Gender and Women’s Studies: Regional Heads and Directors Summit
Written by: Thomas Bogart

Fourteen representatives from Gender and Women’s Studies (GWS) departments, programs, and affiliated research institutes from colleges and universities located in six southwest U.S. states convened at the University of Arizona (UA) January 30-31, 2015. Hosted by the University of Arizona Gender and Women’s Studies Department (UA-GWS) and the University of Arizona Southwest Institute for Research On Women (UA-SIROW) at its campus location in Tucson, Arizona. The two day summit included a networking social Friday evening, allowing for informal discussion and relationship building. Saturday, the group met to tackle an engaging and important agenda. In addition, attendees enjoyed a keynote presentation titled: When the Man you Are Isn’t the Man You Want to Be: Black Gay Men and the Black Church on FX’s The Shield, facilitated by Assistant Professor Heidi Lewis of the Feminist and Gender Studies Department at Colorado College. A personal thank you from both Sally Stevens (Executive Director, UA-SIROW) and Monica Casper (Department Head, UA-GWS) to Heidi and all attendees of the summit.

Among the many issues discussed, the topic once again focused on the marketability and visibility of Women’s Studies. A few talking points included:

⇒ Implementation of a “Feminist First Fridays” to garner attention from school newspapers, news, and the public.
⇒ Implementation of a “Transform Tuesdays” lecture series focusing on contemporary topics that are interesting to current students.
⇒ Increase communication to instructors to enhance visibility, and potentially offer extra credit for engagement.
⇒ Utilize radio advertisement in public radio stations.
⇒ Develop and implement a high school outreach program, including a youth-oriented website component.
⇒ Allow for students to develop a newsletter (i.e. “The Monthly Rag”). The newsletter can showcase student work along with various social media accounts of the department such as Facebook, Twitter, and Tumblr pages.
⇒ Proactive community engagement at various levels.
⇒ Creating job-market flyers showing the various job opportunities for students who wanted to pursue a degree.

The 2015 Southwest Regional Gender and Women’s Studies Heads and Directors Summit was quite a success. The diversity of department and programs represented allowed for relatable problem solving and productive information sharing. UA-GWS and UA-SIROW hope you will attend the January 2016 Summit!

The Southwest Institute for Research on Women (SIROW), established in 1979, is a regional research and resource institute within the Gender and Women’s Studies Department at the University of Arizona. The SIROW region includes Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Wyoming, and Northwestern Mexico.

More information available online: http://sirow.arizona.edu
Aurora Guerrero  
“Mosquita y Mari”  
5:00-6:00 pm, SBS West 100 - Pizza and Meet the Film Maker  
6:00-7:30 pm, SBS West 200 - Film Screening and Discussion  
Activist film maker Aurora Guerrero brings her award-winning film, Mosquita y Mari” to NAU. The film is a coming-of-age story of two Chicano girls growing up in a fast-paced immigrant community, and follows the development of their friendship and stirring desires. Free pizza and opportunity to meet the film maker, followed by film screening and panel discussion with NAU faculty.

Omnia El Shakry  
“The Arabic Freud”  
4:30-6:00 pm, SBS West 200 - Public Lecture  
12:15-2:00 pm, LA 204 - “Rethinking Binaries in Middle East Gender and Sexuality Studies” workshop for students, faculty and scholars  
Dr. Omnia El Shakry is a founding member of the Middle East/South Asia Studies Program at UC Davis. Professor El Shakry will be offering a private workshop discussion of her work and the state of the gender and sexuality studies in the Middle East, as well as a public lecture speaking about her project, “The Arabic Freud: Self and Psyche in Twentieth Century Egypt.”

Harsha Walia  
“Feminists Undoing Border Imperialisms”  
7:30-9:00 pm Gardner Auditorium (W.A Franke College of Business) - Public Lecture  
12:00-2:00 pm HLC 2405 - Workshop on “Activism” for students, faculty and scholars  
South Asian author and migrant justice activist Harsha Walia speaks about the impact of mass displacements and migrations as a form of gender-based violence. Harsha is a cofounder of this migrant justice group No One Is Illegal, and her writings have appeared in over fifty academic journals, anthologies, and magazines. She was named one of the most influential South Asians in British Columbia and Naomi Klein has called her “one of Canada’s most brilliant and effective political organizers.”

