

Program in Women's and Gender Studies

As it enters its 32nd year, the MIT Program in Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) continues to build on its success as an interdisciplinary undergraduate program, providing a community for students, faculty, and staff to participate in scholarly inquiry focusing on women, gender, and sexuality. Through teaching, research, and programming, WGS provides a structural framework that is specifically focused on examining and analyzing the intersections of gender, race, ethnicity, class, and sexuality. The faculty of WGS engages in cutting-edge research on a range of subjects related to historical and contemporary questions of gender and sexuality in the US and across the globe. Its mission is to educate undergraduates on the importance of gender equity and to promote critical thinking about the role of gender across disciplines, not only in the humanities, arts, and social sciences, but also in science, engineering, and technology. WGS also plays an important role at the Institute in organizing programming to facilitate the examination and discussion of gender and women's issues among faculty, students, staff, and the broader MIT community, and to support female students. In these various aspects of the program's educational mission, whether through teaching, research, or programming, WGS seeks to support the Institute's efforts to promote community, equity, and inclusion, while preparing students for an increasingly diverse workplace.

WGS can also play a pivotal role in helping the Institute to develop strategies to deal with sexual assault and with gender and sex discrimination. With increasing social and political focus on these issues, and on campus sexual assault in particular, the involvement of WGS in dialogue and in strategies for change is critical. As national attention has returned to matters of racial justice and activism, WGS has been involved in fostering the discussion of and engagement with these issues, and in outreach to female students of color through programming and collaboration with the Institute Community and Equity Office (ICEO), the Office of Minority Education (OME), and the Office of Multicultural Programs (OMP).

Ongoing goals for the program have been student outreach and the development of courses to meet students' needs and interests. Interest and enrollment in WGS subjects continued to be high this year, with 364 enrollees in the 24 subjects offered, including 44 active concentrators and four majors.

Another central objective for WGS is to serve as an important resource and support for faculty with advanced knowledge of women's and gender studies within their areas of scholarship who want to enrich their research by collaborating across disciplinary lines. The WGS Intellectual Forum, a monthly platform for sharing faculty work in progress, brings the community together for interdisciplinary conversation on topics of shared concern, and also provides engagement with outside guest speakers who bring new expertise and insights to the WGS intellectual community. This year's presentations included talks by WGS's two newest affiliates, Caley Horan ("The End of Equality and the Triumph of Fairness: The Battle for Unisex Insurance in the 1980s US") and Bettina Stoetzer ("Un/Homely Europe: Tracing the Longue Durée of a Crisis"). A colleague from Boston College, Regine Jean-Charles, was invited to present "Beneath Layers of Violence: Images of Rape in the Rwandan Genocide" to mark the 22nd anniversary

of the genocide. WGS-sponsored conferences and symposia also served as invaluable opportunities for interdisciplinary inquiry and collaboration.

Along with teaching and research, programming is essential to the WGS mission. WGS regularly collaborates with other academic units, student groups, and offices across the Institute to create events on myriad topics, such as the history and current status of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), gender equity, racial inequality, global development and migration, medicine and health, harassment and violence prevention, and women's contributions to literature, arts, and the media. The goal of this programming is to foster crucial conversations on issues of gender, sexuality, diversity, inclusion, and equity, while attracting students to WGS classes.

The program's commitment to the study of women, gender, and sexuality extends beyond MIT to reach the broader Cambridge and Boston-area communities. In AY 2016, WGS continued to work with the Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies (GCWS), which is currently hosted at MIT. Founded in 1992, the GCWS consists of nine local universities (Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Harvard University, MIT, Northeastern University, Simmons College, Tufts University, and the University of Massachusetts, Boston), whose faculty members offer interdisciplinary team-taught graduate courses. Professor Sandy Alexandre (Literature Section) served as the MIT representative to the consortium after successfully lobbying for MIT to extend its commitment to the GCWS for another five years in AY2015.

The current goals of WGS are to foster diversity within the program, extend its outreach and support to underrepresented students, and inspire engagement and activism regarding issues of social justice; to strengthen collaborative and interdisciplinary research initiatives in WGS, building on the success of the Intellectual Forum and WGS-sponsored symposia in fostering intellectual community across academic units at MIT; to recruit new faculty affiliates; to continue to update and reinvigorate the WGS curriculum in alignment with current directions in the broader field of women's and gender studies, with special attention to underdeveloped areas of the curriculum, such as gender and health, gender and public policy, gender and race/ethnicity, and gender and socioeconomic class; and to continue to collaborate with offices such as OMP, OME, ICEO, the Student Affairs Office, the Office of the Dean of Graduate Education, and Global Education and Career Development. WGS undertook many activities in AY2016 to support these goals.

Personnel

On July 1, 2015, Helen Elaine Lee, professor of Comparative Media Studies/Writing (CMS/W), became director of WGS. Professor Lee also serves as chair of the OME Faculty Advisory Committee and is a member of the selection committee for the MLK Visiting Professors and Scholars Program and the editorial board of the Faculty Newsletter. She also serves as associate chair of, and MIT liaison to, PEN New England, which makes its home at MIT. In AY2016, she participated in many student-oriented events, such as a talk to women of the Media Lab on "The Circuitous Path: Approaching Experience as a Process and Embracing the Unexpected"; a faculty panel for incoming freshman women during orientation week; an address to the 2016 Interphase Edge

students; an address at the Black Women's Alliance (BWA) annual retreat; and a panel discussion on "Coming Out in Communities of Color," sponsored by the Black Graduate Student Association and the Rainbow Lounge. Professor Lee received the Faculty Ambassador Award from the OMP and the ICEO this year.

Emily Neill completed her second year as program manager. She worked with Professor Lee to establish and support two new initiatives in AY2016: the founding of My Sister's Keeper, an organization dedicated to the support of black women students, faculty, and staff at MIT; and "Re:Vision, Women Writers Reading Series," co-sponsored with PEN New England, the MIT Libraries, the Literature Section, and CMS/W. She continued to be the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHASS) liaison to the Council on Staff Diversity and Inclusion and an active member of the Diversity Think Tank, and joined a new working group headed by Ed Bertschinger to help design and implement an Institute-wide series of trainings on unconscious bias. She is also working with the ICEO and other stakeholders to develop an ongoing series of Institute-wide working groups and events focused on racial equity.

Thanks to the generosity of Dean Nobles, WGS was able to hire a part-time program assistant at the end of AY2016 to help with programming and new outreach efforts. Sophia Hasenfus, formerly of the Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics, will come on board in mid-August. She has a strong background in women's and gender studies and in social activism, and she knows the Institute well from her six years of service at Aeronautics and Astronautics. WGS will benefit greatly from this additional operational and administrative support, given its newest endeavors and plans to increase programming.

In AY2016, several faculty members became WGS affiliates: Justin Steil (Department of Urban Studies and Planning), and Nick Montford, Sasha Costanza-Chock, and Heather Hendershot, all from (CMS/W).

To increase course offerings in the study of women of color, WGS brought former MIT lecturer Dr. Sarah King back to teach the course WGS 242 Latina Culture through Narrative, Film and Popular Culture. Dr. Brittany Charlton returned for a second year to teach her popular course WGS 151 Gender, Health and Society. Returning lecturers Dr. Chivi Kapungu, Dr. Abha Sur, Dr. KJ Surkan, and Dr. Andrea Walsh continued to teach for the program.

This year, WGS hosted its first predoctoral Diversity Fellow, Cristina Jo Perez, who spent the year completing her dissertation, "Bodies on the Line: Violence, Disposable Subjects, and the US-Mexico Border Industrial Complex." She successfully defended her dissertation and received her PhD from the University of Maryland, and has accepted a position as Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Visiting Assistant Professor in Comparative Border Studies at the University of California, Davis.

This year, led by Professor T. L. Taylor, WGS and CMS/W jointly nominated an MLK Visiting Scholar for AY2017. WGS will host Kishonna Gray, a professor at Eastern Kentucky University's School of Justice Studies who works in the area of gender and

race in gaming. She will teach WGS.111[J] Gender and Media Studies in the fall and a course on gender, race, and gaming in the spring, as well as make presentations in the Intellectual Forum and participate in My Sister's Keeper events throughout the coming year.

As for new faculty, WGS continues to support and work with Amah Edoh, who currently has a teaching postdoctoral fellowship in [Global Studies and Languages \(GSL\)](#). She has been an invaluable resource for WGS's black undergraduates, serving as an active participant in WGS programming and as an alumni speaker on a career panel for black undergraduate women sponsored by My Sister's Keeper. She is a committee member of My Sister's Keeper. Both her academic work and contributions to the community have been meaningful assets to WGS and other programs.

The WGS committee structure consists of a Steering Committee, Programming Committee, Curriculum Committee, and the Committee for the Louis Kampf Writing Prize in Women's and Gender Studies. In AY2016, the members of these committees were:

Steering Committee

- Director: Helen Elaine Lee (CMS/W)
- WGS program manager: Emily Neill (WGS)
- Senior faculty representative (fall): T.L. Taylor (CMS/Writing)
- Senior faculty representative (spring): Sandy Alexandre (Literature)
- Junior faculty representative: Bruno Perreau (GSL)
- Lecturers' representative: Abha Sur [Science, Technology, and Society (STS)]
- Graduate student representative: Jia-Hui Lee [History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS)]
- GCWS representative: Sandy Alexandre (Literature)
- WGS Liaison, MIT Libraries: Jennifer Greenleaf

Curriculum Committee

- Diana Henderson (Literature)
- Lerna Ekmekcioglu (History)
- Andrea Walsh (WGS and CMS/W)
- Abha Sur (Science, Technology, and Society)
- Programming Committee
- Chris Cappozola (History)
- Abha Sur (STS)
- Mareena Robinson (graduate student, Nuclear Engineering)

- Luisa Kenausis (undergraduate student, Nuclear Science and Engineering)

Kampf Prize Committee

- Chair: Andrea Walsh (WGS and CMS/W)
- Arthur Bahr (Literature)
- Kym Ragusa (CMS/W)

Research Activities

WGS faculty affiliates conduct research in a broad range of topics, extending from theories of justice and feminist philosophy to the anthropology of reproduction, French adoption policy, the implications of domestic deindustrialization and long-term unemployment, the politics of the production and consumption of food, women in Mongolian electoral politics, South Asian immigrant communities in the US, gender and technology, Vladimir Putin and Russian masculinity, Taiwanese women politicians, the history of Turkish and Armenian feminism, the changing cultural politics of nature and citizenship, and the astrology of money and markets in the modern era. WGS faculty affiliates continued to make active contributions to their individual disciplinary fields, as well as to the interdisciplinary field of women's and gender studies. Their accomplishments and service are listed in the reports of their home departments. In addition, faculty participated in the following WGS collaborative research initiatives:

The Borders Research Initiative in Women and Gender Studies at MIT brings together an interdisciplinary group of MIT faculty members and graduate students in the humanities, arts, and social sciences who are dedicated to examining issues of border-crossing and citizenship, especially as they intersect with gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and religion. Launched in 2011, the collaborative research group seeks to understand national borders and border crossings in terms of historical and comparative perspectives, analyzing how concepts of citizenship, identity, gender, and race have evolved over time. Participants in the BRI have included the following WGS affiliates and associates:

Coordinators

- Christopher Capozzola (History)
- Bruno Perreau (GSL)
- Emma Teng (GSL and History)

Participants

- Azra Aksamija (Art, Culture, and Technology)
- Sana Aiyar (History)
- Vivek Bald (CMS/W)
- Manduhai Buyandelger (Anthropology)
- Catherine Clark (GSL)

