

# WGSS Newsletter

## women & gender studies section

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### Notes From The Chair

by Tara Baillargeon



Welcome to the new school year! It is an honor to serve as Chair of WGSS for the next year. Throughout my education and career, I have been drawn to Women and Gender Studies because of its critical, interdisciplinary, and diverse approaches to research and scholarship. My involvement with WGSS has been one of the most rewarding

aspects of my career and I am excited about the projects and events taking place in the upcoming year.

WGSS hosted several events at ALA Annual 2019 in Washington DC. There was a great turn out (standing room only!) for the WGSS program at ALA Annual 2019 titled, "Pitfalls of neutrality: What does inclusivity mean in libraries?" The WGSS poster sessions had strong attendance and the membership meeting was followed by a lovely social gathering that included a tour of the National Portrait Gallery.

There is a mix of new and continuing initiatives being addressed this year. The Collections Committee is

developing a list of open educational resources for WGS and the Instruction Committee is wrapping up their work on the Information Literacy Framework document. At the Annual 2019 Executive Committee meeting it was brought to our attention that our section bylaws and orientation guide do not align, which needs to be addressed. As a result, Laura Bonella is leading a task force to update and align both documents. It was also noticed that WGSS archival material is scattered and can be found on both the old and new WGSS websites. As a result, a group led by Cindy Ingold will review existing WGSS archived materials and make recommendations for preserving and organizing the content.

There will not be any official WGSS meetings taking place at ALA Midwinter 2020 in Philadelphia in January. The Program Planning Committee is working hard on putting together an interesting and lively program for next summer's ALA meeting in Chicago. I hope to see you there.

Finally, I'd like to thank Pamela Salela for her leadership as last year's WGSS Chair. Her guidance during my transition into the Chair role has been invaluable. I'd also like to welcome our new officers - Sharon Ladenson, Vice Chair, and Beth Twomey, Secretary. If you haven't already, please join the WGSS listserv to stay up to date on what's happening with WGSS.

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The *WGSS Newsletter* welcomes contributions from its members. Please send articles, items of interest, and news to the editors in electronic format.

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#### Follow us!



#### WGSS OFFICERS, 2019-2020

- Dr. Tara Baillargeon, Chair
- Sharon Ladenson, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect
- Beth Twomey, Secretary
- Emily J. Asch, Member-at-Large
- Caitlin Shanley, Member-at-Large
- Pamela M. Salela, Past Chair

Listserv archives (1999 - present):

<http://lists.ala.org/sympa/arc/wgss-l>

WGSS Newsletters (1986 - present):

<http://libr.org/wgss/newsletter/index.html>

### ACRL Diversity Alliance -- Join or Renew for 2020!

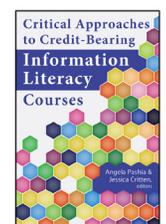
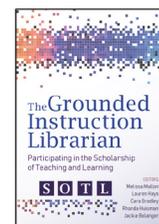
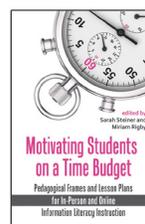
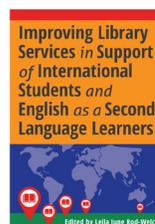
The ACRL Diversity Alliance program unites academic libraries committed to increasing the hiring pipeline of qualified and talented individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups. By working together and thinking more broadly, ACRL Diversity Alliance institutions will help diversify and thereby enrich the profession. The commitment of each library leader to create one or more residency positions will expand the opportunities available to individuals from professionally underrepresented groups to gain knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to thrive in an academic context. Renewals will go out this fall for 2019 institutional members. If your institution is not a current member and you're interested in joining the ACRL Diversity Alliance, please contact ACRL Program Manager for Strategic Initiatives Allison Payne at [apayne@ala.org](mailto:apayne@ala.org).

