



## **Welcome Back Everyone!**

I hope that each of you enjoyed the summer months, whatever you were doing and wherever you spent your time.

We have wonderful news this fall. Many of you may be aware that we finally received approval to hire a tenure track faculty member in Women's Studies in April of 2017. We interviewed 5 excellent candidates and are very happy to welcome **Dr. Jennifer Chisholm** as a permanent member of our department. Those of you who have had the pleasure of working with Jen in the past know she is a very committed and effective teacher and will be a wonderful addition to our department. We are so glad to have you Jen!!!

Other news is that **Dr. Jen Roth** is now our Graduate Coordinator, so grad students, she is your go-to person for questions and concerns. She can be found in RB 2014 and her office hours for the fall are Tuesday 11-12 and Thursday 1-2. I have taken up the role of Chair and, while my official office hours are Tuesdays from 12-1:30, I am in my office most of the time and have an open door policy. As undergraduate chair, I handle all questions regarding courses, degree audits and planning, and wider departmental issues and concerns. Please come and see me in RB 2016.

Enjoy your classes for the fall, and we will keep you posted about our exciting line up of guest speakers for the brown bag lunch series and other events!

- Dr. Lori Chambers

### **Women's & Gender Studies Student Association (WGSSA)**

The purpose of the WGSSA is to provide and promote a safe and welcoming space for the students in or interested in Women's Studies programs. We seek to build bridges between undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as the professors. We are an inclusive group and hope to facilitate a safe and fun space for students regardless of race, gender, sex, class, sexual orientation, religion, etc. Check out the WS website for information about this and other activities around campus! Contact [hsmith1@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:hsmith1@lakeheadu.ca) for more info!

Keep an eye out for our Brown Bag Speaker series and be sure to come out! Throughout the year we invite special guests to join us over the lunch hour to present on various topics of interest. We create posters, send out email reminders and post the events on our website.

[www.lakeheadu.ca/  
academics/departments/  
womensstudies](http://www.lakeheadu.ca/academics/departments/womensstudies)



## \*IMPORTANT NEWS\*

For several years, students past coordinators, and community members have expressed that the name “Gender Issues Centre” doesn’t really fit with the work that we do here in this space.

This year, a motion was put forth to change the name of this space, and it passed! Going forward, this space will be called the **Gender Equity Centre**. (gender.centre@lakeheadu.ca )

Gender inequity is the root of gender issues. By focusing on inequity, there can be more emphasis on challenging and questioning societal gender roles for all genders. As noted by the United Nations, “gender equity is the process of being fair to women and men. To ensure fairness, strategies and measures must often be available to compensate for women’s historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from otherwise operating on a level playing field.” In short, equity leads to equality. We need to encourage students to connect various approaches in activism and advocacy going forward to fight for equity. While it is a small change, we believe that this change will ensure our continuation as a safe(r) and inclusive place to meet new people, access resources, and get involved.

Looking forward to seeing you in the 2017-2018 school year!



### Services on Campus

#### STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/ssc>

#### SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS & LOANS

<https://www.lakeheadu.ca/faculty-and-staff/departments/services/safa>

## A little bit about what happens in our classes!

During the 2017 winter semester, students in “Women’s Action for Social Change” (WOME 2711) were busy making changes in their communities. Each student spent a minimum of ten hours working with a local organization to support initiatives that help make our society more just, equitable, and safe for all people. Some students planned and implemented a fundraiser for a local organization that provides shelter and support to women and children, while others worked with campus organizations to ensure that LUSU Centres and events ran smoothly, and others still gave their time to a wide range of community organizations. Overall, students enjoyed and benefitted from participating more in their communities and engaging with feminist actions and organizations. This hands-on experience allowed them to make meaningful connections to the feminist histories that were discussed in class!

