

Gender Institute

 **University at Buffalo** The State University of New York

The Institute
for Research &
Education on
**Women
& Gender**

August 2015

From the Director



As summer's verdancy transforms into autumn's vibrancy, we are celebrating last year's achievements and rolling up our sleeves with renewed energy for the year ahead.

A university-wide research institute funded by the Office of the Provost and individual donors, the Gender Institute was created by and for social change. We cultivate innovation, improvement, and discovery related to women, gender, and sexuality.

Hard-won changes. We celebrate women's advances in fields from architecture to zoology and milestones such as the Supreme Court's ruling that the U.S. Constitution guarantees **the right to same-sex marriage**.

**Ought marriage to be a
"keystone of our social order,"
as the Justices opined?**

In the spirit of Einstein's quip that "Play is the highest form of research," the institute invites you to share views & images of marriage on poster boards at our events & in our office throughout 2015-16.

Congratulations to the many undergraduate, M.A. and Ph.D. students affiliated with the institute who graduated in 2014-15. Bravo!

Bittersweet changes. We bid sad farewells to several of UB's leading feminist and queer scholars, some of whom have retired while others have accepted positions elsewhere. We wish them all good things on their new journeys.

Our dynamic Graduate Assistant, Tina Žigon, has moved with her husband to Kuwait, where she plans to complete her dissertation. Stay cool, Tina!

Calling all Wonder Women, Super Men & Gender Benders!

We face climate change. Escalating extremes of wealth and poverty. Epidemics of violence against women, children, minorities, and dissidents. Resurgent fascisms. De-funding of research and universities. There has never been a better time to power up and take action. Or to calm down and reflect.

Your contributions matter.

Interconnections between systems of gender, class, race, and environmental violence are analyzed in much of our interdisciplinary research and programming, including a conference on **Slavery Past, Present, and Future** that we co-organized in July 2015 at **Oxford University** and our upcoming fall symposia and workshops at the **University at Buffalo**.

Special welcomes to . . .

* **Robert Granfield**, Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs, and **Teresa A. Miller**, Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion, both of whom are generous, dedicated partners in our work

* descendants of Solomon Northup, Dred Scott, Jeffrey Brace, Lewis G. Clarke, Moses Grandy, William Grimes, and Venture Smith, who will be gathering at UB to launch our historic **Workshop for Descendants of Authors of Slave Narratives**, Oct. 29-Nov.1, 2015

* our new Graduate Assistant, Ana Grujić, of Belgrade, Serbia, who is writing her dissertation in the English department on black queer performance.



Inside you will find highlights of the past year and a taste of upcoming programs. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your ideas, suggestions, and news.

Kari J. Winter
Director of the Gender Institute
Professor of Transnational Studies

GENDER AND COLOR SYMPOSIUM

Internationally renowned artists and scholars explored a myriad of ways in which gender and color entwined at our fall symposium, which opened on October 2, 2014 with a reception & exhibit on gender & color in Aztec & Mayan cultures at the Casa de Arte Gallery in Buffalo. In a keynote session on October 3, Jolene Rickard, Director of the American Indian Program at Cornell University, presented a paradigm-shifting analysis of the meanings of “whiteness” in Haudenosaunee traditions. Her talk was framed by commentary by two other major Haudenosaunee scholars: Scott Stevens, Director of Native American Studies at Syracuse University, and Alyssa Mt. Pleasant, Asst. Professor of Transnational Studies at UB.



Jolene Rickard, Cornell University

A roundtable discussion featured acclaimed artist and UB alum, Jacob Kassay, who now lives in Los Angeles; Toronto-based artist Scott Lyall; and Nancy Weekly, curator of the Burchfield Penney Art Center. Other illuminating sessions addressed the coercive role of color in the gendering of children through toys; the color blue in concepts of queer negativity; and the interlaced roles of color, gender, and sexuality in various intellectual and aesthetic traditions.

