

# WGS news

Department of Women's & Gender Studies  
University of South Florida  
Fall, 2021-Spring, 2022



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# 50th Anniversary

*USF Women's & Gender Studies*

*Founded in 1972*

The Department of Women's and Gender Studies is celebrating its 50th anniversary this coming academic year!

The department began in the fall of 1972 as a program in the Interdisciplinary Studies department. The first courses offered that semester were Introduction to Women's Studies, Image of Women in Western Civilization, Women and Social Change, and Human Sexual Behavior. The program was the first of its kind in the state of Florida and is one of the oldest in the country.

In 1991 the program became the Women's Studies department, and in 2010-2011 the department's name

was changed to Women's and Gender Studies to better reflect the work of questioning gender binaries and hierarchies.

Throughout the 2022-2023 academic year, WGS will be hosting events to celebrate this milestone for the department. We will announce the 50th anniversary events at the start of the fall semester online and by email.

If you would like to be informed about the celebration events, **join our 50th anniversary email list**: <https://forms.gle/6q5jEQ4RjhkTfCFc9>, or follow us on Facebook: @WGSUSF or Instagram: @wgs\_usf.

THE TAMPA TIMES, Wednesday, August 9, 1972

9-A

# USF to kick off women's studies program this fall

# Recent Alumni News & Wins

## **Katie Roders Turner, 2007:**

Promoted to Executive Director of the Family Healthcare Foundation in August 2021. The Family Healthcare Foundation is a Tampa Bay non-profit committed to advancing equitable access to affordable healthcare for all residents in the Tampa Bay Area.

## **Rima Tejwani, 2012:**

I'm so grateful for my experiences with WGS. I attribute a great deal of my success in my work due to my knowledge and education gained from WGS. I am a licensed mental health therapist in private practice in the State of Florida supporting adults of diverse backgrounds through their many life challenges. I specialize in helping clients with depression, anxiety and trauma using CBT techniques and Mindfulness. I have also completed training in perinatal mental health. I work with the LGBT community in Florida. Clients can schedule a virtual complimentary consultation to see if I'm a good fit at [www.therapywithRima.com](http://www.therapywithRima.com).

## **Layne Gregory, 2013:**

I graduated with dual degrees in History and Women's and Gender Studies from USF in 2013. Recently, after 7 1/2 years working at Girl Scouts of West Central Florida in various roles including volunteer support and fundraising, I took a new position as the Sustainer Program Manager for

WUSF Public Media. I am overseeing approximately 10,000 monthly donors to USF's NPR and Classical stations, with a focus on donor stewardship, recruitment of new donors, and retention of existing donors. It's very exciting to be back on campus and my WGS degree has definitely served me well in all my roles, as it gave me strong communication, writing, research, and collaboration skills.

## **Christine Wieseler, 2013:**

Assistant Professor of philosophy at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, Dr. Christine Wieseler co-edited *The Disability Bioethics Reader*, published by Routledge in 2022.

## **Elan Justice Pavlinich, 2015:**

Winner of CARA Award for Excellence in Teaching from the Medieval Academy of America.

## **Mary McKelvie, 2017:**

I will be graduating with an MSW in May 2022. I am currently a clinical intern at the Maryland Center for Gender and Intimacy and provide psychotherapy services to queer, trans, gender-expansive, and neurodivergent adults and adolescents. During my time at the University of Maryland, Baltimore School of Social Work, I have worked as the co-chair to DREAM: Disability Justice and worked on a few different projects. We have collectively worked to develop

a curriculum for the SSW that includes critical disability studies, disability justice, and accessibility and have presented our work to the Master's Program Committee. We are currently working on an "Ableism 101 Training" that will be presented next year during the Thursz Lecture Series. For our efforts, we were awarded a J.E.D.I (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) Kimberlé Crenshaw Group Award from the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

## **Jon Rosendadt, 2020:**

Jon's chapter, "Sex-Gender Defining Laws, Birth Certificates, and Identity," was published in edited volume, *Queering Criminology in Theory and Praxis: Reimagining Justice in the Criminal Legal System and Beyond*.

## **Daynah Singh, 2019:**

Daynah, a copywriter with 22Squared, was recently featured in *Adweek*: "AAPI Creative Spotlight: Daynah Singh is Paving the Way for New Ideas."

