

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

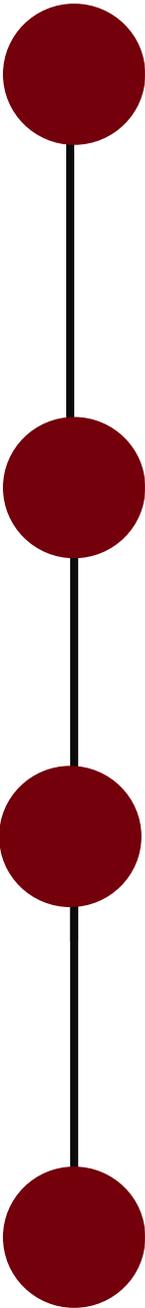
DEPARTMENT OF  
WOMEN'S  
AND  
GENDER  
STUDIES

NEWSLETTER



FALL 2023

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# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

## **Dr. Stephanie Mitchem, Interim Chair**

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The Women's and Gender Studies Department has had an amazing Fall term! We've continued teaching and meeting students even as we've gotten down to the business of becoming a department—I will not go into stories about the paperwork, very necessary but not exciting. What has been exciting are the signs of growth and the energy that are being generated. Our new faculty fellow, Dr. Loron Benton, began in August and already feels like an integral part of our community.

In September, WGST's 50th Anniversary began with a two-day conference, "From the Past into the Future," with additional support from the South Carolina Humanities Council. Founders, faculty, students, and community members came together to reflect on the past and to think about our future directions.

This event was followed by the first lecture of the anniversary year: Dr. Jules Gill-Peterson on the history of trans womanhood. And, not surprisingly, some WGST students were inspired to begin a podcast, and this is ongoing. The students have been interviewing each of our speakers since then! (There are links to the podcast later in this newsletter.)

October brought the Adrenée Glover Freeman Lecture in African American Women's Studies with a lecture by Dr. Daphne Brooks on Porgy and Bess and Black women's artistic responses. This lecture was an anniversary within an anniversary—the 30th anniversary of the Freeman Lecture and we are beginning to think through where we go with this, too.

And, still in October, was the annual I Believe Anita Hill Party. The Party is also growing, and new directions are in the works. In the words of Sherri Lynn, the current director, "The party started with like-minded women gathering in each other's homes. Over thirty years later, women activists still seek a sense of community. We Believe Women will provide those opportunities by hosting panel discussions, intimate host-sponsored events, and our signature founding event, the Anita Hill Party." WGST will partner with We Believe Women—and this is in development. Nothing to announce yet!

November's lecture was with Dr. Rosalind Hinton. She brought our focus to Louisiana's Cancer Alley and broader issues of community eco-activism, including here in South Carolina.

More events to celebrate our 50th anniversary will continue into next term. Of course, we will publicize each one. But let me call your attention to one event: January 2024—the Graduate Student Conference, "Politicized Bodies: Fighting to Exist in Patriarchal Contexts." The graduate students themselves conceptualized and developed the conference, sending out calls for papers and setting all content. Registration is required and you can find more information on our website. But the conference is the past and the future coming together: the Women's Studies Program, for years, held an annual graduate student conference. One of our students, Gabrielle McCoy, asked the question: Why don't we do this anymore? That was the beginning, bringing the past into the present.

I'll close now, with gratitude for all our growth this term.

Stephanie

# FALL 2023 AWARD WINNERS

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**Josephine Abney Faculty Award:**

**Dr. Sarah Waheed**

**“The Warrior Queen Who Died  
Thrice: Gender, Islam, and  
Sovereignty in Early Modern India”**

*Not  
Pictured*

**Arney Robinson Childs Award:**

**Lanie Berrigan**



**Harriet Hampton Faucette Award:**

**Jessica Pomerantz**

**“Intimate Partner Violence  
Victims’ Lived Experiences with  
Civil Legal Intervention”**

# UPCOMING AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

## **UPCOMING AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR SPRING 2024**

### **Women's and Gender Studies Faculty Teaching Award,**

**Deadline January 31**

A \$1,000 award will be presented to a faculty member (tenure-track, teaching faculty or adjunct) for outstanding teaching in Women's and Gender Studies courses.

### **Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Student Teaching Award,**

**Deadline January 31**

A \$250 one-time scholarship award will be presented to a graduate student for outstanding teaching in Women's and Gender Studies courses.

### **Carol Jones Carlisle Award, Deadline March 1**

This award is designed to assist faculty and professional staff in the conduct of women-centered research, which is consistent with the research mission of WGST to reconceptualize knowledge, create new knowledge, and/or reinterpret existing knowledge about women and their experiences through the lens of gender and the prism of diversity. The \$1,000 award can be used for travel, software, books, supplies, and/or equipment.

### **Dr. Mary Baskin-Waters Service-Learning Award, Deadline March 1**

The \$1,000 Dr. Mary Baskin-Waters Service-Learning Award recognizes USC faculty who have demonstrated a sustained commitment to excellence in service-learning and are recognized for their leadership in academic service-learning coursework and their commitment to the local community.

### **Dr. Lynn Weber Memorial Scholarship, Deadline March 1**

Scholarship in memory of Dr. Lynn Weber. The award recognizes a senior undergraduate major showing academic excellence, with priority to underrepresented groups.

Find out more about these awards and how to apply on [WGST's Fellowships and Awards website page](#).

# WELCOMING POST DOCTORAL SCHOLAR IN BLACK FEMINIST AND WOMANIST STUDIES



## DR. LORON BENTON

Dr. Loron Benton is the Postdoctoral Fellow in Black Feminist and Womanist Studies for the Department of Women's and Gender Studies and an inaugural member of the Bridge to Faculty Program in the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of South Carolina. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in English and Women's Studies at Emory University, became a middle school reading teacher, and later completed her Master of Arts in Women's Studies at Georgia State University. Dr. Benton earned her Ph.D. in Gender Studies from the University of California, Los Angeles, and her dissertation—"Interior Spaces, Spiritual Traces: Theorizing the Erotic in the Cultural Works and Creative Lives of Black Women Writers and Artists, 1930-1970"—is an interdisciplinary study of the theoretical utility of Lordean erotics as an epistemological source for spiritual and political power.