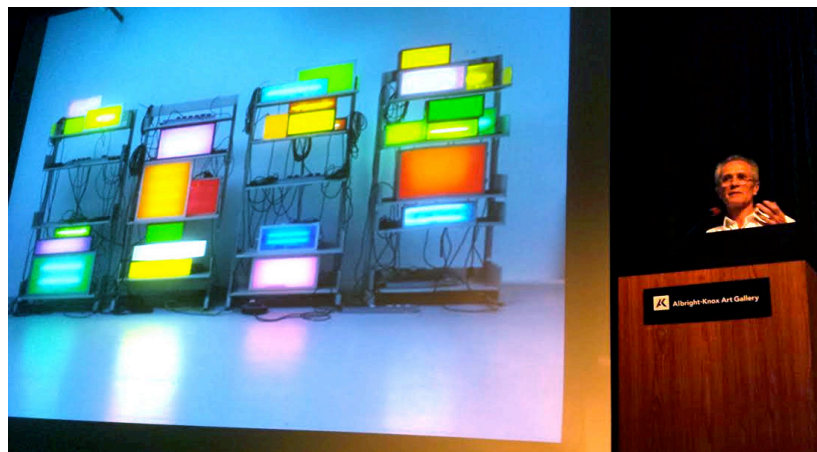


David Batchelor, Anne Eaton, and Nancy Weekly in Harriman Hall

The symposium's capstone event was a talk at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery by Scottish artist and cultural critic David Batchelor, whose path-breaking book, *Chromophobia* (2000), demonstrated that “a chromophobic impulse—a fear of corruption or contamination through colour—lurks within much Western cultural and intellectual thought. This is apparent in the many and varied attempts to purge colour, either by making it the property of some foreign body – the oriental, the feminine, the infantile, the vulgar, or the pathological – or by relegating it to the realm of the superficial, the supplementary, the inessential, or the cosmetic.” Batchelor presented research from his newest book, *The Luminous and the Grey* (2014).



Opening reception at Casa de Arte Gallery



David Batchelor at Albright Knox Art Gallery

To create the symposium, the Gender Institute partnered with UB Art Galleries, the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, the Burchfield Penney Art Center, and the Casa de Arte Gallery.

GENDER WEEK 2014



Gender Week 2014 opened with our Annual Welcoming Reception & Janice L. Moritz Distinguished Lecture on Women and Labor by Dr. Erin Hatton, Assistant Professor of Sociology, who spoke on “Gender, Race, Work: Kelly Girls, Prisoners, & Welfare Recipients.”

Other highlights:

- * Erie County’s 4th Annual Break the Cycle Bike-a-Thon and Walk
- * Lecture by Prof. Julie Minich, University of Texas at Austin sponsored by the Center for Disability Studies.

Upcoming Gender Week 2015!

Th. 9/24: Reading by *Shelley Jackson* at Hallwalls

Fri. 9/25: *Wonder Women & Super Men Symposium* featuring Gabrielle Esperdy, Dorota Koczanowicz, Nnedi Okorafor, Jill Lepore

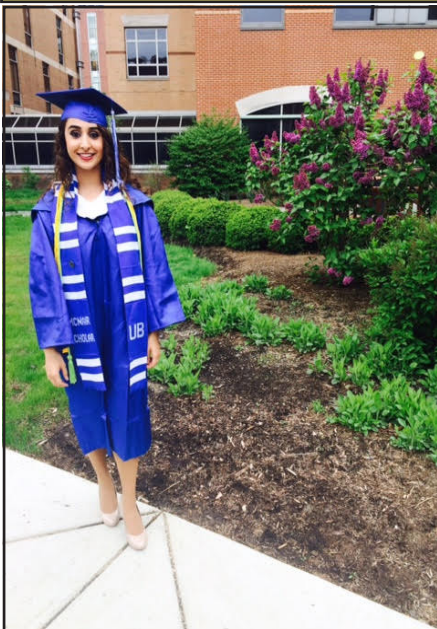
Sat. 9/26: *Gender Bender: The Buffalo Humanities Festival*
sponsored by UB’s Humanities Institute

Sat. 9/26: *Tribute Garden Dedication / Break-the-Cycle Bike-a-thon*

Wed. 10/1: *Beyond Patronage* Book Celebration

For details and updates, please visit our Gender Week webpage.

