

IN THIS ISSUE

Year in Review

..... 1

Awards: Students & Faculty

Royal Society of Canada  
Gender Award ..... 2  
Graduate & Undergraduate Award  
Recipients ..... 2

Events

International Women's Day Slutwalk...3  
Political Prisoners, Beyond the Wall...3  
Appropriations ..... 4  
World AIDS day and Youth Research  
Symposium ..... 4  
Transnational Approaches to Girlhood:  
A One Day Workshop at WGSi ..... 5  
Undergraduate Research  
Symposium ..... 5  
Queer Affects..... 5

Milestones: Faculty & Staff

..... 6

Faculty Research

June Larkin..... 6  
Shahrazad Mojab ..... 6  
Bonnie McElhinny ..... 7  
Kerry Rittich ..... 8  
Marieme Lo ..... 8

Alumni Profiles

Tara Cookson ..... 9  
Habiba Nosheen..... 9  
Lauren Snowball ..... 9

Program News

Undergraduate News-Judy Taylor .. 10  
Graduate News-Shahrazad Mojab... 11  
WGS Student Union News-  
Sarah Hedges-Chou..... 11

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## WGSi YEAR IN REVIEW

By Michelle Murphy

WGSi continues in its 40th year, the question of what make up transnational feminist studies remains as lively and charged concern. WGSi began developing its transnational feminist studies focus in the wake of the World Trade Center bombings and the “war on terror” that followed, including Canada’s participation in the invasion of Afghanistan, but also at a time when some feminist organizations were complicit in calls for war in the name of saving women. With the recent global financial crisis and climate change, with the rise of homonationalism in some sites and violent persecution of queers in others, with invigorated resistance movements and a new generation critiquing capitalism, we are forced to pose again our initial question —what reanimation of feminist transnational studies is needed in light of contemporary conjunctures? And what other forms of political intellectual engagement might our moment demand?

Both our graduate and undergraduate programs have a foci, in transnational feminist studies, but exactly what feminist transnational studies might be and can encompass remains an urgent and unresolved (and perhaps irresolvable) question. An important way we have taken up these questions this year is in the exciting new second year lecture course, Gender and Environmental Injustice, successfully launched by **Marieme Lo**, with the help of **Jennifer Cypher**. This course introduced students to an intersectional and transnational feminist approach to environmental questions, from climate change, to the politics of commodified seeds, to oil and mining politics. As Canada continues to be a crucial node in multinational mining politics around the world, as anti-mining activists continue to be murdered, and as Canada’s role in transnational petro-violence continues through the oil sands projects that both pollute the environment and violate the sovereignty and livelihoods of indigenous people, our hope is that this course will play an important role in inspiring students to take on these urgent issues reshaping our world locally and transnationally.

Another way we questioned transnational feminist studies frames was through an exciting proposal made by **M. Jacqui Alexander** for a new “mobile classroom”

course that would connect WGSi students from Toronto to the Tobago Center for the Study and Practice of Indigenous Spirituality. Jacqui’s work at the Centre, and her teaching at WGSi, is exploring the work of medicinal plants, gardening, sustenance, decolonization, and spirituality under conditions of climate change. The proposed course raises questions about how the urban has become a privileged site in analyses of transnationality. How might transnational feminist studies be rethought relative to the rural, plants, and the spiritual?

In other ways, too faculty and students are expanding our sense of transnational feminist studies. In collaboration with **Judith Taylor**, the Women and Gender Studies Student Union also expanded our collective sense of the stakes of transnational feminist studies through their enormously successful conference on the Politics of Protest, which foregrounded grassroots activism in the wake of the Occupy Movement and Arab Spring. Moreover, vibrant engagements with queer and transgender studies by our students and faculty also pushes us to address the entanglements, and tensions, between queer studies, postcolonial studies, and transnational feminist studies frameworks. **Dina Georgis’** forthcoming book *Better Stories: Queer Affects from the Middle East* (SUNY Press) challenges readers to consider the contribution of psychoanalytic work to postcolonial and queer projects. Together, this varied work all happening at WGSi seems to promise dynamic and fractalizing itineraries for transnational feminist studies

Perhaps one of the greatest shifts in the ongoing struggle to elaborate transnational feminist studies is the long awaited final approval of our **new PhD program**. After an unexpected wait of almost a year, our PhD program was made official by the final signature of the Ontario Minister of Training, Colleges, and Universities. We are incredibly excited to be accepting our first PhD applicants this fall, the culmination of many years, and even decades, of work and advocacy. We are also excited for the ways new generations of feminist scholars and new forms of political expression will push us to rethink our commitments to and very understanding of what transnational feminist studies might encompass.

# ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA'S AWARD IN GENDER STUDIES

We are proud to share that news that scholar, teacher, activist, and former WGSJ director **Shahrazad Mojab** was honoured with the Royal Society of Canada's Award in Gender Studies. Shahrazad is internationally known for her work on the impact of war, displacement, learning and violence on women. She works at the cusp of scholarship and activism on diasporic communities in Canada and Europe, political prisoners, and the conflict zones of the Middle East. A unique feature of her work is making knowledge accessible to public through the use of arts such as story-telling, dance, drama, painting and film. Her recent project *Memories, Memoirs and the Arts* featured female political prisoners from Iran relating their stories through different mediums of film, dance and story telling workshops. At all levels, with students, activists here and abroad, artists, prisoners, and colleagues, Shahrazad is deeply dedicated to collaborative learning that pushes the boundaries of scholarship. Her passion is an inspiration. Thank you and congratulations to Shahrazad!



## GRADUATE AWARD WINNERS 2010–2011

**City Of Toronto Women's Studies Graduate Scholarship** (value \$2,800)  
**Sumaya Ahmed** Master's student in the Master's Program in Women and Gender Studies.

**Janka Seydegart Scholarship in Feminist Studies** (value \$500)  
**Megan Dersnah** Ph.D. student in the Collaborative Program in Women and Gender Studies.

**WGSJ TA Award**  
**Preeia Surajbali** PhD student at SESE/OISE and recent graduate in Women and Gender Studies.

**Governor General's Gold Medal**  
**Tonya Callaghan** WGSJ Collaborative PHD Student

## UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS 2010–2011

**City of Toronto Women's Studies Undergraduate Scholarship** (value \$5,000)  
**Grace Yoo** Specialist student in Women and Gender Studies Undergraduate Program.

**Women and Gender Studies Grant** (value \$850)  
**Grace Yoo** Specialist student in the Women and Gender Studies Undergraduate Program.

**Elsie Gregory MacGill Prize in Women's Studies** (Awarded to most outstanding student graduating with a major or Specialist in Women and Gender Studies) **Sarah Hedges-Chou** Major student in the Women and Gender Studies Undergraduate Program.

