

# Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

## News and Events

### Fall 2010

#### A Message from the Director

#### Welcome to the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program!

Our name is new, our commitment to feminist/queer education remains true. WGSS encompasses the Women's Studies major and minor along with the Sexuality, Gender & Queer Studies minor. The change in nomenclature (we were formerly the Women's Studies Program) signifies the breadth and depth of the interdisciplinary scholarship, teaching, and learning our faculty and students bring to our classes and community. With the new name we honor the program's history of keeping a sharp focus on women while formalizing our attention to constructions of gender and sexuality that reach beyond any singular notions of identity, experience, or knowledge.

This year we have the privilege of welcoming two new faculty members to the program: Professors Ross and Velasco. Professor Ross is a longtime member of PSU's University Studies faculty who is joining WGSS fulltime, and we are equally thrilled that Professor Velasco has come to us from Bryn Mawr on a one-year appointment. Please take a minute to read about their backgrounds and expertise (below) and seek them out to learn more about their classes, research projects, and the events they're organizing on campus. Our feminist and queer communities are richer by their presence.

WGSS continues to move – literally and figuratively – in exciting directions. Later this term, our program and faculty offices are moving to new digs. If one day you come to NH 469 and we're not here, please find us just

across the way – we promise to leave a forwarding address! We'll be sharing the XSB Building on the Park Blocks with our colleagues and friends from Black Studies (BST), Native American Studies (NAS), and Chicano/Latino(a) Studies (CHLA). We look forward to enriching conversations and collaborations with our "think tank" counterparts.

The WGSS curriculum is expanding as we offer a revamped feminist methodology course this winter to strengthen your research skills and insights. You can also look forward to other new course offerings – check out our webpage and Winter 2011 course flier prior to registration. Also, do plan an office visit with me or our other faculty advisors (Profs. Anne Mussey, Jamie Ross, Gina Velasco) to discuss your major/minor or find out more about WGSS courses and opportunities.

The 2010-11 academic year opens with many challenges and opportunities on the horizon (and some just around the corner). These are dynamic times; our courses and events aim to keep you informed and engaged in the creation of new knowledge and action for feminist/queer empowerment. We believe that you are getting ready to make changes in the world; WGSS faculty and staff are here to prepare and support you in that work.

In solidarity,

*Sally McWilliams*

#### Meet Our New Instructors

**Professor Jamie Ross:** Dr. Jamie Ross has come from the University Studies Program at Portland State and is now an Assistant Professor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She is engaged in the analysis of the scientific research and practice of women's health as it emerges from individual points of view, in the context of social, political and historical constraints. Her anthology, *Feminist Philosophy – Method and Practice*, currently under review, encompasses critiques of traditional methodologies and offers a variety of feminist methodologies. Part of this larger project is a critique of the authority and urgency of reproductive technology. She is actively engaged in the [PATH for women](#) (Policy Advisory Towards Health for Women), a project at the OHSU Center for Women's Health.

**Professor Gina Velasco:** Dr. Gina Velasco is a Visiting Assistant Professor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She received her Ph.D. from the History of Consciousness program, with a degree notation in Feminist Studies, at the University of California at Santa Cruz. Her research and teaching explore how gender and queer sexuality inform notions of nation, diaspora, and transnational belonging in a contemporary context of globalization. Focusing on Filipino diasporic cultural production and global popular culture – with an emphasis on performance, film/video, and the internet – Dr. Velasco examines how queer Filipino subjects negotiate both a Filipino diasporic political culture, as well as the cultural politics of a U.S.-based mainstream GLBT movement.

## Advising

Thinking about becoming a Women's Studies major or minor or Sexualities, Gender, and Queer Studies minor? Need help navigating the program requirements? Schedule a one-on-one appointment with one of our advisors by contacting the Women's Studies office at (503) 725-3516. Appointments last 30 minutes and provide detailed answers to your questions. For help with quick questions, you can also stop by our advisors' drop-in hours. Check our website for advisor schedules.