ACRL's RoadShows open the door for academic and research libraries to bring high quality professional development directly to their campus, chapter, or consortium



at an affordable cost. These day-long workshops engage participants to learn new skills and strengthen existing competencies to tackle the greatest issues facing the profession today. RoadShow topics align with ACRL's strategic goals, ensuring a commitment to leading academic and research librarians in advancing learning and transforming scholarship.

<http://www.ala.org/acrl/conferences/roadshows>



ACRL publishes a range of books to assist academic librarians in developing their professional careers, managing their institutions, and increasing their awareness of developments in librarianship, providing timely, thought-provoking, and practical content and research to academic and research librarians worldwide. Some recent titles:

The Grounded Instruction Librarian: Participating in The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning | Scholarship in the Sandbox: Academic Libraries as Laboratories, Forums, and Archives for Student Work | Critical Approaches to Credit-Bearing Information Literacy Courses | Motivating Students on a Time Budget: Pedagogical Frames and Lesson Plans for In-Person and Online Information Literacy Instruction

Interested in writing for ACRL? Contact Erin Nevius, ACRL's Content Strategist, at [enevius@ala.org](mailto:enevius@ala.org) for more information, or visit [www.ala.org/acrl/publications/](http://www.ala.org/acrl/publications/)



Women  
& Gender  
Studies  
Section

## Committee Reports

### PROGRAM PLANNING

The WGSS Program Planning Committee along with the ACRL Arts Section, submitted a collaborative program proposal for ALA Annual 2020. The theme of the proposal is Women Artists of Mexican decent in Chicago and beyond, archiving of community artists works. We will know more in November when the winning proposals are announced.

Pamela M. Salela  
Chair, Conference Program Planning

### PUBLICATIONS

Check out the newly redesigned [WGSS Website](https://acrl.ala.org/wgss/) and let us know if you have any comments, suggestions, complaints, etc.! While you are there, be sure to sign up for the Facebook and Twitter feeds, as both have been active lately. <https://acrl.ala.org/wgss/>

Jennifer Gilley and Nicki Loder  
Co-Editors, WGSS Website

### RESEARCH COMMITTEE

The revision of the Research Agenda for Women and Gender Studies Librarianship is 50% done! Be sure to check out the new sections on collection development, discovery and subject access, gender and technology, scholarly communications, women's health information-seeking, and the information needs of women worldwide. Enjoy all the fantastic research that WGSS librarians are doing!

Jennifer Gilley  
Chair, Research Committee

### ALA Annual Posters

#### [Balancing the Books: Gender and Negotiation](#)

Jennifer A. DeVito,  
Stony Brook University  
Claudia McGivney, Adelphi University

#### [Book Clubs as Feminist Pedagogy Praxis](#)

Valerie Brett Shaindlin,  
University of Hawaii Cancer Center  
Laila Brown, Hawaii Pacific University  
Holiday Vega, University of Chicago

#### [Challenges to a Feminized Profession: How the Bibliographic Instruction Movement Transformed Academic Librarianship](#)

Kelly R. Hangauer,  
Humboldt State University

#### [Closing the Gap: Library Outreach to Empower Women and Gender-Diverse Individuals through Coding Workshops](#)

Carmen Cole, Penn State University

#### [Creating a Monster: The Women in Film Horror Index](#)

Lizzy Walker, Wichita State University  
Faye O'Reilly, Wichita State University

#### [Gendered Ageism as a Barrier to Tenure Track Librarianship](#)

Sally Stieglitz, Long Island Library  
Resources Council

#### [Pump up the Jam! A Feminist Approach to Lactation Rooms](#)

Charissa Powell, University of Tennessee  
Knoxville  
Anna Sandelli, University of Tennessee  
Knoxville  
Lizeth Zepeda