## **Send us your news!**

If you are a WGS alumni and have news you'd like to share in the newsletter, email Sarah at [junke@usf.edu](mailto:junke@usf.edu).

*Newsletter cover image is from "I With In" by artist Kalki Subramaniam. This piece is on permanent display in the WGS office.*

# Visibility & Remembrance: Standing with the Trans Community Art Exhibit

Throughout 2021-2022, WGS worked with the WGS Alumni Group to organize, curate, and host *Visibility & Remembrance: Standing with the Trans Community*, an intentional art exhibition.

*Visibility & Remembrance* was open from November 17, 2021 to April 1, 2022; these dates were chosen to honor two annual international events – Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20) and Transgender Day of Visibility (March 31). The exhibit was both in-person at USF and online; **the online portion is still viewable** at <https://usfvr.jamhumanities.org>.

The exhibit centered trans people and invited artists to create and submit work that stands in solidarity with the trans community through reflections on the experiences, representations, identities, and/or politics of being trans.

The thirty-three artists selected for the exhibit reflected a diversity of perspectives and experiences from nine countries – Canada, France, Germany, India, Nigeria, Poland, Switzerland, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Their work included two-dimensional and three-dimensional art, film, and poetry.

## V&R Events

The exhibit was accompanied by five related events, and selected recordings are available on the exhibit website. Events included:



- **Opening Reception and Artists in Conversation:** Opening remarks for the exhibit were presented by dramaturg Finn Lefevre, followed by a conversation between V&R artists Mac McCusker (USA), Sukhy Parhar (Scotland), and Lee Pearson (USA).
- **The Power of Art in Social Change: Conversation with Kalki Subramaniam:** Celebrated Indian transgender artist and activist Kalki Subramaniam spoke about how, as an artist, she has broken stereotypes and encouraged transgender persons in India to get involved in activism through art and performances to promote social acceptance of transgender people.
- **From the Olympics to Personal Fitness: A Conversation on Decolonizing Sports:** Cultural anthropologist and bioethicist Dr. Katrina Karkazis and cultural worker and PhD Candidate Roc Rochon led a discussion on topics in sport that are not always critically engaged (e.g. the erasure of trans athletes from

sport institutions and the unequal scrutiny professional athletes of color face).

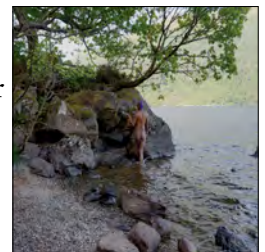
- **Meditations on Blackness and Gender Nonnormativity:** Professor Marquis Bey delivered a public lecture on the convergence of blackness, transness, and black feminism via the Black Radical Tradition. Bey offered a meditation on blackness and gender nonnormativity in ways that recalibrate traditional understandings of each, ultimately, calling for attendees to recognize and increase their capacity for allyship across racial and gender divides.
- **Intersex Care with Dr. David A. Rubin:** WGS Associate Professor David Rubin discussed the resources Hil Malatino's *Trans Care* (2020) offers for theorizing not only new trans carewebs, but also intersex care.

## V&R Art & Artwork

Selected artists from V&R are listed below with abbreviated biographies. To view the online exhibit in full, visit: <https://usfvr.jamhumanities.org>.

*Sukhy Parhar / UK:*

I am a 36 year old mixed race, non-binary queer transfemme, divorced, pansexual, pagan, poet, photographer, and parent. I am typically found

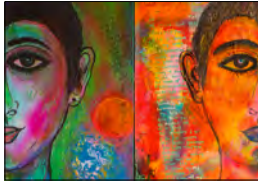


smashing capitalists, the patriarchy, and white heteronormativity in all areas of my creative practice.

*Kalki Subramaniam / India:*

Kalki

Subramaniam is a transgender artist, activist, actor and writer from India. She founded the Sahodari Foundation for the empowerment of transgender population of India. Sahodari Foundation has trained more than 200 transgender artists. Through the Red Wall project and the Transhearts project, she supports and livelihood of the transgender community and also trains them as activists.



*Karen Miranda Augustine / Canada:*

Karen Miranda Augustine is a Canadian mixed-media artist whose works have exhibited in Canada, the US, Scotland, and Haiti. Her creative projects ride on the confluence of sex, pop culture, spirituality, and loss in relation to the broader life experiences of women and girls.