SIROW Welcomes the ANCHOR Project

SIROW is excited to welcome the ANCHOR Project (Accessible Network for Coordinated Housing, Opportunities, and Resilience)! Recently funded by SAMHSA at $1.2 million, the three-year SIROW-led project continues a long-standing partnership between UA-SIROW, the Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation (SAAF), and CODAC Behavioral Health Services to support unstably housed LGBTQ young adults in and around Tucson.

The ANCHOR Project is designed to provide supportive and affirming services to young adults who identify with the spectrum of LGBTQ and straight-ally communities. Participants in the program can select from a wide-ranging menu of services to include care management, individual and group therapy, employment and education readiness support, a weekly healthy sexuality and relationships group, a weekly trauma support group,

SIROW Mission:
To develop, conduct, and disseminate collaborative outreach, education, intervention, and research projects of importance to diverse groups

SIROW Goals:
- Engage in collaborative feminist research focusing on topics pertinent to the lives of women and families.
- Develop and conduct outreach and participatory action research on a wide range of mental and physical health, legal, employment, education, and diversity issues.
- Examine and support women’s contribution to literature, the arts, and Southwest heritage.
- Advocate for women and families by linking researchers with community organizations and policy makers.
- Identify, illuminate, and disseminate research on women, family, and gender differences.
BYU Women’s Studies Faculty Research Projects for 2015

Brigham Young University is pleased to announce that the following Women’s Studies-related faculty research projects were awarded grants for 2015:

- Juan Arroyo (Physiology and Developmental Biology), “Molecular Mechanisms of Secondhand Smoke-Induced Intrauterine Growth Restriction” (IUGR)
- Donna Lee Bowen (Political Science), “Household Formation Systems and Societal Stability and Resilience”
- Eric Dursteler (History), “Redemption and Honor: Women Slaves in the Early Modern Mediterranean”
- Amy B. Harris (History), “Who was Harriet Browett? Finding Married and Childless Women’s Origins in Nineteenth-Century England and America” and “The Strange Case of the Browett Women: Childlessness on the Mormon Frontier”
- Brian Poole (Microbiology and Molecular Biology), “Epitope Spreading in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus”
- Mary Jane Woodger (Church History), “Elaine Cannon: The Consummate LDS Female Leader of the Twentieth Century”
- Niwako Yamawaki (Psychology), “Weight-Based Discrimination on Alleged Sexual Violence”
- Julie Valentine, Leslie Miles, Linda Maybe (Nursing), “Collaborative Study on Sexual Assault in Utah: A Retrospective Chart Review”

BYU Continues its Women’s Studies Conference

In November 2014, BYU’s annual Women’s Studies Conference centered around the theme, “Women, Marriage, & Family.” It featured nine panels from a range of scholarly disciplines, and a keynote address by Patricia Mainardi (City University of New York) who spoke on, “No Joke! Caricatures of Marriage in 19th Century France.”

PIONEERING WOMEN IN FIELDS OF KNOWLEDGE
CALL FOR PAPERS AND SESSIONS for the fourth annual BYU Women’s Studies Conference, Nov. 5-6, 2015. (Abstract closing date August 1, 2015).

This conference seeks to explore the contributions, roles, and challenges of pioneering women in disciplines of knowledge—past, present, and future. We aspire to have a strong representation of papers and sessions from all scholarly disciplines and fields of study, both national and international. Papers and sessions could address topics ranging from the scholarly lives and contributions of individual women (both past or present), to statistical studies of the impact of women on changes in education at the college and university levels, to strategies for developing more women scholars within particular scholarly disciplines. A $500.00 stipend is available for BYU departments to utilize as seed money to match in order to bring in a noted external scholar within their discipline around which a department may develop a session theme. Scholars in Women’s Studies Programs both nationally and internationally are encouraged to participate by submitting paper abstracts of not more than 300 words by the closing date of August 1, 2015. Abstracts should be submitted to Dr. Cynthia Finlayson, Department of Anthropology, 864 SWKT, BYU, Provo, UT 84601. Email: calderfin@aol.com and also cc womensstudies@byu.edu with “2015 Conference Proposal” as your email subject heading.

BYU especially invites proposals from our fellow SIROW affiliates. Moreover, we are pleased to be able to offer some funding to help offset one or two hotel nights in Provo, UT, for SIROW-affiliated faculty presenting at the conference. Lunches and other light refreshments will also be provided to conference participants. When you submit your proposal, please indicate that you are affiliated with SIROW.