Dr. Benton's article "Dripping in Molasses: Black Feminist Nostalgia, Gazing Pleasures, and Counter-memory-Making in Kara Walker's *A Subtlety*" examines the artistic and historic bricolage of sugar, slavery, memory, and mammy in Walker's 2014 public art installation and is under revision for publication in a forthcoming special issue of the *Cultural Studies Journal*. Dr. Benton's research interests include Black women's cultural production and political traditions in the twentieth and twentieth-first centuries, Black feminist theory, womanist theory and theology, affect theory, queer theory, women of color feminisms, and the intersections between sexuality, creativity, and spirituality.

Dr. Benton's research interests include Black women's cultural production and political traditions in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, Black feminist theory, womanist theory and theology, affect theory, queer theory, women of color feminisms, and the intersections between sexuality, creativity, and spirituality. She also has specific interests in the Black Arts Movement, health outcomes, disparities, advocacy, and justice in the U.S. South, teaching pedagogy and methodology in middle grades and college, gender and hip hop culture, performance studies, feminist phenomenology, and studies of pleasure and joy.

# WELCOMING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ASSISTANTS

A year-long 50th anniversary celebration couldn't be possible with the help of our amazing undergraduate student assistants.



## **Sophie Conrad**

I am a senior studying English and Media Arts, but I have always been passionate about women's activism! Joining the Women's and Gender Studies Department as a student assistant was the perfect opportunity for me to stay involved in activism and public service while studying other subjects. My favorite part about working in this department is interacting with the amazing people who are a part of it; it has been so informative and inspiring to learn from everyone's unique experiences, areas of study, and passion for the causes that this program supports.



## **Emma Galluccio**

I am a sophomore studying Women's and Gender Studies and Health, Promotion, Education, and Behavior! I have always been a huge activist for women's rights, and joining the department has allowed me to continue my activism and education surrounding women's issues! My favorite part about working with the department is the people! Every day I come to work and am surrounded by extraordinary women who have taught me so much in and out of the classroom! This department has become home for me and I'm so lucky that I get to be a part of the Undergrad team!



### **Emma Laing**

I am a sophomore studying Studio Arts with a concentration in Graphic Design with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies and Art History. I have always been passionate about women's activism and wanted to get more involved after taking my first class in the department last year. Going out and volunteering with organizations such as Planned Parenthood changed my perspective deeply and I am so glad to have this opportunity to stay involved with the department this year. My favorite part of working in this department is the people who work in it. I get to meet and work with inspiring and passionate people and have learned so much.



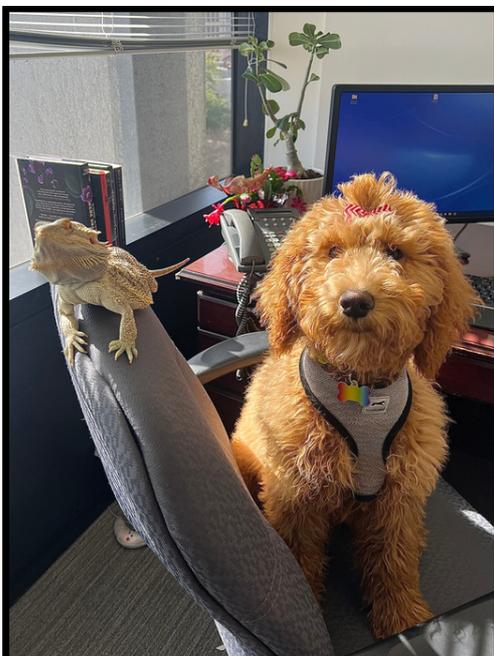
### **Jayla Porcha**

I am currently a senior at the University of South Carolina. I am majoring in Public Health with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. After graduation, I plan on going to grad school to obtain a Master's of Science in Nursing at The University of South Carolina. I am a very outgoing person and I love hanging out with my family and friends. I also love to sing and listen to podcasts. I am one of the student workers for the Women's and Gender Studies Department, and I love working for this great department. Although I am working, I am also learning through my peers and through the work I do. The Women's and Gender Studies Department is an amazing program and I am so excited to help be a part of it.



### **Olivia Tiseth**

I am a sophomore with a double major in Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies and a minor in Law and Society. I am very grateful to have been able to join the Women's and Gender Studies department as a student assistant! I have been able to learn so much from every member of the department as well as the other student assistants and their perspectives. I have also been able to participate in amazing opportunities, my favorite being helping to work on and host our student-led podcast *Women's and Gender Studies: Unboxed!*



...or the emotional support  
of our department mascots!

# STUDENT PODCAST

## WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES

### UNBOXED

The University of South Carolina Department of Women's and Gender Studies presents Unboxed: a student-led podcast that works to centralize the voices of women, examine contemporary social phenomena, and engage in community.

#### PAST EPISODES :

##### Episode 1:

##### Trans History As Public History

Students Olivia Tiseth and Sophie Conrad facilitate a discussion with **Bri Newton**: Assistant Director of LGBTQIA+ Education at USC, **Kat Allen**: Director of Outreach and Engagement at Historic Columbia, and **Dr. Jules Gill-Peterson**: historian, author, and current professor at Johns Hopkins University.

##### Episode 2:

##### A Conversation with Dr. Daphne A. Brooks

Student Emma Galluccio interviews **Dr. Daphne A. Brooks**, acclaimed scholar of African American Studies, Music, Women's and Gender Studies, American Studies, and Sexuality Studies at Yale University.

##### Episode 3:

##### What Does Feminism Mean to You?

Students Emma Galuccio and Olivia Tiseth discuss what feminism and being a WGST major means to them.

##### Episode 4:

##### Community Eco-activism with Dr. Rosalind Hinton

Students Emma Laing and Olivia Tiseth interview visiting scholar, **Dr. Rosalind Hinton**, alongside **Jessie McNevin** and student **Emma Poteat** of the Office of Sustainability. Tune in, as listeners get a deeper understanding of Dr. Hinton's ideologies of eco-activism, colonialism, and humanitarian rights!

