

# women's & gender studies

womensstudies.unt.edu

Spring 2019 Newsletter

## A Note from Professor Alicia Re Cruz, Program Director

Dear WGST community at UNT,

I write this letter at the end of our productive and eventful academic year 2018/19. We started the Fall semester with the inauguration of our Community Room, born of the inspiration to open a physical safe space so allies, friends, and students could visit our library, converse, or just enjoy the warmth of the space. Our Community Room has been quite busy throughout the year! The Social Justice Lab, which we coordinate with Anthropology and Behavioral Analysis, meets here once a week.



We enthusiastically embraced the addition of the LGBT Studies Program in the Fall. Suddenly, we became a robust community of around 100 undergraduate students, and a very diverse WGST and LGBT Studies faculty of about 50 affiliates. A new LGBTQ Curriculum Committee (Dr. Megan Morrissey (chair), Dr. Jara Carrington, Dr. Clark Pomerleau, and Dr. Elizabeth Oldmixon) met to redesign and give new structure to a high quality LGBTQ Studies academic program. I would also like to highlight the panel titled, "Feminist Struggles in Dark Times: A Transnational Dialogue," moderated by Dr. Özlem Altok, and composed of seven panelists coming from different disciplines and countries, to share their varied practices in feminism and advocacy for social justice.

Throughout a very intense agenda of activities, events, and programs, WGST has expanded our network of collaborators within UNT and in the North Texas Region. The month of March (Women's History Month) evidences this schedule. First, on March 6th, we collaborated with UT Arlington, A&M Commerce, and SMU to organize the screening of *Left on Pearl*. Then, our partnership with UNT's Pride Alliance and the Multicultural Center allowed students, faculty, and community members to enjoy poet, writer, performer, and educator Denise Frohman's vibrant spoken-word performance. We ended the month collaborating with the Department of Dance and Theatre on the screening of *Frida: A Ribbon Around a Bomb* followed by a discussion lead by Sara Cardona, artist and executive director at Teatro Dallas. With Pride Alliance, we organized our first collaborative Lavender Graduation in the Fall, the success of which moved us to find a larger space to accommodate our students, their families, and friends for the Spring graduation. In short, we had a truly successful year, full of events and accomplishments. It is necessary to point out that all we do would not be possible without the time, energy investment, brain power, and passion of our program coordinator, Jennifer Aglio.

Finally, we are profoundly proud of our WGST and LGBTQ Studies graduating minors, and our WGST MA students, and trust that their knowledge and experience will help them to mark their path to success and inspire them to have social justice as their flag in their thoughts, hearts and actions. Please read on about the various events and accomplishments in this newsletter, and mainly stay in touch.

## CONGRATULATIONS to Dr. Marilyn Morris!

It is a great honor to share with you the creation of the Marilyn Morris Award for Outstanding Academic Contributions to LGBTQ Studies. To commemorate the formation of the UNT LGBT Studies Program and to recognize Dr. Morris's founding place in it, we have institutionalized this award. In this inaugural presentation, Dr. Morris was recognized for her life and professional commitment to the LGBTQ community during our Lavender Graduation Ceremony on April 27, 2019.



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# Graduate Student Spotlight

## Leah Brooks-Hall

Leah is a graduate student in the Women's and Gender Studies program. Her academic interests include womanism, queer theory, standpoint epistemology, gender and sexuality, and the intersection of spirituality and nature. Leah plans to devote her thesis work to fostering a more holistic understanding of the nuanced dynamics of romantic relationships between partners claiming identities across the spectrum of gender and sexuality. Her goal is to create educational/ support resources for partners in such relationships, as well as individuals seeking to learn, such as allies and family members. After earning her masters, Leah hopes to pursue a PhD and become a Women's and Gender Studies Professor. Outside of academia, Leah enjoys baking bread, biking, and spoiling her three rescue chihuahuas.



## Nadia Ala'i Rosales

Nadia is a fourth semester graduate student in the Women's and Gender Studies Program. Her academic interests include: feminist/womanist theory, queer theory, poststructuralism, feminist visual culture and aesthetics, reproductive justice, and Chicana feminisms, as well as feminist epistemologies and other epistemologies of resistance. Nadia is currently serving as a Development Intern at Denton County Friends of the Family. Following graduation, Nadia hopes to work in a non-profit or social service setting. Outside of school, Nadia enjoys making art, gardening, and spending time with her five year-old daughter, Penelope.