*Danielle Cruit / USA:*

Danielle Cruit is an transgender artist from the Tampa Bay Area with a specialization in figurative and portrait work.



She obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration from Ringling College of Art and Design in 2014,

but focused on representational fine art, hoping to bring things hidden into focus.

*Avery McLeod / USA:*

I am a

transgender artist and educator living in rural Washington state. As a high school teacher and foster parent to teens, living in a small, rural town, I am driven to embrace visibility, representation, and advocacy, both in my life and in my art. Today's trans youth need opportunities to see themselves in their community and in the world of art. They deserve to have people advocating for their future.



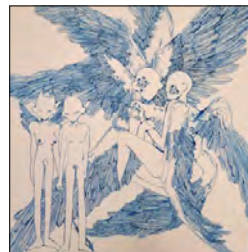
*Kristina Maca / Germany:*

Kristina Maca is an actress and writer, known for T-Stories (2019), Senses (2018), and Flower of Vengeance (2020).



*Lee Pearson / USA:*

Lee draws from experiences with human guilt, fear, and isolation, warping easily recognizable symbols in our lives to ask questions about what it truly means to exist ambiguously. Lee is also deeply invested in the history of art and its ability to encapsulate the never-ending human experience. They



are currently pursuing a career in art therapy for traumatized individuals.

*Silky Prema / India:*

Silky Prema is a singer, actor and a painter who was born and lives in Coimbatore city Tamilnadu, India. She rarely paints and when she does that, it is always subjective and that is about the transgender community she grew up with.



*Rory Midhani / Germany:*

Rory Midhani is a visual artist making paintings, murals, and assembled cardboard scenes. He makes work about queer & trans people living their lives and loving it. His self-directed artworks have been featured in publications and exhibitions across Europe and North America, and he has worked as an illustrator for a wide-reaching international client base.



**Thank You**

Thank you to the WGS Alumni Group for their hardwork in helping to organize V&R, and to our exhibit co-sponsors: USF WGS Alumni Group, Sahodari Foundation, and JAM Humanities, and to our event co-sponsors: USF School of Art and Art History, Department of Sociology, USF Office of Multicultural Affairs, USF Humanities Institute, and Florida Humanities Council.

# Dr. Tangela Serls' Sweet Year

Greetings everyone!

I am Dr. Tangela Serls, newly promoted Associate Professor of Instruction in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies. The past two years have been brutal and have impacted us all. I hope you all are finding ways to care for yourselves and others. Working and living through the trauma of a global pandemic, in addition to navigating the daily manifestations of centuries' long anti-Black racism and sexism has been challenging. Despite the hardships, I have been able to experience a sweet year. I am humbled, honored, and blessed to share my good news with you all.

During the 2021-2022 academic year I received several notable accolades including being named one of the inaugural USF Humanities Institute faculty fellows, earning the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching award, being named principal investigator on a Florida Humanities Council grant, earning the Housing and Residential Education academic partner of the year award, and the cherry on top, getting approved for early promotion to Associate Professor of Instruction.

I have had an active year, but in all honesty the fruit I enjoyed this year blossomed after much labor. For the past three years I have collaborated formally and informally with numerous departments, committees, and/or organizations across USF's three campuses. Throughout my



Dr. Tangela Serls receiving the academic partner of the year award at the 2022 USF Housing and Residential Education banquet and awards ceremony.

collaborative efforts, I work to address anti-Black racism or center and champion other anti-oppressive work. Developing opportunities for authentic engagement of Black humanity as well as the authentic engagement of the humanities of other marginalized communities has been essential to my work as a **USF Humanities Institute faculty fellow** and my work on the **Florida Humanities Council grant**. This has been such a sweet year for me, professionally. And my successes are—in large part—due to a great departmental support system and a village of supportive mentors and colleagues.

Not only have I had a productive year in research, I've also garnered some remarkable honors in teaching. Teaching is something I feel called to do and something I've wanted to do ever since I was a little girl. This year I have had several moments that have reaffirmed my childhood dreams. Regardless of the modality, I see my classroom as a coalitional and principled space where I honor

students' experiential knowledge, teach them to think critically, encourage them to come to voice, and prepare them to engage with others across personal, academic, and professional differences. As salutatorian of my high school graduating class and valedictorian of my college graduating class I have always been passionate about education. Earning the **Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching award**, the **Housing and Residential Education academic partner of the year award**, and receiving **early promotion to Associate Professor of Instruction** brought me full circle to the thirst for knowledge I have had for over three decades. I am excited to see what I'll strive for next!