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BYU Colloquium Takes Off

BYU’s Colloquium Lecture Series takes place every other Thursday at noon during Fall term and every other Friday at noon during Winter term. Speakers include BYU faculty who share women’s studies-related research, as well as a few outside scholars. Our guests and their topics this past academic year have included: Ellen Gruber Garvey (New Jersey City University), “Writing with Scissors: American Scrapbooks;” Catherine Loomis (University of New Orleans), “Raising Shakespeare: The Women Who Brought Will to the World;” Stacey Robertson (Bradley University), “Ladies Have Politics: Women, Morality, and the Coming of the Civil War;” Fatou Diop-Sall (Universite Gaston Berger, Senegal), “Women’s Rights vs. Traditions in West Africa;” Mary Cappello (University of Rhode Island), “Selections from Life Breaks in: A Mood Almanac;” and Rebecca Edwards (Vassar), “Sex on the Frontier: Fertility and America’s Nineteenth-Century Empire.”
Continued from page 2 (ANCHOR Project)

direct referrals to housing programs, and more. The synergistic connection between SAAF, CODAC, and SIROW also helps to facilitate access to other services offered by these collaborating organizations.

From SIROW, the ANCHOR Project includes Project Director Claudia Powell, Program and Evaluation Coordinator Ian Ellasante, and Health Educator Courtney Waters, in addition to a talented team of staff from both SAAF and CODAC. This staff team is also complemented by a participant advisory board, the ANCHOR Action Alliance, which offers guidance on the development of the project. The ANCHOR Action Alliance, which is currently recruiting more members, consists of a diverse group of project participants who shape programming with the insight of their lived experiences. As most aspects of the ANCHOR Project’s existing programming were originally designed for malleability, these services and opportunities are easily and immediately responsive to the needs of the community as expressed by the ANCHOR Action Alliance.

The ANCHOR Project conducts the majority of its programming at its location in central Tucson. This site, chosen because of its convenient access to the bus line and its proximity to both CODAC’s Living Out Loud LGBTQI Health and Wellness Center and SAAF, is dedicated solely to the ANCHOR Project. Here the project hosts weekly groups, special topics workshops, and individual sessions with the Education and Employment Resource Specialist and Care Managers.

The ANCHOR Project builds upon the work of two previous SIROW-led projects, Prism (2003-2008) and iTTEAM (2009-2015), which targeted LGBTQ youth and young adults. Like the ANCHOR Project, these projects were also collaborations which included SAAF and CODAC. SIROW staff are skilled at building and leading collaborations with various community partners and this type of partnership has been particularly successful with LGBTQ youth and young adults. In an on-going partnership like the one supported by the ANCHOR Project, the network of accessible and affirming services for LGBTQ youth and young adults is expanded and, as these community partners continue to work closely together, the local system of care is reinforced.
University of Arizona—Gender and Women’s Studies
Sponsors Black Life Matters Conference

Scholars, writers, artists, activists, policymakers, and community members all came together in Tucson, Arizona, in January 2015 to discuss WHY Black life matters and WHAT can be done about sustained racialized violence.

Nationally, on a range of measures—income, health, premature death—blacks face significant disparities relative to whites. But in Arizona, where blacks make up 5% of the population, their needs are largely invisible, obscured by other concerns. Yet blacks in our state, as elsewhere, face anti-black violence and fewer spaces through which to narrate their lives.

Black Life Matters was a monumental, very well-attended, free, three-day, interactive conference that focused on concerns of the African American community. It aimed to build coalitions and strategies for tackling these issues in Arizona and beyond. The conference combined keynote presentations with hands-on workshops, collaborative panels, arts and performance, and community engagement.

Keynote speakers were Tamura A. Lomax, a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University; Kenyon Farrow, who works as an organizer, communications strategist, and writer on issues at the intersection of HIV/AIDS, prisons, and homophobia; Carolyn Finney, a writer, performer, cultural geographer, and professor in Environmental Science, Policy and Management at the College of Natural Resources at the University of California, Berkeley; Lourdes Ashley Hunter, Healer, Orator, Academic, and leader of grassroots initiatives that impact the socio-economic growth and development of trans and gender non-conforming people of color (tgncpoc); and Imani Perry, an interdisciplinary scholar who studies race and African American culture using tools provided by law, literary studies, music, and social sciences.

