

WGSS news

FALL 2024

CARE & JOY *IN PRECARIOUS TIMES*

USF Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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WGSS

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Professor

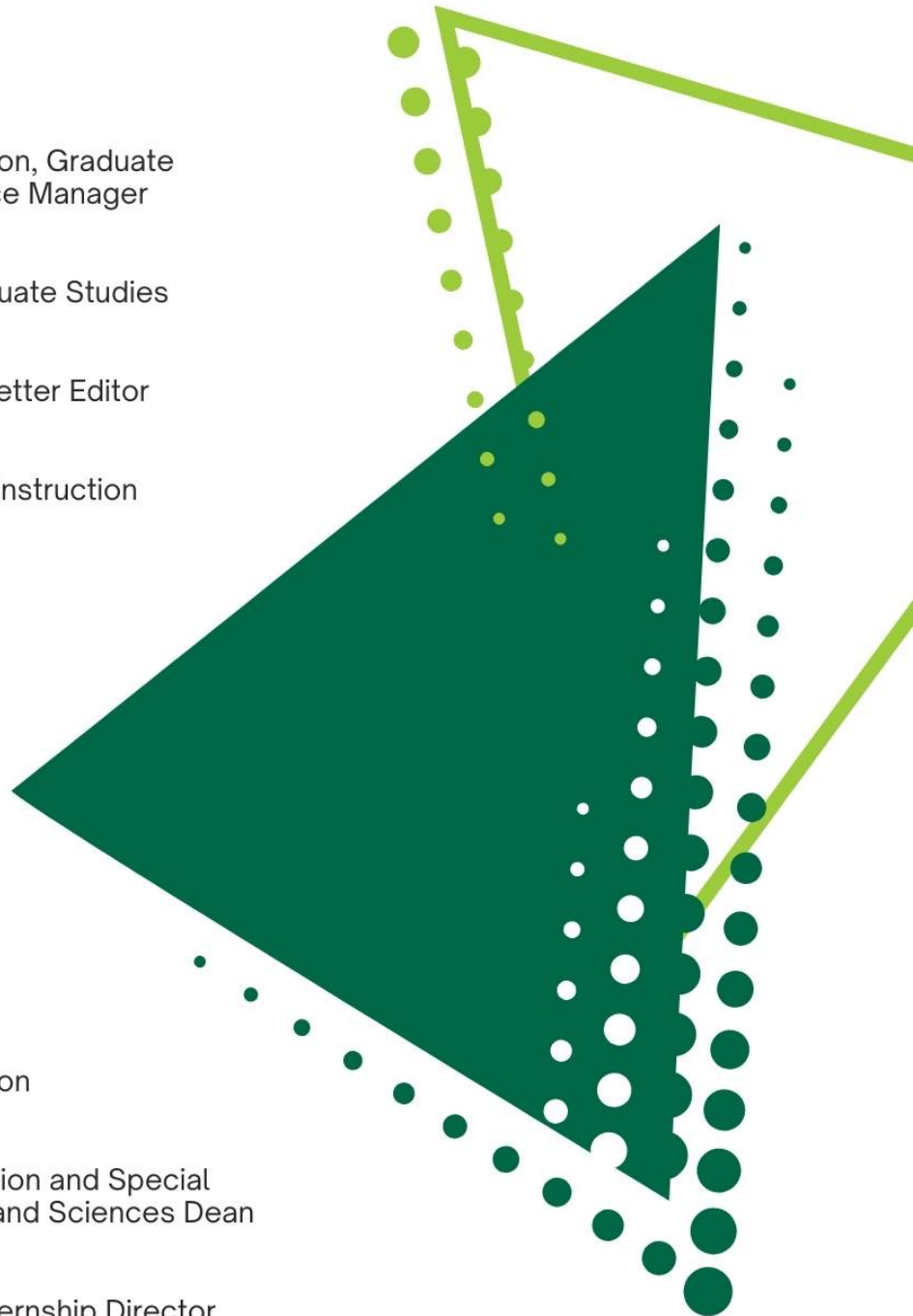
Dr. Diane Price Herndl
Professor

Dr. David A. Rubin
Associate Professor

Dr. Tatsiana Shchurko
Assistant Professor of Instruction

Dr. Tangela Serls
Associate Professor of Instruction and Special
Advisor to the College of Arts and Sciences Dean

Dr. Milton Wendland
Professor of Instruction and Internship Director



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WGSS

Chair's Column



This academic year we've adopted "**Care and Joy in Precarious Times**" as our WGSS annual programming theme, as well as the title of our third annual academic conference scheduled for February 21, 2025.

When our colleague Dr. Milton Wendland suggested the theme and conference title, he was thinking about **Audre Lorde's** quotation: "Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare." For the greater WGSS community, Lorde's sentiment resonates as if it were written yesterday, instead of 1987 during a previous iteration of culture wars.

Self-care and joy represent proud in-your-face sacraments of **thrival** for Black and queer communities, in turn inspiring other marginalized communities. On point, quilt artist **Lauren Austin** returns to USF on September 23 for a talk and reception: "Care and Joy through Art: A Protection Blueprint." A storyteller focused on memory and Black experience, she generously extended her spectacular quilt installation in the WGSS suite into September. Don't miss it.

Care and joy also inspire our teaching. The graduate Feminist Pedagogy seminar is pivoting on "**Pedagogies of Care**" this semester. **Dr. Dana Ahern**, hired this fall on a race/gender/health line, is teaching a fall undergraduate special topics course on "Queer Hope and Pleasure." Dr. Ahern and **Dr. Tatsiana Shchurko** are very welcome new members of the WGSS faculty. Dr. Shchurko, a transnational feminist scholar from Belarus, was hired on a teaching line. She describes her classrooms as spaces that pay tribute to the late bell hooks' philosophy of pedagogy as a practice of freedom.

Turning from new beginnings to grief and loss, our friend and affiliate faculty member **Dr. Gary Lemons**, Professor of English, passed in May. Not long ago, we celebrated the new book he co-edited with another longtime affiliate faculty member, Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez -- *The Power and Freedom of Black Feminist and Womanist Pedagogy: Still Woke*. Dr. Lemons was visiting professor from 2008 to 2009 in what was then the Women's Studies Department. We honor his career devoted to writing and teaching about freedom, love, and healing.

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WGSS

Chair's Column

Beyond WGSS and USF, care and joy do capture a zeitgeist responding to the era's many traumas. Most recently, political pundits have been proclaiming a new politics of joy in this election year. For some, hope is making a comeback. As it always does, however, U.S. pop-culture has not just elevated self-care and joy. It has appropriated and trivialized them from spa days to clearing out the closet.

But care and joy are not trivial. Lorde's self-care anthem comes from the 1987 "Epilogue" of *A Burst of Light: Living with Cancer*. Having survived her 1978 breast cancer diagnosis, Lorde journaled that she learned she had liver cancer just before her 50th birthday in 1984. Her ovarian cancer diagnosis came in 1987. A queer Black woman, Lorde wrote, "Underlining what is joyful and life-affirming in my living becomes crucial." Lorde's words are especially powerful as our WGSS colleague **Jennifer-Ellerman Queen** fights and lives with cancer.

