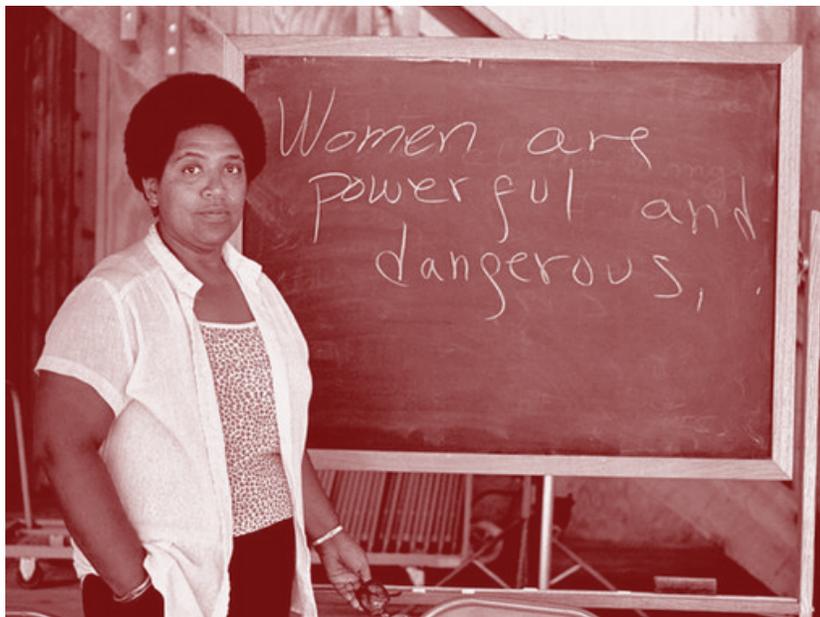


THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
**DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S
AND GENDER STUDIES**

NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2025



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Chair	1
Fall & Spring Award Winners	2
New Affiliate Faculty	4
New Student Assistants	5
Department Updates	6
Faculty Publications	7
Student Podcast: WGST Unboxed	9
Spotlight: Adolescent Mentoring	11
Article: Women’s Well-being Initiative	13
WGST in the Media	15
Spotlight: USC Women’s Club Hockey	16
Spring Spotlights	18
Spotlight: PPGA	23
Spring 2025 WGST Events	25
Spring Awards Ceremony	27
Save the Date: 2025 Freeman Lecture	29
Article: 8th Annual Waters Lecture	30
Community & Partner Events	32
Spring Graduates & Certificate Recipients ...	33
Coming Soon: Online Degree Program	34
Spotlight: Women in Computing	35
Fall 2025 Course Offerings	37
Connect With WGST	41

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Leland Spencer

The brilliant theorist Sara Ahmed, in her provocative book *Living a Feminist Life*, writes, “To become a feminist is to stay a student.” She is, of course, right! My love of learning certainly drew me to a career in the academy, but also in feminism. Women’s and gender studies is not just a field of research and teaching but a way of life, one that calls us to constant vigilance and consistent intellectual growth.

As a reader of this newsletter, you likely share Ahmed’s commitment to learning, and we celebrate that. We invite you to check out our newest faculty publications, plan to attend our upcoming events, and learn more about the department’s work. For more regular updates, follow our social media accounts, too. We also welcome you to get involved and be in touch.

Ever learning with you,
Leland

FALL 2024 - SPRING 2025 AWARD WINNERS

FALL 2024 AWARDS:

Arney Robinson Childs Student Award

Recipient: **Tristan Johnson**

Harriet Hampton Faucette Award

Recipient: **Anne-Laure Sabathier**

"The Expression of Self: Gender and Sexuality on Women College's Students' Diaries"

Emily Thompson Student Award

Recipient: **Kelsey I. M. Chapates**

"Seeing Two Lines: Rhetorics of Pregnancy in Graduate School"

Josephine Abney Faculty Fellowship

Recipients: **Cara Delay**

"Abortion and Black Women's Health Networks in Pre-Roe South Carolina (1883-1973)"

and **Ashley Williard**

"Raving Mad: White Womanhood, Criminality, and Carework"

FALL 2024 - SPRING 2025 AWARD WINNERS

SPRING 2025 AWARDS:

Dr. Lynn Weber Award

Recipient: **Amiya Ramkissoon**

Carol Jones Carlisle Faculty Award

Recipients: **Hyunji Kwon**

"Art Practice for Witnessing by Sexual Violence Survivors and Women in Transitional Homes"

and **Tharini Viswanath**

for her scholarly article on the representation of female superheroes and South Asian history and culture in the new Ms. Marvel comics and TV series

Women's and Gender Studies Faculty Teaching Award

Recipient: **Lauren Sklaroff**

Congratulations to all of this year's recipients!

Visit [our site](#) to learn more about our annual awards.

NEW AFFILIATE FACULTY

We welcome our new affiliate faculty members for Spring 2025!

To learn more about becoming an affiliate faculty member, visit our [Affiliate Faculty webpage](#).



Dr. Lauren Fowler (She/Her)

Dr. Lauren A. Fowler is an applied social psychologist who conducts transdisciplinary, mixed methods research to promote physical and mental health equity and reduce disparities through examination of health determinants (i.e., psychological, social, structural, cultural, and health systems factors). Her current projects focus on weight-related discrimination and intersectional stigma among individuals of diverse sizes who identify as LGBTQIA+; body image and housing insecurity among LGBTQIA+ youth; and the use of technology (i.e., mHealth, AI and rule-based chatbots) to increase access to evidence-based care for disordered eating prevention.



Dr. Rebecca Janzen (She/Her/Ella)

Dr. Rebecca Janzen is McCausland Fellow and Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature at the University of South Carolina in Columbia. She is a scholar of gender, disability and religious studies in Mexican literature and culture whose research focuses on excluded populations in Mexico. Her first book, *The National Body in Mexican Literature: Collective Challenges to Biopolitical Control* (Palgrave-Macmillan, 2015), explored images of disability and illness in 20th century texts.



Dr. Vanessa Kitzie (She/Her)

Dr. Vanessa Kitzie studies the information practices of marginalized groups, with a focus on LGBTQ+ people and communities. Her research findings inform how information centers, such as libraries, and systems can better serve these individuals. Kitzie's work is interdisciplinary, spanning library and information science, communication, sociology, and critical studies.

NEW STUDENT ASSISTANTS

We welcome our new student assistants for Spring 2025!

They are an invaluable resource to the department, and we are immensely grateful for the work they do.



Karleigh Belli (She/They)

I am a Junior majoring in Art History and Classics with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. I am excited to be a part of the department and grow my understanding so that I can recognize the construction of social pressures in the ancient world. In my research, I focus on the daily lives of ancient Roman women, and I hope to continue exploring this topic as I learn more about the daily lives of women in our own society. Additionally, after taking WGST 321 – Sexuality, Gender, and Power in Ancient Rome – with Dr. Gardner, I am glad to have access to more opportunities as a student assistant in the department.



Emma Philbeck (She/Her)

I am a Junior majoring in English with a concentration in Professional Writing and a minor in Mass Communications. I am incredibly excited to be joining the department and look forward to helping out in any way I can, particularly because I have always been passionate about women's rights and reproductive justice. Ever since I was 14 and saw how the world worked, I knew I wanted to affect change any way I knew how. Coming to USC was enlightening. I met people, found resources, and started volunteering at Planned Parenthood and for local political campaigns; all of which allowed me to become a part of a network of people who wanted to not just see the change but make it happen. As for WGST, my journey with the department started when I took Women's Health 113 with Dr. Swan. The class was eye-opening, I learned more about female anatomy and the treatment of women globally than I ever had before. After the class was over, all I wanted to do was learn more. I hope to continue my journey and with WGST in my senior year and learn as much as I can from my peers and professors alike!

