



# INTERSECTIONS

Fall/Spring 2013-2014

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

## WGSS Co-sponsored Janet Mock



**JANET MOCK** is a writer, an advocate and the *New York Times* bestselling author of [Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love & So Much more](#), released by [Atria Books/Simon & Schuster](#).

After publicly proclaiming her identity as a trans woman in a 2011 profile in [Marie Claire](#) magazine, Janet focused her efforts on speaking about the struggles, triumphs and portrayals of girls and women like herself. In 2012, she launched [#GirlsLikeUs](#), a movement that encourages trans women to live visibly. She currently [writes](#) and [speaks](#) about her experience of living at the intersections of identities.

Janet is [a board member](#) at the [Arcus Foundation](#), a global organization advancing social justice and conservation issues, and an advisor for the [{young}ist](#), a young people-powered media site. She has also advised programming for trans youth at the [Hetrick-Martin Institute](#) in New York.

A native of Honolulu, Janet attended the University of Hawaii at Manoa, earned her MA in journalism from New York University, and worked as a Staff Editor for [People.com](#) (*People* magazine's website) for five years. She lives and writes in New York City with her boyfriend, photographer and filmmaker [Aaron Tredwell](#) and their [cockapoo Cleo](#).

### Fall Events

September 13, Welcome Back event for all new and returning WGSS students.

Sept 26, Department meeting

Oct 3, Student-faculty gathering

Oct 17, 31, Department meetings

Nov 14, 21, Department meetings

Dec 2, Department meeting

Dec 5, End of semester student-faculty lunch

Co-sponsored **Wendy Larson**, professor of Asian Languages, from University of Oregon.

### Spring Events

January 22, Faculty and steering committee retreat.

January, Co-sponsored showing 'After Tiller'

February, Co-sponsorship of *Picturing the World Speaker Series*.

Feb 21, Viewed Naked 1: Insides Out

March 4, Co-sponsored **Janet Mock** Women's History Month keynote speaker.

March 10, 11, Department Review

April 1, Pre-registration gathering for students and faculty to discuss the classes being offered fall 2014.

May 5, WGSS dinner to honor graduates and Capstone Presentations:

**Nola Pastor**— "*Beyond Consent: Exploring Sexual Violence Prevention at Macalester Through a Framework of Sexual Subjectivity and Sexual Ethics*"

**Emily Granada**— "*Undressing Sexual Agency: A Reimagining of Strip Club Power Dynamics*"

**Raynise Cange**— "*What is a revolution?: Redefining Performance to Hear Black Women's Voices*"

May 16, Graduation Reception

### 2014 WGSS Major Graduates

Raynise Deondra Cange

Emily Anahi Granada

Nola Rae Barrett Pastor

Kelsey Lynne Woida

### 2014 WGSS Minor Graduates

Rebecca Danielle Gans

Emily Michelle Geris

Kathryn Claire Ibur

Chloe Jane Kaulas

Zoe Marie Kusintz

Ashley Anne Mangan



**Corie Hammers' Sabbatical 2012-13.** During my sabbatical my partner and I lived in Austin, Texas (where I am from) to be near family and friends. During this time I attended numerous events at the University of Texas -- Austin, attending lectures from scholars such as Lauren Berlant, Ann Cvetkovich, and Elaine Scarry. I also spent this time traveling to research sites to conduct interviews for my research work on the lesbian/queer BDSM subculture, specifically as it relates to forms of queer kinship and familial relationality (a manuscript I am currently developing). I also spent a great deal of time during my sabbatical becoming familiar with the psychoanalytic literature (a monumental task!) as I was at that time trying to use psychoanalysis to further understand work I do around sexual trauma, bodily integrity, and sexual practice.

I incorporated much of this literature into my Advanced Feminist Theory course, which I taught for the first time this past spring. I wanted to expose students to this psychoanalytic literature, specifically its connections to queer theory and the dilemmas/challenges this potentially poses to feminist theory and the field of feminist studies. While immersing myself in this literature over sabbatical, I developed three new manuscripts, one of which was currently accepted in the journal *Feminist Theory*, while the other two manuscripts are in the revise-and-resubmit stage.

