



Lakehead
UNIVERSITY

Department of
Women's
Studies



Fall 2019 Newsletter

Chair's report

Welcome to all new and returning students, staff, and faculty.

I hope that everyone enjoyed the beautiful weather over the summer. It is hard to believe that we have already completed over a third of the term! We have exciting courses on offer this winter (see below), and hope that you will promote them with your friends who have yet to experience the joy of Women's Studies. We also have a great line up for the brown bag speaker series. Please also support the Women's and Gender Studies Student Association (WGSSA). They always hold great events for students. Information about the association is included in this newsletter. Have a great semester.



Upcoming Winter Courses!

WOME-2111-WA	Anti-Violence Activism	Dr. Jurgutis
WOME-3030-WDE	Theorizing Equality	Dr. Roth
WOME-3111-WA	Gender in the Asian Diaspora	Dr. Wong
WOME-3355-WA	Women, Crime & Criminal Justice	Dr. Chambers
WOME-4010-WA	Women, Gender & Social Justice	Dr. Chambers

Winter registration for WS 3111:

Gender in the Asian Diaspora is now open!

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if Bruce Lee were still alive today? What would Anna May Wong have to say about fashion and film today? The representation of Asian women and men on the big-screen and in Western culture has shifted dramatically throughout the 20th and 21st centuries. While Vietnam war films reinforced notions of the helpless Asian femme on a war frontier and the American military savior complex, stereotypes of Asian men as asexual and unattractive continue to saturate Hollywood film and popular culture with films like the Hangover (2009). But, by exploring critical and popular work that challenge negative Asian stereotypes, we see films like Crazy Rich Asians (2018), Always Be My Maybe (2019), and even Enter the Dragon (1973) reveal a radically different way of understanding gender, race, and culture from the perspective of Asians, Asian Americans, and Asian Canadians. This course offers a critical historical review of major Asian women activists and feminists in North America at pinnacle political moments (Chinese exclusion, Japanese internment, family reunification, etc.) and explores the fluctuating power of negative Asian stereotypes, from their Orientalist inception to their present-day forms. If you're interested in how and why anti-Asian stereotypes came into existence and what strategies Asian communities have developed to resist racism, join WS 3111: Gender in the Asian Diaspora for Winter 2020.

Dr. Wong published an article in May with the Canadian Society for Study of Practical Ethics: "A Sorry State of Affairs: Chinese Arrivants, Indigenous Hosts, and Settler Colonial Apologies,"

Please visit the following website for the article:



Dr. Wong is excited to return to Women's Studies in the Winter semester for WOME-3111:



Gender in the Asian Diaspora: Asian women and men in North America. As an interdisciplinary critical race scholar, Dr. Wong has published research on Asian Canadian activism, settler colonialism in Canada, and Western continental and Chinese philosophies. Currently, Dr. Wong is involved in conducting community-informed participatory research with the Chinatown community of Calgary, AB (supported by a SSHRC Insight Developments Grant).

Instructor's Corner



"What are the connections between vampires, cyborgs, and gender? Jenny's research project on Dracula, artificial intelligence theory, women's invisible labour, colonization, masculinity, information feedback loops, and actor-network theory explores the importance of using feminist theory and methods to understand storytelling in relation to science."

–Dr. Jenny Roth

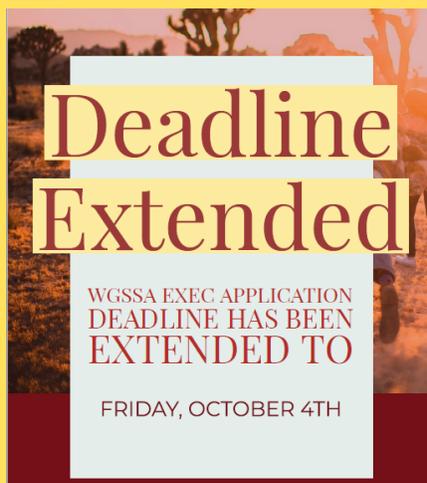
"It's great to be meeting many keen new students in the 1100 Intro to Women's and Gender Studies course, and working with folks in the 2119 Indigenous Feminisms course this fall. One of my favourite parts of teaching is when students tell me the ideas we are discussing are connecting to their lives or giving them a language to contextualize their experiences -- that they are having a feminist "click" moment!" -Dr. Jan Oakley



Dr. Miranda Niittynen will be teaching the Winter term to *WOME 1100 YB Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies*, she looks forward to the creative and critical ways that feminism can be expressed. Her areas of specialization are decolonial art and arts-based activism, animal studies, queer theory, and feminist ethnography.

