

# PGIS Newsletter

Program For Gender and Intersectionality Studies

Spring 2020

## Conversation & Action Event Title IX, Sexual Assault, & Campus

In September 2019, the Intersection Project at Monmouth University presented a two-day [Conversation and Action event](#).

The Conversation and Action series explored a range of social and policy issues related to gender inequality. This two-day event included dynamic discussion featuring divergent and diverse perspectives on a timely topic of interest to feminist scholars and activists. This was followed by an all-day student workshop that



Group photo from the conversation part of the event.

focused on related social change responses. Central to the series were the voices of scholars who amplify the analysis of the intersections of gender, race, class, and sexuality in the public square.

The theme for 2019-20 was Title IX, sexual assault and college campuses.



Luciano & Wanjuki student workshop.



MU Conversation and Action student organizers.



This issue's spotlight is on [Sasha Canan](#) of the Physical Education & Health Department

See page 2 for details

## In Response



Monmouth University fans are seen here taunting a Siena College men's basketball player when Monmouth hosted Siena in their last home game.

An investigation was launched by the school. PGIS responded to the action of MU students.

More on page 5.

# In The Spotlight

## Dr. Sasha Canan

### Health & Physical Education

Dr. Canan leads the Sexuality Education & Attitudes Lab (SEAL). SEAL research largely focuses on sex education policy, sexual assault, and the LGBTQ+ community. With specializations in educational statistics and research methods, she utilizes mixed-method techniques in her work which she routinely presents at scholarly conferences. She is also a board member for the Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality, an international organization dedicated to sexuality research.

Dr. Canan is regularly involved in local LGBTQ+ organizations and issues around reproductive rights. She prioritizes community involvement, and, in the past, has worked on community-based participatory research projects like TRANSform Health Arkansas, which assessed healthcare needs for the transgender community in Arkansas. Currently, Dr. Canan is a faculty advisor for SPECTRUM, a student organization focusing on LGBTQ+ community support.

Regarding teaching, Dr. Canan favors active and engaging learning strategies that emphasize practical skill building while maintaining a classroom atmosphere that honors a diversity of viewpoints.



"Dr. Canan went above and beyond as an advisor and played an integral role in spectrum's success. Since my tenure as club president coincided with my social work field internship with her, I was fortunate enough to work with Dr. Canan in multiple capacities. Her kind and compassionate approach towards research is a mindset that maintained in her advisory role. Based on the conversations that I had with her, she uses research to advocate and represent the LGBTQ community in a fair and equitable way."

- Jesse Dennington-Lee, S.P.E.C.T.R.U.M

## PGIS Member Accomplishments

### Dr. Heide Estes

#### English

"Professor of English literature, Heide Estes, Ph.D., recently published 'Anglo-Saxon Literary Landscapes: Ecotheory and the Environmental Imagination.' The book has been hailed as 'one of the most important to come out this year' by The Year's Work in English Studies, a highly regarded review journal published by Oxford University Press." ([Monmouth Now](#))

### Dr. Marie Mele

#### Criminal Justice

On September 26, 2019, I participated in the Title IX, Sexual Assault, and College Campuses Action Event. My participation in this event included a presentation on The Intersectionality of Sexual Assault Risk and Access to Victim Services. This presentation provided students and faculty with research on the risk of sexual violence victimization, reporting practices, and disparities in access to victim services.

### Dr. Johanna Foster

#### Political Science and Sociology

Publication: [Genocide, rape, and careless disregard: media ethics and the problematic reporting on Yazidi survivors of ISIS captivity, Feminist Media](#)

### Dr. Deanna Shoemaker

#### Communication

Publication: [Stepping into prison: Communication activism and pedagogy beyond classrooms](#)

### Dr. Anne Deepack

#### Social Work

**Publications:** "Postcolonial feminist social work," "From classroom to campus: Building a culture of anti-racism reflection and action," "Rethinking pathways to gender equality in the global south."

