

# Women's and Gender Studies



## Spring 2023 Newsletter



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## **Dr. Kate Kedley**

Associate Professor of Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Education

### **Why did you decide to get involved in Women's & Gender Studies at Rowan University?**

I am always interested in issues of diversity and equity and was excited to have the chance to learn about and contribute to this program when I arrived on campus at Rowan in 2017. Both my research and teaching often concern issues of gender and sexuality in education and pedagogy.

### **What is your favorite WGS course you've taught at Rowan and why?**

I've only taught *Women and Gender in Perspective*, and I like it!

### **In what gender topics are you most interested?**

Gender dynamics in schools and in young adult literature, especially relative to sexuality and the LGBTQ community.

### **What do you hope to see as the future of WGS at Rowan?**

I hope we can continue to offer high quality and dynamic coursework and programming for Rowan students and that we can continue to reach out to new groups of students who may not have thought of themselves as people who analyze or engage with gender and sexuality on a daily basis!

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## **Dr. Colleen Montgomery**

Associate Professor of Radio/Television/Film

### **Why did you decide to get involved in Women's & Gender Studies at Rowan University?**

As a media studies scholar, I aim to highlight women's contributions to film and television (on screen or behind the camera) and support the advancement of women in the media industries. I joined WGS to work with other members of the campus community who are similarly invested in promoting the study of women and gender at Rowan and beyond.

### **What is your favorite WGS course you've taught at Rowan and why?**

I currently teach one WGS class: *Deconstructing Disney: From Mickey to Marvel*. I love that the class brings together students from across the university who are enthusiastic about the subject matter. Being able to harness that enthusiasm in the service of developing critical perspectives on media industries and cultures is one of the most rewarding parts of teaching the class. Tracing the history of the Walt Disney Company—a multinational multimedia conglomerate that has been in operation for a century—allows us to explore a diversity of topics related to women and gender, from the representational politics of Disney films to the company's involvement in political and cultural struggles over Florida's "Don't Say Gay" legislation.

### **In what gender topics are you most interested?**

My scholarship focuses primarily on animation and film and television sound. I'm especially interested in vocal performance and the relationship between women's voices, agency, and identity in animation.

### **What do you hope to see as the future of WGS at Rowan?**

As we near the 50th anniversary of WGS at Rowan, I hope the program will continue to build on its historic strengths by offering an expanded range of courses and events that benefit diverse constituents across the university.



## *Sex & the Bible*

Course Number: REL 10335

Rowan Core: Humanistic Literacy

Course Scheduling: Offered every other Fall semester by Dr. Whitney Cox, Lecturer in World Religions

This course is designed for students with all levels of familiarity with the Bible, from years of study to never having opened one before. Topics of discussion include prohibited and mandated sexual practices, sex work, celibacy, motherhood, and queerness. This course covers both the historical contexts in which these texts were written and the modern legacies of these ideas. Texts and discussions evaluate the diversity of biblical perspectives on various topics relating to sex, sexuality, gender, bodies, family, crime, and society. The final paper in the course involves comparing one of the biblical texts discussed in the class with a pop-culture text of the student's choosing, not only analyzing how these ancient texts continue to influence modern works but also gaining a new interpretive perspective through which to reconsider the Bible itself.



*Lilith*, 1976  
Sylvia Sleight (1916–2010),  
acrylic on canvas  
108 1/8 x 60 in.  
Rowan University Art Gallery,  
Sylvia Sleight Collection  
(2011.105)  
Photo: Karen Mauch



## *Women and Nonbinary Identities in Sports Communication*

Course Number: CMS 04327

Course Scheduling: Offered every Spring semester by Professor Kate Harman, Senior Lecturer in Communication Studies

Women and nonbinary athletes have long been marginalized and underrepresented in organized sport, including domestically in the United States and on an international scale. This course examines the communication, representation, depiction, and construction of women and nonbinary identities within sports from a rhetorical perspective, highlighting historical, cultural, and social contexts and analyzing the background and participation of individuals who encompass these identities as athletes, coaches, media members, in front offices, and more. Selected topics covered in the course include mediated narratives in popular culture; queerness in women's sports leagues; trans and nonbinary inclusion; and mental health narratives.

