

Fall 2024

# WGS News

Women's and Gender Studies Department at UMass Dartmouth Newsletter



## What is WGS?

Women's and Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary academic field that fosters active analysis of how gender (together with race, class, sexuality, ethnicity, ability) affects our lives. WGS draws upon anthropology, art history, crime and justice studies, economics, history, literature, philosophy, political science, sociology, and the visual arts. WGS students reflect on how gender structures societies past and present and how it affects people at the individual and group levels; they study the historical factors that have shaped the status of women from varying backgrounds and countries; and they explore paths to achieve equality for all people.

## IN THIS ISSUE

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FACULTY

THE JOURNAL OF  
FEMINIST SCHOLARSHIP

CLASSES

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# Mariah Tarantino '18

**Art History Major; Women's and Gender Studies Minor**

Development and Communications Coordinator at YWCA

Southeastern Massachusetts

Photographer and Owner, Shutter Punk Photo.

Women's and Gender Studies helps students articulate their thoughts and experiences credibly, rationally, and intelligently so they're empowered to make the changes they want to see in the world. I appreciated that UMass Dartmouth's WGS department is so intersectional, because I also learned about how ability, sexuality, geography, social class, religion, among other identity markers, are interrelated and contribute to people's experiences of the world. The program was very interdisciplinary so it helped me tremendously in my major and can be integrated into nearly every field of study.

**Many of the principles that guide my photography business, my work at the YWCA, and how I carry myself in my everyday life came from the WGS department.**

Women and Gender Studies gave me a framework for the work I currently do at the YWCA Southeastern Massachusetts. The issues facing our community are multifaceted and the YWCA works to meet those needs on all fronts. The organization is truly about service and it reflects in all of the staff, board members, and volunteers. Being part of this organization means I'm able to wake up every day knowing that my time and effort contribute in part to improving the lives of people around me. It's incredibly rewarding to be at this organization and I'm grateful that my time at UMass Dartmouth prepared me for it.



## Mary Heslep '01

**BFA Graphic Design Major**

**Women's Studies Minor**

Senior Vice President Ten Acre Marketing

I came to learn about a minor in Women's Studies through a Women In Art History course which was required for my BFA degree. Since graduating from UMass Dartmouth I've always found myself in service to others. As an Association professional, and now an agency executive, I can reflect on ways my deepened understanding of biases has shown up throughout my career. The opportunities I've had to offer allyship from the positions I've been fortunate to hold have proven the power of being aware and informed. I pride myself on being a strong communicator and part of that DNA is a genuine curiosity in the way others live and what they believe.

**Women's Studies gave me a new lens through which to view every facet of social, political, and cultural worlds around me.**

This perspective has allowed me to forge strong relationships and has made me the leader I am today, directly related to the work I did in pursuit of my minor at UMass Dartmouth

# Laurel A. Berryman '20

Women's and Gender Studies Major

Director of Human Resources at Vibra Hospital of Southeastern Massachusetts

Since graduating in 2020, I have experienced the highs and the lows of self-discovery, recovering from failures, and identifying a career path that pays the bills and brings me joy. My education in WGS at UMass equipped me to be confident, accountable, and successful in a world consistently leaning on the backs of minorities itself. As to balance and maintain the Director of Human Resources at Vibra Hospital of Southeastern Massachusetts, I have the unique authority to play a role in the outcomes of workers' personal and professional lives, which ultimately impact patient care. A role transcending recruiting, benefits administration, and record-keeping; a role that listens to understand, cares, acts, collaborates, and uses its power to make a difference. My work directly contributes to the well-being of our patients, as a motivated and supported staff leads to better patient care.



**I have found that human resources is intricately tied to WGS, as both are driven by a common goal of equity, advocacy, education, systemic change, and empowering others.**

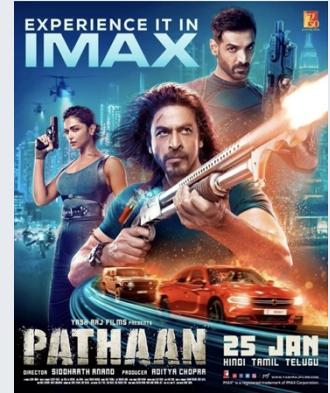
I am just as committed to bringing this understanding to my role as I am to my community, family, and friends.