Samah Asfour Wins Fulbright



The Gender Institute congratulates Samah Asfour on winning a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to spend a year teaching in Jordan at UNWRA University for Women Palestinian Refugees.

Awarded the Gender Institute’s 2014-15 Undergraduate Scholarship to support her research on Muslim women in France, Samah graduated from UB in June 2015 with a dual major in Global Gender Studies and Political Science. Passionately devoted to working for gender equality and women’s empowerment, Samah reports that her research in France was “a catalyst in my desire to become a Middle Eastern regional specialist. I am so grateful for the undergraduate research scholarship provided to me by the Gender Institute. It was this experience studying abroad while simultaneously researching the Muslim community that truly propelled my interest to apply for Fulbright in Jordan. I am eager to see where the next year will take me.”

Feminist Research Alliance Workshop

The Feminist Research Alliance Workshop, held nine workshops in 2014-15, beginning with **Jessica Delgado**, Asst. Professor of Religion at Princeton University, who explored women's experiences during the Mexican Inquisition.



Nadine Shaanta Murshid, Asst. Professor of Social Work at UB, presented research on women who participate in microfinance in Bangladesh.

Christopher Culp, Ph.D. Candidate in Musicology at UB, analyzed the gender politics of Dorothy's musical performances in *The Wizard of Oz*.

Margaret Sallee, Asst. Professor of Higher Education, presented from her 2014 book, *Faculty Fathers: Towards a New Ideal in the Research University*.

Michael Boucai, Assoc. Professor of Law at UB, tackled thorny questions about whether the LGBT movement should fight for the right for everyone to have access to assisted reproductive technologies.

Ramla Karim Qureshi, Founder of Women Engineers Pakistan and MSc Student of Civil Engineering at UB, described the events that led her to found Women Engineers Pakistan, an organization focused on encouraging and promoting Pakistani women in STEM fields.

Debra Rolison, Physical Chemist at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, analyzed the successes and failures of American research universities to recruit, retain, and promote diverse students and faculty.

Toni Pressley-Sanon, Asst. Professor of Transnational Studies, explored how rural women in Haiti negotiate their multiple roles as mothers, wives, farmers, entrepreneurs, and human beings with particular dreams and desires.

The year concluded with presentations by our 2014-15 Ph.D. Fellows, **Averill Earls**, History, and **Lara Iverson**, Geography.

If you would like to present your own research-in-progress or to recommend a colleague or graduate student to present, please contact Kari Winter at kwinter2@buffalo.edu.



Ph.D. Dissertation Workshop

The Gender Institute's weekly Ph.D. Dissertation Workshop provides a stimulating, supporting environment for twelve interdisciplinary dissertators to make steady progress on their dissertations related to women, gender or sexuality.

"The Writing Workshop helped me make tremendous progress this academic year. I went from having vague outlines of chapters to drafting all of my chapters once, and fully re-writing three chapters." --- Averill Earls, History

"I found the dissertation writing workshop at the Gender Institute to be an invaluable experience! . . . Being a member of the workshop proved to me, time and again, that though writing a dissertation is certainly an individual struggle, one can productively draw motivation and insight from the knowledge of a collective of writers." --- Lara Hubel, English

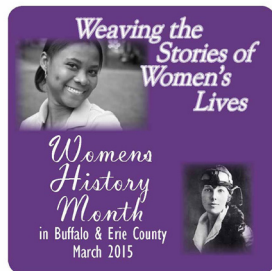
"From conversations about dissertation writing strategies to fellowship applications to how to deal with teaching problems, a healthy life-work balance, and the constant need for chocolate and caffeine, the community of women that the dissertation writing workshop provided really made a difference in my life. It certainly started out the week on a positive note and gave me energy to get through the rest of it!" --- Tanja Aho, Transnational Studies

The workshop is free, but space is limited and registration is required, as is a staunch commitment to the weekly meetings for participation; more than two missed sessions will result in dismissal from the workshop. For more information or to register, contact the workshop's facilitator Ana Grujić at anagruji@buffalo.edu.

