

Women & Gender Studies 3rd Annual Conference
Politics of Gender & Justice:

The Intersection of Identity & Disciplines

April 22, 2016
9:00AM - 5:00PM
Merten Hall, 1st Floor
George Mason University
Fairfax, Virginia 22030

A one-day conference hosted by the Women and Gender Studies department at George Mason University, gathers artists, activists, scholars, intellectuals, community members, and others together to critically and creatively examine how gender and justice are intertwined.

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Women and Gender Studies



HELLO,

I AM.

THE INTERSECTION OF
IDENTITY AND DISCIPLINES

ROOM
1203

Main Floor
Gallery

Hello, I Am., is an art exhibition that examines the multifaceted methods that artists engage in to communicate issues of identity, gender, and difference. These artists employ the stories around them to channel life experiences. Their narratives lie in imagery created with oil, acrylic, a camera lens, and their ingrained cultural associations. The power of art as activism stimulates dialogue, raises consciousness and crosses the borders of culture and language.

Conference Schedule

9:00AM-10:00AM Check in/Registration & Breakfast

9:30AM-10:00AM Welcome Remarks
Spoken Word Performance

10:00AM-11:00AM Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lisa Lindley

11:15AM-12:30PM **SESSION I**

SESSION A: Relationships & Gender Roles in a Transnational Context

SESSION B: Spitting for Justice Workshop

12:30 PM- 4:30 PM *Hello, I Am* Art Exhibition 1203 Merten Hall

12:45PM-1:45PM Lunch 1201 Merten Hall
Bystander Intervention Training
Wellness, Alcohol, and Violence Education and Services

2:00PM-3:15PM **SESSION II**

SESSION C: Representation & Gender Roles in a Transnational Context

SESSION D: Gender, Sexuality, and Biopolitics

SESSION E: Storytelling and Narratives of Marginalized Identities

3:30PM-4:45PM **SESSION III**

SESSION F: Critiquing US Culture

SESSION G: Colorism among Female College Students Panel

SESSION H: Hip Hop-Creative Workshop

5:00PM-5:30PM Closing Remarks

6:00PM Mix & Mingle/Happy Hour
The Green Turtle
3950 University Drive, Suite 209
Fairfax, VA 22030

OPENING PERFORMANCE: 9:30AM-10:00AM 1201 Merten Hall, Main Room

“Yellow Journalism” Yasmine Hasanzadah

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: 10:00AM-11:00AM 1201 Merten Hall, Main Room

Invisible and At-Risk: The Sexual Reproductive Health Concerns of Sexual Minority Women
Dr. Lisa Lindley

SESSION I: 11:15AM-12:30PM

A: Relationships and Gender Roles in a Transnational Context

Room 2500, Merten Hall

*Navigating Dating and Romantic Relationships as a First Generation
South Asian Immigrant Woman, and the Effects it has on College Students*
Alekhya Tallapaka

Room 1204, Merten Hall

*Cape Verdeans From The 1970's To Present Time Being Represented
As A Relative Status With The Inequalities In Gender Roles*
Gabbriella Andrews-Santos

*The Battle For Women's Liberation: A Feminist Analysis Of Politics,
Gender-based Violence, And State Development In South Sudan*
Nicole Falgiano

B: Spitting for Justice Workshop

Room 3300, Merten Hall

Spitting For Justice: Performance Poems Informed By Academic Work Kris Gebhard

12:30PM – 4:30PM *Hello, I Am* Art Exhibition 1203 Merten Hall

12:45PM-1:45PM **Lunch** 1201 Merten Hall

Bystander Intervention Training
Wellness, Alcohol, and Violence Education and Services

SESSION II: 2:00PM-3:15PM

C: Representation and Gender Roles in a Transnational Context

Room 1204, Merten Hall

*Gender and Nation-Building: Intersections with Gender Identity Construction
in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community*
Saima Ahmad

Mobilizing Vulnerability: Representations of Migrant Transwomen and Human Rights Discourse
Elizabeth Gibson

*Gender, National Identity, and Political Participation: A Cross-National Analysis of Voter
Participation*

Shannon N. Davis, Alysia Blake, Felicia Garland-Jackson, Amanda Reioux and MaryAnn Vega

SESSION II: 2:00PM-3:15PM

D: Gender, Sexuality and Biopolitics

Room 2500, Merten Hall

African-American Single Mother Households: Distributing Household Labor Among Parents, Children and Social Networks? Nefertiti Berhane

Hymens and Hysteria Kellie White

Press Play Nayomi Aracelli

Resistance and Resilience: The Trial of the Murder of Ritter Candace Jackson Gray

E: Storytelling and Narratives of Marginalized Identities

Room 3300, Merten Hall

"Are You Sure I Can Tell This Story?": Using Forensics Performance as a Means of Exploring the Marginalized Identity of Others

Jessica Rauchberg

Race Identity Formation and the Obama Presidency: A Dialogue Across the African Diaspora

Robert Graham and Wanjiku Wainaina

SESSION III: 3:30PM-4:45PM

F: Critiquing US Culture

Room 1204, Merten Hall

Rape Culture in the United States: Fact or Fiction?

