



# INTERSECTIONS

Fall/Spring 2013

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER OF THE WOMEN'S, GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES DEPARTMENT  
AT MACALESTER COLLEGE

## Miranda Joseph Visits Macalester



**Dr. Miranda Joseph**, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies at the University of Arizona, was on campus February 14. Her presentation examined how ideas about gender participate in public debates about finance, especially in the wake of the 2008 global financial crisis. Images from popular culture, marketing research, and legitimate social science allow Joseph to analyze the production and circulation of knowledge about finance. Engaged with scholarship in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and related fields, the talk addressed a nexus of two central features of neoliberalism: governmentality and financialization. Tracing a culture that portrays women to be, on the one hand, impulsive shopaholics and, on the other, paralyzed non-investors, Joseph points to the tensions that have emerged in a longstanding cultural commitment to entrepreneurship.

Her current book project, *A Debt to Society*, explores modes of accounting (financial, juridical, and managerial) as performative attributions of credits and debts that sustain or transform social relations.

## Fall Events

*Thursday, September 13*, the department held a Welcome Back event for all new and returning WGSS students.

*Co-sponsor Tea and Topics* with Ryan Murphy & Beth Severy-Hoven as guest speakers.

*Wednesday, November 9*, WGSS sponsored a Pre-registration luncheon so students could hear about spring classes and meet faculty offering the classes.

## Spring Events

*January 22*, faculty and steering committee retreat.

*April 11*, Pre-registration gathering for students & faculty to again discuss the classes being offered fall 2013. Smail Gallery-Olin Rice, 11:30 – 1:00.

*April 18*-Support of "Who Needs Feminism" MN Women's Consortium & WGSS.

*May 9*, Reception and Honor's Projects presented by seniors, Harmon Room.

*May 6*, Support of Alumna Oral History lunch.

## 2013 WGSS Graduating Majors

**Sabrina Rae Baumgartner**  
**Gary Charles Kilian**  
**Myriah Florence Myers**  
**Emily Rose Pripas**  
**Sophie Marcil Schwadron**  
**Henry Connaughton Slocum**

## 2013 WGSS Graduating Minors

**Mollie Goodman Beebe**  
**Charlotte Elizabeth Bemsohn**  
**Emily Ann Downing**  
**Rebecca Danielle Gans**  
**Sara Raffel Sandmel**  
**Emma Kathryn WestRasmus**

**Ryan Patrick Murphy** taught classes in WGSS this past year while Corie Hammers was away on sabbatical. He is a Mac grad and has a PhD in American Studies from the University of Minnesota. His expertise in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies lies in LGBT and Queer Studies, political economy, and labor and globalization.



His new book, *Deregulating Desire: Flight Attendants and their Unions Since 1970*, will be published as part of Temple University Press's "Sexuality Studies" in September of 2013. During this academic year he has taught a variety of introductory and advanced courses at Macalester. In the fall, "The Culture Wars" historicizes why so-called "social issues" like abortion, homosexuality, and feminism have produced increasingly divisive and caustic political debates. "Feminism/Queer Theories and Methodologies" asks how feminist and queer theory shape contemporary knowledge production, and how those texts might invigorate students' own research. While history guides Murphy's approach, all of his classes are interdisciplinary, drawing on foundational theoretical works, the newest critical scholarship, visual art, popular literature, and film.

*Ryan Murphy was offered and accepted a tenure-track position in the history department at Earlham College. A great, new adventure begins this fall! Congratulations, Ryan! .*

## Spotlight on Alumni – Alissa Light



I graduated from Macalester in 2003 with a major in Women's & Gender Studies. I knew a WGSS major was the right fit early in my sophomore year after taking a class on gender and linguistics, and then taking Sonita Sarker's intro to Women's & Gender Studies class. I recognize now that I showed up at Macalester having coasted through high school in rural Vermont, never having really learned how to study, read or think

critically. When I landed in the WGSS department, I had my butt kicked. I loved what I was learning and wanted, *needed* to invest myself in a way I hadn't previously.

In my junior year I started to balance my theoretical classes with internships and discovered a wonderful symmetry of that overstated dictum: Theory and Practice. I began interning at Family Tree Clinic. Family Tree is a nonprofit, reproductive and sexual health center. To me, Family Tree is a beacon and a leader in the sexual health and reproductive justice movement because it is small, nimble, community-based, holistic, patient-centered and outside of the mainstream health care system. It also has an incredible history and a fantastically dedicated staff. In my senior year I wrote my capstone paper on Family Tree and the intersections of the reproductive health movement with the limitations of nonprofit political engagement. A couple years later I found myself back in the Twin Cities, and I

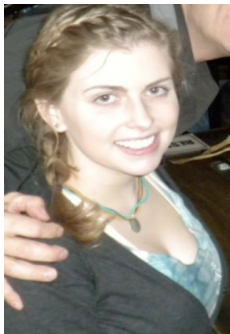
got a PAID job at Family Tree answering their statewide Family Planning & STI Hotline. The following year a position as Volunteer Coordinator opened up. I applied and got the job. It was so exciting to get to coordinate the volunteer program, particularly with the perspective of having been a volunteer intern. Then another opportunity within the clinic opened up, this time the Clinic Director role, and I moved into that position in 2007. Two years later, after some significant transitions at the executive leadership level, the board asked me to step in as Interim Executive Director. I agreed, having the audacity to say that I would step in as the interim but was not interested in the regular gig. I was working towards a Masters in nursing at that point, with the intent to become a Nurse Practitioner. Little did I know I was stepping into my dream job. In July of 2010 I received the incredible honor of officially becoming Family Tree's Executive Director. In this role I focus on policy –particularly around reproductive and sexual health access, community outreach and engagement, fundraising, and strategic visioning. I love it.