#### UPCOMING EPISODE

#### TOPICS:

- Menstruation
- Reproductive Justice
- Bodies and Book Bans



“Working on the podcast Women’s and Gender Studies: Unboxed has easily been my favorite opportunity I have been able to take advantage of this semester. I have been lucky enough to interview and converse with many scholars from different fields and different perspectives, learning more about Women’s and Gender Studies and the issues surrounding it in modern society. It has been a remarkable experience so far that has taught me the importance of simply listening to one’s story and gaining a sense of new perspectives, whilst simultaneously helping me grow as a student and a person who wishes to help more people tell their stories in the future.”

-Olivia Tiseth, Undergraduate Student Assistant

Check out the podcast yourself using the links to Spotify and Soundcloud!

Spotify



Soundcloud



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. DEBORAH BILLINGS

## OVERTURNING ROE V. WADE: GLOBAL IMPLICATIONS FOR REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

JOIN  
US AT  
APHA  
2023!



**Nabeeha Kazi Hutchins**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO  
PAI



**Deborah Billings**  
ADJUNCT ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



**Dázon Dixon Diallo**  
PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER  
SISTERLOVE, INC.

Undergraduate assistant Emma Galluccio had the opportunity to speak with **Dr. Deborah Billings** to discuss abortion access and her recent APHA Presentation, *Overturing Roe v. Wade*. An Associate Professor at UofSC's Arnold School of Public Health, Dr. Billings' research focuses on areas of sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice with a focus on access to contraception, abortion, and post-abortion care, amongst other things.

Throughout her work, Dr. Billings has worked for organizations such as Ipas, seeking to decrease the rate of unsafe abortions all over the world and increase access to contraception and safe abortions. She has also worked alongside organizations such as Las Libres, in Mexico, and with the Ministry of Health in Kenya to conduct research surrounding maternal mortality rates and unsafe abortions.

After working and advocating for safe abortion access all over the world, Dr. Billings found herself in South Carolina, where she began assessing and testifying against SC House Bill 3020, The South Carolina Fetal Heartbeat Protection from Abortion Act. Dr. Billings and two graduate students from the Arnold School of Public Health began analyzing the arguments supporting the bill, concluding that, "to counter harmful rhetoric used to promote abortion restrictions, reproductive justice, and public health advocates should disseminate accurate information about abortion and use messaging that de-stigmatizes abortion," (Lambert, 2022).

Dr. Billings states in the interview, "The goal of the presentation was to make people aware of, like how extreme they are because I don't think a lot of people believe how extreme they are." Her goal of the presentation was to "shock people" and create a space for a productive conversation surrounding access to safe, legal abortions. As she progresses with her advocacy and research, she continues to testify against the South Carolina Fetal Heartbeat Act and promote spaces for discussion surrounding access to abortion.

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. MARY BASKIN WATERS

## Preserving Herstory

With the help of Undergraduate student assistant Jayla Porcha, Dr. Waters has expanded her archive and displayed some of the documents for the 50th anniversary of the department.



Left: Dr. Baskin Waters guest lectures for Dr. Dawn Campbell and discusses notable South Carolina women.



“Your story will be stronger if you have an archive. To have an archive, all you need is a box.” When I first started archiving, this quote was given to me by Dr. Mary Baskin Waters, affiliate teaching faculty in the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies (WGST). Since this past August, I have been archiving crucial information that tells stories of the fight that women have done throughout the years. Without this archive, it is possible that most of these stories will go unnoticed. As I have been archiving, I have been able to study past information such as Women’s Healthcare, Women in Higher Education, African American and Hispanics Women Rights, and so much more. Dr. Waters has helped preserve the stories of many South Carolina women, as well as her own.

Dr. Waters served as both Director and Commissioner of the South Carolina Commission on Women from 1992 until 2007. During those years she attended and presented at numerous conferences speaking on the importance of preserving how women have worked tirelessly to better their lives and the lives of their families. I believe Dr. Waters plays a very important part in archiving these stories, and she is very knowledgeable in telling the narrative of the enormous accomplishments of the women of South Carolina.

In a recent interview, Dr. Waters told me that her personal archive began in 2013 when she, and her USC Graduate Instructional Assistant, Travis Wagner, rescued her personal papers and items from a storage unit that was beginning to leak. Fortunately, the papers were found intact and were in perfect condition. The collection was moved to Dr. Water's Devine Street office where they remained until the spring of 2022 when they were moved to her USC office where they are housed today. This rescue led Dr. Waters to begin an effort to preserve the papers of other women activists of the 1990s.

In 2019, Dr. Waters funded the Archiving South Carolina Women collection which was comprised of several notable South Carolina women, such as Ann Humphries, Jan Collins, Julie Lumpkin, Dr. Laura Woliver, Claudia Smith Brinson, and Inez Tenenbaum. While a significant portion of the Archiving South Carolina Women collection has already been donated to the USC Hollings Special Collections Library, what currently is in Dr. Waters' office is made available for WGST students such as myself to learn the art of archiving. Dr. Waters' considers archiving this collection is to be "student led" and she clearly enjoys teaching her students and assistants the value and art of archiving.

Dr. Waters further commented that she thinks "one's personal archive is a reflection of one's identity." Her view is that "a box of papers and items can preserve one's personal interests such as hobbies, career papers, and family photographs, and can capture a person's voice so that it will never be forgotten." She added that "the risks we all face is that our memories will never become part of the popular historical narrative, therefore we need to create our own narrative, and make sure that our personal narrative is preserved."

While I have been primarily archiving Dr. Waters' papers from the Commission on Women in the 1990's, I have also been able to work on her collection of the history of WGST at USC. Dr. Water's collection about the then Women's Studies Program began when she first became one of the first donor's in 1987. She then began teaching in the program in fall of 1989 and has since been affiliated with WGST for 36 years. When WGST was founded in 1973, Dr. Waters was working at McKissick Library (before it became McKissick Museum) where she met her husband Sam in 1967. During those early years, she fondly remembers hearing about "the beginnings of new courses that were treating women and subjects and not as objects – a novel concept at the time." She knew then "she wanted to be involved in that exciting change of direction."

I am spotlighting Dr. Waters for her work because she has played a huge role in ensuring we do not forget the past, present, and future fight for justice with these archives. It has been a great experience to study and sort through these archives, especially being a WGST minor. Not only am I archiving, but I am also learning through these archived documents. I believe that other students should learn more, and possibly become a part of the Department of Women and Gender Studies. This newly minted department is celebrating its 50 year anniversary this year and has a history of many accomplishments. I believe that WGST is an amazing department to be a part of, and I feel you too could learn so much about its history and how it is still enormously influential today.

