



September 2023 Issue



### *A Message from the Director:*

Dear Women's and Gender Studies Community,

Welcome to the new academic year from WGS! In this first newsletter created by our all-new WGS team, we include important information about the Spring senior seminar, details on several terrific events, and introductions of our new Graduate Assistants, Joan Sullivan, and Maggie Locke, who have so far done a terrific job of helping to make the transition this semester a smooth one. Biographical and contact information for Maggie and Joan is included below. Please stop by the office to meet them if you have a chance.

Of special note in this issue is our upcoming concert and discussion with ChamberQueer, a non-profit group whose mission is to highlight previously marginalized voices in classical music. The event will take place on Wednesday, October 25, from 4:30-6 p.m. in O'Connell House, and will feature their innovative combination of performance and discussion. Please mark your calendar and check out the flyer below.

Best wishes to all of you for an enjoyable and productive semester and academic year. Sincerely,

Prof. Lisa Cuklanz  
Communication Department

### **WGS News**

#### **ATTENTION ALL SENIOR WGS MINORS:**

To complete the WGS minor, you must take the **ADVANCED TOPICS** seminar during the Spring semester of your senior year. The course has two numbers: **SOCY5593** and **COMM4941**. You can register under either number. This 3-credit senior seminar is required for all minors. This Spring the course will be taught by Women's and Gender Studies Director Lisa Cuklanz, a professor in the Communication Department.

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**MEET THE WGS GA'S**

**GRADUATE ASSISTANTS**



**MAGGIE LOCKE**



**JOAN SULLIVAN**



## MEET THE WGS GA'S

Maggie is from Collegeville, PA, and is a first-year Social Work student at the BC School of Social Work.

She is interested in exploring the intersectionality of gender, identity, and mental health. She is excited to assist students in pursuing their passions within the WGS program!

Maggie is one of your first points of contact at WGS. She will answer your emails and phone calls, as well as keep track of your progress through the program. Feel free to reach out anytime!

In her free time, she loves to cook, spend time in nature, hang out with her roommates, and squeeze in a workout.

### MAGGIE LOCKE



SHE/HER/HERS

## MEET THE WGS GA'S

Joan is from Lexington, MA, and is a first-year Social Work student at the BC School of Social Work.

She is passionate about promoting gender equality and understanding the mechanisms that continue to promote social inequities. She looks forward to meeting students who are interested in pursuing Women's and Gender Studies.

Joan will be creating content for our website, newsletter, and social media posts. She is also always willing to speak to you about the program or answer any questions you may have.

In her free time, she enjoys going for long walks, baking with friends, and reading!

### JOAN SULLIVAN



SHE/HER/HERS

## WGS Events



# CHAMBER QUEER

**WHAT IS IT?**

ChamberQUEER aims to amplify LGBTQ+ voices in classical music. They build an intersectionality inclusive space to appreciate classical music in the 21st century.

**SPONSORED BY WGS AND THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

**4:30-6  
PM**

**Wednesday | October 25th 2023**

O'Connell House Room 100 Grand Hall  
85 Hammond St, Chestnut Hill, MA 02467  
<https://www.chamberqueer.org/>



If you have any questions, please contact us at [gender@bc.edu](mailto:gender@bc.edu)

## Relevant Events on Campus

BOSTON COLLEGE **LOWELL** HUMANITIES **SERIES**

## -Fall 2023 LHS Speakers

Details of each event are available on the Lowell website and the University calendar. The public and all members of the BC community are welcome at Lowell events, which are always free and open to the public. **Note that this year, registration with Eventbrite will be required for all events.**

The Lowell Humanities Series is sponsored by the Lowell Institute, Boston College's Institute for the Liberal Arts, and the Office of the Provost.

Register  
Here



### **Suzanne Simard: *Finding the Mother Tree* Wednesday, September 27, 2023**

**7 PM | Gasson 100**

Suzanne Simard is a Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia and the author of the book *Finding the Mother Tree*. She is a pioneer on the frontier of plant communication and intelligence and has been hailed as a scientist who conveys complex, technical ideas in a way that is dazzling and profound. Her work has influenced filmmakers (the Tree of Souls in James Cameron's *Avatar*) and her TED Talks have

been viewed by more than 10 million people worldwide. Suzanne is known for her work on how trees interact and communicate using below-ground fungal networks, which has led to the recognition that forests have hub trees, or Mother Trees, which are large, highly connected trees that play an important role in the flow of information and resources in a forest. Her current research investigates how these complex relationships contribute to forest resiliency, adaptability, and recovery and has far-reaching implications for how to manage and heal forests from human impacts, including climate change. Suzanne has published over 200 peer-reviewed articles and presented at conferences around the world. She has communicated her work to a wide audience through interviews, documentary films, and her TED Talk "How trees talk to one another."

