

Congratulations to our Gender Institute Award Winners for 2019-2020!

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!

Gender Institute DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP



Dana Venerable, Ph.D. Candidate, English

Dana Venerable is a writer, educator, and co-editor of *P-QUEUE journal*. Her research highlights how marginalized communities resist against the archive/record, while (re)inserting themselves within it. Venerable's discretion entitled, "Collective Choreography for Weathering Black Experience: Janelle Monáe and The Memphis "Tightrope" Dance," she argue that the Tightrope dance acknowledges in its name and choreography the physical risk of black embodiment in the U.S. and offers emotional stability, physical balance, spontaneity, and support as navigational tactics.

ISABEL S. MARCUS INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS



Azalia P. Muchransyah, Ph.D. Candidate, Media Study

Azalia P. Muchransyah's project aims to illuminate the status of media activism, especially documentary film, in contemporary Indonesia as well as to explore the potential of documentary media to contribute to the transformation of HIV activism and advocacy in the face of the paradoxes around HIV/AIDS in key population members related to Indonesian prisons. Situating HIV media in the history of humanitarian advocacy, her research looks into existing global studies to answer the question: What is the role of media in HIV advocacy and activism in Indonesia? Central to this project is an investigation of the capacity of documentary to illuminate paradoxes of HIV advocacy in Indonesia and address specific prison setups. Using an approach drawn from both visual anthropology and the history of activist media production, Azalia's project consists of a written dissertation and a film. The Isabel S. Marcus International Research Fellowship will help her cover the travel expenses to Jakarta to conduct her HIV research with activists, organizations, formerly-incarcerated people, people who inject drugs, LGBTQ people, and women.

DUKE FEMINIST THEORY WORKSHOP TRAVEL GRANTS



Gabriela Cordoba Vivas, Ph.D. Candidate, Media Study

The Fourteenth Annual Feminist Theory Workshop at Duke University features keynote presentations by Judith Butler, Sharon P. Holland, Audra Simpson and Anne Anlin Cheng. Participants spend two days attending lectures and discussion groups and meeting colleagues from across the country and around the world.

FACULTY RESEARCH GRANTS



Katharina A. Azim, *Clinical Assistant Professor, Psychology*

College Women's Pelvic Health and Sexuality

This research project investigates the relationship between women college students' pelvic health, sexuality, and religiosity. Specifically, we examine the relationship between the prevalence of pelvic pain among female college students based on their sexual conceptualizations and practices, religious self-identification, belief and exposure to religious teachings, and the experiences of sexual shaming and guilt. Considering that 20-34% of young women report chronic pelvic pain, which is generally highly preventable and treatable, we test these potential contributing factors.

Katharina A. Azim is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology. Her research focuses on ethnicity and ethnic identity development, as well as acculturation and enculturation processes. She focuses on MENA/Arab/Muslim+ women's perceptions of ethnic identity at the intersection of geopolitical, sociocultural, religious, and gendered factors. Her second line of research encompasses women's reproductive health, agency, and rights in the United States.



Laina Bay-Cheng, *Professor, Social Work*

Rights on Paper vs. Rights on the Ground: Young Women's Sexual Capabilities in Buffalo

This community-based project uses Nussbaum's Capabilities Approach (CA) to ask, What sexual rights and resources are low-income adolescent girls of color in Buffalo actually able to use? The question is provoked by the sexual health inequalities faced by marginalized girls in Buffalo, despite their legal rights to comprehensive, confidential sexual health services and the apparent availability of such services. Their sexual vulnerability reveals a gap between the sexual rights and resources that exist for them "on paper" and their sexual capabilities on the ground (i.e., what they are actually able to do). Working with HOPE Buffalo, an interprofessional and intergenerational coalition dedicated to youth sexual health, Bay-Cheng and PhD students at the School of Social Work will use activity-based focus groups with diverse young women to learn what various sexual rights and resources look like from their standpoints. The research team will distill girls' perspectives into recommendations for service providers and policymakers in order to expand girls' sexual capabilities and promote their sexual well-being.

Laina Bay-Cheng is a Professor and Associate Dean for Faculty Development in the School of Social Work. Bay-Cheng concentrates her research on the imprint of social injustice on young women's sexual lives. She combines empirical and conceptual analyses to shift attention away from individual-focused models of sexual risk and toward the systemic roots of girls' and women's sexual vulnerability: namely, interlocked gender, class, race, and age-based inequalities and the ideologies that perpetuate them.



Paola Ugolini, *Associate Professor, Romance Languages and Literatures*

Condottiero Father, Cross-Dressing Daughter: On the Portrait of Giacomo Malatesta and His Daughter Leonida (1562)

This project focuses on the portrait of the condottiero Giacomo Malatesta and of his daughter Leonida, held in the castle of Gradara (Italy). What makes this portrait intriguing is that the young girl Leonida is dressed in full male attire.

Standing next to her father, who dons his full armor, Leonida—already the bearer of a male name, that of her grandfather—is clad in a corset and breeches, carries a small sword, and is portrayed while handing her father his gauntlets. The portrait makes no mystery of Leonida’s cross-dressing, thanks to an inscription that identifies the sitters as “Giacomo Malatesta and His Daughter Leonida, Aged Five.” I intend to investigate the reasons behind Giacomo Malatesta’s decision to have such a portrait of himself and his daughter produced through an exploration of the history of the Malatesta family and by bringing it to bear upon contemporary literary representations of women warriors.

Paola Ugolini is an Associate Professor of Italian in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. Her research interests include early modern Italian literature, culture and conduct manuals; Satire; Chivalric poems; Gender studies.



Kathleen A. Parks,
Senior Research Scientist, Psychology



Noelle St. Vil,
Assistant Professor, Social Work

Adapting a Video Measure of Sexual Assault Risk Perception to be Culturally Specific for Black College Women

Utilizing focus groups, Black women will critique an existing video measure designed to assess sexual assault risk cues. Findings will be used to develop a culturally specific sexual assault tool for Black women.

Kathleen A. Parks is a Senior Research Scientist in the Department of Psychology. Her research focuses on young women’s alcohol use/abuse and risks for sexual assault. This area of research has evolved through survey and daily process studies, as well as the development of a video vignette risk perception measure designed to assess women’s perception of ambiguous and clear risk cues for alcohol-related sexual assault.

Noelle St. Vil is an Assistant Professor in the School of Social Work. St. Vil’s research focuses on black male-female relationships, including the impact of structural racism on these relationships, intimate partner violence, sexually transmitted infections and relationship typologies (monogamous, consensual nonmonogamy and nonconsensual nonmonogamy).

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

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-20th 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 realworld 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 projectbased 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 rearfacing 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.