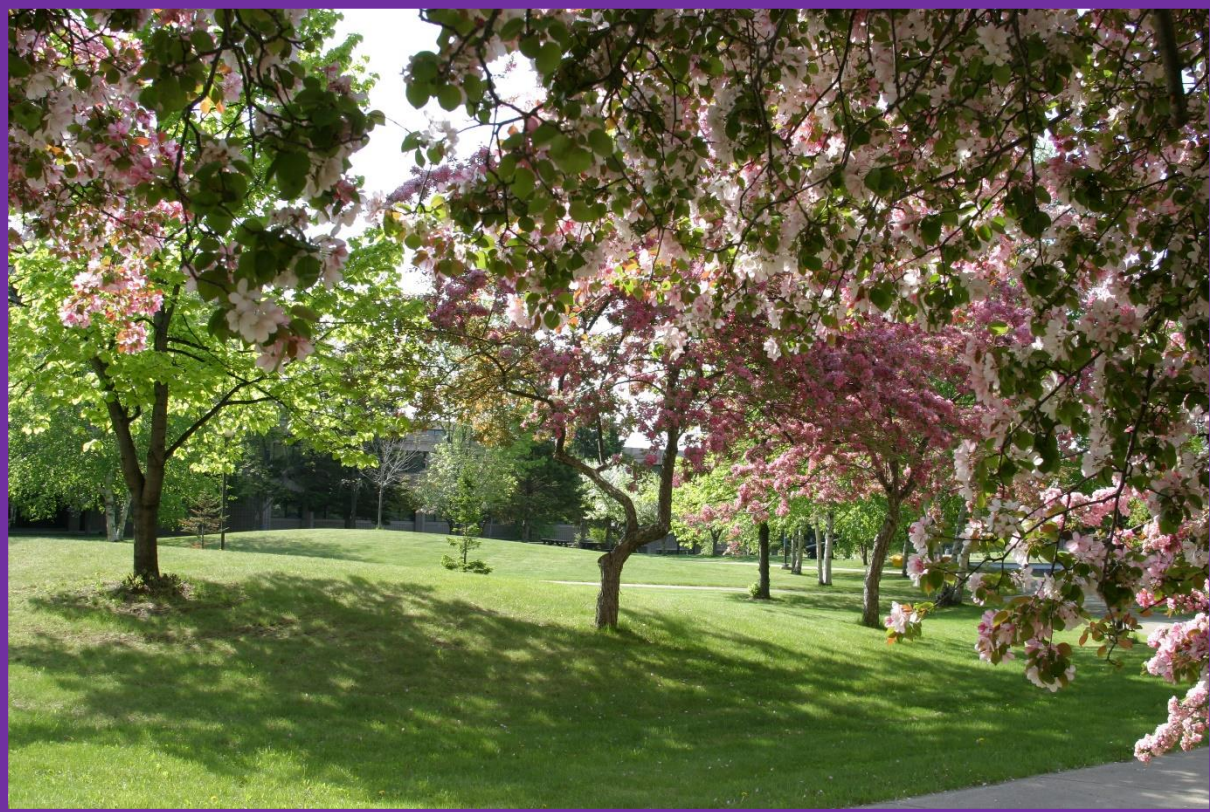




Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Department of
Gender and
Women's Studies

Summer 2023
Newsletter



Are you considering applying to a Master's program?

Although we have passed the February 1 deadline, many programs are still willing to consider applicants to their Master's program, including any that are wanting to do the Women's Studies Specialization. Our dynamic, interdisciplinary, group learns how to apply feminist theory and methods to their home disciplines, and receives an additional designation on their degree. If you're interested or have any questions, contact Dr. Jen Chisholm, Graduate Program Coordinator, jchisho1@lakeheadu.ca, by June 30, 2023. After this date, please reach out to Dr. Jen Roth at jroth@lakeheadu.ca.

What research have some of our GWS Specialization Students been working on?

