

## **SOUTHWEST INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH ON WOMEN REGIONAL NEWSLETTER SPRING 2017**

*Covering gender & women's studies & research institutes in Arizona, New Mexico, Northwest Mexico,  
Colorado, Texas, Nevada, Wyoming and Utah*

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you are having a productive and enjoyable spring semester! We started out the new year with our annual Regional Summit which took place January 28-29th at the University of Texas—El Paso. We are grateful to all the attendees for their time, enthusiasm and insight. Special thanks go out to Dr. Núñez-Mchiri and her team for being excellent hosts!

Over the weekend we enjoyed social dinners, an invited talk on philosophy for children, a tour of the campus' Bhutanese inspired architecture, sunset vistas of El Paso -Juarez, and even a visit to UTEP Rubin Center Art Gallery where we were treated to a tour of exhibits by local artists and a breathtaking special exhibit titled "We Have a Common Thread" by Teresa Margolles. Margolles' collaborative transnational textile art explores the relationship between violence, trauma and social memory. It was truly an honor to visit while the exhibit was on view.

But the weekend was not all recreation! We also made time for program updates as well as dialogue and brainstorming on best practices given recent success and challenges in the field. Representatives from across the region shared strategies for transformative teaching, recruiting and retaining students, navigating institutional climates, supporting feminist scholars and connecting to contemporary social activism. We also launched a new annual award for Regional Scholars. Announcement of the first round of winners can be found on page 7.



Pictured here, Back row L-R: Gina Núñez-Mchiri (UTEP), Stephanie Murphy (UA), Valerie Hegstrom (BYU), Bonnie Zare (UW), Tricia Waters (CC), Lydia Huerta (WNMU), Deborah Boehm (UN Reno), Anita Revilla (UNLV); Front Row L-R: Charlotte Dunham (TTU), Marina Cunin Borer (CSU Pueblo), Jadwiga Pieper Mooney (UA), Kim Hackford Peer (UU), Emma Bailey (WNMU), Sally Stevens (UA), Arlene Sgoutas (MSUD) Not Pictured: Lorraine Bayard de Volo (UC Boulder), Laura Anh Williams (NMU), Chuck Boehmer (UTEP), Alicia Re Cruz (UNT), Alicia Giralt (WSU), Ann Austin (USU), Lisa Anderson (ASU)

By Saturday's end, we already had the beginnings of an agenda for next year. As the semester comes to a close, we're looking forward to our continued collaboration throughout 2017 and 2018!

