as a student in intro to feminist theory class, we were asked to create a wiki page on a particular feminist. nancy chodorow was my first choice because of her use of psychoanalytic theory in regard to the mother-child relationship. as a psychology major and feminist, i am captivated by her doctrine on female gender identity and development. so while people around me prepared and readied themselves for hurricane sandy, i sat at my computer and composed a few questions for dr. chodorow via email. post-storm i finally heard back!

chodorow was born in new york city on january 20, 1944. she received her bachelor of arts from radcliffe college in 1966 and her ph.d. in sociology from brandies university in 1975. she taught women's studies at wesley college and became assistant professor of sociology at santa cruz. dr. chodorow received the prestigious jesse bernard award for her work, the reproduction of mothering, in which she explored the bond between mother and child. she is a member of various organizations such as: the american sociological association, the national women's study association, and the center for the advanced study of behavioral sciences. chodorow has received various fellowships, and at one time had a private practice in psychotherapy. she uses psychoanalysis as her basis for feminist theory. sexuality and gender examination cannot be accomplished without an understanding of the unconscious mind.

the questions i posed to chodorow were in regard to the oppression of women, was there a possible time she could foresee it ending, and what factors contributed to male dominance. dr. chodorow was especially concerned with wages, unpaid domestic labor, and women's political voices. she wrote, "there is certainly a wage gap, a gap in professions, in who does how much housework" (interview). when digging deeper past the "dynamics that most lead to inequality and constraint" we begin to see that "feminism has tended to confound politics". just take a look at the political arena and you'll see many examples in which women remain subjugated. when men in public office can freely speak about "legitimate rape" and make life-altering decisions regarding contraception, planned parenthood, and abortion, it becomes obvious that more than just the economy has failed. that being said, nancy chodorow posits that oppression lies in a few key domains: "the sphere of reproduction, women's control of their bodies and reproducively, and their right to have time and adequate resources for themselves and their children" (interview). furthermore, she believes our country sees "children as a private, rather than public responsibility, and that mothers who cannot support themselves do not deserve support that is also oppression" (interview).

interestingly, dr. chodorow stated that she no longer refers to "the oppression of women" because "she is much more a psychoanalyst at this point and someone who was in the feminist movement 35-40 years ago" (interview). regardless of how she identifies herself, it is obvious that she is still concerned with women's lives and the obstacles they face on a daily basis. from conducting this interview, i have realized that women and their reproductive capabilities have a prevailing effect over their lifetime. chodorow's thought-provoking responses lead me to question what solutions might be. i'm not quite so sure, but time will tell.
WGS Fall/Spring Events

The Girls of El Seybo: Logging in to a Different Mañana, presented by Paola Prado
November 30, 2012

Paola Prado, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Journalism and Digital Media in the Communication Department at Roger Williams University, specializes in digital inclusion, digital media convergence, and multimedia production. Her research focuses on the adoption of information and communication technologies for development and social change in Latin America. For more information about the speaker, please see: http://flavors.me/pradomedia#

Prado’s exploratory study examines the impact of information and communication technologies (ICT) on the lives of girls in a remote rural village in the Dominican Republic. A number of studies have examined gender differences in Internet use in the developed world, yet little is known about the impact of Internet adoption among girls in traditional rural societies. The village of El Seybo in the Dominican Republic, where the roles of women are largely limited to the duties prescribed by marriage and motherhood, provides the locus of her case study. Informed by the growing literature on globalization and ICT adoption in the developing world, this study examined what it means for girls in this remote rural setting to gain access to the Information Society. Using grounded theory, data collected in 20 individual in-depth interviews with girls and young women between the ages of 13 and 25 was examined within the context of their lives and that of their community. The findings indicate that the girls of El Seybo are bridging the digital divide by relying on affordable public Internet access points to connect to the World Wide Web. Empowered with digital literacy and online access that makes it possible for them to overcome the geographical boundaries and resource limitations that result from poverty, the girls of El Seybo provide evidence that digital inclusion offers a tool for social change.

Our thanks to the Provost’s Departmental Seminar Series Program for support in funding this event.