#### [Renegotiating the Repository: Critically Examining Metadata Creation for Video Interviews](#)

Meaghan Moody,  
University of Pennsylvania

Daniel Delmonaco,  
University of Michigan

#### [Representation of Women in LIS Publications and Leadership: An Analysis and Critique](#)

Brady D. Lund, Emporia State University  
Danica White, Emporia State University

#### [Striking Gold: Using Free Text Mining Tools to Explore Women's and Gender Studies Literature](#)

Cindy L. Craig, University of Florida  
Colleen Seale, University of Florida

#### [The Varied Activities of Women: Will Research be their Reward?](#)

Sara A. Howard, Princeton University  
Emma Sarconi, Princeton University

#### [Women in Comics: Off and On the Page](#)

Laurin Paradise, Manhattan College

#### [Celebrating Equity: Women's Suffrage Centenary Collections](#)

Janice Maria Krueger,  
Clarion University of PA

#### [Hated Bodies: Home Economics Collections, Fashion, and Anxiety in the Library](#)

Courtney Becks, University of Illinois at  
Urbana-Champaign

#### [Imposter Syndrome, Minority Women, and Technical Services](#)

Paige Morfitt, Whitman College

#### [Information Literacy at the Intersection of Scholarly Communications and Social Justice](#)

Sarah Appedu, Gettysburg College

#### [Organizing a Student-Driven Wikipedia Edit-a-thon](#)

Hailley Fargo, Penn State University  
Lily Murray, Penn State University

## NWSA Conference Preview

### **Panel Title: Archiving Activism: Alternative Ways of Documenting and Engaging with Social Justice**

**Abstract:** The preservation of activist records is essential to documenting and engaging with social justice history. Grounded in a critical approach to archives, panelists will examine how the collection and use of archival materials can disrupt dominant paradigms of primary source research, and generate alternative ways of knowing, teaching and creating with the physical and digital ephemera of organizing and protest. Panelists will discuss feminist collecting ethics and preserving the posters and ephemera of the 2017 Women's Marches; issues of privacy and preservation in digital and digitized records, with a focus on the 2017 Women's Marches, reactions to the January 2017 executive order travel ban, and community archives; engaging college students with the archival history of rape and sexual violence prevention initiatives of the 1970s, 80s, and 90s in the wake of the #MeToo movement; and the scope and challenges of archiving online activism and protest of social and political issues. The panel will be structured to promote discussion and inquiry into the ways in which critical engagement with archives and archival records can generate new ways of knowing justice. The audience will receive a zine highlighting archival and library resources discussed in the session and how to access them, as well as recommendations for donating and using archival records.

**Panelists:** Chloe Raub, Head of Archives and Special Collections Newcomb Archives and Vorhoff Library Special Collections (Newcomb College Institute of Tulane University). Bernadette Birzer, Archivist for Collection Management and Digital Initiatives (Newcomb College Institute of Tulane University). Mattie Taormina, Director of the Sutro Library (Sutro Library). Kris Kasianovitz, Government Information Librarian for International, State and Local Documents (Stanford University). Sara Howard (Moderator), Librarian for Gender & Sexuality Studies and Student Engagement (Princeton University).

### **Workshop Title: Surviving Erasure: Using Archives for Social Justice**

**Abstract:** Using a feminist pedagogical lens, this workshop seeks to engage and illustrate different hands-on research strategies for interrogating archival materials. Workshop participants will deconstruct the perception that libraries and archives are neutral entities. By using examples from Marlon Riggs, the 2017 Women's March, Karen Leonard, and FOIA (Freedom of Information) and public records requests, participants will explore new ways of knowing justice for those who have experienced erasure in the historic record.

**Workshop facilitators:** Regina Lee Roberts, Librarian for Anthropology & Archaeology, Communication & Journalism, Feminist Studies, Lusophone Africa. (Stanford University). Mattie Taormina, Director of the Sutro Library (Sutro Library), and possibly Kris Kasianovitz, Government Information Librarian for International, State and Local Documents (Stanford University)

You do not need to be a member of NWSA to join us for the November 2019 conference in San Francisco. If you are a member of NWSA or are considering joining NWSA please join the Librarians Task Force (listed under "My Caucuses"). It is FREE and helps keep our group going. Please share with WGSS faculty, students and staff as well! The conference website can be found at this link:

<https://www.nwsa.org/annualconference>.

