



# GENDER STUDIES NEWSLETTER



Fall 2017

## Letter from Director

*Another academic year begins and life goes on after a tumultuous start for 2017 and unspeakable bigotry culminating in the Charlottesville tragedy. The Gender Studies program has been in high gear, working to forge a path forward for the Monmouth community. Our first plan of action was to organize a faculty-led P.U.S.H. Back to kick off the fall semester.*

*Over the summer, the Gender Studies Executive Team met to discuss the program bylaws, creating a number of revisions. Most of these changes relate to processes of affiliation and executive team membership and associated duties. Beginning this semester, I will begin service as co-adviser to the Gender Studies Club. I take on this new responsibility with the continued help of Susan Bucks as Claude Taylor has taken on new administrative duties and is no longer able to perform this task. We thank him for his service and solidarity; we know that he is never far away should we need him.*

*Many thanks to everyone's continued support of Gender Studies at Monmouth.*

Red Bank Rally, August 2017; Photo by Lorelle Shea



- Corey L. Wrenn, PhD

**Find us online:** [www.monmouth.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/gender-studies.aspx](http://www.monmouth.edu/school-of-humanities-social-sciences/gender-studies.aspx)

**Join the listserv:** [genstudy@monmouth.edu](mailto:genstudy@monmouth.edu) or contact Dr. Karen Schmelzkopf at [kschmelz@monmouth.edu](mailto:kschmelz@monmouth.edu)

**Submissions** to future newsletters can be emailed to [cwrenn@monmouth.edu](mailto:cwrenn@monmouth.edu). This can include new classes, upcoming events, student or faculty achievements, other relevant announcements and opportunities, and short essays.



## NEWS

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### International Women's Day at Monmouth

A number of departments and student clubs convened to co-host with Gender Studies a beautiful march and feminist video screening for International Women's Day on the tail of a similar march held on campus after the election in November. We hope to host another such event next Spring.



### Director's Speech from International Women's Day at Monmouth University, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2017

*Welcome everyone.*

*My name is Dr. Corey Wrenn, I am a professor of Sociology and Director of Gender Studies here at Monmouth University.*

*I have been asked to welcome you here to campus and kick off the rest of our afternoon programming, and I'm certainly pleased to do so.*

*So, why do we march?*

*We march for so many reasons, but mainly we march, because we care.*

*We care about the right to love who we love without fear.*

*We care about the right to express our true gender or no gender at all.*

*We care about the right to control our own bodies.*

*We care about the right to clean air, land and water.*

*We care about access to good health care, schools, and warm homes.*

*We care about freedom from violence and persecution.*

*We care about those who face deportation or alienation.*

*There's a lot to march about.*



*This marching is not against the current administration, although for many of us, there is an element of that, for others it is not.*

*This marching is about something bigger.*

*After all, we were marching under other administrations, too.*

*Occupy Wall Street marched (and camped) for a fair distribution of resources.*

*Native Americans marched to protect the safety of their communities and the land of their ancestors.*

*Animal rights activists marched to shine light on the systematic and unnecessary killing of nonhumans.*

*Black Lives Matter marched for right to life and safety.*

*They are marching still.*

*My primary area of research is the science of social change and collective action. As a social movement theorist, I know the power of protest is real and important.*

*But it doesn't take a scientist to understand that marching motivates us, brings us together, and materializes dreams.*

*Being here today matters.*

*So, united we stand.*

*United we march.*

*And let's not forget those who are not able-bodied and may not be able to march or stand.*

*Let's also not forget those who can't afford to take off work to be here today, animals trapped in feedlots and laboratories,*

*Those incarcerated in prisons, who are disproportionately poor and persons of color,*

*Our elders,*

*...and all those who also have a stake in this world who cannot be here with us.*

*How about...*

*United we resist,*

*United we strive,*

*...and united we love.*

*Thank you for showing up today. Keep showing up.*

*I want to open the mic now for our community leaders to share their thoughts.*

*Thank you and congratulations on an amazing show of solidarity today on International Women's Day.*