**Helen Gregory MacGill Prize in Women's Studies** (Awarded to the student who achieves the highest standing in WGS160Y. **Vanessa Peruzzo** Minor student in the Women and Gender Studies Undergraduate Program.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY SLUTWALK TORONTO: FROM THE GROUND UP

On Wednesday March 7, 2012, **Heather Jarvis** and **Colleen Westendorf**, of the now international activist movement Slutwalk, spoke to WGS students and faculty about the incident that catalyzed Slutwalk and how the fight against victim-blaming and slut-shaming around sexual violence has spread to over 200 cities around the world.

Galvanized into action by a Toronto Police officer who referred to women and survivors of sexual assault as “sluts” and suggested women ‘dressing like sluts’ were inviting their own victimization, Jarvis and Westendorf talked about their mad rush to reach a zero tolerance for sexual violence. As Slutwalk went transnational, they described how conversations among activist groups world-wide reshaped the movement and their own activist strategies. They also discussed how their collaborations with diverse groups revealed the numerous connections between sexual violence and other social issues, both locally and globally.

Jarvis and Westendorf ended their presentation by inviting the audience to join Slutwalkers around the world who have united under the banner “Because We’ve Had Enough” and taken to the streets in anti-violence protests.

This event was hosted by WGS160Y, the introductory class in Women and Gender Studies as a follow up to “The Politics of Protest”, an activist event organized by the Women and Gender Studies Student Union.



## The Political Prisoners, Beyond the Wall, the Word

In December, 2011, *The Political Prisoners, Beyond the Wall, the Word*, and the Art brought together scholars and artists whose work addressed the experiences of women political prisoners in Iran. Gathered together to fill an auditorium, scholars and community members spent the evening grappling with the history and memory, as well as the present survival and resistance to political imprisonment. **Shahla Talebi**, a professor at Arizona State University, spoke from her new memoir entitled *Ghosts of Revolution: Rekindled Memories of Imprisonment in Iran*. In this book she reflects on her experience in Iran’s Evin prison during the 1980s and 1990s, capturing both the horror of the regime as well as the strength of the community and resistance that flourished in prison. **Chowra Makaremi**, a Post-doctoral fellow in Anthropology at the Institut de Recherche Interdisciplinaire sur les enjeux Sociaux (Iris), École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales in Paris, shared from her new book *Le cahier d’Aziz*. The book is a rewriting her grandfather’s diary written during the aftermath of the Iranian revolution. The diary recalls in detail the history of his two daughters imprisoned in 1981, one of whom was executed the same year, and the other (Chowra’s mother) killed in 1988. Chowra’s book asks us to think about how practices of disappearance shape the memorialization of violence and its intergenerational legacy. How are issues of remembering, justice and forgetting translated into the intergenerational politics of mass violence? **Roshanak Jaber**, a Toronto-based choreographer and dancer, presented a dance film of her powerful work “Behind the Stained Wall,” which is based on the experiences of women political prisoners in Iran. The evening closed with the activist work of **Shadi Amin**, who has been undertaking the painful task of carefully documenting cases of rape and sexual abuse of or political prisoners in Iran in 1980s. The intensely emotional work of exposing and grappling with the violence of political imprisonment was also shouldered by the engaged audience, many from the Iranian diasporic community, who also came forward with their knowledge and experiences of political imprisonment and state violence. The event was funded by the WGS Hammed Shahidian Legacy fund and the Toronto Arts Council, and was organized by **Shahzad Mojab** and **Sara Carpenter**.





# FEMINISMS AND THE POLITICS OF APPROPRIATION

*Stealing, borrowing, lifting, gifting, recombining, sharing, ethicizing.*

**What is appropriation?**

**How does appropriation condition politics?**

**What might feminist alternatives to appropriation look like?**

For two days in November, scholars from women and gender studies programs across Canada were invited to deliberate and debate the ways contemporary feminisms are conditioned by the politics of **appropriation**. Why did we want to get together to think about appropriation? Appropriation as a term joins two meanings: 1) to take, with an implied element of theft, and 2) to make proper and suitable, which prompts the questions: suitable for whom? To what ends? Our charge in this conference was to analyze how acts of “making and unmaking property” and acts of “designating or disavowing the proper” work today and are differently located by transnational conjunctures. In the dictionary sense, “to be appropriate,” is to be suitable to given conditions, instead of to disrupt conditions or demand their transformation. At the same time, appropriation is also defined as an act of turning into property, often theorized following Marx’s work on estranged labour: appropriation is a violent act of taking, producing alienation from the act of creation. Yet another use of the term appropriation within contemporary arts and new media, sees acts of *digital appropriation* as performing radical interventions that can subvert property regimes and authorial relations. Within anti-colonial and indigenous struggles, *cultural appropriation* names a form of epistemic violence that has accompanied material acts of theft and injury. In this last sense, appropriation as cultural thieving has been constitutive of contemporary politics, capitalisms, and colonialisms.

Given these multiple meanings of appropriation, the conference sought to track how feminisms and other political projects have been multiply appropriated, dis-assembled, remade, and ethicized within transnational circuits and new (as well as old) imperialisms. From feminist hedge funds that seek to save women through financial speculation to revolutionary politics circulated through Youtube, to environmental justice movements that seek to rescue air, water and land out of property relations, how have various feminisms been fashioned through new and old forms of appropriation? How have feminisms resisted or become complicit in violent forms of appropriation? How do some feminisms become “proper” by insufficiently theorizing their own entanglements with capitalism,



nationalism and colonialism? What appropriations operate under the sign of feminism today?

The conference asked participants to defy binarizing judgments that might neatly sort politics into proper or complicit approaches and to instead consider how feminisms have also participated in myriad acts of appropriation. We also asked participants to consider what feminist alternatives to appropriation might look like. Perhaps the most important conversation that emerged in the conference wrestled whether appropriations can ever be feminist acts. Can appropriations move practices and politics out of dominant milieus into new possibilities? Can appropriations be part of reassembling other worlds? For some participants, appropriation was a term too overloaded with violence, and could only ever be critiqued. For other participants feminist politics needs to search for acts that are appropriation’s Others: sharing, gifting, reciprocity, and borrowing.

At stake in the conference was the question of fashioning political imaginaries in a world already conditioned by normalized theft and illicit sharing. What we learned was there was tremendous disagreement about the usefulness of appropriation as an analytical concern. The greatest benefit of the conference was getting to know more about the intellectual work of colleagues in other Canadian women and gender studies programs. Participants included **Habiba Zaman** (Simon Fraser University), **Ana Isla** (Brock University), **Rosemary Coombe**, (York University), **Carys Craig** (York University), **Angela Failler** (University of Winnipeg), **Egla Martinez-Salazar** (Carleton University), **Carol Williams** (University of Lethbridge), **Kamala Kempadoo** (York University), **Tracy Locke** (York University), **Sunera Thobani** (University of British Columbia), as well as faculty from WGSI, **Jesook Song**, **Dina George**, **Marieme Lo**, **Alissa Trotz**, **Katharine Rankin**, **Shahzad Mojab**, and **Michelle Murphy**. Dina, Alissa, and Michelle were the conference organizers, crucially helped by **Sophie Afriat**.