*Dr. Serls' research interests are Black feminist theories and epistemologies and Black women writers since the 1980s. Dr. Serls teaches the following WGS courses: WST 3015 Introduction to Women's (and Gender) Studies, WST 3311 Issues in Feminism, WST 4935 WGS Senior Capstone, WST 4262 Literature by Women of Color, WST 4930 Black Feminisms, and ISS 3420 Interdisciplinary Approaches to Disability Studies.*

*This fall 2022 semester Dr. Serls will be teaching WST 3015, WST 3311, and WST 4935.*

# WGS Faculty Spotlight: Jennifer Ellerman-Queen

Hello, WGS supporters! I am Jennifer Ellerman-Queen, an alum of USF and the graduate program in the Department of Women's & Gender Studies back in 2012. Like many of our majors and minors, I stumbled into WGS. I had completed my bachelor's degree at USFSP and was planning to do an MA in Anthropology or the MPH in the College of Public Health. While I was considering my options, I found myself bored having finished the BA. One of my close friends was an MA student in the department and talked me into taking the Feminist Perspectives in Women's Health with longtime faculty member, Dr. Marilyn Myerson. It only took a couple weeks before I was utterly captivated by feminist scholarship. Marilyn became my mentor, and I'd found a home that I didn't know I needed. I have been in the department ever since then and have the privilege of being the longest standing member of the department.

By my third semester I was the instructor of record for a section WST 2600: Human Sexual Behavior. Interestingly, Dr. Myerson designed the course shortly after she joined the department back in the mid-1970s. I had been a TA for the course for two semesters prior to taking the reins. Before I started the MA program, I had spent 13 years working in information technology. I had never



Jennifer Ellerman-Queen

considered teaching before, but I quickly warmed to it. The two jobs felt like opposites, and I remember being a bit surprised by the topics in HSB, especially for someone who had spent her entire primary school career in Catholic schools where the only discussion of sex revolved around “abstinence only until marriage” and scare tactics to dissuade us from anything else!

I have learned the importance of using humor to introduce confronting concepts. Teaching, it seems, is about 80% instruction and 20% stand-up comedy. Feminist pedagogy tells us that students are also “knowers” and have valuable contributions to make in the classroom. While conducting discussions in a lecture hall with 135 students is a challenge, including student voices central to the course. I firmly believe that students have much to learn from each other,

including the comfort of knowing that they are not alone.

12 years later, I am still at it, and I wouldn't have it any other way! As Marilyn's final graduate student, she passed the torch that is HSB to me, and I have endeavored to honor that. I wear many hats in the department: instructor, office manager, and graduate program coordinator. The part of my job that I love most is being in a classroom with students and watching as they engage with the course and are opened to new ideas and ways of thinking. It is deeply rewarding to make those lasting connections with my students. It seems I often run into past students, and I tell myself they must not have found the course too unpleasant since they do not flee in terror at the sight of me. (Kidding! Mostly.) Instead, many tell me that it was one of their favorite classes at USF.

As we close another academic year and begin thinking about the next semester, I am looking forward to returning to the classroom, sharing space and ideas with my students, and being mindful of just how fortunate I am to be part of such a vibrant community.

*This fall 2022 semester Jennifer will be teaching WST 2600: Human Sexual Behavior.*

# SEWSA Presentations



WGS was well-represented this spring at the annual Southeastern Women's Studies Association conference, which was held virtually on March 24-26. WGS presenters included Dr. Michelle Hughes Miller, Marisa Cahoon, Gabby Diaz, Alisha Romano, Sabeedah Ravat, NM Flores, Natalia Gonzalez Lopez, Olive McGuire, and Valentina Zuleta.

## WGS Student Spotlight: Olive McGuire

*Undergrad student Olive McGuire is majoring in WGS with a Public Service and Leadership minor and plans to graduate in the fall of 2022. Presenting her research at an academic conference this year was a first for Olive.*



Olive McGuire

*Olive presented her research on trans rurality at SEWSA: In short, my paper, *Fishin' in the Dark: On Rural Trans Eroticism*, is on the coalescence of feminist understandings of eroticism and pleasure applied to trans folk through rural aestheticism, epistemology, and ontology for the purpose of acknowledging old and*

*cultivating new feminist liberatory tactics.*

*Olive's grounding in Women's & Gender Studies is about more than just a degree: I decided to major in WGS to develop an intersectional feminist ethical framework so I can live creating as much joy and love and as little harm as possible.*

*I'm hoping to either go to technical college to become an auto mechanic, or go to graduate school and write further on trans rurality. I'll be using my WGS degree to work primarily with diverse communities if I decide to become a mechanic, otherwise I will see when I graduate.*

*Olive's favorite WGS course is Dr. Wendland's *Careers & Professionalism*: I think all WGS students should take it, especially those focused on setting up their future.*



**Giving to WGS:** Do you love the work WGS does and want to support the Department and its students? You can give to WGS to support our operating fund, which pays for event expenses, and you can give to our scholarship fund that benefits WGS students.

To give to WGS, visit [usf.to/wgs](http://usf.to/wgs). To give to our scholarship fund specifically, search for Women's Studies and select one of the scholarship funds.



# WGS Student Spotlight: Natalia Gonzalez Lopez

*Natalia graduated in spring 2022 with her degree in Women's & Gender Studies.*

*Natalia presented her paper, "Feminist Submission Within Heterosexual Relationships: An Analysis of Feminist Critiques," at the 2022 SEWSA conference:* A feminist identity is many things, and it certainly can be classified as a strong, willful, and intelligent woman. Often a feminist identity will not also be thought to be submissive, to relinquish control as a sign of trust, security, and protection within the relationship. Instead, the general beliefs around submission are tied to passive personalities who are weak or inferior.

These attitudes are rooted in loss of agency, and is reflective of the forceful attitudes around submission. This is not to say it does not happen, but we rarely hear of these intersecting identities. Current academia considers feminine submission within Domestic Discipline relationships, BDSM practitioners, and sexual scripts, but the psychological perspectives on why women might submit regardless of their feminist identity is more challenging to find.

My contribution to this topic will explore the current discourse around feminine submission within heterosexual relationships and a feminist identity, and I will contribute a method to embrace submission from a deeply intimate connection

with our own eroticism. There are valid reasons why feminist women might want to be emotionally submissive, and I argue that there is power and agency in deciding to submit to our partners.

*Natalia plans to use her education in WGS to expand her entrepreneurial and community building pursuits:* Although it is pretty high on my list to blossom in my industry as a realtor, I have a variety of post-graduation goals and plans. Right now, I work in residential real estate, but I also want to invest in properties, learn the commercial side, maybe broker. In my five-to-ten-year plan, I also want to organize or fund an entrepreneurial group consisting of people who identify as women and minorities to collaborate on projects together, community building, and building intergenerational wealth. I also have not ruled out going back to graduate school for Women's and Gender Studies or Sexuality Studies.

*WGS has changed how Natalia sees the world:* I was drawn to WGS because of how I was encouraged to rethink American society, and its unrelenting expectations for cis women and cis men. This initial attraction was sparked by my participation in Human Sexual Behavior with Prof. Ellerman-Queen, and it grew even bigger once I declared my change of major to WGS and was learning about how intersectionality plays into our lived experience. It was no longer about unrelenting expectations for cis men and cis men, because I had opened my eyes to the



Natalia Gonzalez Lopez

many possibilities of struggle and outright exclusion.

*Natalia's advice for students:* I did not join the major my first year, but I wish I would have so I could've had more time in the department. I seriously recommend taking advantage of all we have such as: the WGS library on the 2nd floor of CMC, our very own librarian Barbara Lewis (bilewis@usf.edu) seriously email her, or set up an appointment with her through the library page, she is an amazing resource (even if you think you got it all figured out), and one of my favorites is *Browzine* which lets us browse thousands of Women's Studies journals (<https://guides.lib.usf.edu/c.php?g=5818&p=7963577>). We also have Triota, which is an honor society for WGS (contact Dr. Rubin davidarubin@usf.edu if interested).

# Updates from the USF WGS Alumni Group

The USF WGS Alumni Group (UWAG) has been busy over the last few months! Committed to upholding the goals and values of the Women's and Gender Studies Department, we've been working hard to give back to our community.