-Stephanie Murphy, UA SIROW

## Spring 2016 Events

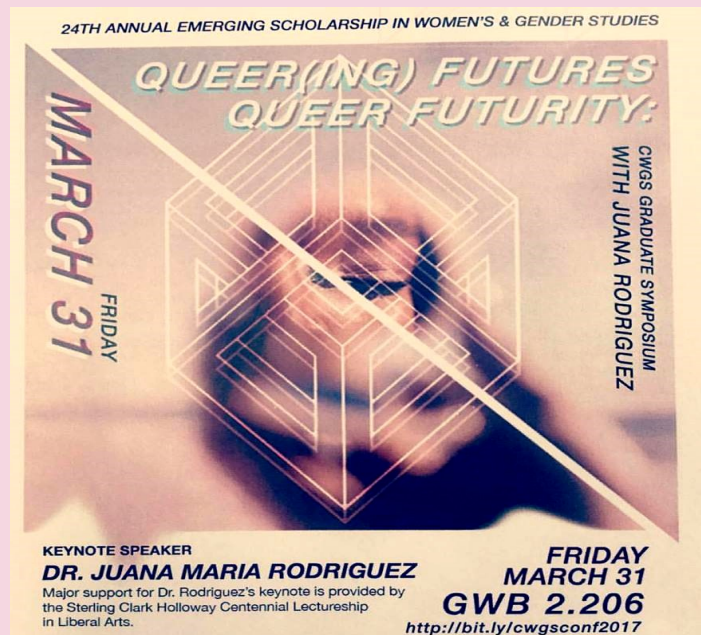


### Suzi Q Honored at MSU Denver

On February 23rd, the **Metropolitan State University of Denver Institute for Women's Studies and Services** hosted Denver based activist, educator and slam poet Suzi Q. Smith as their annual Bridge Speaker. According to the Institute's website, the honor is given annually to "a dedicated African-American Woman who speaks about her work and impact on our society and thereby to symbolize the bridge between Black History Month in February and Women's History Month in March". Past speakers have included Wagatwe Wanjuki, Janet Mock and Melissa Harris-Perry. Smith currently serves as the Executive Director of Slam Poetry Inc. whose mission is "to promote the creation and performance of poetry that engages communities and provides a platform for voices to be heard beyond social, cultural, political, and economic barriers" (poetryslam.com). She has performed alongside Gil Scott Heron, Dead Prez, Talib Kweli amongst others and continues to be one of the most sought after slam poets in the country.

### Support for Graduate Researchers at UT Austin

At **University of Texas Austin, the Center for Women's & Gender Studies** hosted their 24th Annual Emerging Scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Student Conference on March 31st. This event offers students the opportunity for graduate student presenters to share their research with the students and faculty affiliates of CWGS, as well as campus and community partners. This year's symposium, "Queer(ing) Futures, Queer Futurity" featured a keynote address by Dr. Juana María Rodríguez of UC Berkeley. From the conference website: Dr. Rodríguez' presentation, "'The Amazing Past' or Feeling lo femenino" uses the biography of a transgender activist, Adela Vasquez to investigate "how visual documentation transforms our affective encounters with Latina sexualized embodiment". Other events included drag yoga and performances.



## Faculty and Student Activism at NAU

**Northern Arizona University Women and Gender Studies** has had an active Spring semester. WGS organized an International Women's Day March. The program also screened the Katie Couric and National Geography produced documentary *Gender Revolution*. In addition, a number of faculty and affiliates have been involved in three campus teach-ins focused around the outcome of the US presidential elections. According to Sheila Nair, "the idea of the teach-ins was to get folks together to educate ourselves and our students about some of the salient issues that are the forefront now around: immigration, Islamophobia and the executive order aka "Muslim ban", threats to transgender rights, campus climate, faculty's rights to free speech in the face of video taping and reporting by folks involved with Campus Reform and TPUSA, and other pertinent topics".

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY Women's and Gender Studies Presents

**GENDER REVOLUTION**  
In Collaboration With...

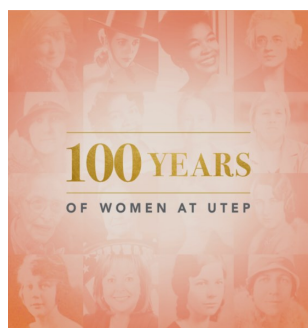
**Monday  
March 20  
4:00-6:30 pm  
SBS W 200**

Join us for the documentary screening of  
**GENDER REVOLUTION**  
and a panel discussion with:  
Kado Stewart, one-n-ten  
Jess Hidalgo, Queer Activist Collective  
Daniel Vanrahaack, Queer Activist Collective  
Cody Fetty, Indigenous Youth for Cultural Survival

## Innovative Gender Studies Course Highlighted in University of Utah News

At the **University of Utah**, an exciting new class was highlighted in the news. The **Division of Gender Studies** course *Gender on the Hill*, taught by Kiko Zamora, offers students the opportunity to participate in legislative politics. According to the Brooke Adams at the University of Utah, "the 20 students in the class spent the first part of the semester learning about lobbying and advocating for two bills: House Bill 200 (sexual assault kit processing amendments) and House Bill 251 (campus advocate confidentiality amendments). Lawmakers approved both of them. The course began in January with a tour of the Capitol building, given from a feminist perspective that took into account Utah women's influence on the Hill, their historic access to voting rights and representation today as women political leaders". The students gained experience in lobbying, community advocacy and legislative process. This innovative class demonstrates a commitment to student engagement and experiential learning.