Dena Monticone

Reframing the Narrative: An Analytical Reexamination of Motherhood

Incarceration and the Effects on Children

Felicia Garland-Jackson

College Internships: A Pathway to Inequality?

Christian Rafael Suero

Colorism among Female College Students: Everything You Wanted to Know, But Was Afraid to Ask

Latisha Jones, Tiffany Reese, Scottie Scott,

Tamara Smith, Shelia Greenlee, & Dorothy Doolittle

G: Theoretical Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality

Room 3300, Merten Hall

A Queer Appropriation of Nietzsche: Anti-Metaphysics and Life-Affirmation

Matthew Brake

Disabling the "Gaze"

Kami King

SESSION III: 3:30PM-4:45PM

H: Hip Hop-Creative Workshop

1201 Merten Hall, Main Room

The Why's, The Woke and The Winning: Hip Hop-Creative Conscious for "Coming Through" Marginalization
Emma Lee & Emilia A. Ottoo

CLOSING REMARKS

1201 Merten Hall, Main Room

Sufism and Sexuality
Sara Haq
Class of 2012 Graduate of the Women and Gender Studies MAIS Program

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

1201 Merten Hall, Main Room

The Influence of Gender Norms on the Body Image of Young Adults in the Trans and Queer Communities
Dina Bicking

Survey of Television Viewing Habits
Marissa Kiss

Lifestyle Homogeny
Samuel Gaffigan

"You're Just Not Meant For This": An Autoethnographic Exploration of Navigating Neurodiversity and Intimate Partner Communication
Jessica Rauchberg

Social Movements, College Experiences, and Institutions: An Ethnographic Approach to Analyzing the Impact of Black Lives Matter on Students at HBCUs vs. PWIs
Emily Harvey

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

OPENING PERFORMANCE,
1201 Merten Hall, Main Room
"Yellow Journalism"
Yasmine Hasanzadah

Yasmine Hasanzadah is completing her final semester in Conflict Analysis and Resolution at George Mason University to further her knowledge base in intervention and forging a more sustainable and peaceful world. Her main area of passion is all issues pertaining to women as well as social justice issues, both of which she chose to minor in. She discovered spoken word poetry during middle school and through the support of her 8th grade English teacher she gained the confidence to hit the stage. Over the years she's performed at various open mic events, the Busboys and Poets locations being some of her favorite. This particular piece she named Yellow Journalism to highlight the nature of modern propaganda that seeks to victimize Muslim women and rob them of their agency.

SESSION I: 11:15AM-12:30PM
A: Relationships and Gender Roles in a Transnational Context

Room 2500, Merten Hall
Navigating Dating and Romantic Relationships as a First Generation South Asian Immigrant Woman, and the Effects it has on College Students
Alekhya Tallapaka

As South Asian Americans emerge as a prominent ethnic group in the United States, first generation immigrants from South Asia are expected to balance extremely difficult cultures. An aspect of Western culture that women of the South Asian community have found the need to adapt to is dating and romantic relationships, a subject that is highly stigmatized. However, there is very little literature written about this aspect of South Asian immigrants, a result of the taboo nature of this topic. My primary goal and research question is: How do first generation South Asian women navigate the stigma of dating and pursuing romantic relationships while attempting to appease two different cultures? My research project seeks to define the cultural expectations placed on these women, while simultaneously paying attention to the family values that contribute to their hybridity. I am using ethnographic and survey methods to collect my data, while recording experiences from South Asian college students across the country, including states such as Virginia, Texas, Minnesota, and California. I expect the data to show the navigation of romance and sexuality is mainly difficult for women partial to the South Asian community, especially when trying to communicate with their family members about such topics. My research will.

Room 1204, Merten Hall
Cape Verdeans from the 1970's to present time being represented as a relative status with the inequalities in Gender roles
Gabriella Andrews-Santos

Gender is a sensitive topic for many people, particularly the Cape Verdeans. Defining life gender roles and statuses will be characterized and will be presented in a time order including research that will be analyzed from them. My main research question is: How have traditional gender roles in Cape Verde changed from the 1970's to present? Women and men have been and still are affected by traditional difficulties and outlooks yet; actions are still only being talked about. Women and men take options and strategies in response to the severities that ascend as they alter gender attributions in the relationships with society. The qualitative data is an ongoing study and trying to see if gender roles and status remain the same today or not. Although the gendered statuses are biased and have these prospects because of the past history, I plan to identify the differences, similarities, and trends over this time period by having the two comparative study groups that will include family members aged 30-80 both Cape Verdean born and Cape Verdean Americans. The interviews will be semi-structured and will focus on the areas of housework, childcare, the workplace, education, cultural, religious, and profitable aspects that influence gender expectation. The groups will help my research topic to understand the background of the inequalities and what to expect from Cape Verdean women and men when my interviews are complete.

