Farewell from Acting Department Head, Jacqueline Davies

My term as Acting Head is nearly over. It’s been a wonderful experience. Gender Studies is blessed with such committed and talented faculty, brilliant grad students, and bright, enthusiastic undergrads. Our staff does phenomenal behind the scenes work, helping students and faculty navigate their way through life at Queen’s. This is a remarkable achievement in an institutional environment of rapid growth and systems change. Deep thanks to Kathy Baer and Terrie Easter Sheen, as well as staff in Arts and Sciences, Human Resources, Financial Services, and ITS.

I’ve learned so much from colleagues in Gender Studies, whose curriculum is “one of the most theoretically innovative and advanced of equivalent departments anywhere in the world.” I’m quoting from the February 2015 report by our external reviewers. They note that, “whereas many other similar departments struggle with how to infuse racial justice in existing programs, this is already part of the framework of the department.” Thanks to my predecessor, Beverley Mullings and everyone who worked so hard towards this successful conclusion. Under Samantha King’s leadership I know the department will go from strength to strength.

Welcome to our new Department Head, Samantha King

I am honoured and privileged to be joining the Department of Gender Studies as head in January 2016. Having been cross-appointed to GNDS for over a decade, I’m eager to deepen my connection with the students, faculty and staff of this dynamic and collegial scholarly community. I am fortunate to move into this position following the committed and creative leadership of Acting Heads Beverley Mullings and Jackie Davies who between them have overseen growing undergraduate and graduate programs, the hiring of a new tenure track faculty member, a successful program review, and the transition to a new budget model. As my immediate predecessor, Jackie has worked assiduously to ensure strong institutional support for all facets of our program, and on behalf of the department I extend to her my sincere gratitude. Thanks to Beverley and Jackie, who have been wonderfully generous in offering mentorship and consultation during the transition process, I feel well prepared for my new position, but I am also aware that I have much to learn. I thus welcome your questions and suggestions about the department and my role within it. Please stop by to introduce yourself if we haven’t yet met. I look forward to working with you.

Want to donate to Gender Studies?
Please see our donation page: https://www.givetoqueens.ca/genderstudies or call 613-533-6318
Faculty News

Gender Studies at Queen’s welcomes **Trish Salah**, as a new tenure-track faculty member who is well known in our Gender Studies community from previous adjunct teaching in 2010-11 and as the keynote speaker of our 2014 Colloquium. Trish is teaching GNDS 212, Racism, Colonialism and Resistance in the fall; GNDS 280, Special Topics: Transgender Politics and Representation; and GNDS 412, Advanced Topics in SXGD in the winter term. In 2015 Trish organized the Decolonizing and Decriminalizing Trans Genres Symposium at the University of Winnipeg, and gave papers at the Translating Transgender Workshop at the University of Arizona, the Contemporary Writers’ Series at Mills College, the Association of Writers & Writing Programs Conference in Minneapolis, the On Words Conference in Winnipeg. This fall Trish was invited to give a talk on “Phantasies of Identity and Trans Literary Aesthetics” in the Juris Talk Seminar series at Carleton University. Recent publications include poems in the journals CV2 and *Tripwire* and in the anthologies, *Writing Down the Walls: A Convergence of LGBTQ Voices*, *The Electric Gurlesque*, and *Nevermind the Hormones*.

**Jane Tolmie** continues to supervise grad students across several departments including Gender Studies, English and Cultural Studies, and to teach her popular undergrad Gender Studies course on science fiction and fantasy. While on leave from her usual role as Chair of the Undergraduate Program in Gender Studies, she has taken up the job of Acting Director of the interdisciplinary graduate program in Cultural Studies. Excerpts of the *Book of Vole* were included in *Imaginarium 3: The Best Canadian Speculative Writing*, edited by Sandra Kasturi and Helen Marshall (ChiZine Publications, 2015).

**Jacqueline Davies** won the 2015 Queen’s Alumni Award for Excellence in Teaching [http://www.queensu.ca/gazette/alumnireview/stories/recognizing-excellence-teaching-jacqueline-davies](http://www.queensu.ca/gazette/alumnireview/stories/recognizing-excellence-teaching-jacqueline-davies). She was also named the 2015 Queen’s winner for the Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance Teaching Award. She presented formal comments on Daniel Boyarin’s 2015 Irving and Regina Rosen Public Lecture “Did Jewish Women have a Diaspora?”

