

WGSS news

Department of Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies
University of South Florida
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Dr. Kim Golombisky

As we prepared for our 2024 *Thinking Sex Conference* on March 1, I realized we've been thinking sex for a long while. The conference theme, recognizing the 40th anniversary of Gayle Rubin's important 1984 essay "Thinking Sex," also commemorates our new department name: Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS).

We added "Sexuality" to our name last year not just to commemorate our 50th anniversary or to reflect the state of our academic discipline (or the state of the state, for that matter). Our new name recognizes our students' interests and commitments as well as our faculty and staff members' substantial expertise. The popularity of our new-ish Queer and Sexuality Studies minor proves it. We're also changing the names of our bachelor's and master's degrees, original WGS minor, and graduate certificate to reflect the WGSS name change.

By the way, in addition to celebrating WGSS' 50th anniversary last year,

we completed an academic program evaluation with reviews that made us blush. We credit Professor Diane Price Herndl for those successes. Diane just stepped down from her 10-year tenure as department chair, which is why you're reading my column here instead of hers.

Reflecting the College of Arts and Sciences' commitment to the new "S" in WGSS, we have been growing our faculty. Our newest faculty member Dr. Jessany Maldonado teaches intersections of race and sexualities. Dr. Lindsey Carman arrived last year as a visiting instructor supporting courses such as Queer Theory. Two additional permanent professors will join us in August, one specializing in race/gender/health and the other in queer cultures.

Meanwhile, Dr. Tangela Serls is serving her second year in a 3-year special assignment advising the dean on issues of inclusion and belonging. Dr. Elizabeth Bell retired to emerita status in December. Elizabeth changed our name from Women's Studies to Women's and Gender Studies in 2011 while serving as department chair.

Our staff has grown, too. Last fall we welcomed our new undergraduate advisor Shawn Mallory to our famous WGSS "purple suite." With degrees in ethnic studies and educational leadership, Shawn asked to be assigned to WGSS, and students couldn't be happier.

Sarah Jünke, our project coordinator, brainstorms and coordinates our always on-point WGSS events, programs, and projects, including this newsletter and our *Thinking Sex Conference*. She also gets credit for our amazing annual art installations. This year's show, *Quilting our History: An Exhibit of Quilts by Lauren Austin*, includes a series of events and workshops running into June. We are honored Lauren trusts us with her spectacular quilts. Don't miss the chance to see them in person.

Finally, last fall we successfully completed a Herdfunder fundraising campaign that resulted in 140 of our alumni and allies donating to the Marilyn Myerson Student Success Fund. Those 140 WGSS donations represent 29% of all USF's Herdfunder campaign donors last fall. On behalf of all of us in WGSS, thank you for that impressive showing. By the way, Marilyn also served as department chair, more than once.

I'm ending this column with fundraising to take the opportunity to ask you to give--to any of our scholarships. We build our support in small amounts, and we count success by the number of supporting gifts, not by their amounts. Please give \$10 or \$20 to the fund of your choice to support our students. Thank you in advance.

Best WGSS Wishes,
Kim Golombisky, Chair



Quilting Our History



Quilting Our History: An Exhibit of Quilts by Lauren Austin + Workshop + Public Lecture

Visit: tinyurl.com/laquilt
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Thinking Sex Conference on March 1, 2024 with Keynote by JE Sumerau

Visit: tinyurl.com/thinksexwgs
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Newsletter cover image: *"The Ancestors Named You Horus," by Lauren Austin.*

Quilting Our History: An Exhibit of Quilts

by Lauren Austin



The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is proud to host, *Quilting Our History: An Exhibit of Quilts by Lauren Austin*. The exhibit opened on February 12, 2024 and will close on June 21, 2024.

Lauren Austin is a Florida-based storytelling artist who has worked for over 30 years in the medium of quilts. Austin's work merges her own life story with that of Black history and cultural memory. Her quilts are large-scale mixed media pieces, incorporating photographic processes, stone lithograph, beading, hand-stitching, and hand-dyed fabrics.

The exhibit is in CMC 202 (12010 USF Cherry Dr, Tampa, FL 33620). To schedule a viewing for individuals or groups, email cas-wgs@usf.edu.

Artist Statement: "I made my first quilt when I was 7 years old and have been quilting ever since. I worked as a Foreign Service Officer for the US State Department and later as a human rights lawyer. While I worked in the Foreign Service and in law,

I made art nights and weekends. I took the plunge in 2004 to create art full-time.

I use photos, my dyed, printed, and painted fabric to make my portraits of black life. I use different methods to add designs to my work, including retro photo-chemical processes, block printing, and lithography to create complex surface design.

Over the past 3 years I have been learning wood block and linoleum block carving and print making with Jennifer Harper of Harper Printmaking Studio in Eustis. By press printing my designs on fabric, I have a different method to add interest to my quilts.

Many of my quilts contain natural elements – leaves, flowers, birds, and animals. I want to create work that shows the relationship of black people with the natural world.