Dangerous Environments, presented by Dr. Sabrina McCormick
Breast cancer + oil spills + climate change
February 26, 2013

Sabrina McCormick is a sociologist and documentary filmmaker. She is Assistant Research Faculty in the School of Public Health and Health Services at George Washington University, and Senior Fellow at the Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center at the University of Pennsylvania. She is co-Principal Investigator of a CDC-funded study on heat waves in the United States and the Primary Investigator of a National Science Foundation-funded study on the 2010 oil spill and a Lead Author on the Special Assessment being conducted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change entitled, “Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation.”

Previously she served as a Science & Technology Policy Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science working in the Global Change Research Program at the Environmental Protection Agency; and as a Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar at the University of Pennsylvania.

Dr. McCormick is also the author of No Family History: Finding the Environmental Links to Breast Cancer (Rowman & Littlefield), which is accompanied by her award-winning documentary film by the same name, and of Mobilizing Science: Movements, Participation and the Remaking of Knowledge (Temple University Press).

This event is co-sponsored by the Department of Sociology/Anthropology/Crime & Justice Studies, the Crime & Justice Studies Program, and the Women & Gender Studies Program at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth; and produced in collaboration with the Women’s Studies Program at Providence College.

Bisexuality 101 and Beyond, presented by Robyn Ochs
April 8, 2013

What does it mean to identify as bisexual (or pansexual or fluid)? What are some of the challenges to recognizing and understanding this often overlooked segment of the LGBTQ community? However you identify, come to this lively and interactive program if you could use some tools for challenging ignorance and biphobia.

Robyn Ochs is a speaker, award-winning activist, and the editor of the 42-country anthology, Getting Bi: Voices of Bisexuals Around the World and the Bi Women newsletter. Her writings have been published in numerous bi, women’s studies, multicultural, and LGBTQ anthologies, and she has taught courses on LGBT history and politics.

An advocate for the rights of people of ALL orientations and genders to live safely, openly and with full legal equality, Robyn’s work focuses on increasing awareness and understanding of complex identities, and mobilizing people to be powerful allies to one another within and across identities and social movements. For a selection of interviews and articles by and about the speaker, please see http://www.robynochs.com.

For more information please contact: Kristin McHenry, kmchen-ry@umassd.edu, ext. 8310.

Our thanks to the Provost’s Departmental Seminar Series Program for support in funding this event.
“Domestic Violence,” presented by Bianca J. Gay, MBA  
April 10, 2013  

Bianca J. Gay, MBA, is a JD Candidate 2013, UMass School of Law–Dartmouth. She has studied Domestic Violence Law as a second year law student, and has held an internship at the Plymouth County District Attorney’s office in Brockton in the Domestic Violence Unit. She has also helped immigrant women file VAWA self-petitions. In her “spare time” she volunteers with Rosie’s Place, a women’s shelter in Boston, an organization which she has volunteered with for 9 years.

For more information, please contact Prof. Heidi Berggren, hberggren@umassd.edu, x8272

Our thanks to the Provost’s Departmental Seminar Series Program for support in funding this event.

Mooladé, a 2004 film by Ousmane Sembène, the grandfather of African cinema  
April 16, 2013, 5:30-7:40pm, LARTS118  

Four girls take refuge with Collé Ardo, a woman who spared her only daughter from circumcision. These girls seek her protection, **mooladé.** The village is thrown into uproar as Collé stands her ground.

“Whatever method is used, whether the classic or modern one, circumcision [female genital mutilation] is an attack on the dignity and integrity of women. I dedicate Mooladé to mothers, to women who fight for the abolishment of this legacy of a by gone era.” —Ousmane Sembène

For more information contact: Dr. Stephanie O’Hara, sohara@umassd.edu

Our thanks to the Provost’s Departmental Seminar Series Program for support in funding this event.

Pinkwashing Breast Cancer, presented by Kristen McHenry  
April 23, 2013 12:00-1:00 pm, Library Grand Reading Room  

The event is a focus on breast cancer activism where we will examine **pinkwashing/pinkwashers.**

A Pinkwasher: (pink’-wah-sher) noun. A company or organization that claims to care about breast cancer by promoting a pink ribbon product, but at the same time produces, manufactures and/or sells products that are linked to the disease.