## Youth Research Symposium: Youth and the Determinants of Sexual Health



On March 22, 2012, The Gendering Adolescent AIDS Prevention (GAAP) and Planned Parenthood Toronto co-hosted a youth research symposium entitled, **Youth and the Determinants of Sexual Health**. Organized by June Larkin, the event brought together community youth, university students, scholars and sexual health service providers for a day of academic and artistic presentations on youth sexual health.

**Dr. Laina Bay-Cheng**, Associate

Professor at the University of Buffalo’s School of Social Work, gave the keynote address entitled, *Thwarted Agency: The Sexual Experiences of Adolescent Girls in the U.S. Child Welfare System*. Youth presentations included:

- **Sarah H. Smith:** *Institutions and Intimacy: School-Based Sex Education as an Agent of Socialization*
- **Jena M. Hall:** *Social Anxiety in Street-Involved Youth with a History of Childhood Sexual*

*Abuse and its Indirect Effect on Motivations for Sex*

- **Erin Konsmo:** *Taking Action! Art & Aboriginal Youth Leadership for HIV Prevention: Connecting Colonization and HIV through relationships to Culture and the Arts*
- **Ciann Wilson:** *Jezebel: Exploring the Impact of Stereotypes on the Sexualities and Sexual Health of Young Black Women*

A panel of youth from the project, *Empower Youth: Arts, Activism, and HIV*, presented their digital stories

on sexuality and sexual health. EMPOWER youth presenters included **Mark Wright**, **Rainbow Samantha Hunt**, **Hisayo Horie**, and **Andii Bykes** from the Queen West Community Health Centre.



# Transnational Approaches to Girlhood: A One Day Workshop at WGSJ

On May 25, 2012, eight scholars currently researching girlhood in a variety of settings around the world met at WGSJ to carry out intensive conversations about works-in-progress. They drew connections and examined differences between regions they each studied, which ranged from colonial Nigeria, Philippines, India, and Germany to contemporary Bangladesh, Uganda and Brazil. The day-long workshop was organized and chaired by **Ashwini Tambe** and supported by a SSHRC grant.

An overarching theme of the workshop was tracking histories of state, community and corporate interest in managing girlhood. Dr. Tambe opened the event noting the surge of recent attention to girlhood in corporate and legal discourses. In particular, there has been a fixation on adolescent girls as catalysts of social transformation. The first panel focused on the history of the figure of the adolescent girl, with papers about colonial Nigeria (**Abosede George**), imperial Germany (**Vasuki Shanmuganathan**), colonial India (**Shobna Nijhawan** and **Ashwini Tambe**) and colonial Philippines (**Bonnie McElhinny**.) Most presenters examined processes under way in the early twentieth century. Looking at this history underlined how far the very contours of girlhood —its anxieties and its potentialities— were recent inventions. The second panel focused on girlhood in contemporary contexts, and here especially on the recent corporate and NGO attention to girls. The management of reproduction has become a central goal of development programs that seek to delay childbearing and childrearing. The panelists (**Michelle Murphy**, **Lyndsay Hayhurst**, **Kathryn Moeller**) each highlighted and critiqued assumptions undergirding the conceptual and practical dimensions of such projects in Asia, Africa and South America.

*The presentations were titled as follows:*

## GIRLHOOD IN COLONIAL CONTEXTS

**Working with Discomfort: Sex, Money, and the Politics of Girlhood in Colonial Lagos, 1922–1952**, *Abosede George*, Barnard College, New York.  
**Racialized Girlhood in the German Empire** *Vasuki Shanmuganathan*, University of Toronto

**Modelling the Modern Girl in the Hindi Public Sphere (1910s–1920s)**, *Shobna Nijhawan*, York University

**Adolescence and Modernity in Western India** *Ashwini Tambe*, University of Maryland/University of Toronto

**American Mestizos in the Philippines: Ideologies of Race and Nation in U.S. Charity for Children, 1922–1955** *Bonnie McElhinny*, University of Toronto.

## GIRLHOOD IN CONTEMPORARY CONTEXTS

**Girling Human Capital** *Michelle Murphy*, University of Toronto

**The Girl Effect, Nut Butter and Martial Arts: Exploring Social Entrepreneurship and Economic Empowerment through Sport, Gender and Development in Eastern Uganda** *Lyndsay Hayhurst*, University of Toronto

**Becoming ‘Girl Experts’: Analyzing Corporate Power-Knowledge Practices Focused on ‘Adolescent Girls’ in Brazil** *Kathryn Moeller*, University of California-Berkeley

The workshop participants plan to continue conversations that began at the workshop, and extend thanks to WGSJ and New College for hosting the workshop.

# Undergraduate Research Project

By Marieme Lo

The fourth year research seminar was for advanced students in Women and Gender studies interested in the study and use of research methods, the exploration of the analytics and pragmatics of research, and the interrogation of the politics of knowledge production. The seminar provided a forum to engage in, discuss, and apply research strategies, analytics, and methods through students’ own research endeavors and exploration of feminist, alternative, art-based, discursive, and performative modes of inquiries. We also analyzed forms of visual and discursive analysis, institutional ethnography, and archival research and interrogated their epistemological implications. Lastly, we grappled with what it means to pursue feminist, anti-racist, postcolonial, transnational and queer-positive inquiries. This full year seminar culminated in a well-attended and engaging public Undergraduate Research Symposium in which students presented original and high quality research papers that reflected their broad scholarly interests and praxis. Below are the research paper titles and presenters:

### Joan Densmore

*Reading Poetry: Toward a Proto-Feminist Romantic Praxis of the Agentic Self*

### Grace Yoo

*The Real Toronto Story: Obstacles and Challenges of Immigrant Children of Diasporic Communities*

### Meaghan Morris

*Who Runs the World? Girls!: Neoliberal Appropriation and Mainstreaming of Transnational Feminism Among Canadian ‘Girls’*

### Jane Montague

*Significance and Privilege: Juxtaposing Imagined Bodies within Preventive HIV/Aids Advertising in Toronto*

### Hoi Yan Mandy Leung

*Culture-Clashing Feminisms: Examining the Impact of Cultural Hybridity on the Construction of Feminist Identities among Young East Asian Women in Canada*

### Alexandra Elford

*The Colonial Context of Mental Marketing: Gender, Race, and Normalcy in Antidepressant Advertisements*

### Jenna Lee Forde Caprani

*Queer Trauma: An exploratory Subject Position (Including a short film)*



Left to right: Meaghan Morris, Sasha Elford, Jenna Lee Caprani, Marieme Lo, Grace Yoo, Joan Densmore, Jane Montague, and Mandy Leung.

# Regarding Queer Affects

Regarding Queer Affects, was a panel organized by Dina Georgis and co-sponsored by the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies and the Centre for the Study of the United States, held on November 1st, 2011. The speakers were asked to think about the meaning of “queer affects” to the study of queer theory and sexuality studies. The event brought together scholars T.L Cowan, Jessica Fields, Trish Salah and Aparna Mishra Tarc. The attendance for this event was extraordinary. It drew a crowd of over 60 and many were turned away at the door.

We were thrilled to welcome new colleagues into our intellectual community and classrooms this year. The year began with **Lisa Yoneyama** joining us from University of California San Diego. Lisa brings with her an extensive knowledge of memory, war, colonialism, and racialization in Japan, Japanese and US empires, as well as deep engagement with transnational and anti-racist feminisms. Also joining us was **Jesook Song**, who has generously taken up the role of graduate coordinator. Jesook is a faculty member in Anthropology whose work wrestles with the politics of gender, home-

lessness, labour and neoliberalism in South Korea. Moreover, this year we were also delighted to welcome back much missed colleagues. **M. Jacqui Alexander** returned after spending three years working at Spelman College, where she collaborated with Beverly Guy-Sheftal to address questions of pluralism, inclusivity and institutional change regarding LGBT issues at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. **Judith Taylor** returned after two years of leave to take on the Undergraduate Coordinator role, through which she quickly reinvigorated our Undergraduate Program and began new ways of

collaborating with students. Returning, too, was **Shahrazad Mojab** (our previous director), who rejoined WGSJ to help out with Graduate Coordinator duties and organized a moving conference on political prisoner in the Middle East. At the end of the year, all these changes were topped off by the arrival of **Sarah Trimble** as a new Assistant Professor. Sarah recently graduated from English at McMaster. We are eager to learn more from Sarah's focus on popular culture, apocalypse and post-apocalypse imaginaries. We are extremely fortunate to have these talented and engaged faculty

bringing their politically-charged research and teaching to WGSJ. At the staff level, the indefatigable **Meghan Sbrocchi** moved from the WGSJ Office Assistant position to become our much admired Business Officer, while **Ashifa Rajwani** has taken on the position of Office Assistant, bringing her talents in art and her background in study from the School of Oriental and African Studies to the role of Office Assistant. With the beloved **Marian Reed** as our Program Administrator, we are all very grateful to have such amazing colleagues taking care of WGSJ.

## faculty research

### June Larkin



The Gendering Adolescent AIDS Prevention (GAAP) Project which I coordinate has partnered on three community projects this year. These include:

**1) Youth HIV and Sexual Health Education Programs in Canada: What's Needed to Enhance Evaluation Capacity?** The goals of this project are to determine what capacity building is needed among community-based organizations and youth-run groups to enhance the evaluation of youth peer education programs on HIV and sexual health and to identify successful evaluation strategies  
**Community partners:** LetsStopAIDS and Youth 4 Youth  
**Funder:** The Canadian Foundation for AIDS Research (CANFAR)

**2) Taking Action II: Arts Based Approaches to Fostering Aboriginal Youth Leadership in HIV Prevention** This project is designed to explore Aboriginal youth leadership in HIV prevention and to foster new youth leadership and activism in HIV prevention.  
**Community Partners:** The Native Youth Sexual Health Network (NYSHN) and The Canadian Aboriginal Network  
**Funder:** The Canadian Institutes of Health Research

**3) Empower, Youth, Arts and Activism** Bringing together diverse Toronto youth, Empower in a continuing project that trains peer educators to use a community-arts based approach to HIV prevention and other sexual health issues. Inspired by the success of "Empower: Youth, Arts, and Activism – An HIV/AIDS Arts Activism Manual for Youth by Youth," the project trains youth to use art as a tool for social change. This year the Empower youth created 9 digital stories that connect to HIV in indirect and direct ways by addressing homophobia and transphobia, issues of race and gender, access to sexual health resources, colonialism, peer pressure and more.  
**Community Partner:** Queen West Community Health Centre  
**Funder:** The Trillium Foundation; Laidlaw; Ontario Arts Council

For details of all GAAP projects, check-out our website at [www.utgaap.info](http://www.utgaap.info)

### Shahrazad Mojab



Three research projects have 'occupied' my intellectual and political spaces.

**Words, Movements, and Colours**, originally funded by the Ontario Arts Council and Toronto Arts Council, is envisaged as a series of workshops on life stories, dance movements, theatrical performances and visual arts to narrate and exhibit women political prisoners of the Middle East of their experience of state violence. The project is an archive of stories of resistance and survival with the goal of restoring personal dignity as well as achieving political justice. In a December 2011 event, two books of prison memoirs and a research project documenting the women's experience of sexual violence in prison were launched. A powerful and mesmerizing dance was also performed which depicted the life and resistance of women under conditions of captivity.

**Society and Security** project examines the re-organization of *educational services* and *social services* in response to policy mandates emphasizing the security and securitization of youth and young adults. Securitization in this project refers to the post-9/11 policies responding to interrelated crises of national and economic security that affect the political, cultural, economic, and social security of youth. The objective of the research is to track, record, and document the relationship between public policy, the transnational experience of youth, and economic, political, human, and cultural security. The project examines these relationships across Canada, the US, and the UK. This project is funded by the SSHRC Partnership Grant at the Letter of Intent stage and it has been invited to move to the final round.

**Marxist-Feminist Keywords**, based on Raymond Williams' idea of 'Key words', this project aims at a renewed materialist analysis of feminism, one that is committed to explaining the complex social relations of capitalism, colonialism, imperialism, fundamentalism and patriarchy. The Keywords Project aims at entering into an important set of international debates about the constitution of our current moment of economic, social, political and cultural crisis. More than twenty feminist scholars from across disciplines and geographical locations are participating in this project. In a May 2012 gathering in Toronto, the first draft of conceptualizations of the keywords was circulated and debated among the participants.



# SABBATICAL REPORT

## BONNIE MCELHINNY

This year, I have engaged in four key projects that engage various aspects of American imperialism, Canadian immigration and colonial practice, and global political economy. In a book manuscript tentatively entitled *Producing the A-1 Baby: Childhood, Colonial Modernity and the Politics of Comparison in the U.S.-Occupied Philippines* I have been examining the way that interventions into Filipino child-rearing practices, especially to try to redress high infant mortality rates, were used as an excuse and justification for the U.S. colonial presence, even in the face of sharp criticisms from Filipino physicians and politicians. This SSHRC-funded research examines how Filipino child-rearing strategies were described and stigmatized in educational, public health and public welfare discourses, the establishment of the earliest health clinics to purvey information to Filipino families, attempts to inculcate good hygiene and work discipline amongst Filipino children in schools, and the establishment of the earliest welfare institutions to deal with orphans or the children of the poor and the sick. It offers a transnational picture, by considering when and how practices that linked gender, childhood and health in the Philippines were informed by or intertwined with racialized practices in the U.S. (especially for African-Americans and Natives) and other colonized sites in Southeast Asia as well as in other U.S. dependencies like Guam, Panama and Puerto Rico. This project is situated within literatures on the international and imperial policies on children and gender in the early 20th century, colonial and postcolonial politics in the Philippines, the nature of American imperialism and racial politics, and how welfare states are initiated in colonial settings. This year, I also wrote chapters on the founding of co-educational industrial education in the Philippines (based on educational practices used for Hawaiians, African Americans and Natives in the U.S. and in the British empire in Africa), and the American Guardian Association (an organization founded for children with Filipino mothers and American fathers) as a site where Filipino discourses on the mestizo collided with American discourses of miscegenation.

I also investigate contemporary ramifications of these imperial histories in research on Filipino-Canadians with the Kritikal Kolectibo, a U of T based group that undertakes critical research on the Filipino diaspora. The Philippines became Canada's largest source of short- and long-term migrants in 2010, surpassing China and India, both of which are more than ten times larger. Filipinos are also the fourth-largest racialized minority group in Canada. This year, I edited a volume entitled *Filipinos in Canada: Disturbing Invisibility* (appearing in November 2012 with U of T Press) with Roland Sintos Coloma (associate professor at SESE, and affiliate faculty with WGSJ), Ethel Tungohan (a Ph.D. student in political science and a student in the WGSJ collaborative program), **John Paul C. Catungal** (a Ph.D. student in geography), and **Lisa M. Davidson** (a Ph.D. student in anthropology). In this volume, the first wide-ranging edited collection of academic writings on Filipina/os in Canada, we ask how the contours of Canadian political, academic, and social institutions, both historical and contemporary, shape the politics of Filipina/o invisibility, visibility, and hypervisibility, and how we can disrupt and intervene in the prevailing themes of the over-determined figures that have come to define the lives of Filipina/os in Canada. The four sections of the book focus on: *Difference and Recognition; Gender, Migration, and Labour; Representation and Its Discontents; and Youth Spaces and Subjectivities*. The volume also includes a selection of cultural works from community members and activists. In addition to a co-written introduction to the volume, I contributed an analysis of political implications of the new permanent exhibit of Filipino colonial artifacts from the St. Louis World's Fair at the Royal Ontario Museum.

I also received a SSHRC Insight Development Grant this year for a new project with **Krista Maxwell** (post-doctoral fellow, anthropology), entitled *Racial Hierarchies, Imperial Circuits and Health Care in Canada: International and Immigrant Nurses Working in Indigenous Communities, 1945-1985*. Research on settler colonies, like Canada, often focuses on White/Indigenous relations, or

Native-Born/Immigrant relations (especially where these are understood as White-Non-White), but rarely fully takes into account the ways that the position of each is elaborated with respect to all the others. In this project, we try to take on Sunera Thobani's challenge to more fully understand the ways that racialization and colonization work by investigating "the complex racial hierarchy developed by colonizing powers that introduced and sustained force relations not only among settlers and Aboriginal peoples but also among the other racialized groups ranked in the Canadian hierarchy as lower than whites but higher than Aboriginal peoples" (Thobani 2007:17). Drawing on my research on healthcare under the American imperial regime in the Philippines, and Dr. Maxwell's expertise on aboriginal health in Canada, we have begun to review archival research on three key sites for understanding ideologies of whiteness and racialization in the Canadian settler colony as they are played out in imagining and managing indigenous health: (1) interactions in the 1950s and 1960s between Indigenous communities and nurses from newly decolonized countries who were given field placements in Aboriginal communities through the Colombo Plan; (2) interactions between Indigenous communities and a group of British nurses recruited to work for Indigenous Health Services in the early 1980s; and (3) interactions between Indigenous communities and (other) racialized immigrant nurses hired by Indian Health Services and provincial public health services in the 1950s-1980s, especially from the Philippines and the Caribbean.

Fourth, with **Monica Heller** (SESE, president-elect of the American Anthropology Association) I secured a book contract for a book tentatively entitled *Language, Power, History: Social and Political Imaginaries*. This book offers an account of linguistic studies in anthropology as they have been shaped within contexts of imperialism, capitalism, nationalism, post-nationalism, war and fascism, as well as feminist, anti-racist, post-colonial, Marxist, and queer studies. To re-imagine linguistic anthropology in ways attentive to political and economic conditions, the book is organized as loosely chronological account of how capitalism, as an uneven world system, has produced particular ways of mobilizing language in the production of inequality, and of the social differences which legitimize it. This book can be understood as building upon Said's analysis of the role that comparative linguistics plays in racial hierarchization in *Orientalism*, but considerably expanding the chronology and scope of that kind of critical analysis of linguistic work. The organization of chapters reflects our attention to history and genealogy, to uneven spatiality, and to struggles over things that count. We consider how the study of language is linked to and shaped by changing economic regimes from mercantile capitalism and industrial capitalism, from monopoly capitalism to finance capitalism. We investigate the role of language in a variety of forms of colonial expansion (missionary and secular), in the rise of the slave trade and plantation economies, in the evolution of changing forms of nation, and in fascist ideologies of language and communist linguistic ideologies. We are particularly interested in when and how studies of language are used to challenge the ideas about race, gender, sexuality, class, and culture which help legitimize specific regimes of truth and the inequalities they produce—and when they reify them. We conceive of this book as warty, frank and blunt history of linguistic scholarship which shows how some ideas about language, even those which may be seen as progressive in some ways, can still end up shoring up existing inequalities.

Finally, I continue to think about how global economies affect knowledge production in more concrete ways in my editorial work. During my sabbatical year, I completed a five-year term as the founding co-editor of the journal *Gender and Language*, and joined the editorial team of the *Journal of Sociolinguistics*. In my work for both journals, I am interested in bringing linguistic analyses into fuller conversations with critical theory and scholarship on gender, race, sexuality, empire and economy, as well as thinking carefully about how best to engender global conversations about linguistic theory and practice in a range of editorial practices (board members, referees, reviewing practices, etc.) in ways which challenge, rather than reproduce, inequitable forms of dialogue and intellectual exchange.



# KERRY RITTICH

I spent the last year in London as one of the two Academic Co-Directors of the Center for Transnational Legal Studies (CTLS). A collaborative venture among a number of leading law schools around the globe, CTLS is an innovative centre for teaching and research on questions of international, transnational and comparative law. Faculty and students from the partner institutions come from very different legal systems and, not surprisingly, have quite distinct traditions of—and expectations about—legal education as well. When they come together, typically for a term, to either teach or take courses at CTLS, the result is a challenging yet exhilarating experience for faculty and students alike and an environment that is intensely alive with debate about the most foundational assumptions about law, its internal structure and its relation to politics and society.

The Core Course on Globalization and Transnational Law, which I taught to all of the students both terms, sought to develop a common vocabulary for the consideration of old and emerging regulatory issues. The course had an interdisciplinary frame, setting legal analysis against economic, historical and sociological analyses of problems of transnational regulation. One key question recurred throughout: how to think—and what to do—in a world in which law is no longer the exclusive concern of states, as myriad private actors and institutions generate norms alongside,

instead of, or in competition with states. We grappled with concepts like legal pluralism—the co-existence of more than one legal or normative system in a single regulatory field or space—as a way of exploring the role of law in both colonial and contemporary settings.

An important part of CTLS involves cutting-edge intellectual inquiry on questions of transnational law. In April of this year, we organized a workshop, “Cartographies of Legal Pluralism in a Transnational World” that drew together academics from the London law schools and abroad to explore metaphors of mapping as a means of understanding complex phenomena from cross-border trafficking to models of indigenous sovereignty. At the annual academic meeting, held this year in Mexico City in June, we convened a workshop on the theme of “Translation and Interpretation”. The result was a highly illuminating discussion around the perennial questions of legal and linguistic difference, as well as the possibilities and perils of efforts at legal harmonization, transplantation and inter-systemic dialogue.

Both research and the teaching at CTLS as well as the experience of the city of London itself can only be described as transformative—above all, an exercise in redrawing the boundaries of community.

# MARIEME LO

This year Professor Marieme Lo shared her work at numerous conferences and public events. She gave two notable talks on environmental politics: “Water in the Developing World: Harsh Reality and Inspiring Innovations” at the 6th Annual Babson Energy and Environmental Conference, and on “Energy, Environment, & Entrepreneurship: Challenging Assumptions, Changing Perceptions” in Boston. At the Toronto Design Exchange, she gave an invited lecture on “Globalization and the futures of artisanal designs and productions in West Africa.” She was a panelist in New York at the United Nations at an event marking The United Nations’ fifty-five session of the Commission on the Status of Women, International Women’s Day, speaking on “Empower Rural Women – End Hunger and Poverty.” At the TIFF Bell Lightbox Higher Learning’s Fantastic African Phantasms programme,

Professor Lo spoke on “Ways of Seeing (in) African Cinema, Rungano Nyoni’s film: “The Adventures of Mwansa the Great” from the perspective of material culture and Visual culture in Africa.” In addition, Professor Lo presented her research “Entrepreneurship, Homoeconomicus and Homoecologus: Interrogating the Disjuncture between Environmental Ethics and Entrepreneurship Discourses and Ethos in the Sahel” at the Association for Social Economics (ASE) annual meeting in Chicago.

This year also marked the publication of *The World and Its Peoples – Sub-saharan Africa and Oceania, An encyclopedia, Volume 2*, in which Professor Lo wrote the entries for Sierra Leone: economic perspectives,” “The Gambia: economic perspectives,” and “Senegal: economic perspectives.”





## Tara Cookson

At WGSJ my research revolved around social reproduction, women's activism and the state in Latin America. I am now in my first year of the PhD program at the University of Cambridge in the Geography Department, and am privileged to be funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates foundation as a Gates Scholar. My work now looks at Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) programs, a development tool that seeks to break the intergenerational cycle of poverty through investment in human capital. I look at the gendered impacts of the CCT on the daily lives of women beneficiaries in Latin America, whose social reproduction labour forms the backbone of the program.

## Lauren Snowball



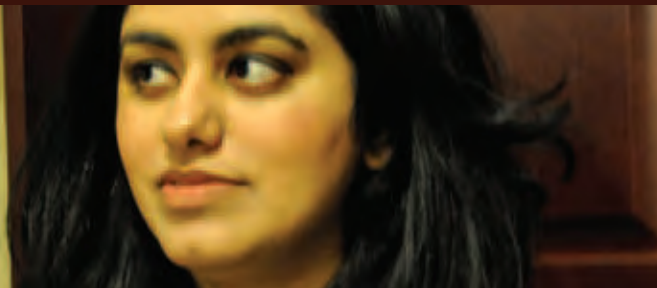
Lauren Snowball is a community organizer, designer, communicator and strategist for progressive social, economic and environmental change. At eighteen, Lauren was an award-winning photographer and had graduated from a four-year intensive program in dramatic arts. Her passion for artistic expression was matched by a desire to challenge and dismantle systems of oppression and inequity, which led to an Honors Bachelor of Arts degree in Women's and Gender Studies. Lauren graduated from University of Toronto in 2010 earning the Dr. Shahrzad Mojab Book Prize in Women and Gender Studies for her undergraduate work.

For the past three years, Lauren has worked at a non-profit organization developing, conceptualizing, coordinating and implementing political campaigns across the province. In her role as Campaigns Coordinator at the Canadian Federation of Students-Ontario, she has developed campaigns regarding post-secondary education, multiple forms of discrimination and oppression, environmental sustainability, poverty, Aboriginal justice and more.

During her time at the Federation, Lauren has spearheaded equity-based projects including the Pro-Choice Campus Organizing Kit, Racialized Impact of Tuition Fees research paper, Final Report of the Task Force on Campus Racism, December 6 Memorial Poster, United for Equity campaign, Challenge Homophobia and Transphobia organizing kit, Students for Better Child Care campaign and more. Lauren has led coalition work with community organizations to oppose cutbacks to social services, privatization, the erosion of worker's rights and the implementation of regressive social and economic policy.

In this role, Lauren has challenged the traditional boundaries of academics and research, visual and dramatic art, design, narrative, digital communication, and political organizing. She has conceptualized and implemented innovative communication strategies, and mobilized people in the project of creating political communities working for progressive change.

Lauren will be studying this nexus of forces in the coming academic year as a graduate student at Ryerson University in Communication and Culture.



## Habiba Nosheen

Habiba Nosheen graduated with a Major in Women and Gender Studies at UofT in 2005. She went on to earn a Master's degree from Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism and a Master's degree from York University in Toronto in Women's Studies. As an undergraduate student in our program, Habiba began making documentary films as course projects and quickly found opportunities in Toronto to be trained in television production. After completing graduate work, Habiba moved to New York where she currently works as an investigative reporter and a filmmaker.

Her stories have been published in The New York Times, TIME, Glamour and The Washington Post, CBC, PBS, BBC and NPR. Habiba is fluent in English, Urdu, Hindi, and Punjabi with conversational knowledge of French. Born in Lahore, Pakistan she immigrated to Canada with her family at the age of nine. She has reported extensively from South Asia.

Habiba works in print, radio and television documentaries. She has shot, produced and reported for the PBS investigative documentary, *Wombs for Rent* (2009), which looked at the commercial surrogacy industry in the United States. She also worked as a correspondent, producer, shooter and editor for the PBS investigation, *To Adopt A Child* (2011), which examined allegations of corruption and fraud in adoptions from Nepal.

In 2009-2010, Habiba received the prestigious Kroc Fellowship with NPR. Her radio stories have appeared on Morning Edition and All Things Considered. She is also a frequent on-air contributor for the weekly CBC radio show, Definitely Not the Opera. Habiba has received numerous prestigious awards for her reporting including a Gemini nomination, South Asian Journalist Association Award, Morton Mintz Award for International Reporting, the Leslie Sanders Award, IRE finalist, and she was part of the team that won the Best Canadian Feature Award at Hot Docs Canadian International Documentary Festival. Her documentaries have been supported by The Fund for Investigative Journalism, The Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting, The Nation Institute's Investigative Fund and ITVS. In 2012, Habiba was awarded a Gracie Award by the Alliance for Women in the Media as the Best Correspondent/Reporter.

When not traveling on an assignment, Habiba can be found in her kitchen baking and cooking. You can reach her at: [Habiba.Nosheen@gmail.com](mailto:Habiba.Nosheen@gmail.com) or follow her on twitter: @habibanosheen.

# UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

By Judy Taylor, Undergraduate Coordinator

The Undergraduate Program is really stretching and growing, as we offer a considerable number of innovative new courses this and next year, exploring new terrain to terrific effect. **Marieme Lo** took the lead this year in introducing our new 2<sup>nd</sup>-year course, *Gender and Environmental [In]Justice*, inspiring students to expand their understanding of nature, ecological crisis, and the relationship between environmental and social justice. Lo's course connects us to the Centre for Environment at UofT, building exciting bridges across our two very dynamic interdisciplinary programs. In response to student interest, we offered a special topics course in *Life Writing*, and another on *The Politics of Girlhood*, both at the third-year level. Their extraordinary popularity led us to consider offering them more regularly. We were also fortunate to have **Ramona Alaggia** from the School of Social Work teaching *Gender and Violence* this year, introducing students to aspects of policy and clinical social work practice that interest them professionally. She will return next year to teach the course once again.

A quick preview of courses for the 2012-13 academic year reveal many exciting additions: **Professor M. Jacqui Alexander** will be teaching a new course titled *Dreams of Freedom*. Alexander asks, "What new spaces can be imagined and opened up when freedom is used as a starting point for analysis?" **Lisa Yoneyama** will be offering a new course, *Culture and History in the Nuclear Age*, offering a cogent gender and sexual critique of pro and anti-nuclear discourse and significantly, continuing conversations about environmental and social injustice introduced in the second year. We have two affiliate faculty offering undergraduate courses next year from OISE/UT. **Kiran Mirchandani** will be offering *Gendered Labour Around the World*, focusing particularly on feminist analyses of service work. And **Shahzad Mojab** will be offering *Women and Revolution in the Middle East*, highlighting the conflictual relations between women and revolutionary struggles.

We also have a new required course for Majors and Specialists in Women and Gender Studies, *Making Knowledge as if the World Mattered*, taught by **Dina Georgis**, that trains students in feminist approaches to conducting research and conveying knowledge to the wider world.

**Alissa Trotz**, who teaches the *Introduction to Women and Gender Studies* course in the Spring term, organized a much lauded event in the class to mark International Women's Day, *Slutwalk Toronto: From the Ground Up*, with **Heather Jarvis**, one of the founders of Slutwalk, and **Colleen Westendorf**, a current organizer. Students engaged with activists in a very engaging discussion of the enduring problem of violence against women, local and global coalition, the politics of race and diversity in organizing,

and the exciting and troubling things that occur when local movement practices travel. Students in this large introductory evening class stayed after class to meet and talk with Jarvis and Westendorf, eager to keep the conversation going.

Back from three years at Spelman College, **M. Jacqui Alexander** taught two innovative courses in which students conducted original research on medicinal plants and healing practices, thinking through the politics of globalization, medicine and intergenerational transmission of knowledge, and providing a vital intellectual link between Women and Gender Studies and Caribbean Studies. Students in the classes organized a public final presentation in which they shared their findings and reflections with peers, staying after to celebrate their accomplishments and speak with interested students not in the class about how they conducted their research.

Finally, many of our undergraduates received awards this year to facilitate their research. **Tyler Carson**, under the direction of **Dina Georgis**, received a 2012 University of Toronto Excellence Award in the Social Sciences and Humanities. His focus will be Masculinity, Trauma and the Aesthetic Archive. Two of our students were successful in the Arts and Science Undergraduate Research Fund competitions this year. In fall of 2011, **Leah Girardo** received a grant to study Canadian printmaking collectives, exploring how technology, artistic innovation, and political movements intersect to produce new kinds of artistic commitments and practices, and how they evolve over time. Her project titled, *Pulling Politics: Socially Engaged Printmaking in Canada*, enabled her to think across place, space and time, calling artists who relocated to New York, visiting collectives in Halifax, and reflecting on her own introduction to print making and artist communities. In the spring competition, **Sarah Hedges-Chou** received a grant for *The Politics of Geography and Representation in International Feminist Organizations and the International Women's Rights Movement*, enabling her to conduct research at the 2012 Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) forum in Istanbul.

Our WGS Student Union could not have been more dynamic this year, producing a conference attended by hundreds of students, film screenings, socials, and talks, featured here in the Newsletter in more detail. We look forward to working closely with the WGSSU next year to create several exciting initiatives and events, some to honour past recipients of the City of Toronto Women's Studies scholarships, and to inaugurate the new graphic novel collection at the D.G. Ivey Library at New College.

Politics of Protest panel





# GRADUATE NEWS

By Shahrzad Mojab, Graduate Coordinator

I was delighted to be back to the WGSJ after ending my term as the Director in 2008 and taking up the position of Interim Graduate Coordinator for the Winter 2012 term. **Jesook Song** served as Graduate Coordinator for the fall. Initially, I was hoping to spend most of the time mapping out a plan for the launch of the Ph.D. Program in Women and Gender Studies. However, we had to postpone this process while awaiting the final approval of the program by the Ontario Ministry of Colleges, Training and Universities. We are certainly thrilled to receive this approval as of May 8, 2012! The first cohort of doctoral students will be admitted to WGSJ in the 2013-2014 academic year. The doctoral program focuses on transnational feminist studies with the promise that it will be a dynamic and unique intellectual space for those interested in engaging with a wide range of research projects addressing such issues as capitalist patriarchy, convergence of race, sexuality, class, and indigeneity with colonialism and imperialism, as well as other urgent matters of our time including culture, rights, citizenship, diaspora, and activism.

The Master's Program in Women and Gender Studies continues to thrive as we expand intellectual opportunities and exchanges for students. In 2012-2013, we will be admitting a total of 12 students, one of whom, **Sasha Elford**, is the recipient of a CGS SSHRC award and a former WGS undergraduate student.

We hosted the second annual Women and Gender Studies Research Symposium on September 8, 2011 in the WGSJ lounge. There were seven students presentations including an art performance and an international

video conference presentation: **Teresa Chun-Wen Cheng** (on interdependency), **Lauren Cullen** (on queer temporality), **Jack Hixon-Vulpe** (on queer reproduction), **Victoria Keller** (on LGBT activism in Argentina), **Stephanie Latella** (on death and queer), **Savitri Persaud** (on gendered violence in Guyana), and **Ursual Wolfe** (on girlhood 'sexting'). The half day event was well attended by audience including friends, former classmates, and families of presenters as well as WGSJ faculty members.

There are currently 75 students in the Collaborative Program in Women and Gender Studies. In Spring 2012, PhD students from the Collaborative Program presented papers in our highly successful WGS Research Seminar series: **Holly Karibo**, **Amy Gullage**, **Vasuki Shanmuganathan**, and **Laura J. Kwak**. Especially impressive was that although the papers addressed different disciplinary concerns and geohistorical contexts, they invariably demonstrated how a critical gender perspective on the intersecting structural forces of modernity can help generate new intellectual questions and enrich the understandings of the complex, locally specific yet globally interconnected issues we face contemporaneously.

To celebrate the end of the MA course work for our class of 2011-2012 and begin the search for possibilities beyond the MA degree, we organized the "Life After Graduation" workshop in April. The workshop was facilitated by **Dr. Sara Carpenter** (OISE/UT) and **Bethany Osborne** (Doctoral Candidate at OISE/UT) and covered a wide range of practical and intriguing ideas of how to manage a precarious (un)employment situation to broad options of remaining connected with academia and activism.

## THE WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES STUDENTS UNION NEWS

By Sarah Hedges-Chou

The 2011/2012 school year was both busy and exciting for the Women and Gender Studies Students Union (WGSSU). With a diverse and dynamic group of executive members, our group sought to engage the Women and Gender Studies student community, and host interesting and unique events that connected our academic studies with contemporary political issues and the broader community.

During the fall semester we hosted a General Meeting, where new students, including many first years, came out to learn about and offer their ideas and input into what they'd like to see from the WGSSU. At this meeting, new executive members were voted into the union, and from there our planning for the year really began.

To further our focus on building community, we hosted a fall social at Shoeless Joe's, where we had a great turn-out of both new and familiar faces. It offered us a chance to let loose over food and drinks and get to know both WGS faculty and students. We were happy to see these same people continue to come out to WGSSU events throughout the year!

With the sad passing of Kenyan environmental and political activist **Wangari Maathai** in the fall of 2011, the WGSSU wanted to have an event to celebrate her work and legacy. We

hosted a film screening of the award winning documentary "Taking Root: The Vision of Wangari Maathai" and had WGSJ professor **Marieme Lo** speak to the group about her work. As Professor Lo has personally met Maathai on multiple occasions and has a deep knowledge of her activist work, this made for a very interesting discussion.

2011/2012 was a tumultuous year in world politics, and a hugely important period for global activism with the rise of the Occupy movement and the Arab Spring. The home-grown "SlutWalk" event, aimed at ending victim-blaming and slut-shaming, also helped put Toronto on the map. With these social movements as our inspiration, WGSSU was pleased to host our flagship event for the 2011/2012 school year: "The Politics of Protest: Bridging the Local and Global in Emerging Social Movements". The event featured panel speakers from academia, to different areas of social movements speaking about the transnational and intersectional politics of activist movements. The discussion was rich and controversial, and the event had an impressive turn-out of over 300 people, filling New College's William Doo Auditorium, and consisting of both students and other community

members. Everyone agreed, "The Politics of Protest" was an enormous success!

Another new initiative of the WGSSU this year was the introduction of our monthly "What's On" email newsletter. Created as a way to connect students with the broader Toronto feminist community, the newsletter highlights different events that take up issues of interest to WGS students such as film screenings, speaker events, socials and protests. It also acts as a resource for volunteer opportunities, internships and jobs.

In the busy winter semester, and in celebration of International Women's Day, WGSSU hosted a film screening of "Orgasm Inc", a hilarious documentary about the medicalization of women's sexual health. Highly entertaining, filmgoers munched on women's day themed candy bags and discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the film afterwards. To round out the celebrations, a large group convened at Free Times Cafe, once again welcoming even more new faces.

As the season of graduate school applications and job searching approached, WGSSU was happy to host a Women and Gender Studies

# GRADUATE STUDY

## WOMEN & GENDER STUDIES INSTITUTE



Graduate study at WGSi offers funded PhD and MA degrees, as well as a collaborative program with other disciplines.

### PhD and MA

Our PhD and MA degrees in Women and Gender studies focus on the preoccupations of transnational feminist studies. We encourage study in interdisciplinary theories and methods that grapple with how gender, sexuality, and race are informed, lived and reinvented amidst entwined yet discrepant narratives, geographies, and histories. Our graduate faculty is over 40 strong, with research that engages with the tangled questions of citizenship, governance, nation and diaspora, embodiment, queer politics, technoscience, global capitalism, activism, violence, cultural production, aesthetics, environmental politics and sites in Canada, Africa, the Caribbean, East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East, South East Asia, and the United States.

### Funding for Everyone

All international and domestic graduate students admitted to a WGSi graduate degree are guaranteed funding support.

### Collaborative Program

Our Collaborative Program provides advanced training in feminist studies alongside a degree in a home discipline.

Our collaborative degrees are currently available through over 30 departments across seven faculties (Arts & Science, Information, Law, Medicine, Nursing, Education, and Social Work).

### Application and Contact

Application information available at [www.wgsi.utoronto.ca/graduate](http://www.wgsi.utoronto.ca/graduate)  
**Due Date: January 15, 2013**

The Women and Gender Studies Institute is located in the heart of downtown Toronto.

**For more information contact us: [grad.womenstudies@utoronto.ca](mailto:grad.womenstudies@utoronto.ca)**