



Letter From the Director

Dear ETSU Community ~

I am honored to be writing to you as the new Director of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS). The program has a long legacy at ETSU, and I feel grateful, first, to those whose passion work brought WGSS to where it is now, and second, to be in this position to guide WGSS into our future. Given the interdisciplinary nature of our program, I look forward to collaborating on programming with all of you from departments across campus.

IN THIS ISSUE

- LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR
- WGS ON WEDNESDAY
- EVENT FEATURES
- SPOTLIGHTS
- FACULTY ACTIVITY



Another new element of WGSS is our office space -- we are now permanently housed in 106 Gilbreath. A special thanks to all who celebrated with us on March 20th at our Open House. At the open house event, we welcomed WGSS students and the broader university community into our new space. We also unveiled our legacy gallery wall, located in our space, which highlights in photographs the history of the program – its directors, students, events, and impacts on ETSU campus over the past 30 years.

As a follow-up to that gathering, I would like to welcome all of you in the university community to participate in our courses, awards and scholarships, events, and activism work. Students - I especially invite you to our space and our classes, and to share ideas about what work you would like to see WGSS doing! Faculty and staff – I invite you to become affiliated with WGSS.

Please reach out to me anytime: williasl@etsu.edu.

- Dr. Stacey Williams

WGS On Wednesday

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality On Wednesday

In Partnership With The Reece Museum's
"Embodying Culture: Women In Appalachia"
Exhibition (January 15 - July 4, 2024)



Dr. Kate Beatty

FEBRUARY 7 - EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION POST-DOBBS IN THE US SOUTHEAST

This session explored the current landscape of Emergency Contraception including policies, definitions and misconceptions, and the importance of emergency contraception accessibility in restrictive reproductive health policy settings.

MARCH 6 AT THE MARTIN CENTER - ANNE LISTER WITH FRIENDS: THE MUSICAL IDENTITY OF "GENTLEMAN JACK"

This lecture-recital addressed the musical identity of lesbian diarist Anne Lister (1791-1840) made famous by the BBC/HBO series *Gentleman Jack*. The lecture incorporated a live performance of some of the songs Lister performed at impromptu musical evenings with friends and showed how they create a musical identity that is aligned with Lister's idiosyncratic dress (avoiding the bright colors and fripperies of the day) and self-education in "masculine" disciplines (e.g. Latin, Greek, mathematics, engineering, and medicine).



*Dr. Alison Deadman,
Linda Barnett, and
Jerilyn Paolini*

APRIL 3 - UNRAVELING THE TAPESTRY OF CLIMATE INERTIA: IMPLICATIONS OF GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE TO A BARRIER ISLAND ON THE GEORGIA COAST

This presentation explored the challenge and methods of identifying undiscovered historical heritage sites that are threatened by climate change, and illustrated this work through the experiences of ETSU's Archaeological Field School, which is working with the National Park Service in Cumberland Island National Seashore to learn more about the people who lived in a postbellum settlement uncovered by erosion.



*Dr. Lindsey
Cochran*

**Join us in Fall 2024 for another season of WGS on Wednesday!
Lectures are held on the first Wednesday of every month at
noon during the academic year.**

Event Features



ETSU Faculty and Staff Building Community at the WGS South Conference!

Seven faculty and staff representing multiple ETSU departments and centers traveled to Spartanburg, NC, for the annual meeting of the WGS South organization at the end of March, 2024. The conference organizers welcomed many topics by authors, such as intersections of care feminism with critical trauma and addiction studies, critical trans and queer feminisms, among others, and offered guiding questions for authors presenting their works, such as “What does care in the service of social transformation look like?” Care as a topic of study and, further, interrogation, brings to light the significant limitations of healthcare that leave its most vulnerable increasingly without the care needed, thereby relying on informal webs of care, such as unpaid caregivers, for survival. To illustrate, Dr. Laura Mauldin gave a moving keynote address about her forthcoming book entitled *Care Nation* that brought the audience to tears. Her book weaves together the lived experiences of nearly 50 caregivers and their spouses that she interviewed, along with other data on systems meant to care for terminally ill and disabled US citizens but that fall arrestingly short.