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Welcome to the department! We are thrilled to welcome—

New staff as of January 2025:

Tristan Johnson, Administrative Assistant

New faculty in the fall of 2025:

Dr. Loron Benton (in a new role as assistant professor)

Dr. Tia Andersen (associate professor, jointly appointed with
Criminology and Criminal Justice)

Dr. Allison Marsh (associate professor)

The WGST Partnership Council has resumed meeting and includes several new and returning members. We welcome the

following individuals to the partnership council, as new or returning members: Hind Ashraf Hosny, Sumner Bender, Sage Braddock, Nell Fuller, Sherri Garrett, Meeghan Kane, Alex Marcotsis, Cristina Picozzi, Mina Rezghian, Baker Rogers, Tayler Simon, Kinnethia Tolson, Barbara Wofford-Kanwat, and Laura Woliver.

New WGST Classes coming in Fall 2025:

Women and Science

Gender and Labor

Feminist Research Methods

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Deborah Billings in *Archives of Public Health*

Integrating postnatal care into the redesign of group care beyond birth

Read it here: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13690-025-01508-4>

Dr. Deborah Billings in *Frontiers in Public Health*

Belonging: a meta-theme analysis of women's community-making in group antenatal and postnatal care

- In the Special Collection: Advancing Equity in Maternal Health: Addressing the Care Needs of Underserved Women

Read it here: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpubh.2025.1506956>

Dr. Julia Elliott, *Hellions*

Learn more about or purchase *Hellions*, an electric story collection that blends folklore, fairy tales, Southern Gothic, and horror, reveling in the collision of the familiar with the wildly surreal, now available at tinhouse.com/book/hellions/!



Dr. Hyunji Kwon in *Studies in Art Education*

Trauma and Art Pedagogy: Witnessing Through Embodied, Affective, and Memory Work by Women Living in Transitional Homes

Read it here: <https://doi.org/10.1080/00393541.2024.2429353>

Dr. Ed Madden, *Arkansas Luggage*

In this heady mixture of essay and poetry, Ed Madden travels between his native Arkansas and Ireland while examining the baggage of his own upbringing as a gay man. Visit handtype-press.square.site/product/arkansas-luggage/115



Dr. Emily Mann in *Social Problems*

"They don't have to make room for me because this is their space": Black College Students' Narratives of Racism, Whiteness, and Mental Health

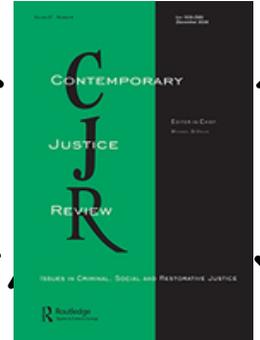
Read it here: <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spaf011>

FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Flora Oswald in *Contemporary Justice Review*

Defying carceral logics in technology-facilitated sexualized violence: technological, legal, and intersectional progress

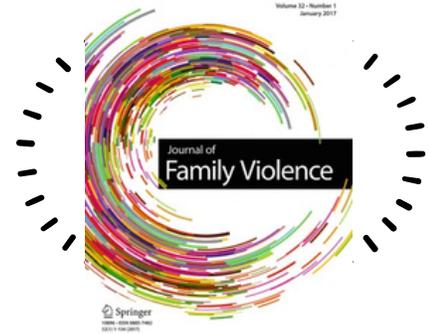
Read it here: <https://doi.org/10.1080/10282580.2024.2444912>



Dr. Flora Oswald in *Journal of Family Violence*

A 'Pandemic within a Pandemic': Metro Vancouver Women's Experience with Intimate Partner Violence during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Read it here: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-024-00787-9>



Dr. Flora Oswald in *Social Cognition*

Illustrations of Benevolent and Hostile Heterosexism in LGBTQ+ People's Lives

Read it here: doi.org/10.1080/00918369.2025.2480780

Dr. Flora Oswald in *Social Cognition*

Trans and Nonbinary Perspectives on Gender Diversity in Psychological Stimuli

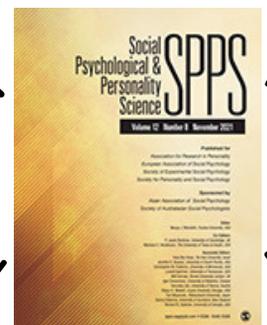
Read it here: <https://doi.org/10.1521/soco.2025.43.1.40>

Dr. Flora Oswald in

Social Psychological and Personality Science

Marginalized and Advantaged Parents' Perceptions of Identity-Safety Cues in K-12 Classrooms

Read it here: <https://doi.org/10.1177/19485506251324083>



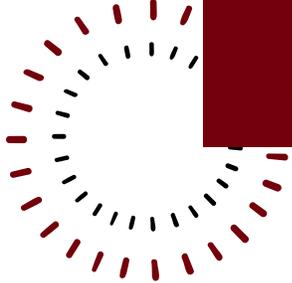
Dr. Lauren Sklaroff in

Reviews in American History

Transcending Definition: Historical Challenges To Heteronormativity Across Three Centuries

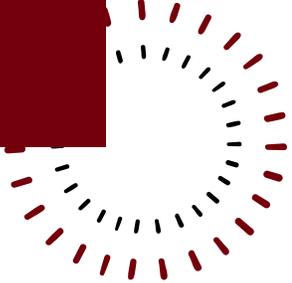
Read it here: <https://dx.doi.org/10.1353/rah.2024.a948356>





STUDENT PODCAST:

WGST UNBOXED



This student- run podcast works to centralize the voices of women, examine contemporary social phenomena, and engage in community.

Spring 2025 Episodes:

Bringing the Power of Your Voice to the State House with the ACLU of South Carolina's Courtney Thomas

In our latest episode, undergraduate student Emma Laing is joined by Courtney Thomas, Senior Advocacy Strategist for the ACLU of South Carolina to discuss the importance of getting involved in your local legislature, as well as the importance of prioritizing self-care to facilitate perseverance as an advocate.

Play Fair: Gender and the Pay Gap in Sports Entertainment

Join Undergraduate Assistant Emma Galluccio and Dr. Tarlan Chahardovali as they dive into the complexities of the sports entertainment industry and the ways women's sports have evolved. This episode will help you understand the importance of recognizing the gender pay gap in sports and how you can be a proactive member of sports and entertainment in your community.

The Incarceration of Transgender Men in the United States and Sexual Assault on College Campuses: A Discussion with Dr. Sarah Rogers

In our 16th episode of Women's and Gender Studies: Unboxed, undergraduate student Karleigh Belli speaks with Dr. Sarah Rogers about her new book, "Surviving Trauma and the Prison Industrial Complex: Stories of Resilience among Trans Men," and her research concerning queer and feminist criminologies, trans studies, sexual assault on college campuses, and the blurred boundaries between victimization and offending.

Women's Philanthropy and Social Justice

with Dr. Elizabeth Dale, 2025 Dr. Mary Baskin-Waters Lecturer

In this episode, undergraduate student and WGST major Sierra Perry speaks with Dr. Elizabeth Dale, this year's speaker at the Dr. Mary Baskin-Waters Lecture. Together, they explore how identity is influencing philanthropy and the future wealth redistribution, equity, and inclusive giving.

Queer+ Honors Caucus: Community in Queerness, Power in Education

Join Undergraduate Assistant Emma Philbeck and Event Coordinator of the Queer+ Honors Caucus Isa Webster for the 17th episode of Women's and Gender Studies Unboxed! In this episode the two discuss the Q+HC, a USC student organization, and its efforts in building queer community on campus. Learn how they help queer youth navigate their past, understand their present, and carve out their future.

Approaching Disability in Music Education:

A Discussion with Dr. Alexandria Carrico

Join undergraduate student assistant Karleigh Belli and Dr. Alexandria Carrico as they consider the impact of disability on students, particularly in music education. Dr. Carrico will also discuss her background in ethnomusicology, creating spaces for neurodivergent students in the music classroom, and overall accessibility for students in education.

