Greetings from Acting Head, Beverley Mullings:
This summer, as we completed a cyclical review of our department, we had the opportunity to reflect on our achievements over the past 10 years. As time consuming as this process was it gave us a sense of the significance of our achievements. In 2003 the Department of Women Studies, as it was called then, had 84 registered full-time enrolled students; by 2013/14 this number had grown to 186. In 2003, students could read for major, minor or medial undergraduate degrees only; by 2013/14 our program had expanded to include a two-year M.A. program and soon, a one-year M.A. option! In 2003, we set out on a mission to make the intersections between gender, race, class, ability, age, ethnicity, health, nationality, and religion central to our scholarship. Today, Gender Studies is distinguished by its commitment to anti-racist, transnational and decolonizing feminist approaches to scholarship and activism, attracting some of the best and brightest students across Canada and internationally to our program. Gender Studies has also become a hub at Queen’s for research and activism across a wide range of areas. This is quite an achievement and speaks not only to the dynamism of our core faculty, but also, the dedication and commitment of our adjunct and cross-listed faculty members, graduate students, and most of all, our staff who continue to be the backbone of our department. So in a nutshell - cheers to you all!

Gender Studies@Queen’s continues to grow in visibility and reputation, and to develop new ways of bringing the challenging questions that collectively anchor our expanding ‘interdiscipline’ to diverse communities at home and abroad. Our first year courses GNDS 120: “Women, Gender, Difference” and GNDS 125: “Gender, Race and Popular Culture”, are offered in online formats, offering us opportunities to extend our mission to new communities of learners at Queen’s and beyond. Our second year course GNDS 215 “Introduction to Sexual and Gender Diversity” will be offered online in 2015. I am pleased to welcome Dr. Dylan Robinson to our department and to Queen’s. Dr. Robinson joins us as a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Studies, and his appointment is shared with the Departments of Languages, Literature and Cultures; Development Studies; Music; Art and the Cultural Studies Program. We also welcome Dr. Leela Viswanathan from the School of Urban Planning who is the newest of our cross-appointed members.

As my term as Acting Head of Gender Studies comes to an end, I welcome Dr. Jackie Davies, who will serve as Acting Head in 2015, and Dr. Samantha King, who will formally begin a five year term as Head of Gender Studies in 2016. Dr. Davies has been a stalwart member of the Gender Studies community for many years and comes ready to keep the momentum, the drive and the vision that the department has already embarked upon going forward. Dr. Samantha King is an active campus leader and also a key member of our Queen’s Gender Studies community. I have no doubt that her activism, scholarship and guidance will take Gender Studies to new heights.

This is shaping up to be another year with an exciting calendar of events. This includes our monthly Brown Bag Speakers Series, our annual Open House (October 29th), and our Chancellor Dunning Trust Visitor - Dr. Susan Stryker, Director of the Institute for LGBT Studies at the University of Arizona. Dr. Stryker’s visit will be jointly hosted with the Cultural Studies program (February 2015).

To students, staff, and teaching faculty at Queen’s and beyond, as well as past alumni and friends join us as we continue our journey of inquiry, discovery and activism this 2014/2015 academic year!

Want to donate to Gender Studies? Please see our donation page: https://www.givetoqueens.ca/genderstudies or call 613-533-6318
The 2014 Gender Studies Colloquium, “Writing~Sexualities~Poetics~Politics~Activism,” was inspired by the research, writings, and activism of Trish Salah. Salah, a Lambda winning poet and professor at University of Winnipeg, delivered the keynote address, “Writing What’s Not Yet: Inscribing Emergence,” which introduced us to the ways in which writing and creating sexualities, and transgender identifications, intersect with race, class, location, and politics.

The keynote was followed by three short presentations by Queen’s faculty: Sam McKegney shared his research on indigenous masculinities and narrative; Leela Viswanathan talked about urban planning and settler colonialism; and, Margaret Little discussed the links between feminism, activism, gender struggles, and archive.

The event was “closed” by Scott Morgensen who threaded together the overlapping themes of the colloquium. Many thanks to Terrie Easter Sheen and Kathy Baer for co-organizing the event, as well as Yasmine Djerbal, Jackie Davies, Melissa Houghtaling, Maria-Teresa Matani who provided much needed support.

