

# Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies

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*Professor of Psychology Carol Enns*

**G**ender, 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 anthropology, art, classic and modern languages, history, 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 community engagement. The Cornell community offers many opportunities for feminist social action and involvement in the surrounding community, including internships 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 aspects of gender, sexuality, and other related 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: feminism and dance; sexual assault and violence against women; 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 minor. The program includes an introductory course, a core course on

## Faculty Bios & Courses

### TORI BARNES-BRUS

*Associate Professor of Sociology*

Serves as co-chair and advisor for the GSS program. Her courses on social inequality, deviance and social control, reproduction, media, and gender studies emphasize social justice and civic engagement through field trips, guest speakers, and assignments that requires students to share their expertise with a public audience. Her research projects investigate the social construction and legal implications of pregnancy, birth, and abortion, as well as the commercialization of mothering, womanhood, and women's health. Ph.D. in Sociology, University of Kansas.

### MICHELLE HERDER

*Associate Professor of History*

Serves as co-chair for GSS in 2017-2018. Her research explores gender, women, and religion in medieval and early modern Europe, with broader teaching interests in the history of women and gender. Ph.D. in History, Yale University.

### TYLER CARRINGTON

*Assistant Professor of German Studies and History*

He is presently finishing a book on the history of love in turn-of-the-century Berlin and is beginning a new project on German-American life in the Midwest. Ph.D. in History, University of Illinois.

### ERIN DAVIS

*Professor of Sociology*

Explores cultural diversity and social inequalities, focusing on gender, sexualities, bodies, and identities, in her courses and her research. Ph.D. in Sociology, University of Virginia

### CAROLYN ZERBE ENNS

*Professor of Psychology*

Studies and publishes on feminist, multicultural, and transnational pedagogies and psychotherapies. She has received national awards for her work related to women and gender. Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology, University of California.



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. Students also participate in a co-curricular lecture series featuring guest speakers, panel discussions, and documentaries hosted by GSS faculty. Recent topics have included drag king culture, reproductive health, and feminism in the current political era.

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 doula training in 2016.

**Hannah Altman '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, Altman 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. She's now a housing counselor working on homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing in Bozeman, Montana.

**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. She recently gave a guest lecture on feminism and local politics to students in several Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies classes.

**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. She now works as assistant professor of Public Health at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Hann shared her research on reproductive health practices with students in two classes that count toward the GSS major.

**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.

#### **JOHN GRUBER-MILLER** *Professor of Classical Studies*

His courses on Women in Antiquity and Love and Sexuality in Greece and Rome offer students opportunities to see their own cultural perspectives through others' eyes in a feminist, crosscultural, and historical context. Ph.D. in Classics, The Ohio State University.

#### **CHRISTINA MORRIS PENN-GOETSCH**

##### *Professor of Art History*

Much of her research focuses on gender studies. She recently wrote the definition for "Feminist Art" for the The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies. Ph.D. in Art History, University of Iowa.

#### **MISHA QUILL**

##### *Assistant Professor of Anthropology*

Researches and teaches on human rights, humanitarianism, gender, justice, medical anthropology, and religious practice. Ph.D. in cultural anthropology, University of Iowa. Graduate Certificate in Gender, Women's and Sexuality Studies, University of Iowa.

#### **APARNA THOMAS**

##### *Professor of Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies*

With a joint appointment in the department of politics and the gender, sexuality and women's studies program, her courses broadly intersect the fields of international relations, comparative government, and gender, sexuality and women's studies. She also leads a course on gender and development in India every other year. Ph.D. in Political Science, Western Michigan University.

#### **REBECCA WINES**

##### *Assistant Professor of French*

The courses that she teaches in in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies emphasize the critical importance of cultural context and the analysis of how texts—broadly understood—shape our understandings of ourselves and others. Ph.D. in French Language and Literature, University of Michigan.