender, sexuality, and women's studies program.

Brenna Glaeser '15 conducted research on midwifery practices and experiences in Iowa and in the United States while at Cornell, and began midwifery training in 2016.

Hannah Altmann '13 conducted a semester-long Healthy Relationships class at the Iowa Juvenile Home under the Skylark Project with the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence as her senior capstone project. After graduation, Altmann worked as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer at the Shelter House Fairweather Lodge, a recovery program for people with mental illness who

are seeking community, long-term stable housing, and supported employment.

Liz Bennett '10 completed the Cornell Geiger Fellow in Advocacy during her Cornell student career. As a Cornell Fellow, she worked with community organizations, writing and executing volunteer training and recruitment strategies, as well as training and running a volunteer phone bank. Following graduation she worked for a firm that provides financial planning for individuals with disabilities, and was then employed as a regional organizer and advocate for One Iowa. At One Iowa she worked to achieve equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered persons living in Iowa, and for the freedom of all Iowans to marry. She currently works as a trainer for internet company Big Daddy. In 2014 Bennett was elected to the Iowa House of Representatives for District 65, Cedar Rapids.

Lena Hann '06 completed her Master of Public Health degree at the University of Iowa and then worked as the education programs coordinator for Planned Parenthood of Illinois. One of her main duties was to implement sexuality education throughout the state. She then worked as the coordinator of the Master of Public Health Program at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She also served on the board of directors at the Greater Community AIDS project and volunteered with Rape Advocacy Counseling and Education Services. Hann received her Ph.D. in Community Health and Gender and Women's Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2016 and now works as assistant professor of Public Health at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.

Shannon Peters '04 completed her J.D. at Drake University Law School and then worked as an associate attorney at Corso & Rhude. There she handled civil and criminal traffic cases, DUIs, misdemeanors, and felonies. Peters then worked as an associate attorney at Allen, Tunac, & Coughlon, where she worked in criminal law and immigration law. Now, she is at The Tyler Allen Law Firm.

Faculty Bios & Courses CONTINUED

JOHN GRUBER-MILLER
Professor of Classical Studies
Teaches Women in Antiquity and Love and Sexuality in Greece and Rome. Ph.D. and M.A., The Ohio State University; B.A., Xavier University.

MICHELLE HERDER
Associate Professor of History
Teaches Women in the Renaissance and Reformation. Ph.D. and M.Phil., Yale University; B.A., Carleton College.

CHRISTINA MORRIS PENN-GOETSCH
Professor of Art History
Teaches Intro to Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, Feminist Art, Saints and She Devils, and African American Art: Intersectionality and the United States. Ph.D. and M.A., University of Iowa; B.A., University of Virginia.

MISHA QUILL
Assistant Professor of Anthropology
Teaches Women's Roles in Cross-Cultural Perspective. Ph.D., University of Iowa.

SHANNON REED
Professor of English
Teaches Social Justice Perspectives and Practices, and has taught Women on the Verge: Crossing Borders, and Crossing Boundaries in Literature and Film. Ph.D., University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, M.A., California State University, Sacramento, B.A., Earlham College.

REBECCA WINES
Assistant Professor of French
Teaches Bending Boundaries: Francophone Women in Translation, Race and Immigration in French Film, and Sporting Identities. Ph.D. and M.A., University of Michigan, B.A., Whitman College.