Written by Jayla Porcha

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. SARAH WAHEED



Dr. Sarah Waheed was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to undertake research for her next book, [In Search of Chand Bibi: Muslim Warrior Queen of India](#).

In 1595 Chand Bibi (1550-1600) of Deccan sultanates in southern India, defeated the most powerful forces of her time: Mughal imperial armies. Who was this queen? And what kind of world made her possible? In the very first monograph of Chand Bibi, the book project focuses upon the inadequately studied subject of Muslim female power in pre-modern India. By turning to the Deccan region, it also challenges the north-centric perspective of Mughal imperial development that dominates histories of India's Persianate past. The book also problematizes modern ideas of an India long characterized by perpetual Hindu-Muslim conflict where Muslim women exist only on the margins, "behind the veil", as oppressed victims of enduring patriarchy.

At the heart of the book is a quest to solve the mystery of what happened to Chand Bibi, given the multiple narratives which exist about her enigmatic end, raising universal and methodological questions about how historians grapple with myths and legends. Chand Bibi's death is mired in mystery: in some sources, she appears to have been murdered by her own soldiers; in others, she committed suicide to avoid capture by the Mughals; and in yet a third, it is said that she disappeared by escaping with her female companions in underground tunnels. How do historians make sense of competing narratives of the same event? What possibilities emerge when we narrate the past by centering perspectives confined to the margins? What counts as credible source material? What do various archives reveal about the afterlives of events and peoples?

In addition to this publication, Dr. Waheed has been developing a new course: "Women, Love, Power: Gender and Sexuality in South Asia." Departing from pervasive accounts of 'cultural difference' and the 'other' that exist in US and European accounts, this course takes an historical and global approach towards the topic of gender and sexuality in India and beyond. There will be an extensive, (though not exclusive), focus on the experiences of women in South Asian history, such as ascetics, courtesans, scholars, queens, warriors, and social reformers from literary, historical, and cultural perspectives. Its overarching objective is to understand gender and sexual relations as power relations across time and space. The class will be listed as a 300-level History course (TBA) in Fall 2024.

# HIST

## Women, Love, Power: Gender and Sexuality in South Asia.

Dr. Sarah Waheed

Departing from pervasive accounts of 'cultural difference' and the 'other' that exist in US and European accounts, this course takes an historical and global approach towards the topic of gender and sexuality in India and beyond. There will be an extensive, (though not exclusive), focus on the experiences of women in South Asian history, such as ascetics, courtesans, scholars, queens, warriors, and social reformers from literary, historical, and cultural perspectives. Its overarching objective is to understand gender and sexual relations as power relations across time and space.



“Women, Love, and Power has been one of my favorite courses in college thus far. Learning about the intersection of gender and history in South Asia has been truly enlightening; I have been exposed to perspectives on history I have never previously considered.” - Jhanvi Parvathaneni



This course has four major objectives: 1) to delve into earliest state polities, societies, as well as literatures of South Asia (such as epics and poetry) to understand the immense diversity of gendered expression and articulation by a range of women prior to the rise of colonialism as well as how they were represented in a wide survey of literature; 2) to analyze the colonial state and its policies with respect to gender relations in South Asia as well as colonial discourses in their construction of 'the other'; 3) to interrogate nationalism and the impact of the nation-state on gender relations, women's voices, women's movements within the context of nationalist struggles; and 4) to consider sexuality as both lived experience as well as historical phenomenon. Moving beyond simplistic binaries of "heroines" and "victims", this course will consider gendered lives in terms of power relations and gendered subjects as agents of historical change. Throughout the South Asian past and present, a range of topics will be explored that cuts across caste, class, gender, sexuality, religion and region.

Questions? Email:  
[SWAHEED@email.sc.edu](mailto:SWAHEED@email.sc.edu)

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

## NEW FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Bae-Dimitriadis, M., & Ivashkevich, O. (Eds.) (2023). Teaching civic participation with digital media in art education: Critical approaches for classrooms and communities. New York: Routledge.

This anthology shares educational practices to engage young people in critical digital media consumption and production. Comprehensive frameworks and teaching guidance enable educators to empower students to use digital technologies to respond to the social, political, economic, and other critical issues in their real-life and online communities.

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Benton, Loron. (2023) Dripping in molasses: Black feminist nostalgia and Kara Walker's A Subtlety, *Cultural Studies*, DOI: [10.1080/09502386.2023.2264580](https://doi.org/10.1080/09502386.2023.2264580)

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Broussard, Kathleen (2023). Strategic (Non)disclosure: Activation and Avoidance of Social Ties among Women Seeking Abortion, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.

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Johnson, Dinah. Ida B. Wells Marches for the Vote. NY: Christy Ottaviano Books/Little, Brown Publishers, 2024.

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Madden, Ed. 2023. "Under the Sign of the Clock: Queer Time, AIDS Time and Clery's Clock". *Review of Irish Studies in Europe* 6 (1):6-24. <https://doi.org/10.32803/rise.v6i1.3160>.

.....

Viswanath, Tharini. "Engaged Pedagogy as Empowerment: Teaching Embodiment of Gender and Sexuality in the Young Adult Literature Classroom" submitted to *Teaching Equity Through Children's Literature* edited by Gayatri Devi, Philip Smith, and Stephanie J. Weaver. Routledge, 2024, pp. 47-59. (Forthcoming)

.....

Viswanath, Tharini. "Reimagining Hindu Mythology for the Diasporic Queer Body: Discursive Materiality in Vivek Shraya's *She of the Mountains*." *South Asia: Journal of South Asian Studies*, 11 July 2023, vol. 46, no. 4.

.....

Waheed, Sarah. "Hidden Histories of Pakistan: Censorship, Literature, and Secular Nationalism in Late Colonial India." (Cambridge University Press, 2022).