This will be an informative session designed to raise awareness about pink ribbons, breast cancer activism and environmental links to cancer.

Any company can put a pink ribbon on its products. The widely recognized pink ribbon symbol is not regulated by any agency and does not necessarily mean it effectively combats the breast cancer epidemic. Some products sport pink ribbons to try to communicate that they are “healthy” and don’t contribute to breast cancer, such as a number of natural health and beauty products. Other products have a pink ribbon in order to indicate that the company supports breast cancer programs even if the company’s contributions are not tied to the purchase of the specific product bearing the ribbon. Still other companies give a portion of an item’s cost to a breast cancer organization but may require further action on the part of the consumer for the donation to be realized. Can you tell how much money from your purchases will go to support breast cancer programs? If not, consider giving directly to the charity of your choice instead.

For more information contact: Kristen McHenry, Women’s and Gender Studies, kmchenry@umassd.edu, 508-999-8310.

Our thanks to the Provost’s Departmental Seminar Series Program for support in funding this event.

The “It Was Rape Project”, presented by Jennifer Baumgardner  
April 29, 2013, 7pm, Library, Grand Reading Room  

Rape is wrong, illegal, reprehensible—and yet still tragically common. In this film, eight women tell their diverse personal stories of sexual assault, from a Midwestern teenager trying alcohol for the first time to a Native American woman gradually coming to terms with her abusive childhood. Gripping and emotional, this film is an opportunity to empathize with people—not just absorb faceless statistics—and to puncture the silence and denial that allow sexual assault to thrive. Ultimately, these stories shed light on how this epidemic affects us all.

**It Was Rape** began screening in December of 2012. This spring it will be part of film festivals, Take Back the Night events and anti-violence programming in Alabama, Wisconsin, North Dakota, Louisiana, Ohio, New York, and Arizona. To schedule a screening in your community or to purchase the film for institutional or advocacy use, please contact itwasrape@gmail.com.

“It Was Rape boldly explores sexual violence through the experiences of survivors. This film both challenges the audience to think about sexual violence in a deeper, more nuanced way, and inspires genuine empathy for individuals impacted by violence.” –Sarah Dodd, Assistant Director of the Sexual Assault Prevention Programs at North Dakota State University

“It Was Rape is one of the best documentaries I’ve seen on this issue. A must-see for any classroom discussing the issue of rape.”—Kelly Finley, Lecturer, Women’s and Gender Studies at University of North Carolina at Charlotte

“If [It Was Rape] starts a conversation, it won’t be a quiet one, which is just what Ms. Baumgardner wants.”—Susan Dominus, New York Times

Our thanks to the Provost’s Departmental Seminar Series Program for support in funding this event.
In this film Thomas Keith critically examines the ways that popular culture continues to reinforce and reward sexism, particularly among boys and young men. Keith’s primary argument is that sexism is still portrayed in contemporary media and culture as cool, desirable, and normal for young men. Those men who resist our culture’s normative imperative to treat women purely as sexual objects are marginalized and ridiculed in numerous ways as an attempt to limit the ways that men view and interact with women. The film demonstrates how the devaluing of women by media, men, and the surrounding culture reinforces a hostile climate toward women, homosexual men, and heterosexual men who challenge existing norms about what it means to be a man in our society. Keith also exposes the variety of ways that men are kept in a tightly monitored “man box” of male behavior that emphasizes sexist views and actions toward women, actions that ultimately harm men and pose palpable dangers to women.

Review of *The Bro Code: How Contemporary Culture Creates Sexist Men*  
by Dr. Courtney Beggs

Thomas Keith’s film, *The Bro Code: How Contemporary Culture Creates Sexist Men*, is a must-see for students in our WGS 101 classes, many of whom struggle to see how men fit into the picture of Women’s Studies. Connecting the “bro” culture found in today’s media (film, television, print, music), the skyrocketing use of pornography, and the harmful consequences of “masculinity police,” this film illustrates one of the foundational principles of feminism: rigid constructions of gender norms are dangerous to everyone. Keith’s work shows how young men are trained at almost every corner of our culture to objectify women in order to help prove their own masculinity.