**Sarita Srivastava** is teaching in Cultural Studies this year, CUST 801 “Critical Methodologies in Cultural Studies,” as well as the Gender Studies undergraduate practicum course GNDS 440, and courses in Sociology. Ongoing work includes her book manuscript, *You’re Calling Me a Racist?: The Emotional Landscape of Racial Encounters*, as well as collaborative projects with Queen’s colleague David Murakami-Wood on imperial nostalgia; and, with Neil McLaughlin of McMaster University, on bell hooks. As Assistant Editor, she supports the student editors of *Equity Talk: Newsletter of the Sociology Department Equity Committee*. 
Faculty News Continued


Katherine McKittrick edited and contributed to the collection Sylvia Wynter: On Being Human as Praxis, (Durham: Duke University Press, 2015; link: https://www.dukeupress.edu/sylvia-wynter). The work explores the links between colonialism, race, humanness, as they emerge in the writings of anti-colonial writer and theorist Sylvia Wynter. Katherine presented several papers and keynotes at University of Minnesota, CUNY/Graduate Centre, Duke University, The American Studies Association, the Association of American Geographers, American Educational Research Association, Canadian Association of Geographers/Ontario. Recent publications can be found in Small Axe, The CLR James Journal, Black Scholar, Contemporary Political Theory, and Cultural Geographies. Upcoming work includes co-editing, with Simone Browne and Ronak Kapadia, a special issue on race for Surveillance and Society, and preparing a monograph Dear Science and Other Stories; Or, The Revolutionary Demand for Happiness, for Duke University Press.

Margaret Little is engaged in multidisciplinary community focused research on several related fronts. With Lynne Marks of the University of Victoria’s History Department, preliminary research is underway on “Marginalized Voices: The Politics of Motherhood and Family among Indigenous, Immigrant, Racialized and Low Income Activist Women’s Groups in Canada, 1960s-1980s.” Margaret and Lynne look forward to creating a website of digitized archival documents and oral interviews as well as other academic and popular texts and talks. Margaret is also one of several collaborators working on a project called “How can Canadian Municipalities enhance the Right to Food?” The principal investigator on this project is Elaine Power of the Queen’s School of Kinesiology and Health Studies, cross-appointed to Gender Studies.
Cross-appointed Faculty Highlight

Meet our newest Cross-Appointed faculty member, Dr. Leela Viswanathan, from Geography and Planning. Leela teaches about social planning, planning history, qualitative research methods, and urban geography. She is co-editor with Dr. Scott Morgensen of the Journal of Critical Race Studies. Her research emerges at the intersection of planning, equity and diversity and she is the Principal Investigator on a multi-year SSHRC-funded collaborative research project examining approaches to planning with Indigenous peoples (www.queensu.ca/pwip). The aim of the research is to enhance Indigenous-municipal relations in the context of land use planning in Southern Ontario.

Welcome new and returning adjunct faculty and teaching fellows

We welcome a new postdoctoral fellow and two teaching fellows. Yasmine Djerbal is a doctoral candidate in Cultural Studies who also holds an MA in Gender Studies from Queen’s. She is teaching GNDS 326, Gender, Diaspora and the Arts. Shawn Newman, also a doctoral candidate in Cultural Studies at Queen’s, is teaching GNDS 428, Gender Performance. A.W. Lee has been hired as a postdoctoral fellow to work with Scott Morgensen and Lisa Kahaleole Hall on their SSHRC funded project “Queer Genealogies of Anti-Racist and Anti-Colonial Activism.” He will be teaching GNDS 375 Queer/Race Studies in the winter term of 2016.

Welcome Erin Clow and Leslie Nichols, teaching with us for the first time. Both completed their doctorates in 2014, Erin in Political Studies (Queen’s) and Leslie in Policy Studies (Ryerson). Erin will teach GNDS 321, Gendering Opportunities—Women’s Work. Leslie is the online instructor for GNDS 120, Women, Gender, Difference. Welcome back to returning adjunct faculty Nancy Butler (GNDS 211, GNDS 351, & GNDS 345), Burcu Baba (GNDS 125) and Melissa Houghtaling (GNDS 125 online, GNDS 215, online and on campus, and GNDS 311). Melissa Houghtaling is our Undergraduate Chair for 2015-16.

Brown Bag Speaker Series 2015-16 Wednesdays 12-1pm Mackintosh-Corry Hall D326

October 14: Stephanie Simpson and Ashley Vanstone facilitated “Sharing the Emotional Load—Conversations about the Affective Burden, Responsibility and Power of Critical Pedagogy.”

