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GSWS Teaching Faculty



Director of GSWS and Faculty in the Department of English

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BA: Punjab University (India), MA: Tufts University, PhD: Tufts University

Biography

Fawzia Afzal-Khan is Professor of English, University Distinguished Scholar, and Director of Women and Gender Studies at Montclair State University. Afzal-Khan received her BA from Kinnaird College for Women, Lahore, Pakistan, and her MA and PHD in English Literature from Tufts University, Ma.

She is a cultural materialist who works at the intersection of Feminist Theory, Cultural and Performance Studies, and Postcolonial Studies. She is author of 5 books, her latest a controversial memoir entitled Lahore With Love; Growing Up With Girlfriends Pakistani-Style (Syracuse University Press 2010; rep Insanity Ink 2010; [can be ordered here](#)). She is a frequent contributor to Counterpunch and Express Tribune, and a published poet and playwright.

She is a Contributing Editor to TDR (The Drama Review), and serves on the Advisory Board of SAR (the South Asian Review).

She is also a trained vocalist in the North Indian Classical tradition. Her music videos exploring themes of gender, religion, class, set in Pakistan, can be viewed on youtube (FAK Lahore, FAK Payal, FAK Smokescreen, FAK Sacrifice). She was a founding member of the experimental theatre collective Compagnie Faim de Siecle, with whom she toured and performed in Europe and N America.

Her current research work is focused on Pakistani Popular Culture.

For WMGS, Dr. Khan has taught:

[WMGS301 Feminist theory](#)

[WMGS Global Feminism](#)

ENLT 372: Women Prose Writers

ENLT 230: 20th Images of Muslim Women in Twentieth Century Literature and Culture



Director of GLBTQ Minor

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Phone: [973-655-7056](tel:973-655-7056)

BA: Laurea, Universita degli Studi di Firenze (Italy) PhD, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Biography

Dr. Dini is Associate Professor of Italian and Italian Language Program Coordinator in the Department of Spanish and Italian. For the academic years 2015-2018 he will also coordinate the GLBTQ Studies Minor (housed in the Gender, Sexuality and Women Studies program). Currently, Dr. Dini is also Academic Director of the Study Abroad Program "Montclair in Florence." He teaches all levels of Italian language and literature, in face-to-face and online courses. He collaborates with the Honors Program teaching "Great Books and Ideas I-II."

For GSWS - Dr. Dini has taught:

GLQS 100 - Introduction to GLBTQ

GLQS 302 - Selected Topics - Queering the Broadway Musical

Email: allredk@montclair.edu

Biography



Kevin Allred is excited to be a new adjunct instructor in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies program. He holds advanced degrees in American Studies and Women's and Gender Studies, with nearly 10 years of college teaching experience. Kevin is passionate about the politics of pop culture; his work is located where the two intersect, through an additional intersectional focus on race, gender, and sexuality.

He previously taught at UMass Boston and Rutgers University. At the latter, he created the hugely popular course "Politicizing Beyoncé" in 2010 which attempts to think through current race, gender, and sexual politics using interactive analysis of the work of Beyoncé Knowles Carter. He's a highly sought after public speaker, writer, and pop culture critic with bylines at Salon, Quartz, Huffington Post, Washington Post, and more, as well as regular appearances on MSNBC and CNN. His first book—on the complex, layered political register of Beyoncé's creative output—is set for 2018 release. He also hosts the semi-regular podcast "Bey-Ond Pop Culture," a fun and educational look at how your favorite pop culture is always already political.

Courses Taught:

WMGS 102

GLQS 100



E-mail: beseny@mail.montclair.edu

Biography

Dr. Yasemin Besen-Cassino is Associate Professor of Sociology at Montclair State University. She received her Ph.D. from SUNY Stony Brook in sociology. Her work focuses on work, gender and youth with a global comparative perspective. Her work appeared in prestigious journals such as *Contexts*, *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, *National Women's Studies Association Journal* and *Theory and*

Society.

Supported by grants from the W.E. Upjohn Foundation and American Association of University Women, her work on the gender wage gap in the teenage labor market has received numerous paper awards including the James Prothro Award.

Her books include *The Jessie Bernard Reader* (with Michael Kimmel) on the life and the works of the prominent feminist and *Consuming Work: Jon Stewart, Branding and Youth Work in America* (with Dan Cassino).

Yasemin Besen-Cassino teaches *Men and Masculinities* (WMGS 208), *Intro to Women and Gender Studies* and the *Research Seminar* and *Consuming Work: Jon Stewart, Branding and Youth Work in America* (with Dan Cassino). Currently, she is working on a book (under contract at Temple University Press) on teenage employment in America and a text book on research methods (under contract at Pearson Press)

For WMGS, Dr. Besen has taught:

WMGS 208: Men and Masculinities

WMGS 102: Introduction to WMGS

WMGS 402: Intro to Women and Gender Studies and the Research Seminar and Consuming Work

E-mail: davisd@mail.montclair.edu

Biography

Dr. Danné E. Davis holds degrees from Northeastern University (B.S.), Wheelock College (M.S), and Boston College (Ph.D) all in Massachusetts. Her research interests center on multicultural education, the arts, and teacher education. Presently she is involved in increasing elementary teacher candidates' responsiveness to LGBT/Q diversity. In particular, Dr. Davis is exploring the role of LGBT/Q Children's Picture Storybooks to foster awareness as well as meet expected academic outcomes. Among awards received, Dr. Davis is the 2013 MSU, LGBT Center's Faculty/Staff LGBTQ Ally of the Year and 2012 Distinguished Faculty, Excellence in Teacher Preparation award given by NJ's Office of the Secretary of Higher Education and the NJ Association of Colleges for Teacher Education. Danne is also active with GLSEN-Northern NJ.



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Research/Interests: Research interests include health, gender, inequality, and structure violence. She has published in the prestigious journal *Current Anthropology* and has a chapter on the structural violence and gender- in the *Archaeology of Gender and Violence*.

For GSWS - Dr. Farnum has taught:

WMGS 302 - Selected Topics - Archaeology of Gender



Dr. Sidney Gardner is the Director for the Office of Equity and Diversity and the Women's Center. She came to Montclair State in January 2016 from Texas A&M University where she served as the Program Coordinator for their GLBT Resource Center. She served for two years as the Program Advisor/Graduate Assistant for the LGBT Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato. She worked for the next three years at Capella University as a university services representative and an academic advisor. In 2006, she was able to pursue her passion for equity and diversity work by becoming the Coordinator for LGBT and Women's Services at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, MN.

During this time, she was also one of the founding members and co-chair of the MN GLBTA Campus Alliance, which is a statewide coalition of students, staff, faculty, alumni, and community members working towards a better campus climate for LGBTQ people on MN campuses. In the fall of 2012, she returned to her home state of Texas as the Program Coordinator for the GLBT Resource Center at Texas A&M University which she proudly ran for three and a half years before leaving to join us here to do broader Equity and Diversity work at Montclair State University.

She earned her A.A. degree from Cottey College, her B.A. in English at Texas Woman's University, and her M.S. degree in Women's Studies from Minnesota State University, Mankato. Recently, she completed her Doctorate in Higher Education Administration from St. Cloud State University in St. Cloud, MN. Her dissertation was on "Assessing the Needs of Non-Monosexual Students Related to Campus LGBTQ Services"

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BA: University of LaVerne, MA: University of Southern California, PhD: University of Southern California

Biography

Jill Hersh currently teaches the special topics course, Gender & Popular Culture and the foundation course, Introduction to Women's Worlds with Service-Learning, for the Program in Women's and Gender Studies at Montclair State University. She has been affiliated with the Women's and Gender Studies program since 2004 and has previously taught classes in Women's Worlds and Feminist Media Criticism. Her research interests include virtual communities, cyberfeminism, female fandoms, and media history, theory & criticism. She has also been awarded a Service Learning Fellowship.