Listen Here:

<https://spoti.fi/4h7Zhsr>



Future Topics Include:

Reproductive Justice
Queer-Owned Businesses
Intimate Partner Violence
Women in Leadership
Book Bans & Education
Women in STEM
Classical Studies
Global Feminisms

Dr. Tia Andersen

ADOLESCENT MENTORING

What is USC's Adolescent Mentoring Program?

USC's Adolescent Mentoring Program (WGST 551) is an experiential learning course that pairs USC students with youth at a local alternative school for structured, strengths-based mentoring. The alternative school serves elementary through high school students, many of whom have experienced school push-out or disrupted education. Girls in particular often navigate distinct disciplinary responses and social expectations that shape their educational experiences. Before mentoring begins, students complete five weeks of intensive training on trauma-informed mentoring, positive youth development, cultural humility and competence, and the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, and class in education and juvenile justice. Women's and Gender Studies (WGST) students are specifically matched with girls, providing mentorship that addresses the unique challenges they face. After training, students meet at the alternative school for class one day per week, using that time for direct mentoring. A highlight of the program is the end-of-semester field trip to USC's campus, where mentees celebrate their progress and experience a college environment firsthand. This reinforces the relationships built throughout the semester and helps mentees envision higher education as an attainable goal. Through this course, USC students engage in hands-on mentorship while gaining a deeper understanding of systemic inequalities, gendered pathways in education, and the resilience of the youth they mentor. Students can take WGST 551 (cross-listed as CRJU 551) to become mentors. They can reach out to me (tstevens@mailbox.sc.edu) for any questions or for more information.

Why is understanding theories and frameworks within WGST important within the Adolescent Mentoring experience? How are these frameworks used?

Understanding theories and frameworks within WGST is essential in the Adolescent Mentoring experience because it equips mentors with the tools to recognize and challenge systemic inequalities that impact youth. WGST frameworks, like intersectionality, guide mentors in building trust, understanding barriers, and focusing on strengths rather than deficits. Intersectionality helps mentors understand how overlapping identities (like race, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status) affect a young person's opportunities and challenges. Instead of seeing struggles as personal shortcomings, mentors learn to recognize the broader structural barriers their mentees may be facing—whether it's educational inequities, gender expectations, or experiences with the justice system. This knowledge allows them to be better advocates, listeners, and role models, making their mentorship more impactful.

What is the importance of implementing mentoring amongst adolescents?

Mentoring, particularly when it is intentional, trauma-informed, and relationship-based, offers an alternative to the deficit model by recognizing youth as individuals with strengths, capabilities, and tremendous potential. Adolescence is a time of huge change, and having a mentor can provide a sense of stability, encouragement, and guidance, especially for young people without strong support networks. Research shows that mentoring helps with academic engagement, confidence, and goal-setting, but, just as important, it gives students someone who listens and believes in them.

Can you tell us more about the relevance of this course, and its impacts? How does this course/program relate to Criminal Justice and WGST?

This course bridges Criminal Justice and Women's and Gender Studies by examining how systems of power, school discipline policies, and gendered experiences shape the lives of youth attending a disciplinary alternative school. Students explore how zero-tolerance policies and exclusionary discipline disproportionately affect marginalized youth while also recognizing the agency, resilience, and strategies young people use to navigate these challenges. By working directly with mentees, students apply both CRJU and WGST concepts, gaining a firsthand understanding of how structural inequalities shape youth experiences and developing the skills to challenge inequities through mentorship.

How has this program influenced the youth of Columbia?

Since the program started, more than 550 youth have been mentored, and their feedback speaks volumes about the impact. Many mentees say they love having their mentor visit their school—it's often the highlight of their week. They talk about how much they trust their mentors, seeing them as someone they can open up to without fear of judgment. Some describe their mentor as a "big brother" or "big sister," someone who listens, supports them, and just makes life feel a little easier. A lot of them talk about wishing the program lasted longer!

Can you tell us more about the relevance of this course, and its impacts? How does this course/program relate to Criminal Justice and WGST?

I've seen this program have a huge impact on USC students, both personally and professionally. Many come in with a curiosity about mentoring but leave with a much deeper understanding of youth development, the school-to-prison pipeline, systemic inequalities, and the power of supportive relationships. They gain hands-on experience working with young people, which builds their confidence and strengthens their communication and leadership skills. I've also had students tell me this experience shaped their career paths.

Many have gone into counseling, education, social work, or advocacy because of their experiences in the program. It's incredible to see how much USC students grow in just one semester!

WOMEN'S WELL-BEING INITIATIVE

AN ARTICLE BY WWBI INTERN FAITH CLARKE

The Women's Well-Being Initiative (WWBI) has partnered with the Lexington County Juvenile Arbitration Program for the 19th year in a row to bring an art workshop to adolescent girls navigating the arbitration process.

The Juvenile Arbitration Program follows a restorative justice approach, offering first-time, non-violent offenders an opportunity to avoid prosecution by successfully completing a structured program. The art workshop is one of the educational activities available to participants. Designed exclusively for girls, it offers a safe, supportive space for self-expression and healing.

The girls are anywhere between the ages of 11 to 18 years old, and they may be facing challenges at school, at home, socially, or mentally. The workshop strives to push these girls to express themselves as they talk about their emotions and daily struggles. If they do not wish to share, they are encouraged to process and express their emotions through the art. Unlike punitive approaches, this program uplifts rather than reprimands, focusing on personal growth and emotional well-being.

Adolescents are constantly told what to do, and often scolded by parents, schools, or the legal system when they don't comply. The focus of the art workshop is on guiding them with creativity rather than discipline. The WWBI values therapeutic, restorative practices, recognizing that art is a powerful tool for healing and expression. The well-being of these girls is at the heart of the program, making their emotional and personal growth a priority.

Art is an essential part of the human experience. Not only is it a form of creativity and self-expression, but it also “fosters cultural understanding and appreciation, benefits mental health and well-being, and enhances community and social connections” (Everett). The art produced in the workshop is always representative of something. Whether the girls consciously recognize it or not, the art they are creating means something. For instance, in a body-mapping exercise in which the girls traced their peers on a canvas and filled in the tracing with art, the girls were asked what their final product represented. They responded by simply saying the flowers and handprints that they had painted didn't represent anything specific—simply that they liked them. Yet, even when the art is not meant to convey a message, it is still an outlet for self-expression, energy release, and emotional processing —which carries meaning.



While this workshop is not therapy in the clinical sense, art itself is undeniably therapeutic. The American Art Therapy Association explains how expressing oneself through art is a means of “reducing conflicts and distress, improving cognitive functions, fostering self-esteem, and building emotional resilience and social skills as it engages the mind, body, and spirit in ways that are distinct from verbal communication”. The ability to express oneself freely is essential to well-being.

Core themes of the workshop include voices of resilience, as well as empowering ourselves and others. Keeping these themes in mind, the workshop not only focuses on art projects like drawing, painting, or collaging, but also emphasizes the importance of music, poetry, and verbal expression. Journals are provided to each girl in the class, and each session begins with a reflective journal prompt. These prompts provide an outlet for emotions that might otherwise remain unexpressed. The workshop creates an environment where participants can express themselves without fear of judgment or reprimand, offering a rare opportunity for open, honest self-reflection in the presence of supportive adults. They are encouraged to share the music they enjoy listening to and think critically about what the music means to them. They are shown new ways of performing art and expressing themselves—ways they can carry with them outside of the workshop.

The ultimate goal of the art workshop is to send these young women home feeling empowered - reminded of their strength, their resilience, and their ability to grow from every experience, knowing that they are not defined by their mistakes. The hope is that they leave with a strong understanding of the value of self-expression, with art offering a meaningful avenue for that expression.