Cosponsored by the Boston College Environmental Studies Program, Earth and Environmental Sciences Department, Biology Department and The Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society.



### **Matthew Desmond: *Poverty, By America* Wednesday, October 11, 2023**

**7 PM | Gasson 100**

MacArthur "Genius" and Princeton sociologist Matthew Desmond was launched onto the national stage as an expert on contemporary American poverty with the publication of his Pulitzer Prize winning bestseller *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. Combining years of embedded fieldwork with painstakingly gathered data, *Evicted* transformed our understanding of inequity and economic exploitation in

America. A former member of the Harvard Society of Fellows, he is also the author of the award-winning book *On the Fireline*, the coauthor of two books on race, and the editor of a collection of studies on severe deprivation in

America. He has written essays on educational inequality, dangerous work, political ideology, race and social theory, and the inner-city housing market. His work has been supported by the Gates, Horowitz, Ford, JBP, MacArthur, National Science, Russell Sage, and W.T. Grant Foundations, as well as the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. He is a Contributing Writer for *The New York Times Magazine*, and his writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker* and *The Chicago Tribune*. Desmond's latest book, the instant #1 *New York Times* bestseller *Poverty, by America* investigates why the United States, the richest country on earth, has more poverty than any other advanced democracy. Why does this land of plenty allow one in every eight of its children to go without basic necessities, permit scores of its citizens to live and die on the streets, and authorize its corporations to pay poverty wages?

In clear and compelling prose, Desmond draws on history research, and original reporting to conclude that poverty persists in this nation because the rest of us benefit from it. Those of us who are financially secure knowingly and unknowingly exploit the poor, driving down their wages while forcing them to overpay for housing and access to cash and credit. Prioritizing the subsidization of our wealth over the alleviation of poverty, our welfare state that gives the most to those who need the least. And we stockpile opportunity in exclusive communities, creating zones of concentrated riches alongside those of concentrated despair. Praised by *Esquire* as "another paradigm-shifting inquiry into America's dark heart," *Poverty, by America* introduces Desmond's startlingly original and ambitious case for ending poverty: he calls on us to become poverty abolitionists, engaged in a politics of collective belonging to usher in a new age of shared prosperity and, at last, true freedom.

Cosponsored by the Boston College Winston Center for Leadership and Ethics, the PULSE Program for Service Learning, and the Sociology Department.



**Linda Villarosa: *Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation***

**Wednesday, October 18, 2023**

**7 PM | Gasson 100**

Journalist Linda Villarosa is a contributing writer for *The New York Times Magazine*, where she covers race, inequality and public health. A former executive editor of *Essence Magazine*, she is the author of the book *Under the Skin: The Hidden Toll of Racism on American Lives and on the Health of Our Nation*.

*Under the Skin* is a landmark book that tells the full story of racial health disparities in America by revealing the toll racism takes on individuals and public health. In 2018, Villarosa's *New York Times Magazine* article on maternal and infant mortality, "Why America's Black Mothers and Babies Are in a Life-or-Death Crisis" caused an awakening. Hundreds of studies had previously established a link between racial discrimination and the health of Black Americans, with little progress toward solutions. But Villarosa's article exposing that a Black woman with a college education is as likely to die or nearly die in childbirth as a white woman with an eighth-grade education made racial disparities in health care impossible to ignore.

A member of the Association of LGBTQ Journalists (NLGJA) Hall of Fame, Villarosa has been recognized with numerous awards from organizations including The American Medical Writers' Association, the Arthur Ashe Institute, Lincoln University, the New York Association of Black Journalists, the National Women's Political Caucus, and the Callen-Lorde Community Health Center.

Villarosa is the editor of *Body & Soul: The Black Women's Guide to Physical*



*Health and Emotional Well-Being*. Her novel, *Passing for Black*, was nominated for a Lambda Literary Award. She is a graduate of the Craig Newmark Graduate School of Journalism at CUNY, where she is a professor and journalist in residence. She also teaches journalism, English, and Black Studies at the City College of New York.