- Ian Condry (GSL, CMS/W, Anthropology)
- Sasha Costanza-Chock (CMS/W)
- Isabelle de Courtivron (Sciences Po/MIT Professor Emerita)
- Frédérique Donovan (GSL)
- Amah Edo (HASTS graduate student)
- Lerna Ekmekcioglu (History and WGS)
- Malick Ghachem (History)
- Diana Henderson (Literature)
- Erica James (Anthropology)
- Heather Lee (GSL)
- Lucas Müller (HASTS graduate student)
- Hiromu Nagahara (History)
- Kym Ragusa (CMS/W)
- Margery Resnick (Literature)
- Sarah Song (former faculty member, Political Science)
- Chuong-Dai Vo (WGS Visiting Scholar)
- Tess Wise (MIT alumna, Harvard graduate student)
- Elizabeth Wood (History)

The WGS Intellectual Forum provides an opportunity for faculty affiliates and visiting scholars, as well as the occasional outside colleague, to share research and present their work in progress. WGS hosted a very successful forum series in AY2016, featuring the work of Abha Sur and Jyoti Sinha, Ben Aslinger, Sara Ellison, Bruno Perreau, Caley Horan, Regine Charles (Boston College), and Bettina Stoetzer.

Teaching and Curriculum

WGS offers a range of undergraduate subjects, including many that are cross-listed in a range of departments: Anthropology, CMS/W, GSL, History, Linguistics and Philosophy, Literature, and STS. Students may concentrate and minor in WGS, and they may petition for an interdisciplinary major, either for a split degree with science or engineering (21E/S) or a full humanities degree (21). WGS offered 24 subjects during AY2016, including two terms each of WGS.101 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies and WGS.228 Psychology of Sex and Gender, and enrolled a total of 364 students. WGS also offered credit for two terms of gender-themed seminars in Literature (21L.707 Problems in Cultural Interpretation), listed here, but not included in our enrollment numbers.

These were the WGS subjects for AY2016:

- WGS.101 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
- WGS.109 Women and Global Activism in Media and Politics

- WGS.110 Sexual and Gender Identities
- WGS.111J, CMS.619J Gender and Media Studies
- WGS.125J/CMS.616J Games and Culture
- Literature WGS.140, 21L.504 Race and Identity in American
- WGS.141J/21F.022J/21L.048J International Women's Voices
- WGS.151 Gender, Health, and Society
- WGS154, 21A.143 Gender and Japanese Popular Culture
- WGS.172, 21A.111 For Love and Money: Rethinking the Family
- WGS.190, 21H.106, 21L.008, 21W.741 Black Matters: Introduction to Black Studies
- WGS.220 Women and Gender in the Middle East and North Africa
- WGS.221 Women in the Developing World
- WGS.222J/21H.381J Women and War
- WGS.228J/9.75J The Psychology of Gender and Race
- WGS.231J/21W.742J Writing About Race
- WGS.233, 21G.325 New Culture of Gender: Queer France
- WGS.234, 21G.068 The Innovation of French Theory: A History of Transatlantic Intellectual Life since 1945
- WGS.242 The Latina Experience in Literature, Film, and Popular Culture
- WGS.274, 21A.141 Images of Asian Women: Dragon Ladies and Lotus Blossoms
- WGS.275, 21G.057 Gender in Science, Technology, and the Environment
- WGS.301J/24.237J Feminist Thought
- 21L.707 Problem in Cultural Interpretation: Women Reading/Women Writing
- 21L.707 Problems in Cultural Interpretation: Reading Cookbooks

WGS's ongoing curriculum development prioritizes subjects tailored to meet the needs of MIT students, including gender- and STEM-related subjects, as well as the global and comparative study of women and gender, with special attention given to the intersections of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class. In response to student demand, WGS continued to offer two sections of WGS.101 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, a required course for all WGS concentrators and minors, enabling approximately 50 students per year to explore the field at the introductory level. WGS revived a course on Latina Voices, refashioned as WGS.242 The Latina Experience in Literature, Film and Popular Culture. After peak enrollment and demand, the program offered WGS.101 Gender, Health and Society for a second year; again, interested students had to be turned away after enrollment capacity was met. To support the preparation of pre-health students for the new MCAT requirement instituted last spring, WGS offered two sections of WGS.228 Psychology of Gender and Race and, as noted, above, brought back WGS.151 Gender, Health and Society (developed to meet this need during the summer before AY2015).