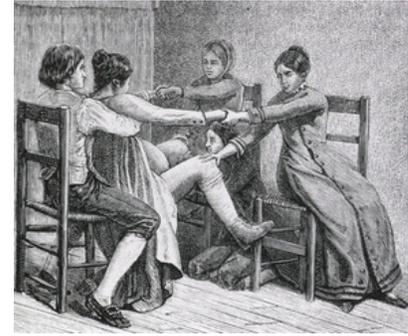
Sources:
 Everett, M. (2023, May 2). *The importance of art in our community*. Saffron Trust.
<https://www.saffrontrust.org/blog/the-importance-of-art-in-our-community>
 Healing through art. Psychiatry.org - Healing Through Art. (2020, January 30).
<https://www.psychiatry.org/news-room/apa-blogs/healing-through-ar>

WGST IN THE MEDIA



Dr. Cara Delay

Interview with Nursing Clio Prize 2024 Honorable Mention Cara Delay



Dr. Julia Elliot

A Columbia author is releasing a short story collection for 'weirdos with a sense of wonder'



Dr. Rebecca Janzen

One's a Hugh Grant thriller, one's a hot-mess reality show – and both center on stereotypes about Mormon women



Dr. Allison Marsh

Chuck E. Cheese's Animatronics Band Bows Out

The Starting Line for Self-Driving Cars

The British Navy Resisted a Decent Lightning Rod for Decades

How does the Post Office work?

Before the Undo Command, There Was the Electric Eraser



Dr. Lauren Sklaroff

SC mother killed her children 30 years ago. Now up for parole, Susan Smith remains a national sensation.



Dr. Suzanne Swan

Reports of drugging at local bar, leaves women hospitalized



USC WOMEN'S CLUB HOCKEY



The **University of South Carolina's Women's Club Ice Hockey Team** was established in the fall of 2023, and since then, they've made a significant impact both at the university and in the world of women's sports. Student Assistant **Olivia Tiseth** sat down with four members of the team—President Genevieve Crouch, Vice President and Alternate Captain Averie Bowen, Captain and Co-Founder Morgan Giard, and Alternate Captain Alyssa Nardslico—to discuss their experiences and goals for the University of South Carolina's Women's Club Ice Hockey Team.

There has recently been a rise in recognizing women's achievements in sports and the the media. Has this affected your team?

"It's definitely made an impact, even just teams in our league, have definitely showed a lot more interest and passion. We've had like four new teams, including us, that have started between last year and this year. So that's been great, just being able to grow our league and have more opponents. It's still been a struggle, obviously, for us here at this school trying to grow, at least our program, but it's definitely grown. Especially with all the other teams, we're all brand new so we all kind of help each other out in ways that we can, like communicating with other teams. Auburn's [team] reached out to us wishing us good luck at our other games—just girls helping girls out."

What does it mean to you all to be a woman in sports, and if you could give any advice to young girls starting off, what would it be?

"Just do it. Honestly just take a chance and just do it. I've played so many sports, especially sports that men dominated, and [we] are particularly in that kind of atmosphere which can be intimidating. But just empower yourself and 'block out the haters.' There's a lot of stereotypes about athletic girls... but it's so rewarding, and so empowering to be able to say 'I'm strong, I can play a sport just as good as the boys'.

We were at a restaurant in Alabama recently and people asked, "oh are you here for the volleyball tournament?" When we responded: "no we play hockey" they assumed we meant field hockey. When we said "no, ice hockey" they all said, "wow that's incredible, I can't believe that." I don't think it's that big of a deal anymore, but for a lot of people that aren't used to it, it is really cool to say that I'm a girl and I can still play hockey and skate. Being able to say we have a women's team is really cool because people are starting to realize who we are, and we're not always grouped with the men's team now."

What goals do you have for this team, and what do you hope to see for this team 10 years into the future?

"Recruitment is really important. We are hosting a recruitment event where we're going to do a campus tour, we're going to have girls come out and skate, and we'll have a player panel of current players so that they can hear about our experiences. Ten years from now... honestly, we want a national championship... badly! We have the potential and we know we have the potential—we just need to keep growing. On a smaller scale, we're working to have a team with a really strong foundation, and if we were still here in ten years that would be rewarding enough... We're working to have a normal schedule, an actual ice slot, and maybe a locker room.



Also, we're able to be an outlet for these girls who might have had bad experiences with hockey in the past but now are able to find their love for the sport and be happy on the ice. We want to make it fun for everyone. We're a club sport, but we are also really competitive and we want to be able to showcase that. "

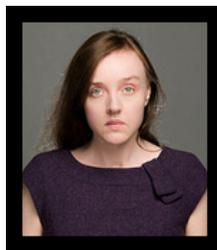
SPRING SPOTLIGHTS

Awards, Honors, and Achievements



Dr. Loron Benton

Dr. Benton gave a talk in February as part of the UT Austin Black Feminisms Speaker Series called *Sacred Homeplace and the Assurance of Sisterhood in Black Women's Artistry*. In the talk, she connected Black women's articulations of sisterhood, friendship, and home through song to Black feminist ways of knowing that are intimate, corrective, reassuring, and sacred.



Dr. Julia Elliott

Dr. Elliott's latest publication *Hellions* has received a great deal of media hype, including a feature in a TIME list: "[Here Are the 15 Books You Should Read in April.](#)" Read more praise for *Hellions* [here](#).



Dr. Paula Feldman

Paula R. Feldman and Lisa Vargo published with Oxford University Press volume 2 of *The Collected Works of Anna Letitia Barbauld*, containing her *Writings for Children and Young People*. Barbauld was an important poet, teacher, dissenter, and feminist, whose innovations in the field of children's literature persist to this day. The 515-page book includes the first scholarly edition of Barbauld's *Lessons for Children* (4 vols., 1778-79) and *Hymns in Prose for Children* (1781), works that were immensely influential throughout the 19th century. It also includes essays, stories, and poems Barbauld wrote for young people as well as her reviews of educational books and a trove of previously unpublished letters to a student whom she was instructing from afar.



Dr. Rebecca Janzen

Dr. Janzen won a Humboldt fellowship to conduct research at the German Mining Museum and Ruhr Universität Bochum for her research project titled Mining Religion. This research will explore religious practices in and near mines in the Americas, and will likely include a portion on masculinity.



Dr. Dianne Johnson-Feelings

Dr. Johnson-Feelings's children's book, *Ida B. Wells Marches for the Vote* was recognized with the 2025 Golden Kite Award for Non-Fiction Text for Younger Readers from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. This award is special to her because it is judged by other writers, and is particularly meaningful because access to the ballot box is still an issue in the 21st century.



Dr. Hyunji Kwon

Dr. Kwon received the National Art Education Association's Southeastern Region Higher Education Art Educator Award, which is awarded to one educator per year, and recognized her outstanding contributions, service, and achievements in the field of art education.



Dr. Kathryn Luchok and Elizabeth Collins

Kathryn Luchok, PhD is the current WGST Graduate Program Director, and she has quickly taken on the reins, bringing in 14 new graduate certificate students so far.



She is well-known as a research mentor and is

collaborating with and overseeing Graduate Certificate Student Elizabeth Collins's anthropological study of decision making for homebirth. These findings can help expand choices for birthing persons to be fully empowered in their birthing experiences. In addition, those who work in mainstream hospital birth settings can learn more about the benefits of natural childbirth and partnering with birthing persons for their care. Improvements are needed in the maternity care network of the US as our outcomes lag far behind those of similarly resourced countries. Dr. Luchok and Elizabeth Collins are completing two manuscripts on this work and writing grants to expand the data collection.



Dr. Ed Madden

At the 2024 Harriet Hancock Center Legacy Gala, Dr. Madden and husband Bert Easter won the inaugural Harriet Hancock Center Legacy Award, as individuals "whose dedication and transformative contributions have left an enduring impact on the LGBT community in the Midlands. Their work builds on the legacy that came before them and provides an opportunity for future generations to come."

Additionally, Dr. Madden was the Keynote speaker at [Queer Irish Poetry Now symposium](#) at Trinity College Dublin in January.



