April 11th, 2014

WOMEN’S AND GENDER STUDIES
NEWS AND EVENTS

Did you take Introduction to Feminisms and love it?
Looking to gain valuable leadership experience and earn credit for it?
Want to make your transcript and resume stand out?

Be a Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Feminisms in the Fall of 2014!
Currently accepting applications. Apply today!

Calling all WGS Graduating Minors!

SENIOR PIZZA PARTY

When: Wednesday, May 7th
Where: Carney 272
Time: 5:00pm

We want to thank you for contributing to the WGS program and wish you well in your next step!

Questions or comments?
Email us at: gender@bc.edu.

Visit us on twitter: twitter.com/BCWomensStudies
Friend us on Facebook: Boston College Women’s and Gender Studies Program
We asked WGS Minor and BC Senior Jonathan Dame to answer the following questions about his experience as a WGS Minor. Read below to hear his thoughts!

1) Why are you a WGS minor? What were the factors that led you to become a WGS minor?
I’m a sociology major because I’m interested in how society shapes human behavior. Socially enforced gender roles are perhaps the most fundamental example of that, regulating how men and women dress, talk, and interact with one another. That’s what initially drew me to WGS. But gender roles have also created patriarchy, a social system that gives men more power than women. Part of studying gender, for me, is understanding my own complicity in that system -- my own privileges -- and learning how best to make things more equal.

2) What is your favorite WGS course? Why?
My favorite course is Transnational Feminisms, a senior colloquium I’m taking right now. Racism and classism are also power systems that govern our behavior. As a result, mainstream feminism has often focused too narrowly on the needs of middle- and upper-class white women. In the global arena, this has meant using a one-size-fits-all model of what female liberation looks like. This class tries to break down such narratives and examine different understandings of feminism across racial, national, religious, cultural, etc., lines.

3) In what way has WGS impacted your academic experience? Do you think being a WGS minor will have an impact on your future career? If so, in what way?
It’s hard to quantify how much studying gender has impacted my life. For any male, I think learning about patriarchy and your own internalized sexism makes you a more complete person. It allows you express yourself more honestly, by discovering parts of yourself that would have otherwise been smothered because of strict ideas about what it means to be “masculine.” It also allows you to have more honest and full relationships with the women in your life. These are things that have and will fundamentally impact not just my career, but my self-expression and interactions in all settings.
Women’s and Gender Studies Studies Seniors:

Every Spring, a graduating senior is granted an award for distinguished scholarship in Women's and Gender Studies (NOTE: You do not need to be a WGS minor to apply). To be considered for the Janet Wilson James Award, please submit the following to gender@bc.edu:

1. A piece of scholarly writing on a specific women's and gender studies issue. This submission can be an empirical paper, theoretical paper or senior honor's thesis. It must by 20 pages or less (including references). Double-spaced. Please be sure to include an abstract at the beginning of your submission.
2. A cover letter must accompany your paper that communicates your specific engagement and involvement with women's and gender studies issues during your Boston College career.
3. A copy of your transcript (can be unofficial copy).
4. Send all your materials via email to: gender@bc.edu.

The recipient of the Janet Wilson James Award will be announced at a commencement Award Ceremony at the end of the semester. The Janet James Award carries a cash prize of $250 and a signed copy of a WGS book from one of our WGS faculty.

Deadline for Submissions: 5pm on Wednesday, April 30th, 2014

Introducing Professor Hesse-Biber’s recent paper, published in the Psychology of Women Section Review, Spring 2014:

Thinking inside and outside the austerity economic box: Applying a feminist praxis lens to austerity policy in Eurozone countries

Abstract from the author: “I argue for the value of a feminist standpoint approach and praxis when assessing austerity in policies and practices instituted during the economic downturn in Eurozone countries starting in late 2007... Current European economic austerity policy is a primarily quantitatively driven ‘one size fits all’ policy whose goals are to decrease Eurozone countries’ debt through a set of belt-tightening measures that amount to massive cutbacks in the services sector. Such measures tend to impact the most vulnerable within these societies - youth, the elderly, and single mothers and their children... The paper suggests some ways to integrate a more socially just and transformative framework for assessing the current workings inside austerity policies across the Eurozone nations, as well as providing alternative ways for thinking outside the current economic austerity policy box.”

To read the paper in full, visit: http://www.academia.edu.
Women’s and Gender Studies

Upcoming Events

The Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study
Harvard University presents:

Who Decides?
Gender, Medicine, and the Public’s Health
April 10–11, 2014
Knafel Center, 10 Garden Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Gender, culture, economics, politics, and power affect health-care decisions by providers, patients, and communities in the United States and around the world. This conference will explore the choices behind medical research funding and practice, health-care delivery, and policy making.

This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required. For more information and to register, please visit: http://www.radcliffe.harvard.edu/event/2014-who