



NEW PROFESSOR HIRED IN WGSS

Corie Hammers from Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia will be joining the Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Department as Assistant Professor next year. Learn more about Professor Hammers.

Corie Hammers received her Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Oklahoma and her M.S. in Sociology at Portland State University. She has had additional training in feminist theory and continental feminism at Utrecht University's Netherlands Research School of Women's Studies. In Summer 2007 she was a Visiting Scholar at the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC): Research Center for Law, Gender and Sexuality at the University of Keele.



Her main research project has been one of examining lesbian/queer public sexual cultures and sexual spaces in Canada and the US. She is particularly interested in interrogating the linkages between sexuality, space and identity formations, and the sexual politics within non-normative sexual communities. She is using insights stemming from her ethnographic investigations of

these lesbian/queer sexual spaces to examine the intersections of feminist and queer theory. She continues to do research on lesbian/queer sexual spaces. She has just begun a new project exploring the politics of (non)belonging among African American women within the LGBT community and their networking practices.

She has published essays in a variety of journals such as *Sexualities*, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, *Journal of Gender Studies* and *Journal of Homosexuality*. She is currently working on a number of manuscripts. One article entitled "Queer Exclusions and Corporeal Silences: The Promises and Limitations of Queer in Public Sexual Spaces," for *Transgender Identities: Towards a Social Analysis of Gender Diversity* (Routledge), an anthology on transgender issues and identities, explores the exclusionary mechanisms and transphobia that operate in "queer" sexual spaces. " 'But I Love Men': The 'F-Word' and the (De)Stabilization of the Hetero/Homo Binary", which is currently in the revise-and-resubmit stage for *Gender & Society*, examines through...

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INTERVIEW WITH ANNE KUSTRITZ, FAN VIDEOS FAN

Anne Kustritz is a visiting professor at Macalester, teaching three classes this semester: *Media Anthropology: Mediating Gender and Sexuality*, *Anthropological Perspectives in Feminist and Queer Theories and Methodologies*, and *Sexual Citizenship in the Public Sphere*. She is interviewed here by department employee and WGSS major Anna Wielgosz '09.

AW: Tell me a little bit about your trajectory into Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

AK: I went into my undergrad wanting to be a clinical psychologist, but I took a cultural studies class freshman year and fell in love with the field. I have interdisciplinary interests: cultural anthropology, cultural studies, media studies, and conversations across these fields are central to my work. Throughout these fields, I have an interest in gender and sexuality studies. Overall, I'd say my work recombines and re-envisions mass media representations of gender and sexuality.

AW: What are your research interests?

AK: My research has been going on since that first cultural studies class as a freshman. I had an assignment to find something interesting happening with gender and sexuality, and I focused on slash vids, an underground genre that has been going on since the 1970's. I had a great time working on it, and my professor pushed me to pursue this topic in other projects, including my honors project, which eventually got published. I feel so lucky because I get to do cool work that I love, hang out with cool women, and call it a job.

AW: How has teaching at Macalester been?

AK: I've been having a really good time teaching my classes. I'm constantly impressed with the students, how well prepared and intellectually curious they are. It's a joy to be able to teach classes that are central to my research interests; these are courses I've always wanted to teach and to have the opportunity to teach all three this semester is truly a gift. I'm very happy to be here!

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“WOMEN SUSTAIN, AND WE CELEBRATE.”

This year, the Women’s History Month (WHM) Planning Committee’s theme for March 2009 is “Women Sustain”. The WHM Planning Committee believes the theme is appropriate because it speaks to the myriad of ways that women support themselves and their communities. Women sustain honors the contributions that women continue to make in developing more sustainable and just societies. Women sustain in the face of challenges; women overcome obstacles. Women sustain, and we celebrate.

3/2 Film: *Woman, Demon, Human* at John B. Davis Lecture Hall, 7-10pm

Kick off Women's History Month with a screening of *Woman, Demon, Human* (1987) and discussion led by Assistant Professor Xin Yang of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. Light refreshments will be served.