SESSION I: 11:15AM-12:30PM

Room 1204, Merten Hall

The Battle for Women's Liberation: A Feminist Analysis of Politics, Gender-Based Violence, and State Development in South Sudan
Nicole Falgiano

The sovereign nation of South Sudan has experienced a constant state of civil war since its official independence from Sudan in 2011. The society itself is engulfed in violence and social unrest. The majority of the population is housed in refugee camps as they are considered internally displaced persons. Women's rights have been overlooked by the governing regime, although the laws are in place to protect these rights, monitoring and enforcement have been snubbed. The civil war that is being waged across South Sudan is being fought on the battleground of women and children's bodies. Sexual violence has been used as a weapon by all sides of the conflict. In order to address the rampant disregard for the rights of women, this escalation of violence as well as the formal and informal institutions in place must be analyzed through a feminist lens. With a feminist movement evolving amongst South Sudanese women, a step towards gender equality and, possibly, an end to the violence could progress into the inclusion of women in the formal political institutions.

Room 3300: Workshop: Spitting for Justice

Spitting For Justice: Performance Poems Informed By Academic Work
Kris Gebhard

As a poet who is also an academic in psychology, Kris seeks to explore how performance poetry can influence gender justice discourse. Kris Gebhard will perform several poems from a spoken word show that Kris, CeCe McDonald, and Katie Burgess are currently writing. The show compares the authors' transmasculine and transfeminine experiences, as well as their white and black trans experiences, as a platform for interrogating white supremacy and patriarchy. Kris will share pieces that are informed by the research Kris does on threatened masculinity and shame.

Kris will facilitate a discussion about the content of Kris's pieces, and will lead a short writer's workshop. Everyone is invited to come and write; previous experience writing poetry is most definitely not required! Writers will be invited to share their work if they would like.

Kris has been writing and performing poetry, hosting open mics, and leading poetry workshops in trans and queer communities for ten years. It should be noted that Kris's poetry includes occasional profane language and sexual content.

SESSION II: 2:00PM-3:15PM

Room 1204: Representation and Gender Roles in a Transnational Context

Gender and Nation-Building: Intersections with Gender Identity Construction in the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Saima Ahmad

With much scholarship on gender and Islam focused on combatting stereotypes of Muslim women, and because academic studies on Islam tend to be wed to studies of the Middle East, gender issues which exist in Muslim collectivities of the West tend to be overlooked. As such, for academic discourse to primarily focus on combating extreme, violent and physical forms of oppression, such as those enacted by Islamophobic Western societies and authoritative theocratic regimes, renders invisible the more subtle ways oppression toward cis-gendered women exists within moderate Muslim communities in the West. The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community tends to escape such criticism because of its moderate and liberal image. ‘Moderate’ Muslim communities tend to denounce forms of violent extremism and support equal education and employment opportunities of women. As a self-declared and externally recognized ‘moderate’ community, the Ahmadiyya community avoids academic criticism on the non-violent ways that women’s bodies are being controlled and regulated. This paper serves as foundation in ongoing research exploring the dichotomy between sexuality and spirituality that is enforced in organized minority Muslim communities and how such a dichotomy affects gender and identity construction. The regulation of cis-women’s bodies in the Ahmadiyya community is examined parallel to the gendered discourses developed in projects of nation-building in the Middle East. Despite differences in magnitude and geography, both dynamics create spaces for women yet deny them their agency when they wish to go beyond the boundaries established for them.

Mobilizing Vulnerability: Representations of Migrant Transwomen and Human Rights Discourse Elizabeth Gibson

Transwoman migrants are characterized as racial, sexual and gender “undesirables,” by a hetero-sexist/cisgenderist, neo-liberal state. They are subjected to long confinements in sex-segregated prison-like detention centers (often in male spaces), restrictions on earning a living, and costly legal battles to attain asylum. As subjects vulnerable to state and social antagonisms, gender, trans-migrants are increasingly mobilizing and deploying “representations” of their vulnerability and state-imposed precarity, to resist state power and increase individual and group agency.

I will analyze a specific representation of migrant transwomen—Jennicet Gutiérrez’s strategically framed public protest. I argue that representations of vulnerability are part of a strategic effort to shift the discourse around asylum for gender and sexual minorities, away from an unresponsive legal system, to a discourse on human rights. This shift is intended to appeal to society and the state, to effect change in state policy and law. In a system in which they have few juridical protections, “spectacularized” portrayals bypass an unresponsive legal system and craft the plight of those subjects in the context of human rights discourse, effectively shifting very nature of the discourse to effect a change in policy/law.