November 18: Samantha King, incoming head of Gender Studies “Messy Eating: On Theory, Politics and Animals as Food”.


March 9, 2016: GNDS Adjunct Professor Nancy Butler presents “A Queer Communist.”
Of special note...

Alannah Johnson is the 2014-15 winner of the Beverley Baines Outstanding Service Award. This award represents Professor Baines’ steadfast commitment to expanding and enhancing the Department and the meaningful committee work required to support a complex feminist vision at Queen’s University. An upper year undergraduate, Alannah is “a confident and committed activist scholar who is the epitome of the sort of citizen subject that lies at the heart of the mission of the Gender Studies Department.”

Scott Morgensen is the 2014-15 Winner of the Gender Studies Teaching Award. Instructors of all Gender Studies core and cross-listed courses are eligible. The letters written in support of Scott this year especially impressed the adjudicating committee. His students praised his “passion, activism, and accessibility” and the “accountability he demonstrates in the classroom.” They clearly see him as an inspiration to study further in Gender Studies and “to make a difference in the world!”

Kathy Baer completed her Queen’s Certificate in Workplace Communication earlier this year (pictured at left holding the certificate after her official presentation). Serving now as Departmental Secretary and Undergraduate Assistant, she has been with Gender Studies since 2010 and worked at Queen’s for over twenty-five years. She brings to her work the meticulous attention to detail characteristic of her scientific training, and the supportive attention to students essential to the job of Undergraduate Assistant. She is among eight Queen’s employees to be honoured with the 2015 Special Staff Recognition Award at the Principal’s Holiday Reception.

Terrie Easter Sheen has been with the department through all of its stages—from a small undergraduate Women’s Studies Program, through to the Women’s Studies Institute, then a Department offering major, medial and minor WMNS concentrations, plus the Sexual and Gender Diversity (SXGD) Certificate. It became the Department of Gender Studies and added a vibrant graduate program, MA in GNDS in 2009. We look forward to soon adding a PhD program as well. Along with the Chair of our Grad Program and the Graduate Studies Committee, Terrie has been hard at work on this latest phase of our evolution. As Graduate Program Assistant, as well as Administrative Assistant, Terrie is key to orienting and welcoming each new cohort and helping our grad students thrive when they get here. As a life-long member of the Kingston Community and long serving staff member at Queen’s, Terrie’s service extends beyond the department. Her current activities include Co-chairing the Campus Community Appeal, membership on the Queen’s Human Rights Legislation Committee, and service as the USW Pride Chair and on the Board of Directors of the Reelout Queer Film and Video Festival.
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Special Events and Projects

The **Other Kingston Project**, (Co-Directors Margaret Little, Kanonhsyonni/Janice C. Hill, and Jackie Davies) has several projects on the go this year, engaging with community members with connections to the former Prison for Women, as well as with residents of the Kingston neighbourhoods known as the Inner Harbour and the Swamp Ward.

[https://www.facebook.com/OtherKingstonProject](https://www.facebook.com/OtherKingstonProject)

Under the direction of OKP member Laura Murray, Professor of English and Cultural Studies, the **Swamp Ward and Inner Harbour History Project (SWIHHP)** documents the twentieth-century history of two Kingston neighbourhoods. Until the early 1970s, the Inner Harbour was a vital industrial area with railroads, factories and docks. Workers and their families lived in the adjacent Swamp Ward. The project brings people, time periods, spaces and issues out from the shadows of nineteenth-century limestone buildings and illustrious politicians. Cultural Studies MA student Bronwyn Jaques provided research assistance along with Undergraduate Summer Student Fellowship (USSF) holder Lauren Luchenski. Together they began archival work and oral history interviews. See the project’s fabulous webpages, with ongoing events at [http://www.swampwardhistory.com/](http://www.swampwardhistory.com/)

Archival research and community connections were key to the P4W project as well. The formation of a Grandmothers Advisory Council was a vital part of this work. The Grandmothers’ wonderful first meeting took place on June 29th at the Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre. Under the title, **Not too Few to Remember: An Oral and Archival History of Prison for Women** the project hired research assistants who focussed on the P4W newsletter **Tightwire**. Natasha Stirrett, Rosa Gutierrez, with Margaret and Jackie, presented their findings to the 15th Annual Symposium on Indigenous Knowledge: Rethinking Reconciliation USSRF holder Luke Kessaram worked closely with the team. He is pictured above left beside the poster for his project **The Art of Survival: Creative Resilience at P4W**, on display in November at Stauffer library.