## UTEP Celebrates 100 Years of Miner Women's Achievements

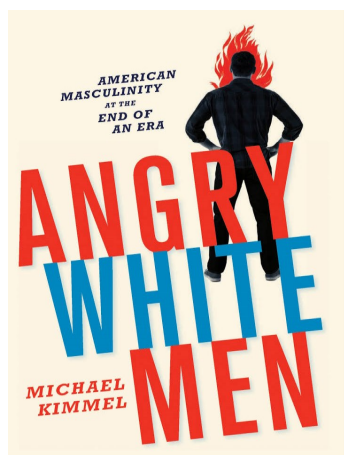


At the **University of Texas EL Paso**, the Women's and Gender Studies Honor Society Iota, Iota, Iota in partnership with the **Women's & Gender Studies Program** hosted the 7th Annual Women's History Month Conference on April 11th and 12th. Special presentations included commentary by Lopa Banerjee from the United Nations and a keynote address by UTEP President Dr. Diana Natalicio. Relatedly, a gallery exhibit was on view from April 3rd to April 28th. The exhibit, titled "100 Years of Women" is based on a collaborative book project led by Dr. Núñez-Mchiri and Provost Donna Ekal to celebrate 100 years of UTEP women's achievements and impacts on campus and beyond. Some of us were lucky enough to preview the soon to be published book at our annual summit. The book can be purchased at [100yearsofwomenatutep.com](http://100yearsofwomenatutep.com). UTEP was also host to the Marcela Lagarde y de los Rios International Conference on Gender Violence Studies "Gender, Equity, and Peace" held on Friday March 24, 2017; which involved a multi-institutional collaboration between faculty from UTEP, UT Austin, and various Mexican Universities.



## Celebrating Women's History at Regis University

Regis University's Gender and Women Studies Program hosted a variety of events to commemorate Women's History Month from March 14th to March 30th. The two week long series of events included Nobel Peace Prize winner Jody Williams who spoke about social justice activism and nonviolence. The keynote lecture featured author and activist, Feminista Jones whose lecture was titled "Sexuality, Feminism, and Social Justice".



## ASU Launches Doing Intersectionality Lecture Series

Submitted by Director Dr. Lisa Anderson

This year **Arizona State University Women and Gender Studies** launched a lecture series entitled Doing Intersectionality. Many projects were sponsored or co-sponsored through the series, including lectures by Sonya Arreola, Marta Cotera, Lynnée Davis, and Sarah Deer. We also co-sponsored Michael Kimmel's recent visit to ASU, in which gave a lecture based on his research and most recent book, *Angry White Men: American Masculinity at the End of an Era*. He discussed the problem of anger among contemporary white middle class men and touched on men's rights discourse as well as ring wing gender politics.

## Texas Tech Hosts 33rd Annual Conference on Women in Higher Education

On April 20 and 21<sup>st</sup>, the **Women's Studies Program** at **Texas Tech University** hosted its 33<sup>rd</sup> annual conference on the advancement of women in higher education. The two day conference included a number of events and panel presentations. Former congresswoman Pat Schroeder gave the keynote address. She is currently the president and CEO of the Association of American Publishers (AAP). Schroeder has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame for her legacy as the first woman elected to the Colorado House of Representative, the first woman to serve on the Armed Services Committee and her work as co-founder of the Congressional Women's Caucus.

## BYU Supports Undergraduate Student Research

On April 8th, **Brigham Young University's Women's Studies** hosted their annual undergraduate senior capstone conference. The conference gives capstone course students the opportunity to present their work to peers and faculty. The 5 session event featured 15 presentations on topics such as sexual violence, migration, cultural and religious studies. Students conducted a variety of projects based in literature and film analysis, international ethnography and institutional studies.

JOIN US!