In addition to our esteemed keynote speakers, we welcomed a number of other guests to campus, including editors and writers from The Feminist Wire and nationally recognized scholars and activists. Local scholars and community members participated as well.

The conference provided invaluable historical and cultural contexts to understanding economic, institutional, and political inequalities experienced by African Americans, including excessive incarceration rates, generational poverty, worsening health, and resurgent segregation. This knowledge, in turn, informed discussion and capacity-building for movements that affirm and support Black lives in solidarity with other human rights and social justice struggles.

Free and open to the public, the 2015 Black Life Matters Conference was held at the UA Student Union and at Tucson’s historic Dunbar Center. Over 600 registrants were in attendance over the course of the three-day conference with hundreds more participating online via live-streaming (with a closed-captioning option). The recordings are still available for viewing online. Visit www.blacklifemattersconference.com/livestream.
Texas Tech Launches ‘It’s On Us” Campaign

The presence of rape culture has shaken many college campuses in the past several months, including our own at Texas Tech. The Women’s Studies program at Tech responded by adopting a campus wide “It’s On Us” campaign.

“It’s On Us” is a public awareness and education campaign initiated by the White House in September of 2014 that seeks to engage college students and all members of campus communities in preventing sexual assault by making a personal pledge to stop sexual assault and rape culture.

The Women’s Studies Program released a video pledge, #ItsOnUs, on its YouTube channel, which included students, faculty, and staff from all over campus and from many different walks of life. During the week of October 6, five days were set aside for taping sessions with faculty, staff, and students. Over 30 supporters took time to participate in taking the pledge and announcing their call to action.

“It’s On Us” aims to fundamentally shift the way we think about sexual assault. It seeks to inspire all us to take responsibility to do something, big or small, to prevent sexual assault. The campaign reflects the belief that sexual assault isn’t just about a crime committed by a perpetrator against a victim, but one in which the rest of us also have a role to play. You can view our video pledge at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZuZutPavQ&list=PL720DODOO21oBuQqMniKW_RMkVTx9mz58

Texas Tech Hosts Angela Davis

Women’s Studies at Texas Tech is one of the groups that helped to sponsor the visit of Angela Davis to the Texas Tech campus on February 12 for Black History Month. As part of her visit, the University showed the film, “Free Angela and All the Political Prisoners,” and sponsored the visit of Shola Lynch, the director of the film. During this week, Women’s Studies students and others staged a performance of “The Love Below,” which is a spoken work performance about relationships and sexuality from the perspective of African American women.

We also conducted our yearly celebration of One Billion Rising on Friday, February 13.

Our Annual Conference was held April 16-19, 2015, with Loretta Ross and Laci Green as our keynote speakers. Ross is a nationally-recognized women’s rights and human rights leader. From 2005 to 2012, she was co-founder and national coordinator of SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, a network of women of color and allied organizations that organize women of color in the reproductive justice movement.

Laci Green is a 25-year-old sexuality geek based out of the San Francisco Bay Area. She is the creator and host of the largest sex education show on the internet called Sex Plus! The show consists of a biweekly video series, daily blogging, university lectures, and community activism. It currently reaches over 5 million people each month in over 100 countries. Green also produces videos for Planned Parenthood and MTV.

On April 16, we featured a pre-conference dance performance, “Ordinary Wars.” The performance is based on social science data investigating women’s identities and notions of femininity. The performance features professional dancers and actors from Flatland Dance Theatre. As of this writing, Ordinary Wars has been performed four times in four different venues in three states with considerable success.

We want to thank the members of SIROW who brought students to the conference last year, and hope that we will see you again this year. For further information see our website: www.depts.ttu.edu/wstudies.