In leveraging an ocular epistemology or visibility politics to shift the nature of the migrant discourse to a human rights focus, these representations create a roadmap for resisting state power, changing social views and understandings of a particular migrant group, and creating space for transgender migrants to be assimilated into the national imaginary.

SESSION II: 2:00PM-3:15PM

Room 1204: Representation and Gender Roles in a Transnational Context

Gender, National Identity, and Political Participation: A Cross-National Analysis of Voter Participation
Shannon N. Davis, Alysia Blake,
Felicia Garland-Jacksono,
Amanda Reioux and MaryAnn Vega

The purpose of this paper is to develop an understanding of the gendered nature of political participation. Globally, anti-immigrant and generally xenophobic policies, in tandem with austerity policies in response to the Great Recession, have been pushed by conservative legislations under the guise of protecting jobs for nations' citizens. These policies also came to fruition in a time where Europe was experiencing an intensification of significant immigration tied to the destabilization of the Middle East; refugees from war-torn regions like Syria were among those immigrants in Europe. And in the Americas at the same time, scores of unaccompanied and young children left their countries of birth in search of both asylum and a new home. Scholarship has documented the gendered nature of political participation, that is do women and men vote at different rates, but there has been little research into the interconnections between demographic shifts and anti-immigrant policies at the national level and voting behaviors of individuals. We seek to understand how individual-level characteristics and state-level characteristics intersect to facilitate and/or inhibit political participation among women and men, with an eye toward understanding how changing demographic landscapes within countries influence voter participation through individual attitudes toward the nation-state and immigrants. Have women and men been mobilized to participate or become disengaged in the political process cross-nationally as a result of shifts in migration patterns? Using data from the 2013 ISSP, we place women's and men's voter participation into national context.

Room 2500: Gender, Sexuality and Biopolitics

African-American Single Mother Households: Distributing Household Labor Among Parents, Children and Social Networks?
Nefertiti Berbane

In this study, I used a Federally funded time-diary survey, the American Time Use Survey, to understand how a single, African-American mother allocates her time to housework. Specifically, I am studying the way that the presence of other adults and children over the age of 13 effect the amount of time a single, African-American mother spends on housework. While other studies on single mothers and housework have focused on consumerism and paying for the outsourcing of housework, this study will focus on the outsourcing of housework from the head of the household to her children and other adults that alleviate the burden of housework. For this study, I used the 2010 through 2014 samples of the American Time Use Survey to identify my sample of just under 1,000 women. I am currently conducting this analysis by running an OLS regression to understand the amount of time a single mother spends on traditionally "feminine" household tasks such as food preparation, interior cleaning and laundry, as well as traditionally "masculine" household tasks such as yard work, household management, and animal care. While previous sociological studies using the American Time Use Survey have focused on households headed by a married or cohabitating couple, I am hoping that my study on single, African-American mothers will create a better understanding of the households of these women and how the allocate their time.

SESSION II: 2:00PM-3:15PM

Hymens and Hysteria *Kellie White*

Purity is a governing force that extends beyond its intended meanings and functions within societal and patriarchal structures. Purity has a variety of meanings and effects on various discourses and structures, and it has been used to construct categories and ideas that can be dangerous as they affect all who are deemed impure and tainted. Historical notions of purification and demonization allow for a dominant ideology or force to determine the fate and treatment of those who fall outside the strictures of the demands that specific situated notions of purity has determined. Within notions of purity lie the ability to radically affect women's views of themselves and the ownership of their own bodies. Purity is often a component of traditional heteronormative gender roles in which women are destined to mediocre sexual intercourse with one man for the remainder of their lives, meanwhile cooking and cleaning, caring for children, maintaining an acceptable feminine appearance, and beside the mediocrity of the intercourse- women ascribed to traditional gender roles are expected to remain sexually available at all time for the pleasure of their husband, and never themselves. Understanding the far reaching consequences of purity and its enforcements are important for conceiving the theoretical implications such concepts have on female identified individuals and their lives: to explore historical notions of purity specifically in the United States is crucial to establishing points of control and subjugation that are permitted with acceptances of purity- and explorations of such factors that proliferate both privilege and rape culture.

