

## **Congratulations to our Gender Institute Award Winners for 2018-2019!**

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 go to **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 DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP**



**Maryam Muliaee**, *Ph.D. Candidate, Media Study*

*Re-visiting the Urban: Feminist Media Archaeologies as Counter-mapping*

Maryam Muliaee is a media artist-researcher, and a PhD candidate in Media Study at UB. Her dissertation focuses on feminist media archaeologies that suggest an embodied approach to the themes of place/city. She is an art director at [Buffalo Documentary Project](#), and the co-founder of [media-as-things](#), a media art practice+research collective. Maryam's artwork has been exhibited and screened in the galleries and juried festivals around the world since 2007.

Muliaee's dissertation explores feminist media archaeologies for their evocative standpoints and concerns with the themes of place/city. She argues for and frames the lateral, radical, resistant and relational cartographies that feminist media archaeologies offer for the spatial metaphors such as place/space, architecture and city.

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



**Gabriella Nassif**, *Ph.D. Candidate, Global Gender and Sexuality Studies*

Gabriella Nassif's research centers on migrant domestic workers in Lebanon. She is both a scholar and a development practitioner whose academic research is concerned with understanding the comparative racialization, and subsequent valuation of migrant domestic workers, and whose praxis takes up the (de)valuation of care work in Lebanon more broadly. She currently works with the Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World and also with the Lebanese American University, where she is the managing editor of the journal *Al-Raida*. With support from the Marcus Fellowship, Gabriella will return to Lebanon to complete her doctoral research.



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

Alexandra Prince's project concerns the history of the turn of the 20th century Jamaican religious movement known as Bedwardism. A majority female movement, the history of Bedwardism has been mired in misrepresentations and allegations of insanity that have prevented both popular and scholarly considerations of Bedwardism as proto-black nationalist group principally comprised of black women. With support from the fellowship, she will be traveling to Kingston to conduct research at the Jamaica Memory Bank, a governmental organization that maintains audio interviews with the last surviving members of the Bedward's church, the Native Free Baptists. This is in support of her history dissertation project which examines the embedded gendered and racialized assessments within historical charges of religious insanity.

## DUKE FEMINIST THEORY WORKSHOP TRAVEL GRANTS



**Gabriella Nassif, Ph.D. Candidate, Global Gender and Sexuality Studies**

The Thirteenth Annual Feminist Theory Workshop at Duke University features keynote presentations by Lauren Berlant, Anne Anling Cheng, C. Riley Snorton, and Kim TallBear. Participants spend two days attending lectures and discussion groups and meeting colleagues from across the country and around the world.

## UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS



**Hanna Santanam, Anthropology and English, class of 2019**

Hanna's academic interests lie at the intersection of Gender Studies, South Asian Studies, English, and Anthropology. Her senior thesis with honors in the Department of Anthropology focuses on the rights of gender and sexual minorities in India post-independence as protected by law. During the Spring 2019 semester, she will travel to Columbia University to meet with experts and use resources in the law library.

**Alivia Smeltzer-Darling, Romance Languages and Literatures, class of 2021**



Alivia's research project focuses on sexual violence against women throughout Latin American cinematic history, dating from the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century to present day. Through the examination of Latin American films coupled with historical analysis of the eras that surrounded these films, the project will culminate with an essay, film screenings, and a public discussion about the theme of sexual violence in media over time, as well as its cultural implications.

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

## FACULTY RESEARCH GRANTS



**Meredith Conti**, *Assistant Professor, Theatre and Dance*

### ***Gunpowder Plots: A Cultural History of Firearms and the American Theatre***

“Gunpowder Plots: A Cultural History of Firearms and the American Theatre” is the first full length study to examine occurrences of guns and gunplay, both simulated and genuine, in the spaces within and surrounding America’s theatres. This monograph seeks to illuminate the ways in which the theatre—its performances, its history, its literatures, its public policies—bears the imprint of America’s complex relationship with the weapon that helped forge its nationhood. In analyzing play scripts and librettos featuring guns alongside Wild West sharpshooting acts, gunfire-fueled revivals of Shakespearean tragedies, Abraham Lincoln’s assassination, and contemporary gun control activist performances, “Gunpowder Plots” appraises the diverse ways the U.S. American theatre has actively participated in the constructing and deconstructing of the nation’s gun culture. In particular, the book endeavors to articulate how notions of gender, race, performativity, and materiality cling to and continually shape manifestations of America’s guns on historical and contemporary stages.



**Sharonah Fredrick**, *Clinical Assistant Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures*

### ***Female Mirrors of Piracy in the Americas: The Threat of the Virago, Real and Imagined, in Colonial Latin America and the Caribbean***

This project probes the imperial linkage of subaltern identities, the “illegal” and “witch-like” female refugee in the New World, with supposed criminal activity, in the colonial Caribbean of the late 16th century, later extending to Peru’s Pacific port of Callao in the early 17th century. It focuses first on violent female identities of the 16th-18th centuries, such as those of Anne Dieu Le Vieut, who bested the infamous terror of the Caribbean, Captain Laurens de Graaf, and then galvanized his crew. Consequently, it will analyze the portrayals of female (real and imagined) bonds with outlaw culture and Caribbean piracy, as presented in Spanish and Portuguese chronicles of the time. These chronicles afford a fascinating glimpse of how many English speaking female buccaneers, from Garce O’Malley in Elizabethan Ireland, to early 18th century Anne Bonney in the Bahamas, were viewed in the Hispanic world. My research will clarify the nature of the bonds between female “subaltern” history and the social history of the Spanish/Portuguese empires. In social history, piracy figures strongly-as Cuban historian Cesar Garcia del Pino has noted-as one of the few avenues in which women and marginalized groups, including self-emancipated slaves-could aspire to some degree of social mobility



**Ji-Won Son**, *Associate Professor, Learning and Instruction*

***Promoting Equitable Mathematical Experience for Underrepresented Girls***

The goal of the project is to develop and provide a Summer Math Program for rising 5th–7th grade urban African American girls, to improve their mathematical thinking and reasoning about fractions and fraction operations. Research on fractions and fraction operations reveals that students tend to have procedural knowledge of fraction concepts but are often unable to apply these concepts in real-world situations. One novel way to address these concerns is project-based learning (PBL), a student-centered instructional approach that engages students in investigating and exploring a complex problem in a real-world context. Participating students will not only learn how to calculate with fractional numbers, but also learn why the computational algorithms work and when to use each operation. More importantly, they will apply these concepts to make valid arguments about real-life situations. By providing project-based learning, I intend to examine how participating students expand their mathematical knowledge and develop STEM identities and agency within and beyond their participation in the Summer Math Program.



**Mary Nell Trautner**, *Associate Professor, Sociology*

***Gender and Prosecution Decisions in Children's Accidental Fatalities***

On average, 40 children in the U.S. die each year from heatstroke after being accidentally left in cars. Children, especially babies, often fall asleep in their rear-facing child safety seats, becoming quiet and unobtrusive. When parents experience a change in their daily routine, and/or are stressed, fatigued, or distracted, they sometimes forget their child is in the car with them. This project examines the aftermath of these tragedies to understand the decisions that prosecutors (and juries) make about whether parents are to blame for their child's accidental death. Specifically, the project examines how gender, race, and social class intersect so that some deaths are seen as accidental and no charges are filed, while other parents are prosecuted as criminals. Are mothers more likely or less likely than fathers to be prosecuted? How do race and social class impact those prosecution decisions? These questions are analyzed using a unique dataset of over 875 accidental heatstroke deaths from 1990–2018.