On October 27 and November 2, 2022, WGS offered two linked events on the theme of *Black Girl Magic Around the World*, with funding from the Society for the History of Children and Youth as well as several Rowan co-sponsors.

The first event, a panel discussion on the history of Black girlhood, featured Sonya Donaldson (Colby College), LaKisha Michelle Simmons (University of Michigan), and Kelly Duke Bryant (Rowan University). Dr. Donaldson focused on Black German girls in the US and Germany; Dr. Simmons expanded on her book about Black girls in early 20th-century New Orleans; and Dr. Duke Bryant explored the lives of formerly enslaved Black girls in late 19th and early 20th-century Senegal.

Following their research presentations, the scholars had the opportunity to reflect on questions posed by the event's moderator, Dr. Chanelle Rose (Rowan University), which touched on the meaning of "Black Girl Magic," intersections between their research and contemporary issues, and their personal connections to their work.

The second event featured a dynamic and informative presentation by young adult novelists, co-authors, and sisters, Maika and Maritza Moulite. The Moulite sisters are Haitian-American, and they began by sharing some family stories before discussing their collaborative process in writing novels featuring Haitian and Haitian American girls as central characters. After emphasizing the importance of representation and diversity in literature, they turned the floor over to the lively audience. Audience members asked numerous questions about their experiences as authors, working closely with a sibling, and many other topics.

Those in attendance benefited greatly from this author visit, which provided a history lesson, an overview of Haiti's past and present position in geopolitics, and an exuberant discussion of reading, writing, collaboration, and the importance of family.

**BLACK GIRL MAGIC AROUND THE WORLD**

Join us for a discussion by experts on the history of Black girls in Africa, Europe, and the United States.

**SONYA DONALDSON**  
COLBY COLLEGE

**LAKISHA SIMMONS**  
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

**KELLY DUKE-BRYANT**  
ROWAN UNIVERSITY

**MOULITE SISTERS**

Author presentation and Q & A by sisters and writers Maika and Maritza Moulite, authors of the best-selling young adult novels *Dear Haiti*, *Love Elaine* and *One of the Good Ones*.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27**  
2:00PM  
BUSINESS HALL 104

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2**  
12:30PM  
BUSINESS HALL 104

Co-sponsored by Africana Studies, Asian Studies, English, History, International Studies, Women's & Gender Studies, Writing Arts, and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. These events made possible by a grant from the Society for the History of Children and Youth.

**SHCY**  
SOCIETY FOR THE HISTORY OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**Rowan University**  
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES & SOCIAL SCIENCES



WGS, Africana Studies, and several other Rowan co-sponsors held a screening of *Invisible Warriors: African American Women in World War II* on March 28, 2023. The screening was followed by a live Q & A with the filmmaker, Gregory Cooke.

*Invisible Warriors* is a documentary about the experiences of African American women during the Second World War. It includes interviews with a diverse group of African American “Rosie the Riveters” who share their wartime memories, recounting their battles against racism at home, Nazism abroad, and sexism everywhere. *Invisible Warriors* also includes a treasure trove of historical documents and images, some quite rare, that contextualize the experiences of the women interviewed in the film.

Following the screening, those in attendance asked filmmaker Gregory Cooke a series of insightful questions about how he found women to interview, how he conducted his research, and how he cobbled together the funding for what is now widely recognized as an important documentary film. Cooke shared his process and encouraged the students to persist in doing what they believe is important regardless of the obstacles they might face. All the audience members were inspired by the stories *Invisible Warriors* brought to light.

**Tuesday, March 28**  
**11:00 am--1:00 pm**  
**Business Hall 104**

FILM SCREENING

# INVISIBLE WARRIORS

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN WORLD WAR II

Screening will be followed by a Q & A with filmmaker Gregory Cooke



The film is an unforgettable conversation among a diverse group of African American “Rosie the Riveters” who share their wartime memories, recounting their battles against racism at home, Nazism abroad, and sexism everywhere.