Press Play *Nayomi Aracelli*

My conceptualization is titled "Press Play". My subject matter would be my take on Title IX, sexual assault itself, female genital mutilation, a life in the day of an Islamic women and human trafficking in 3rd world countries more so the Asian regions. I would use audio recordings of sexual assault victims to open my proposal and launch into a poem. I would do the same for each subject matter in an attempt to capture the voice and soul of any victim. I would also use costumes, makeup and props as I see fit as that is what I normally use during a "set". For the Islamic women piece I would like to dress up in a form of a hijab and traditional garb and have bruises outlining my wrists and talk about their normal which consists of oppression. For the human trafficking portion, I was thinking either donning chains of some sort or to put myself on "display" like an auction but using my body as the selling point. I would maybe wear nude clothing to emphasize the body. And for the FGM part, I would most likely cover my genitalia with an X or emphasize the lack of. For the Title IX portion, I would do a segment called Title XI basically a one-up of Title IX which I'd written about and performed at GMU earlier this month. But I would put an even heavier spin and emphasis that it be followed especially at campuses.

Resistance and Resilience: The Trial of the Murder of Ritter *Candace Jackson Gray*

On a sweltering hot day in August, 1863, in Coffee County, Tennessee, a black slave woman named Ritter died from all-day beatings, abuse, and hanging inflicted by her master, Robert Taylor. Although the trial transcript labels the case as the murder of a slave woman, a more complex characterization of Ritter is found in the notations of Judge Advocate General Joseph Holt and President Abraham Lincoln.

African Americans did access the court system and wartime legal policies, as Laura Edwards documents. In this paper, I investigate the legal and social aspects of local, state and federal legal records to show the recourses available to enslaved and runaway African Americans. I consider the double character of the white slaveholder Taylor, as defined in Ariel Gross's monograph: Double Character: Slavery and Mastery in the Antebellum Courtroom. I discuss the volatile climate of slavery during the Civil War, and Ritter's resilience in the face of sustained physical abuse.

This unique record displays the agency of one woman in the chaos of war and conflicting views about the humanity of slaves. This court case reveals the role of government leaders in transforming the view of slaves from property to human beings within the U. S. criminal legal system, as argued by Elizabeth Dale in Criminal Justice in the United States, 1789-1865. This transformation is clear in President Lincoln's summation: "The crime deserves more than the indictment of prison it is most horrendous."

SESSION II: 2:00PM-3:15PM

Room 3300: Storytelling and Narratives of Marginalized Identities

“Are You Sure I Can Tell This Story?”: Using Forensics Performance as a Means of Exploring the Marginalized Identity of Others

Jessica Rauchberg

Telling our own personal stories allows us to grasp a stronger sense of our lives (Snyder-Young, 2011, 943). However, determining the right to tell or share someone else’s story, especially through formal performance, is challenging. While many argue a story does not exist until it is told, performers struggling to offer an accurate account of someone else’s lived experience may present the experience incorrectly, transforming the actual narrative into something negative and limiting the audience’s ability to connect to the experience, especially if it belongs to a person with a marginalized identity, potentially alienates the community they are attempting to represent. However, through research, advocacy, and careful, humane construction, performance of someone else’s story can pull the audience in a way that is rhetorically gratifying (Conquergood, 1968, 3). This academic year, I have been competing on my university’s Forensics program with a speech about narratives that are not necessarily my own. The event, Program of Oral Interpretation, links different narratives and pieces of literature (prose, poetry, drama, YouTube videos, articles, etc.) to create an argument about a social problem or phenomenon. My speech discusses the sexual and romantic isolation of neurodivergent people, specifically people with Asperger’s Syndrome. While I identify as neurodivergent, I do not have Asperger’s. Throughout this academic year, I have been working on crafting the performance in a way that allows me to shed a necessary perspective without usurping agency. With this performance, I hope to explore the process of developing performative argument by sharing my performance with the conference.

Race Identity Formation and the Obama Presidency: A Dialogue Across the African Diaspora

Robert Graham and Wanjiku Wainaina

Through the power of dialogue, the presenters have chosen to explore adult racial identity formation in the U.S. as experienced by an international graduate student from Kenya. The presenters will also discuss the effect of the Obama presidency on the identity of a Kenyan and an African-American, both of whom identify with and lay a particular claim to the president, from across the Atlantic and in the United States. To assist with the processes of meaning making and exploration, the presenters will have at their disposal theory and perspectives from Chimamanda Adichie, James Paul Gee, Stuart Hall, and Frantz Fanon. The presenters plan to familiarize the audience with the referenced work of Adichie, Gee, Hall, and Fanon, and show meaningful video clips from their captured dialogue as a lead into audience participation in the conversation via discussion questions.

SESSION III: 3:30PM-4:45PM

Room 1204: Critiquing US Culture

Rape Culture in the United States: Fact or Fiction?