3/3 Department of Multicultural Life Speak Series: Julie Chavez Rodriguez at Kagin Hill Ballroom, 5-7:30pm

Julie Chavez Rodriguez, the granddaughter of civil and labor rights activist Cesar Chavez, will give a talk titled 'Si, Se Puede! Continuing the Legacy of Cesar Chavez.' Chavez Rodriguez is the programs director for the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation and spearheads the National Youth Leadership Initiative. This event is a 'SPEAK: A Series of Conscious Conversations' initiative, sponsored by the Lealtad-Suzuki Center, the President's Office, and the Dean for the Study of Race and Ethnicity.

3/5 Soup & Substance: Social Activism in Women's Communities at Kagin Commons, Noon-1pm

3/5 Jump at the Sun: The Life and Times of Zora Neale Hurston in Old Main 4th Floor Lounge, 6:30pm

JUMP AT THE SUN: The Life and Times of Zora Neale Hurston takes a spirited look at the life and writings of Zora Neale Hurston, the influential African-American anthropologist, writer and folklorist. Featuring Twin Cities actress and singer Regina Williams as Zora, the performance ties themes from the author’s most celebrated works, including *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, to events in her own life. Stories of her idyllic hometown of Eatonville, tall tales she collected during her travels in the rural south, and her struggle to maintain her unique voice as a writer despite criticism from the male literati of the Harlem Renaissance.



3/6 Women Come to the Capitol, 9am-2pm

Macalester students, sponsored by the Women's History Month Committee, will join the Minnesota Women's Consortium in downtown St. Paul for Women Come to the Capitol, where participants will experience advocacy training (how do you REALLY talk with your own or any legislator?), review top issues for women this legislative session, participate in a mock committee hearing, and meet the participant's own legislators or other women legislators. To learn more or to participate, email iquanrud@macalester.edu.

3/7-8 Campus Camp Wellstone at Macalester, through Campus Programs



3/11 Bonnie Watkins at John B. Davis Lecture Hall, 4:30-7pm

“Everyday She-Roes, Including YOU.” Bonnie Watkins is executive director of the Minnesota Women’s Consortium, with 175 member organizations, the nation’s largest network of organizations committed to equality for all women. Bonnie is also the board secretary for U.S. Women Connect, the national non-governmental organization preparing for the fifth World Women’s Conference. Bonnie is also the co-author of *In the Company of Women* (Minnesota Historical Society Press, 1996), a “narrative quilt” of the contemporary women’s movement. In past work, Bonnie assisted 1,600 Minnesota local governments in implementing pay equity as the state’s first Pay Equity Coordinator, in the Minnesota Department of Employee Relations, and she staffed the legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women (1978-1984) and the Governor’s Open Appointments Commission (1977-1978). At the Commission, she was one of the architects of the Minnesota State Employees Pay Equity Act (1982) and the Local Government Pay Equity Act (1984).

3/14-3/22 Local Alternative Spring Break with Laura Jeffrey Academy

Macalester students and staff will engage in service at the Laura Jeffrey Academy, located on the corner of Snelling and Summit Avenue. “Laura Jeffrey Academy is a Twin Cities tuition-free charter school offering a unique year-round, girl-focused educational experience, grades five through eight. Students learn through rigorous study, by asking questions, solving problems, and participating in the community.” To learn more, email emiller5@macalester.edu.

3/25 Farheen Hakeem at Weyerhaeuser Boardroom, 4:45-7:15pm

From her website: “Farheen Hakeem, educator, leader, and community organizer, moved to Minneapolis in 1999. After September 11, 2001, Farheen joined the antiwar movement, spurred by the poor decisions that our government was making. At the same time working as a teacher, she saw how resources from the local level were being drained while corporate interests were being expanded. These two experiences challenged her to examine the ways in which government fails the very communities it was created to serve.” Farheen is the Minnesota State Representative for District 61B, as well as the Lead Community Coordinator for the Muslim Girls Initiative for the Girl Scout Council of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys.

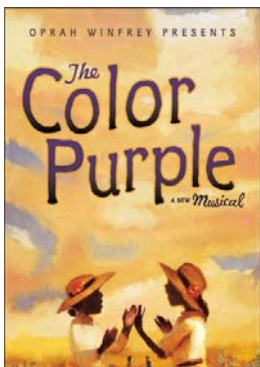


3/26 Cook for Kids with Jeremiah Program, 4-7pm

The Women's History Month Committee in conjunction with MacSoup will organize and provide a meal for mothers and their children at the Jeremiah Program St. Paul campus. “Jeremiah Program provides safe affordable housing for low-income single mothers and their children, allowing the mothers to complete their post-secondary education and build self-reliance through life skills training with a focus on education and employability. Their children are enrolled in the on-site child development center at each campus.” To learn more or to participate, email jquanrud@macalester.edu.