### P.U.S.H. Back Semester Kickoff *Professors United for a Safe Haven*

On September 6<sup>th</sup>, the Gender Studies program collaborated with allies across campus to demonstrate to our students and the wider community that we stand behind President Dimenna's recent statement emphasizing “our shared commitment to building a community of mutual caring and respect, diversity, and integrity” and to join him in “condemning hatred, bigotry, and violence in all forms [and] offering support to those who may be feeling vulnerable.” This event was designed to show our students that we continue to be committed to protecting our classrooms and our campus as a space for the free and genuine pursuit of knowledge and understanding for the common good; to publicly pledge our willingness to protect our students from harassment, intimidation, and violence in that pursuit; to show our students that we intend to PUSH BACK against any rising tides of prejudice, hatred, intolerance, old and new, by continuing to do what we do best: welcoming and respectfully challenging students to think critically about the realities of, and solutions to, all forms of oppression and inequality using the tools of the academic disciplines that are the heart of our vibrant intellectual community.



## Dear Monmouth University Students:

*We, the professors of Monmouth, stand behind President Dimenna's recent statement "condemning hatred, bigotry, and violence in all forms." Further, we support "our shared commitment to building a community of mutual caring and respect, diversity, and integrity."*

*We look forward to teaching you, and are eager to learn from you. We encourage open and respectful discussion. Importantly, we are committed to maintaining learning spaces that are free from fear. Harassment and violence will not be tolerated in our classrooms, or on our campus. We are committed to creating a University where all individuals can learn.*

*We are here for you, and we support you.*



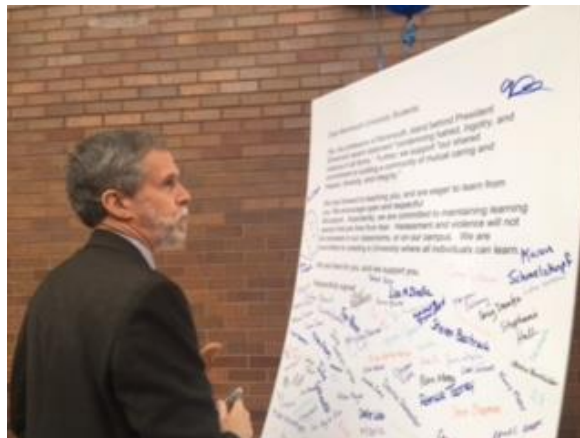
*P.U.S.H. Back Event Statement by Dr. George Gonzalez, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies*



*As Cornel West, the great African-American philosopher, has argued: for the tradition of radical democracy, DEMOCRACY is something which expands and grows, not something which is achieved once and for all. There are some similarities, here, with the deconstructionism of the French philosopher, Jacques Derrida, who argues that the demands of JUSTICE are always and already unmet. Despite our best efforts, there is suffering and forms of social violence and exclusion that we do not see and perhaps unwittingly reproduce. This is true for all of us. As we stand here today, the concrete demands of organizing are many and they are important. Really important. Work in the world of institutions can help us move towards that ‘more*

*perfect union’. For example, we can do things, institutionally and locally and nationally, to try to preserve and expand the protections of DACA and more fully welcome the Americans they serve into the fold of the national fabric.*

*However, today I’d like to stress the importance of what some refer to as ‘negative critique’. The cause of JUSTICE demands that we take a step back and consider the ways in which we might be tempted by enticing but ultimately cheap business solutions to moral problems. JUSTICE cannot be bought. The cause of JUSTICE demands that we consider the ways in which structures of racism, patriarchy, classism, homophobia, ableism, speciesism and the like don’t simply exist “out there” among our political enemies---because we are historical creatures, they, in fact, have shaped all of us at the core of our being. This is to say that introspection does not represent the opposite of social justice seeking—it is its necessary complement. Our lack, our complicity and our necessary failures won’t destroy us---the real danger is a narcissism which sells us the lie that we have done all we can and should and seeks to remake the world into a juvenile battleground between saints and sinners; liberators and liberated. Let’s try to listen for voices from the margins (even the margins within) we might not yet be able to hear.*





### 2017 Giraffe Awards



Each April, Gender Studies hosts its **annual Giraffe Awards** to celebrate, faculty, staff, and students who “stick their neck out” for gender inclusion on campus. We honored VP Patti Swannack this year for her efforts in creating gender-inclusive bathrooms.