Dr. Annette Madlock

Dr. Madlock helped to lead an [Oxford Food Symposium Kitchen Table Talk](#) in December 2024. The talk was an international, cross-cultural holiday conversation titled: Seasonal Exchange - Darkness to Light.



Dr. Allison Marsh

Dr. Marsh is continuing her research on women in the early decades of electrical engineering at the Linda Hall Library for Science, Engineering, and Technology through an NEH grant.

During this period she has:

- Been interviewed on the Linda Hall Library's podcast, [Women in STEM](#).
 - Participated in [Museum Advocacy Day](#), talking to SC's congressional offices about the need to continue to fund museums, using her NEH grant as an example.
 - Started an Instagram account ([@theengineerhistorian](#)) and included women-specific posts for all of Women's History Month
-



Dr. Leah McClimans

Dr. McClimans's book, *Patient-Centered Measurement: Ethics, Epistemology, and Dialogue in Contemporary Medicine* was featured in a Humanities Collaborative book launch at All Good Books on April 11.



Dr. Lauren Sklaroff

Dr. Sklaroff started a podcast in March called History Harpies, alongside colleague Christine Ames, combining their love for pop culture with their love for history. Their critique of pop culture is positioned in the context of historical precedents. Listen [here](#) on Apple Podcasts.



Dr. Leland Spencer

Dr. Spencer received three national awards at the National Communication Association meeting:

- Bonnie Ritter Outstanding Feminist Book Award, Feminist and Gender Studies Division
- Distinguished Article of the Year, Philosophy of Communication Division
- *Journal of Communication and Religion* Article of the Year Award, Religious Communication Association



Dr. Nima Yolmo and Dr. Julia Elliott



Dr. Yolmo and Dr. Elliott will be co-curating a horror film series focusing on gender, sexuality, reproductive, female monstrosity and the weird. This film series will build upon the success of the Honors service-learning

Feminist Horror course that Dr. Elliott has curated and co-curated with various community partners, including the Nick, the Columbia Museum of Art, and the Richland County Library.



Dr. Nima Yolmo

Through a Mellon Foundation grant, Dr. Yolmo has been working with several of her WGST 112 students to host Novel Nook, which offers a lending library and

hosts themed monthly book hangouts. Both are open to the Columbia community along with USC students, faculty and staff. The Lending Library is housed in the WGST Department (Close-Hipp 503).

The goal of Novel Nook is to create a space for conversations sustaining empowering atmospheres for self-expression and collective curiosities. Join the GroupMe [here](#) / email rdoobson@mailbox.sc.edu to join the Novel Nook Listserv.



Novel nook
Book Hangouts

We seek to create space for conversations on creativity, empathy, learning, and contemporary social and humanistic perspectives on science, AI, and governance.

Unlike a traditional book club where everyone reads the same book, Novel Nook hangouts allow for members to talk about books they are already reading or want to read. The objective is to bring people together for open conversations that sustain empowering atmospheres for self-expression and collective curiosities.

The Novel Nook Lending Library
Lending Library will be housed in the WGST Department. Its objective is to encourage freedom of thought and sociality in this modern age of digital media.

Monthly Hangouts
To provide a general structure the Novel Nook team will announce a broad theme and list a suggestion of books that members can borrow from the Lending Library. Members wishing to join the conversation have the option to borrow from the set or relate their own book to the theme. The initial themes will be chosen from among the votes collected at the inaugural event.



Sarah Arroyo

Sarah, a WGST Senior, took these photos during a trip to Las Vegas and Puerto Rico.



SPRING SPOTLIGHTS

Provost Awards



Dr. Ed Madden

Dr. Madden was this year's recipient of the Carolina Trustees Professorship in Humanities, Social Sciences, Business and Law. His teaching has been characterized by the integration with his own public service work, especially as it relates to his primary fields of expertise—Irish studies, creative writing, and LGBTQ studies. Madden's addition of service-learning components and

community engagement within his courses encourages students to develop their own projects, which can be seen around Columbia as well as campus. Madden has been widely published, exploring multiple genres including poetry, scholarly and creative essays, books, and more. Madden's teaching extends far beyond the classroom, having a prominent role in the local arts community through his work as Columbia's inaugural poet laureate, serving two consecutive terms from 2015-2022 and leading a variety of meaningful public art projects as well as numerous writing workshops to middle and high school students in collaboration with local schools, libraries, and literary organizations. Madden's work, both scholarly and artistic, engages major themes and broader social issues, reflecting his commitment to scholarship that has real-world impact. Celebrated for his excellence in teaching, Madden is known for creating an inclusive and stimulating learning environment.

His courses are highly regarded for their rigorous intellectual content and innovative pedagogical approaches. His ability to connect with students and inspire them to think critically and creatively is evident in the positive feedback he receives. He integrates his research into his teaching, providing students with cutting-edge knowledge and fostering a dynamic classroom experience.



Dr. Leah McClimans

Dr. McClimans was this year's recipient of the Russell Research Award for Humanities and Social Sciences. Her interdisciplinary work focuses on the incorporation of patient perspectives into evidence-based assessments of medical practice, bringing together technical knowledge of clinical study and psychometric theory and practice alongside moral theory and

bioethics in both analytic and continental traditions. McClimans can identify gaps in the way health outcomes researchers think about ethics of patient-reported measurement, arguing for a form of humility for researchers that is critical to inoculation against misunderstanding patients and their experiences. Her work is critical in validating patient-reported measurement as a tool for patient empowerment in medical decision making, centering patients as the primary experts and considering family members, clinicians, and other stakeholders into a holistic conversation that is having a tremendous impact on medical ethics and the foundations of clinical measurement.

PLANNED PARENTHOOD GENERATION ACTION



Women's and Gender Studies Major Emma Galluccio sat down with **Planned Parenthood Generation Action (PPGA) President Emma Philbeck** to discuss the advocacy work the group is doing and her thoughts on the importance of this work.

What is PPGA? What topics are covered in meetings?

PPGA is a subgroup of Planned Parenthood South Atlantic. We focus a lot of the advocacy and activism aspects of Planned Parenthood's initiatives. We help work with a lot of local officials especially during elections, helping to promote health, advocacy, and well being of all. We talk a lot about volunteer opportunities, patient greetings, and how to get involved in the community.

Why is it important for college students to have knowledge of Planned Parenthood and their initiatives?

Planned Parenthood provides reproductive care to many college students, especially those who may not be able to afford care from an OBGYN or Primary Care Physician. We are in a political environment right now where abortion is a scary and daunting issue and knowing that there's adequate access to care for everyone is really important.

As President of PPGA, what does this role mean to you? What are your hopes for the next couple of years as the organization continues to grow? What are some challenges that you've faced as an organization?

To me, it means trying to gain and spread knowledge to keep people aware of what's happening. If you aren't aware of current issues, then you can't fight for yourself. I joined the club my freshman year of college but didn't have much time to attend meetings. I became more invested in the club as reproductive rights became more restrictive, and decided to apply for an executive role to continue pursuing this passion. I accepted the role as president of the club, and I am very appreciative that I was trusted with the role. It's been a very interesting experience, especially advocating on a college campus, when so many events are anti-reproductive justice. The biggest challenge we have is maintaining strong activism and advocacy within adverse political environments while emphasizing the importance of emotional well-being amongst students.

How do you continue to keep people involved and informed within the activist sphere?

We continue to keep people informed through social media and maintaining our bi-weekly meetings. On our social media, we post about issues occurring in South Carolina, the kinds of care people can receive from Planned Parenthood, sex education, and information on queerness. We have a series on our Instagram called "Queer Queries," where we focus on different aspects of queerness in order to educate and validate those within our community.

How can students get involved in PPGA?

