

## UB Gender Institute Fall 2020 Message from the Director

*Carrie Bramen, Professor of English*

On the eve of the centennial of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment (August 26<sup>th</sup>), and less than three months until the US presidential election, it is important to recognize the progress that women—in all of our diversity and complexity— have made in many aspects of life, while at the same time acknowledging the deeply embedded obstacles that still face us. This summer, in the midst of a pandemic, there has been a historic reckoning with the racial and economic injustices that continue to plague our nation. The spirit of public protest and the suffragist call to “make noise” continue to shape the ongoing struggle for equal rights and to inform the work of the Gender Institute.

This semester, the UB Gender Institute will continue the conversation begun at our symposium last March on “Legacies of Suffrage: Women’s Activism Then and Now,” with virtual programming for all of our events.

We are also kicking off a year-long virtual Black Lives Matter Book Club, featuring recent work by black feminists. This is a graduate student led series, initiated by our Graduate Assistant Hilary Vandebark and our Dissertation Fellow Dana Venerable, together with Visiting Assistant Professor Mope Ogunbowale. If you are interested in joining this reading and discussion series—and all are welcome---please contact Hilary directly at [hilaryva@buffalo.edu](mailto:hilaryva@buffalo.edu)

We are looking forward to sustaining our UB Gender Institute Community virtually this semester and hope to “see” you at one of our events.