ETSU faculty presented their own scholarship as well. Dr. Stacey Williams (ETSU WGSS director) presented on the need for feminist-based care in addressing polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS). Dr. Phyllis Thompson (ETSU WGSS faculty, Chair of Counseling and Human Services) presented on care strategies in feminist teaching. Kara Russell (WGSS adjunct instructor) presented a comparison of two texts and their themes of antimothering. The highlight of the group’s experience was the opportunity to build community and to consider ways to bring opportunities for learning and growing the WGSS community at ETSU. As well, the group reconnected with former WGSS assistant director and lecturer, Dr. Hil Malatino.

WGSS Presents C.R.U.S.H Event



On April 10th, in partnership with the ETSU Women and Gender Resource Center and Dr. Patricia Robertson Pride Center, WGSS hosted "Community Resources and Understanding for Sexual Health" (C.R.U.S.H.) at the Mary V. Jordan Multicultural Center. This was the second year for the event (formerly known as "Know Your Resources"), which was spearheaded by WGSS Tuition Scholar Rebecca Strasser and Graduate Assistant Mattie Raza, aimed at providing access to education on sexual and reproductive healthcare for students on the ETSU campus and in the community.



The event featured a number of speakers from organizations in the community and ETSU to raise awareness about local resources available. Speakers included representatives from A Step Ahead TriCities and RISE Healthy for Life, a SANE nurse with the HELP-SARA grant, Heidi Marsh from the ETSU Women and Gender Resource Center, ETSU student Leah Loveday with PEER-iod ETSU, and Dr. Kate Beatty from the Department of Health Services Management & Policy, Center for Rural Health Research, and Master's in Public Health Program at ETSU. Topics included education and access surrounding sexual and reproductive healthcare including contraception and menstrual products, care following sexual assault, and explanation of current policy on access to reproductive health services in Tennessee.

The team at WGSS hopes to continue to grow this event and reach more students. If you are interested in supporting us, please reach out to wgss@etsu.edu or williasl@etsu.edu. In the meantime, free menstrual products, contraception, and literature on local resources are always available in the WGSS office in 106 Gilbreath Hall.

WGSS Spotlight

Graduate Spotlight: Rebecca Strasser (She/Her)

Rebecca is a Master's candidate in Public Health in the Epidemiology concentration, and also earning a Graduate certificate in Health Data Analytics. Her focus is on maternal and child health research. She is especially interested in health disparities in chronic conditions impacting maternal morbidity and mortality. Rebecca has served as the Tuition Scholar for WGSS since Fall of 2022, and as a Graduate Research Assistant on a small grant with the Center for Applied Research and Evaluation in Women's Health at ETSU. Her hope after graduating this Spring is to continue research in this area and to further her skills in maternal and child health epidemiology.



Undergraduate Spotlight: Nanya Aninyei (She/Her)

Besides her course work in human anatomy, community health, gender and society, ceramics and probability and statistics, she is also involved in research with the Biological Sciences Department. Her research focuses on cardiovascular disease in women and the protective effects estrogen has on myocytes, since it is mainly menopausal women who suffer from CVD. She is also the treasurer of the American Society for Microbiology, Tri-lota (WGSS's Honors Society), and the Student Ceramics Association. Nanya hopes to be a physician one day, specializing in interventional radiology or women's health. For fun, Nanya likes to go hiking in places like Roan Mountain or Asheville's DuPont and crocheting. She owns a tiny business making custom clothes and little knickknacks and recently participated in the Merchandising Club's small business event on campus.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Dr. Stacey Williams, Director of WGSS (She/Her/They)

Dr. Stacey Williams is our new WGSS Director. Stacey also is a psychology professor at ETSU and has directed the Social Issues and Relations Lab since arriving here in 2006. She and her students study sexual and gender minority stress and health. Her most recent work is a book published by the American Psychological Association about the psychosocial experiences of polycystic ovary syndrome in cis women and gender-diverse folks. She lives in Johnson City with her wife, Beth Evelyn Barber, and two standard poodles. Stacey's favorite things to do outside of her work include hiking the mountains of East Tennessee, partaking in musical theater, and reading and drinking coffee with poodles on her lap!



Awards

Congratulations to the 2024 Recipients!