Shows like *The Jersey Shore*, videos that place nearly-naked women in every possible shot and lyrics that explicitly tell young men that women are to be valued for nothing except their bodies and their sexual availability work together to shape a very dangerous and restricting notion of what it means to be a man in today’s world. Even well-meaning family members, coaches, and teachers participate in this process, “jokingly” correcting boys when they fail to fit in with the “bro code” of behavior. The result, as the film makes clear, has violent and often fatal consequences for both men and women. Men are four times as likely to commit suicide as women, and women remain the number one victims of violence and sexual assault at the hands of men.

The film also highlights the way rape culture is engendered by both pornography and the party-sex-drinking atmosphere on many college campuses. Currently, the most rapidly growing type of pornography is “gonzo porn,” a genre closely linked to “rape porn.” Both genres capitalize on representations of women that are increasingly degrading, humiliating, and violent. When these are the images young men have been influenced by, Keith argues, it is no wonder that they arrive on college campuses expecting young women to be sexually available. This feeling of sexual entitlement is just one factor in cases of sexual assault and violence on college campuses, where students who were featured in the film admit that drugs and alcohol are used to gain access to women’s bodies. Statistics reveal that because so many assault and rape cases go either unreported or unprosecuted, popular culture is sending young men the message that this behavior is not only acceptable, but also expected.

Students who either attended the screening or watched on their own were simultaneously shocked by what they saw and by their own complicity in many of the activities and behaviors discussed in the film. Their reactions were thoughtful and reflective, and many of them were able to see connections to their own patterns of behavior. It is my hope that they will share what they learned by watching the film with others and that Keith’s work will have a lasting, changing effect on students’ understanding of how social and cultural constructions of gender work against the physical, intellectual, and psychological well-being of everyone.

**Student Comments on *The Bro Code: How Contemporary Culture Creates Sexist Men***

I honestly thought *The Bro Code* was an eye-opening and powerful movie to show for this class. In fact, I believe it should be mandatory to watch even in high school, as many of the concepts pertain to all age groups. It has helped me to realize that, despite what people may feel, pornography is heavily integrated into our society. It helps to emphasize the difference in genders, and encourage female discrimination, objectification and weakness. It also shows how males are strongly pushed towards being masculine, and if they are not, they are either feminized or portrayed as gay. I did not realize the extent of this type of behavior in our society until I watched this movie, and the signs are honestly everywhere. Just the other day, my friend told me that a boy in her daughter’s class told her daughter “I want to have sex with you and pee on you.” The boy and my friend’s child are both six.

I find this film important in many aspects, especially how it shows how the media is collectively teaching our society that certain behaviors are accepted. Not many people realize this, and because of this, the behaviors still continue. If more people were to watch the film, and be required to take a Women and Gender Studies class, they may be more inclined to change as a whole, instead of deciding to partake in the group mentality that the media encourages.

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Jamie Liddell
I think the general consensus is that women's rights are making great headway in terms of equality and even safety for women, but this documentary proves that this is not at all the case. If anything, this misconception is just an excuse to turn a blind eye and focus on something less troubling. Though it is true that women have come a long way since earning the right to vote, there is still much ground to be covered. I'll admit that as a young woman I’m squeamish when it comes to pornography so I didn't know what Gonzo porn was, but the idea of a man needing to see a woman be violated and abused to be sexually aroused is disturbing on a lot of levels. What the porn, television, and music industries do is say that this behavior is okay and basically chalks it up to women deserving it. *The Bro Code* does a fantastic job of negating this idea and putting the focus back on humans treating others as humans instead of men treating women as their conquests and subordinates.

Nicole Pizzi

*The Bro Code* by Thomas Keith is both shocking and informative. This film illuminates a problem in society that is too often down played or not talked about at all. What is most important about the film is the message that our culture is creating sexist men and in turn, creating a dangerous, unhealthy, and unbalanced society. The film exposes college men as main perpetuators of this problem. It is shown that society is teaching young males sexist behavior and desensitizing young males and females to hyper masculine behavior. Women are also shown as victims of society's media and culture, in that they are taught this behavior is acceptable. Men are shown to be ridiculed if they do not accept and repeat these sexist behaviors and attitudes. This film ultimately shows that society is encouraging sexist behavior and creating an unsafe environment. It is shown that rape is joked about in society. In addition, men and women are exposed to the pornography industry that portrays women as submissive sex objects.