On behalf of all of us in WGSS, I pause here to thank all the people who have generously backed up the department while Jennifer—who does everything administrative and academic support—has been on medical leave. You are too numerous to name here, but I hope we have been diligent in expressing our gratitude. A special shoutout goes out to the brilliant, capable **Shelby Martin-Vegue**, who has been our acting operations manager while holding down her fulltime job in the CAS Dean's office.

All praise also goes to our WGSS Project Coordinator **Sarah Jünke**, who produces not only these impressive newsletters but also all of our events and programming. The fruits of Sarah's labors almost never credit her substantial efforts in the service of the university's and the department's missions of research, teaching, and outreach.

As is now my tradition, I end this column with fundraising and take the opportunity to ask you to give, to any of our foundation accounts or scholarships. We build our support in small amounts, and we count success by the number of supporting gifts from friends and allies, not by their amounts. Please **give what you can** to show your support for the work of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at USF. Thank you in advance.



Give to wgss

Kim Edonbiskg
Chair

CARE & JOY IN PRECARIOUS TIMES

Call for Submissions

The USF Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies seeks proposals from undergraduate students, graduate students, and faculty members of the USF community for the *Care and Joy in Precarious Times Conference* to be held on **February 21, 2025**, at the USF Tampa campus. We encourage collaboration between and among faculty and students, and we welcome multi- and interdisciplinary research from the sciences, social sciences, humanities, arts, and applied/professional disciplines.

As Audre Lorde once wrote, "Caring for myself is not a self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare." Lorde was writing about living with breast and liver cancers, and about her life and work as a queer Black woman. Honoring Lorde's legacy in the contemporary moment asks us to rethink the possibilities of care and joy that emerge from authenticity, community, accountability, resistance, and resilience.

Topics could include but are not limited to self-care; drag and other performance as forms of care or joy; care or joy in families of choice; Black, queer, and other forms of care or joy; cultures of care; strategies for practicing care or producing joy in the university or other setting; the politics or/and labor of care; pedagogies of care or joy; healthcare and other professions of care; media representations of care or joy; and critiques of care and joy as frameworks for individual or collective action.

To view the full call and to apply, visit: tinyurl.com/carewgss.



Recent Faculty Scholarship

Publications

Ahern, Dana T. (forthcoming) Constructing Bodies and Nations: Transgender Medicine and Embodied Histories of State Sanctioned Transition in Cold War-Era Eastern Europe. *Feminist Critique: East European Journal of Feminist and Queer Studies*.

Campbell-Montalvo, Rebecca, Cooke, H., Smith, C.A.S., **Hughes Miller, M.**, Skvoretz, J., & Wao, H. (2024). Que(e)rying How Professional STEM Societies' Serve Transgender and Nonbinary Engineering and Science Undergraduates. *Educational Studies*, 60(1).

Hagen, R., & **Golombisky K.** (in press, 4th ed.). *White space is not your enemy: A beginner's guide to communicating visually through graphic, web & multimedia design*. New York: CRC/Focal Press, Taylor & Francis.

Hughes Miller, M., Ed. (2024). *Criminalizing Motherhood and Reproduction*. Taylor & Francis.

Marques, O., & **Hughes Miller, M.**, Eds. (forthcoming 2025). *Incarcerated Mothers*. Demeter Press.

McCracken, J. and Hu, R. *The Dynamics of Agency in Sex Work: Discursive Constructions of Violence in Transnational Contexts. The Language of Sex Work*. Routledge. Forthcoming 2024.

Rubin, D. A., Ed. (forthcoming). "Dossier: Envisioning African Intersex: Challenging Colonial and Racist Legacies in South African Medicine," by Amanda Lock Swarr. *Feminist Formations*.

Rubin, D. A. (2024, forthcoming). Feminist and Queer STS. In H. Gupta, Kelly Sharron, C. Thomsen, and A. Weil (eds.), *Feminist Studies: Foundations, Conversations, Applications*, New York: Routledge.

Rubin, D. A. (2024, forthcoming). Gender Studies and STS. In U. Felt and A. Irwin (eds.), *Encyclopedia of Science and Technology Studies*. London: Edward Elgar.

Rubin, D. A. (forthcoming, 2024). Intersex Medical Photography, Souse Intersex Medical Photography, Sous Rature (Under Erasure): Haunted Colonial Histories and Decolonial Intersex Futurities. *Feminist Formations*.

Shchurko, T. (forthcoming). "Ephemeral Solidarities and Transnational Feminist Genealogies: Re-imagining Hermina Dumont Huiswoud's Trip to the Soviet Union, 1930-33," In *Red Migrations: Transnationalism and Leftist Aesthetics after 1917*, edited by Bradley Gorski and Philip Gleissner.

Recent Faculty Scholarship

Awards & Grants

Rubin, D. A. (2024, Summer) Summer Grant Recipient. USF CAS-ORS Humanities Project Completion.

Serls, T. (2023-2024). Recipient, Certificate of Excellence in High-Impact Practices, Office of High Impact Practices and Undergraduate Research, University of South Florida.

Serls, T. (2023-2024). Academic Partner of the Year, Department of Housing and Residential Education, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL.

Serls, T. (2023-2024). Leadership in Service Award, USF Black Faculty and Staff Association, University of South Florida.

Serls, T. (2023-2024) C.O.B.A. Bulls Captain, USF Committee on Black Affairs—Presidential Advisory Committee, University of South Florida.

Wendland, M. (2024, spring). Gold Standard Award: USF Online Course Certification Cohort: WST 3015 Introduction to Women's Studies.

Appearances

Ahern, Dana T. (2024, November) "Medicine, Sanctuary, and the Transgender Child." Scheduled to present at the American Studies Association Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD.

Hughes Miller, M. (2024, November). "Go "in with a Teachable Heart": Bringing Sexual Assault Services to Rural Areas." Scheduled to be presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.

Hughes Miller, M. (2024, June 21). "(In)visible Women and Mothers in the Dobbs Decisions." Presented virtually at the annual meetings of IAMAS, Boston/Virtual.

Price Herndl, D. (2024). Invited Lecture: "Saying—and Staying—Gay in Florida," Evening Out, Slippery Rock University, Slippery Rock, PA, 2024.

Rubin, D. A. (2024, Nov. 15). "Intersex," delivered at the "*Rethinking Women's and Gender Studies, Volume 2*" Plenary, National Women's Studies Association Conference.

Rubin, D. A. (2024, Jan. 23) Interviewed and quoted in Denny, "In the Wake of Gender Affirming Bans, the Intersex Community Demands Bodily Autonomy," *reckon*.

Wendland, M. (2024, February). "This Body, This Where: How HBO's Somebody Somewhere Queers Region." Annual Conference of the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association.