# Faculty News

## Professor Anupama Arora

English and Women's and Gender Studies

Prof. Arora co-edited (with Megha Anwer, Purdue University) a special issue "Pathaan and its Politics," in *New Cinemas: Journal of Contemporary Film*. In the special issue--which focuses on the 2023 blockbuster action spy-thriller Indian film *Pathaan*—six scholars of Indian cinema offer their reflections on star text and fandom, masculinity, neoliberalism, and precarity in Bollywood. Arora also co-authored an essay in this issue titled "Pathaan, Precarity, and the Muslim Question in Neoliberal India."





# Journal of Feminist Scholarship

Jesse Magnifico, Professional and Creative Writing Program  
2024 Intern for *The Journal of Feminist Scholarship*

I served as social media manager for the *Journal of Feminist Scholarship*. I was tasked with reading/looking over the collection of articles to create a posting schedule, which involved me developing themes across the diverse subject material published in the journal as well as considering important months and dates. From there, I coordinated with the other social media manager and the overseeing co-executive editor to select my desired articles to create posts for. I designed and wrote captions for one post per week for both Instagram and Facebook using Canva and Meta Business Suite, with all designs and captions reviewed by the co-executive editor before posting. I also assisted in editing and proofreading an article manuscript according to JFS's house style and format.

The JFS internship has enlightened me to the daily realities of social media management, content creation, and editorial work, albeit working in a school setting.

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Not only did I read wonderful articles dealing with feminist and women's studies, but I also received a wonderful opportunity that let my creativity shine, gaining firsthand experience of the social media managing/marketing and content creator process before sticking my head into the real deal upon graduation.

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Dr. Arora was extremely receptive of my work, and as I have background in graphic design on top of being in the Professional and Creative Writing program at UMass Dartmouth (I had the privilege of being in her postcolonial literature class), she was fully confident and appreciative in my abilities. I didn't require assistance in the design

process, but there were moments where her feedback enlightened me to consider how my creations are perceived as a reader/onlooker. Also, there were times when an article's material at hand was advanced, evading parts of my understanding. Dr. Arora was extremely helpful, providing her assistance for every post via revising and adding tidbits to my captions and fine-tuning my designs. I better understood the voice of JFS and keeping paragraphs short, sweet, and succinct to not dissuade onlookers.

JFS has been a wonderful and prime start to achieving my career in social media managing/marketing and content creation. Along the way, I grew increasingly accustomed to operating Canva and finding options for non-copyrighted photos and images (e.g., Pexels, Unsplash). I also received the opportunity to practice writing and marketing for an audience on social media, applying principles that both intrigue onlookers to engage with (read) the journal as well as developing strategies to increase interaction and presence online.





# Journal of Feminist Scholarship

Jasmine Matthey, English and Communication

## 2024 Intern for *The Journal of Feminist Scholarship*

As an Editorial and Publications intern at *The Journal of Feminist Scholarship*, I undertook a role that was not just educational but also transformative. This position allowed me to not only apply my academic background for professional development but also deepen my commitment to feminist principles. In my editorial capacity, the practical experience gained through handling manuscripts, conducting internal reviews, and coordinating with external reviewers honed my project management and communication abilities. These tasks required a disciplined approach to manage workflows efficiently, ensuring timely publication and upholding the journal's academic standards.

I leveraged my skills in digital communication to enhance the journal's online presence. I created engaging social media posts and captions that highlighted articles from past issues, which involved a strategic selection of content that resonated with current societal discussions and academic trends. These posts were not only promotional but also educational, extending the reach and impact of the journal's published work. Scheduling these posts required meticulous planning and coordination, ensuring consistent engagement with our audience over time. This internship also allowed me to dive deep into feminist academic discourse, allowing me to engage with cutting-edge scholarship that intersects with gender, race, and social justice. This was particularly aligned with my personal values and professional aspirations to contribute to publishing platforms that elevate marginalized voices. Engaging with such content daily, I learned to navigate complex ideas and contribute thoughtfully to discussions, which is crucial for my goal of working in a dynamic and impactful publishing environment.

My supervisor, Professor Arora, provided invaluable support and mentorship. Her guidance was not just academic but also professional, preparing me for future challenges in the publishing industry. Her approach to leadership—encouraging autonomy while providing necessary support—helped me become more confident and proactive.