Making art helps me to understand my memories and feelings while making something beautiful. Art contains stories of the artist but also has room for the viewers' stories. For me, the process of creation, exhibition and audience involvement add value and meaning to my world. I hope you enjoy my work."

Exhibit Events *(open to all)*



“Make Story Artbooks” Workshop with Lauren Austin

Wednesday, February 21, 2:00-4:30PM
USF Tampa



“My Journey Through Art Quilting” Public Lecture by Lauren Austin

Thursday, February 22, 6:00-7:30PM
in CMC 130
12010 USF Cherry Dr, Tampa, FL

tinyurl.com/laquilt

Hosted by USF Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Lauren Austin Class Visits

In addition to the workshop and public lecture that Lauren Austin will do on February 21 and 22 on the USF Tampa campus, she will also visit two Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies courses to discuss her artwork and the ways that it intersects with the course themes. Students in Dr. Tangela Serls' *Black Feminisms* and Dr. Jessany Maldonado's *Black Sexualities* courses will talk with Lauren about her work and view quilts that are not in the *Quilting Our History* exhibit.



Make Story Artbooks: Workshop with Lauren Austin

On February 21, Lauren Austin will teach a workshop on how to tell one's own story or preserve a memory using fiber arts. Workshop participants will use Lauren's method of making an origami book collage with fabric scraps, paper, and drawing. All supplies, including dyed fabrics and African fabrics from Lauren's collection, will be provided. This workshop is for all skill levels, and will be held on the USF Tampa campus.

Registration for this workshop is required due to limited space. Register at tinyurl.com/reglaquilt by February 19. Late registrations will be accepted on a space-available basis.



My Journey Through Art Quilting: Public Lecture by Lauren Austin

In this lecture, Lauren Austin will show the development of her art over the 30+ years of her career through works in-progress and pieces from early in her practice, talk about what keeps her making art and important themes in her work, including womanism, and discuss how you can find the time to tell your own story through art. Lauren will be showing additional quilts during the lecture that are not in the *Quilting Our History* exhibit.

This event is open to the public. Join us on February 22 at 6:00pm in CMC 130 (12010 USF Cherry Dr, Tampa, FL 33620). Guest parking is available in the lot in front of the CMC building. For those who would like to arrive early and see the *Quilting Our History* exhibit, it will be open in CMC 202 from 5:00-6:00pm.

Thinking Sex Conference

MARCH 1, 2024 | TECO HALL, TAMPA CAMPUS

The USF Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies will host the *Thinking Sex Conference* on the USF Tampa campus on March 1, 2024, commemorating the 40th anniversary of Gayle Rubin's foundational *Thinking Sex: Notes for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality*. The keynote, "Thinking Sex Across Time & Space," will be presented by author and professor JE Sumerau. This conference is funded through ResearchOne.

First published in 1984, Rubin's piece contributed to the nascent and growing fields of LGBTQ+ studies, sexualities studies, and queer theory

by arguing that sexuality is not only a worthy but a necessary subject of conversation because sexuality is a key mechanism of political, social, and interpersonal control. In the forty years since, study of sexuality in its myriad forms and manifestations has burgeoned exponentially. This conference aims to explore, share, and debate current work in these fields taking place in the USF community.

The conference will take place from 9:30am-6:00pm in TECO Hall. Keynote will be from 1:00-1:45pm.

Keynote speaker: JE Sumerau (they/them) writes about the intersection

of sexualities, gender, health, violence, and cultural forms. They are the author of 7 novels and 5 nonfiction books including the Southern Gothic queer epistolary novel *Transmission* and a nonfiction exploration of masculinities entitled *Violent Manhood*. They are also the director of applied sociology at the University of Tampa, and the author of over 100 short fiction and nonfiction works published in varied literary, medical, and social scientific journals, magazines, and edited volumes. For more information, please visit www.jsumerau.com.

Conference Schedule

9:30am-6:00pm: Posters / On Display

9:30am-10:45am: Panel I:
Interrogating Sex & Gender in Health & Medicine

11:00am-12:15pm: Panel II:
Examining Sex & Gender in Pop Culture and Media

12:15pm-1:00pm: Brown Bag Lunch

1:00pm-1:45pm: Keynote:
"Thinking Sex Across Time & Space"
with JE Sumerau

2:10pm-2:50pm: Panel III: Thinking Asexually: Interrogations Across Disciplines and Perspectives

3:00pm-3:40pm: Panel IV: Queering Sex, Sexuality, & Gender

3:50pm-4:50pm: Panel V:
Investigating Sex & Gender in Politics, Law, & Sport

5:00pm-6:00pm: Panel VI: "Before Diving into the Juicy Stuff": Building Open Spaces with Youth to Enhance Sex Education

Registration, and full schedule with panelists available at:
tinyurl.com/thinksexwgs