### SOC Dish Season 4

Season 4 of SOC Dish launches this September every other Wednesday at 9 am: September 13, September 27, October 11, October 25, November 8<sup>th</sup>, and December 6<sup>th</sup>. SOC Dish on WMCX 88.9 FM is a project of the Monmouth Sociology Department hosted by the faculty in tandem with two student representatives. For thirty minutes, the team dishes on hot topics on gender, race, class, and more from a critical perspective. You can stream online from [The X website](#). Find [SOC Dish on Facebook](#) for updates and reminders.



### Recent Student Achievements in Gender Studies

#### Kayvon Paul

Political Science, Senior

Gender Studies minor Kayvon Paul stepped up as Gender Studies Club President in the Spring of 2017, reinvigorating the club and organizing several important activities. Kayvon interned for Congressman Frank Pallone Jr.'s campaign office and now works as a job as a permanent substitute teacher for long branch school district. He is also a field organizer for Committee to elect Jones, Grillo and Pinckney to Asbury Park Board of Education. In addition to his efforts with the Gender Studies Club, Kayvon is heavily involved in event planning on behalf of Sigma Tau Gamma Fraternity. His proposal “Civic Education: Emphasizing Schools in Citizen Development,” was accepted for the 2017 Northeastern Political Science Association Meeting.

#### Jamie Ponticello

Social Work, Junior

Gender Studies minor Jamie Ponticello participated in the university’s study abroad program in Australia this year.



### Christopher Rapaglia

Social Work, Senior

Gender Studies minor Christopher Rapaglia recently volunteered at a weekend camp for Trans\* Youth & their families.

### Maria (Gabby) Ruiz

Biology, Senior

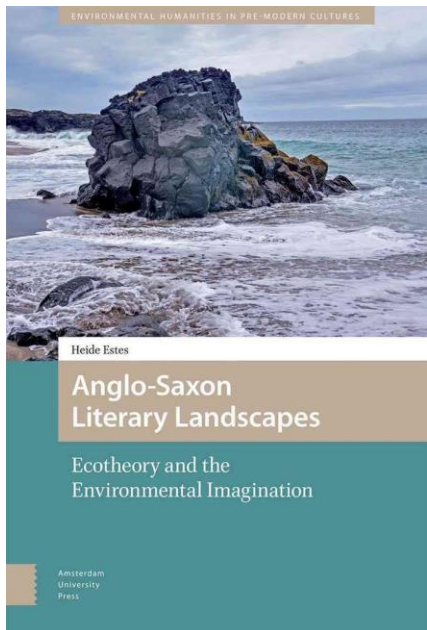
Gender Studies minor Gabby Ruiz participated in the Fall 2016 season of Soc Dish, an intersectionally-oriented university radio production put on by the Sociology Department twice a month. She offered an important feminist voice to the discourse from a student perspective.

### Lacey Wood

Sociology, Senior

Gender studies minor Lacey Wood is currently completing a thesis project exploring the intersections of sexism in media coverage of female veterans.

## Recent Faculty Publications and Achievements in Gender Studies



New book released by **Heide Estes**, [Anglo-Saxon Literary Landscapes](#) (Amsterdam University Press), which features a substantial discussion of gender in two of the five chapters.

**Estes, Heide.** Under review. *Gender, Disability and Jews in Old English Poetry: Intersections.*

**Wrenn, Corey.** 2017. "Toward a Vegan Feminist Theory of the State." Pp. 201-230, in *Animal Oppression and Capitalism*, edited by D. Nibert. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger Press.

**Wrenn, Corey.** 2017. "[Skeptics and 'The White Stuff': Promotion of Cows' Milk and Other Nonhuman Animal Products in the Skeptic Community as Normative Whiteness.](#)" *Relations. Beyond Anthropocentrism* 5 (1): 73-81.

**Wrenn, Corey.** 2017. "[The New Sociology of Species and Media: A Review.](#)" *Media, Culture & Society*. Online first.