If students are interested, a good place to start is attending meetings! Our bi-weekly meetings cover so much information and can provide you with information on how to volunteer to patient greet, and other ways to get involved within our community. Patient greeting is such an important way to get involved in Planned Parenthood, as you act as a first line of defense for abortion care and the care of the patients.

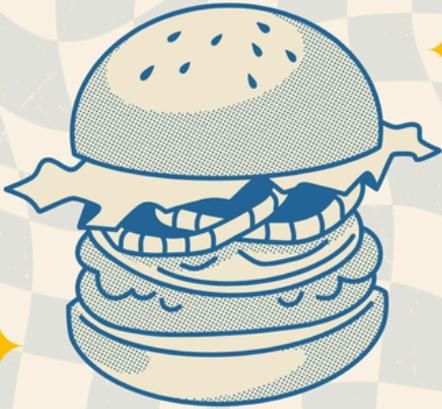
Making sure you stay informed and are aware of legislation occurring in the state is another great way to stay involved, without working on the front lines. Continuing to learn and support one another is the biggest way I suggest is getting involved in advocacy work of any kind!

SPRING 2025 WGST EVENTS

HARRIET HANCOCK CENTER FOUNDATION



FIRST SUNDAY SUPPER



BURGERS IN THE YARD

MARCH 2ND 5 - 7 PM
THE HARRIET HANCOCK CENTER

1108 Woodrow St, Columbia, SC

Join us for family dinner! We're providing burgers and all the toppings, you bring the sides.

March Supper sponsored by
Women's and Gender Studies
College of Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

8th Annual Dr. Mary Baskin-Waters Lecture

PORTRAITS OF WOMEN'S PHILANTHROPY: UNDERSTANDING GIVING THROUGH A GENDER LENS WITH DR. ELIZABETH DALE



Dr. Elizabeth Dale, Frey Foundation Chair for Family Philanthropy at the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University, will discuss the history of women as philanthropic actors through a series of portraits including Jane Addams, Madam C.J. Walker, Oseola McCarthy, and Mackenzie Scott, among others. Through the stories of individual women and women's groups, she will uncover broader themes and issues, such as activism and advocacy, occupational segregation by sex, and the potential for women's philanthropy in the future.

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

MARCH 25, 2025

TIME: 6:00 PM, RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

LOCATION: CLOSE-HIPP BUILDING 8TH FLOOR
LUMPKIN AUDITORIUM

FREE EVENT, REGISTRATION REQUESTED:

BIT.LY/MBWLECTURE

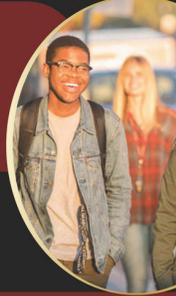


GAMECOCK CONNECT

Building Connections & Empowering Futures

February 6, 2025
Close-Hipp 8th Floor
University Conference Center

Registration: 5:30pm
Event: 6:00pm - 8:00pm
Dinner will be served



EVENT SUMMARY

- Networking Opportunities
- Inspiring Panel Discussion
- Social Capital Building
- Personal Growth



Sign-up Here

First-Gen Center
Office of Multicultural Student Affairs
Amplify WGST Community-Based Research Mellon Foundation Grant

(803) 777-5850

School of Music
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Co-Sponsored by

Departments of Women's and Gender Studies,
African American Studies,
and History

The Potential of Operatic Spaces Today



Naomi André
UNC-Chapel Hill



SCHOOL OF MUSIC RECITAL HALL

FRIDAY 31 JAN, 2025 | 1:10 - 2 PM | FREE & OPEN TO PUBLIC

Loise E. Panko
MUSIC & CULTURE
COLLOQUIUM SERIES



RELINQUISHED: THE POLITICS OF ADOPTION AND THE PRIVILEGE OF AMERICAN MOTHERHOOD



GRETCHEN SISSON, Ph.D.
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN FRANCISCO

With the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, women's choices drastically changed in a matter of moments. Adoption was presented as an alternative; the benevolent face to the anti-abortion movement. Both liberals and conservatives agree that adoption is "compassionate" but neither side seems to consider the experiences of birth parents. Is adoption a valid alternative? What is adoption really like for the women who surrender their children? Celebrated sociologist Gretchen Sisson, Ph.D., explores these questions in her riveting and deeply researched book *Relinquished: The Politics of Adoption and the Privilege of American Motherhood*. Over the span of two decades, Sisson conducted hundreds of in-depth interviews with women who have relinquished their children for domestic adoption. Her book is the powerful culmination of her research, a study of adoption that places birth parents' family in the center.

Gretchen Sisson, Ph.D., is a qualitative sociologist studying abortion and adoption at Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSRH) in the Department of Obstetrics,

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

FRIDAY, APRIL 4th, 2025
11:00 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
SLOAN COLLEGE ROOM 112

SPONSORS
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

CAROLINA CONSORTIUM ON HEALTH, INEQUALITIES, AND POPULATIONS (CHIP)

Zoom link available upon request. Please email
Arielle Furtick:
grosam1@mailbox.sc.edu

RSVP Here!



Novel nook

Join us for the inaugural monthly book hangout!

Free and open to the public. Refreshments provided!

SPRING 2025 WGST EVENTS

The Department was well represented at the **WGS South Conference** in Atlanta GA March 6-8, 2025.

Faculty **Leland Spencer, Loron Benton, and Kathryn Luchok** and Graduate Certificate Student **Elizabeth Collins** attended. USC WGST had a table set up for two days that displayed information about the department. Dr. Luchok managed the tabling, and all of our representatives spent some time talking to conference attendees about our teaching, research, major and minor, graduate certificate and textbook. There was particular interest in the graduate certificate and the online undergraduate major program. On Friday, they hosted a “Brewing for Change” hour with coffee, tea, and pastries which drew a large audience.



We also had 3 presentations at the conference.

Dr. Spencer presented: National Geographic’s Social Justice Turn? Dr. Benton presented: “The Future is ours to Take”: The Poetic Transcendence of Nikki Giovanni” and Elizabeth Collins & Dr. Luchok presented: Homebirth, Autonomy and Knowledge-Based Power.

WGST also attended the **USC Maternal and Child Health Student Association’s Black Maternal Health Empowerment Fest**, tabling at their community resource fair. Following the fair, Graduate Director Dr. Kathryn Luchok participated in a panel discussion highlighting the current challenges and opportunities in Black maternal health.



SPRING AWARDS CEREMONY

Graduate Certificate and award recipients with Graduate Director Dr. Kathryn Luchok

Carol Jones Carlisle Award Winners, Dr. Hyunji Kwon and Tharini Viswanath



WGST 499 students with their community service internship posters



SPRING AWARDS CEREMONY



Left: Josephine Abney Award winner, Dr. Cara Delay and WGST Faculty Teaching Award winner, Dr. Lauren Sklaroff.

In her students' letters of nomination for her, Dr. Sklaroff was acknowledged for abilities to use her depth of knowledge to help students succeed in their own research and ease them into “difficult intellectual work.” She was also recognized for going the extra mile to make time for meetings, write letters of recommendation, and provide feedback on all areas of her students' research.

Right: Dr. Lynn Weber Award Winner, Amiya Ramkissoon with her professor, Dr. Cara Delay.

Amiya is a double major in Political Science and WGST. When describing why she became a WGST major, Amiya said “Women’s and Gender Studies is so much more than a major to me—it offers irreplaceable insight and knowledge regarding what it means to be a woman and how women have defined history as we know it.” Faculty have seen her commitment to this department and her academics in general.