Students in “The Skinny on Fat: An Introduction to Fat Studies, Feminism, and Body Image” (WOME 2111) made meaningful connections between works addressing sizeism and body image, including an analysis of the representations of different bodies in sports and media. Students likewise created many wonderful and engaging pieces of art work representing the relationships between different feminist theories and issues, and partook in lively discussions!

# Alumni News!

## Former Student Testimonial



I am working out of the University of Waterloo in the Recreation and Leisure Studies Department. I completed my masters in August of 2016, and have now moved into PhD study doing feminist digital ethnography on the online engagement with Men's Rights activism and how this might change the offline performance of participants. I was the recipient of the SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS-M winner during my masters, and will be a SSHRC Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS-D Scholar beginning September 2017. I attribute much of my current success, as well as my area of interest, as well as my ability to work through this type of problem to my time working with the Women's Studies Department and the excellent faculty at Lakehead. I have been able to secure excellent funding throughout graduate school, at least in part, because of the encouragement and engagement of the WS faculty and their push to help me publish and disseminate my work in my undergrad there.

— Luc Cousineau



Congratulations to Alumni Taslim and her new husband Rahim Verjee who celebrated their marriage on April 29th, 2017 in Toronto, Ontario. Rahim is from the UK, and will soon be moving to Toronto so they can start their lives together!

## New sessional instructor for Women's Studies!

Robyn Pepin is a PhD student at Carleton University in the Law and Legal Studies Program. She has a HBA in Gerontology and Women's Studies and a M.Ed. with a Specialization in Women's Studies. Robyn's PhD research looks at Ontario's anti-bullying framework and its potential impact on Indigenous students. Robyn is also working on a chapter for the upcoming book *Wives: Roles, Representations, Identities, Work* by Rebecca Jaremko Bromwich and Lynn O'Brien Hallstein (Eds.) titled, *Abused Wives and Divorce Mediation in Ontario: Thunder Bay Mediators' Perspectives*. Robyn has been teaching at Lakehead since September 2016 in the Gerontology and Masters of Health Sciences programs. She is also the English Editorial Assistant for the Canadian Journal of Law and Society. And she is the mom of three young children! A true Wonder Woman.



She will be teaching WOME 4110 Gender in Law and Film and WOME 3335 Consuming Women this year at LU!

If you have news you'd like to share with your past WS colleagues in the Newsletter, please forward it to Bonnie McDonald at [WomensStudies@lakeheadu.ca](mailto:WomensStudies@lakeheadu.ca)

# FEMINISMS 2017

On Friday, April 7th, 2017 students, faculty and community members gathered for the annual Feminisms at the Lakehead conference, hosted by the Department of Women's Studies and the Gender Equity Centre (formerly the Gender Issues Centre). For the first time, the conference was hosted in both Thunder Bay and Orillia, with presenters and attendees on both campuses.

The theme of this year's conference was "Consent and Violences" with papers and art-work exploring sexual violence, systemic inequality, representation, resistance and healing. The day began with an opening prayer by Elder Isabelle Mercier, who invited us to reflect and connect with each other, to listen, to share and to heal. Throughout the morning we heard from students and community members about needed reforms to our justice system to address issues of violence against women; and about the work taking place in Thunder Bay to use art and creative expression as a means of bridging the gap between survivors of sexual violence and the police. Our keynote speaker, Kathryn Young, delivered an important and moving account of sexual harassment and violence in Canadian politics, alongside her daughter, Rachel Davies, who spoke about intergenerational experiences with sexual violence. The afternoon was devoted to exploring resistance to, and healing from, violence using art, exercise, creativity and meditation. At the end of the day, attendees were invited by Elder Mercier to reflect on what was shared, to honour and embrace each other.

While it is always difficult to acknowledge and address violence in our community, the conference served as a helpful reminder of the important work being done, and the existence of friends and allies in the struggle for a more peaceful world. We are looking forward to another instalment of Feminisms at the Lakehead, coming in 2018!

## Looking for us?

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