I also worked on my tan in the heat of the Texas sun and developed an amazing farmer's tan while volunteering at a local urban farm. I chased pigs, cleaned the chicken coop (not fun!), planted all kinds of vegetables, learned how to irrigate crops and sow seeds! It's a small woman-run urban farm and also provides a produce-delivery service for the Austin area for local organic fruits and vegetables.

**2014 WGSS Majors Graduates:**



Kelsey Woida



Raynise Cange



Emily Granada



Nola Pastor

**Kelsey** is working and volunteering in the Twin Cities and is hoping to apply to masters of social work programs in the fall.

**Raynise** is interning at the Penumbra Theatre this summer and looking at Teach for America and Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education.

**Emily** is working this year and applying to graduate schools to earn a PhD with the goal of teaching at the post-secondary level.

**Nola** is working and doing sustainability work in the Twin Cities and is sure to be applying to graduate school.

## Spotlight on Alumni

### Anna Stern '01



“What are you going to do with *that*?” was the usual response when I told people my major, as though I had talked about acquiring a large collection of obsolete auto parts. I declared a WGS major after being both terrified and ignited by Sonita Sarker’s introduction to

women’s and gender studies. When I went back to graduate school to get my Masters in Social Work, I realized how extraordinary Sonita’s way of challenging students was, and found I missed getting papers back wreathed in intense and colorful ink. She broke open my understanding of the world--but gently--giving my little seedling self the sun and water to flourish, send out shoots, and link up with the people and ideas around me in ever-expanding ways. It was in her classroom that I learned to follow my fear, to move into it, keeping my heart as open as I could. After Sonita, I found others who stretched me, bent me, lifted me up and showed me ways of seeing wholly outside myself.

After college, I took a job at a Latina domestic violence agency (Casa de Esperanza, in St. Paul) and saw much of what I learned in WGS in action—the intensity and

### Holly Evans '11

I arrived at Mac having no idea what I wanted to study, some vague thought of creating my own history-religious studies-sociology major was floating around, but I had no real plans. Fall of my sophomore year I realized that three out of the four classes I had registered for were cross-listed with WGSS, and I thought to myself “huh, I guess this is something I am interested in.” Once I got more immersed in the department, I felt so incredibly privileged (a loaded word, I know) to get to study such rich, important topics. I loved every minute of it. I also fell in love with the interdisciplinary WGSS, anything I wanted to learn about from Latin American politics to Gayle Rubin’s “benign sexual variation” I could find a WGSS or cross-listed class.

WGSS is not a major where you just learn facts and figures, theories and names; it provides a lens through which to see the world. Some people may call this lens a bias, but since everyone has a bias anyway, I’d rather mine be critically examining power relations. Although I may not explain hegemony to the person next to me on the bus very often, I use the lens of WGSS every day. Whether I am watching a movie, at a protest, helping out on a farm, or getting groceries, I am

challenges of intersectional identities; the power and joy of “putting the work in the hands of more and more people” (Lupe Serrano). Years later, I have moved through roles in the court system (Hennepin County), a statewide domestic violence agency (Day One of Cornerstone) a queer organization working to increase mental health access for LGBTQ youth (RECLAIM), and am now working as a clinical social worker with teens and their families at a large nonprofit in the Boston area (The Home for Little Wanderers). Each of these roles has brought new understanding of the power of organizing and the risks of oppression.

As a student, I saw myself as outside of academic discourse. I was the one who wanted to get away from the language of the ivory tower, which poooh-pooohed Foucault and pushed for more practice in my theory. Getting away was easier said than done, as it turned out. When I sought out opportunities to support individuals and communities in the context of cultures and systems, I found myself moving back toward the theories I thought I had left behind.