Stacey Hare Hodgins (she/her)

I believe deeply in the transformative power of writing and artmaking to help us (re)connect with ourselves and each other and make meaning of our individual and collective experiences. For my MA in Social Justice Studies with Specialization in Gender and Women's Studies, I explored miscarriage and meaning-making with supervision and support from Dr. Jennifer Chisholm. My research-based creative project, "Islands of Memory: Making feminist meaning of a miscarriage through art and writing" culminated in an evocative autoethnography called "Scenes from a Miscarriage" and a self-portrait featuring textile-based artwork, *Womb | Product of Self-Conception* (2021). I will present this work and facilitate an arts-based grief workshop at the Pregnancy & Infant Loss (PAIL) Network's Connected in Care Conference in September. My approach is influenced by Parsons' (2010) theory that a relational model of pregnancy and pregnancy loss lets feminists occupy shifting spaces on a continuum of emotional attachment without reinforcing anti-abortion narratives, and Lindemann's (2015) assertion that meanings of pregnancy and loss are made through the construction of highly-individualized stories. My methodology is inspired by Swafford (2020) and Upshaw (2017) whose performative autoethnographies about abortion and childhood sexual abuse, respectively, position the body as a site of critical knowledge production; artists and therapists, like Seftel (2006) and Collier (2012), who use art as an apparatus for creative expression and personal transformation; and Sameshima et al. (2019), arts-integrated researchers who recognize the value in converting experiences into art forms. Ultimately, miscarriage is complicated, and an effective, supportive response requires knowing which story is meaningful to the person experiencing the loss. While dominant narratives about early pregnancy loss refute its emotional and psychological effects, my multimodal phenomenological work exists as a two-fold counternarrative: early pregnancy loss can have a deep and lasting impact and we are allowed to make meaning of it—without memorializing a baby.

News



Dr. Lori Chambers is coming back in her role as Chair to the Department of Gender and Women's Studies after her one-year sabbatical. Dr. Chambers is returning as Chair starting July 1st, 2023.



On Monday, May 8th, 2023, the Department of Gender and Women's Studies officially launched their Instagram account. Prior to the launch, Amber Saville, a Gender and Women's Studies student, researched and created a small library of content for future use. We aim to use our Instagram account to help with recruitment and retention of students by sharing interesting facts and news about the Department, the wider Feminist community of Thunder Bay, and by honouring awareness days that are of importance to feminist activism. If you're interested in being featured as a student on our page, please reach out to Dr. Jen Roth jroth@lakeheadu.ca.

Feminisms and the Lakehead



Feminisms at the Lakehead

On April 5th, 2023, the Department of Gender and Women's Studies and the Gender Equity Centre held our first in-person gathering of Feminisms at the Lakehead since 2019. Over the course of the day, we heard from current and former students, community members and faculty about the variety of exciting intersectional feminist work happening in our communities. We shared in conversation and over food and reconnected with each other after what felt like so much time apart. Thank you to all those who attended and contributed to what turned out to be such a thoughtful and energizing conversation! A very special thank you to our presenters for your role in helping us shape such a generative space of gathering! We are already looking forward to seeing you again soon and at Feminisms 2024! *Thank you to the Gender Equity Centre, LUSU, the Social Justice Studies program and the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities for their generous support!*

2023 – 2024 Courses

The Department of Gender and Women's Studies is looking to offer the following courses in the upcoming academic year:

| Course Code | Course Title | Term |
|-------------|---|---------------|
| WOME-1100 | Madonna to Madonna: Women's and Gender Studies- | Fall & Winter |
| WOME-1100 | Madonna to Madonna: Women's and Gender Studies- | Fall & Winter |
| WOME-2012 | Body Politics: Booties, Breasts, and Babies | 2024 Winter |
| WOME-2035 | Horror Films and Feminism | 2023 Fall |
| WOME-3030 | Housewives, Radicals and Gender-Blenders: Theorizing Equality | 2024 Winter |
| WOME-3033 | Transnational Masculinities | 2023 Fall |
| WOME-3055 | Global Reproductive Justice | 2024 Winter |
| WOME-3356 | Feminist Engagement with the Law | 2023 Fall |
| WOME-4010 | Women, Gender, and Social Justice | 2023 Fall |
| WOME-4113 | Women and Legal Narratives | 2024 Winter |
| WOME-5101 | Feminist Theories and Methods | Fall & Winter |



Department of Gender and Women's Studies

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WomensStudies@lakeheadu.ca

Office hours: Monday –Friday, 8:30am- 4:30pm

