

### **Congratulations to our Gender Institute Award Winners for 2017-2018!**

One of our most important missions is to support outstanding research on women and gender across the disciplines and at every level from faculty to graduate students and undergraduates. As the academic year comes to a close, we would like to recognize this year's awardees. Many thanks also go to the faculty and staff who diligently served on our review committees. Congratulations to graduates whose time at UB involved the Gender Institute!

Sincere thanks to go Professor **Isabel Marcus** in the UB Law School for funding the Isabel Marcus International Research Grant for graduate students; **Mara Huber**, Director of the Experiential Learning Center, for supporting our Undergraduate Scholarships; and Professor **Myung Mi Kim**, James H. McNulty Chair of English, for funding the travel grant to attend the annual Duke Feminist Theory Workshop.

Wishing you all a relaxing summer from all of us at the Gender Institute,  
Carrie Bramen, Becky Burke, Anne Marie Butler

### **Gender Institute's DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP**



**Alexandra Prince, Ph.D. Candidate, History**

*Religion and Madness: Perceptions of Insanity at the Fringe of Religious Life, 1830-1920*

Prince's project aims to foster an understanding of the presumptive link between madness and new religions through an examination of the construction of religious insanity in the nineteenth and twentieth century in the United States and the Caribbean. The project explores not only how the link between religion and insanity developed as a diagnostic category in early psychiatry, but in popular culture as well. Prince theorizes that powerful gendered and racial assumptions were embedded in the medical and cultural language of religious insanity. The gendered religious body was thus a direct object of charges of religious insanity. Historical considerations of fringe and new religious movements continue to frame and reinforce pathological understandings without examining and interrogating these assessments. Prince's project seeks to counter pathologized views of new and fringe religiosity by examining the gendered and racial bias that undergirds the historical links between new religions and mental illness.

### **ISABEL S. MARCUS INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS**



**Elif Ege, Ph.D. Candidate, Global Gender and Sexuality Studies**

This award supports Elife Ege's research on her project, *Feminist Intimacies around International Mechanisms: Pitfalls of Feminist Coalition-Building between Kurdish and Turkish Women in Turkey*. She will use the funds to conduct the last part of her dissertation fieldwork on feminist coalition-building practices in Turkey. Her research in Turkey conducted with Kurdish and Turkish women's rights activists focuses on their mobilizations around international women's rights mechanisms (such as CEDAW-Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women) from a 'grounded' approach to discuss the possibilities and limitations of feminist coalition-building under the growing shadow of nation-states and national divisions.



**Karolina Kulicka**, *Ph.D. Candidate, Global Gender and Sexuality Studies*

Kulicka will use the award to support her trip to Poland in summer 2018, where she will be researching her project, *"The Problem That Has No Name:" Mechanisms of Organizational Gendering in the Polish Civil Service*. Her research brings to light those forces behind gender inequity that are invisibly engrained into seemingly gender-neutral organizational policies, practices and cultures. Using the example of the Polish state administration (often labelled as the most women-friendly in the world), her project analyzes how seemingly genderless institutional rules (e.g. political neutrality, professionalism), every-day work practices, spatial arrangements, new technologies, or the norms of the "right" looks can have a discriminating effect on female workers.

## DUKE FEMINIST THEORY WORKSHOP TRAVEL GRANTS



**Naila Sahar**, *Ph.D. Candidate, English*

I thoroughly enjoyed the whole workshop, as it not only gave me an opportunity to listen to the excellent presenters, but to connect with scholars with similar interests, who had come from all around the world. I have come back from Duke acquainted with many wonderful people in academia. Thanks to the UB Gender Institute for this great opportunity!