WGSSA

Hello everyone and welcome back to another wonderful school year!



My name is Hannah Smith and I'm the president of the Women's and Gender Studies Student's Association. Our team is very excited to be back and eager to get started on all things WGSSA!

This year we are enthusiastically bringing back some fan favourite events such as cookie baking at the RFDA, gift wrapping at Intercity mall and our faculty versus students' trivia showdown! In addition, we are motivated to keep building our presence on and off-campus with a focus on advocacy and spreading our feminist message.

Our goal this year is to fill our time with a well-rounded agenda of activities that include volunteering, building community, and enacting positive change. Our team aims to create a safe and inclusive environment for all members with many different ways of getting involved.

If you would like more information about WGSSA or would like to get involved, please do not hesitate to reach out to us through email at wgssa.lusu@lakeheadu.ca or follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@wgssalu). Looking forward to continuing to connect with you all over this school year!

New Instructor



Dr. Jessica Jurgutis is an Assistant Professor (2019-2022) at Lakehead University cross-appointed between the departments of Indigenous Learning and Women's Studies, and the Social Justice program.

She completed her Ph.D. in the Department of Political Science at McMaster University in September 2018. Her dissertation, *Colonial Carcerality and International Relations: Imprisonment, Carceral Space and Settler Colonial Governance in Canada*, explores methods of imprisonment, carcerality and gender-based violence in the Canadian settler-colonial context through a Transnational Feminist lens, arguing that carcerality is a central feature of settler colonial governance because of the ways it is required to re-organize relationships between bodies and land.

She is currently co-editor and contributor to a forthcoming issue of *Citizenship Studies* (*Citizenship and/as Settler Colonialism: Towards Decolonial Horizons*). As a community-focused researcher, educator and activist, she also has experience in prison-based research and teaching. She has co-authored several articles on access to primary care and reproductive health for incarcerated persons. She helped to start the first Indigenous solidarity working group at her previous local CUPE 3906 as a means of building relationships between academic workers and indigenous land reclamation struggles locally and has organized several public and activist education events focused on settler colonialism, settler solidarity, land and "reconciliation." She is also currently developing research interests in the areas of Social Justice and Decolonial Feminist teaching and learning.

PRIDE CENTRAL
TEMPORARY FALL
HOURS

MONDAY: 10:30AM - 12:30PM
TUESDAY: 11AM - 4PM
WEDNESDAY: CLOSED
THURSDAY: 11:30AM - 4:30PM
FRIDAY: 10AM - 3PM

  email: pridecentral@lusu.ca
phone: 807 343 8813



Alumni Corner

Steph Simko is a Lakehead Women's Studies alumna who holds two Master's degrees (English with Women's Studies Specialization and Social Justice Studies) and credits her Women's Studies undergrad courses and professors for setting her on a path to pursuing her passion for creative writing, queer studies, and social justice as a career. The intersectional analysis skills gained from Women's Studies plays a key role in her professional and community work in gender-based violence advocacy. Steph is a former Gender Equity Centre Coordinator at Lakehead Student Union and worked as a 2SLGBTQ Coordinator at the Thunder Bay Indigenous Friendship Centre before joining the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre as Coordinator of the "Analysis to Action on Gender-Based Violence" Project.



The Analysis to Action on Gender-Based Violence (AAGBV) Project is intended to increase the organizational capacity of the Northwestern Ontario Women's Centre and other women's organizations and advocates to promote social and systemic change towards ending gender-based violence. The project will focus on: gender-based violence policy reform work using anti-racism and anti-oppression frameworks, gender-based analysis, trauma-informed approaches, and Reconciliation principles; raising public awareness and analysis of local court decisions on gender-based violence; and working with women affected by violence to link their experiences to systemic issues and act collectively.

Students, faculty and community members will be invited to get involved with an upcoming "Think Tank" event (date TBD), which brings together individuals and organizations involved in gender-based violence advocacy. This annual event will provide a supportive connecting hub for equality-seeking individuals and women's organizations to facilitate discussions linking issues, analysis, and action.



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