EVENTS

Upcoming Events

- 9/12: Brown Bag Series: Piper Thomson, "Gender Fantasy and Conservative Politics of Annihilation," 12:30-2:00pm in CMC 202T
- 9/23: "Care & Joy Through Art: A Protection Blueprint," Lecture by Artist Lauren Austin, 3:30-4:30pm in MSC 3705
- 9/23: Quilting Our History Exhibit Closing Reception with Special Guest Artist Lauren Austin, 5:30-7:30pm in CMC 202
- 12/19: Care & Joy in Precarious Times Submission Deadline
- 2/21/25: Care & Joy in Precarious Times Conference in TECO Hall

Tentative Upcoming Events

- CAS "I Belong Week" Event with Triota Honor Society on 10/1
- Alumni Careers Panel - Caring Professions - October/November
- Brown Bag Presentation on Feminism in Puerto Rico - October
- ISLAC partnership event - October
- Pedagogies of Care - November

For more information visit our website at usf.edu/wgss.

Disability Accommodations: If you require a reasonable accommodation to participate in a Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies event, please contact 813-974-0982 at least five (5) working days prior to the event.





Quilting Our History Exhibit

WGSS is honored to host *Quilting Our History: An Exhibit of Quilts by Lauren Austin*. Austin is a Florida-based storytelling artist who has worked for over 30 years in the medium of quilts. Austin's work merges her own life story with that of Black history and cultural memory. Her quilts are large-scale mixed media pieces, incorporating photographic processes, stone lithograph, beading, hand-stitching, and hand-dyed fabrics.

The exhibit opened in February, and was extended during the summer to run until **September 23**. Accompanying the exhibit were two spring events - the *Making Story Artbooks* workshop, and a public lecture, *My Journey Through Art Quilting*. Austin also did class visits for two WGSS spring courses, *Black Feminisms* and *Black Sexualities*.

This fall, Austin returns to do a final lecture, *Care & Joy Through Art: A Protection Blueprint*, and will meet guests at our exhibit **closing reception**. Both events will take place on September 23.



Detail from works in the Quilting Our History Exhibit.





Care & Joy Through Art: A Protection Blueprint

Lecture by Artist Lauren Austin

Lauren Austin will discuss how her own art making helped her safely navigate a variety of hostile environments, and she will outline low-tech steps to make your own visual art for self-expression, self-care, empowerment, and change.

**USF Marshall Center, Tampa campus - MSC 3705
September 23, 3:30-4:30pm**



Closing Reception & Meet The Artist: Quilting Our History

Join WGSS for the last night of the *Quilting Our History Exhibit*. Light refreshments and drinks will be available. Make sure to stop by to see the quilts, socialize, and meet the artist, Lauren Austin.

September 23 from 5:30-7:30pm in CMC 202
RSVP to cas-wgss@usf.edu.

Marilyn MYERSON

Dr. Marilyn Myerson was the first outside hire in W(GS)S, starting in 1973, when the department was just one year old. She was an administrator at various departmental and dean's levels, including a stint as W(GS)S Chair before her retirement as Emeritus faculty in 2010. Last year, WGSS honored Marilyn's contributions to the department at our 50th Anniversary celebration, and created the Marilyn Myerson Student Success Fund to support WGSS student research and conference travel. We recently spoke to Marilyn about her experiences in WGSS.

“When I was a Ph.D. philosophy graduate student at SUNY Buffalo, in the late 60’s, I got involved with the evolving Women’s Liberation movement. I was in consciousness-raising groups and a weekly study group where we eagerly devoured feminist literature, and I asked, why don’t we teach this material? The university had what were called bulletin board courses, sign up on the bulletin board, have a faculty sponsor and voila! A credited course. So, a number of we graduate students, with a history professor sponsor, offered multiple sections of what we called Women in Contemporary Society. I had the good fortune to co-teach with Alison Jaggar, who went on to become an internationally prominent feminist philosopher.

Then I moved to Sarasota and got involved at New College and in the community. One day a friend invited me to join her at a women’s studies symposium at USF. There I met Juanita Williams, who had started the Women’s Studies program at USF in 1972. I was so excited to get involved and there was an open position and the rest is herstory! I’d applied to faculty positions in philosophy and also San Diego, the only other women’s studies program in the country. USF is where I was destined to be, dream job!

We were fortunate to have Dr Travis Northcutt as our dean; he was wonderfully supportive in an environment which all too often either ignored or demeaned us. At a Faculty Senate meeting, where the topic

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MYERSON

was whether to accredit ROTC classes, a professor of Astronomy made denigrating comments about Human Sexual Behavior (HSB) and without thinking twice, I jumped up and criticized him soundly for knowing nothing about the class, and invited him to read our texts and syllabi. Various sympathetic faculty applauded me (and the ROTC guy copied my argument, hmm).

Speaking of HSB, shepherding it through its various incarnations was one of my particular joys, and I was so gratified that I could pass the mantle (and the “safe sex belt” made of condoms) on to Jennifer Ellerman-Queen, who took it and ran with it!

Another among many joys was creating the original Feminist Research class and later, its graduate version, which was intended for and attracted graduate students from many departments, including students in other departments across campus. Working with graduate students both in our department and others was so enriching!

When I was an associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, I enjoyed the opportunity to bring feminist perspectives into our work. And for twelve years starting in the late 80's, I was on the board of Planned Parenthood of Southwest and Central Florida, housed in Sarasota, including four years as Chair. I was thrilled to work in the community to implement my principles.

I worked and played and rejoiced with colleagues in my own and other departments, too many to mention everyone! I am so grateful for all that I learned from thousands of students with whom I interacted.

Since retiring, I have been involved with USF's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute and I created and frequently teach a class called Imaginative Writing, which is about spontaneous writing and trusting our sense of whimsy, and I'd be thrilled if any of our alumni were to join me there. And I facilitate writing groups, still being nourished by learning and playing with others.

I encourage folks to donate to the Marilyn Myerson Student Success Fund, which supports our USF WGSS students in their work and in spreading the word at conferences, showing the larger community the excellence of WGSS department!”

To sign up for one of Marilyn's classes at Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, visit: www.usf.edu/continuing-education/olli.

You can honor Marilyn's many years of service to the department and its students by donating to the Marilyn Myerson Student Success Fund at: giving.usf.edu/online/gift/f/420247.



Alumni Update - Undergraduate



Chad Kappeler graduated from USF in 1988 with a double major in Women's Studies and Mass Communications.

Chad Kappeler

My name Edward Charles Kappeler, Jr., but you can call me Chad. I graduated from the College of Social & Behavioral Sciences at USF in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in Women Studies. I was a double major, so I also have a bachelor's degree in mass communications with an emphasis on Programming & Production from the College of Arts & Letters at USF.

I'm currently employed as Video Production Specialist by the City of Austin, TX. I hope to retire from the city in approximately five years. I've worked in television professionally since 1988. I especially enjoyed my time at Tampa Public Access Television, where we championed and exercised our First Amendment rights on cable television.

Women's Studies helped Chad navigate his career: It allowed me to have women friends in the workplace. There aren't a lot of women in television production. I'm still friends with colleagues from decades ago. Without my Women's Studies education, I might not have been able to forge these strong relationships. Gender mindfulness allowed these friendships to begin

because I was able to approach my women coworkers as equals.