This film is done in a very entertaining yet informative manner. Every person who considers they themselves to understand or want to understand the society in which we live in should watch this film. Many mendo not want to live under the sexist rules that society has created; still many men do not realize the extent to which they have been raised to do so. Many of us and our families have been affected by rape and abuse. For college parents, daughters are at risk of being raped and sons are at risk of raping someone and going to jail because they are so entrenched in this sexist way of thinking. *The Bro Code* is a serious problem not just the name of a film.

Jesse Abbruzzese

Having taken a Women's Studies class last semester, I thought I had already been awakened to many of the problems we are facing as women and men in society. I am certain that this documentary has opened my eyes a little wider to what's being said around me and what's happening around me. The sexist words and actions we use in society have become so normal to us, that we accept it without much thought. We need to change this thinking. It should not be acceptable. We are also teaching the next generations that this is acceptable behavior, leaving the cycle to continue.

After watching *The Bro Code*, I got into the car and I turned on the radio. I immediately began listening to song lyrics on FUN 107 and I was outraged. One of the songs that I have continually heard on the radio is by Flow Rider? I am sure you have heard it. It's called: “Can you blow my whistle, Baby.” When I first heard this song on the radio, it bothered me but, now that I have viewed *The Bro Code*, I am speechless. How can Flow Rider be allowed to sing a song that is so degrading to a woman? Why is he allowed to portray a woman as a sexual object, even if it is “just a song?”

Three years ago, I went through a divorce because I was in an emotionally, abusive relationship and my husband, at the time, refused to consider getting help and instead, he left. I am in a very emotionally sensitive place at times but, the Women's Studies program has been my salvation and my reason for wanting to continue to learn more. I am constantly fighting with so many emotions in my personal life and this documentary has stirred up a lot of feelings in my everyday life. How do I want to be viewed as a woman? How do I want my daughter to be viewed as a woman? I am a single mother and every day I wonder how I will bring up my only daughter in a world that lives by *The Bro Code*. I will have to fight so hard for her physical and mental safety. It is up to me to teach her what it means to be a respected woman. Unfortunately, sometimes I think I am doing it all wrong. That is when I depend on the Women's Studies program to get me through. I believe *The Bro Code* should be mandated for all incoming freshman students to view. It's difficult to be a divorced woman and a single mother raising a daughter in a sex crazed world. Not to mention, I do not get much help from my ex-husband at all. He constantly undermines what I teach her.

The end of the film is what really caught my attention. The “bad girl” image is terrifying to me. This is the woman who wants to be “bad” just so that she can be accepted by men. I had to disagree with the gentlemen that said “women and girls are confused on how to behave.” I do not think women and girls are confused at all. I think it is just much easier to behave like a man does because women want to be accepted by men and this is one way to do it. If you are the “bad girl” you will be left alone. It’s survival of the fittest, right?

This movie sparks so many of my own emotions I face day to day. I still feel so small in this fight. I constantly think that I will lose my daughter to the chaos of the world. I often think that our society is so messed up that it will never change. I think it would be great if all the gentlemen who watch this film could make big changes but, I feel like they will only buck the film.

Recently, my best friend who lives in Florida called me to tell me that her husband walked out on her and her two children. She was the one person I called day or night when I went through my divorce three years ago and now she is facing the same issue. The thing she keeps repeating to me is, “I never expected this to happen.” It is the same thing I said three years ago. It is just too easy to walk away. Men have so much power and control over our lives. The struggle for equality continues. But taking a documentary like *The Bro Code* and using it as a teaching tool, may just be the place to start.

Melanie Reardon
WGS Faculty Profile

Anupama Arora is an Associate Professor of English and Women’s and Gender Studies. She teaches courses such as Postcolonial literature, Global Feminism, Global/Transnational Women Writers, Indian literature and film, among others. She got her Ph.D. from Tufts University, and has taught at Tufts and Earlham College before coming to UMD. She was the recipient of the 2011 Provost’s Best Practices Awards for the Recognition of Excellence in Teaching and Learning with Technology.