3/29 The Color Purple at the Ordway Theatre, 2-5:30pm - Through Campus Programs

The Women's History Month Committee in conjunction with Campus Programs will provide students with the opportunity to purchase discounted tickets to musical *The Color Purple*, adapted from Alice Walker's novel.



3/31 In the Kitchen with Women's History Month at the Cultural House, 5-7pm

Please join the planning committee for the final event of Women's History Month. We invite all attendees, participants, and co-sponsors of Women's History Month to gather around food and to celebrate all our accomplishments.

Women's History Month 2009 is sponsored by: Asian Languages & Cultures, Campus Programs, Career Development Center, Civic Engagement Center, Center for Religious & Spiritual Life, Dean for the Study of Race & Ethnicity, Department of Multicultural Life, Environmental Studies, Hispanic & Latin American Studies, History Department, Lealtad-Suzuki Center, President's Office, Psychology, Office of Student Affairs, Theater & Dance, and Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies

Corie Hammers, continued from front page

...qualitative techniques, women's disavowal of feminism and its linkages with heteronormativity. Utilizing data and the theoretical insights emerging from my ethnographic work on queer sexual spaces, an article entitled “The Transparent White Subject and the Racial (Re)Production of Sexed Spaces,” will explore the intersections and tensions between queer theory and critical race theory.

Her teaching interests include feminist theory, queer theory, sociological theory, gender and globalization, the sociology of gender and sexuality, sociology of sport and the politics of food. Her core courses in the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department include Race, Sex and Work in the Global Economy, Feminist/Queer Theories and Methodologies and Sexuality, Race and Nation: Introduction to LGBT Studies.



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT ON FEMINIST ARTISTS

Emily Gastineau is a Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major and Dance minor.

How did you become interested in WGSS?

EG: I became a WGSS major by accident—I got converted because of some fabulous teachers, and because even early on, it seemed like the theories I was learning in class would somehow explain everything. I appreciate the analytical tools that it has given me, and I have also been able to integrate my work in dance with my interest in WGSS.

What was your study abroad experience?

EG: I studied abroad in Yaoundé, Cameroon last spring, and I am so grateful for that experience because it gave me a new perspective on my own education and culture. Walking down the street as a white woman was a learning experience every day. My host mother was a women's rights activist, but her assumptions, goals, and priorities were totally different from mine.

Describe your research interests and the subject of your honors project.

EG: I am doing an honors project at the intersection of feminist theory and dance studies, focusing on the relationship between the body and subjectivity in contemporary dance and movement as a political strategy. Last fall, I made a piece for 24 nude performers that dealt with the dynamics of viewing bodies onstage, and I am currently making another dance piece dealing with the organization and fragmentation of the body. I hope to keep doing this type of work in the future, allowing feminism to motivate my artistic practice.



Emily Gastineau



Sarah Welch

Sarah Welch is a Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies major.

Why did you decide to major in WGSS?

SW: I fell into the WGSS Department almost by accident, when I took a topics course called "Sex Panic" in the first semester of my freshman year. It was a big intellectual challenge for me, which made me love it all the more. Christine Rose, the visiting professor who offered the course, changed my life. She's one of the best teachers I've ever had. I took another class from her in the spring, and then took one with Scott Morgensen in the fall, and I just sucked it up and declared early - I always wanted to take everything offered in the department, and never really wanted to take anything in other departments that didn't incorporate feminist or queer issues in some way or another. I had found my home! And I really can't imagine myself happily majoring in anything else. WGSS is one of the biggest things I'll miss about Macalester.

What do you see yourself doing after graduation?