Statement from International Federation of Social Workers to the UN Commission on the Status on Women 64th Session (March 2020) --collectively authored by the IFSW United Nations Commission-New York Team.

## New Member Virtual Meeting



For information about PGIS, please go to our [MU Page](#).

Top row (l-r): Dr. Dinella, Prof. Evans, Dr. Canan, Dr. Deepak  
 2nd Row (l-r): Dr. Shoemaker, Prof. Bobbitt, Prof. Stojanov, Dr. Shamrock  
 3rd Row (l-r): Prof. Beach, Dr. Estes, Dr. Brzycki, Dr. Grant  
 Bottom Row (l-r): Dr. Uhuru, Prof. Taylor, Dr. Chavez

## Giraffe Award Winners 2020

### Sticking one's neck out for gender equity

#### Dr. Sasha Canan Health & Physical Education

"... [Dr. Canan] was always ready and willing to help with planning any collaborative events and made herself available to any student who needed her. She really went the extra mile as an advisor and a mentor, frequently reaching out to students who she thought might be interested in certain causes or opportunities to help better their community involvement. As a teacher, she went out of her way to create an open, safe, and accepting learning environment to ensure that all students were comfortable enough to be themselves and thrive in an academic and social [way.] Her research with the LGBTQ+ community could not possibly be valued by students any more. Knowing that there is a staff member dedicating their life to gathering empirical evidence to improve the lives of marginalized groups makes us feel heard and unwaveringly supported, and her inclusion and regard for all identities and how they intersect with the course material is not something that can be found in every classroom.

Specifically in her work as a sex educator, Dr. Canan takes the time to include queer health as well as aspects of women's health that are often left out of the conversation completely, showing her queer students that they are just as deserving of education as anyone else.

Monmouth University and its faculty and students are incredibly lucky to have an educator of Dr. Canan's capacity at our institution, and those who have worked with her feel lucky to have had the opportunity. We offer her our sincerest congratulations and luck in her new position, and are excited to see what she has in store for her new community.

- Tyler Castro & Ailisse Aquino, Gender Studies Club



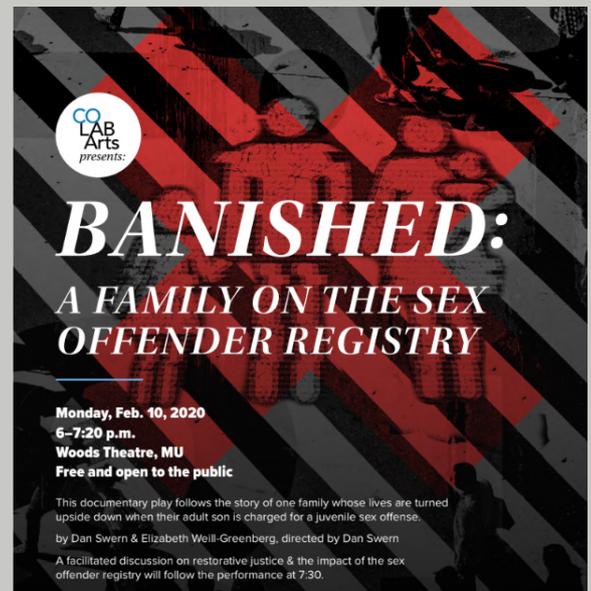
#### Brittany Macaluso Junior, Social Work

Brittany Macaluso is Junior majoring in Social Work, with a minor in Sociology. She has a passion for social justice, and has been a dedicated feminist activist on our campus, particularly when it come to issues of sexual and gender violence. She is a member of the MU Academic Exchange in Prison Project, which works to educate and motivate students to respond to the crisis of mass incarceration in the U.S.

She is also President and former Events Chair for the Social Work Society and has been on the organizing teams for the MU Social Work Teach-In, and was the lead student assistant on the Banished event. Brittany has also played a role as a key leader in the student campaigns that emerged out the Conversation and Action event.