ResearchOne
ONE UNIVERSITY : ONE COMMUNITY : ONE VISION

WGSS Affiliate Faculty: Dr. Nik Lampe

Dr. Nik M. Lampe is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Mental Health Law & Policy and a Faculty Affiliate in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at USF. Their research program focuses on the behavioral health and healthcare disparities of LGBTQIA+ aging populations and the health of diverse older adults living with dementia and their family care partners. Dr. Lampe earned a Ph.D. in Sociology and a Graduate Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies at the University of South Carolina. Their dissertation research examined the healthcare, advance care planning, and health management experiences of transgender and intersex adults 65+ during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“As a new faculty at USF, I am currently teaching Cultural Diversity, Health & Behavioral Health, but I will be teaching Gender Diversity, Sexuality, & Behavioral Healthcare (GDSBH) starting this fall! I'm especially excited to teach GDSBH this fall to introduce students to behavioral health and healthcare



Dr. Nik Lampe

issues among LGBTQIA+ communities. Students will examine different areas of LGBTQIA+ behavioral healthcare and the origins and contours of health disparities impacting LGBTQIA+ people. This course will also offer evidence-based care practices and solutions for improving the behavioral health of LGBTQIA+ patients.

I joined the WGSS department as an affiliate last year because I consider WGSS to be one of my academic homes! My faculty advisor/

dissertation chair at the time was the director of the University of South Carolina's WGSS program, and I received a WGSS graduate certificate during my Ph.D. program for my work on improving the healthcare of trans, non-binary, and intersex older adults. The mentorship, support, and resources I received during my time at UofSC's WGSS program were instrumental in helping me achieve my professional and academic career goals. I hope to “pay it forward” now as a USF WGSS affiliated faculty and mentor!

I am very committed to the success of WGSS students and colleagues that I work with. Although WGSS is not my home department, I'm happy to support WGSS undergraduate and graduate students in any way I'm able to. As someone who is an openly bisexual, transgender, and intersex faculty from a financially disadvantaged background at USF, I know how important it is to thoughtfully mentor and support students with diverse backgrounds and experiences.”

On March 27: WGSS Brown Bag Series with Dr. Nik M. Lampe: “We grow older. We also have lots of sex. I just want a doctor who will at least ask about it.”: Transgender, non-binary, and intersex older adults in sexual and reproductive healthcare

On March 27 from 12:30-2:00pm in CMC 202, Dr. Nik Lampe will present their research on how trans and intersex older adults experience and mitigate inequality in sexual and reproductive healthcare, which underscores the importance of maintaining LGBTQIA+ competency and age-friendliness within sexual and reproductive health

services, support, and resources while addressing trans and intersex older adults' resourceful strategies for minimizing inequality in healthcare systems. For more information: www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/womens-gender-studies/news-and-events/events.aspx

WGSS Faculty: Dr. Jessany Maldonado

by Audrey Zilay

“It is important to make sure that we set our students up for the future because they are the future.” – Dr. Jessany Maldonado



Dr. Jessany Maldonado

With an admiration and interest for how people function, Dr. Jessany Maldonado acknowledges that the Women’s Gender, and Sexuality Studies department provides an avenue to investigate individuals as well as institutions. “Once you learn how individuals work from a psychological paradigm, you’re then able to assess their motivations and agendas for how they run institutional systems,” she says.

The WGSS department itself focuses include promoting social change, exploring human nature, and destabilizing systems of privilege and oppression, making it Maldonado’s ideal workspace.

Being an Assistant Professor of Instruction at USF gives Maldonado the opportunity to express to others about black feminism, societal structure, positions of privilege, and her other topics of interest. In addition to this, a “student-centered collaborative environment” is how Maldonado feels she facilitates learning and discussion best. Lecturing is not only a professional duty for Maldonado, but it is also her opportunity to passionately discuss what is truly important to her.

Dr. Maldonado steers away from the traditional forms of teaching and wants her students to “hear themselves talk” as well as hear her. Her intention with this is to foster a dynamic exchange of perspectives and ideas within the classroom. “I feel as though it’s a stronger pedagogy to co-create knowledge together with students,” Maldonado says. This approach not only empowers students to engage actively in the learning process but also contributes to a more inclusive educational environment.

Many students should know that the courses that she teaches are one where “gears that have never been turned before are just now turning.” She wants those interested in taking

Introduction to Women’s Studies to be aware that being uncomfortable is “a clear sign that you are learning.” To elaborate, it may be uncomfortable at first to experience a class environment where misogyny, body image, sexual assault, and even violence may be the forefront of discussions, but “experiencing that discomfort is a symbol of growth,” Maldonado says. Going beyond delivering lectures and running classrooms, Maldonado also provides a mentorship opportunity for her motivated students. With taking this role as a mentor, she directly helps her students work towards their professional and academic goals. This includes preparation for graduate school, application review, writing recommendation letters, and more. In Maldonado’s own words, “When preparation meets opportunity, that equals success.”

Courses recently taught:

WST 3015: Intro to Women’s Studies
WST 3380: Sexualities Studies
WST 4002: Feminist Research Methods
WST 4930: Black Sexualities
WST 4935: Capstone

WGSS Faculty: Dr. Lindsey Carman Williams

by Audrey Zilay

"I'm always thinking about what it means to teach the feminist way in the classroom." – Dr. Lindsey Carman Williams

From supernatural fiction to the classroom, a feminist focus is what Dr. Carman Williams is all about. Carman Williams has an English Literature background from Washington State University, and it was this same place where she found her love for Women's Studies. "I took a graduate seminar in feminist theory which really just opened up my mind to how expansive this field is, and that's what really got me interested in this work." After working as a grader for Women's and Gender Studies professor at Washington State University, she was given the opportunity by her Graduate Student director to teach a course at the University, paving the way to where she is now.

Being a Visiting Assistant Professor of Instruction at USF now was an adjustment for Carman Williams since she was accustomed to her former Women's and Gender studies students at Washington State University. Yet after taking the leap, it has been nothing but incredible to her. "I really enjoy working with them, I have like 100 or so students and good class discussion, and just

seeing their knowledge develop over the course of a semester is really impactful for me and it shows me that this is why I'm in this field."

Dr. Carman Williams' passion for teaching is evident, and she feels that her pedagogy is "transformational". After each semester ends, Carman-Williams reflects on ways to make the class more accessible and flexible. She also strives to leave no voice behind, stating "I'm very intentional with which readings I assign my courses, especially in Intro, I want to make sure that those other representative voices and identities are the bulk of the readings that we're doing in class."

Along with this, she acknowledges the different learning styles, experiences, and standpoints there are within her classroom, and always caters to her readings to be as inclusive as possible.

When it comes to her class discussions, Carman-Williams' favorite lesson is about gendered violence and its application to real life. She states, "We talk about the different acts and definitions of gendered violence in class, just because I really believe that knowledge on the topic is very empowering, especially for students." This guidance and language especially allows for female students to both empower themselves as well as dissect



Dr. Lindsey Carman Williams

what perhaps has happened to them or to others that they know.

Additionally, Dr. Carman Williams wants others to know that she thinks there is a "misconception that this course is trying to indoctrinate or cause others to believe certain things, when really it is about the interrogation of, 'why is this the way that this is? Can we change this if it's not good?' -- that's what it's about." Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies attempts to dissect social issues and the root causes of them, it is not intended to push a political agenda onto others.

Courses recently taught:

WST 3015: Intro to Women's Studies

WST 3311: Issues in Feminism

WGSS Faculty: Dr. Amanda LeBlanc

by Audrey Zilay

“I do all of my work from a feminist perspective.” – Dr. Amanda LeBlanc

Having a Women’s Studies minor from University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, along with degrees in Media Communication from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Dr. Amanda LeBlanc has immense knowledge under her belt. Combined with this, Leblanc’s personal experiences provide for insightful lectures for her students, and she is grateful for her position as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Instruction.

Undergraduate studies at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth was a time of experimentation for Leblanc – “After undergrad, I didn’t really know what I wanted to do but I was a Women’s Studies minor and I knew that I wanted to further my feminist education.” It turned out that after moving to USF for graduate school, “the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) department here solidified that this was the kind of work she wanted to be doing.” Although Leblanc ultimately decided to leave WGSS temporarily after



Dr. Amanda LeBlanc

her M.A. in order to study Media Communication outside of USF, she states that “WGSS never left me.”

Leblanc’s background in media and communication is highly applicable to her WGSS pedagogy, as she states “WGSS and communications and media all work really well together for me and they are overlapping.” Various backgrounds lead to her broad experiences, stating “I love the lessons that I learn and that I take with me.”

Leblanc also adores how passionate her students are about her subject – so smart, informed, passionate, and even angry. During her lectures, Leblanc

strives to keep in mind that she has as much to learn from her students as they do from her. She adds, “This is not a unidirectional flow of knowledge, but rather an exchange of knowledge.” Leblanc is aware that students sign up for her courses because they care, so she always allows room for discussion.

What Leblanc wants those who take an interest in anything related to WGSS to know is that there is much more to a WGSS degree than what meets the eye – it is not a limited or abstract but rather a versatile and useful degree. “Not only is there a lot that you can do with it but we will help you get there as well.” says Leblanc. WGSS Alumni from USF go on to do incredible things in all types of fields – from corporate America to public policy. In Leblanc’s words, “not only are there jobs, but there are really great jobs that make a difference!”

Courses recently taught:

WST 3015: Intro to Women’s Studies

WST 2600: Human Sexual Behavior

Book Launch Event for Dr. David Ponton

On February 27, the USF Institute on Black Life will host a book launch event for Dr. David Ponton’s *Houston and the Permanence of Segregation: An Afropessimist Approach to Urban History* (University of Texas Press, 2024). For more information, visit: www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/institutes/black-life/events/ponton-book-launch.aspx.

