

# WGS NEWS

Women's and Gender Studies Department at UMass Dartmouth



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## Faculty

WGS faculty and affiliate  
accomplishments

## Students

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# Events

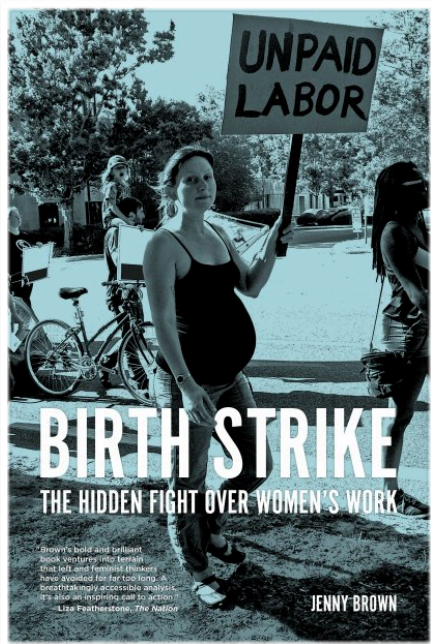
## Lavender & WGS Graduation Celebration

On May 2nd the Center for Women, Gender & Sexuality hosted the first annual Lavender Graduation at the University Club. The celebration honored all LGBTQ graduates, as well as all WGS graduating majors and minors.

Congratulations to our graduates: Hayley Allison, Sarah Aguiar, Chelsea Cabral, Pamela Chet, Julia Fleming, Simone Gallagher, Teniya (Ayden) Holiday, Vina Ngo, Cheyanne Patterson, Rachel Saba, Erin Snitzer, and Pamisa Udomratankoson. We wish you the best of success!

# No More Unpaid Labor!

By Keith Marcoccia

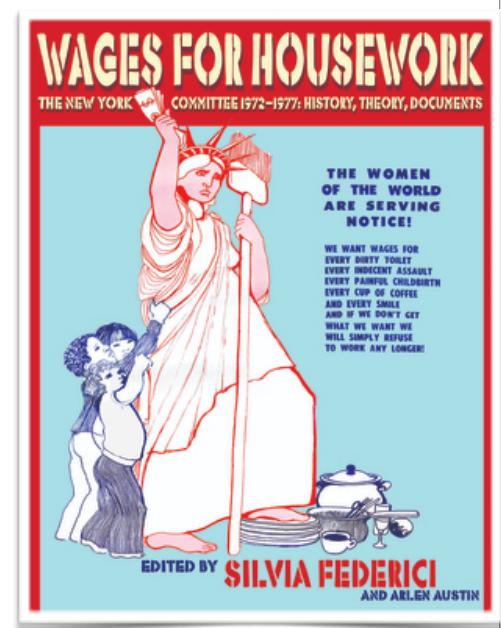


*The Umass Dartmouth Labor Education Center, Women's and Gender Studies Department and the Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality hosted an event with Arlen Austin and Jenny Brown. Austin co-edited the book, *The New York Wages for Housework Committee 1972-1977: History, Theory and Documents*. Brown, a women's liberation organizer and former editor of *Labor Notes*, was a leader in the grassroots campaign to make "morning-after pill" contraception available over-the-counter in the United States and is the author of *Birth Strike: The Hidden Fight Over Women's Work* (2019).*

Our WGS 101 class hosted a talk by two authors: Jenny Brown and Arlen Austin. Both of them had recently published books about a social and political movement in the 1970s where women fought to establish compensation for domestic labor. Brown and Austin explained the motivations that started this movement. The belief behind this idea was that women in our society were being shut out of the workplace in our country, causing them to be financially dependent on their husbands. Wives were expected to be responsible

for all domestic labor, such as housework. Many women felt that housework was oppressive; it was merely busy work to keep them from demanding an equal position to men in our society. Establishing wages for housework would allow women to be more independent financially. It would also incentivize men to share the burden of doing housework, which would make it so that women would have more time to join the workforce.

This discussion was relevant to our class because we have talked a lot about intersectionality, where aspects of our identity are interconnected with each other when it comes to systems of power and oppression. The Wages for Housework movement connects primarily two aspects of identity: class and gender. In "Where We Stand Class Matters," bell hooks explains the importance of discussing class in our society. She writes "The evils of racism and, much later, sexism, were easier to identify and challenge than the evils of classism. We live in a society where the poor have no public voice." (hooks, "Where We Stand Class Matters", page 5). The Wages for Housework Movement



simultaneously tackles issues of sexism and poverty. Compensation for domestic labor would not only lift up women in our society, but also poor families. Many of the people fighting for that cause were poor, and the movement allowed them to have a voice when they were normally ignored. As Arlen Austin mentioned in his speech, the movement gained so much momentum that President Nixon was forced to address it.

There are two ideas that I took away from this event. The first is that everyone deserves recognition for what they contribute to society, whether that be employment, housework, childcare, or volunteering. The second is that if oppressed people in our society want to make meaningful changes, they must unite and organize. While the Wages for Housework movement started small, it gained significant traction through effective advocacy and organizing.