Program Highlights and Accomplishments

WGS programming reflects the wide spectrum of academic disciplines and issues related to the field of Women's and Gender Studies and the program's commitment to collaborative work with groups across the MIT campus and in the Cambridge and Boston communities. In AY2016, WGS collaborated with academic departments and sections such as Anthropology, CMS/W, GSL, History, Literature, and STS, as well as non-academic units, such as OME, ICEO, OMP, Global Education and Career Development, Office of the Dean of Graduate Education, Residential Life, LBGT Services and the Rainbow Lounge, and the Violence Prevention Network. WGS also worked with and supported student groups, such as the BWA, LBGT@MIT, Graduate Women at MIT, and Sloan Women at MIT. WGS also contributed to Art, Culture and Technology Professor Azra Aksamija's public art installation, Memory Matrix, a collaborative and transdisciplinary effort that explores how art and cultural heritage can play a role in promoting greater sensitivity to loss in other countries.

Highlights from AY2016

WGS celebrated its 30th anniversary with a gathering of past and present members and friends for dinner, shared memories and stories, and dancing. In all, 78 members of the WGS community attended to help celebrate this milestone. Professor Lee began the evening's formal program by speaking about the state of WGS and her vision for moving forward, and a series of speakers provided historical perspective by addressing the establishment, growth, history, and mission of WGS. Former program directors shared stories about the highlights, goals, and challenges of their tenures.

My Sister's Keeper, an organization established in the fall of 2015, is based in WGS. It was initiated as a collaborative effort of Professor Lee, OME Director DiOnetta Jones Crayton, OMP Director La-Tarri Canty, Counseling Dean Ayida Mthembu, and former Assistant Dean for Graduate Education Eboney Hearn. It is governed by a committee consisting of the founding members, WGS Program Manager Emily Neill, administrative staff members Karinthia Louis and Daria Johnson, GSL Postdoctoral Fellow Amah Edoh, and several undergraduate students.

My Sister's Keeper was established to foster community among MIT's black women and to support the Institute's black women students with social, professional, and mentoring, relationships. Through the creation of six-person sister circles, each of which includes a mix of faculty, staff, and students, it aims to provide smaller support networks and create ways to gather independently to talk, get to know one another, and support each other at MIT. My Sister's Keeper hopes to provide emotional and psychological support, foster kinship and community, strengthen academic performance, and cultivate engagement in social, political, and cultural matters beyond the classroom.

The My Sister's Keeper inaugural event—A Gathering of MIT's Black Women Faculty, Staff, and Students—was held on November 3, 2015, and attended by more than 160 people. In AY2016, My Sister's Keeper also held a study break brunch during exam period in December; a careers event with five black women MIT alumnae as panelists;

a brunch that was part of BWA's Black Women's Week; and a showing of the film, *20 Feet From Stardom*. The sister circles will begin meeting in September 2016. A variety of cultural, professional, and team-building events are planned for the year, as well as efforts to expand service to and connect with other women's communities at MIT.

The re:Vision Women Writers Reading Series was established in the spring semester of AY2016 to bring women who are fiction writers to MIT. The series is a collaboration of WGS, PEN New England, CMS/W, and Literature. Three successful and well-attended readings were held in Hayden Library this year, by African American writer ZZ Packer, Native American writer Linda Hogan, who received PEN New England's Thoreau Nature Writing Prize this year, and emerging Guatemalan American writer Jennifer DeLeon. Six readings, three per semester, are planned for AY2017.