# STUDENT AND FACULTY KUDOS

Learn more about the recent work and accomplishments of WGST's faculty and students:



**Dr. Tharini Viswanath** is currently working on a number of projects, while also having just given birth! First is a book length manuscript tentatively titled *The Discursive Material of the Sexualized Body in Young Adult Literature* which deals with the embodied agency of adolescent feminine characters. Herein, I draw on a number of contemporary young adult narratives to contend that feminine characters get agency not from voice or materiality independent of each other, but because they coexist in a state of fluidity and interdependence. In my latest article "Diversifying Disney," I draw on feminist ethics of care to demonstrate how coloniality and neoliberal story structures of popular Disney films can be challenged by acts of caring performed by the protagonists. Finally, my co-author Nithya Sivashankar and I are working on an article that explores adolescence, ideology, and marketing in South Asian YA television romances such as *Never Have I Ever* and *Mismatched*.



**Dr. Deborah Billings** was accepted the 2024 Winter Meeting of Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS). Her panel will be entitled, "Theorizing Radical Inclusion in the Context of Dobbs," with Shannon K Carter, University of Central Florida, Department of Sociology.

# STUDENT AND FACULTY KUDOS

Undergraduate Service Learning Student, Fiona Schreier, wrote an article about the [Historic Columbia Queer Archives exhibit](#) currently being held at the Hollings Special Collections library.

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Julia Elliott and Nima Yolmo are collaborating on a horror film series that focuses on the weird, gender, sexuality, and female monstrosity. This course builds up on the successful past SCHC service-learning horror course, that Julia Elliott has curated or co-curated past feminist horror series with various community partners, including Nickelodeon Theater, Columbia Museum of Art, and Richland Library.

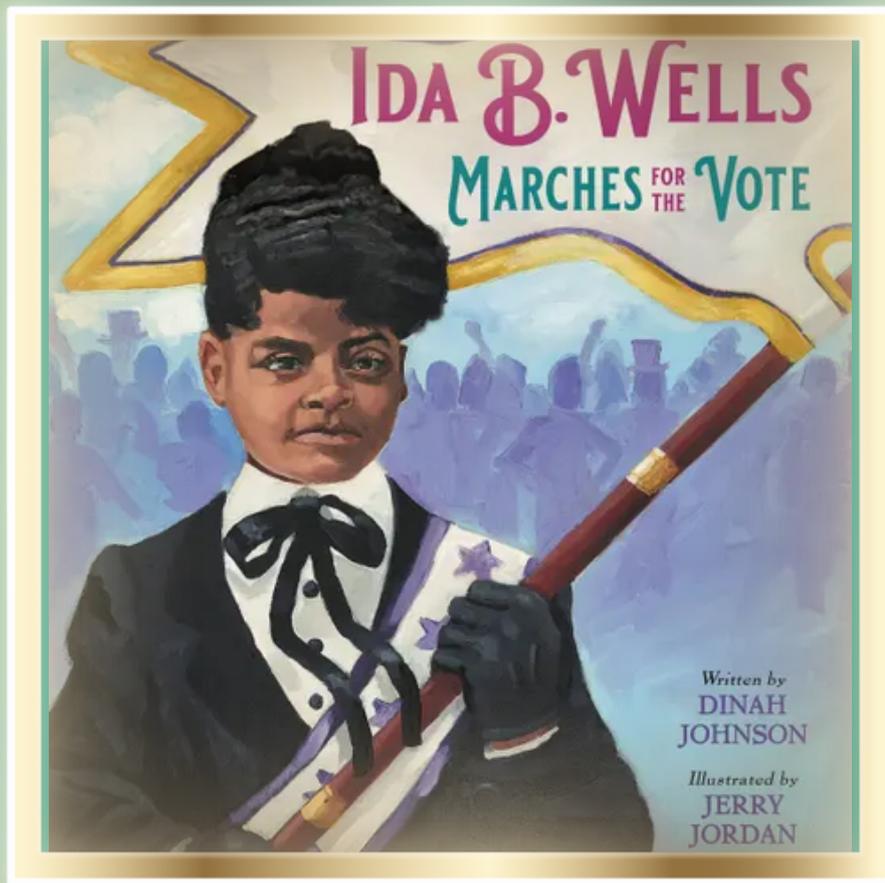
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Dr. Dianne Johnson-Feelings' latest children's book, *Ida B. Wells Marches for the Vote*, will be published in January 2024.

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Dr. Ed Madden published two books of poetry this year: *A pooka in Arkansas*, which was selected for the Hilary Tham Capital Collection prize at Word Works and published in March, and *A Story of the City*, a collection of poems written during his 8 years of service as the first poet laureate for the City of Columbia (2015-2022), published by local publisher Muddy Ford Press this fall. Both are available for purchase at [All Good Books](#).

In addition to his publications, Dr. Madden participated in an invited online presentation for the US Attorney's Office (nationwide broadcast) for LGBTQ Pride Month in June. He also organized a workshop in partnership with Historic Columbia and USC Libraries: *Writing in the Queer Archives*, through which 14 LGBTQ-identified writers were invited to respond to materials related to LGBTQ+ history and events in South Carolina. A small chapbook of that work was published by Historic Columbia and distributed for free at SC Pride, 20 Oct 2023.



## CELEBRATING HERSTORY WITH THE LATEST FROM SC NATIVE AUTHOR, DINAH JOHNSON

As "Dianne" I am an English professor. But as "Dinah"-- the name my parents have always called me-- I write books for young people and visit schools, libraries, and bookstores all around the country. I write about the things I love: my family, my dolls, African American history, and more. I love starting with a blank white page, using my imagination, and finally having a book to share with my friends of every age and background.

And I always remember what Frederick Douglass told us:

*"Once you learn to read you will be forever free."*

To purchase, visit:

<https://www.dinahjohnsonbooks.com/>



**Ed Madden**

# A pooka in Arkansas



**Selected for the Hilary Tham Capital Collection by Timothy Liu**

# A Story of the City:

*poems occasional and otherwise*



**Ed Madden**

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# DEPARTMENT UPDATES



## UPDATES FROM UNDERGRADUATE DIRECTOR, DR. DAWN CAMPBELL



Fall 2023 has been a semester of great opportunity and success. We kicked off our 50th anniversary and the semester with an engaging conference. We have increased our number of majors and minors thanks to the WGST administrative team's recruitment efforts (pictured below).