Highlights of Cosponsored Events

The Gender Institute cosponsored dozens of university and community events in 2014-15. The sampling below highlights just a few of the events that we supported with cosponsorship funds, staff support, and publicity.

“From Second Life® to the Magic Lantern or a Kind of Progress: On Opera and New Media,” October 28: This lecture performance by Johanna Dombois, gave an overview of Dombois’ body of work and her general approach to new media and technologies in opera. More specifically, she gave a backstage insight into the aesthetics, technological strategies and rehearsal procedures of Ring-Studie 01 | Rheingold, Vorspiel – a production of Richard Wagner’s prelude to Rhinegold which she interpreted by means of the online platform Second Life® (premiered in 2009).



Erie County Women’s History Month Kickoff Event, March 5: The Gender Institute joined regional non-profit groups at the Central Branch of the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library for a kickoff of Women’s History Month events. A ceremony at noon featured keynote speaker Noemi Ghazala, Superintendent, Women’s Rights National Historical Park, Seneca Falls.

Culture and Control of Women Symposium, March 7: This conference examined some of the injustices and violence perpetrated on women globally and explored resources and remedies in answering the imperative question: “What is to be done?” The conference included the screening of the documentary film *Honor Diaries* and different panels, discussions, art exhibits, as well as a reading of *Declaration of Equalities for Moslem Women* by the conference organizer, Nadia Shahram., who is a lawyer, activist, and UB Law School adjunct faculty member.



Women in STEM: The Gender Institute, in collaboration with several UB units, professional societies, and community partners, was proud to cohost Women in STEM: Inspire, Grow, Connect. This half day summit in April 2015 enabled students, faculty, staff, and community members to network, participate in workshops, and attend the keynote lecture by Rachel Haot, Chief Digital Office and Deputy Secretary of Technology for NY State. Ms. Haot’s

inspirational speech, sponsored by the WNY Women’s Foundation, explored how women can move into STEM fields from diverse backgrounds. The summit also included three concurrent workshops, Negotiating Personal Power, Building Your Professional Network, and Bridging the Gap, which were interactive sessions about the relationships between power, hierarchy, and dominant culture; gender differences in the development of networks; and empowering women in rural Kenya. Concluding with a convivial reception, the summit was a significant step forward in interconnecting women who participate in STEM at all levels.

Tweet-a-thon: In October 2014 Dr. Glenna Bett, Deputy Director of the Gender Institute, co-hosted a Tweet-a-thon to discuss women in STEM. The hashtag #5050by2050, designed to promote the goal of women becoming 50% of the STEM workforce by 2050, fostered a lively, inspiring conversation with tweets from students, staff, and faculty from UB, the local community, and across the U.S. The tweets illuminated the varied experiences of women in STEM and cultivated a sense of community among participants. The hashtag continues to be used, creating a lasting impact from this fun, supportive, and informative Tweet-a-thon.

Gender Institute Promotes Mentoring and Professional Development

Ph.D. Student Professional Development Workshop (September 2014)



In this packed-to-capacity workshop, Greg Dimitriadis (Educational Leadership and Policy) and Kari Winter discussed how to write application letters and curriculum vitae; how to submit conference proposals, journal articles, and book manuscripts.

Our long-time friend and colleague Greg Dimitriadis, one of the institute's most generous and wise faculty affiliates, died tragically just a few months after this workshop. Our gratitude to and admiration for him endures. We miss you, Greg.

Professor Gregory Dimitriadis, 1969-2014

On Reviewing: A Panel Discussion of the Whys & Hows of Writing Academic Reviews (Feb. 2015)

Graham Hammill, Professor & Chair of English and Carolyn Korsmeyer, Professor of Philosophy, joined Kari Winter in a discussion of the pleasures, hazards, and rewards of reviewing books, manuscripts, grant applications, and tenure and promotion files.