Why did Chad study Women's Studies in the 1980s? My initial interest in Women's Studies was piqued by my participation in youth subcultures, particularly Punk. Punk music and fashion drew heavily from the work of people whose public personae explored androgyny and broke with social norms, people like the New York Dolls, David Bowie, Iggy Pop, Alice Cooper, Lou Reed and the Velvet Underground. As a burgeoning scene it provided a blank slate for women artists such as Patti Smith, Lydia Lunch, Exene Cervenka, Siouxsie Sioux, and The Slits. My junior college library had a copy of *Psychology of Women* by Juanita H. Williams [USF WGSS founder]. It opened my eyes to a field of study I didn't know existed.

Chad studied under Dr. Marilyn Myerson in the 1980s: Marilyn was my feminist guru. She was so accommodating and encouraging. I did directed studies with her. This was my springboard, motivating me to finish my degree.

MARILYN MYERSON

Student Success Fund

WGSS awarded scholarships from the Myerson Fund this past spring to three of our graduate students to present papers at the WGS South Conference in Spartanburg, SC. The conference theme was “Care Feminisms, Crip Futures.”

Award recipients and the papers they presented:

- **Charles Suor**, *Transgender Embodiment in the Classroom and Impact on Youth*
- **Megs Peterson**, *A Case for Investing in Feminist Pedagogy in Community Education*
- **Faelyn Cowan**, *Queering Minds: The Medical Model*



To donate to the Marilyn Myerson Student Success Fund, which pays for WGSS student research and travel expenses, visit:
giving.usf.edu/online/gift/f/420247.

Your donation will ensure that all WGSS students have the opportunity to participate in professional and career development activities, network in their fields, and pursue their research interests, regardless of their ability to pay.

USF WGSS Alumni Group

Feminist Community

Have you graduated from WGSS at USF and miss being a part of a feminist community? Then get involved with the WGSS Alumni Group (UWAG)!

Formed in 2021, UWAG has hosted many of its own events and co-sponsored WGSS department and local nonprofit events. After a short hiatus, UWAG is back this fall and **invites all alumni** to attend the **Closing Reception & Meet the Artist mixer event** for the WGSS Quilting Our History Exhibit, which will take place on the USF Tampa campus on **9/23 from 5:30-7:30pm**. To RSVP or learn more, email: cas-wgss@usf.edu.



Alumni Update - Undergraduate



Jesus Gogo graduated from USF in 2021 with a major in Women's and Gender Studies. He is currently a board member for the USF Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Alumni Group.

Jesus Gogo

Jesus Gogo is a dynamic marketing professional and visionary creative known for bringing his disruptive, inclusive, and scroll-stopping ideas to life.

As a University of South Florida Women's and Gender Studies Alum, he brings a unique perspective to his work, understanding the importance of intersectionality and representation. His innovative marketing strategies have garnered recognition, earning him a coveted feature in *People* magazine with actress Kate Hudson for her 2021 Mother's Day gift guide, a profile on photography surfaces website *Replica Surfaces* for his distinctive photo style, along with unique partnership with the TJX Company (TJ Maxx, Homegoods, Marshall's) for an international marketing campaign.

Jesus joined College of The Arts as the Assistant Director of Marketing and Communications in April 2024. His fresh, current, and creative direction is helping to evolve and shape the future of The Arts.

Jesus' previous role was as a Marketing and Communications Specialist for USF CONNECT, an incubator for high tech, bio and life science startups in University of South Florida's Research Park. During his time there, Jesus rebranded USF CONNECT into a competitive incubator that is now visible on a national level.

Alumni Update - Graduate



Rakshinda Shah graduated from USF in 2015 with an MA in Women's and Gender Studies. She also has a Graduate Certificate in Humanitarian Assistance, and a Graduate Certificate in Human Resources.

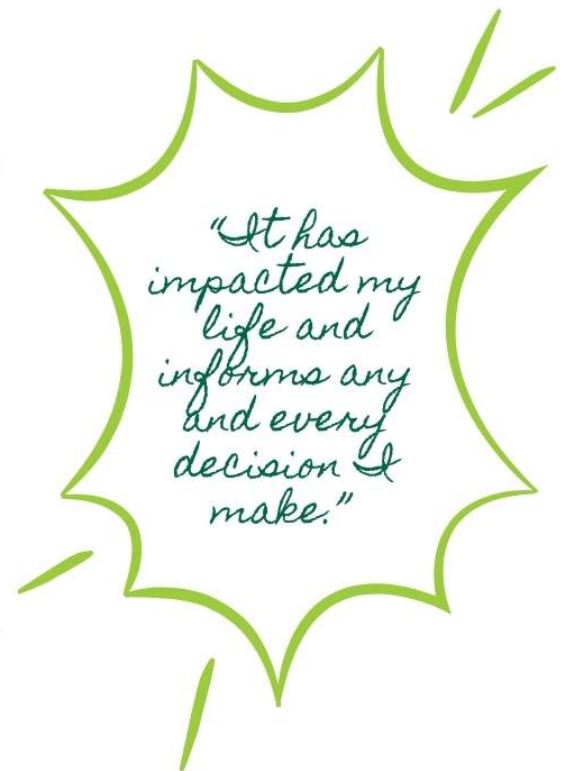
Rakshinda Shah

Toronto-based Rakshinda Shah has channeled her graduate education in Women's and Gender Studies into a successful career working in Human Resources, with a focus on Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion (DEI).

She enjoys her work, particularly helping employees and managers productively navigate sensitive DEI topics. She believes in the DEI work that she does, and outside of her official role she is also part of her company's DEI committee and the lead for its policy making. Rakshinda is planning to get a certification in DEI, and advance her HR career by getting a further certification in the HR field as well.

Rakshinda came to DEI and Human Resources because it was a great way to combine her passion and degree in WGS with her love of helping people. Her background in WGS profoundly affects her work - "every single day and every decision I make or advice I give."

Being part of WGS has meant a lot to Rakshinda: "It is life-changing for many of us who became a part of the department and go through the program. It has impacted my life and informs any and every decision I make."



Faculty Update



Jennifer is on medical leave this semester.

Jennifer Ellerman-Queen

Jennifer Ellerman-Queen is Assistant Professor of Instruction in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and has taught legions of students over the years through her Human Sexual Behavior course. She is also our office manager and graduate program coordinator, as well as one of our alumni!

Jennifer is currently on extended medical leave while she deals with significant health issues, and it is not an understatement to say we miss her terribly around the department. If you would like to reach out to Jennifer to say hello and catch up, either as a colleague, former student, or former classmate, you can email her at jellerma@usf.edu. She would love to hear from you!



Welcome New Faculty



Dr. Shchurko joins WGSS this fall as Assistant Professor of Instruction. She has a PhD in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Ohio State University, an MA in Sociology from European Humanities University in Lithuania, and a BA in psychology from Belarusian State University.