Dena Monticone

A debate on Facebook prompted me to research whether rape culture exists in the United States. Rape culture can include rape of and pro-rape attitudes toward women. I investigated what pro-rape attitudes are, where pro-rape attitudes are found, and the rate of rape of women in the United States. Pro-rape attitudes include supporting rape, excusing rape, victim blaming, and more. I found little to no evidence that anyone is openly supporting that women be raped. However, I found that pro-rape attitudes are pervasive on the Internet, in the court room, and in the student bodies of high schools and universities. I also found evidence that pro-rape attitudes or having been exposed to pro-rape attitudes could be positively linked to raping women. Exposure to pro-rape attitudes includes exposure to pornography. In this paper, I also presented rate of rape of women statistics in the United States. I did not spend very much time dissecting the methods that researchers used to collect the data and I remarked that such a dissecting could be included in a follow-up paper. I noted that a follow-up paper might also include taking a closer look at the various types of pornography and researching whether various types of pornography affect rape culture differently. Despite the fact that there are many allowances made in the paper in order to move the argument forward, I concluded that rape culture exists in the United States and made suggestions about what can be done about it.

College Internships – Pathway to Inequality?

Christian Rafael Suero

As students pursue higher education, they often take part in paid and or unpaid labor, more specifically, paid and or unpaid internship programs, to gain more experience in their field of study. Internships, and more arguably unpaid internships, can be seen as one dimension of the educational experience that contribute to inequality. This inequality can stem from but not limited to a) a person's socioeconomic ability to part take in internship programs and b) the host organization's ability to rebrand ordinary jobs into an internship model. This research paper investigates if income can impact the overall access, experience, wellbeing, and social capital of first generation students. The method of choice for this research project was done with a quantitative approach, surveys. An online survey was distributed to over 150 undergraduate and graduate program's, and student organization's listservs at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. A total of 120 students participated in the online survey and 47 were qualified for the full survey.

Reframing the Narrative: An Analytical Reexamination of Motherhood Incarceration and the Effects on Children

Felicia Garland-Jackson

Due to the sustained growth in the prison population and the aging of both people incarcerated and their family members, research has begun to examine the generational impact of incarceration. This research often utilizes a deficit model of incarcerated women and their children, measuring the extent to which mother-child relationships and other outcomes are harmed. Research that negatively frames these relationships and outcomes of children with incarcerated parents ascribes a "damaged" status to mothers and their children and potentially produces biased academic work towards this narrative.

The study conducted by Huebner and Gustafson (2007) employs potentially problematic categories as it examines the effect of maternal incarceration on their children as they move into adulthood, utilizing mother-child longitudinal data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY) 1979-2006. Huebner and Gustafson create indices to include variables that effectively apply value judgments to participant responses as they reflect qualities that the researchers believe define motherhood and criminality. Such subjective analysis limits further understanding of more complex, and potentially affirmative, responses to maternal incarceration on the part of both incarcerated mothers and their children. Our study will return to the NLSY 1979 and examine the negatively framed analysis of Huebner and Gustafson. We will offer a revised analysis to include both negative and affirmative variables that provide more complete and less gender- (or otherwise) biased conclusions about incarcerated mothers and their children. Our study will employ a more comprehensive and objective understanding of motherhood, children's behavior and success related to maternal incarceration.

SESSION III: 3:30PM-4:45PM

Colorism among Female College Students: Everything You Wanted to Know, But Was Afraid to Ask
Latisha Jones, Tiffany Reese,
Scottie Scott, Tamara Smith,
Shelia Greenlee, Dorothy Doolittle

Originating in the United States from a history of slavery, colorism (skin-tone bias) was the favoring of light complexion over dark complexion. It was initially used to make individuals of African descent feel innately inferior to Whites (Hill, 2002). Numerous studies on colorism have shown the negative affects of skin-tone bias on members of the African-American community. Conversations with students of color on college campuses suggest that skin color has more of a bearing on the lives and relationships of these students than one might expect. The Colorism Survey, a three-part questionnaire, was designed to examine African-American college-aged students' understandings, perceptions, feelings, and experiences with colorism. Fourteen African-American females from a small predominantly white liberal arts institution completed the survey. Eighty-five percent reported knowing what colorism is and having experienced it. These college women also reported positive feelings about their own skin color ($M = 4.50$), had positive attitudes toward both dark and light-skinned people ($M = 4.50$), and believed that colorism is still an issue in the black community ($M = 4.57$). The results indicated that African-American women believe that the issue of colorism is more prevalent for both males' and females' expectations of females. Findings show that education may positively influence African-American females' feelings toward colorism. One limitation of the study is the sample size and composition. Future research is needed with a more diverse sample to further explore college students' feelings and perceptions of colorism.