Together with the Levana Gender Advocacy Centre, and the Graduate Program in Cultural Studies, Gender Studies hosted author **Nia Levy-King**, as our **Annual SXGD Speaker** on October 19th followed by a reception and the opportunity to chat informally. Nia read from the first volume of **Queer and Trans Artists of Colour** and shared her experiences as a zine producer and her thoughts on the process as well as the contents of the interviews featured in the book, which can be purchased directly at [ARTACTIVISTNIA.BIGCARTEL.COM](http://www.artactivistnia.bigcartel.com)

Volume two is coming soon! You can keep up with Nia’s projects online at [https://www.facebook.com/artactivistnia510/](https://www.facebook.com/artactivistnia510/).
Gender Studies Departmental Student Council has been busy this year organizing events for current and incoming undergraduate students. A big thank you to all the DSC volunteers who staffed our info tables at the Faculty of Arts and Sciences two Fall Preview days. You can stay up to date with the DSC through their Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/QGenderStudies/

The Department of Gender Studies is proud to continue its sponsorship of the Reelout Queer Film & Video Festival and Gender Studies. Our relationship began with Terrie Easter Sheen’s involvement as a community activist and fan of queer film. She has been joined on the Board of Directors over the years by many Women’s Studies and Gender Studies core and cross- appointed faculty and students. Festival goers and organizers have opportunities to meet visiting and local independent filmmakers who attend screenings and events. This is a big plus for our students. Also at the Gender Studies sponsored screening night departmental reps share their enthusiasm about what we do. Gender Studies has an annual organizational membership to Reelout’s Lending Resource Library (located in Sydenham Street United Church) containing over 500 books and films, many of which are not available in campus libraries. This year’s festival, Reelout 17: In the Dark, will showcase 90+ films over 10 days, running from Jan 29-Feb 7, 2016 at the Screening Room. Keep an eye out for news and exciting events in the lead up to the festival at http://www.reelout.com/films/

International Women’s Day Tuesday March 8th 2016

Coming sooner than you think! We’ll be celebrating the week and, with the support of the Robert Sutherland Visitorship, we look forward to the insight and song that will be brought by award winning musician and prison justice advocate Faith Nolan and Mi’kmaw scholar and activist Bonita Lawrence from March 10-12, 2016.

Check out Faith’s webpages for her blog, current projects and details of her films, concerts, and music releases. From Africville (1986) to last year’s Jailhouse Blues, Faith has released sixteen albums, mixing social activist folk and jazz guitar influences http://faithnolan.org. Jailhouse Blues features lyrics written by women incarcerated in two supermax Ontario jails. Former faculty member of Women’s Studies at Queen’s, Bonita Lawrence is currently at York University’s Department of Equity Studies where she teaches Indigenous Studies. She is the author of Fractured Homeland (2012), “Real” Indians and Others (2004), and Strong Woman Stories (2003).
http://people.laps.yorku.ca/people.nsf/researcherprofile?readform&shortname=bonita

Bonita also organized women’s hand drumming at Four Directions Aboriginal Student Centre while she was at Queen’s. She will sing with the Four Directions Women Singers in March. The week’s activities will close with a ceremony planned to take place on P4W grounds. Stay tuned to the GNDS webpage for details of the ceremony, talks and concert. http://www.queensu.ca/gnds/
Graduate Student News

Incoming 2015-16 MA class:

Christopher Bennett (Queen’s), Zayven Butler (Portland), Jenna Kring (Trent), Yaniya Lacharite (Concordia), Shelby Loft (Western), Emily Merklinger (Alberta), Melissa Pole (Wilfred Laurier), Brett Willes (Alberta), Alisha Williams (Carleton), Vanessa Yzaguirre-Robles (Caracas, Venezuela).

Theses defended:

Angie Fazekas successfully defended her MA thesis *Queer and Unusual Space: White Supremacy in Slash Fiction*. Her thesis examined a number of important narratives and practices—from the politics of queerly rewriting canon texts to resistant practices and critique—to argue that fanfiction holds amazing political possibilities that are foreclosed by white perspectives, privileges, and ideologies. Her thesis was supervised by Jane Tolmie. Angie began her PhD at the Institute of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto in Fall 2015.