Through Storytime, a pilot project that brings an out-loud reading program to MIT's undergraduate residence halls, students can listen to their science and engineering professors reading literature. This collaborative effort of WGS, PEN New England, CWS/W, Literature, and Burton Conner housemaster Ann McCants unites the arts and humanities with science and engineering. Storytime aims to help students recall their early passion for stories and literature, and to recapture the pleasure of listening to stories read by MIT professors. Each professor reads a favorite story or a classic, and milk and cookies are served at evening events. When Patrick Winston inaugurated the program at Burton Conner in October, at least 40 students attended to hear the reading. George Verghese's November reading attracted a similar number of students and was a great success. The continuation and possible expansion of this program is planned for AY2017.

The Biannual McMillan-Stewart Lectures on Women in the Developing World continued to attract attention and attendance across and beyond the Institute. In the fall, Professor Anver Emon, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Religion, Pluralism, and the Rule of Law at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law, delivered a talk titled "Why 'Tolerance' Misses the Point: Legality of Sexual and Religious Difference in Islamic Law" to a packed audience. In the spring, Sherene Seikaly of the Department of History at the University of California, Santa Barbara, presented a talk titled, "Women of Thrift, Men of Capital: Gender and Economy in Palestine." Professor Seikaly was introduced by Sa'ed Atshan, who is visiting professor of peace and conflict studies at Swarthmore College. Dr. Seikaly also served as the discussant for one of the films in the Women Take the Reel Film Festival; the film, *Speed Sisters*, is about a group of five Palestinian women of different backgrounds who form a car-racing team.

WGS again partnered with the GCWS to produce Boston's seventh annual Women Take the Reel Film Festival, held during Women's History Month. Films were screened throughout the month of March at nine academic institutions: MIT, Tufts University, Northeastern University, Boston College, Boston University, Lesley University, Simmons College, Brandeis University, and Emerson College. Each institution hosted film screenings, followed by discussions with film directors and producers, film protagonists, and/or faculty members. This year a launch event in which all consortium schools participated was held at the Brattle Theater. Called *Black Lives Through the Arts*, the event featured a screening of *Black Men Dream* by Shikeith, with an introduction by the

filmmaker; a musical performance by Castle of our Skins; a slam poetry performance by Lenelle Moïse; and a screening of the feature film, *black./womyn.*, by Tiona McClodden, with an introduction by the filmmaker. The evening culminated in a roundtable discussion with Tiona McClodden, Lenelle Moïse, Shikeith, and members of Castle of Our Skins, that was moderated by Barbara Lewis, associate professor of English and director of the Trotter Institute for the Study of Black History and Culture at the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Other films screened at MIT during the month of March were *Regarding Susan Sontag* (introduced and discussed by director Nancy Kates), *Speed Sisters*, and *Oriented*, a documentary that follows the lives of three gay Palestinian friends confronting their national and sexual identities in Tel Aviv, Israel, which was followed by a question-and answer session with discussant David Shneer of the University of Colorado, Boulder.

In collaboration with the Global Health and Medical Humanities Initiative, WGS invited Dr. Liz Janiak, ScD and education and research program manager at Brigham and Women's Hospital, to give a talk on abortion stigma, "The Cost of Silence: Causes and Consequences of Abortion Stigma in the U.S. & Around the World." Women from across the Institute attended. The talk ignited a conversation that will likely be the source of a new course offering for WGS in AY2018; this is currently in development with Dr. Janiak.

WGS co-sponsored (with GSL and Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow Feng Mei Heberer) a meeting with Renee Tajima Pena and a screening of her documentary film *No Mas Bebes*, which documents the coerced sterilization of Mexican American women at the Los Angeles County Hospital during the 1960s and 1970s. Room 6-120 was packed for the screening and for a discussion with the filmmaker afterward.

WGS co-sponsored (with CMS/W), a lunchtime talk and discussion with Professor Alan Lightman titled "Half the Sky: Empowering Young Women in Asia," which featured the work of the Harpswell Foundation. Professor Lightman founded the foundation to promote the education of girls in Cambodia.