In collaboration with the Department of Women's & Gender Studies and local nonprofit organization JAM Humanities, we were proud to sponsor the Visibility & Remembrance: Standing with the Trans Community international art exhibit. This exhibition centered trans people and invited artists to create work that

stands in solidarity with the trans community. The exhibit ran both online and in-person from November 17, 2021, to April 1, 2022.

Since then, we've continued our partnership with JAM Humanities for their Reproductive Justice is for Everyone! art exhibition, which opens this August. We've also worked to promote the ReadOut Festival of Lesbian Literature in early 2022, as well as various WGS Department events. Most recently we've have started a donation drive to help residents at the Silver Oaks Apartments in Tampa cope with their unsafe living conditions

(below). As the year continues, we are excited about the upcoming community projects in our pipeline.

If you're interested in joining UWAG, holding a leadership position, or just want to learn more about the group and our projects, please contact Communications/ Student Outreach Coordinator, Daynah Singh at [singhd@usf.edu](mailto:singhd@usf.edu).

To stay up to date with UWAG, follow us on Instagram: [@usfwgsalumni](https://www.instagram.com/usfwgsalumni).

## UWAG Donation Drive for Tampa's Silver Oaks Apartments Residents

The WGS Alumni Group (UWAG) is sponsoring a donation drive to get cleaning supplies to the residents Tampa's Silver Oaks Apartments. The residents have been dealing with ongoing unsafe and unhealthy conditions, including black mold, collapsing ceilings, rats and roaches, sewage backups -- all of which have been occurring for a long time.

The apartment complex is home to people who receive subsidized housing and in Tampa's expensive housing market they don't have many other options. This past spring residents got fed-up and reached out to local media

and representatives in an effort to get the situation addressed.

UWAG is asking people to purchase items that residents can use to make their living situations a little better while they wait for apartment management and government officials to take action. Visit the **Amazon wishlist** to purchase items that will go directly to the residents: <https://amzn.to/3PLd7mS>.

UWAG has curated some local press about the situation at Silver Oaks: [bit.ly/3z0waU7](https://bit.ly/3z0waU7).



# WGS Alumni Spotlight: Sunahtah Jones

*WGS alumni Sunahtah Jones graduated in 2019 with their MA in Women's & Gender Studies.*

*Sunahtah has been pursuing creative projects since graduating and is excited about their career:* I am a full-time digital artist and Project Manager/Social Media Strategist for NFT platforms. My artwork is centered around the mixture of surrealism and afrofuturism through 2D photomanipulation and 3D animation. In addition to managing my own digital arts brand, SPICECAMVISUALS, I am also heavily involved in community management in the Metaverse.

After graduating from the WGS MA program. I moved to Atlanta and went through a pretty transformative chapter as far as figuring out what I really and truly wanted to do with my life, and what made me happy. I was always brought back to my art. I started pursuing photography professionally, which allowed me to explore my digital art interests more, find my passion and solidify my art style. As I was selling prints and doing shoots, a great friend of mine suggested that I look into NFTs and pretty much onboarded me. From there, I immersed myself in the space, learned and connected with amazing artists. This eventually allowed me connect with the NFT platforms that I work with today.

My favorite part of my career is being able to connect with and uplift Black artist communities through NFTs and



Sunahtah Jones

Web3 education. I'm honored to be in a space where I'm surrounded by Black creatives, developers, NFT artists and etc. from around the globe, who are working cohesively to create platforms and programming that gives Black communities funding, sustainability and access to web3 technology.

I have some pretty big future plans. These past couple of years have been, and will continue to be, a time of me sowing the seeds of my future. I'm working on some pretty groundbreaking projects in the NFT space and am in the process of minting a slow-release 3D animation series that I created myself. I'm extremely excited about the work that I'm doing and can't wait to share it with the world.

*Sunahtah's background in WGS has been beneficial in their career:* WGS absolutely informs the social and community aspects of my work, especially since a lot of the projects that I work on are geared towards marginalized communities. Whether it comes to speaking on panels, creating community programs, or creating an audience database, my

background in WGS and the plight of disenfranchised communities positively informs how I navigate the tech world. Being in this space with my background allows me to use my positionality to uplift and center artist communities that are frequently overlooked in a sector that still very much so harbors racism, transphobia, ableism, and more like the physical world.