Next year’s Colloquium will be held in November 2015 in conjunction with the Graduate Student Symposium for a wonderful day of interesting conversations.
Grad Student News

Incoming 2014-16 MA class:
Clockwise from top left: Katherine McKittrick (Graduate Coordinator), Jan Hill (Director of Four Directions at Queen’s), Astri Jack (British Columbia), Jamie Harnum (Newfoundland), Avery Everhart (North Carolina), Roxanne Runyon (Alberta), Zoya Islam (Queen’s), Megan Lonergan (Ottawa), Kara Melton (Maryland).

Theses defended:

Yasmine Djerbal successfully defended her thesis Women’s Citizenship: Between Bloodlines and Patriarchal Conditioning in Postcolonial Algeria. Her research project explored the ways in which gendered and militarized violence can be understood alongside and across the patriarchal-colonial-post-independent nation. She was supervised by Katherine McKittrick and began her PhD in Cultural Studies in the fall.

Carla Moore successfully defended her thesis Wah Eye Nuh See Heart Nuh Leap: Queer Marronage in the Jamaican Dancehall. Carla looked at how the dancehall—a heterosexual geography—is a location where queerness emerges yet remains invisible. Her research provides an analytical and activist pathway to think about the limits of identity politics and queer liberalism. The thesis was supervised by Katherine McKittrick and Carla began her PhD in Cultural Studies in the fall.

Aarzoo Singh successfully defended her thesis, Mobile Identities: Linking Colonial Histories of Displacement with Portable Affective Objects and Memories. The project addressed how cherished family objects tell stories, and narrate unspeakable and erased histories and she asked: When a community and family experiences forced removal, what happens to their heirlooms and their memories of family “things”? Aarzoo was supervised by Katherine McKittrick and started a PhD in Women and Gender Studies at the University of Toronto this fall.

Dan Vena successfully defended his thesis Becoming Superman: Interpolating Transsexuality into the Superman Narrative supervised by Jane Tolmie. He explored how comic representations of Superman open up the possibility for imagining and rethinking transgender politics and gender identifications. Dan has begun a PhD in Cultural Studies where he will extend his critical analyses of masculinity and gender politics.

More MA News:

Sanchari Sur was a finalist in the Three Minute Thesis Competition with her presentation Trauma Stories: Writing Trauma in Fiction. This competition allows graduate students one slide, no props and three minutes to distill their thesis into a clear form which highlights the wider implications of their research.

Dorota Polonska was the recipient of the Ban Righ Centre’s Carole Kinnear Award, which is awarded to a woman who, after an interruption in her formal education, is beginning or returning to University studies. Preference is given to a student pursuing a degree in Women’s Studies/Gender Studies.
Faculty News

**Margaret Little** presented a Conference Paper with Lynne Marks, “Feminist Family Values”: The Forgotten Voices of Women’s Welfare Rights Groups in the English Canadian Second Wave Women’s Movement,” at the Situating Women’s Liberation: Historicizing a Movement Symposium, University of Portsmouth Centre for European and International Studies, July 4, 2014. This was an international conference on historicizing women’s liberation in Western democracies and Margaret and Lynne were the only Canadian delegates.

In preparation for her upcoming monograph, *Dear Science and Other Stories*, and as part of a SSHRC Insight Grant, **Katherine McKittrick** hosted a two-day workshop, [DearScienceAnd](http://decolonization.wordpress.com/2014/05/26/white-settlers-and-indigenous-solidarity-confronting-white-supremacy-answering-decolonial-alliances/), at the Drake Hotel in Toronto, Ontario. Bianca Beauchemin, Yasmine Djerbal, Danyel Haughton, Erika Ibrahim, Carla Moore, and Maya Stitski were invaluable co-researchers and co-organizers for the DearScienceAnd workshop. The *Dear Science* research project has led Katherine to give papers at Decolonial Aesthetics (Toronto) and the Association of American Geographers (Tampa) as well as University of Manitoba, York University, Louisiana State University and the CUNY Graduate Centre. Duke University Press will publish Katherine’s edited collection, *Sylvia Wynter: On Being Human as Praxis*, later in 2014, and she continues her work as editor at *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*.