Dr. Tatsiana Shchurko

I am a researcher and queer feminist activist from Belarus, with a deep commitment to transnational and intersectional feminist theory and practice. I am thrilled to join the University of South Florida as an Assistant Professor of Instruction, bringing a wealth of teaching experience from my time at The Ohio State University's WGSS program. Inspired by bell hooks' vision of pedagogy as a practice of freedom, I approach teaching as a dynamic space where we can delve into the complexities of social issues and empower students to engage critically and creatively across disciplines. My teaching philosophy is rooted in collaborative learning, creating an environment where affirmation and respect thrive. I draw heavily on my transnational and interdisciplinary experiences to facilitate profound learning and reflection. My research interests are deeply intertwined with transnational feminism, Black and Women of Color feminisms, queer and critical race studies, the politics of solidarity, and Eurasian studies.

My research, a significant component of my teaching practice, examines the

intricate relationships between local communities and global colonial systems, with a particular focus on anti-imperialist movements. Grounded in anti-colonial feminist theory, I explore the complexities of multiple imperialisms within and across Europe, Eurasia, and the United States. In 2023, I was honored to receive an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship to advance my book project, which investigates the critical genealogies of transnational feminism and highlights the connections between U.S. Black women's transnational activism and Eurasian knowledge production.

My book project specifically delves into Black feminist solidarities in Eurasia, tracing the journeys of U.S. Black Internationalist women to the region from 1920 to 1980. I argue that these historical interactions not only resonate with but also have the potential to significantly contribute to contemporary global anti-imperialist feminist movements. By focusing on the micro-practices of relation, queer intimacies, and aspirations for solidarity,

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Dr. Tatsiana Shchurko

my work reveals how these cross-border connections transcended the constraints of established state politics and geopolitics.

In the spirit of Robin Kelley's reflection in *Freedom Dreams*, I too believe that at the core of radical social movements lie the deep collective desires for freedom and love: "I have come to realize that once we strip radical social movements down to their bare essence and understand the collective desires of people in motion, freedom and love lay at the very heart of the matter." My research is dedicated to uncovering and amplifying these aspirations, exploring how they have shaped, and continue to shape, the possibilities for solidarity across borders.

I infuse my teaching with the insights from my research, encouraging students to critically engage with global and local dynamics through an intersectional lens. By integrating my research into the curriculum, I aim to deepen students' understanding of how feminist issues and movements both shape and are shaped by the socio-political contexts in which they emerge, as well as how these contexts are interconnected across the globe.

One of my key projects, "The Archive Revisited: Black Feminist Internationalism and Eurasian Knowledge Production" (thearchivevisited.com), exemplifies this approach. This digital project reimagines the historical legacies of Black feminist internationalism in Eurasia, exploring both the constraints and the transformative potentials of the archive. It will also include a pedagogical component, offering students a unique opportunity to engage with these histories in innovative and critical ways.

My research and teaching are deeply informed by my identity as a member of the postsocialist queer feminist diaspora. Shaped by experiences of authoritarianism and imperial violence in Eastern Europe, alongside my transnational feminist activism across the region and beyond, I bring a unique perspective to the classroom.

The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, with its commitment to intersectional and interdisciplinary research and teaching, is the ideal environment for me to continue growing as both a scholar and educator.



Welcome New Faculty



Dr. Ahern joins WGSS this fall. He has a PhD in Feminist Studies from UC Santa Cruz, an MA in Gender and Cultural Studies from Simmons University, and a BA in Gender and Women's Studies & Anthropology from University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Dr. Dana Ahern

I am Dana Ahern, and I'm excited to be joining the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department as an Assistant Professor focusing in gender, race, and health this year.

Prior to joining the department, I completed my PhD in Feminist Studies with a designated emphasis in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies from UC Santa Cruz. I also recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Nevada, Reno in the Department of Gender, Race, and Identity, where I taught classes in queer and trans studies.

My teaching and research interests primarily revolve around intersections of queer and trans studies, disability studies, and feminist science and technology studies.

My research primarily utilizes digital archives and oral histories to explore the technological development and utilization of transgender medicine over the past

century, particularly between and across the United States and Eastern Europe. As a scholar of transgender studies as well as science, medicine, and technology studies, I'm particularly interested in the political project of trans health in the state of Florida and I've begun to do some preliminary research for a second book project, which follows the idea of American transness amidst this political climate and specifically exploring the development of Florida's transgender medical industry.

With a mind to the department's upcoming conference this spring, "Care and Joy in Precarious Times," I am teaching the class Queer Hope and Pleasure this fall, which explores feelings and resistance against epistemological violence. My classes in the spring will more specifically cover topics in gender, race, and health, and looking at those intersections with queer and trans STS. I look forward to thinking and working with you all this year!

Welcome New Staff



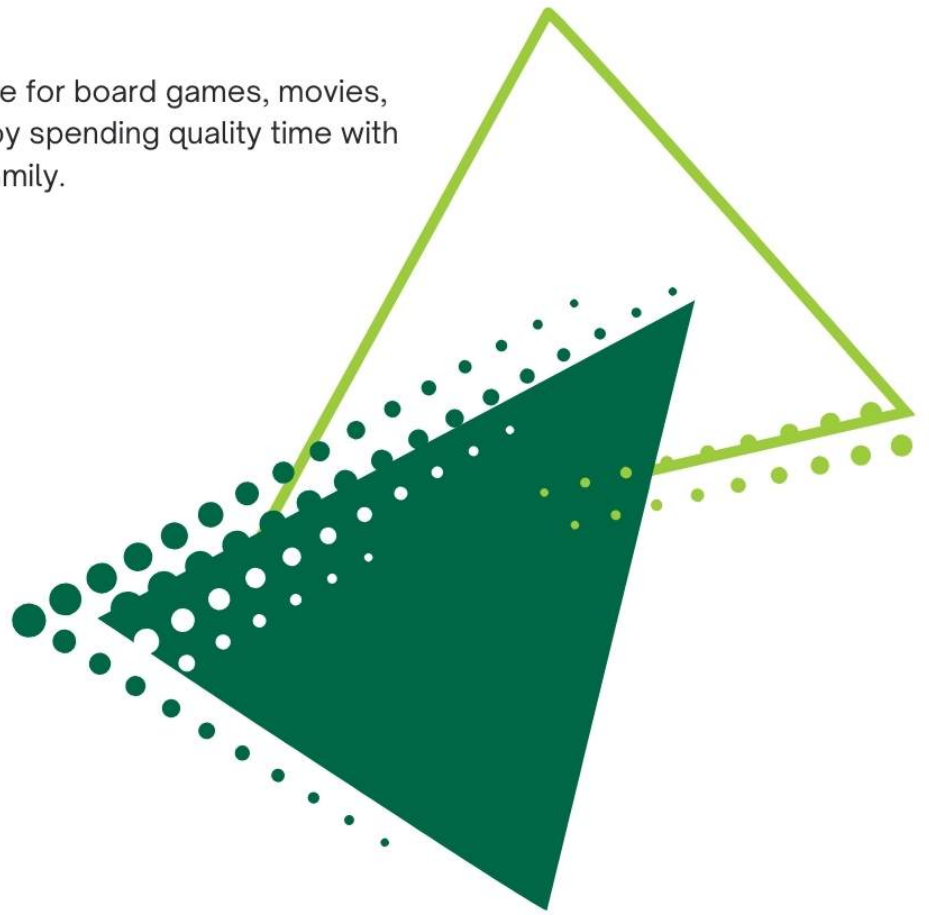
Shelby has joined WGSS as our interim office manager.