CAPSTONE  
PRESENTATIONS

APRIL 8

## Exciting Events This Spring at UNT

Submitted by Director Dr. Alicia Re Cruz

**Women and Gender Studies** at the **University of North Texas** has been very active this semester by

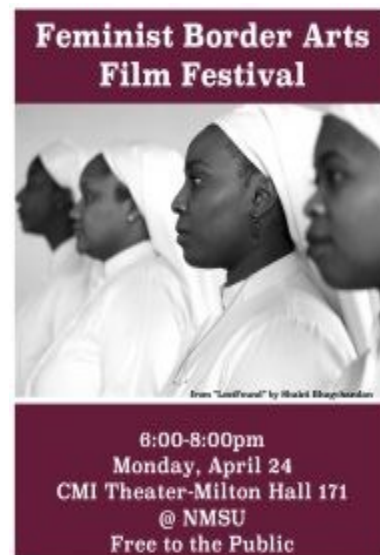


sponsoring a number of important campus events from lectures to film series. One highlight was the co-sponsored panel "From Marches to Movements: What's Next in Student Activism?" WGST faculty member Maia Cudhea moderated a discussion of how a resurgence of activism around women's liberation, immigrant rights, and racial justice can mobilize into movement building for intersectional justice. Panelists included Kathleen Hobson-Bond (UNT Pride Alliance), Sara Mokuria (Mothers Against Police Brutality), Denise Rodriguez (Planned Parenthood of Greater Texas), Kristian Hernandez (North Texas Dream Team), Brittany Burnam (student activist), and Aceil Rashid (Mosaic Family Services). As a precursor to the panel, we also co-sponsored a tabling event called "What Does Womxnhood Mean To You?" During this interactive event, we asked the UNT campus community to share their personal experiences and observations of the significance of womxnhood in their lives.

## 2nd Annual Feminist Border Arts Festival Grows in Popularity

Submitted by Director Dr. Laura Ahn Williams

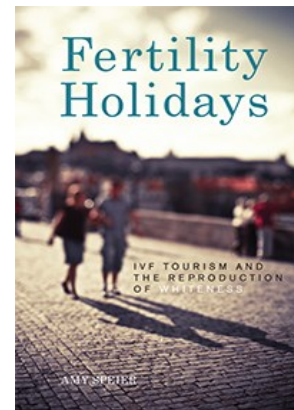
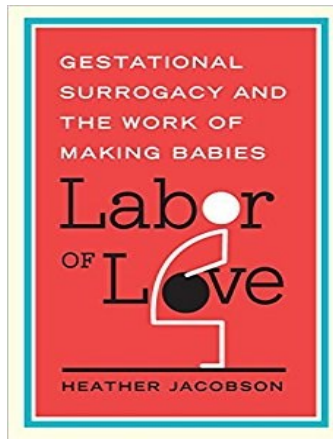
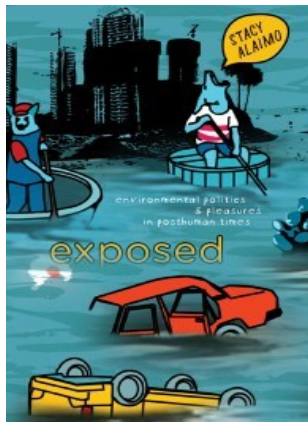
On April 24th, **Gender and Sexuality Studies** at **New Mexico State University** hosted the 2nd annual Feminist Border Arts Film Festival. We had over 3,000 submissions from more than 50 countries (last year, our first, we had 237 submissions). It's shaping up to be an amazing program with a wide variety of films that cannot be seen elsewhere. Featuring short films (under 15 min) by student and professional filmmakers, the festival defines "feminist border arts" as a practice that constantly reconfigures boundaries and challenges the limits of conventional representation. The festival showcases live-action narratives, animation, and documentaries that explore gender and identity, sexuality, race, class, transnationality, migration, refugees and displaced persons, dis/ability, the environment and more! We have had so many excellent films submitted that we're hosting an additional online "festival" with a totally different lineup of films. For more information visit: <https://genders.nmsu.edu/film-festival/>



## Spring Events at CU Denver

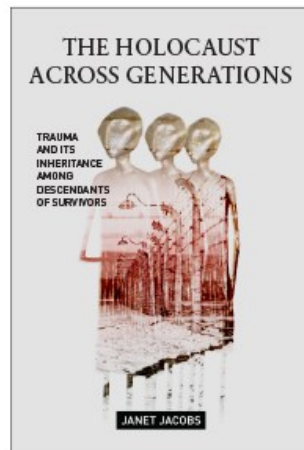
The **University of Colorado Denver Women and Gender Center** hosted a number of events this semester, including a student forum on trans healthcare, a panel on reproductive rights, and a film screening of *The Mask You Live In* paired with discussion facilitated by Dr. Alfred Martin, an Assistant Professor in CU Denver's Communication Department. On April 13th, Susan Fraiman, professor of English at the University of Virginia visited for to give a lecture titled "Domesticity in Extremis: Homemaking by the Unsheltered".