AQ Hannah

Senior, B.A. Anthropology
Fine & Performing Arts Honors Scholar

**Karen L. Cajka Memorial
Scholarship (WGSS/LILA)**



Leah Loveday

Junior, B.S. Public Health, WGSS Minor

**Barbara Murphy Brooks
WGSS Scholarship**

**Undergraduate
Feminist Activist Award**
for work with PEER-iod ETSU



Yanik Lazarov

Graduate Certificate, Public Health

Graduate Feminist Activist Award
for work with RISE Healthy for Life, Trans Affirming
Care, and contributions to literature on gender and
sexuality

**Students: Are you looking for a way to become engaged
in Academic Excellence and Social Justice?**



***lota lota lota
Tri-lota***

National Women's Studies Honor Society



Apply Today!
wgss2@etsu.edu

RECENT FACULTY ACTIVITY

Publications:

Heil, K. *Antonio Buero Vallejo: Tragedy, History, Memory*. Peter Lang Iberian and Latin American Studies: The Arts, Literature, and Identity Series. In production, forthcoming March 2024.

Mann, A. K., Williams, S. L., Job, S., Pachankis, J., Chaudoir, S. (2023). The buckle of the bible belt: Sexual minority emerging adults' minority stress in South Central Appalachia. *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Mental Health*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/19359705.2022.2064953>

Slagle, J. (2023). "The Misses Corbett: the Commercial Collaborative Writing of Six Nineteenth-Century Scottish Sisters." *Keats-Shelley Journal*.

Sobrinho, I. G., & Heil, K. (2023). "The Exhumation of Memory in NN12, 'Desmemoria,' and '45 cerebros y un corazón.'" *Hispanic Studies Review*, Vol. 7, No.
https://hispanicstudiesreview.cofc.edu/article/77602-the-exhumation-of-memory-in-nn12-desmemoria-and-45-cerebros-y-1-corazon?auth_token=XiWETwIbCzfdeXbdv2KV

Tolley, R. (2023). "Trauma-responsive leadership transforms library workplaces into empathetic, relational organizations." *Critical Management Studies and Librarianship*. Sacramento, Litwin Books.

Tolley, R., & Doucette, W. (2023). "Reframing Occupational Stress to Mitigate Burnout: A Trauma-Informed Care and Constructive Living Approach to Foster Lifelong Resiliency and Self-Directed Life Management within Academic Libraries." In *Academic Librarian Burnout* (Chicago: ACRL).

Wilkins, B. T., & Mann, F. A., (2023). "Growing up in a rural area, social support, and internalized transphobia: understanding Appalachian transgender mental and physical health." *Stigma and Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1037/sah0000425>.

Williams, S. L. (2023). *The Psychology of PCOS: Building the Science and Breaking the Silence*. American Psychological Association Publishers.

Presentations:

Branam-Brown J.; Langenbrunner M.; Brooks-Taylor T. Supporting Families on Their Journey with the Judicial System : Voices of Family Sciences Court Advocates (in press - National Council on Family Relations "Network")

Brown, J.B. "Social justice & policy, equity vs equality, and the impacts of structural barriers on marginalized groups" ETSU Diversity Educator's Workshop.

Brown, J.B., "Trauma Informed Workshop for Mentor Artists Engaged in Summer Youth Internships," ARTScapes project funded by the East Tennessee Foundation Youth Endowment.

Brooks-Taylor, T.; Branam-Brown J. Importance of Impactful Community Connections Research Paper accepted for presentation at the Family Science Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico (June 2024)

Leroy-Frazier, J. (June 2024). "'Everything Bore the Weight of Everything Else:' Reconstructing Southern Literature in Yaa Gyasi's Homegoing"-- accepted for presentation at the Society for the Study of Southern Literature biennial conference, Gulfport, MS.

Presentations (continued):

Leroy-Frazier, J. (March 2024). "Ecofeminism and Appalachian Literature: Local, Regional, Global" (pre-arranged panel, co-presented with Dr. Deedee Abbott, Georgia State University, and Mandi Aubrey, East Tennessee State University); individual paper presentation: "the need and strength of roots:' Ecofeminist Ethics in Wilma Dykeman's The Far Family"--Appalachian Studies Association annual conference, Western Carolina University.