A special thank you to Helen Long and the student assistants. The undergraduate curriculum has expanded to include a research methods course (offered in Spring 2024) and several new online course offerings. The WGST 112 Textbook Committee is busy planning the second edition of the textbook to be launched in digital format Fall 2025. I'm looking forward to continued opportunities and successes as we move into Spring 2024 semester!



# DEPARTMENT UPDATES

## DR. LYNN WEBER MEMORIAL FUND



We continue to mourn the loss of former WGST director Dr. Lynn Weber. Her time as director shaped the intersectional and community engagement aspects of the program which remain central to its mission. \$23,475 has been raised towards the goal of \$25,000 for endowment.

Donations to the Dr. Lynn Weber Endowed Scholarship be made online at: <https://donate.sc.edu/LynnWeberFund>

## DR. DRUE BARKER MEMORIAL FUND



The Department of Women's and Gender Studies is establishing a graduate student scholarship to honor the legacy of Dr. Drue Barker. To support this endeavor, please donate to the Women's Studies Endowment Fund with a note that the donation is in Drue's memory.

Donations can be made at [bit.ly/druedonation](https://bit.ly/druedonation)

# UPCOMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

JAN. 20  
2024

REGISTER FOR CONFERENCE HERE:

[bit.ly/wgst50grad](https://bit.ly/wgst50grad)



## POLITICIZING BODIES: Fighting to Exist in Patriarchal Contexts

### Women's and Gender Studies 50th Anniversary Graduate Student Conference

The University of South Carolina Department of Women's and Gender Studies is celebrating its 50th anniversary and its recent elevation from program to department. As part of these celebrations, we are hosting an interdisciplinary gender studies graduate student conference.

#### SATURDAY, JAN. 20

8:30-9:20 A.M.

- Registration
- Opening remarks in Lumpkin Auditorium

9:30 A.M.-11:40 A.M.

- Morning sessions

11:45 A.M.-12:45 P.M.

- Lunch break

12:45 P.M.-4:10 P.M.

- Afternoon sessions

4:15 P.M.-5:30 P.M.

- Keynote by Dr. Nowakowski (FSU College of Medicine)

6 P.M.-8 P.M.

- Social hour off-campus



Women's and Gender Studies  
College of Arts and Sciences  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA



The Graduate School  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Save the Date

Dr. Deborah Billings will present some of her work on Group Care Global on January 19th from 2-3PM in DISC140.



**Dr. Deborah Billings** will give a presentation on some of her work with Group Care Global, a major implementation research project whose mission is to promote group health care for mothers, infants, partners, and their families to improve maternal and child health and well-being.

**Date: January 19, 2024, from 2-3PM**  
**Location: Discover Building Room 140**

WGST welcomes **Ms. Frances Ashe-Goins** for a guest lecture on the barriers that Black women face when seeking and receiving medical care. The lecture will be held on **February 6 2024 at 6PM in Barringer 101A (Anne Frank House)**.

[Register here.](#)



WGST will host **Dr. Monica McLemore** as McCausland Visiting Scholar from **March 18-22**. Her lecture, "Stating the Obvious," will be held on March 20 at 6PM in Lumpkin Auditorium. [Register here.](#)

Dr. Monica McLemore is a tenured professor in the Child, Family, and Population Health Department and she will become the Associate Dean for Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the School of Nursing pending approval from the Regents. She retired from clinical work in 2019; however, currently provides flu and COVID19 vaccines. Her research is focused on reproductive justice. Her peer reviewed articles, OpEds and commentaries have been cited in six amicus briefs to the Supreme Court of the United States and three NASEM reports. She became Editor in Chief of Health Equity in 2022.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

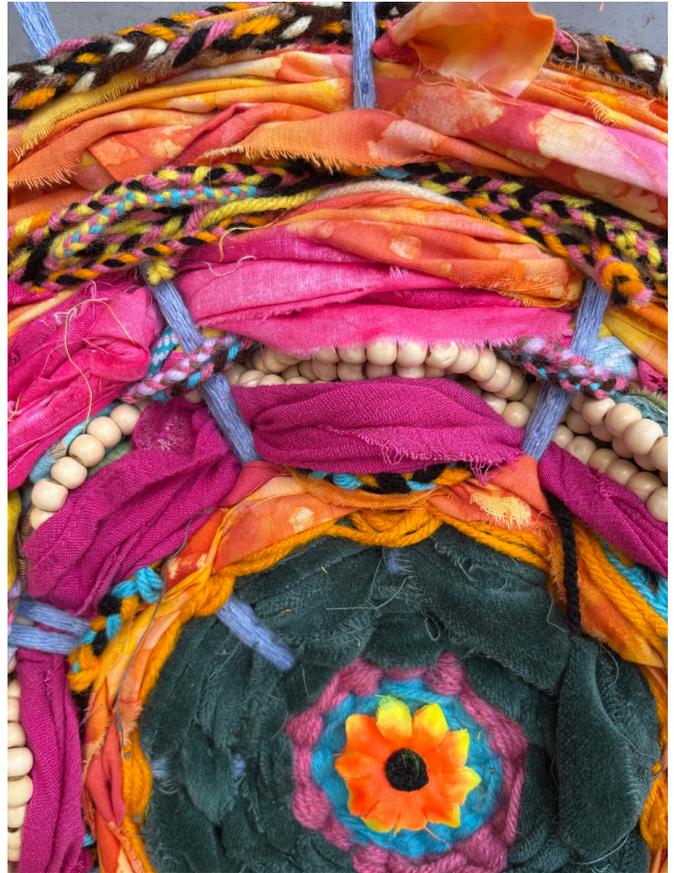
**Spring 2024 WGST 50th Anniversary Event:**

## **Healing Scars and Bruises: Women's Well-Being Initiative's Community Art Exhibition**

Mike Brown Contemporary  
1223 Lincoln Street  
March 20-30, 2024

Reception and public conversation:  
**Thursday, March 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.**

This exhibition will feature artwork by middle and high school girls in the Lexington County Juvenile Arbitration Program and sexual assault survivors on USC campus.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## DR. MARY BASKIN WATERS LECTURE

WITH DR. VANESSA NORTHINGTON GAMBLE

April 4 2024 6PM

Hollings Program Room  
Thomas Cooper Library

Vanessa Northington Gamble, MD, PhD is University Professor of Medical Humanities at The George Washington University. She is the first woman and African American to hold this prestigious, endowed faculty position. She is also Professor of Health Policy in the Milken Institute School of Public Health and Professor of American Studies in the Columbian College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Gamble is Adjunct Professor of Nursing at the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing. Nominated by President Joe Biden, Gamble was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as a member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term ending Jan. 26, 2026.



## SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES UNDERGRADUATE SUMMER INSTITUTE

The inaugural South Carolina Women's and Gender Studies Undergraduate Summer Institute will be held at the University of South Carolina (Columbia) on **May 19-23 2024**. This program has the option for residential or commuter student participation. The program is designed to unify students across campuses as they engage in gender-based analysis in disciplines of art and media, community-centered research, and health. Students will also get the opportunity to connect with local women and organizations. Undergraduate students across the state of South Carolina are welcome to attend. Details and registration information will be accessible via the WGST website.



# SNAPSHOTS OF FALL 2023



# COMMUNITY EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

In partnership with Women's Rights and Empowerment Network and Historic Columbia, Columbia City of Women commemorated She Did Day 2023 at the Architecture of Strength monument on August 25.



Right: Community leaders gather in front of the SC State House.  
Below: Rebecca Dobson, Dr. Mary Baskin Waters, and Helen Long enjoy the She Did Day festivities.

Columbia  
**City of Women**

celebrating  
**herstory**

**SHEDIDDAY**



# COMMUNITY EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

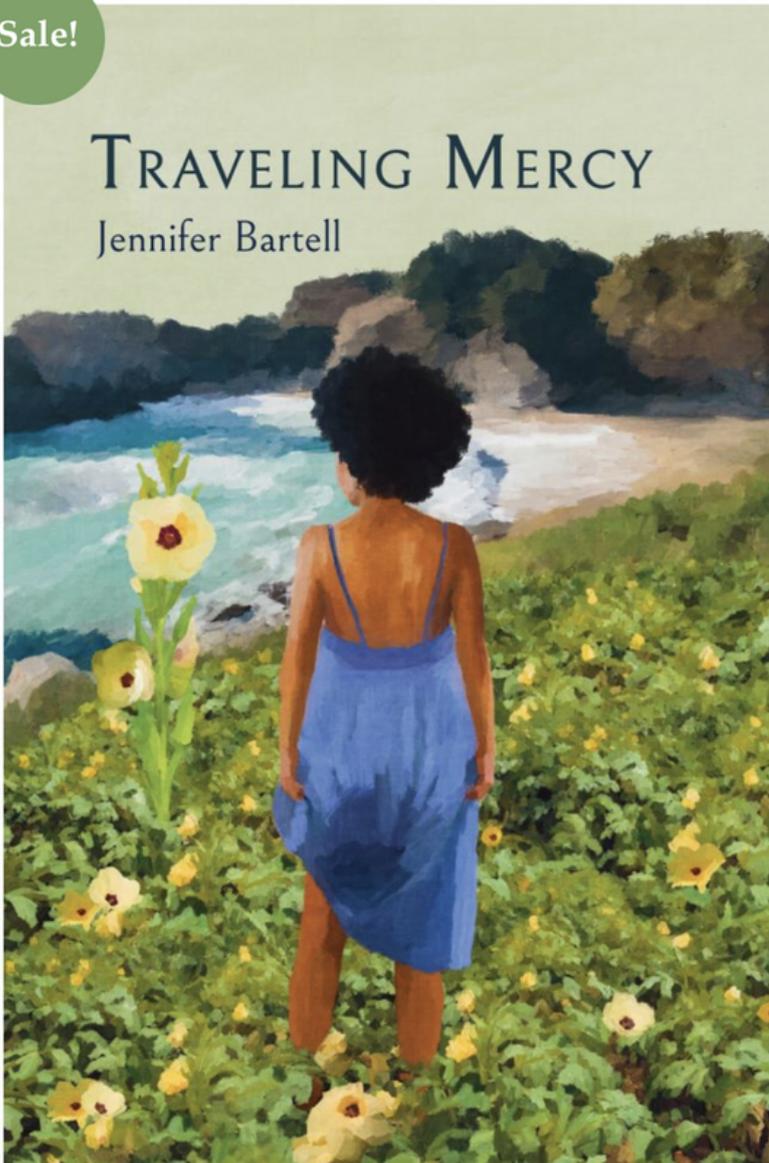


The Anita Hill Party hosted its annual celebration on October 17.



# COMMUNITY EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Sale!



**City of Columbia Poet Laureate and WGST Community Partner, Jennifer Bartell Boykin, released her debut poetry book in November.**

Support her by ordering online at [Finishing Line Press](#).

# COMMUNITY EVENTS AND PARTNERSHIPS



**WGST Community Partner, Frances Ashe-Goins, was accepted to serve on the Richland Memorial Hospital Board.**

She states, “I feel blessed to have this opportunity to serve the community. My first nursing position after graduation from USC College of Nursing, was at the old Columbia Hospital in the post-op recovery room. I was part of the team that transferred hospital patients to the brand new Richland Memorial Hospital. I thoroughly enjoyed working there in the 1970s and after 53 years as a registered nurse, I have learned much about what it takes to have a successful nursing and health care career. In my 20+ years as a highly regarded, successful senior federal official as the USDHHS Office on Women's Health Deputy Director, I have an intricate knowledge of the overall health care system and look forward to adding my expertise to the actions of the Richland Memorial Hospital Board. As a caregiver for my mother and daughter who were hospitalized many times at Richland Memorial Hospital, I saw first hand the former care issues that were prevalent in the hospital and recently have seen a positive upgrade in services. I look forward to being a part of the future successes of Richland Memorial Hospital.”

# WOMANIST ETHICS

Black women have stories to tell.  
We need to tell them, and listen to them.

- How do Black women shape our spiritual lives?
- How do our families and community help or hinder?
- How do we see what's there and then how do we make decisions?

“Womanist is to feminist as  
purple is to lavender.”  
- Alice Walker

## THE DETAILS

- WGST 398, AFAM 398,  
RELG 491
- Spring 2024
- Dr. Stephanie Mitchem
- Tuesdays & Thursdays
- 11:40am - 12:55pm



Women's and Gender Studies  
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Spring 2024

Tues/Thurs

4:25 PM - 5:40 PM



Beginners in grant writing and those who already have some grant writing experience are welcome.