Sponsored by Africana Studies, Department of History, Department of Management, Department of Political Science & Economics, Women's & Gender Studies, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Rohrer College of Business





## **Founded in 1974, the Women's & Gender Studies Program at Rowan University is one of the oldest in**

**the nation,** offering interdisciplinary academic programs including a minor and two certificates of undergraduate studies. Through academic programs and public events, the Women's & Gender Studies Program endeavors to call campus and community-wide attention to issues of gender, diversity, equity, and inclusion. Rowan's Women's & Gender Studies Program seeks to interrogate social and cultural norms, historical processes, and power structures through an intersectional, comparative, and global approach to constellations of identity such as gender, race, sexuality, ethnicity, class, and ability.



**Joy Acheampong, Class of 2025**

International Studies and World Religions Majors, WGS Minor

It was truly an honor to represent Rowan University in presenting my research project, "Blossoming of the Swan," at the New Jersey Women's and Gender Studies Consortium Undergraduate Research Colloquium at Georgian Court University in March 2023. I had so much fun being able to meet my fellow peers who are also passionate about understanding many facets of feminist research. I enjoyed listening to my peers' contributions to feminist studies, and I enjoyed speaking with them about our shared passions and hopes for the field. The best part was being awarded recognition as an Emerging Scholar for my research.

I am deeply thankful to the faculty and staff of the Rowan University Women's and Gender Studies Program for offering me this once-in-a-lifetime experience. I am excited to continue my career in women's and gender studies as I move through college and beyond.

**Sydney Craig, Class of 2024**

Psychology Major, WGS Minor, Honors Concentration

I am a junior Psychology major with a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. I first took a Women's and Gender Studies class for fun just as an interesting free elective. I was immediately intrigued and was constantly craving more knowledge about women and gender issues. I knew that I wanted to pursue a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. As a Psychology major who wants to be a clinical therapist for adolescents and young adults, learning all I possibly can about women's and gender issues can only be beneficial for me and my future

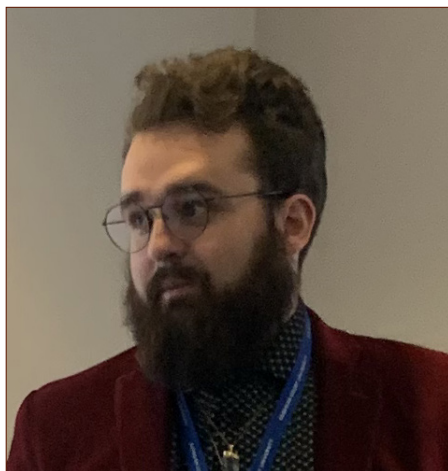


## Devin Hughes, Class of 2026

Mechanical Engineering Major, Honors Concentration

My world view has changed a lot due to taking *Women and Gender in Perspective* as one of my first college courses. As an engineering student I didn't originally expect the class to be very scientific, scholarly, or statistics driven like it was. But the class truly has changed the way I looked at the world. The very first thing I remember from the class is the professor explaining that if you care about women's rights and you think women should be 100% fully equal to men then you are, by definition, a feminist whether you like it or not. I see things now I never noticed before, for example, the gendered language of society. I fully intend on constantly and actively getting better in this field so that I can always treat people with the respect that they deserve.

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## Dawson Baily Kipphut, Class of 2023

Law & Justice, Philosophy, and Psychology Majors

My experience at the New Jersey Women's & Gender Studies Conference Undergraduate Research Colloquium in March 2023 was great. I felt like every panelist I observed had something amazing to bring to the table and had really well-researched and put-together pieces. There was a great variety in topic and presentation. Everyone was super respectful with their questions and listened intently when it came my time to present. There were plenty of feminist perspectives, and in the future I'm hoping there is a stronger showing for queer perspectives as well. If anyone has any interest in the field of women's and gender studies, this is a great opportunity to be part of an insightful community of peers.