SAVE THE DATE:

**2025 Adrenée Glover
Freeman Lecture**

Tuesday, October 7, 2025 at 6 PM

**Featuring: Dr. Shannon Eaves,
College of Charleston**



8th ANNUAL MARY BASKIN-WATERS LECTURE WITH DR. ELIZABETH DALE

On Tuesday, March 25, 2025, the Department of Women's and Gender Studies hosted the 8th Annual Dr. Mary Baskin-Waters Lecture, featuring Dr. Elizabeth Dale, who gave a lecture titled

"Portraits of Women's Philanthropy: Understanding Giving Through a Gender Lens"



Other speakers included Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies, Dr. Ed Madden who read a selection of "postcard poems" and USC Alumna Tristan Johnson, who discussed her experience in her WGST 499 Community Service Internship and other departmental community work. WGST Chair, Dr. Leland Spencer, introduced the speaker, Dr. Elizabeth Dale, who currently serves as Frey Foundation Chair for Family Philanthropy at the Dorothy A. Johnson Center for Philanthropy at Grand Valley State University.

"Philanthropy is not just about being generous; it's about being strategic in creating meaningful change." - Dorothy A. Johnson



Dr. Dale began by providing a glimpse into the history and social developments surrounding women as philanthropic actors, beginning with early benevolent societies, continuing through reform movements, to contemporary billionaires. She provided an overview of ways to define philanthropy, then set the scene of “separate spheres” ideology in the 1800s. Following an examination of the ways women often engaged in philanthropy.

Dale also elaborated on the contrasts between Black Women’s Associations and the work white women were doing, asserting that these organizations often addressed different issues and rarely collaborated. This historical examination continued through the end of the Civil War, examining changes that developed with female voluntarism shifting into the public sphere.

Dr. Dale then began discussing individual portraits including Jane Addams and her work through the Hull House, establishing social work as a legitimate profession and becoming the first American woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Following Addams, she discussed Madam C.J. Walker, who utilized entrepreneurship as a path to philanthropy, developing a social enterprise hiring Black women to sell products door to door, contributing to educational institutions, and donating to causes like the NAACP’s anti-lynching movement. Contemporary examples of women’s philanthropic paths included Oseola McCarty, who donated most of her life savings to a scholarship fund at the University of Southern Mississippi; Melinda French Gates, who committed one billion dollars over the span of several years for causes centering women and girls; and MacKenzie Scott who began giving unrestricted funds away to over 1,600 organizations, amounting to over \$14 billion.

Dr. Dale ended the lecture with an examination of the future of women’s philanthropy noting the rapid growth of collective giving models, expanding definitions of philanthropy through gender-lens investing, the transfer of intergenerational wealth, and the expanded use of trust-based philanthropic approaches. Following the central portion of the lecture, Dale engaged in a short question and answer period, responding to questions about what individuals can do to raise funds for foreign aid and listening to audience reflections about their takeaways from the lecture.

SPRING 2025 COMMUNITY & PARTNER EVENTS

W A M

WALK A MILE
IN OUR SHOES
2025



PRESENTED BY PATHWAYS TO HEALING

Support survivors on Tuesday, April 22nd by joining us for Walk A Mile 2025, featuring Keynote Speaker, Sims Tillirson.

TUESDAY, APRIL 22ND

5:45 PM - SHIRT PICKUP

6:00 PM - OPENING CEREMONY

6:30 PM - LET THE WALK BEGIN!

SC STATE HOUSE GROUNDS

Help us support

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

Empower. Educate. Advocate: Supporting Black Maternal Health

Event Schedule

APRIL 11 - APRIL 17, 2025



APRIL 12TH,
9:30AM-12:30PM

MCHSA + Galen Fellows: Power

ing Volunteer Day
[CE.COM/R/GYLDWB6WXE](https://www.mchsa.org/CE.COM/R/GYLDWB6WXE)

Black Maternal Health
Powerment Fest
[CE.COM/R/GYLDWB6WXE](https://www.mchsa.org/CE.COM/R/GYLDWB6WXE)

Galen Fellows Women's
Interactive Workshop
[CE.COM/R/6AQZ7DKP3N](https://www.mchsa.org/CE.COM/R/6AQZ7DKP3N)

are Club: "Mind the Gap:
Maternal Health Trivia"

ournal Club: Racial and
Parities in Maternal and
Health
[CE.COM/R/6AQZ7DKP3N](https://www.mchsa.org/CE.COM/R/6AQZ7DKP3N)



THE STATE OF PRIDE

A STATEWIDE LGBTQ+
VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

THIS WEDNESDAY
JAN. 29TH

6-7:30 PM

VIRTUAL
OVER ZOOM

In the face of challenging times for LGBTQ+ rights, join us for a virtual discussion addressing the fears of our community.

This event has a statewide focus, bringing together voices from across South Carolina to discuss pressing questions, share concerns, and explore ways to navigate these uncertain times. Whether you're directly impacted, an ally, or someone seeking to understand and support, your presence is invaluable as we address the issues that matter most to us all.



Book Launch Event

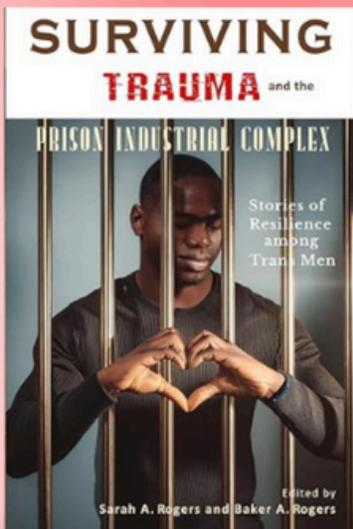
Edited by Sarah A. Rogers and Baker A. Rogers

**Friday
April 4th**

6 - 8 PM

The HHC
1108 Woodrow St,
Columbia, SC

Published by
Transgress Press

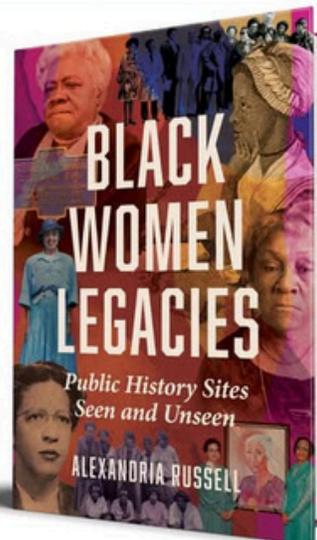


SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2024

Free Tour of
Modjeska Simkins House
AND
Book Signing with
Dr. Alexandria Russell

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

2025 Marion Street
Columbia, SC 29201



SPRING 2025 GRADUATES

We congratulate the following seniors, who will graduate with their Bachelor's Degree in Women's and Gender Studies this May:

Madison Burgess, Ash Leland, and Sierra Perry

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE RECIPIENTS

We also congratulate the following graduate students, who will receive their Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies this academic year:

Elizabeth Collins, Gabrielle McCoy, Agnes Nzomene Kahouo Foda, and Anne Laure Sabathier

To learn more about our undergraduate major and minor paths, our graduate certificate program, and our forthcoming undergraduate online degree program, visit our website [here!](#)

Coming Fall 2025:



Women's and Gender Studies

College of Arts and Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Online Degree Program

This fully online degree will allow a flexible and accessible way to earn your B.A. in Women's and Gender Studies!

Includes Courses Covering:

Women's Health

Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality

Feminist Theory

African-American Feminist Theory

Gender and Politics

and more!



TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT:

DR. DAWN CAMPBELL, DAWNC@MAILBOX.SC.EDU

WOMEN IN COMPUTING



Undergraduate student assistant Karleigh Belli sat down with the executive board of Women in Computing: Katie Jones (President), Holly Gray (Treasurer), and Liya Patel (Creative Director), to discuss their experiences in the field, their aspirations for the organization, and the importance of creating community spaces as women in STEM.

What is Women in Computing?

Women in Computing is an organization that is aimed at supporting and empowering women interested in computing fields at USC. We do this through biweekly meetings, hackathons, conferences, and creating an overall computing community.

Why do you think an organization like WiC is important in higher education?

Katie: In college, a lot of people just go to class, and they don't get much out of it. I think a lot of people suffer from loneliness and they feel like they don't have a place because they don't have any extracurriculars. Organizations like WiC create a space for people to feel like they belong to something.

