WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES PROGRAM: GENERAL INFORMATION

Women and Gender Studies provides an interdisciplinary and global perspective on gender and serves as a vehicle for a critical exploration of roles and statuses of women and men, both past and present. The program examines cultural assumptions about women and men, the validity of research on gender, and the effects of political, economic and social systems on gender relations. Women and Gender Studies students participate in original research and writing and engage with the community in a variety of creative endeavors and social change activities. The curriculum prepares students for varied careers in business, community organizing, human relations, politics, counseling and teaching, as well as for admission to graduate and professional schools. We currently offer a B.A., minor and certificate program for our undergraduate students.

The Women and Gender Studies Program at Arizona State University has a number of activities that are designed to encourage and support students in the Barrett Honors College, and other outstanding students, to get the most of their interest in Women and Gender Studies at Arizona State University. Unlike any other liberal arts major, where you may rarely study about women and where you may have only one or two classes that consider diversity, with a major in Women and Gender Studies, you have completed a balanced program of study that takes into consideration issues of gender, race, and class as integral parts of your education. Forward-thinking employers more and more will be looking for employees with this broad perspective.

Our program is one of the largest, most vibrant Women and Gender Studies programs in the country, teaching more than 3000 students each year on topics including gender, health, sexuality, science and technology, work, globalization, ecology, social policy, violence prevention, media, film, performance and the arts. Our students participate in leadership activities and explore career interests through internships in the community. The faculty in Women and Gender Studies value cultural diversity and global engagement, and we work hard to ensure that our program reflects these core values.

We believe knowledge about women and gender leads to action, and the proof is in the leadership that our Alumni provide to the region and the nation. Our graduates have found successful careers in law, education, business, government, and in the nonprofit sector serving the needs of their communities. Many have gone on to pursue their graduate studies at such prestigious universities as UCLA, the University of Texas, Smith, and Stony Brook.

We conceive of the classroom as a knowledge-building community where students can engage with real-life issues. Such communities help students to develop tools for life-long learning. Our goal is to create an interactive learning environment that values diversity and multiple perspectives.

Our students are able to attend faculty and graduate student brown-bags in a seminar setting, as well as large public lectures, including our annual Feldt/Barbanell Women of the World Lecture Series, which brings to ASU prominent individuals to address issues of a global nature and their effects on women. They also have access to a number of
competitive scholarship opportunities, including the Uta Behrens Book Scholarships (awarded during Spring Semester for the following academic year), the Uta Behrens First Generation Scholarship in Women's Studies, the Dean's Circle Scholarship (awarded during Spring Semester for the following academic year), Essay Contests (occasional/will be announced), Annual Honors Awards for Outstanding Seniors, and the Jenny Norton Research Scholarship for GLBT issues. Women and Gender Studies students are some of the most politically and socially active students on campus; recent activities have included the Body Image Rally, the Domestic Violence Awareness Rally, and our annual Women’s Leadership Conference. They have also established an Alumni Associate specifically for Women and Gender Studies graduates.

CURRENT WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES FACULTY
As an Honors student in the Women and Gender Studies Program, you will develop relationships with faculty and graduate students with a variety of backgrounds and interests. A brief synopsis of faculty interests is provided below, and additional information, including publications, awards, current research projects, etc. are available on our website: https://sst.asu.edu/wgs-faculty

Dr. Lisa M. Anderson (lmanderson@asu.edu)
Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies & Theatre and Faculty Head of Women and Gender Studies
Areas of specialization and research interests: contemporary black feminist theatre and drama, the performance of gender, and race and gender in popular culture, African American theatre and theatre semiotics, black feminist aesthetics in contemporary drama, race and civil war films, and butch/femme embodiment in the US and Mexico.

Dr. Marlon Bailey
Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies
Areas of specialization and research interests: African Diaspora studies, queer diasporas, race, gender, and sexuality, queer theory, Black queer studies, theatre/performance studies, ethnography, and HIV/AIDS (cultural politics, research, and prevention of HIV/AIDS in Black communities).

Dr. Alesha Durfee (alesha.durfee@asu.edu)
Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies
Areas of specialization and research interests: structural inequalities, impacts of social policies, domestic violence and the justice system, child care utilization and policy, and welfare reform.