**Cheryl Emerson**, *Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Comparative Literature*

After my first time attending Duke's Feminist Theory Workshop, I understand why scholars participate year after year, with many having attended since the first workshop twelve years ago. Beyond strengthening the technical vocabulary and theoretical armature for my own dissertation project, it was important to join in the greater conversation

## UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS



**Rachel Charette**, *History, class of 2018*

Rachel's Senior Honors Thesis discusses women's involvement in social justice on college campuses during the 1940's. While the majority of her research has been through the University at Buffalo's Archives, she is looking to visit other college campuses to review their preserved student newspapers, memoirs, and more. Her current research has revealed that after the majority of men left UB to fight in WWII, women became strong leaders on our campus. They actively spoke out against segregation, antisemitism, and racial injustice while also combating misogynistic attitudes that featured prominently at our school. As she progresses through her thesis, she aims to review perspectives from women of multiple identities to provide a more complete and accurate picture of the accomplishments of women during this time. So far, this has also included women like Pauli Murray from Howard University who led sit-ins to desegregate Washington D.C. She hopes to use my thesis to showcase the brilliance and leadership of women by adding to the scholarly discussion on the history of social justice.



**Isabel Hall**, *Environmental Engineering, class of 2019*

In Summer 2018, Isabel's organization *Inspiring Future Engineers* will be hosting a "Girls in STEM" empowerment event in the City of Buffalo (community center TBA). This all-day event will feature strong female STEM leaders, including female engineering students from UB and professional engineers. The organization will be hosting an array of engaging STEM activities, encouraging girls to recognize their power to excel in science and engineering. To overcome financial challenges faced by families in working-class and poor communities of Buffalo, the UB Gender Institute Scholarship will be used to fund this event entirely. With the UB Gender Institute Scholarship, *Inspiring Future Engineers* has the opportunity to impact the lives of dozens of young girls in Buffalo. This event serves as an excellent opportunity for girls in underserved communities to build confidence, establish important relationships with STEM role models, and become empowered to create positive change in the community.

Thanks to **Mara Huber**, the **Director of the Experiential Learning Network**, for supporting the **Undergraduate Scholarships**.

## FACULTY RESEARCH GRANTS



**Megan Holland**, *Assistant Professor, Educational Leadership and Policy*

***Caring Too Much or Just Enough? Gendered Experiences of School Counselors***

Today, women make up nearly 50% of the workforce. However, women tend to work in occupations that are of lower status than those dominated by men, and in the same occupations are judged to be less than ideal workers. One mechanism that contributes to women having less status is that their jobs tend to require more emotional labor, which is valued less than other types of labor. Women are also judged as not being as devoted to their jobs due to gender norms that portray women as being needed at home. Holland's research seeks to examine how both women and men negotiate work when the ideal worker that is devoted to her job is also one that puts in extensive amounts of emotional labor. She will study these dynamics among school counselors, who must negotiate time intensive emotional labor in a highly gendered profession.



**Ruth Mack**, *Associate Professor of English*

***Working-Class Craft: The Poetry of Mary Collier and Elizabeth Hands***

Ruth Mack is completing a second book, *Social Craft: Theory and Society in Enlightenment Britain*. She will use her Gender Institute Research Grant to complete the research for a chapter on the poetry of Mary Collier and Elizabeth Hands, investigating how these working-class poets produced theories of social knowledge as they sorted out the relations between bodily and poetic labor.



**Maria Fernanda Negrete**, *Assistant Professor, Romance Languages & Literatures*

***Symptom and Sensation: Clinical Aesthetics in Experimental Literature and Art***

Louise Bourgeois, Sophie Calle, Lygia Clark, Marguerite Duras, Roni Horn and Clarice Lispector enter into an original conversation in Negrete's book, bridging literature and art, French, Portuguese, and English, and also feminism, psychoanalysis, and aesthetics. Her book reveals these women's brilliant contribution to our understanding of aesthetic experience and its ethical consequences. Professor Negrete holds a Ph.D. in French Literature from the Department of Romance Studies at Cornell University.

## EXCELLENCE IN MENTORING



**Ewa Ziarek**, *Julian Park Professor of Comparative Literature*

Ewa Ziarek received the Gender Institute's Excellence in Mentoring Award for 2017-2018.

Professor Ziarek is a popular graduate advisor who regularly works with students from multiple disciplines and an internationally renowned feminist theorist, whose most recent book is *Feminist Aesthetics and the Politics of Modernism*.