**Scott Morgensen** published an essay, "White Settlers and Indigenous Solidarity: Confronting White Supremacy, Answering Decolonial Alliances" on Decolonization blog, May 26, 2014. [http://decolonization.wordpress.com/2014/05/26/white-settlers-and-indigenous-solidarity-confronting-white-supremacy-answering-decolonial-alliances/](http://decolonization.wordpress.com/2014/05/26/white-settlers-and-indigenous-solidarity-confronting-white-supremacy-answering-decolonial-alliances/) His lecture "Indigenous Feminism and Settler Sovereignty: Responding to Idle No More," presented in October 2013 at the University of Western Ontario / Royal Society of Canada symposium "21st Century Feminism and the Academy," is viewable online: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuxVCoFo9Xk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VuxVCoFo9Xk). In July 2014 he joined Maile Arvin, Hokulani Aikau, and Mishuana Goeman as part of a keynote roundtable on "Indigenous Feminisms" at the Transnational Feminisms Summer Institute at Ohio State University. The roundtable will be transcribed as part of a special issue on transnational feminisms to be published in 2015 by the journal Frontiers.

During 2014-15 the SSHRC project "Racism and Colonialism in Canadian LGBTQ Politics" continues, in two parts. A Toronto-based team of researchers will be conducting focus groups within LGBTQ community-based organizations to learn how racism and colonialism are being addressed in their work. At once, the first of two Postdoctoral Fellows for the project, Cameron Greensmith (PhD Cand., Social Justice Education, OISE - University of Toronto) will join with Morgensen and Queen's graduate students in studying and evaluating how racism and colonialism have come to inflect governmental recognition and adjudication of LGBT human rights.
In fall 2013 Jane Tolmie published her edited collection Drawing from Life: Memory and Subjectivity in Comic Art with UP Mississippi. The collection was nominated for a 2014 Eisner award for Best Scholarly/Academic Work on comics. She completed her GREB-approved set of interviews with women comic artists and is working through the results. She is working on a book proposal for a collection on Lynda Barry that will cover not only Barry’s creative work but also her teaching and art activism. The collection will offer insights into issues in critical pedagogy surrounding comics in the classroom. In spring 2014 Tolmie presented papers on her current project on consent, choice, and abortion politics in popular culture at Queen’s in the English department and in Athens at the annual conference of the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement (MIRCI). She submitted the successful application for Professor Susan Stryker to come to Queen’s as the 2014-15 Chancellor Dunning lecturer. She has new creative work out in The Dalhousie Review and forthcoming in Imaginarium 2014: The Best Canadian Speculative Writing”. A display of her ongoing poetry/painting collaboration with British Columbia artist Perry Rath http://www.perryrath.com/ goes on display at the Two Rivers Art Gallery, BC, in November. On July 1 she became the Program Coordinator for Cultural Studies. She remains Undergraduate Chair in Gender Studies.

Welcome to new and returning faculty members for 2014-15

This year we are pleased to welcome two teaching fellows and two postdoctoral fellows to our teaching complement. Maya Stitski is a teaching fellow, doing her Cultural Studies PhD with Katherine McKittrick, who will teach GNDS 350, Feminism, the Body and Visual Culture in the fall term. Tabasum Akseer is a teaching fellow, doing her Cultural Studies PhD with David Lyon and Sharry Aiken, who will teach GNDS 401, Debates on Feminism and Islam in winter term. Our postdoctoral fellows are Farah Deeba Chowdhury who is working with Beverley Baines (Law) and will teach GNDS 330, Gender and the Global South; and Cameron Greensmith who is working with Scott Morgensen and will teach a new second level Special Topics course, GNDS 280 Critical Approaches to Solidarity and Alliance Work.

Our returning adjunct faculty include Melissa Houghtaling (GNDS 125 online in Fall term and GNDS 215 Introduction to SXGD in Winter term), Nancy Butler (GNDS 345 Research Methods in Gender Studies in Fall term), Johanna Amos (GNDS 352 Gender, Cloth and Globalization in Winter term) and A.W. Lee (GNDS 360 Masculinities in Fall term). We would like to welcome two new adjuncts to our community for the winter term: Arig al Shaibah who will teach GNDS 315, Feminist Pedagogies and Burcu Baba who will teach GNDS 375, Queer/Race Studies.