## Recent Publications

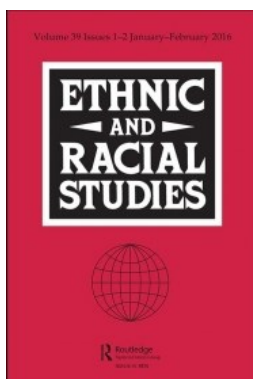


The **Women's & Gender Studies Program** at the **University of Texas at Arlington** celebrated three recent faculty affiliate publications this Spring. These include Dr. Stacy Alaimo's book, *Exposed: Environmental Politics and Pleasures in Posthuman Times* published by University of Minnesota Press, Dr. Heather Jacobson's *Labor of Love: Gestational Surrogacy and the Work of Making Babies* from Rutgers University Press, and Dr. Amy Speier's *Fertility Holidays: IVF Tourism and the Reproduction of Whiteness* published by New York University Press.

**University of Colorado Boulder Women and Gender Studies** professor Dr. Janet Jacobs recently published her book, *The Holocaust Across Generations: Trauma and Its Inheritance Among Descendants of Survivors* this Spring with New York University Press.



**University of Colorado Boulder Women and Gender Studies** professor Dr. Emmanuel David recently published an article titled "Capital T: Trans Visibility, Corporate Capitalism, and Commodity Culture" in the *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly* issue on Trans Political Economy.



**University of Arizona Gender and Women's Studies** professors and **SIROW** members Dr. Eithne Luibhéid, Dr. Sally Stevens and Dr. Rosi Andrade published an article titled "Intimate Attachments and Migrant Deportability: Lessons from Undocumented Mothers Seeking Benefits for Citizen Children" in the *Journal of Ethnic and Racial Studies*.



## Awards and Updates



### ASU Women and Gender Studies

student Grecia Magdalena was awarded the prestigious Dean's Meal, given to a graduating senior in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Grecia continues to be active with Planned Parenthood locally and nationally.



### Colorado College Feminist & Gender Studies

welcomes Dr. Rushaan Kumar, who will be joining the faculty as Assistant Professor of LGBTQ Studies next fall! Professor Kumar has previously taught at the University of Minnesota, Carleton College, and Pomona. His intellectual work is focused on queer and transgender studies in India and the South Asian Diaspora. Welcome Dr. Kumar!



### The Center for Women and Gender at Utah State University

sponsored their annual award ceremony to celebrate the achievements of professional women. The ceremony features two award categories, an early career award and a lifetime achievement award. This year's winners included Dr. Jessica Lucero, Dr. Stephanie Chambers-Thomas and Dr. Christy Glass!



Dr. Sheila Nair will step off as Director of **Women's and Gender Studies** at **NAU** in June for a sabbatical year. Starting August 1st, the new Director will be Professor Sanjam Ahluwalia. Welcome Dr. Ahluwalia!



### University of Arizona SIROW staff

members were honored to win the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Lunafest

Local Film Contest for their short film "Scruff" about women's

### The Women's Research Institute of Nevada



(WRIN) at **UNLV** announced the appointment of Dr. Rebecca Gill as the new director of WRIN. Dr. Gill will begin the directorship on July 1, 2017. Dr. Joanne Goodwin, the founding director, began her service in 1999. She will conclude her tenure and return full time to the History Department. SIROW would like to thank Dr. Goodwin for the work she has done over many years to develop WRIN and to serve the SIROW region community! We welcome Dr. Gill to SIROW as well!

## CONGRATULATIONS to our inaugural 2016-2017 SIROW Regional Scholar Award Winners:

**Julie L. Valentine**

**Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing at Brigham Young University**

**&**

**Brett Caroline Levner**

**Assistant Professor of Film at University of Nevada, Las Vegas**



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