Cosponsored by the Boston College Park Street Corporation Speaker Series.



**Kate Brown: “The Interminable Cycles of Chernobyl’s Catastrophes: War, Accident and War Again”**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2023**

**7 PM | Gasson 100**

Kate Brown is the Thomas M. Siebel Distinguished Professor in the History of Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She is the author of several prize-winning histories, including *Plutopia: Nuclear Families, Atomic Cities, and the Great Soviet and American Plutonium Disasters* (Oxford 2013). Her

latest book *Manual for Survival: A Chernobyl Guide to the Future* (Norton 2019), translated into six languages, won the Marshall Shulman and Reginald Zelnik Prizes for the best book in East European History, plus the Silver Medal for Laura Shannon Book Prize. *Manual for Survival* was also a finalist for the 2020 National Book Critics Circle Award, the Pushkin House Award and the Ryszard Kapuściński Award for Literary Reportage.

Cosponsored by the Boston College History Department and The Schiller Institute for Integrated Science and Society.



**Poetry Days Presents Joy Harjo: “Indigenous Poetry and Native Literature”**

**Wednesday, November 8, 2023**

**7 PM | Gasson 100**

In 2019, Joy Harjo was appointed the 23rd United States Poet Laureate, the first Native American to hold the position and only the second person to serve three terms in the role. Harjo’s nine books of poetry include *Weaving Sundown in a Scarlett Light*, *An American Sunrise*, *Conflict Resolution for Holy Beings*, *How We Became Human: New and Selected Poems*, and *She Had Some*

*Horses*. She is also the author of two memoirs, *Crazy Brave* and *Poet Warrior*, which invites us to travel along the heartaches, losses, and humble realizations of her “poet-warrior” road. She has edited several anthologies of Native American writing including *When the Light of the World was Subdued, Our Songs Came Through — A Norton Anthology of Native Nations Poetry*, and *Living Nations, Living Words*, the companion anthology to her signature poet laureate project. Her many writing awards include the 2022 Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award, the 2019 Jackson Prize from Poets & Writers, the Ruth Lilly Prize from the Poetry Foundation, the 2015 Wallace Stevens Award from the Academy of American Poets, and the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America. She is a chancellor of the Academy of American Poets, Board of Directors Chair of the Native Arts & Cultures Foundation, and is artist-in-residence for the Bob Dylan Center. A renowned musician, Harjo performs with her saxophone nationally and internationally;



her most recent album is *I Pray For My Enemies*. She lives in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Cosponsored by the Boston College Poetry Days Series, American Studies Program, English Department, Creative Writing Discretionary Fund, and the Boston College Forum on Racial Justice in America.



### **Fintan O'Toole: "Political Heaney"**

**Thursday, November 16, 2023**

**7 PM | Gasson 100**

Fintan O'Toole, one of Ireland's leading public intellectuals, is a columnist for *The Irish Times* and Leonard L. Milberg '53 visiting lecturer in Irish Letters at Princeton University. He also contributes to *The New York Review of Books*, *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, *The Guardian*, *The Observer*, and other international publications. His books on theater include works on William Shakespeare, George Bernard Shaw, Richard

Brinsley Sheridan, and Thomas Murphy. His books on politics include the bestsellers *We Don't Know Ourselves: A Personal History of Modern Ireland*; *Heroic Failure: Brexit and the Politics of Pain*; *Ship of Fools*; and *Enough is Enough*. In 2011, *The Observer* named O'Toole one of "Britain's top 300 intellectuals." He has received the A.T. Cross Award for Supreme Contribution to Irish Journalism, the Millennium Social Inclusion Award, the Journalist of the Year award from TV3 Studios in 2010, the Orwell Prize, the European Press Prize, and he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in the spring of 2023. In 2021, he published the #1 bestseller *We Don't Know Ourselves: A Personal History of Modern Ireland*, which won the Book of the Year Award at the Irish Book Awards and was selected for the New York Times's "10 Best Books of 2022." O'Toole's *History of Ireland in 100 Objects*, which covers 100 highly charged artifacts from the last 10,000 years, is currently the basis for Ireland's postage stamps. He has recently been appointed official biographer of Nobel Prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney. This Lowell lecture will herald the opening of *Seamus Heaney's Afterlives*, Boston College's international symposium marking the tenth anniversary of the poet's death.

Cosponsored by the Boston College Irish Studies Program and with the support of an ILA Major Grant.