## Organizing Nurses

By Ny'Asia President

THE UMASS DARTMOUTH LABOR EDUCATION CENTER, WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES DEPARTMENT AND CENTER FOR WOMEN, GENDER & SEXUALITY PRESENT

**FILM DISCUSSION ABOUT ORGANIZING NURSES: HEALTH CARE & WOMEN'S WORKING CONDITIONS PAST & PRESENT**

A 20 minute film that documents a historic nurses union organizing drive

*The Umass Dartmouth Labor Education Center, Women's and Gender Studies Department and the Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality hosted an event highlighting the historical and contemporary struggles for nurses' labor rights in Massachusetts. A nurse from St. Luke's hospital shared stories about their organizing campaign, and filmmaker Roslyn Feldberg presented "Playing on Our Sentiments" a documentary film on how the nurses at Hale Hospital in Haverhill, MA won their first union contract.*

On March 20th, as part of Women's History Month, our WGS 101 class welcomed guest speakers to present about nursing and the movement to organize for better

work conditions and pay for women. Our speakers included nurses from St Luke's hospital in New Bedford. This Women's History Month event related to our larger class topics of women's health and women's labor in the workforce. I've learned generally, that back in the 1960s, women were routinely facing discrimination. Employers commonly paid women one-half to two-thirds of what a man doing the same job received. The wages were pitiful.

During the event, we were shown a short documentary that summarized and educated our class on the topic as a whole. I was astounded by the process the women, as part of the era, had to go through. These women have fought hard and did not give up for the working conditions us women have today. As an overall take away, I've learned to not be afraid of what you believe in and to always stand up for what you believe is rationally right. You may never know the outcome.



## CWGS and WGS Meet and Greet

The Center for Women, Gender & Sexuality hosted WGS faculty and students for a mixer in March. The organizers wanted to bring students together to learn about the WGS major and to learn from former alumni what they can do with a WGS degree. Thank you Yvonne Hitchens, class of 2009, for attending and sharing your career insights after graduating with a WGS major! Look out for details about this year's event to learn more about the WGS major and how you can get involved with the feminist community at UMass Dartmouth.



# Students

## Kaz Almeida's Internship with the Center for Women, Gender and Sexuality

This last semester, I had the privilege of working at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth's Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality (CWGS). I was able to work with my advisors Juli Parker and Jessica Harris towards improving and bringing more awareness to CWGS. I worked at marketing CWGS to queer students, towards expanding support and community on campus, and facilitated Safe Zones and Trans 101 trainings. I also assisted in the planning and execution of the LGBTQ Youth Symposium.

In our Safe Zone program, we talk mainly about how to interact with, be social with, and be a good ally to LGBTQ+ peoples, especially those on campus and around you in your life. We worked on teaching how to not just be a good ally, but how to be a good support system for all those who might need it. Alongside our Safe Zone program, we have our Trans 101 program, which is an

accurate, inclusive, and informative program that talks about what the average trans person experiences and goes through. The main lesson in the program is to teach about the lives and struggles of trans people. It also teaches how to be an ally, be that ally LGB+ or straight, as any cisgender person, of course, can be a great ally to trans peoples.

The Trans 101 program by far has been my absolute favorite program to teach as I've had so many memorable moments from it. It really has a place in my heart as someone who is non-binary myself. While doing these presentations, I've gotten to personally talk and work with people from all walks of life. Being able to help someone in any way that I can, and knowing that I've done such, is the exact reason why I love doing this work with people like those I teach at all these trainings, and with really anyone in general!





This kind of social work is amazing to me because it's not a mathematical or scientific thing that has one perfect answer. We're working with people, and people can be unpredictable, but when there are times where I can help someone, even the slightest bit, it makes everything I do one hundred percent worth it. Even just changing and helping one person is what this major and all of our work is all about. I would never give up this experience, and the chance to help like this – no matter what.

Working at the LGBTQ Youth Symposium was an amazing experience as well. The students I met in this program had some of the most amazing stories. To be able to see the courage from students as young as twelve made me so hopeful for a future where kids won't have to 'come out' or

worry about being accepted for who they are – gay, lesbian, bi, trans, or any identity.

This internship was by far the most incredible time of my life. It was a lot of work, but more rewarding than I could have ever hoped. When I first joined the Women's and Gender Studies major, I was a bit worried about what I might do for a career once I graduate, but after this internship, those fears are gone. While working at the Center for Women, Gender, and Sexuality, I've learned that there are so many career options for people in this major. To then be able to not just learn about my major, but actually *do* the work I would do when I graduate, and to see its impact, was an incredible experience that I will never forget.

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 Annasaskhea Azor's Project for WGS 101 (Spring 2018)
 

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Black feminism is deemed as the intersection between white supremacy and feminism. It aims to close the gap between differing races represented in feminism through acknowledging white supremacy and its hand in feminism. In order to have truly equal feminism racial inequalities must first be addressed. Until now feminist movements have focused their ideals and goals around the oppression faced by white females instead of being inclusive. Black women are faced with oppression through race and gender that must be examined in relations with each other. Sojourner Truth puts it best, “That man over there says that women need to be helped into carriages, and lifted over ditches, and to have the best place everywhere. Nobody ever helps me into carriages, or over mud-puddles, or gives me any best place! And ain't I a woman?”. Women as a whole are viewed as fragile and in constant need of help, but because of Truth's race she is not even viewed as a woman displaying the intersections between these two parallels. Black women are discriminated against in ways that often do not fit neatly within the legal categories of either “racism” or “sexism”—but as a combination of both racism and sexism.