Our language feels inadequate to describe desires outside itself. How can we talk about a different way of being in the world, in the words of that world? I am suddenly aware that I am clumsily rephrasing something Audre Lorde said much better: “the master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house.” And so, I continue to seek new ways to understand human beings, and suffering, reclamation and transformation. As a therapist, I have wound up where I started, with a practice called “Narrative Therapy,” grounded in the work of my old pal Foucault.

noticing who is in power and who isn’t, whose voices are loudest and why, why certain social behaviors are accepted and others are not, the matrices of oppression that seem to converge unfairly on some, and blatantly lift up oblivious others. WGSS gives us the tools to notice and analyze, it is up to us to take action.



My partner Randy and I have been traveling and farming since early 2012, with the ultimate goal of having our own small organic farm. It may not seem like organic farming and WGSS have much in common, but there are always questions of power wherever you go: Who has access to organic food? How can we change the fact that it is an upper-



middle class luxury, when it should be a basic right? Who is growing/picking/transporting most of the food that we eat, and what are their labor conditions? In rural areas where stereotypes are typically more entrenched, how can we not only build a farm, but also build a community focusing on challenging stereotypes and valuing all people? WGSS has allowed me to think about and ask these questions, and hopefully help raise awareness and challenge norms in spaces where “heteronormativity” is a foreign concept. I have particularly noticed sexism and ablism in organic farming even among progressive, liberal, college-educated farmers, and I wrote a blog post about these prejudices on our farming blog.

On the writing side, over the last year or so I have also been working on-and-off tweaking my capstone (*More than Dirty Talk: The Business Advantages to being a Phone Sex Operator*) for possible publication. Although I am quite excited to start a farm, if I could contribute something to feminist literary canon, that would be incredible.

Right now my partner and I are in Bali, helping out with farms and projects before coming home and starting a farm of our own. We recently found out that I am pregnant, and raising a kid in this world where gender stereotypes are pervasive and inescapable will be quite the feminist challenge. Good thing I saved all my Judith Butler and Michael Foucault notes!

## Cross-listed courses offered in 2013-14

### Fall 2013 Cross-listed courses

Latin America Through Women’s Eyes, Dosh  
 Minding The Body, Kayiatos, Ostrove  
 History of U.S. Feminisms, Hudson  
 Gender, Sexualities and Feminist Visual Culture, Inglot  
 The Psychology of Gender, Ostrove  
 Cold War Gets Hot: Sex & Gender in 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> World Literatures, Kayiatos  
 Archetypes & Agency: Gender in Latin American History Through Film and Text, Moerer

### Spring 2014 Cross-listed courses

Women, Health, Reproduction, Jansen  
 Women/Gender/Sex Greece/Rome, Hoven  
 Economics of Gender, Moe  
 Feminist Political Theory, Keremidchieva  
 Masculinity, Gender, and Differences, Williams  
 Transgender History, Identity, and Politics, Jacquet  
 Burning the Curtain: Queer Performance in the U.S., Colleary  
 Women and the Bible, Drake  
 The New Woman: Fictions of Feminism in the 1890’s, African American Women’s History, Hudson  
 Gender and Music, Malawey



### **Sonita Sarkers’ Spring (2014) class**

**Women’s Literature and Sociopolitical Change** ‘U-topia’ means place (topos) that doesn’t exist’ and ‘Utopia’ means ‘a good place.’ Implicit as well as explicit in much of the 20th century’s feminist critical analysis of the state of society and its politics is a desire for better state yet-to-be (utopia) as well as a fear of catastrophe or nightmare (dystopia). This course investigates how women’s literary writing from different parts of the world (Bangladeshi, British, African-American, Canadian, to name a few) produce visions of the present and the future, of the real and the imagined, beliefs about masculinity and femininity, socialist and capitalist philosophies, modernity, the environment (ectopic), and various technologies including cyber genetics. The collection of texts is intended also to provide us with genealogies to construct as well as analyze our own fantasies and realities of sociopolitical change.

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).