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## **WGS Related Events in the Area**

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The Tufts Graduate Humanities Conference presents



Keynote Lecture:

# **BANKROLLING ENLIGHTENMENT: Reed Erickson and The Weird History of Trans Philanthropy**



Friday, October 20th  
1PM - 2:30PM EST



40 Talbot Avenue  
(Aidekman  
Arts Complex)  
Medford, MA  
106 Alumnae Lounge

Sponsored by Tufts GSAS,  
GSC, English Department,  
History Department, TDPS,  
CHAT, Women's Center, and  
LGBT Center.



**Dr. Hil Malatino** (Penn State University) is the author of *Queer Embodiment Monstrosity, Medical Violence, and Intersex Experience* (2019), *Trans Care* (2020), and *Side Affects: On Being Trans and Feeling Bad* (2022).

TGHC Graduate Panels to precede the keynote from 9 AM to 12 PM. They will resume from 2:40PM to 5:55 PM.



# WORK IN PROGRESS

10TH ANNUAL TUFTS GRADUATE HUMANITIES CONFERENCE



FRIDAY OCTOBER 20, 2023

40 TALBOT AVENUE  
(AIDEKMAN ARTS COMPLEX)  
MEDFORD, MA 02155  
106 ALUMNAE LOUNGE

**BREAKFAST (8AM-9AM)**

**ART-WORKS (9AM - 10:25AM)**

MODERATOR: NINA FRANCISCO

*Working From Home: The Rembrandt Domestic*

Hannah Jew (Boston University)

*Beautiful Labor: Art at Work in the Boston MFA's Art of the Americas Wing*

Toni Armstrong (Boston University)

*Labor and Leisure Sharing Breath: Protest and the Commodification of Heritage in Contemporary Oaxaca City*

Whitney Brady-Guzmán (Tufts University)

*Which Side Are You On?: The Laboring of American Space in Union Films Sponsored Media, 1946-1953*

John Ott (UMass Boston)

**FORMS OF WORK/WORKS OF FORM (10:35AM - 12PM)**

MODERATOR: SPENCER LANE

*The Neoliberal Form of Old Horror*

Agam Balooni (Northwestern University)

*The Beasts of Labor, the Ghosts of Nature: Environmental Justice in Tillie Olsen's Yonondio*

Arush Pande (Princeton University)

*'They Found—Nothing': The Eerie Work of Allegory in Yda Addis' "The Human Tigress"*

Gianna Bacchetta (Tufts University)

*Whistle While You Work(er's Rights): Work As Imagined by Both Disney and the Labour Songs*

Jordan Good & Andrew Ankersen (Tufts University, McGill University)

**LUNCH (12PM-1PM)**

**KEYNOTE (1PM - 2:30PM)**

*Bankrolling Enlightenment: Reed Erickson and The Weird History of Trans Philanthropy*

Hil Malatino, Associate Professor in WGSS and Philosophy at Penn State University

**WORKING BODIES (2:40PM - 4:05PM)**

MODERATOR: DANIEL WAQAR

*Unruly Bodies of "Prostitute": A Citational Referent to the Discursive Subject of the Deviant Body in Colonial India*

Anna Karthika (Makerere University)

*Working Body as a Vessel of Modernities: A Chinese Laborer's Diary on the French Battlefield during the First World War*

Tianyun Hua (UC Davis)

*'The Indescribable Thing': Nervous Bodies, Nervous Labor, and Personality in Theodore Dreiser's Sister Carrie*

Jordan Green (Tufts University)

*British Mercantilist Identity in Inkle and Yarico*

Gillian Wood (Tufts University)

**COFFEE BREAK (4:05PM-4:30PM)**

**ANTI-WORK (4:30PM - 5:55PM)**

MODERATOR: CASEY O'REILLY

*"To Do the Work of the World": Reimagining the Work Politics of W.E.B. Du Bois*

Benjamin Papsun (Tufts University)

*Disobedient Dispossession: The Black Mother's Queer Theory*

Ketan Jain (Tufts University)

*Object Petit AI: Sex Work in the Uncanny Valley*

Molly Follette (Columbia University)

*Chronic Surveillance in "Bartleby, the Scrivener"*

Genesis Perez (Tufts University)

If you have any questions, please **contact us** at [gender@bc.edu](mailto:gender@bc.edu) or call us at **617-552-4198**, or you can visit our [FAQ page](#).

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