Leroy-Frazier, J. (February 2024). "Narratives of Belonging and Community: Local, Regional, and Transnational Identities" (pre-arranged panel, co-presented with ETSU graduate students Tolulope Adeusi and Juliet Chukwuma); individual paper presentation: "'Seeing Through New Eyes:' Yaa Gyasi's Homegoing, Transnational Identity, and the Third Space"--The Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900, University of Louisville.

Pusateri, C., Rogers, D., Brooks-Taylor, T., Brown J.B., & Langenbrunner, M. (12-14 April, 2023). "Service Learning through Historical Context: Building on Wisdom and Community Needs," [workshop presentation], Gulf-South Summit on Service Learning & Community Engagement, Athens, GA.

Rogers, D., Pusateri, C., Brooks-Taylor, T., Brown J.B., & Langenbrunner, M. (12-14 April, 2023). "The Critical Role of Service Learning in Academia," [workshop presentation], Gulf-South Summit on Service Learning & Community Engagement, Athens, GA.

Russell, K. (2024, March 29) *Unsentimental Natures: Anti-Mothers in Spleen and Chouette*. [conference presentation]. Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies South Annual Conference.

Thompson, P. (2024, March 30) *Feminist Teaching: Centering Care, not Compromise*. [conference presentation]. Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies South Annual Conference.

Tolley, R. (May, 2024) NC Live, Wellness in Libraries 2024 Care Fear Community College, Wilmington, NC

Williams, S. L. (March, 2024). Envisioning an intersectional and feminist future of PCOS care. Paper presented at the annual meeting of WGS South, Spartanburg, SC. Williams, S. L., (2023, September). Addressing Psychosocial Impacts of Polycystic Ovary Syndrome in Women and Gender Diverse Individuals. Webinar presented for the American Psychological Association Publishing.

Presentations (continued):

Williams, S. L. (2023, August). Psychological risk and growth in cisgender women and gender diverse individuals with PCOS. Presentation to Psychiatry Grand Rounds, Johnson City, TN.

Grants, Courses, & Other Activities:

Jamie Branam-Brown:
HSRV 5200 Ethics & Social Justice

Co-author with executive director Patty Williams grants from state, federal and foundation sources in excess of \$250,000 annually to fund the 4th Judicial District Court Recover Services work in Cocke, Granger, Jefferson & Sevier Counties.

Founding Board member and Volunteer family support/parenting specialist for the 4th Judicial District Court Recovery Services Director Newport Theatre Guild and Cast & Crew Youth Theatre
Listed rule 31 Family Mediator Tennessee Administrative Offices of the Courts.

Jill LeRoy-Frazier:
CDST 5/4017 Ecofeminism (Spring 2024)
MALS 5200 Travelers, Expats, Migrants, Diaspora, and Transnational Identity (Fall 2023)
MALS 5900 Nigerian Women Writing Diaspora (Spring 2023)
MALS 5300 Intersectionality and Social Justice (Fall 2022)

ETSU Presidential Grant-in-Aid, to attend the Leitner Center for Law and Justice Summer Human Rights Institute at Fordham Law School, New York City, \$5000, AY 2022-23

Rebecca Tolley:
July 2024, second year to teach trauma informed library leadership at Harvard Graduate School of Education's Leadership Institute for Academic Librarians.

Brittany Wilkins:
Member of the Safe Zone executive committee and runs Safe Zone 2 trainings.

Stacey Williams:
Members of the Publications Committee for the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, and of the Association for Women in Psychology's Distinguished Publication Award Committee -

Featured on a podcast episode of The Thoughtful Counselor (White, M. (Producer); 2023, December 1) on Polycystic Ovary Syndrome:
[https://concept.paloalto.edu/resources/the-thoughtful-counselorpodcast/-temporary-slug-9e1e0adf-89a7-42e2-b9aa-f9dc55806cbe?](https://concept.paloalto.edu/resources/the-thoughtful-counselorpodcast/-temporary-slug-9e1e0adf-89a7-42e2-b9aa-f9dc55806cbe?hs_preview=vSWTTqbF147039969136)
hs_preview=vSWTTqbF147039969136