Room 3300: Theoretical Perspectives on Gender and Sexuality

A Queer Appropriation of Nietzsche: Anti-Metaphysics and Life-Affirmation
Matthew Brake

In this paper, I will explore the ways that Friedrich Nietzsche prefigures some of the conversations within poststructuralist queer theory with a particular emphasis on the works of Judith Butler. While it cannot be said in any way that Nietzsche is some kind of "forefather" of post-structural queer theory, his works contain much content that can be appropriated by this field. In what follows, I will examine the rejection of metaphysics plays in each author's work. Afterwards, I will explore the relationship between the rejection of metaphysics and the role of life-affirmation. It will be shown that the similarities between Friedrich Nietzsche and Judith Butler highlight the potential for queer theory's appropriation of the former's work. Nietzsche's rejection of metaphysics, including the metaphysics of science, in many ways prefigures Butler's own critique of metaphysics and science. Both argue for the provisional nature of truth claims noting that a recognition of truth's provisional nature allows for continual re-articulation of truth in ways that are increasingly life affirming. Such an affirmation of life is particularly important, for as Butler argues, there are very real consequences for LGBTQ people in a world of metaphysical universalization and the subsequent negation of LGBTQ identities.

Disabling the "Gaze"
Kami King

I would briefly explain Feminist Disability Studies and the social construction of disability and then explain that all women in a Western societal construct are seen through the male gaze. When women with a disability are seen through this gaze, more often than not they are seen as asexual and a deviant body which is then ignored. I would then use pictures from The Raw Beauty Project that (I argue) are trying to show the women with disabilities sexuality, but they are also trying to fit into the Western, patriarchal model of sexual ideals which would never accept these women. To counter this, I would then show pictures from the photographer Olivier Fermariello called, "JE T'AIME MOI AUSSI" (I Love You Too) that show women with disabilities in a light that at once defies the male gaze and yet it also shows their innate sexuality. This is important because in order to show women with disabilities as sexual, reproductive, and important parts of society, there is a need to address and confront this social discrepancy head on in order to promote social change.

SESSION III: 3:30PM-4:45PM

Hip Hop-Creative Workshop 1201 Merten Hall, Main Room

The Why's, The Woke and The Winning: Hip Hop-Creative Conscious for "Coming Through" Marginalization
Emma Lee/Emilia A. Ottoo

Being a graduate of political science as well as an artist, activist, entrepreneur, and self-identified Black-female-immigrant-Millennial Emma Lee has combined creative, critical and global awareness to connect intersecting identities and dissect power politics. She believes lyrical, musical and visual forms allow more access to insights often unheard if spoken at all. This project presents three Hip Hop-centric songs illustrating how one perspective is constantly affected by and affecting many others. The leverage possible in representation, pop culture, business, politics and social impact are further demonstrated in these creative and analytical connections.

"Queens" – "What's a 'bad bitch' to a queen? If you can be both, what do they mean?" Are the media-dominating images of beauty and success taming, complicating and demeaning the potential of women and LGBTQ identities, or giving more options?

"Hugo Pinell" – A secret meeting is held with prison, police brutality, social justice and community activists to address the urgent need to organize and agitate for change. It is headed by a woman, a subdued commonality in the legacy of resistance movements.

"Manifest Destiny (Pt. I&II)" – Transcendence of the "American Dream" and "Amerikkkan Nightmare" experiences journeyed through legends of past and change agents of present. A bridging of the Law of Attraction concept of "deliberate creation" with the 19th century attitude of divine-expansion, Native American genocide and Mexican War establishing the United States.

CLOSING REMARKS

5:00PM-5:30PM, 1201 Merten Hall, Main Room

Sufism and Sexuality
Sara Haq, Class of 2012

Sara Haq is a 2012 graduate of the Women and Gender Studies MAIS program. She is now continuing her research in Sufism, South Asia and Islamic Feminism as she pursues her PhD in Women's Studies at the University of Maryland. Sara's current research is entitled "Sufism and Sexuality" where she states the following: "The project I am proposing draws on and feeds back into everyday affective formations and expressions of the sexual, the spiritual, the Self. The project asks: how can Sufi metaphysics be used as an epistemological and ontological approach to studying issues of gender and sexuality? How can Sufi philosophy be used to subvert, revert, pervert, traditional patriarchal rules and regulations around her body and spirit?" In addition to sharing her research, Sara is also pleased to speak candidly about how the Women and Gender Studies program has influenced her life academically, professionally and personally.

POSTERS PRESENTATIONS

1201 Merten Hall, Main Room

The Influence of Gender Norms on the Body Image of Young Adults in the Trans and Queer Communities **Dina Bicking**

My research is titled The Influence of Gender Norms on the Body Image of Young Adults in the Trans and Queer Communities. I seek to determine if and how gender norms persisted by society have a negative impact on trans and gender queer persons at the college age. I am completing my research for the WGST 611 course under Professor Dr. Hattery.

I will conduct up to ten semi-structured interviews investigating 1) What is their perception of gender norms in society? 2) What has their personal experience with their gender been? And 3) What is their current body image?. Students will have the opportunity to describe their experience as a marginalized population and depict various negative social influences on their body image. The goal of my research is to interpret how higher education and other student services may use findings to help create on-campus resources and programs aimed at helping this population navigate body image issues.