Annual Mentoring Dinner for Students (April 2015)

Thanks to Erie County Health Commissioner & Gender Institute Executive Committee member Dr. Gale Burstein, the institute hosted its second annual mentoring dinner for undergraduate and graduate students to discuss the challenges and rewards of combining motherhood with careers. Held at the Buffalo Yacht Club where the Niagara River meets Lake Erie, speakers in addition to Dr. Burstein included: Anne Bliss, Artist; Honorable Paula Feroleta, Administrative Judge of the Eighth Judicial District & former New York State Supreme Court Justice; Denise Gueli, CPA, Partner, The Bonadio Group



Students from China, Korea, Pakistan & the U.S.
at the Gender Institute's Mentoring Dinner on Lake Erie

University Mentoring & Work/Life Balance Committee

Responding to wide-spread frustration over stymied implementation of improved attitudes and policies regarding mentoring and work/life balance, the institute organized a committee of dedicated faculty to coordinate and publicize policies, develop programs, and create incentives to reward good practices. Committee members include: Robert Granfield, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs; Teresa A. Miller, Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion; Robert Adelman, Sociology; Joseph A. Gardella, Jr., Chemistry; Andrea Markelz, Physics; Margaret Sallee, Educational Leadership & Policy; Kari Winter (Chair)

"Networking Women at UB"

The institute hosts monthly meetings aimed "to improve the culture of UB and combat 'siloeing' or isolation by forming meaningful connections among faculty, staff, seasoned professionals, and new professionals across the university." All women faculty and staff at UB are invited to join the group. For more information, contact the organizer, Dr. Jennifer Morrison, Director of UB's Student Support Services Program, at j436m@buffalo.edu

Gender Institute 2014-15 Faculty Research Grants

The Gender Institute congratulates the winners of this year's Faculty Research Grants for the exceptional significance and promise of their research on women and gender.



Dr. Nadine Shaanta Murshid, Asst. Professor of Social Work
"Microfinance and Its Impact on Empowerment, Sexual History, and Personal and Social Networks in Bangladesh"



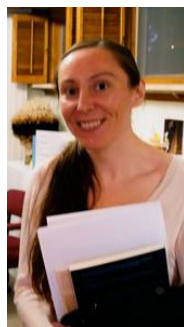
Dr. Margaret W. Sallee, Asst. Prof. of Educational Leadership and Policy
"No Longer Just A 'Problem': The Two-Body Crisis"



Dr. Corrie Stone-Johnson, Asst. Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy
"Exploring the Glass Cliff in Educational Administration"

Gender Institute Ph.D. Dissertation Fellow 2015-16

Kristina Darling, PhD. Candidate, English
"An Imagist Turned Philosopher': Formal Innovation, Conscious Experience, and the Self in Modernist Women's Poetry"



Isabel S. Marcus International Research Fellowship

Mehwish Sarwari, PhD. Candidate,
 Political Science
"UN Responsiveness to Wartime Sexual Violence"



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Would you like to create a living legacy in support of gender equality around the world? Join us by becoming a Friend of the Gender Institute. You can make a tax-deductible donation via credit card at our secure site (<http://genderin.buffalo.edu/contribute.shtml>) or by sending a check to: the Gender Institute, 207 UB Commons, 520 Lee Entrance, University at Buffalo, Buffalo, NY 14228-2567. You may designate your gift to support our General Fund, the Isabel S. Marcus International Research Fellowship, or the Janice L. Moritz Distinguished Lecture on Women and Labor.

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Visit our website: <http://genderin.buffalo.edu>

Join the Feminist Research Alliance Workshop (<http://tinyurl.com/ka2vojw>)

Follow us on Twitter (@UBGenderIn)

The Institute
for Research &
Education on
**Women
& Gender**

207 UB Commons
520 Lee Entrance Ste 207
Buffalo, NY 14228-2567



You are cordially invited to
the Gender Institute's Fall 2015 Symposium

Wonder Women and Super Men

Friday, September 25, 2015
8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Student Union Theater, UB North Campus

GABRIELLE ESPERDY
New Jersey Institute of Technology
co-sponsored by the American Institute of Architects

DOROTA KOCZANOWICZ
University of Wroclaw, Poland

NNEDI OKORAFOR
University at Buffalo

JILL LEPORE
Harvard University
sponsored by the Buffalo Humanities Festival
8 p.m.
Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo