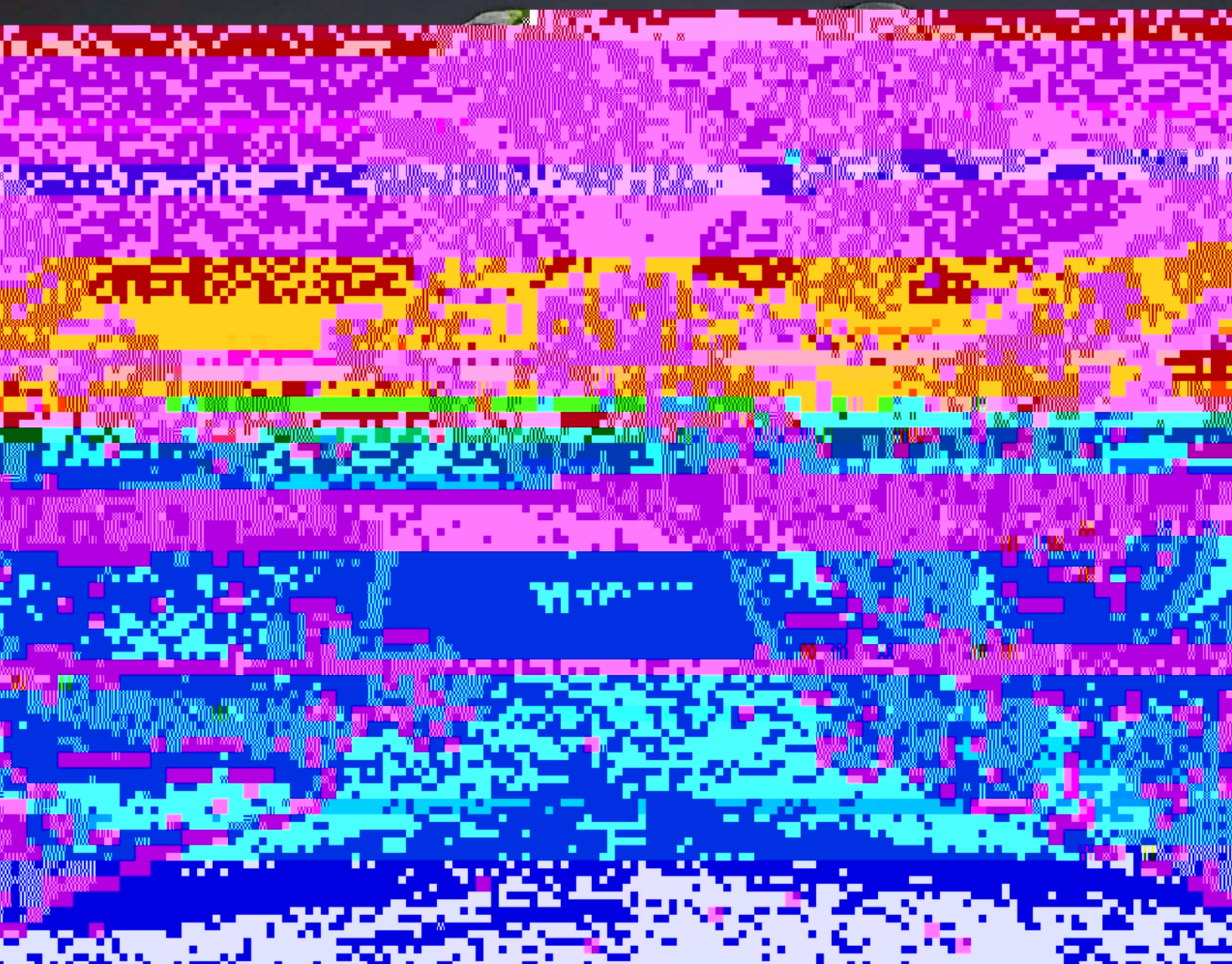


WGS news

Department of Women's & Gender Studies
University of South Florida
Summer/Fall, 2019



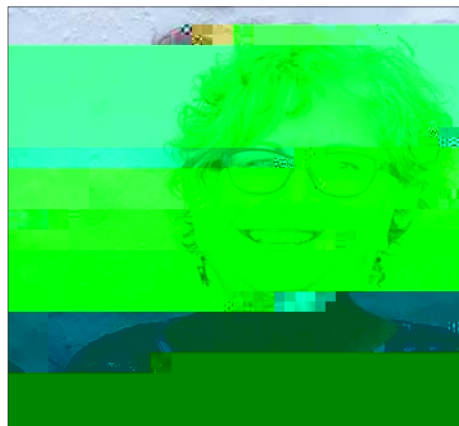
Chair's Column: Dr. Diane Price Herndl

USF is embracing a lot of change this year—a new president and a consolidation with our sister campuses in St. Petersburg and Sarasota. WGS will be relatively unaffected, since Tampa is the only campus with a WGS Department, but we are hopeful that this will mean that our courses will be more easily available to students in St. Pete and Sarasota, and that down the line we may be able to offer a few courses there.

WGS is experiencing quite a bit of change of our own. Dr. Kim Golombisky agreed to serve as the interim Director of the Zimmerman School of Advertising and Mass Communications, and even though she isn't teaching for us, she is still taking an active role in the department. (Though we are very much looking forward to getting her back with us full time!)

In Dr. G's absence, we have hired two new visiting faculty. Dr. Helis Sikk has joined us for three years as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Dr. Sikk has most recently been teaching WGS at DePauw University in Indiana, and before that held positions at the College of Wooster, William and Mary, and the Smithsonian. Her area of expertise focuses on anti-LGBTQ violence, anti-violence activism, and the politics of representation. She is teaching Intro to WGS and Feminist Research Methods for us this year and we're looking forward to her teaching a course on Queer Comics before long.

Dr. Melinda Mills has joined us this fall as a one-year Visiting Instructor. Dr. Mills has been the Coordinator



Dr. Diane Price Herndl

of the Women's and Gender Studies Program at Castleton University in Vermont. Her recent book, *The Borders of Race: Patrolling "Multiracial" Identities*, was published in 2017, and her current work focuses on multiracial people in interracial relationships. She is teaching Introduction to WGS and Issues in Feminism this fall, and will be doing History of Feminism and Classics of Feminist Theory in the Spring.

We also have much to celebrate this year. Dr. David Rubin's tenure and promotion to Associate Professor was finalized this summer. Dr. Milton Wendland has been awarded a professional development leave in Fall 2019 to enhance our already excellent internship program and (we hope!) to take a much-needed break from teaching. And Dr. Tangela Serls has been named Faculty-In-Residence with USF Housing, starting in August.

We are all trying to take a breather this summer as we are looking forward to a busy and exciting year next year, full of events (see page 7), great learning, and hosting the SEWSA Conference!

WGS Faculty

Dr. Diane Price Herndl
Professor and Chair

Jennifer Ellerman-Queen
Instructor and Graduate Program Coordinator

Dr. Kim Golombisky
Associate Professor and Interim Director of the Zimmerman School of Advertising and Mass Communications

Dr. Michelle Hughes Miller
Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies

Dr. Melinda Mills
Visiting Instructor

Dr. David A. Rubin
Associate Professor

Dr. Tangela Serls
Instructor and Director of Undergraduate Studies

Dr. Helis Sikk
Visiting Assistant Professor

Dr. Milton Wendland
Instructor and Internship Director

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WGS Alumni Spotlight: Saron Musa

Saron Musa graduated from USF in May, 2019 with a double major in Women's and Gender Studies and International Studies, and a minor in Economics. She started law school at Emory University in Atlanta this fall, and plans to work as a lawyer in the public sector, specifically in matters related to immigration.

WGS has helped to prepare Saron for her future career as a lawyer:

WGS Student Spotlight: Jade McNitt

Jade McNitt is majoring in Women's and Gender Studies and will graduate next year in the spring. She plans to be a therapist and is applying to the PsyD program in Counseling Psychology at Chatham University in Pennsylvania. Before her studies at USF, Jade obtained a certificate in Integrative Nutrition, attended Vancouver Film School, and worked at Lowry Park Zoo as a volunteer zookeeper.

Jade found an intellectual home in WGS:
When I was first introduced to WGS, I was enrolled in an Anthropology class. We were discussing gender and feminism. I had always pushed back against the term feminist and wanted to investigate that world. After taking that class and learning about different injustices all over the world, I came to see how important understanding feminism globally would be. I felt inspired to take part in activism. At

the time, I was a Mass Communication major and wanted to find something that aligned more with activism and helping people. I wanted the flexibility to explore my interests through electives while preparing myself for non-profit work. Women's and Gender Studies is perfect for that. The switch was easy and am incredibly grateful for it.

Jade believes her experience in WGS will make her a better graduate student and therapist:
As a therapist, I really hope to understand my patients. Having an expanded understanding of the world around me

WGS is Different

We *link* knowledge, research, teaching, and activism.

We *promote* social justice by engaging students in the discovery and production of knowledge that emerges from feminist perspectives on culture and society.

We *teach* students to use the analytic skills that emerge from engaging the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexuality, ability, and nation in order to promote responsible citizenship in a diverse transnational environment.

We *expose* limits in traditional higher education caused by excluding women and other marginalized groups and create knowledge that is transformative and inclusive.

We *aim* for knowledge that will better all people's lives, not just the lives of a few.

We *connect* our work as academics with the social, political, and economic world outside the university to educate our students about social inequalities that result from sexism, heterosexism and homophobia, racism, classism, able-ism, and ethnocentrism.

We *seek* to empower students through a feminist critique of social, cultural, and institutional structures that enables them to think more critically about their own lives and that inspires them to work as active citizens for social change.

WGS *prepares* students to go on to graduate school, medical school, law school, or to enter the workforce in a wide variety of public, private, governmental, and non-profit agencies.

WGS *offers* a B.A., a second major, a minor in Women's Studies, a minor in Queer & Sexuality Studies, an M.A., and a graduate certificate.

For more information, visit the new WGS website at:



WGS is the 2020 host of the annual conference for the Southeastern Women's Studies Association (SEW-SA). The conference will take place March 26-28, 2020 on the St. Pete campus of USF.

The conference theme –

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– figures embodiment and diverse lived experiences as the lifeblood of resistant politics and the livelihood of building alliances across our many differences. The theme echoes the broader mission of the interdisciplinary field of Women's and Gender Studies (WGS). With its distinctive blend of research, programming, teaching, and advocacy, WGS questions conventional wisdom, challenges the status quo, critiques intersecting gendered, sexual, and racialized inequities and injustices, and strives to create social change for more equitable, ethical, and just futures.

The conference brings together scholars and activists from throughout the southeastern U.S. and beyond, and will include plenaries and workshops, as well as an exhibition hall with vendors, local groups, and art exhibits.

The conference plenary speakers will be Loretta J. Ross and Dr. Aisha