Sara A. Howard  
NWSA Liaison  
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## Call for Award Nominations



### **Nominations are now open for ACRL Women and Gender Studies Section awards!**

Do you know someone who has excelled in Women and Gender Studies Librarianship? The ACRL Women & Gender Studies Section is accepting nominations for two awards. WGSS awards are given annually to honor distinguished academic librarians who have made outstanding contributions to women and gender studies through accomplishments and service to the profession. The awards recognize those who have made long-standing contributions to the field during a career (the Career Achievement Award) and those who have made significant one-time contributions (the Significant Achievement Award.)

Selection criteria for the awards:

*The WGSS Career Achievement Award in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship* is designed to honor individual career achievement in

Women and Gender Studies Librarianship. Nominees should have demonstrated sustained achievement in one or more of the following areas:

- Service within the organized profession through ACRL/WGSS and/or related organizations
- Academic/research library or archival service in the area of women and gender studies
- Research and publication in areas of academic/research library or archival services in women and gender studies
- Planning and implementation of academic/research library or archival programs in women and gender studies disciplines of such exemplary quality that they could serve as a model for others

The award is sponsored by Duke University Press and includes a \$750 check plus a plaque for the winner. Additional information and nomination procedures can be found at <http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards/achievementawards/wssachievement>

*The WGSS Award for Significant Achievement in Women & Gender Studies Librarianship* recognizes one-time achievement, by an individual or a group, during the year of the award. Achievement may be in any area of academic, women and gender studies librarianship, including, but not limited to:

- Publication of a monograph, journal article, website or media product
- Talk or other presentation at a nationally recognized conference
- Innovations in women and gender studies librarianship, including but not limited to instruction
- Development of an exemplary program, collection, digitization project, or access tool to serve women and gender studies students and/or faculty
- Significant creative and innovative contribution to the work of the ACRL Women & Gender Studies Section

The award is sponsored by Duke University Press and includes a \$750 check plus a plaque for the winner. Additional information and nomination procedures can be found at

[http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards/achievementawards/WGSS\\_Significant\\_Achievement\\_Award](http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards/achievementawards/WGSS_Significant_Achievement_Award)

For questions, please contact Laura Bonella, Awards Committee chair, [laurab@ksu.edu](mailto:laurab@ksu.edu)

Deadline for both awards is Friday, December 6, 2019.

## Call for Proposals

### Gender and Sexuality in Information Studies Colloquium 2020 Technologies and Race, Gender, Sexuality, and the Body in Information Studies

Proposals due November 15, 2019

Conference date: July 24, 2020

This gathering seeks to create an inclusive space for difficult, fruitful conversations around technology, however defined, as it affects and is affected by race, gender, sexuality, and ability. We aim to foster conversations that consider “technology” as the expression of material cultures, labor, and embodiment; as well as sites of empowerment or oppression.

In libraries, and in the professional discourses of librarianship and information studies, we often talk about “technology” as a means to an end. Or, we speculate about technology as though it emanated from the horizon of a futurity that appears sometimes threatening, sometimes empowering, but always inevitable: e.g., artificial intelligence will “revolutionize” the ways we find and use information. Both kinds of discourse omit the ways technologies begin and end in the flesh — how technologies shape habits of body and mind, just as those habits influence the design and construction of technologies.

The planning committee for the 2020 Gender and Sexuality in Information Studies Colloquium invites you to join these conversations on July 24, 2020 in Washington, DC at George Washington University.

We invite proposals that address the problems, power, and potential of “technologies” in libraries and archives, past, present, and future, and seek a range of interpretations of the concept of technology.

We invite submissions from individuals as well as pre-constituted panels. Submit your proposals here: <http://bit.ly/GSISC2020>. Please direct any questions or concerns to [GSISC2020@gmail.com](mailto:GSISC2020@gmail.com).