Due to previous engagement, I cannot attend the conference. Therefore, I will have to do just a poster presentation. I intend to have up preliminary results and themes of body image on the poster. I will also include illustrative quotes participant provided during the interview process.

Survey of Television Viewing Habits **Marissa Kiss**

The purpose of this study is to determine whether individuals who watch more mainstream television are more likely to adhere to gender stereotypes. Over time researchers have argued that the portrayal of men and women in television commercials and shows has actually become a means for the socialization of gender roles. With individuals in the US viewing on average of 34 hours of television per week, this research will examine if heavy television viewing contributes to and is associated with the internalization of gender stereotypes and the likelihood to view women in more traditional roles. Data was collected via a web-based survey from over 350 participants during February 2016. It is anticipated that individuals who watch more mainstream television and sports are more likely to adhere to traditional views of women. The findings from this study will add to the growing literature and inform the public of the impact of television watching on individual's perceptions of gender roles.

Lifestyle Homogeny **Samuel Gaffigan**

The purpose of this paper is to provide evidence that supports the claim that across the world, our lifestyles are becoming more and more similar. A "lifestyle," as it is used in this paper, is similar to culture, but it focuses on areas that play a role in our daily lives (i.e. language, rights, participation in economic systems, beliefs, habits, etc.), and a distinction is drawn between the significant elements of a lifestyle and purely surface differences (inconsequential deviances that will not be threatened by homogeny, such as sports team preference). This is accomplished by a close reading of classical and contemporary theorists that speak on the subject, and by looking at the secondary data of worldwide trends over time, including which movies are popular, and the spread of language, rights, and liberal democracy. All of this paints a picture of a world that is becoming more and more homogenized as technological advances make it harder and harder for ideas to remain isolated. There is room for further studies on this effect, as well as further theorizing on whether this homogenization is a threat or benefit to society.

POSTERS PRESENTATIONS

1201 Merten Hall, Main Room

"You're Just Not Meant For This": An Autoethnographic Exploration of Navigating Neurodiversity and Intimate Partner Communication Jessica Rauchberg

Beginning in the late 1990s in the United Kingdom, the neurodiversity movement has opened up doors for millions of people with neurological disabilities. Started by people on the Autism Spectrum, the neurodiversity movement is a subset of the Disability Rights umbrella, and now extends to people with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Asperger Syndrome, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Dyspraxia, Tourette's Syndrome, and Bipolar Disorder, among other neurological forms of disability. Through the neurodiversity movement, people who ascribe to this identity foster greater models of inclusion. However, integration falls short of specific interpersonal relationships. Neurodivergent people experience extreme levels of sexual and romantic isolation, debilitating their overall emotional well-being (Willey, 2015). Neurologically typical (neurotypical) people perceive neurodivergents as sexual others, believing the way they understand intimacy as wrong, fracturing relationships or preventing the pursuit of future intimate partner relationships. While Disability Studies is a burgeoning field, formal research intersectionality between intimate partner communication and neurodiversity is lacking- especially first-hand accounts from the neurodiverse individual's perspective. In this paper, I will use a layered account autoethnography (Ronai 1995) to examine how I performatively navigate my lived experience as a neurodivergent person engaging in intimacy, including intimate partner communication. By threading analytic writing with personal narrative, stream of consciousness, and poetry, I hope to produce an embodied experience that constructs the documentation of my becoming as valid and important: to acknowledge that the experiences I, as well as countless others, have do not make us unworthy (Richardson & Adams St. Pierre, 2005, 972).

Social Movements, College Experiences, and Institutions: An Ethnographic Approach to Analyzing the Impact of Black Lives Matter on Students at HBCUs vs. PWIs Emily Harvey

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) differ from Predominantly White Institutions (PWIs) of higher education primarily due to the racial context through which HBCUs were established. While social movements have played an important role in the history and experiences of students at each type of university, there is not much literature on the differential impact social movements have had on the experiences of Black students who attend them. My primary research question addresses this gap through asking: How do recent social movements, particularly Black Lives Matter (BLM) affect the experiences of Black students who attend an HBCU versus a PWI, and specifically those who attend Morgan State University (MSU) and Johns Hopkins University (JHU)? This research also sought to look into the different ways the social movement has impacted the everyday lives of students, as well as their future goals. MSU is an HBCU in Baltimore Maryland, and JHU is a PWI in Baltimore, Maryland. Both universities are located in a city where the BLM movement is active. BLM originated as a response to overwhelming violence and injustice aimed at Black bodies. I hypothesize that students who attend MSU will be more involved in BLM through protests and student groups. Data collection is ongoing; however, I am collecting qualitative data through in-depth interviews with students from each university. This research will provide insight into students lives, particularly in terms of the impact social movements have on their experiences at HBCUs vs. PWIs.