Dr. Angela Gonzalez (Angela.A.Gonzales@asu.edu)
Professor Angela Gonzales is an associate professor of Women and Gender Studies and Justice and Social Inquiry in the School of Social Transformation. Her research crosscuts and integrates the fields of Development Sociology and American Indian Studies with empirically driven community-based research that offers a distinctive and essential perspective for understanding sociological processes underlying identity, development, and community health.
Dr. Stanlie James (Stanlie.James@asu.edu)
James is a professor of African and African American studies and vice provost for inclusion and community engagement in the university provost's office.

Dr. Yasmina Katsulis (yasmina.katsulis@asu.edu)
Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies
Areas of specialization and research interests: medical anthropology, applied anthropology, ethnographic methods, social and biological determinants of health at the local, national, and global levels, U.S. – Mexico border, HIV/AIDS prevention and risk, sexual health policies, prostitution, sex tourism, child welfare system, foster care, group homes.

Dr. Sally Kitch (sally.kitch@asu.edu)
Professor of Women and Gender Studies, Founding Director of the Institute for Humanities Research
Areas of specialization and research interests: feminist theory and epistemology, theories of transdisciplinarity, racial ideology, gender ideology in U.S. narrative history, gender representation in visual and narrative culture, and the material effects of such representation on the lived realities of diverse women’s lives, Afghan Women’s Leadership.

Dr. Karen J. Leong (karen.leong@asu.edu)
Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies
Areas of specialization and research interests: discourses of gender, race, class, and nation, cultural and social history with an emphasis on women’s experiences, the development and shifting of gender ideologies, racial identity formation, immigration policy and the formation of national identities, oral history projects.

Dr. Melissa Linton-Villafranco
Assistant Professor. Areas of Specialization: Reproductive Justice. Her work utilizes critical ethnography and cultural analysis of political texts to demonstrate resistance practices around water privatization, abortion criminalization and forced migration in both El Salvador and the U.S.

Dr. Indulata Prasad (iprasad@asu.edu)
Prasad's research and scholarship include South Asia, social movements, Dalit studies, oral history, gender and land right.

Dr. Heather Switzer (heather.switzer@asu.edu)
Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies
Areas of specialization and research interests: gender and international development, feminist theories of development, girlhood studies with an emphasis on African contexts, development issues in Sub-Saharan Africa, critical globalization, human security studies, African gender and feminist theory, ethnographic methods, and narrative analysis.

Dr. Sujey Vega (sujey.vega@asu.edu)
Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies & Transborder Studies
Areas of specialization and research interests: Gender and the Immigrant Experience, Ethnography Chicana/Latina Lives, Latina/o Communities, Discourse, Space/Place, Transnationalism, Comparative Ethnic Studies, Religion, and Mormon Studies

**Dr. Mako Ward** ([mfw@asu.edu](mailto:mfw@asu.edu))
Ward is an educator, writer, facilitator and social justice advocate. She teaches courses on intersectionality, gender and hip-hop, ethnic studies, the African diaspora, justice and women’s social movements.

**Dr. Rose Weitz** ([rose.weitz@asu.edu](mailto:rose.weitz@asu.edu))
Professor of Women and Gender Studies & Sociology
Areas of specialization and research interests: women, health, and the body, power, stigma, identity, health or illness, health care, medical sociology.

**Michelle McGibbney Vlahoulis** ([michelle.mcgibbney@asu.edu](mailto:michelle.mcgibbney@asu.edu))
Faculty Lead, Women and Gender Studies
Lecturer in Women and Gender Studies
Areas of specialization and research interests: feminist film criticism, women and popular culture, body image and social change.

**Dr. Kimberly Scott** ([kimberly.scott@asu.edu](mailto:kimberly.scott@asu.edu))
Associate Professor of Women and Gender Studies
Areas of Specialization: girls, science and technology, digital equity, intersectionality, and culturally responsive computing. Dr. Scott is the Executive Director of COMPUGIRLS, a culturally relevant technology program for adolescent girls (grades 8-12) from under-resourced school districts in the Greater Phoenix area.

For more information please come and visit us on the 3rd Floor of Wilson Hall or the main office of the School of Social Transformation located in Wilson 125 and our phone number is (480)-965-7682.