## Call for ACRL Excellence in Libraries Award Nominations

Consider nominating your library for the 2020 ACRL Excellence in Libraries Award. We have 3 library categories we award for: Community College, College, and University. Not only will the winning libraries gain recognition and esteem, but each winner will also receive \$3,000, from our generous sponsor GOBI Solutions/EBSCO and a visit from an ACRL officer for an on-campus awards ceremony. Everything you need to know about the award and putting together a nomination packet is available at the following webpage: <http://www.ala.org/acrl/awards/achievementawards/excellenceacademic>

Questions – contact the committee chair Cheryl Middleton at [Cheryl.Middleton@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Cheryl.Middleton@oregonstate.edu) or the co-chair Lauren Pressley [Pressley@uw.edu](mailto:Pressley@uw.edu)

Award nomination submissions are on due on December 6, 2019

## Featured Article

# GOD IS A WOMAN: FINDING INSPIRATION TO TEACH INFORMATION LITERACY THROUGH POPULAR MUSIC VIDEOS

In the past year, Ariana Grande has released hit after hit, and produced two chart-topping albums. For audiences, what is particularly phenomenal is that these successes came at a time when the artist was going through personal hardships (recovering from 2017 Manchester Arena bombing, and the unexpected death of former boyfriend and rapper Mac Miller in fall 2018). What is even more impressive is that Grande's music addresses these struggles head-on in an empowering way. I don't know about you, but whenever I need motivation, blasting "God is a Woman" or "No Tears Left to Cry" instantly uplifts my mood.

So when approached to do an instruction request as the liaison to the Multicultural and Gender Studies department at California State University, Chico last spring, I thought, how can I bring Ariana Grande into this? The course was a writing-intensive, upper-division women's studies class. Students were tasked with selecting a pop-culture source such as a film, television shows, or a literary work, and applying two feminist theories to their analysis of the pop-culture source. To supplement and expand their analysis, students were also required to include at least one-scholarly source.

When students walked into the instruction lab, they were greeted with the "God is a Woman" music video playing on the screen. This turned out to be a great ice-breaker for the class and set the tone for the session. I often design my instruction sessions around the research assignment and use a demonstration topic to break down the assignment. I then weave through my recommended research process for the specificities of the assignment. At the same time, I intentionally pick a relevant topic with the hope that it will resonate with students and also illustrate to them that you can make

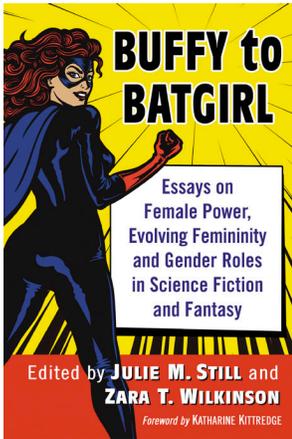
research more enjoyable if you bring your personal interests and passions into the mix. Enter Ariana Grande's "God is a Woman" music video. With its striking visuals and imagery, there are so many different ways the song and video can be connected to good research topics: female representation in the media, in the music industry, or in religious texts, just to name a few.

For this session, students worked in groups to evaluate different popular sources (blog posts, billboard charts, tweets, etc.) to understand broadly what people were saying about Grande's song and music video. Students also explored more traditional sources such as books and scholarly articles in order to contextualize the broader conversation for academic purposes. Due to the timeliness of the music video, students were also made aware of the information cycle and learned that if they were looking for books or scholarly articles for this song (i.e. current events), they weren't going to find one(yet!). This offered an opportunity for students to strategize options of what they could do when they are unable to find sources for their assignment. Furthermore, by connecting "God is a Woman" to traditional sources that explore representation and imagery of women in religious contexts, this demonstrated to students how to creatively expand or narrow their research focus. By using a popular music video for the basis of my research demonstration and in-class activity, not only was I able to more quickly connect with students for a one-shot session, but I was able to more effectively showcase that "Scholarship is a Conversation" and that "Authority is Constructed and Contextual."

Based on my positive experiences of using pop-culture and current events in the classroom, I encourage instructional librarians to enhance critical discussions on scholarship and research by using unexpected, but student-centered demonstration topics. Not only is it more engaging for students, but it is also more fun to plan and teach as an instructor.