*As I look toward my future in publishing, this internship has been pivotal. It has equipped me with a robust set of skills and deep insights into the editorial processes specific to academic publishing. My enhanced abilities in editing, project management, and scholarly communication are directly applicable to my long-term goal of advancing in the publishing field. More importantly, this experience has affirmed my commitment to promoting diverse and inclusive content, which I believe is fundamental to the evolution and responsibility of modern publishing. This aligns perfectly with my aspiration to work in environments that challenge the status quo and contribute meaningfully to societal discourse through literature.*

# Spring 2025 Courses

## In Person

- WGS 101-01 and 101-02 Intro to Women's and Gender Studies (Prof. S. O'Hara)
- WGS 101-03 Intro to Women's and Gender Studies (Prof. C. Gardner)
- WGS 190-01 Intro to LGBTQ+ Studies (Prof. A. Arora)
- WGS 211-01/FRN 204-01 French Women and World War II (Prof. S. O'Hara)
- WGS 260-01/POR 260-01 Gender & Sexuality in Lusophone Literatures (Prof. A. Klobucka)
- WGS 300-02 / CJS 380-01 / BLS 380-01 Topics in WGS: Abolitionism (Prof. V. Saleh-Hanna)
- WGS 300-03 / ENL 320-01 / BLS 320-01 Topics in WGS: Major Author-Toni Morrison (Prof. S. Evans)
- WGS 300-04 / CJS 380-02 / BLS 380-02 Topics in WGS: Abolitionism (Prof. E. Larson)
- WGS 300-05 / HLT 350-05B Topics in WGS: Gender Health Disparities (Prof. K. McHenry)
- WGS 307-01 / PHL 307-01 Ecofeminism: Theory & Practice (Prof. C. Gardner)
- WGS 309-01 / HST 309-01 / REL 309-01 Non-Binary Saints. \*\*Please note that the course number may change prior to registration\*\* (Prof. C. Lubinsky)
- WGS 339-01 / PSC 339-01 Women and Public Policy (Prof. H. Berggren)

## Online

- WGS 101-7101 Intro to Women's and Gender Studies (Prof. E. Arruda)
- WGS 190-7101 Intro to LGBTQ+ Studies (Prof. A. Arora)
- WGS 270-7101 / HST 270-7101 Latin American Civilizations (Prof. C. Mehrtens)
- WGS 307-7101 / PHL 307-7101 Ecofeminism: Theory & Practice (Prof. K. McHenry)
- WGS 312-7101 Feminist Research Methods (Prof. E. Lehr)
- WGS 315-7101 / HST 315-7101 U.S. Women's History 1865-Present (Prof. E. Arruda)
- WGS 376-7101 / SOA 376-7101 Gender & Sexualities Across Cultures (Prof. I. Rodrigues)

*Explore the possibilities*

# WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES

Explore the lives, voices, histories, roles, and ideas of women. Learn how gender, together with race, class, and sexuality, affects all our lives.



## Women's and Gender Studies Department

University of Massachusetts Dartmouth  
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North Dartmouth, MA 02747-2300  
[www.umassd.edu/cas/wms/](http://www.umassd.edu/cas/wms/)

## MARIAH TARENTINO '18

Women's and Gender Studies Alumni



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Development and Communications Coordinator  
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College of Arts & Sciences  
UMass Dartmouth  
Women's & Gender Studies

## LAUREL BERRYMAN '20

Women's and Gender Studies Alumni



Director of Human Resources  
Vibra Hospital of Southeastern Massachusetts

College of Arts & Sciences  
UMass Dartmouth  
Women's & Gender Studies

## DID YOU KNOW?

You could benefit from a double major.

Pairing a Women's and Gender Studies major with another discipline can add valuable skills applicable to your career.



## DID YOU KNOW?

A minor in Women's and Gender Studies supports many degree paths



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Women's & Gender Studies

## CAREER PATHS FOR WGS MAJORS WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HERE?

Visit the University Career Center

<https://www.umassd.edu/career/>

1. Career counseling
2. Career events
3. Handshake
4. Support Services

- Assistance w/resumes & cover letters
- Interview preparation
- Job search assistance
- Internship search assistance
- Help choosing a major



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