The WGS program was an integral stepping stone in the journey to where I am today and rediscovering what I am truly passionate about, as well as the many ways that I can apply myself to community goals. I'm happy that I can use my WGS background to center community, access and education through actual praxis within and outside of the metaverse.

I participate in a lot of Twitter Space panels and Discord panels, in addition to the YouTube series that I have (which is centered around different topics in art and NFT education). I am also the founder of a Black Film Art Collective in Atlanta, called Optic35. I definitely credit my WGS background for making me very comfortable with public speaking, networking, and panel style events.

For more information about Sunahtah's work, visit their website at:  
<https://www.spicecamvisuals.com>.

# Florida Humanities Council Grant for WGS Anti-Racism Speaker Series Events

In the fall, WGS was granted \$5,000 from the Florida Humanities Council for three events that were part of our continuing Anti-Racism Speaker Series, which began in the fall of 2020. Dr. Tangela Serls designed the grant-funded program, *Re-Imagining the Humanities: Cultivating Attitudes of Anti-Racism and Allyship* and served as its principal investigator.

At the heart of the program is the belief that we can better understand universal themes (e.g., belonging, power, survival, resistance, courage, etc.) in local contexts by engaging with and discussing marginalized people's stories. Ultimately, *Re-Imagining the Humanities:*



*Cultivating Attitudes of Anti-Racism and Allyship* is a series related to an issue central to the humanities: how does racism, sexism, homophobia, and other systems of oppression impose on what it means to be human?

The following events were part of this program:

- February 8: *From the Olympics to Personal Fitness: A Conversation*

*on Decolonizing Sports with Dr. Katrina Karkazis and Roc*

- February 24: *Meditations on Blackness and Gender Nonnormativity: A Lecture and Conversation with Professor Marquis Bey*
- March 17: *Solidarity is a Verb: SWANA Liberation, Gender Rights, and Refugee Experiences, with Zahra Wakilzada and Dina Awshah, and moderator Dr. Rahi Dayerizadeh.*

Recordings of these events can be found on the **WGS Youtube** channel at: <https://bit.ly/3uEapXb>.

## Other WGS News & Events

In addition to the V&R art exhibit and Anti-Racism Speaker Series, WGS hosted and co-sponsored many other events, and our faculty had a number of successes:

- **Dr. Tangela Serls** was awarded a **USF Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching** award.
- WGS was awarded a **mini-grant from the Southeastern Women's Studies Association** for a keynote speaker for the department's 50th anniversary. The speaker will be announced during the fall semester. Their talk will address the importance

of embracing an intersectional framework, and appreciating diverse cultures.

- **Dr. Tangela Serls** was promoted to **Associate Professor of Instruction**.
- **Dr. David Rubin** received a summer research grant from the **USF Humanities Institute** for summer 2022. The grant will allow them to focus on their research, *Pandemic Feminism*, which asks how can queer feminist science studies help us to critically understand SARS-CoV-2, its effects on bodies and

populations, public health and governmental responses, and paths forward in a world where we will have to learn to live with the virus one way or another.

- **Dr. Tangela Serls** was named one of the inaugural **USF Humanities Institute** faculty fellows for the 2021-2022 academic year.
- The annual **Talk & Toast** event, where soon-to-be graduating WGS MA students present their research, was held on April 19th. **Sabeedah Ravat, Alisha Romano, Beth Gaines, and Sophia "Stella" P. Escalante** presented their

research, followed by toasts to them by faculty and fellow students.

- WGS will welcome a new faculty member in the fall, **Dr. Suzanne Persard**, and will welcome returning visiting faculty member, **Dr. Amanda LeBlanc**.
- The **11th Annual Feminist Research Colloquium**, an evening of five-minute talks, was held in April. Fourteen students from the departments of Women's & Gender Studies, Anthropology, Art, Sociology, Africana studies, History, and Communication presented their spring semester research.
- **Dr. Jill McCracken** presented a workshop for WGS students, *Teaching Inclusive Sex Ed to Marginalized Adolescents*.
- **Dr. Grace Diabah**, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Linguistics, University of Ghana, Legon, presented *Masculinity as a 'hard small cage'? A consideration of Chimamanda's perspective in the light of the experiences of some male COVID-19 survivors in Ghana*.
- USF Humanities Institute faculty fellow, **Dr. Tangela Serls**, joined Drs. David Ponton and McArthur Freeman II for *Re-imagining Blackness: An Introduction to the Inaugural USF Humanities Institute Faculty Fellows*.
- WGS co-sponsored a film screening of *Cured*, which takes viewers inside the campaign that led to a pivotal yet largely unknown moment in the struggle for LGBTQ equality: the American Psychiatric Association's 1973 decision to remove homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses.
- **Dr. Tangela Serls** earned the Housing and Residential Education **academic partner of the year** award.
- WGS was a sponsor of the annual **ReadOut Festival of Lesbian Literature**.