Shelby Martin-Vegue

I graduated from USF in 2022 with a bachelor's degree in health sciences. I started working at USF in September 2023 and it's been intriguing seeing the faculty/staff side of USF. I've found satisfaction in aiding students with general issues and being able to share my own experiences from when I was a student.

I've thoroughly enjoyed assisting the WGSS department as everyone is extremely welcoming, open-minded, and kind. I've learned a lot working with WGSS and I greatly appreciate it. I hope to continue learning and growing with USF.

Outside of work, I have a love for board games, movies, and dogs. Additionally, I enjoy spending quality time with my boyfriend, friends, and family.



Staff Update



As WGSS project coordinator, Sarah plans department events, and manages WGSS communications, including creating the newsletter.

Sarah Jünke

More content shining the spotlight on others, our newsletter editor Sarah has managed to work in WGSS for five years, and until now, evade being profiled in the newsletter. Sarah joined the department in 2019 as temporary help to plan the SEWSA (now WGS South) 2020 conference. The conference was cancelled due to COVID, but Sarah stayed on. She is responsible for planning all department events and special projects -- including the recent WGSS 50th anniversary celebrations, last year's successful Myerson Fund Herdfunder, and grant writing to fund events, as well as managing department communications such as social media and the WGSS website.

Sarah has a BA in anthropology, an MA in library science, an MA in American Studies, and has done doctoral studies in history -- all at USF. Throughout her career, she has worked exclusively for nonprofits, funders, and educational institutions, including positions as an academic reference librarian, adjunct history instructor, and a grant writer and grant reviewer.

In her free time, Sarah gardens, counts her dozens of sewing machines, sews by handcrank, does puzzles and genealogy, ferments vegetables, causes trouble on reddit, and reads medical and veterinary scholarship. Like any good librarian, if you ask her a simple question she will give you a long answer. Two things she thinks you should know -- her last name means "young," and you really should ask your doctor to test your ferritin.

Fall 2024 Graduate Students



Faelyn Cowan, research interests include queer history, nonbinary studies, and biases against childfree people



Lee Davis, research interests are media studies, especially the horror genre, as well as asexuality and the communities within



Megs Peterson, research interests are the intersection of WGSS and activism, specifically Feminist Community Organizing



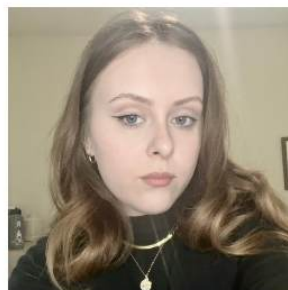
Charles Suor, research interests include gender and popular music, transgender studies, and queer theory



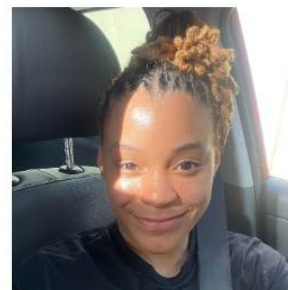
LJ Connolly, their thesis investigates how nonbinary lesbians navigate technocultural environments to construct identities beyond societal binaries



Natasha Joseph, research interests include Black Feminist Geographies, Hip Hop Feminism, spatial injustice, and the duality of space for Black women.



Rachel Ermacora, research interests include the intersection between the law & sex, and non-normative sexualities in marginalized groups



Emily Hernandez, research interests include Caribbean Feminisms, “queering” local Trinidad and Tobago and other Anglophone Caribbean countries, and public health communication



Abby Blackadar, research interests include media studies/fan studies, queer studies, and politics



Aleidys Lopez Romero, research interests include violence against women and women's empowerment



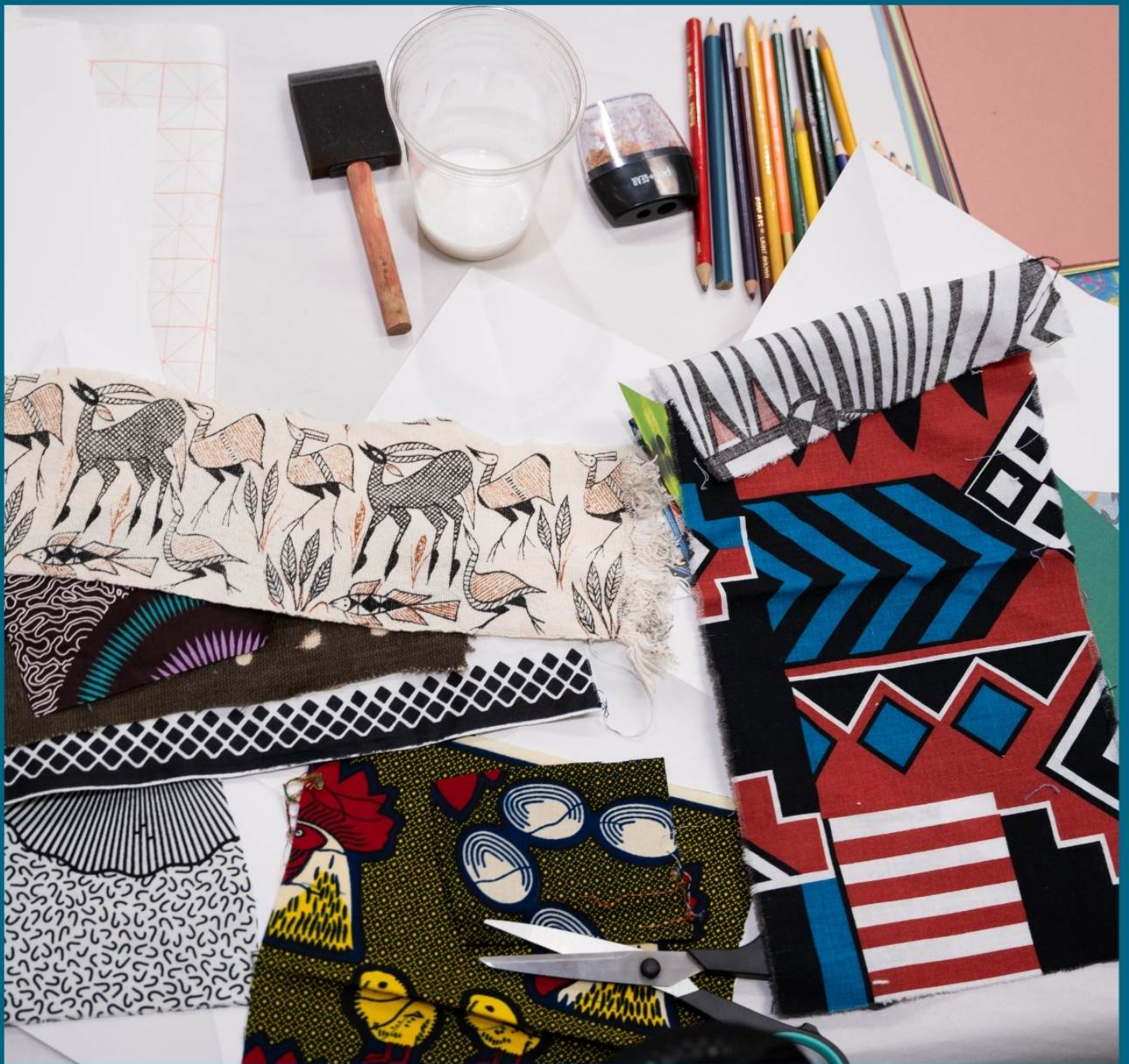
Adia Seigneur, research interests include gender development among youth, educational support systems and accessibility, and DEI