WGS co-sponsored (with CMS/W and LBGT@MIT) the event, "Metaphors, Relationships & Other Queer Things," at which transgender rock-and-roll pioneer and artist Venus De Mars and poet/partner Lynette Reini-Grandell talked about evolving attitudes toward gender and transgender experiences and the influence of these attitudes on their creative work and personal lives.

WGS presented its annual Kampf Writing Prize to two MIT students this year: Harini Suresh, a senior majoring in Computer Science and Engineering, for her essay, "Throwing (and Thinking) Like a Girl," and Gailin (Lin) Pease, a sophomore in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Writing, for her short story, "Casey." The Kampf Prize includes a cash award and a celebratory luncheon with Professor Emeritus Louis Kampf, in whose honor the prize was established, and other WGS faculty members.

Administrative Initiatives

Diversity Initiatives

In AY2016, WGS helped to found My Sister's Keeper, launched the re:Vision reading series, nominated and secured a candidate for the MLK Visiting Professors and Scholars Program, sponsored predoctoral Diversity Fellow Cristina Jo Perez, and secured a predoctoral Diversity Fellow, Channon Miller, for AY2017.

A significant number of WGS subjects in AY2016 addressed the intersection of race and gender, including WGS.140, 21L.504 Race and Identity in American Literature, WGS.141J/21F.022J/21L.048J International Women's Voices, WGS.190, 21H.106, 21L.008, 21W.741 Black Matters: Introduction to Black Studies, WGS.220 Women and Gender in the Middle East and North Africa, WGS.221 Women in the Developing World, WGS.228J/9.75J The Psychology of Gender and Race, WGS.231J/21W.742J Writing About Race, and WGS.242 The Latina Experience in Literature, Film, and Popular Culture.

Re-envisioning and Reorganization

Thanks to funding from Dean Nobles, WGS undertook a long-delayed initiative to revamp its physical space to accommodate the program's community of students, lecturers, faculty members, and administrative staff members. WGS was able to create a work space for lecturers who do not have their own offices and to make it a welcoming, inclusive, and supportive place that will attract students and build community. Because of additional support from Dean Nobles, WGS was able to have its website redesigned so that it will be in keeping with the current state of the discipline and better reflect faculty research, the WGS curriculum, programming, and other endeavors. The website will officially launch on August 20. In addition, and also thanks to the gracious support of Dean Nobles, the new part-time program assistant will help to build and expand the WGS social media presence and reach across the Institute to draw more and diverse students, faculty, and staff to the unique programming offered by WGS.

Finances and Funding

In addition to its base budget, WGS receives generous support from the SHASS Dean's Office for classes, conferences, and other programming, and further benefits from programming co-sponsorship with various academic and non-academic units across MIT. An additional source of funding has been the Geneviève McMillan–Reba Stewart Professorship in the Study of Women in the Developing World and the Geneviève McMillan–Reba Stewart Lecture Series on Women in the Developing World, established in 1996 and generously endowed by Geneviève McMillan (<http://mcmillanstewart.org/>), a passionate believer in equal justice and opportunity. The McMillan-Stewart Chair is held by a WGS affiliate, Professor Lerna Ekmekcioglu (winner of the Levitan Award for Excellence in Teaching this year), who teaches two WGS courses, WGS.222 Women and War, and WGS.220 Women in the Middle East and North Africa, and has organized a new graduate-level theory course on gender for AY2017. As chair, she organizes the McMillan–Stewart Lecture Series.

WGS looks forward to continuing to work with the SHASS development office to identify potential donors and to help make the Capital Campaign a success. WGS also

hopes that as it continues to develop curriculum, it will have the continued support of the SHASS Dean's Office to design new courses, based on student interest and demand.

WGS continues to advocate that the Cheney Room be reconfigured to provide event or classroom space to which WGS would have priority access to support more inclusive WGS programming. Finally, although WGS has been able to rework its physical space to accommodate its community members, it continues to lack storage space. WGS looks forward to the completion of the Building 14 renovation plan, which included the return of the other half of the conference room (currently library space) to WGS

Helen Elaine Lee

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