# Undergraduate Student Spotlight

## UNT Honors Day Recipient: Leslie Lopez



Leslie Lopez is a second year Psychology major and Women's and Gender Studies minor. During the summer of 2018, Leslie interned at COLOR in Denver, Colorado through Hampshire College's RRASC program. Feeling inspired and wanting to bring about change to UNT, she took to starting a reproductive justice organization called the Reproductive Rights Organization of Student Educators (ROSE). Recently, Leslie was accepted into NARAL Pro-Choice Texas' Next Generation program where she hopes to build connections with other Texas based reproductive justice activists.

## UNT Honors Day Recipient: Adela Gonzalez

Adela Gonzalez is a junior working towards her undergraduate degree in Psychology with a minor in Women and Gender Studies. She is incredibly passionate about people and eager to commit to a career in helping people. In her free time, she spends a lot of time with her dog. Some of her hobbies include: arts and crafts, reading, and watching movies.



# Affiliated Faculty Highlights

Our affiliates have been staying busy! Here are some notable accomplishments...



Dr. Clark Pomerleau, Department of History

- Presented "Planting a Good Life: Women's Organic Work in Maine," at the National Women's Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, November 2018.



Dr. Julie Leventhal, Department of Educational Psychology

- Started as the Faculty-in-Residence in Rawlins Hall in Fall 2018.
- UNT Athletic Council Mean Green Faculty/Staff Spotlight, University of North Texas, 2018.
- College of Education Outstanding Lecturer Award, University of North Texas, 2018.
- 'Fessor Graham Award, University of North Texas, 2018.
- Leventhal, J. E., & Garcia, H. (2018, November). Study abroad objectives: Connecting outcomes with practice while abroad. Symposium conducted at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Leventhal, J. E. (2018, November). Marriage in 7 minutes – Pecha Kucha style. Symposium conducted at the National Council on Family Relations Annual Conference, San Diego, CA.
- Neisig, A., & Leventhal, J. E. (2018, September). Gender bias in anti-human trafficking policy. International Human Trafficking and Social Justice Annual Conference, Toledo, OH.



Dr. Megan Morrissey, Department of Communication Studies

- Presented at the National Communication Association Conference in Salt Lake City last November.
- Paper, titled, "Calaveras, Calacas, and Cultural Production: The Queer Politics of Brown Belonging at U.S. Día de Los Muertos Celebrations," was selected as one of four top papers for the Critical Cultural Studies Division of the National Communication Association.

# Affiliated Faculty Highlights



Dr. Marijke Breuning, Department of Political Sci-

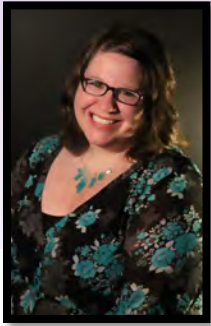
- Breuning, Marijke, and Melissa Martinez. "Difficult Commitments: Intercountry Adoption to the US and Accession to the Hague Convention." *Adoption Quarterly*. Accepted for publication November 28, 2018.
- Breuning, Marijke, and Anna Pechenina. "Role Dissonance in Foreign Policy: Russia, Power, and Intercountry Adoption." *Foreign Policy Analysis*. Accepted for publication October 19, 2018.
- Okundaye, Gabriela, and Marijke Breuning. "Women Leaders and Foreign Aid Allocation: Do States with Female Heads of Government Receive More Aid?" Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association/Midwest, November 16-17, St. Louis, Missouri.



Dr. Jennifer Way, Department of Art History

- "American Design Diplomacy in South Vietnam, 1956: Gender as a Diplomatic Relation," special issue of *REG | AC Revistas de Estudios Globales & Arte Contemporáneo [Journal of Global Studies and Contemporary Art]* on "Cold War networks and circulations: Cross-cultural Dialogues and Practices throughout the Global South (1957-1991)" 5 no. 1 (2017-2018): 93-116. <http://revistes.ub.edu/index.php/REGAC/issue/view/2082>
- "Allaying Terror: Domesticating Vietnamese Refugee Artisans as Subjects of American Diplomacy," *Pictures and Conflicts since 1945*, special issue of *Humanities* 7 no. 3 (2018) <https://doi.org/10.3390/h7030077>
- "Digital Art at the Interface of Technology and Gender," Chapter 6, in Christiane Paul (ed.), *a Companion to Digital Art (Blackwell Companions to Art History)* (John Wiley and Sons 2016): 181- 202
- Chaired *Cultures of Allegiance and Resistance: U.S. Efforts at Peace and Militarism through Art*, Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, Annual Conference, Philadelphia (2018) and presented *Gender as a Diplomatic Relation, Design and Displacement*, Design History Society Annual Conference, New York City (2018).

# Affiliated Faculty Highlights



Dr. Suzanne Enck, Department of Communication Studies

- Suzanne Marie Enck, "Listening for Intimate Partner Violence: A Call for Empathic Empowerment," *Women's Studies in Communication* 41, no 2 (2018): 100-102. (Special issue, "Attending to the Urgencies: Gendered Violence and Violent Gender").
- Suzanne Marie Enck, "Accountability Amidst the 'Me Too' Reckoning: Kevin Spacey's Homopatriarchal Apologia," *QED: A Journal in LGBTQ Worldmaking* 5, no. 2 (2018): 80-86. (Special issue on Kevin Spacey's apology in the "Me Too" movement, "Calling Spacey Out").
- Lisa M. Moyer and Suzanne Enck, "Is My Grief Too Public For You? The Digitalization of Grief on Facebook," *Death Studies* (2018): 1-9.
- Served as the program planner & Vice Chair for the Feminist & Women Studies Division of the National Communication Association's annual conference in Salt Lake City .



Dr. Kate Imy, Department of History

- Co-taught an interdisciplinary study abroad course in the U.K. and Ireland
- Received a book contract, and submitted the final manuscript, for her book entitled *Faithful Fighters: Identity and Power in the British Indian Army*, which is forthcoming with Stanford University Press
- Became a managing editor of the *British Journal of Military History*.
- Hosted a successful mentoring group on "Borderlands and Migrations" in 2017-2018 that consisted of a junior faculty lunch series and visits from two external speakers (Cynthia Bejarano, NMSU and Junaid Rana, Illinois).
- In July 2018 she organized a one-day international colloquium in London on "The Body in Colonial India" with participants from the UK, Canada, the US, Spain, India, and Sweden with funding from Goldsmiths (University of London), the Royal Historical Society, UNT-International, and the Society for the Social History of Medicine (UK ).
- Received a Charn Uswachoke International Development Fund Award to host a conference at UNT April 18-20, 2019 on "Imperial Legacies of 1919."

# Event Snapshots

WGST has stayed involved and active in the community, hosting and co-sponsoring various events on campus.



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## MAD WOMEN

A celebration of the women who changed the face of advertising.  
University of North Texas Library, 6 pm, Thursday, November 8, 2018

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## Kahlo Rivera 100 Exhibit

Friday, October 5  
UNTSQ  
KR 100 Exhibit  
7 pm - Reception  
7:30 - Gabriela Rodriguez, Curator

Monday, October 29  
UNTSQ  
KR 100 Exhibit  
5:00 - Reception  
5:30 - Teatro Dallas presents a staged reading of "Conversation with Diego Rivera: The Monster in His Laboratory."  
Moderators: Sara Cardona, Teatro Dallas

Friday, October 12  
UNTSQ  
KR 100 Exhibit  
5 pm - Student Reception  
5:30 pm - Film Screening  
Guest: Sara Cardona, Teatro Dallas

DOWNTOWN DENTON SQUARE  
109 North Elm Street  
Denton, TX, 76201

## women's & gender studies

GAB 464  
12pm - 2pm  
WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER

### OPEN HOUSE

Meet and mingle with WGST faculty, affiliated faculty staff, and students.  
A light lunch buffet will be provided.

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## MEDIATING CHANGE CONFERENCE

An interdisciplinary media and justice conference for researchers, media practitioners, educators, and activists.

November 1-2, 2018  
University of North Texas  
Denton, TX

Sponsored by the Department of Media Arts at the University of North Texas

## GENDER, SEXUALITY AND NEW FORMS OF NATIONALISM IN EUROPE AND THE U.S.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7  
1:30-3P | MARQUIS HALL 327

TOPICS AND PRESENTERS  
Including Diversity? The Politics of Sex Education in the Netherlands  
Dr. Willemijn Verbeke, Femmes of U.S. Against Islamization and Christianity of Amsterdam  
Exploring the Borders of Belonging: Gender, Sexuality, and Immigration Law/Policy in the United States  
Dr. Sara Dominguez, Lecturer of Anthropology, UNT

## FEMINIST STRUGGLES IN DARK TIMES: A Transnational Dialogue

Monday, November 12th  
Union Ballroom 314A // 6pm-8pm

Join feminist scholars from around the world to analyze the current state of politics in many different countries, and how feminism is essential to make sense of the dark times in which we live.

Panelists include:  
Dr. Özlem Altink, Women's & Gender Studies and International Studies at UNT  
Dr. Simona Capor, Cornell Institute for European Studies in Cornell University  
Dr. Alicia Ria-Cruz, Anthropology and Women's & Gender Studies at UNT  
Dr. Halidat Nyannekepo, Social Work at UNT  
Dr. Katherine Sebring, Sociology at UNT  
Dr. Bibber Swenson, Political Science & Gender Studies at Babcock University, Istanbul  
Dr. Nancy Stockdale, History at UNT

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## UNT WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES MARCH EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6TH  
Documentary screening: of *Left on Pearl*  
6:30PM // ENV 130

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20TH  
Performance by Denice Frohman  
6:30PM // RTFP 184

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27TH  
Documentary screening: *Frida: A Ribbon Around a Bomb*  
6:00PM // GAB 104

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2018

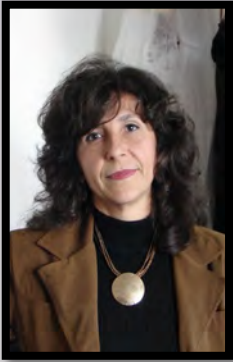
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COMMUNITY PANEL  
UNION 302  
6PM-8PM

## femflicks MAJOR!

wednesday, october 17th

## femflicks presents FINDING JENN'S VOICE

## Who we are...



Dr. Alicia Re Cruz,  
Program Director



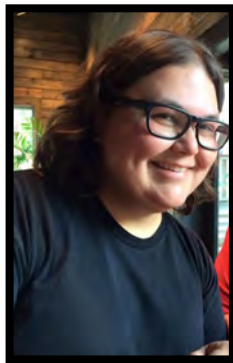
Dr. Özlem Altıok,  
Senior Lecturer



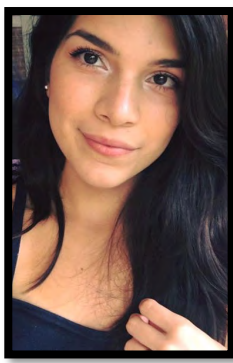
Kristin Alder,  
Adjunct Instructor



Maia Cudhea,  
Adjunct Instructor



Jennifer Aglio,  
Program Coordinator



Nadia Ala'i Rosales,  
Graduate Assistant



Leah Brooks-Hall,  
Graduate Assistant

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## What we do...

The mission of the Women's and Gender Studies program at UNT promotes teaching, research, and outreach with a critical analytical focus aimed at interrogating gender-related stereotypes, especially as our identities intersect with sexuality, race, and ethnicity in a global context. Our program's interdisciplinary scholarship supports and sustains campus-wide discussions in areas including, but not limited to: global contexts, feminist approaches, women's social movements, feminist activism, and explorations of the connections among gender, class, ethnicity and race in social and cultural constructs. Students in Women's & Gender Studies may interact with more than 40 members of the Women's & Gender Studies affiliated faculty, expanding understandings of gender differences, cultural diversity, and social changes while strengthening critical thinking and communication skills.