Stephanie McColl successfully defended her MA thesis, *#surrogacy: Confronting the Coloniality of Twitter and Contemporary Transnational Surrogacy Practices in India*. She reviewed a series of archives that emerged out of colonialism and transatlantic slavery in order to critically engage how social networking—specifically Twitter—can be read as a contemporary colonial archive. Her work demonstrated how surrogate mothers can, and cannot, be ‘seen’ on Twitter—with the enduring colonial narrative continuing to shape the gendered and racial workings of motherhood through their absented presence. Stephanie’s thesis was supervised by Scott Morgensen.

Joanne Farrall successfully defended her MA thesis, “I have no one, I need someone”: *Contextualizing Amanda Todd within the ‘My Secrets’ Video Genre*. Using affect theory and feminist content analysis, Joanne situated the social media disclosures of British Columbia teenager Amanda Todd within a larger genre of youth trauma videos on YouTube. Videos in the My Secrets Genre overwhelmingly focus on violence young people have experienced in their homes and neighbourhoods at the hands of family and friends. Joanne’s thesis was supervised by Margaret Little. Joanne is now at the University of Ottawa in a PhD program in the Institute of Women’s Studies.

Graduate News continued

Indigenous youth. Wesley challenged the erasure of Two-Spirit youth from social research by addressing the importance of their generation, as one of the first to come of age amid the popularity and non-profitization of Two-Spirit identity, and public narratives of that identity as a site of “risk.” Dana’s thesis was supervised by Scott Morgensen.

Spring 2015 graduates of the MA program: Dana, Angie, Steph (sporting her creation “My Thesis Dress”) and Joanne.

Joddi Alden successfully defended her MA thesis, *Pinay, Balikbayan, Canadian: The Transnational Trajectories of Filipinas (As Domestic Workers)*. The project looked at how Filipinas create transnational labour trajectories that stretch from rural and urban spaces in the Global South (the Philippines), to intermediary households in international ports (Hong Kong) to urban centres in the Global North (Canada). The thesis interwove feminist theory and geographies, migrant policy, hegemonic discourse, personal interviews and ethnographic data in order to explore how migrants are constantly reworking, contesting and transforming hierarchal structures. Joddi’s supervisor was Margaret Little.

Erika Ibrahim successfully defended her MA thesis, “How Ima Read”: *Queer Rap Discourse in Online Music Culture*. Ibrahim’s stimulating study of black popular music artists and their works draws extensively from black critical thought and black queer studies to explain how black racial and sexual histories inform and obscure readings of queer hip hop. She looked closely at the texts of black hip hop artists, notably Khalif Diouf aka Le1f and Zebra Katz, in order to examine how they navigate historical tensions and subvert anti-blackness and homophobia. Her thesis was supervised by Katherine Mckittrick.

Natasha Stirrett successfully defended her MA thesis, *Revisiting the Sixties Scoop: Relationality, Kinship and Honouring Indigenous Stories*. Using a variety of methods -- archival research, literary analysis, auto-ethnography -- Stirrett developed an original critical theory of the colonial and racial violence of “coercive adoption” faced by Indigenous children during the Scoop. Natasha was supervised by Scott Morgensen and will build from the thesis in her doctoral work in Cultural Studies at Queen’s, where she will expand Indigenous narratives of the Scoop by recording oral histories with birth mothers of adoptees.
Our Alum: Where are They Now?

1992 WMNS Minor Jennifer Jones

Jennifer is one of only 16 students across Canada to receive a 2015 Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation scholarship. Jennifer is currently pursuing her PhD in Guelph and her research focuses on finding accurate methodology to assess the impact of mine development on the health and well-being of Canada’s northern Indigenous communities.

2013 GNDS Major Erika Moll

After graduation Erika completed an MA in Communication Studies at Wilfred Laurier University. She is now working as a Marketing Associate in a small IT firm. She thanks the Queen’s Gender Studies Department for giving her the platform to advocate for women in technology. Her critical thinking and writing skills have enabled her to become a triple threat in the IT industry. See her blog post about women learning website coding language: [http://iamcp.ca/no-stem-background-no-problem/](http://iamcp.ca/no-stem-background-no-problem/).

2015 GNDS MA Dana Wesley

Dana (shown at left with her supervisor Scott Morgensen in their Convocation finery) is working at Trent University in the First Peoples House of Learning. She will lead orientation events for Aboriginal students attending the University, develop training and workshops, and will run transition to University programming and a symposium.

2015 GNDS-ECON Medial Catherine Wright

Catherine is continuing her service with the AMS as Vice-President (University Affairs)

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