For WMGS, Dr. Hersh has taught

WMGS 102: Introduction to Women's & Gender Studies

WMGS 302: Selected Topics in WMGS: Gender & Popular Culture

WMGS 201: Inventing Feminism

WMGS 102: Service Learning



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BA: University of Michigan, MA: San Francisco State University, PhD: University of California at Berkeley

Biography

I am interested in the ways in which the purposes of public education intersect with notions of democracy and social justice, how school/university partnerships work to provide the ethical and effective teachers to public schools, and how the nexus of mindfulness and teacher education can help navigate uncharted waters of the current high-stakes testing climate. As the coordinator of the Agenda for Education in a Democracy, I try to include many teachers and university faculty members in ongoing professional development for school renewal and change.



Webpage: [Personal Home Page](#) & [Academia.edu Page](#)

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BA: Reed College, PhD: Rutgers University

Biography

I am an assistant professor of early modern European history and women's studies at Montclair State University in Montclair, New Jersey. I received my Ph.D. in history from Rutgers University (2001), and my B.A. from Reed College (1993).

My recent research has focused on reconstructing the impact early modern relations between France and the Ottoman Empire had upon eighteenth-century French culture and identity formation. Today's strained relationship between the civilizations of Islam and the West demonstrates a profound need to better understand the ties which have historically bound these two worlds. Using diplomatic records, travel and literary works, and popular engravings, my work of the past ten years examines how conflicting French images of the Turks and the Ottoman Empire were employed in the creation of individual and national identities within Old Regime France between the 1660s and the 1780s.

I have published five essays on eighteenth-century *turquerie* and one essay on Sophie Germain, a Napoleonic-era French mathematician.

For GSWS, Dr. Landweber has taught

WMGS 102: Introduction to Women's & Gender Studies

[WMGS 402 research seminar](#)



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Office: Dickson Hall

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BA: Barnard College, Columbia University, MA: John Jay College of Criminal Justice, PhD: The Graduate Center, CUNY

Biography

Professor Venezia Michalsen is an Assistant Professor of Justice Studies at Montclair State University. Dr. Michalsen's research interests focus on gender and the American correctional system. She came to Montclair State University after working at the Women's Prison Association, the nation's oldest organization serving women with criminal justice system involvement. Dr. Michalsen teaches courses cross-listed with the Women's and Gender Studies program, including "Gender and Crime" and the very popular "Human Trafficking."

For WMGS, Dr. Michalsen has taught:

WMGS 102: Introduction to WMGS

WMGS/JUST 355: Human Trafficking

JUST 403: Seminar on Gender and Crime

WMGS 401: Independent Study: Women's and Gender Studies

Email: molinarioe@montclair.edu

Biography

Molinario teaches Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies (GSWS 102). She holds an MA in Gender Politics from New York University, an MFA in Theatre Directing from Rutgers University and a BA in Theater and French from Northwestern University. She has taught Theater History at Rutgers University and Mercer County Community College. She is the Artistic Director of Culture Connection Theater whose mission is to connect people of different countries through culture with a focus on plays by or about women. She also directs for many theatre companies in both New York and New Jersey. She serves as Chair of the Montclair Arts Advisory Committee. She is an officer of the Women and Theatre Program (WTP) for the Association for Theatre in Higher Education



(ATHE) and the coordinator of WTP's Jane Chambers Women's Playwriting Contest. This year, she is honored to be presenting a workshop on her original theatre piece about police-community relations called "Uniform Justice: Dream on Church Street" for the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA). Research interests include Women's French and Francophone theatre, Feminist theatre scholarship, Gender Politics, Women's Studies in Human Rights and International Relations.



Email: vaidyaan@mail.montclair.edu

BHA: Carnegie Mellon University, MFA: School of the Arts Institute of Chicago

Biography

Apart from teaching in the WMGS Program, Anuj Vaidya is also an artist and a curator. His practice straddles the cusp between performance and film, and addresses the intersections between gender, sexuality, and ecology. His works Chingari Chumma (2000), Bad Girl with a Heart of Gold (2004) and Aur Paschim: Transvestites in Space (2010) have been screened at numerous venues, both nationally and internationally. In addition to being an independent curator, he is also co-director of the 3rd San Francisco International South Asian Film Festival which takes place annually in November.

For WMGS, Prof. Vaidya has taught

WMGS 102: Introduction to Women's & Gender Studies

GLQS 302: Select Topics: The Trouble with Normal

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