In her scholarship, she integrates material from South Asian Studies, Asian American Studies, Gender Studies, and Postcolonial Studies. Her work fits into postcolonial scholarship, produced in the last decade or so, which extends the field of investigation beyond the metropole-colony binary to scrutinize other horizontal and transnational relationships across multiple geographies. This sort of inquiry reveals a world of contact, migration, and global connectivity across different historical periods. Thus, in her work, she adopts a diasporic lens to study the implication and consequences of the traffic between objects, places, peoples, and ideas in a variety of texts (novels, letters, travelogues, films). She has published on, among others, the

Anupama Arora

WGS Accomplishments

Kristen Abatsis McHenry, Full-Time Lecturer, Women’s and Gender Studies, will present the results of her dissertation “Promising Prevention: The Greening of the Breast Cancer Movement in the U.S.” at the South Eastern Women’s Studies Association Conference being held at UNC Greensboro this April. This conference is titled “Outrage: Discourses, Practices, and Politics of Protest and Social Transformation”.

Anna M. Klobucka participated in the conference “Towards Iberian Studies” (Ohio State University, 11-13 April 2013) with a paper entitled “Queer Iberia Redux: Gómez de la Serna’s La Quinta de Palmyra and the Portuguese Lesbian Subject.” The paper explores the relationship between La Quinta de Palmyra (1923), a Spanish novel written and set in Portugal, and cultural and literary contexts of Portuguese Modernism, in particular with reference to the epistemological possibility of a lesbian subject that emerged amidst gendered aesthetic and cultural experimentation of the first decades of the twentieth century.

Timothy Walker contributed to a new publication that came out this past December: Women in the Iberian Atlantic World (1500-1800); Sarah Owen and Jane Mangan, editors (Louisiana State University Press, 2012). His contribution to this edited volume is chapter 7: “The Role and Practices of the Female Folk Healer in the Early Modern Portuguese Atlantic World”.

We would like to congratulate Kristen Abatsis McHenry on the successful defense of her Ph.D. dissertation.
Scholarships

The Women's and Gender Studies Department is pleased to announce that we will be giving tuition scholarships again this year. There will be two $750 major awards and one $500 award for a minor, both for the AY 2013/2014. The WGS scholarships will be given out based on need and/or merit. WGS aims to award these scholarships in a holistic manner as possible. In the final analysis, we are interested in supporting students who we believe will benefit - personally and intellectually - from the WGS educational experience.

In addition, the WGS Department offers the Dr. Janet Freedman Women's Studies Book Scholarship award for $250 to offset the cost of books for one semester. Dr. Freedman, the previous director of Women's Studies, firmly believed in the need for a WGS program at UMass Dartmouth. Her work established a foundation for the program, and in her name we are continuing to ensure the commitment of the WGS Department to students pursuing their major or minor.

As a Women's and Gender Studies major or minor, if you are a returning student for Fall 2013, you may apply for these awards. You may apply for both awards. The deadline for all scholarship applications is May 13, 2013. The awards will be announced in June.

Please go to http://www.umassd.edu/cas/wms/resources/scholarshipsforwgsmajorsandminors for more information.

Kingston-Mann Awards for Student Contributions to Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship

Announcements

- Enter for your chance to win: There are three $300 prizes and four $150 prizes
- Apply now: Download application and instructions
- Deadlines: May 25, 2013 and December 30, 2013
- Recognizing that students can be producers as well as receivers of research and knowledge, the Kingston-Mann awards reward and celebrate undergraduate research that focuses on issues of diversity and inclusion. The awards are intended to encourage students to discover their potential as researchers.
- Campuses eligible for student awards program include: Emmanuel College, Lesley University, Massasoit Community College, Rhode Island College, University of Massachusetts Boston, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, University of Massachusetts Lowell, and University of New Hampshire.
Dear Women’s and Gender Studies Faculty, Friends and Supporters,

Thank you for your continued support and work during the year. I am sad to say that I am stepping down as Chair of the Women’s and Gender Studies Department at the end of this semester. It has been wonderful to see Women’s and Gender Studies grow under my watch.

I wish the new Chair every success.

Catherine Villanueva Gardner
Chair, Women’s and Gender Studies