Dr. Ponton is Assistant Professor in the School of Interdisciplinary Studies and a WGSS affiliate faculty member. WGSS is a proud co-sponsor of this event and congratulates Dr. Ponton!



Dr. David Ponton

WGSS Faculty: Dr. Kim Golombisky

by Audrey Zilay

“People always say, “What do you do with WGSS”...what do we not do?” – Dr. Kim Golombisky

Now serving as Chair for the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department, Dr. Golombisky has come a long way in her academic endeavors. With a background in advertising, journalism, and mass communications, women’s studies was not her initial career path.

When facing everyday sexism in the journalism industry with her first graduate degree, she became aware of the very same issues that she teaches today. Golombisky went from “a mass communications professor studying feminist issues and media, and now I’m a Women’s Studies professor studying media issues,” in her words.

Golombisky most recently taught a graduate course in Feminist Research and Methodology; as a researcher herself in her own time, she enjoys delving into subjects like public discourses of gender, media representation, post-feminism, and post-racism.

Additionally, Golombisky states that she thinks it is “important to think



Dr. Kim Golombisky

about the politics of the time that we live in, and education in terms of not just hostility towards education and free speech, but also hostility towards the very groups of people who we are trying to argue on the behalf of.” In this sense, the barriers being placed by the State about what can and cannot be discussed, taught, or promoted are important to pay attention to. She states, “This too shall pass, as long as we stay true to our cause and stand up for what we believe in.”

Golombisky is now the face of the WGSS department after being elected Chair in August 2023, and with that comes changes for her academic daily life. On one hand, Golombisky enjoys representing the department, stating that “Everyone is wonderful, everyone

is working toward the same goals for the department, and everyone cares about everyone else, so it’s a really wonderful place and that’s rare in Academia.” On the other hand, being the Department Chair means teaching less and “I’ll miss teaching my undergraduate and graduate students,” Golombisky states. She cherishes the student connections she has now.

With WGSS being the broad field that it is, Golombisky emphasizes how useful this degree is and how this field is “trans-disciplinary.” She states, “the issues we deal with are ubiquitous in every field and every discipline.” Both undergraduate and graduate WGSS students go into a variety of fields whilst they maintain what she states are “social justice kinds of perspectives.”

Whether working for political campaigns, elected officials, attorneys, office-setting jobs in corporate America, individually in real estate, human resources, and even going on to get Ph.D.’s or master’s degrees in other fields, Golombisky wants others to know, “you name it, you can do it.”



WGS faculty members Lindsey Carman Williams, Milton Wendland, Amanda LeBlanc, Jessany Maldonado, Tangelia Serls, Kim Golombisky, Jennifer Ellerman-Queen, Michelle Hughes Miller, and Jill McCracken

WGSS Undergrad Student: Taneil Blanco

Taneil Blanco is majoring in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, with minors in Public Service & Leadership, and Queer & Sexuality Studies. She will graduate in the Fall of 2025.

"I decided to major in WGSS because I always felt that middle and high school rarely touched upon women's history and issues, and I felt a strong desire to learn more. It is astonishing how little is covered about women/women's issues in school but with WGSS, women's stories are given the respect (and space) that they deserve. I also feel that I can better contribute to helping others if I am well versed in the issues affecting them.

One of the most important things I learned within my WGSS classes is to have an open mind of other's perspectives, as everyone comes from different backgrounds and has something valuable to offer. While this may seem obvious, I think it shows just how accepting and welcoming WGSS is, and I will be carrying this knowledge in my future career. I have also learned the value



Taneil Blanco

of providing spaces for marginalized communities to share their stories and experiences. Listening to one another is essential, as well as amplifying each other's voices.

I took Female Experience in America in 2022, and I was finally able to learn about women's history in the US, which I had very little knowledge of. It was one of the most interesting classes I have had at USF, and I am grateful to have taken it. I recently took Gender,

Crime, and Justice and this was an impactful and challenging class that I think every WGSS student should take. Dr. Hughes Miller encouraged us to think critically and be aware of how the legal system operates and treats marginalized communities.

After graduating from USF, I plan on going to graduate school as soon as I can and continuing my education in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. WGSS has so much to offer and I am ecstatic to be a part of it.

If there is anyone out there that is wondering if they should have WGSS as a major or minor, I would wholeheartedly recommend it. No matter where one goes in their career, the knowledge from WGSS can be applied through it all. Additionally, the WGSS faculty here at USF is a supportive and kind community that truly wants all students to thrive. I am so grateful for WGSS and how it has made me more prepared and knowledgeable for my future."

Accolades for WGSS Grad Student Mojisola Adewumi

Second-year MA student Mojisola Adewumi's accomplishments as an intern helping low-income families through the Upper Keys YMCA Program Center have recently received attention from the USF College of Arts and Sciences. For more: tinyurl.com/madewumi.