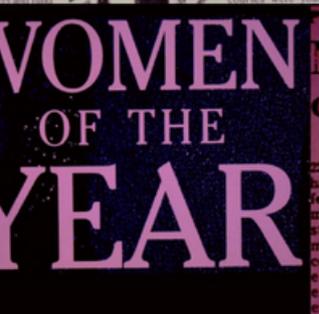
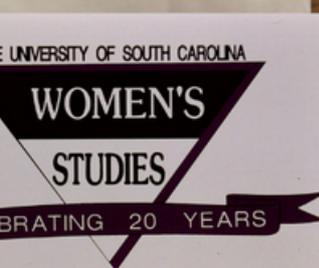
Questions? Contact  
Dr. Sixta Rinehart  
[SIXTA@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:SIXTA@mailbox.sc.edu)

# WGST 598: Service Learning and Social Justice: The Art of Grant Writing

Dr. Christine Sixta Rinehart



This course provides an introduction to grant writing and grant administration. It is designed for students in various disciplines who want to understand the grant process from the introductory stages to the final stages of implementing the grant.



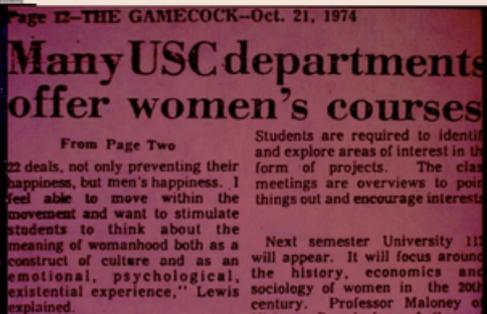
# WGST 398/HIST 498 WGST Research Seminar

DR. CAROL HARRISON



M/W 2:20-3:35 PM  
SPRING 2024

Learn and practice methods of historical research, using the history of the women's studies program at USC as subject matter. Become familiar with origins of the discipline of women's studies and explore the ways USC's fifty-year old program has followed or broken from national patterns.



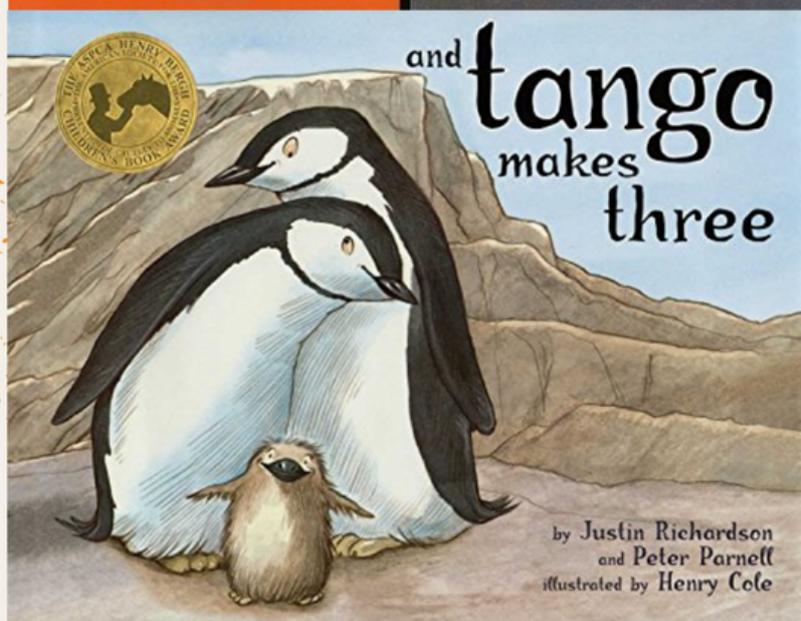
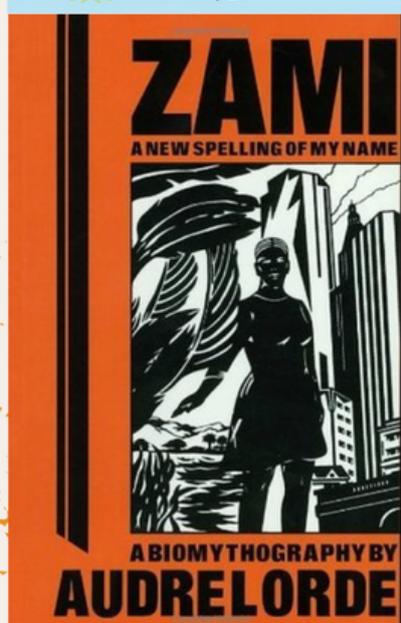
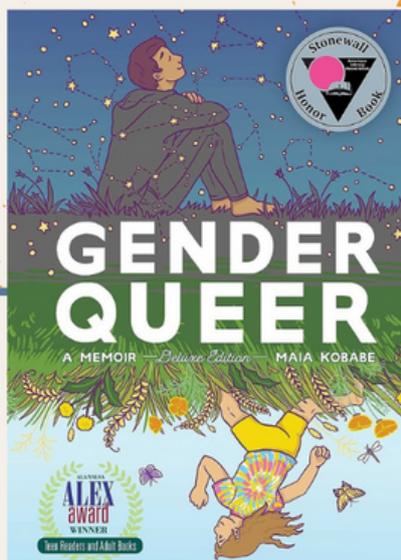
# LGBTQ+ LITERATURE

THIS COURSE WILL EXAMINE LGBTQ+ (LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANS, QUEER, AND OTHER NONNORMATIVE SEXUAL IDENTITIES) LITERATURES AND CULTURES.

*Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe is the most challenged book in the U.S.

## COURSE DETAILS:

- WGST 445/ ENGL 445
- DR. ED MADDEN
- SPRING 2024
- TU/TH 10:05-11:20AM



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**“VALUE YOURSELF AS A  
WOMAN AT ALL TIMES.  
FIGHT THE  
INTERNALIZED  
OPPRESSION AND  
COLONIZATION OF  
YOUR MIND THAT SAYS  
YOU ARE LESS THAN.”**

**-DR. DRUCILLA K.  
BARKER**



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