## New Courses for Winter

### Global Gender: Shock Doctrine

Marlene Howell

WEB WS 306U CRN: 44841

Naomi Klein's 2008 best-selling *Shock Doctrine*, based on four years of global research, reveals how so-called natural disasters have historically, and presently, been used as a basis for the development of disaster, non-democratic capitalism. This course examines her analysis, by reading her book and feminist reviews of it, so that we can better assess what disaster capitalism means for women in rich and poor countries.

### Feminist Organizations: Theory & Practice

Sarah Dougher

MW 10:00-11:50 WS 399 CRN: 44843

An exciting introduction to how feminist non-profit organizations work! This term we'll be partnering with the Rock and Roll Camp for Girls.

### Feminist Theory & Methodology

Jamie Ross

TR 12:00-13:50 WS 407 CRN: 44844

(Graduate-level: WS 507 CRN: 44845)

Feminist methodology assesses knowledge-generating strategies in terms of their suitability for feminist research. Get ready for your senior seminar or other major research projects by taking WS407 as preparation.

### Interrupting Oppression

Sally Eck

M 17:30-21:10 WS 410 CRN: 44846

(Graduate-level: WS 510 CRN: 44847)

An advanced study of oppression theory in relationship to our human experience, as well as how to build empowerment to resist oppression in our everyday lives.

## Practicum: What Is It?

As part of the Women's Studies major, you must complete six credits of WS 409 Practicum. The practicum allows you to bring theory and practice together as you deepen your understanding of feminism and activism. Many students choose to work with community organizations or groups that address women's issues, the LGBTQ community, or a variety of social justice concerns. There are also opportunities on campus, for example mentoring in WS101 Introduction to Women's Studies or volunteering at the Women's Resource Center to assist with projects and community outreach.

To get started, take some time to think about the type of practicum experience you want to have. You might check the Practicum Opportunities list in the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Office for possible placement sites. After deciding on the type of practicum and a possible placement, you'll want to identify an individual at the placement who will agree to be responsible for supervising and evaluating your work. You will also need to identify a WGSS faculty member to be your faculty advisor. Remember you don't have to do all 6 credits in one term; you can spread them across terms and placement sites.

To register for practicum credit, you and your faculty advisor must complete a "By Arrangement" form. Make an appointment with a WGSS advisor during pre-registration or during the first two weeks of the term to arrange your practicum credits. For more information, please visit our website at <http://www.pdx.edu/ws/practicum-information> or contact the WGSS office.

Join us at the Winter WGSS Open House on February 3<sup>rd</sup> for the practicum panel!

## Save the Date

### Fall Events

#### Butch Voices Conference

Saturday, October 2, 8:00-6:00 pm, SMSU

**Gina Velasco *Performing the Filipina "Mail Order Bride": Queer Neoliberalism, Affective Labor, and Homonationalism* Lecture**  
Thursday, October 21, 2:00pm, WRC

#### *Absolutely Safe* Film Screening

Monday, October 25, 5:30pm, SMSU 228

#### *Autumn Gem* Film Screening

Monday, November 1, 7:00pm, SMSU 338

#### *Who Is Afraid of Kathy Acker?* Film Screening

Friday, November 5, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Cinema (time TBD)

#### *Yalini Dream* Performance and Workshop

Tuesday, November 9, 7:00 pm, SMSU 228

### Winter Events

#### *Say My Name* Film Screening

Friday, January 28, 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. Cinema (time TBD)

#### WGSS Open House

Thursday, February 3, 12:00-2:00pm, SMSU 238

### More To Come...

**Feminist Pedagogy, Diversity and Social Justice Education Symposium**  
April 2011

#### WGSS Student Colloquium

May 2011

#### Spring Celebration

June 2011

## Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

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We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

[www.ws.pdx.edu](http://www.ws.pdx.edu)