Mojisola Adewumi

WGSS Grad Student: Charlie Suor

Charlie Suor is a graduate student in the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and will graduate with his MA in Spring of 2025.

"I decided on an MA in WGSS because I enjoy the field's interdisciplinary nature. I had a WGSS concentration in my BA program and it allowed me to explore some cool ideas so it made sense for me to continue my studies with a WGSS MA.

I plan to research alternative subcultures in Florida, specifically the local emo and punk rock scene. I've found that the scene in Tampa is very queer with a big trans presence -- who better to research that than a queer alt transmasculine who is already involved in and passionate about that scene? One



Charlie Suor

of my friends described me as “punk sun, emo moon, and goth rising” so I think I’m the right guy for the job!

After graduating, I want to continue

my research and discuss the overlaps between alternative subculture and transness. What work I’ve found on the subculture so far begins to address sexuality but really leaves out how trans-friendly, and even trans-led, the culture is. I’m starting to research that myself but would love to dive more into it as a PhD dissertation.

Pursuing a WGSS degree is helping me prepare for my future because I’m able to explore queer and trans rock culture in a supportive environment. The structure of the classes and conversations I’ve had with instructors have been so helpful in guiding me while I formulate these ideas. I’ve also found my fellow MA students to be wonderful collaborators and feel we help make each other stronger.”

WGSS Degree Programs

Undergraduate Programs:

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

Minor in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality 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, & Sexuality 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 WGSS topics. Deadline to apply for fall admission: February 15. Funding is available to students through graduate assistantships.

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

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

New WGSS Advisor: Shawn Mallory

Shawn Mallory is the undergraduate advisor for the Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and is a proud USF Bull. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Diversity Studies from the University of West Florida and a Master's Degree in Education from the University of South Florida. Shawn has been Advising at USF since 2021, joining WGSS in Fall 2023 and his favorite part of being an Advisor is helping to bring out the great qualities within the students he is lucky enough to work with.

"I specialize in motivating and helping students find their way! If anyone needs a pep talk or guidance in addition to academic advising, I would love to help! I can also be of assistance when it comes to time management and student skills.

My biggest draw in being the advisor for the WGSS students was getting to work with students who care about



Shawn Mallory

the world we live in and making it better. The department and students appeal to me because these students are passionate about issues that matter so much to me and it is an honor to support them. As an undergraduate student many years ago, I was fortunate enough to have my life and worldviews changed by taking classes in the WGSS purview and I am so thankful for that, this feels like a way to return the favor. The world needs WGSS-based

knowledge more than ever now and I was excited to be a steward for this.

For any students who are on the fence about joining us, I would say to **schedule an appointment!** I can help you navigate the USF policies around adding majors and minors and if you felt changed after or were passionate about your WST3015 class or any of our lower level courses then we can't wait to open even more doors for you. In addition to following your passions, it is also a radical move of resistance in the climate we live and learn in.

Personally, I am a cat-dad to my two kitties, Lilly & Violet! I also enjoy talking about cinema and reality tv shows."

To schedule an appointment with Shawn, visit: www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/womens-gender-studies/people/advisor.aspx.

Upcoming WGSS Event Calendar

- *Safeguarding Our Voices: A Symposium on Academic Freedom and Diversity*, February 15, 11am-12:15pm, TECO Hall
- Ward Stavig Memorial Lecture with Dr. Julio Capo: *How Florida Helped Shape the Nation's "Culture Wars": A History of the 1950s and 60s*, February 15, 6pm, MSC 2708 (WGSS co-sponsoring)
- *Make Story Artbooks Workshop with Lauren Austin*, February 21, 2pm-4:30pm, USF Tampa
- Campus - registration required at: tinyurl.com/reglaquilt
- *My Journey Through Art Quilting: Public Lecture by Lauren Austin*, February 22, 6pm, CMC 130
- *David Ponton Book Launch*, February 27, 5pm-6:30pm, USF Research Park (registration required) (WGSS co-sponsoring)
- *Thinking Sex Conference*, March 1, 9:30am-6pm, TECO Hall - registration required: tinyurl.com/thinksexwgs
- *WGSS Brown Bag Series: "We grow older. We also have lots of sex. I just want a doctor who will at least ask about it.": Transgender, non-binary, and intersex older adults in sexual and reproductive healthcare"* with Dr. Nik M. Lampe, March 27, 12:30pm-2pm, CMC 202
- *WGSS Research Colloquium*, April 23, 3:30-6:15pm, CMC 202
- *WGSS Talk & Toast*, TBA, CMC 202

Past 2023-2024 WGSS Events Recap

Panel Discussion on Gender-Affirming Care on November 3, 2023. Dr. Milton Wendland moderated a virtual panel that explored issues related to gender-affirming care from the perspectives of law and policy, mental health, medicine, and the trans community. Joining the discussion were panelists Nathan Bruemmer, Esq., Dr. Dani Rosenkrantz, Dr. Chris, and Andy Citino.