Zohra Saulat  
Information Literacy Librarian  
Liaison to Multicultural and Gender Studies  
Meriam Library  
California State University, Chico

## Member Announcements



### New book

*Buffy to Batgirl: Essays on Female Power, Evolving Femininity and Gender Roles in Science Fiction and Fantasy*, edited by Julie M. Still and Zara T. Wilkinson. McFarland 2019. This volume serves as a proceedings volume for the 2014 *Buffy to Batgirl: Women & Gender in SciFi, Fantasy and Comics* conference includes essays on *Firefly*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, the *Twilight* franchise, Sarah Jane Smith

(*Doctor Who*), and many other household names. Fans of *Grimm*, *American Horror Story*, and *The Book of Heroes* will also find chapters to read. Still and Wilkinson, on the faculty of the Paul Robeson Library (Rutgers University – Camden), co-organized the 2014 conference.

Julie Still  
Rutgers University, Camden  
[still@rutgers.edu](mailto:still@rutgers.edu)

### Teaching & Book Review Announcement

Pamela Salela is teaching a women in literature course this semester. It includes works by Ann Petry (*The Street*), Christina Baker Kline (*The Orphan Train*), Sandra Cisneros (*The House on Mango Street*) and Joy Harjo (*Crazy Brave*).

Pamela also has a an extensive review coming out in the forthcoming issue of *Resources for Gender and Women's Studies: A Feminist Review*. It is titled "The Baby Industry: Sociopolitical and Economic Decisions with Human Rights Consequences" and is a review of: Davies, Miranda. *Babies for Sale?: Transnational Surrogacy, Human Rights and the Politics of Reproduction*. London: Zed Books, 2017.

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### Conference Presentation

Pamela Mann will be co-presenting a workshop titled, *Community-Based Spanish and Critical Information Literacy*, at the Association of American Colleges & Universities (AACU) *Global Citizenship for Campus, Community, and Careers: Crossing Borders and Boundaries* Conference on October 18, 2019 in San Antonio Texas.

This workshop is based on the results of a Spanish faculty and library faculty co-created course that meaningfully integrates

critical information literacy into a community-based learning course for advanced Spanish students. The session uses activities for participants to understand the collaboration's underlying concepts and to brainstorm ways to improve learning outcomes in courses with a civic engagement, social justice, or community-based learning focus in participants' disciplines and institutional types. We will address critical information literacy, community-based learning, course co-creation, search personalization, process-focused reflective assignments, local communities and global learning, and their links to social justice and students' civic and professional development

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### Librarian named Women's Studies Director

I was honored to be appointed to a two-year term as Director of the Center for Women's Studies at Texas Lutheran University. I have been involved with the Women's Studies program for the seven years I've been at TLU, as a committee member, professor, and supporting librarian (I am the Outreach and Information Literacy Librarian). I have taught *Introduction to Women's Studies*, team-taught a course on *Superwomen and Madwomen*, and team-taught a course on *The Trial of Anne Hutchinson*. I am looking forward to helping TLU welcome several gender-related speakers this year, including Jackson Katz, Locatora Radio, Layton Williams, and Nadia Bolz-Weber.

Amelia Koford  
Texas Lutheran University  
[akoford@tlu.edu](mailto:akoford@tlu.edu)

### Newcomb Archives Online

The Newcomb Archives and Nadine Robbert Vorhoff Collection Digital Repository is now available for users to access online. The Archives, part of Newcomb Institute of Tulane University, collect, preserve and make available records that document the history of women and gender in the Gulf South. Highlights from the digital repository include photographs from the 2017 Women's March on Washington; posters and author interviews from the Zale-Kimmerling Writers-in-Residence program, including interviews with Ann Patchett, Gloria Naylor, and Octavia Butler; 200 photographs from *Distaff*, the first feminist newspaper published in the South; and interviews from the Newcomb College Alumnae Oral History Project.  
<https://newcomb.saas.dgicloud.com/>

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