# Banished

Drs. Johanna Foster and Deanna Shoemaker collaborated this spring to bring a powerful social justice-based performance by [coLAB Arts to MU](http://www.colab-arts.org/). "Banished" is an oral history storytelling project documenting the harms of the sex offender registry and more broadly, our criminal justice system. We had a full house in Woods Theatre, where students, faculty, community members, and experts were able to witness one family's devastating experience through this documentary performance based on actual interviews. There was a robust post-show dialogue with a panel of experts, including our own Dr. Eleanor Novek, about restorative justice. <http://www.colab-arts.org/>



## 2019-2020 PGIS Sponsored Events

### [Reproductive Justice 2019: Perils and Prospects \(Oct 29, 2019\)](#)

The personal is the political has been a part of the American vocabulary since at least the 1960s. Initially this argument was a source of identity and politics-making in the male public arena, not the female domestic space. Recently, this personal has been targeted in both Western Europe and North America where varying nationalist resurgences have resulted in anti-choice legislation. In response, some American states have passed reproductive-specific protections through legislative acts of their own. Against the backdrop of culture war, what does this renewed attention to female agency and their bodies say about our broken, polarized present? What prospects lay ahead for women? And more importantly, what perils?

#### [Kate Bornstein](#)

The student group, SPECTRUM, was set to hold an event in April featuring Kate Bornstein (see attached flyer). Bornstein is a non-binary author and gender theorist who has been a trailblazer for gender issues since the 1980s. As an Asbury Park, NJ native, she wrote many books including "Gender Outlaw: On Men, Women, and the Rest of Us." Unfortunately, due to COVID19 considerations, this event was cancelled. When activities resume, the students would like to reschedule this event.

### [Performing Art Series: BLACK LIKE ME: AN EXPLORATION OF THE WORD N—— \(Feb 8, 2020\)](#)

Black Like Me: An Exploration of the Word N—— is a multidisciplinary work that explores the reverb of a single word in a global community. It considers the effects of the word n——, all its permutations, its history, and its casual use in Hip Hop culture. In collaboration with two of America's leading Black media-design technologists and local activists, it asks if it is possible to redefine a word that was intended to belittle a people. Black Like Me combines physical, verbal, visual and sonic language to tell five narratives and perspectives in a unique way.

### [Gallery Exhibition: ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY, DIVERSITY & INCLUSION \(Feb 8, 2020\)](#)

Acts of injustice, bias, and disrespect, against groups and individuals, continue to play out across our nation. This juried exhibition will feature works that define what it means to be a good citizen in a global context, a person appreciative of all cultures and committed to fairness with respect and equality for all. By looking broadly at access and opportunity for all members of society regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, national origin, race, religious affiliation, or sexual orientation we can help everyone recognize, appreciate, and respect difference.