When I think back on how lucky I am, I recognize none of it would be possible without the rigorous, overwhelming and incredibly rewarding education I received at Mac, and particularly within the WGSS department. Although I don't regularly apply, or even remember, many of the theories I stayed up so late reading and writing about, I do use my critical thinking, writing, and analytical skills on a daily (hourly) basis. My WGSS major taught me how to think. It taught me how to write. And most importantly it taught me that reproductive justice is what fuels my fire.

# Introducing Two New Majors to WGSS



**Christopher DiCesare (class of 2015)** is from Westford, Massachusetts. Back home are his mom, dad and sister Liz, a senior in high school. She will be attending Mount Holyoke College in the fall. Other members of their family are 2 cats (Boston and Brooklyn) and a dog (Bailey). Chris says he chose the WGSS major because he's interested in the interdisciplinary aspects of the major/department. He has no idea about his career path yet. This is what he was willing to share about himself. 'He knows all the words to an embarrassingly large number of bad punk songs from the 90's.'



**Hannah Trivilino (class of 2015)** is from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. At home are my parents, brother Alex, and bird Aerial. At Mac, the Veggie Coop is home. At home, everyone including the bird, talks a lot. The Veggie Coop family talks a lot.

Hannah chose the WGSS major because she wants to study everything. In her first semester at Mac, she asked her advisor if she could major in minors. He said no. Then I realized that while I like English, Media and Cultural Studies, and Political Science (etc.) I only ever wanted to study Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies within these fields. WGSS was the obvious solution.

When asked about her career path, the answer was uhhhh....actually, if anybody is secretly a Guerrilla Girl, I'd love to be recruited.

'I do not know all of the words to an embarrassingly large number of bad punk songs from the 90's.'

## Great Cross-listed classes offered in Year 2012-2013 in WGSS

### *Fall Semester*

History of U.S. Feminisms by Catherine Batza (History)  
Feminist Political Theory by Zornitsa Keremidchieva (Pol Sci)  
Performing Feminisms by Lara Nielsen (Theatre)  
Gender, Race, and Health in 20<sup>th</sup> Century US by C. Batza  
Gender, Power, and Sexualities in Africa by D. Shandy (Anth)  
Lives in Context by Joan Ostrove (Psychology)  
Latin America Through Women's Eyes by P. Dosh (Pol Sci)  
Goddess & Ghosts: Images of Women in Chinese Culture  
By XinYang (Asian Languages & Cultures)  
Culture & Theory of Women of Color Feminisms by Pegues  
Minding the Body by Joan Ostrove (Psychology)

### *Spring Semester*

Conquering the Flesh by Susanna Drake (Religion)  
Gender & Sexuality in China by Xin Yang (Chinese)  
Sex in the City: Gender, Sexuality & Urban Life  
by Catherine Batza (History)  
Wars on Poverty by Catherine Batza (History)  
Women's Voices in Politics by Z. Keremidchieva (Pol Sc)  
Women, Health, Reproduction by Elizabeth Jansen (Biol)  
Topics in U.S. History by Catherine Batza (Hist)  
Economics of Gender by Karine Moe (Am Stud)  
The Psychology of Gender by Joan Ostrove (Psyc)  
Feminist Classicists by Brian Lush (Classics)  
Transnational Studies: Race, Empire & the Politics of  
Transracial & Transnational Adoption  
By Soojin Pate (Am St)

WGSS presents “Mad Creatures in the Attic”, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013

*Seniors presented their Capstones:*

**Kelsey Woida** — “*Crafting a Radical Space for the Third Wave. Reclaiming Women’s Work, Do-It-Yourself Ethos, and Pleasure*”.

**Sophie Schwadron** — “*Minding My Business: Capitalism and the Feminist Workplace*”.

**Sabrina Baumgartner** — “*Identity & Access: Seeking Supportive Services for Victims and Survivors of Domestic Violence*”.

**Myriah Myers** — “*The Politics of Poetry: Meditations on the Body, Trauma, & The Pursuit of Memory*”.

**Henry Slocum** — “*Dismantling the Factory Society: Contesting Work and Combating Patriarchy*”.

**Emily Rose Pripas** — “*Desire and Assimilation: (Post) Feminist Jewish Identity in Context*”.

**Charles Killian** — “*Nos ancêtres, les pervers: Reading Queerly and Constructing the Homosexual Before the Closet (1810-1830)*”.

**2013 Women’s, Gender & Sexuality Studies Graduates**



Lin Aanonsen (biology), chair of WGSS. Sonita Sarker & Corie Hammers, WGSS faculty. Steering Committee: Joan Ostrove (psychology), Joanna Inglot (art), Rebecca Hoye (chemistry), Beth Severy-Hoven (classics).