Past Events

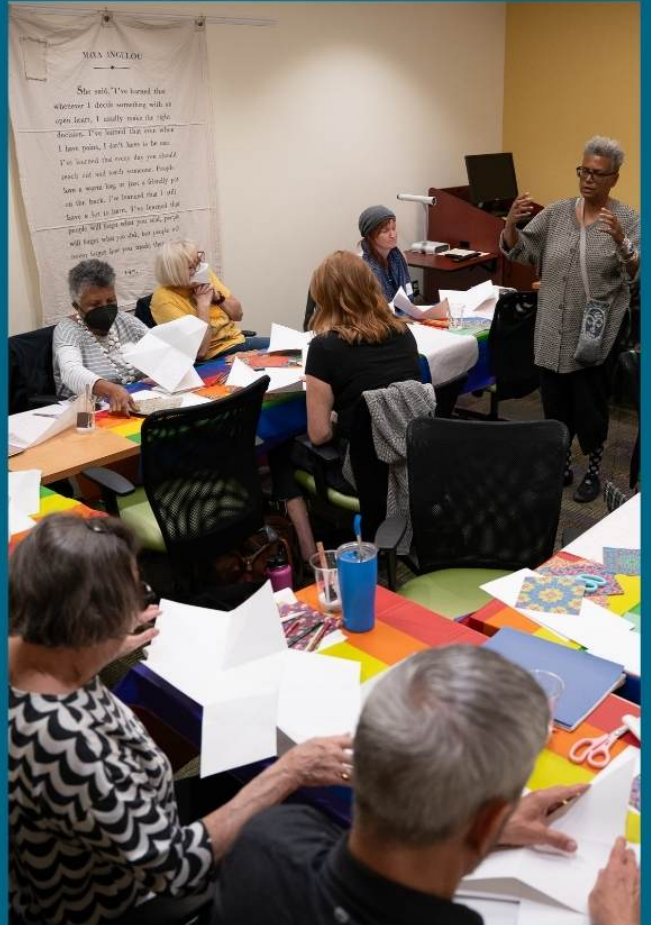
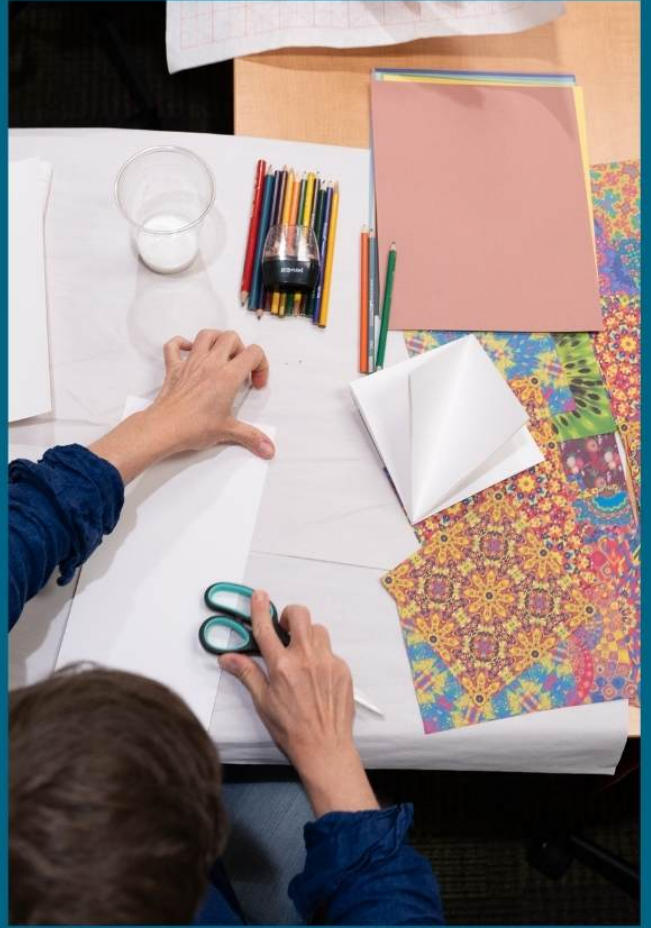
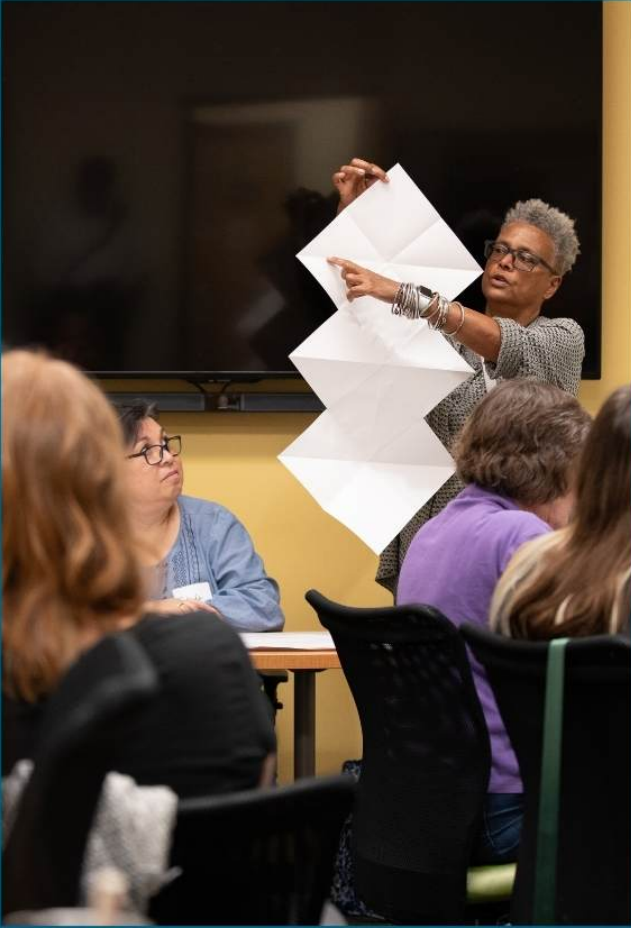
Spring 2024