## S.P.E.C.T.R.U.M.

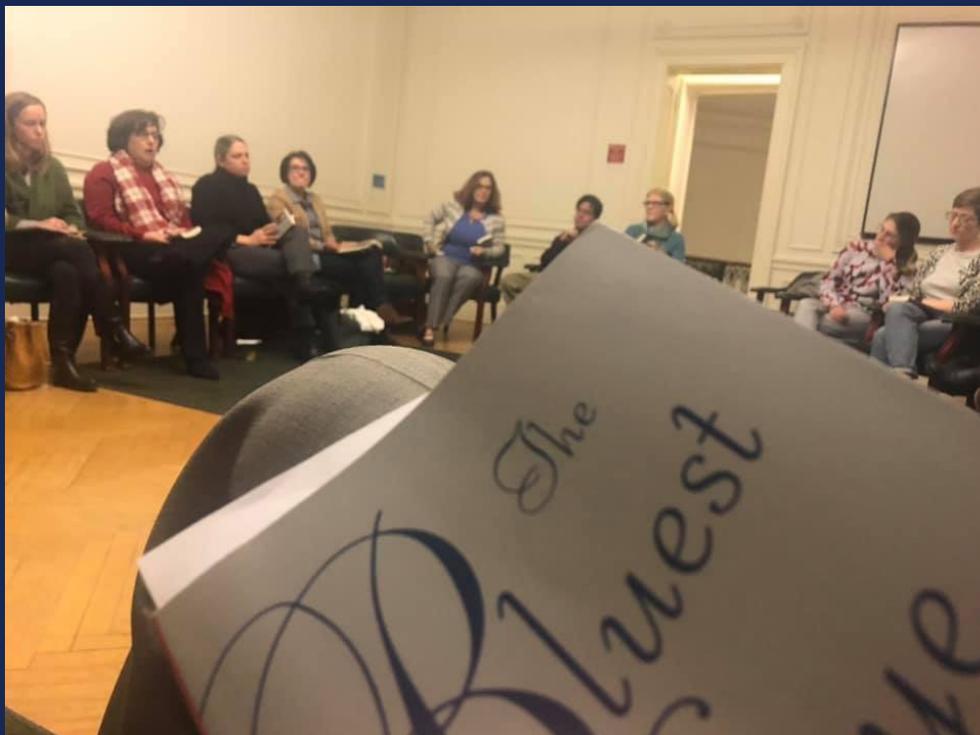
"I hope that spectrum continues to expand their reach beyond the MU community by collaborating with other local LGBTQ student groups and community organizations. I would also love to see our planned speaking and outreach related events come to fruition next year!"

Jesse Dennington-Lee,  
S.P.E.C.T.R.U.M

## Gender Studies Club

The Gender Studies Club is also looking forward to collaborating with other groups on events and hosting speakers next year. We also look forward to working with Spectrum and the other social justice student groups on campus for collaborative events and learning more about community organizing on campus. As always, the Gender Studies club strives to create an educational and safe space for students to collaborate with each other and organize structural solutions to the everyday injustices we see. Plans for next year involve events that build community and foster a sense of solidarity between students, staff, and all who attend, as well as bringing speakers and activists to campus to network with, teach, and inspire those in our field."

Tyler Castro & Ailisse Aquino,  
Gender Studies Club



## Intersection Faculty Book Club

The Intersection Faculty Book Club will feature a thought-provoking novel each break. The books selected will highlight equity, gender and diversity topics. An MU scholar will host the discussion, bringing an interdisciplinary perspective and inspiring deeper discussion. This book club is a joint venture of the Program in Gender and Intersectionality Studies, the Guggenheim Memorial Library, and the English Department.

Please note that the book club is open to any member of the MU community with a desire to read and discuss social justice-related topics!

Contact *Lisa Dinella, Kurt Wagner, or Lisa Vetere* for more information.

## In Response

During the March 6, 2020, Monmouth University Men's Basketball game vs. Siena College, some MU students began taunting a Siena player, chanting "Stick to Grindr". Below is the PGIS response.

**We strongly condemn the homophobic harassment displayed by certain members of the Monmouth University student body at the home basketball game on March 6, 2020.**

**Monmouth University must be a community free from hatred, bigotry and discrimination. All people should feel welcomed and accepted on Monmouth University's campus. Any harassment or threat to others, whether they are visitors or members of our community, is a threat to the very foundation of empathy and understanding upon which our university is built. Monmouth University should strive to be an intellectual beacon of humanity and compassion so that all those who visit know we hold our members to the highest standards of excellence.**

**As the faculty executive committee for the academic Program in Gender and Intersectionality Studies on campus, we remain committed to our central mission: to challenge students in our classrooms to learn how all forms of oppression manifest and to help prevent such incidents going forward.**

**We are also committed to working with our community partners - including Student Life, Equity and Diversity, Campus Police, the Intercultural Center, our student organizations, and others - whom we know are engaged in building a safe, diverse and welcoming community for all.**

**We are dedicated to providing a safe physical and intellectual space for all of our community members. We firmly stand in solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community.**