## WGS Degree Programs

### Undergraduate Programs:

**Major or Second Major in Women's & Gender Studies:** 36 hours (30 for second major). The major focuses on feminist research and practice. WGS promotes social justice through the discovery and production of knowledge that emerges from feminist perspectives on culture and society.

**Minor in Women's & Gender Studies:** 18 hours. This minor offers students from other majors the opportunity to learn more about feminist analysis, research, and activism.

**Minor in Queer and Sexuality Studies:** 18 hours. This minor trains students in the critical analysis of sexuality. It examines the rich history and cultural contributions of LGBTQIA people as well as the processes of normalization and pathologization that have structured sexual relations in different contexts.

### Graduate Programs:

**M.A. in Women's & Gender Studies:** 36 hours. The M.A. is useful for students and professionals who are preparing for advanced degrees, nonprofit sector employment, and those interested in broadening their understanding of WGS topics. Deadline to apply for fall admission: February 15. Funding is available to students through graduate assistantships.

**Graduate Certificate in Women's & Gender Studies:** 12 hours. The Certificate provides an opportunity for graduate students and other professionals to gain a more inclusive knowledge of women's and gender issues in society, including feminist studies.

For more information, visit: <https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/womens-gender-studies/academics/index.aspx>.

# WGS Faculty, 2021-2022

Dr. Diane Price Herndl  
Professor and Chair

Dr. Elizabeth Bell  
Professor

Jennifer Ellerman-Queen  
Assistant Instructor and Graduate Program  
Coordinator

Dr. Kim Golombisky  
Associate Professor

Dr. Amanda LeBlanc  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Instruction

Dr. Jill McCracken  
Professor

Dr. Michelle Hughes Miller  
Professor and Director of Graduate Studies

Dr. David A. Rubin  
Associate Professor

Dr. Tangel Serls  
Associate Professor of Instruction and Director  
of Undergraduate Studies

Dr. Milton Wendland  
Professor of Instruction and Internship Director

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## Contact Info

USF Department of Women's & Gender Studies  
CMC 202  
4202 East Fowler Avenue  
Tampa, FL 33620



Website: [usf.edu/wgs](http://usf.edu/wgs)  
Email: [cas-wgs@usf.edu](mailto:cas-wgs@usf.edu)  
Instagram: [www.instagram.com/wgs\\_usf](https://www.instagram.com/wgs_usf)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/wgsusf](https://www.facebook.com/wgsusf)  
Giving to WGS: [usf.to/wgs](https://usf.to/wgs)

To read our past newsletters, visit:

<https://www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/womens-gender-studies/news-and-events/newsletter.aspx>



## WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A WGS DEGREE?

We asked WGS alumni what they have done...

### LEADERSHIP ROLES

**WGS alumni are leaders:**



executive director, assistant director of stewardship, annual giving manager, project manager, director of account management, strategy manager of process engineering, IT manager, insurance claims manager, healthcare practice administrator

### EDUCATION & RESEARCH

**WGS alumni build knowledge and educate:**



assistant professor, librarian, research manager, academic services administrator, teacher success coach, social studies department head, instructional designer, Montessori teacher, editorial coordinator

### HEALTHCARE & COUNSELING

**WGS alumni help people to lead healthier lives:**



med student, public health researcher, mental health clinician, school counselor, clinical trauma interventionist, medical case manager, children's therapist, sex therapist, social services case manager

### ANYTHING YOU WANT!

**WGS alumni follow their passions:**



attorney, law student, deaconess, video game writer, state park assistant manager, poet, feminist real estate agent

[usf.edu/wgs](http://usf.edu/wgs)