### Dr. Rekha Datta to Teach and Research in India

Monmouth University Professor of Political Science Rekha Datta, Ph.D., is spending a portion of the current academic year in India as a recipient of a prestigious Fulbright-Nehru Academic and Professional Excellence Award in Teaching and Research. **As a Fulbright U.S. scholar, Datta will be researching global governance, local and cultural norms and gender-based violence in India.**

She is also serving as a Visiting Professor in the O.P. Jindal Global University's School of Government in Sonapat, Haryana. The university works in collaboration with the Society for



Participatory Research in Asia to implement community focused work related to domestic violence, the safety of women, and gender equality.

A noted scholar, Datta is the author of *Why Alliances Endure: The United States-Pakistan Military Alliance, 1954-1971*; *Beyond Realism: Human Security in India and Pakistan in the 21st Century*; and is co-editor, with Judith Kornberg, of *Women in Developing Countries:*



*Assessing Strategies for Empowerment*. Her scholarly interests cover foreign policy analysis, domestic politics and foreign relations in South Asia, gender and development, gender-based violence, child labor, and human security. Her work has appeared in 10 books and numerous journal articles. She is currently working on a book on contemporary India.

Datta said that being selected for a Fulbright award was “a privilege and an honor.” She said she is excited to delve into both the teaching and research components of her grant:

**“With my deep interest and passion for teaching, especially for international and cross-cultural education, I am looking forward to engaging with students and**

**colleagues in India to further cultural and academic collaboration.”**

Fulbright awardees are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement and service and leadership in their fields. Datta is the recipient of the Outstanding Leader in Experiential Learning Award from the National Society for Experiential Learning, Monmouth University’s Distinguished Teacher and Global Visionary awards, and the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Jersey Shore chapter of the National Conference for Community and Justice.

During her stay in India, she also plans to travel to other universities and conferences to give lectures and seminars: “We are thrilled that Dr. Datta has been chosen for this incredible Fulbright opportunity,” said Provost Laura J. Moriarty, Ph.D. “Her passion and dedication to teaching and research makes her an exemplar of the type of faculty member that builds a truly transformative education for our students at Monmouth University. I am sure that her experiences as a Fulbright scholar will only enhance her teaching and scholarship when she returns to campus.”

Datta’s Fulbright-Nehru project, “Global Governance, Public Policy, and Culture: Role of Local NGOs in Combating Violence Against Women in Northern India,” is an ethnographic study to assess global, national and local norms and policies, and how those policies develop the





capability of women to address gender-based violence and contribute to empowerment. The project focuses on northern India, but may later expand to include other areas of the country. The flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the U.S. government, the Fulbright Program is designed to build lasting connections between the U.S. and more than 160 other countries where the program operates.

According to the United States-India Educational Foundation, the administrator of Fulbright awards in India, Datta is one of only four scholars from New Jersey — and the only one in her field of study — to be selected for the Fulbright-Nehru award this academic year. For further information on the Fulbright Program, visit [eca.state.gov/fulbright](http://eca.state.gov/fulbright).

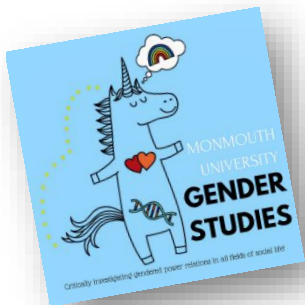
## INFORMATION

### Gender Studies Club

This semester’s student club leader is **Taffy Lashley** ([s1128003@monmouth.edu](mailto:s1128003@monmouth.edu)). Monmouth’s Gender Studies Club Advisors are Dr. Corey Wrenn ([cwrenn@monmouth.edu](mailto:cwrenn@monmouth.edu)) and Susan Bucks ([sbucks@monmouth.edu](mailto:sbucks@monmouth.edu)). Given the turnover of students following graduation, the club is in need of new members to takeover leadership.