For my final project I chose to display the intersections between race and gender through a photoset labeled “Girls in the Yard”. In nearly all 15 photos the woman of color is seen as superior often times looking straight into the camera or posed in a position of strength. The white girl is often times seen looking at the ground or barely in the shot at all, depicting that black females must be focused on in order for the feminist movement to be all-encompassing. Singular portraits of the woman of color were also a part of this photoset portraying the strength a single black female holds. The ideals I portrayed directly relates to the article “Black Feminism and Intersectionality” by first addressing racial inequalities in order to have truly equal feminism.

# Faculty News

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## Anupama Arora, Professor of English and WGS

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Anupama Arora published her essay, “Nobody puts Rani in a Corner: Making of the New Indian Woman in *Queen* (2014)” in *South Asian Popular Culture*, 2019, 1-13. She interviewed (along with Sandrine Sanos) Afro-French documentary filmmaker, Amandine Gay (film: *Ouvrir La Voix/Speak Up*); the interview is forthcoming in the *Journal of Feminist Scholarship* (Summer 2019). She also presented her paper, “African Migrants and the American Metropolis: Dinaw Mengestu’s *All the Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears*,” at the Arts and the City Conference, in Károli Gáspár University and The Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary, May 23-24, 2019.

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## Dário Borim Jr Professor and Chair, Dept of Portuguese and WGS Affiliate

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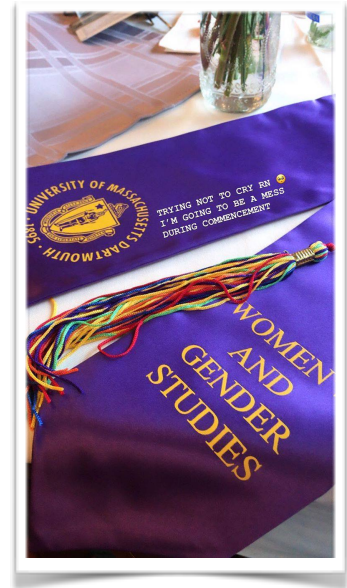
Dario Dário Borim Jr. published the following:

- “Luis Fernando Verissimo.” Research and reference article in the book *Twenty-First-Century Brazilian Writers*. DLB 384. Eds. Monica Rector and Robert N. Anderson. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale, 2019. 288-294. (3,956 words)
- “From Brazil to Sweden to Brazil: Gender Trouble in Gabeira.” Research article in the journal *Via Atlântica (Queerizar o Cânone Luso-Afro-Brasileiro)* 33 (2018): 61-79.
- “Metacinema e poligamia: Construções e reconstruções de gênero e sexualidade em *Lisbela e o Prisioneiro* e *Eu Tu Eles*.” *Gênero e imagens do mundo ibero e latino-americano*, École Normale Supérieure, Lyon, France. March 28-30, 2019.
- “Precária existência, implacável destino: Machado de Assis, Borges e Poe, em Luis Fernando Verissimo.” *Jornadas de Língua Portuguesa e Culturas Lusófonas da Europa Central e de Leste*, Jagiellonsski University, Krakow, Poland. September 20-22, 2018.



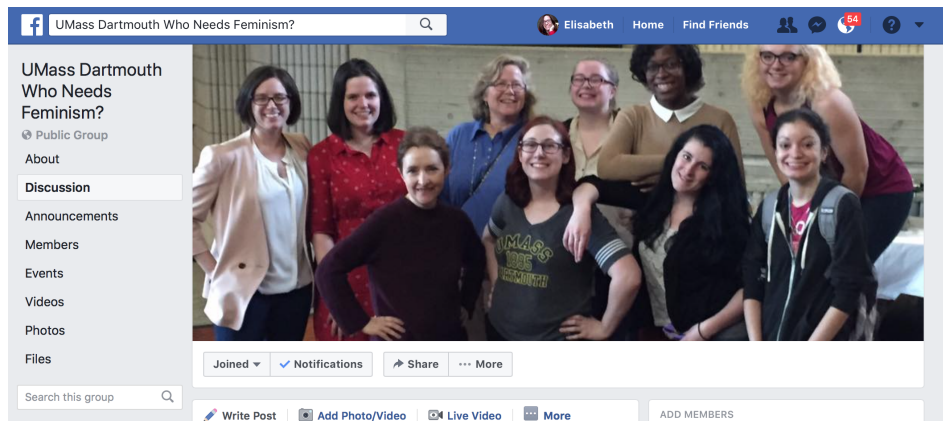
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## Join us on the “UMass Dartmouth Who Needs Feminism?” Facebook page!



Please direct all inquiries to Professor Anna Klobucka [aklobucka@umasds.edu](mailto:aklobucka@umasds.edu).