Liya: It really brings a sense of community which is hard to get in a lot of your classes, especially because they're primarily all men. I will always look back on WiC and be grateful for it, because I wouldn't be where I am at this time without WiC. The job offer I have and the internship experience I have is because of the older girls in WiC. When I first joined, they had all these cool internships and seemed so knowledgeable, but they were also very eager to share their knowledge. The community support I got through WiC and the opportunities WiC offered to me definitely shaped my professional trajectory.

What have been your biggest challenges as women in a historically male-dominated field?

Katie: I think a lot of men don't see you as a person. My biggest challenge is trying to make connections with male students in the classroom but not being taken seriously because I'm a woman. It's very frustrating.

Liya: You especially see that when you have a project in class. They don't see you when they're building a team. You'll start searching for the roughly three other girls in the class, hoping they aren't already in a group. Even in the workplace it can feel isolating. It's hard to find community, so you always look for the few women that are there.

Holly: Honestly, I think as women in STEM, especially in computer science and other technical fields, we're held to a different standard than men are. Sometimes if you feel, as a woman, "I did not do well on that," or "I can't code," I feel like I'm playing to this stereotype. The stereotype for men is they stay up all night coding because they love to code and they're so good at it, while women just don't have an interest in it.

Katie: If you're a minority in any category you're held to this standard, and if you mess up you're reaffirming the stereotype.

Liya: It feels like we have to be exceptionally good at coding or anything we're doing in the field for them to consider us to be on their level.

"Imposter Syndrome" can be a common occurrence for Women in STEM; have you experienced this and if so, how have you overcome this?

Liya: I just try to come off as confident. Even outside of the classroom, that's what is going to get you the interview or the job. It's a skill you need to learn to set yourself apart.

Katie: You have to be the person you want to be, because you need to be confident and ask questions. I just try to remember I deserve to be here just like everyone else. The things I'm doing will affect my life, so I have to be the best version of me because I'm doing it for myself, not anyone else, but you do need a support system.

Liya: Behind the scenes you can continue to do things that will build that confidence within yourself so that you eventually don't have to fake it. You will feel confident enough in yourself and your skills and abilities.

What advice would you have for young girls going into this field?

Holly: It's very easy when something goes wrong to doubt yourself. You're outnumbered in your classes, you don't see a lot of other women in your classes, so it's very easy to be hard on yourself. When I look back on projects I've done I think, "Wow, that was a lot of work." You do so much every single semester and every class, but

it's very good to have a sense of accomplishment completing hard things. You have to do your best to stick with things even when it feels like everything's going down.

Katie: You don't have to understand everything. Computer science is such a broad field, so you're not going to understand everything. When you go into your career you will specialize, so not understanding one thing is not an indicator of whether or not you will succeed. You might not be very good at building a network, but maybe you're really good at software engineering and coding. It doesn't mean you should drop out, it just means you're good at one thing and not another.

Liya: I think you need to find your strengths and know what you're good at and not good at. Try to pick a job or internship that's going to help you build on that. As long as you're successful in your niche, that's more important.



FALL 2025

COURSE OFFERINGS

Undergraduate Courses:

WGST 112: **Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies**

WGST 113: **Women's Health**

WGST 210: **Human Life Cycle in Different Cultures**

WGST 301: **Psychology of Marriage**

WGST 304: **Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality**

WGST 305: **Sociology of Families**

WGST 307: **Feminist Theory**

WGST 308: **African-American Feminist Theory**

WGST 311: **Race, Gender, and Class in Mass Media**

WGST 352: **Gender and Politics**

WGST 360: **Women and Science**

WGST 379: **Women in Modern Europe**

WGST 398-001: **Tech Justice, Tech Oppression**

WGST 398-002: **Sports Media, Gender, and Sexuality**

WGST 398-004: **Gender and Labor**

WGST 430: **Community Participatory Feminist Research Methods**

WGST 432: **Men and Masculinities**

WGST 437: **Women Writers**

WGST 450: **LGBTQ History in the United States**

Mixed Under/Graduate Courses:

WGST 551: **Adolescent Mentoring**

WGST 554: **Women, Gender, and Crime**

WGST 515: **Race, Gender, and Graphic Novels**

WGST 541: **Issues in Women's Health:
Reproductive Controversies**

WGST 551: **Adolescent Mentoring**

WGST 554: **Women, Gender, and Crime**

Graduate Courses:

WGST 701: **Feminist Theories and Epistemologies**

WGST 796-002: **Music, Gender, and Sexuality**

WGST 796-004: **Service Learning and Social Justice:
The Art of Grant Writing**

WGST 796-005: **History of Gender & Sexualities in America**

Women in Modern Europe



Tuesdays & Thursdays
2:50 - 4:05 PM

Survey of women in European history from the eighteenth to the twenty-first century. Focus on women's citizenship beginning with Enlightenment idea of rights through developments in modern feminism.



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

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATORY FEMINIST RESEARCH METHODS



TUES & THURS
11:40 AM -
12:55 PM

This course provides an overview of feminist research methods, critiques traditional methods, ethical issues, cross-cultural research, and community-engaged research, focusing on social change and empowering participants.

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

GENDER & LABOR

WGST 398/315 - ANTH 391 No purchase of course materials required
DR. NIMA L YOLMO | NIMAYOLMO@SC.EDU

Fall 2025 | Tu/Thu | 10:05 - 11:20 AM



The aim of this course is to introduce students to a breadth of historical, anthropological, and feminist perspectives on gendered divisions of labor post industrialization and ongoing global technological innovations.



In addition to WGST 315 fundamentals, students will develop skills related to close reading and effective communication skills transferable to professional settings beyond the classroom.

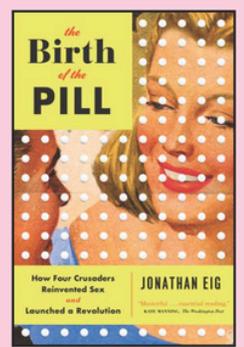
- Discussions themes*
- Categories of Labor - Production & Reproduction
 - Work, Meaning, Discipline, and Dignity
 - Costs of commitment, care, convalescence
 - Labor, Leisure, and Laxity
 - Value and remuneration

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WGST 541/ANTH 591 FALL 2025

ISSUES IN WOMEN'S HEALTH: REPRODUCTIVE CONTROVERSIES

DR. KATHRYN LUCHOK
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS 2:50-4:05 PM



Students will think critically through the lens of feminist medical anthropology about social controversies in the development of the birth control pill, the development of American gynecology, the insider and outside perspectives on the practice of female genital cutting, and the frontiers of human technology co-evolution for the future of reproduction.



FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS AND ADVANCED UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

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FALL 2025

DR. FLORA OSWALD



WGST 398/ CYBR 393: Tech Justice, Tech Oppression

Relationships between technology, oppression, and justice. Discusses cyber ethics, policy, and technology development as they relate to sexism, racism, ableism, and additional forms of oppression.

Mondays & Wednesdays
2:20-3:35PM

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Fall 2025

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

WGST 796/ ARTS 790 /POLI 797

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.

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Fall 2025
WGST 360:

WOMEN AND SCIENCE

Dr. Allison Marsh

The role of women and gender in the construction of western science from historical, philosophical and sociological perspectives.

Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:15-2:30 PM



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HIST 700/ WGST 796

Dr. Lauren Sklaroff

History of Gender and Sexualities in America

This graduate course will expose students to major themes and scholarly literature in the History of Gender and Sexualities in the United States from the Colonial Period to the 20th Century through an intersectional approach.

Topics of discussion will include issues such as changing ideas of normative sexuality, political movements for women's equality and LGBTQ rights, gender stereotypes in popular culture, and connections between ideologies and policy formation.

Fall 2025
Wednesdays
11:20am-2pm

Students will become familiar with major historiographical trends in the fields, as well as the ways that the field has shifted over time, influenced by both political and intellectual developments.



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