### Gender Studies Promotional Material Available

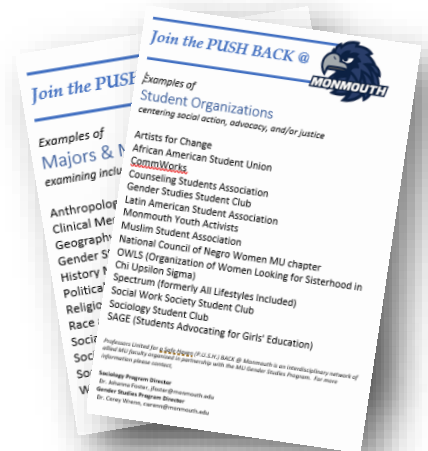
Posters and brochures for the gender studies program are available. We also have totes, pens, and stickers! Please contact Corey Wrenn to request copies be sent to your office through inter-office mail.



“I’ll Go With You” buttons in support of bathroom safety and solidarity for trans students are also available.



**P.U.S.H. Back** student information flyers are available highlighting anti-oppression student organizations and majors/minors at Monmouth.





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Welcome Back Social

September 12, 2017  
7:30 PM – 9:00 PM  
Magill Club Dining Room

The Gender Studies Club in collaboration with the Sociology club, Youth Activists, and SPECTRUM, will be hosting a welcome back social.

### Constitution Day

September 20, 2017  
Wilson

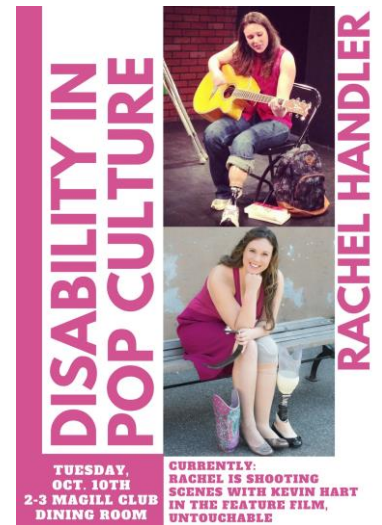
The Political Science & Sociology Department will be hosting Ms. Diana Houenou of the Policy Counsel from the ACLU who will be leading a discussion on immigration, sanctuary cities, and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).



### Disability in Pop Culture

October 10, 2017  
Magil Club Dining Room

The Office of Student Activities and Student Center Operations is bringing Rachel Handler a speaker to campus for Disability Awareness Month. Rachel was a Co-star on Law & order: SVU and played Evelyn in Park Plays at Queens Theatre. Currently, she is shooting scenes with Kevin Hart in the feature film, Untouchable.



### 15TH ANNUAL LGBTQA COLLEGE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

October 13, 2017  
9:00 AM - 04:00 PM  
William Paterson University Ballrooms

Queer Students: Activism from Hashtags to Conscious Engagement: This conference serves as a one-day educational and leadership development opportunity for college students, faculty, and staff, and the surrounding community and will bring together hundreds of participants from



across the tri-state area to explore and develop the skills necessary to continue building and supporting a united and inclusive queer movement.

Contact: Theresa Bivaletz; [bivaletzt@wpunj.edu](mailto:bivaletzt@wpunj.edu); 973-720-2578

### A New Democracy for a New Demography

October 26, 2017

PZ Auditorium

2:45-4:30

Public lecture by Harvard University scholar [David Carrasco](#). This event is co-sponsored by the Gender Studies program in honor of Hispanic Heritage month. Dr. Carrasco's talk will emphasize Latinx communities and religion in the present political climate.



### International Interdisciplinary Conference on Race

November 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Exploring race, gender, and leadership in history and global societies: goals, strategies and reconciliation. Monmouth University's Biennial Race Conference organized by Drs. Hettie Williams and Julius Adekunle. This conference draws top tier scholars from across the United States.

**gender studies minor**

Earn a degree in the social construction of gender and the consequences for individuals and society with a large variety of gender courses across most disciplines.

**CONTACT**  
 Dr. Corey Lee Wrann  
[cwrann@monmouth.edu](mailto:cwrann@monmouth.edu)  
 732-263-5304  
 Bgy Hall 234

What if **BATMAN** is my Favorite Disney Princess? **\*BLUSH\***

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