Finally, this year marks the 200th birthday of one of the founding mothers of the U.S. women’s movement, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, who was born in New York in 1815. It is sometimes easy to forget the sacrifices such women made for the benefit of future generations. Without the work of these women, who is to say if we would be enjoying the benefits of education, political participation and economic security that we take for granted today. It is important to remember how far we have come, and equally important to commit to doing the work before us so that we can assure gender equality for future generations. Keeping this in mind, we dedicate this coming year’s events to the memory of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and the light of women’s equality that she helped to spark so long ago.
University of Northern Colorado Hires Faculty Member

The University of Northern Colorado Gender Studies Program would like to welcome our newest faculty member, Dr. Ather Zia, jointly appointed with the Anthropology Department. Dr. Zia has a doctorate degree from the Department of Anthropology at the University of California at Irvine. She also has two Masters Degrees; one in Communications from California State University Fullerton and another in Journalism from Kashmir University. As faculty member in the Anthropology Department and Gender Studies Program, Ather teaches courses in Anthropology and Gender Studies. Her research interests include Political Anthropology, Anthropology of Human Rights, Gender, Women’s Rights, Social Justice, Women’s Studies, Feminist Studies, Islam and Gender, Law, Justice, Social movements, Civil Society, Memory, Body, Performance, Agency, South Asian Cultures, War/Militarization, Conflict, Terrorism, Colonialism/Post-colonialism, Armed Insurgency, Kashmir, India, Pakistan, South Asia and Latin America.

Ather has been a journalist with the BBC World Service. She has also done a brief stint as a civil servant with the Kashmir government, which in a lighter vein she refers to as her “pre-pre-preliminary fieldwork.” She is a published author and columnist. Her essays and creative work, including fiction and poetry, have appeared in a variety of magazines. She has also published one collection of poems titled “The Frame.” In 2013, she won the second prize for ethnographic poetry on Kashmir from the Society for Humanistic Anthropology (American Anthropological Association). She is the founding editor of Kashmir Lit, a journal of writings on Kashmir (available at www.kashmirlit.org). She has been elected to the board of Society of Humanistic Anthropology (SHA) of the Anthropological Association of America (2015-2016) and is also the book review editor “elect” (2017), for Anthropology News (Association for Feminist Anthropology Section).

Ather is currently working on a book manuscript based on her doctoral research on militarization, gender, and human rights abuses in Kashmir. Her fieldwork has been supported by a number of organizations including the International Wenner Gren & Osmundsen Initiative, American Association of University Women, Phi Beta Kappa, DARD MAGNUS, International Peace Research Association Foundation, Center for Citizen Peacebuilding, Global Peace and Conflict Studies, Center for Asian Studies – UC Irvine, and the Human Rights Center, UC Berkeley.

Ather’s other major writing projects include co-editing a reader on Kashmir entitled “‘They Gave Us Blood’: Narratives of Normalcy, Sacrifice, and Terror in Kashmir,” and an untitled non-fiction anthology of ethnographic narratives of politics in Kashmir with Harper Collins.

Colorado College Hires Assistant Professor

The Feminist & Gender Studies Program at Colorado College is extremely pleased to announce the hiring of Dr. Nadia Guessous as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Guessous earned a Ph.D. in Sociocultural Anthropology from Columbia University in 2011, after earning her M.A. in the Department in 2001, and a B.A. (cum laude) in Media & Cultural Studies from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1996.

Dr. Guessous will be leaving an Adjunct Assistant Professor position in the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies at Columbia and in the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Barnard College. She has also served as a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies and the Institute for Research on Women at Rutgers University, Faculty Fellow and Director of Graduate Studies for the M.A. Program in Near Eastern Studies in the Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at New York University, Five College Fellow in the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies at Amherst College, Coordinator of Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Work in Progress Series, and Writing Consultant for the Writing Center and the Institute for Research on Women and Gender at Columbia, among other positions.

Dr. Guessous has published in the Journal of Middle East Women’s Studies, Jadaliyya, Review of Middle East Studies, and other publications. She has also been invited to present her work at Princeton University, Cornell University, and the American Anthropological Association, among others. Due to her work, she has earned several honors and awards including, but not limited to, a Woodrow Wilson Foundation Women’s Studies Dissertation Fellowship, long-term research grant from the American Institute for Maghrub Studies, and a Fulbright-Hayes Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Award.

At Colorado College, Dr. Guessous will be teaching courses including The Discourse of the Veil, Transnational Feminist and Queer Politics, Feminist Texts/Feminist Subjects, and The Anthropology of Gender & Sexuality in the Modern Middle East. She will also be teaching core courses in the Program, alongside Dr. Heidi R. Lewis, including Introduction to Feminist & Gender Studies, Feminist Theory, and Critical Feminist Methodologies.