- *Thinking Sex Conference Pre-Submission Workshop*, January 17
- *Brown Bag Series: Black Women-Loving Women's Socio-Sexual Narratives*, with Dr. Jessany Maldonado, January 17
- *Quilting Our History Exhibit* Opens, February 12
- *Safeguarding Voices: A Symposium on Academic Freedom and Diversity*, February 15 (WGSS graduate student-organized event)
- *How Florida Helped Shape the Nation's Culture Wars: A History of the 1950s and 60s*, February 15 (co-sponsored History Department event)
- *Make Story Artbooks Workshop with Lauren Austin*, February 21, 2024
- *My Journey Through Art Quilting: Public Lecture by Lauren Austin*, February 22
- *Thinking Sex Conference*, March 1
- *Intergenerational Feminism: Women and Reservation Dogs*, March 25 (co-sponsored Humanities and Cultural Studies event)
- *Brown Bag Series: "We grow older. We also have lots of sex. I just want a doctor who will at least ask about it.": Transgender, non-binary, and intersex older adults in sexual and reproductive healthcare*, with Dr. Nik M. Lampe, March 27
- *WGSS Talk & Toast*, April 19
- *13th Annual WGSS Research Colloquium*, April 23



Making Story Artbooks Workshop with Lauren Austin

During the spring semester, artist Lauren Austin led a free hands-on workshop that included USF students and members of the Tampa community. Austin guided the group through making their own origami book from fabric scraps, paper, and their drawings that preserved a memory or story from their lives. Austin shared fabric from her collection, including dyed fabrics and African fabrics.

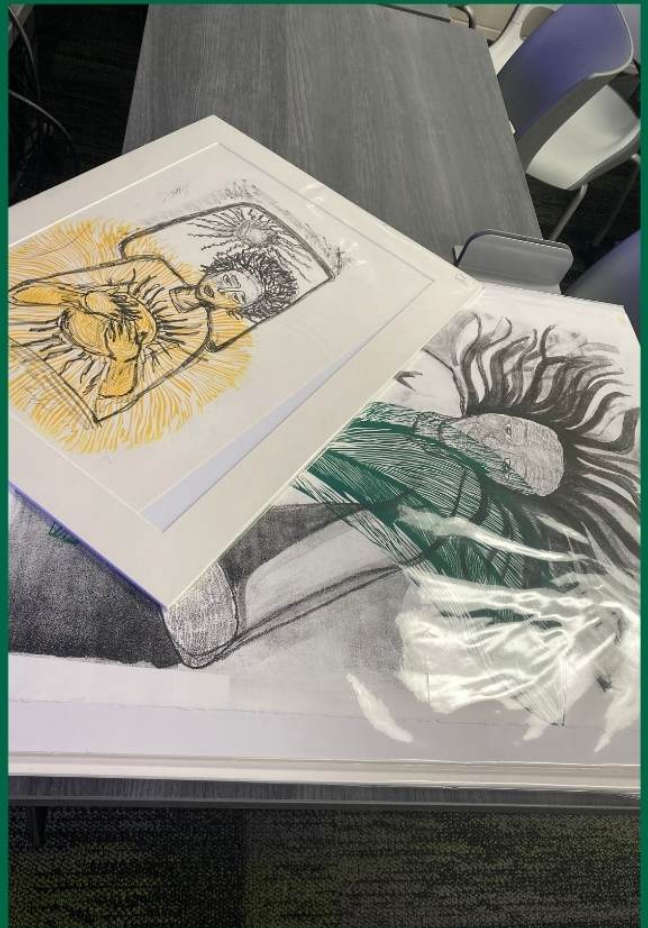


Scenes from the Making Story Artbooks workshop.



My Journey Through Art Quilting with Lauren Austin

Also in the spring, Lauren Austin presented a lecture that revealed the development of her art over the 30+ years of her career. Austin showed works-in-progress, as well as additional completed quilts that were not part of the *Quilting Our History Exhibit*. Attendees were invited to view the pieces up close. She discussed what keeps her making art, as well as important themes she incorporates into her work.



Detail from quilts Austin showed during her talk, prints of Austin's work, and Austin showing a work in progress.



Austin showing a second work in progress, and detail from that piece.





Thinking Sex Conference

March 1, 2024

WGSS hosted the *Thinking Sex Conference* in the spring semester, our 2nd annual interdisciplinary conference. 26 scholars presented their research across six panels and one poster session in TECO Hall. The keynote, *Thinking Sex Across Time & Space* was given by JE Sumerau, director of applied sociology at the University of Tampa.

"SEXUALITY IS NOT ONLY A WORTHY BUT A NECESSARY SUBJECT OF CONVERSATION BECAUSE SEXUALITY IS A KEY MECHANISM OF POLITICAL, SOCIAL, AND INTERPERSONAL CONTROL."



The Pagoda: A Lesbian Community by the Sea **with author Rose Norman**

In the spring, Dr. Rose Norman presented a lecture based on her recent book, *The Pagoda: A Lesbian Community by the Sea* (Sinister Wisdom). In 1977, two lesbian couples living in St. Augustine, Florida, found a row of small beach houses for sale next to a house they wanted to turn into a feminist theatre. They bought the cottages, leased and later bought the theatre building, and over the next two decades expanded and developed the property as a cultural center, women's retreat center, and residential community. In *The Pagoda*, Norman synthesizes interviews and extensive archival research to tell the story of the women who made that community a place for lesbian culture to bloom and grow.

USF Tampa Library Special Collections displayed local lesbian history objects from the USF Library LGBTQ+ Collection before and after the talk, and the USF Bookstore was on hand to sell copies of Norman's book.



In Memoriam



Dr. Lemons was an affiliate faculty member in WGSS and a former visiting professor in the department in 2008-2009.

Dr. Gary Lemons

WGSS mourns the passing of Dr. Gary Lemons, professor of English at USF. Dr. Lemons was an affiliate faculty member in WGSS, and was always a great friend of the department. We were privileged to host an exhibit of his artwork in 2019, and in 2022 we celebrated with him and Dr. Cheryl Rodriguez upon the launch of their edited volume, *The Power and Freedom of Black Feminist and Womanist Pedagogy: Still Woke*.



Artwork by Dr. Gary Lemons, from WGSS's MYAFRICA-ART exhibit of his work.

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Giving to WGSS:

usf.to/wgs



Give to wgss

Undergraduate Programs:

Major or Second Major in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: 36 hours (30 for second major).

The major focuses on feminist research and practice. WGSS promotes social justice through the discovery and production of knowledge that emerges from feminist perspectives on culture and society.

Minor in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies:

18 hours. This minor offers students from other majors the opportunity to learn more about feminist analysis, research, and action.

Minor in Queer and Sexuality Studies: 18 hours. This

minor trains students in the critical analysis of sexuality. It examines the rich history and cultural contributions of LGBTQIA people as well as the processes of normalization and pathologization that have structured sexual relations in different contexts.

Graduate Programs:

M.A. in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies:

36 hours. The M.A. is useful for students and professionals who are preparing for advanced degrees, nonprofit sector employment, and those interested in broadening their understanding of WGSS topics. Deadline to apply for fall admission: February 15. Funding is available to students through graduate assistantships.

Graduate Certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies: 12 hours. The Certificate provides

an opportunity for graduate students and other professionals to gain a more inclusive knowledge of women's, gender, and sexuality issues in society, including feminist studies.



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