Brown Bag Speaker Series 2014-15, Room D326 Mackintosh-Corry Hall

Nov 19th 12-1pm Farah Deeba Chowdhury – title TBA

Dec 3rd 12-1pm Dorit Naaman “The Ethical Dilemmas of a Collaborative Media Project in Jerusalem”

Jan 14th 12-1pm Asha Varadharajan “Not Merely to Survive but to Thrive: The New Face of Gender”
GNDS Goes Local

Many GNDS folk took part in the second Chipped Off Performance Collective piece “Hairlines” in June. Our cross-appointed were well represented by Kim Renders (Artistic Coordinator and Set Design), Christine Overall (Writer and Performer), MA students Aarzoo Singh (Writer and Performer), Angie Fazekas (Sound and Projection Technician), former MA Dan Vena (Production Manager and Performer) and undergraduates Megan Kot, Natalea Robyn and Emily Wong. Congratulations all for your hard work and sold out performances!

Kingston celebrates the 25th Anniversary of the Pride Parade

Kathy Baer and Terrie Easter Sheen (Chair, United Steel Workers Pride Committee), proudly carry the QUSW banner on June 15, 2014.


In March 2014, in response to an anti-feminist speaker on campus, the Department posted a document entitled “What Does it Mean to be a Feminist in 2014?” http://www.queensu.ca/gnds/mission.php

Gender Studies students are busy serving the Queen’s community in important roles. Last year, Catherine Wright, GNDS medial, was the AMS Municipal Affairs Commissioner. This year Emily Wong, GNDS minor, is serving as the Social Issues Commissioner, Matthew Lumsden, a GNDS Major is the ASUS Equity & Diversity Deputy Commissioner and this year’s Rector is Mike Young, a Con-Ed Gender Studies Major who ran on a platform of equity that included the need for gender-neutral washrooms on campus.

Annual Open House – Wednesday October 29th. Come join us for light refreshments and awards presentations at the Queen’s Women’s Association House, 144 Albert Street; 1:00-2:30pm.
Spring 2014 Convocation Awards:

**Medal in Gender Studies:** Lynn Ly

**Deans of Women Memorial Scholarship:** Tamsin Fitzgerald

**Kathleen Herman Essay Prize:** Amanda Kraft for her essay “Teaching Normalcy: Exercises of Power, Constructions of National Identity, and the Emergence of Sex Education in Ontario, 1871-1950”, submitted by Professor Brittney Bos in HIST 465.

2013 Teaching Award Winner – Melissa Houghtaling

**2014 Graduate Awards:**

The Sue Hendler Graduate Scholarship in Gender Studies – Avery Everhart, 1st year MA student.

The Poole Award in Women’s and Gender Studies – Jamie Harnum, 1st year MA student.

Alum News

It’s a shaky and unpredictable atmosphere in the media world these days, and I think the reason I’ve succeeded in finding stability in it has a lot to do with my gender studies background. I’ve worked for national flagship television programs. The people who hired me were much less interested in my experience or my directly relevant university degree. They were much more interested in my ability to think critically, communicate clearly, and connect themes in a fresh and compelling way. I had those skills because of my education in Gender Studies.

Elamin Abdelmahmoud, Gender Studies 2011; Online Producer for *The Agenda* with Steve Paikin, TVO.

10 years after graduating from Women’s Studies, I can see now that this was the start of what would evolve into my career as a Love Coach. Since graduation I have had a diverse professional life. I worked in Asia at international schools for four years, and in 2008, I moved to Toronto and started my first business - a holistic daycare and became a yoga instructor. Last year, I pursued my passion and launched “Lovistics,” an organization dedicated to helping men and women develop happy, healthy loving relationships. www.LovisticsCoaching.com

Natalia Juarez, WMNS BAH 2004/B.Ed 2004; *Love Coach & Break-up Specialist*

Would you like to come to a DSC Career Event or write a piece for our newsletter or website about how your WMNS/GNDS degree has helped you? Please email Kathy Baer for more information: kathy.baer@queensu.ca or call 613-533-6318.

Want to donate to Gender Studies? Please see our donation page: https://www.givetoqueens.ca/genderstudies