SW: The cool thing about WGSS is that it's such a universally applicable degree. You always carry it with you, and I like to think that having this education will incite me to radicalize how I think and act in any environment that I end up in. I used to think that academia was where I belonged and wanted to be - the longer I'm in it, the more I question that. What happened to Scott Morgensen affected me deeply in all sorts of ways - one of those ways was that it made me question whether or not I'm cut out for the kind of struggles one faces as a radical interdisciplinary academic. I sort of want to do the History of Consciousness program at UC Santa Cruz some day. Not right away. I want to make sure I'm ready to give my life to a PhD program before I take that sort of leap. I might want to go back to Amsterdam and study for a Master's at the UvA, I might want to abandon academia altogether. I do feel drawn to communities and organizations that deal directly with sex work and trafficking - I would like to do nonprofit or social work or policy work or grassroots community work or academic work or activist work in relation to that, someday. But I want the next few years to be sort of an experiment in how my degree plays out in my life. Partly because of my methodological crisis, and partly because I will kick myself if I don't, and partly because it is one of the few kinds of graduate school that is affordable, my immediate plan is to get a creative writing MFA in the next couple of years. After that, who knows? But I don't think, being politicized the way I am now, that my WGSS education is ever going to wind up very far from what I do. I'm WGSS for life.

ALUMNA WRITES BACK!

Macalester graduate Venessa Fuentes '97 informs us about her life after becoming one of the first to come out of the Women's and Gender Studies Department a dozen years ago.

Since graduating with my WGST (Women's and Gender Studies) degree, way back in 1997, I have been employed at the same organization, doing work that I believe in, for ten years. Weird, isn't it? Basically, the week after graduation, I was hired as the Registrar and Receptionist at local nonprofit arts organization the Loft Literary Center. I escaped the Twin Cities briefly in 1998 but regained my smarts and returned a year later, promptly asking the Loft to rehire me. Luckily for me, they said yes. I've worked here as the receptionist, assistant in the adult education department, and youth program coordinator. Today I work in the programs department, overseeing opportunities that serve emerging writers of color and other underserved communities.



When not working at the Loft and serving area writers, I parent and I write. Felix, my son, turns four in April. He spends most of his time with me, but also spends time with his dad, who doesn't live with us. My poems have been published in two anthologies: *Between the Heart and the Land/Entre el Corazón y la Tierra: Latina Poets in the Midwest* and *The Wind Shifts: New Latino Poetry*. My writing life has seen its fair share of road blocks, but I'm happy to say that I currently find myself in a productive and creative space.

Don't roll your eyes at me, but if there's something I've held on to since graduating, it's the 1960s feminist idea that "the personal is political." Yes: I call myself a Feminist. Yes: writing poems, being a part of an artistic community, is a central part of my feminism. Yes: I believe that parenting, in my case a boy child, is a Feminist act. I'm not saying that Second Wave Feminism is *my* feminism. Far from it. And I'm not "anti-man." Just for the record.

I encourage any current WGSS student to contact me at work if interested in an internship, an informational interview, or just a cup of coffee or tea. My door is open.

Venessa Fuentes | vfuentes@loft.org | 612-215-2587

APRIL WGSS LUNCH LECTURE:

Hubert H. Humphrey Distinguished Visiting Professor

Smadar Lavie

*South/South Feminist Coalitions and the Art of Staying Put:
Crossing the Palestine/Israel Border with Gloria Anzaldua*



Smadar Lavie

Tuesday, April 7, 11:30am-12:30pm, Carnegie 06 (lunch provided)

Gloria Anzaldua writes that the border is an "open wound... where the third world grates against the First and bleeds. And before a scab forms it hemorrhages again, the lifeblood of two worlds merging to form a third country – a border culture." In the case of Euro-Israel, the volatile gender/race/nation South/South coalition among subaltern Arabs is forced upon Mizrahi (Oriental, Heb., Jews from non Yiddish speaking countries) and Palestinian women with Israeli citizenship. None of them wants to be in this "third country," emerging out of their painful dispossession of lands, languages and cultures. Anzaldua's border's imagistic ambiguity is not liberating, but rather is used by the Ashkenazi (European Jewish) Zionist hegemony as yet another frontier to conquer. The ambiguity invites the projections and misreadings which enable Palestinian and Mizrahi gendered experiences in the borderlands to be displayed in Israel's Ashkenazi-Zionist centers of power. The borderzones between transnational hyphens connote fluidity, and movement across boundaries. The paper will argue that the Mizrahi and Palestinian-Israeli gendered hyphens are what allow subaltern non European women in the state of Israel to radically stay put in their respective hyphenated identities. Further, staying put is not representational but somatic, and therefore difficult to theorize beyond the bounds of the lived.