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## Allison Lykes, Class of 2025

(Winner of 2023-2024 WGS Caswell/Cohen Scholarship)  
Computer Science Major, WGS and Mathematics Minors,  
Honors Concentration

In my WGS courses, I am able to find comfort and express myself. WGS is undeniably essential to becoming a more well-rounded human being, where the classroom environment promotes diversity and inclusion and encourages more equitable conversation. I am grateful to have the opportunity to be able to enroll and participate in these courses, and I encourage others to do the same.



## Kayleigh Naprawa, Class of 2026

(Winner of 2023-2024 WGS Caswell/Cohen Scholarship)

Political Science Major, WGS and Sociology Minors, Honors Concentration

Women's and Gender Studies is important to me because I want to be a part of a generation of change. This discipline is not solely focused on women's issues but touches on social structures, privilege, and stereotypes. I am grateful to have gained a new perspective on the world around me from the courses in this program.



## Ashley Santiago, Class of 2022

Early Childhood Education Major, WGS Minor

I am so happy that I chose WGS as my minor while attending Rowan because the classes were very enjoyable and I learned so much about the history of gender, diversity, equity, and inclusion and how it affects our society today. A lot of the topics we studied produced such great discussions in class and helped us reflect on our own life experiences.

Since graduating I have started my career as a preschool teacher. I use a lot of the things that I have learned while taking WGS courses to help me better understand that the children in my class come from all different types of families and backgrounds. I strive to teach my students acceptance and treating others equally. I hope with what I have learned I can help to shape little minds into becoming extraordinary adults.

## Jay Schwartz, Class of 2023

Psychology Major, WGS Minor

I am very grateful to have been a WGS minor. I have learned things about the importance of intersectionality, gender and sexuality, and family structure that will certainly aid me in my career as a mental health counselor.





Women's and Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary field that examines gender roles in the complex contexts of culture and society, raising important questions about social, political, economic, and cultural institutions. Women's and Gender Studies courses provide an opportunity for intensive study and in-depth analysis. Many Women's and Gender Studies courses fit the global/multicultural designation. Interested students can contact [Dr. Melissa R. Klapper](#), Coordinator of Women's and Gender Studies, for more information.

## MINOR REQUIREMENTS

Each student enrolled in the Women's and Gender Studies minor is required to complete 18 credit hours of Women's and Gender Studies courses. Courses should optimally be taken in a sequence from general introductory courses to more specialized, upper division courses. Each student is required to take:

The core course, *Women and Gender in Perspective* OR *Honors Women and Gender in Perspective* (INTR 01.130); and

Fifteen (15) additional credits of approved WGS courses (ranked First and Second Tier), of which nine (9) credits must be from the First Tier and up to six (6) credits must be from the Second Tier.

Sample First Tier course:

CMS 04320 *Communicating Gender*

HIST 05424 *Women in Modern American History*

REL 10335 *Sex and the Bible*

Sample Second Tier courses:

ENG 02205 *Adolescent Literature*

PSY 05310 *Psychology of Human Sexuality*

RTF 01403 *Deconstructing Disney*

## CUGS REQUIREMENTS

Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Women, Gender, and Media

INTR 01130 *Women and Gender in Perspective*

OR *Honors Women and Gender in Perspective*

And three electives drawn from the course list below:

ARHS 03340 *Survey of Women Artists*

CMS 04310 *Images of Gender in Popular Culture*

CMS 04320 *Communicating Gender*

ENGL 02210 *Gender, Sexuality, and Literature*

RTF 03272 *Images of Women in Film*

Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Women, Gender, and Society

INTR 01130 *Women and Gender in Perspective*

OR *Honors Women and Gender in Perspective*

And three electives drawn from the course list below:

ANTH 02322 *Sex and Sex Roles in a Cross Cultural Perspective*

LAWJ 05346 *Women, Crime, and Criminal Justice*

HIST 05423 *Women in Early American History*

HIST 05424 *Women in Modern American History*

PHIL 09328 *Philosophy and Gender*

POSC 07311 *Women in American Politics*

PSY 01200 *Psychology of Women and Cultural Experience*

SOC 08370 *Sociology of Women*