WGSS Alumni Virtual Panel: Careers in Politics, Law, and Advocacy on November 1, 2023. Moderator WGSS alum Jesus Gogo was joined by WGSS alum panelists Rachel Kershaw: Account Executive at Stones' Phones, Saron Musa: Lawyer at Bilzin Sumberg, and Emily Slatkow: Communications/PR Consultant for progressives, for a discussion about navigating a successful career in law and politics with an educational background in WGSS.

WGSS Brown Bag Series: "Black Women-Loving Women's Socio-Sexual Narratives" with Dr. Jessany Maldonado on January 17, 2024. Dr. Maldonado presented an engaging overview of her research on how Black women-loving women (Black WLW) wield transformative power over their intimate lives.

Thinking Sex Conference Pre-Submission Workshops on December 5, 2023 and January 17, 2024. Dr. Milton Wendland and Dr. Kim Golombisky guided students through how to craft a conference proposal and discussed methods for preparing for conference presentations.

The Pagoda: A Lesbian Community by the Sea with author Rose Norman & publisher Julie R. Enszer on February 5, 2024. Guest speaker Dr. Rose Norman presented research about the Pagoda, a lesbian community founded in Florida in

the 1970s. Book sales were available via the USF Bookstore, and Sydney Jordan from USF Libraries Special Collections brought and exhibited local lesbian history materials from the LGBTQ+ Collections.

Opening reception for *Quilting Our History: An Exhibit of Quilts by Lauren Austin* on February 12, 2024. WGSS hosted an open house for the opening day of the exhibit and guests enjoyed experiencing the beautiful quilts on display.

To stay up to date on WGSS events, follow us on Instagram (@wgs_usf) or Facebook (@WGSUSF), or check our website events page: www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/womens-gender-studies/news-and-events/events.aspx.

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

To give to WGSS, select a fund from:
www.usf.edu/arts-sciences/departments/womens-gender-studies/about/giving.aspx



2023 WGSS 50th Anniversary Celebration



Jennifer Ellerman Queen and Marilyn Myerson

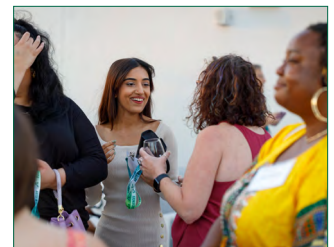
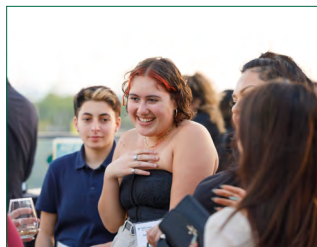
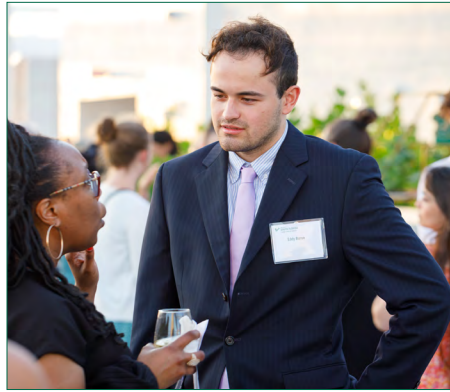


WGSS faculty Tangela Serls, Jill McCracken, Kim Golombisky, Michelle Hughes Miller, Suzanne Persard, Jennifer Ellerman Queen, and David Rubin



Diane Price Herndl with award recipients, Jessica Pinto, Vanessa Charles, Aurelie Colon Larrauri, and Mel Castro





2023 WGSS Faculty Publications, Grants, & Presentations

Dr. Jill McCracken:

- Co-Principal Investigator. Department of Health and Human Services. (\$800,000). 2021-2023. “Choosing Myself: Implementation evaluation of a comprehensive, inclusive, trauma-informed sexual health program for justice-involved youth.” Funded.

Dr. David Rubin:

- 2023, “Feminist and Queer Science and Technology Studies,” in *Editors of Feminist Studies: Foundations, Conversations, Applications*, eds., Hemangini Gupta, Kelly Sharron, Carly Thomsen, and Abraham Weil (New York: Routledge, forthcoming).
- 2023, “Gender Studies and STS,” in *Encyclopedia of Science and Technology Studies*, eds., Ulrike Felt and Alan Irwin (London: Edward Elgar, forthcoming).
- 2023, “Intersex.” *Rethinking Women’s and Gender Studies, Volume 2*, eds., Ann Braithwaite and Catherine Orr. (New York: Routledge, forthcoming.)

Dr. Milton Wendland:

- 2023, “Now More Than Ever: Humanizing Online Courses in the Post-COVID Era” and “The Mid-Semester Slump... Or a Time to Revitalize?” both on the Norton Publishing Learning Blog: Dispatches from Norton’s Teaching and Learning Community.
- “Somebody, Somewhere is Queering Kansas” presented at the Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Popular & American Culture Association. Philadelphia PA. November 2023.
- “Queerness in a Fly-Over State: Reflections on HBO’s Somebody Somewhere” presented at the Annual Conference of the Popular Culture Association of the South & American Culture Association of the South. New Orleans LA. October 2023.
- “Laugh & Learn: Using Sitcoms in Introductory Classes to Support Course Learning Objectives -- A Case Study” presented at the Southwest Popular American Culture Association Summer Salon Conference. June 2023.

Dr. Michelle Hughes Miller:

- 2023, Allen, Tammy, Michelle Hughes Miller, Kimberly A. French, Eunsook Kim, and Grisselle Centeno. “Gender Differences in Tenure-Track Faculty Time Spent on Childcare.” *Industrial and Organizational Psychology*.
- 2023, Hughes Miller, Michelle. “Early Days of a Family Justice Center: Negotiating Goals and Ideologies.” Presented at the annual meetings of the American Society of Criminology, November, 2023 Philadelphia.
- 2023, Campbell-Montalvo, R., Cooke, H., Smith, C., Puccia, E., Hughes Miller, M., Skvoretz, J., Wao, H. “Examining Professional Engineering Societies’ Systemic Inclusion of Transgender, Nonbinary, and Sexual Minoritized Undergraduates.” Presented at the American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference, Baltimore, MD.
- 2023, “Woman, Mother, Person: Dobbs and the Justices’ Understandings of Pregnant People.” Presented at the annual M.O.M. Conference in St Petersburg, FL, virtual.

Marilyn Myerson Student Success Fund

In the fall of 2023, WGSS did a USF Herdfunder to raise money for the new Marilyn Myerson Student Success Fund. This fund will ensure no WGSS student has to forgo educational opportunities like research trips and conference participation by paying these expenses for them. The Herdfunder was a success! **140 donations from WGSS supporters like you pushed us past our goal of \$10,000!** To give to the Myerson Fund: giving.usf.edu/online/gift/f/420247.

WGSS Affiliate Faculty: National & International Awards & Honors for 2023

The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies has a long tradition of affiliate faculty—teachers and scholars who regularly cross-list their courses with Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, serve on our graduate thesis committees, and participate in our colloquia and events. Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies is committed to creating a space for conversation and collaboration about gender scholarship, pedagogy, and activism among USF faculty.

Congratulations to the following affiliate faculty members who received awards in 2023!

Janelle Applequist:

- Bill Eadie Distinguished Scholarly Article, National Communication Association Applied Communication Division

Patrice Buzzanell:

- Excellence in Reviewing Award, Human Resource Management Journal
- Top Paper Award, International Communication Association Organizational Communication Division
- Charles H. Woolbert Research Award, National Communication Association
- Distinguished Purdue Alumni Scholar, Purdue University

Patrice Buzzanell:

- Title IX Distinguished Service Award, Purdue University
- Communication Studies Article of the Year Award, Central States Communication Association

J. Michael Denton:

- Annuet Coeptis Senior Professional Award, American College Personnel Association

Elizabeth Hordge-Freeman:

- Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award, American Sociological Association Race Gender, and Class Section

Diana Leon-Boys:

- Top Paper Award, National Communication Association Latina and Latino Communication Studies Division
- Bonnie Ritter Outstanding Feminist Book Award, National Communication Association Feminist and Gender Studies Division

Yashwant Pathak

- Fulbright Specialist, U.S. Department of State

Ráchael A. Powers:

- Outstanding Mentor Award, The Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

Cheryl Rodriguez:

- Dr. Ira E. Harrison Legacy Award, American Anthropological Association – Association of Black Anthropologists

Judithanne Scourfield McLaughlan:

- Fulbright Specialist, U.S. Department of State
- UBT International Award: Honorary Degree Leadership Excellence, University of Business & Technology in Pristina, Kosovo
- International Partnerships Award, American Political Science Association and the Political Studies Association

Nancy White:

- Lifetime Achievement Award, Southeastern Archaeological Conference

WGSS Faculty & Staff

Dr. Kim Golombisky
Associate Professor, Chair, and Undergraduate Director

Dr. Lindsey Carman Williams
Visiting Assistant Professor of Instruction

Jennifer Ellerman-Queen
Assistant Professor of Instruction, and Graduate Program Coordinator

Dr. Michelle Hughes Miller
Professor, and Director of Graduate Studies

Dr. Amanda LeBlanc
Visiting Assistant Professor of Instruction

Dr. Jessany Maldonado
Assistant Professor of Instruction

Dr. Jill McCracken
Professor

Dr. Diane Price Herndl
Professor

Dr. David A. Rubin
Associate Professor

Dr. Tangel Serls
Associate Professor of Instruction, and Special Advisor to the
College of Arts and Sciences Dean on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Dr. Milton Wendland
Professor of Instruction, and Internship Director

Sarah Jünke
Project Coordinator, and Newsletter Editor

Shawn Mallory
Undergraduate Advisor

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