



# Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

June 2019

## Inside this issue:

Coming Soon: 2 Trans Institutions	
Spotlight on 3 Katrina Miranda	
Why I 4 Wanted to be a GSWS Minor	
Award 6 Winners	
Mission 6 Statement	
Graduating 7 Seniors	
2019/2020 8 Classes	
GSWS 8 Graduates	
Contact Info 8	

## A Message from the Program Chair

I recently returned from my research sabbatical to continue chairing the program. The GSWS program is at an exciting time. This year we've hired Dr. Carey Jean Sojka as an Assistant Professor, which will provide more permanency to the program and allow us to expand. Part of that expansion is the development of a new Trans & Queer Training (TQT) program, a great resource for our community.

In addition, GSWS faculty were integral in supporting the LGBTQ+ Health and Wellness Summit for medical and behavior health providers in early May. During the summit, Dr. Sojka and I also gave a plenary highlighting some of our initial findings from our rural trans ethnography.

In the GSWS program, we continue to expand our interdisciplinary offerings. This year we added both Irish Studies and Slave Narratives through the English program, and in 2019/2020, we plan to offer Trans Institutions and Disability Studies. We're looking forward to next year as we continue our regional research, build community engagement, and offer these new courses.



**Dr. Kylan Mattias de Vries**

## Coming Soon: Trans Institutions

By Dr. Carey Sojka

Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies faculty are always looking for opportunities to develop new classes. Based on student interest, we are planning to expand our transgender studies offerings. We will continue to offer GSWS 312: Transgender Studies, a course that explores the histories and potential futures of trans lives, communities, and activism.

In addition to this class, Dr. Kylan de Vries will offer a brand-new course on Trans Institutions this coming winter 2020. This course will examine trans lives both in the U.S.A. and globally, focusing on education, healthcare, families, government, politics, economics, employment, and criminal

in/justice through an intersectional lens. Students will leave this class with a more nuanced understanding of trans people's experiences with social and governmental institutions. Students will also be better equipped to encourage trans affirming practices and perspectives in their communities and places of employment.

On a side note, Dr. de Vries and GSWS professor Dr. Sojka are currently conducting research about trans and gender non-conforming people's experiences in our region. They are using this knowledge to increase dialogue around institutions that impact trans individuals in Southern Oregon. This new research will help to inform the course. In short, Trans Institutions will be a stimulating and rewarding course, taught by a professor who is immersed in seeking to understand and analyze trans experiences in the 21st century.



## Spotlight on a Graduating Senior

By Mary Gently

The GSWS program is filled with lovely individuals and Kattrina Miranda is one of the loveliest. She has been deeply involved with the queer community on campus and is known for her kindness, humor, and supportive spirit. Just this past year she helped organize both Winter's A Drag and the BODYlogues, as well as performed in both the BODYlogues and Sexpressions. Additionally, she is the Student Engagement Coordinator and President of the Queer Student Union. In these roles, she has sought to encourage genuine allyship and foster environments where everyone can feel safe.

Kattrina has loved being a GSWS minor and feels that the program has equipped her to bring intersectional feminism into her future places of employment. The pro-

gram has challenged and enriched her in ways she didn't entirely expect. She adds, "The GSWS minor has taught me that discomfort is not always a bad thing. It can help you confront problematic beliefs that systems of oppression have taught us and to learn how we can challenge them."



Kattrina is graduating from SOU with a BA in English in addition to her minor in GSWS. While pursuing her dream of becoming a writer, she plans to continue her volunteer involvement in her hometown of Redding, CA. She will be truly missed.

## Why I Wanted to be a GSWS Minor

By Syd Martin

When I first applied to SOU after graduating from high school in Wyoming, I definitely didn't know the impact it would have on me. It seems silly in retrospect, but I didn't apply to SOU because of how queer friendly the university had been working to become. My selling point, was the existence of the GSWS minor. Thanks to the ironically low amount of diversity and knowledge I grew up with in the "Equality State," I was desperate to know more about my community.

Learning about my community was just the beginning of what I was able to do through GSWS. I have made connections that will turn into lifelong friends, and have heard the voices of scholars before me

who laid the groundwork for queer studies and beyond. The courses in this program balanced an understanding of text and theory with embodiment and action, deepening my level of learning and strengthening our ability to impact the surrounding community.

I entered SOU as an undeclared first year student, only knowing that I would be a GSWS minor. If it had been an option, I would have been a GSWS major. While I



Syd (left) with partner Chris (right)



GSWS Students 2019

knew from the beginning that I would see the program through until the end, the courses encouraged me to stay even beyond my own personal convictions. My time in the program found a supporting mentor in Dr. Carey Jean Sojka. She is an excellent guiding force through challenging topics, assignments, and daily issues. She inspired me and my peers to push ourselves, our work, and our perspectives further each day, while also meeting us where we were at with compassion and understanding.

The GSWS program is a unique cross section of our campus, uniting students from all majors and life experiences. And because of this interdisciplinary diversity, this program is one of the strongest and most welcoming spaces on campus. GSWS will expand your perspective and teach valuable lessons for life, your career, and beyond. Even if you do not commit to the entire program, I highly recommend taking at least one course to expand your understanding of yourself, and those in our community at SOU.

## **Congratulations to the 2018/2019 GSWS Award Winners**

### **Peter David Farber Memorial Scholarship**

Vanessa Jackson

### **Barbara Scott Winkler Theory in Action Award**

Mary Gently

### **Outstanding Graduating Seniors in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies**

Katrina Miranda and Cameron Diaz

## **GSWS Mission Statement**

Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies (GSWS) at Southern Oregon University is an interdisciplinary program emphasizing the teaching and study of gender, sexuality, and women in society, culture, and history. The courses in Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies examine the numerous ways in which gender and sexuality intersects with multiple social forces and shapes human experience.

Students learn about themselves and the world through critical thinking and personal and social empowerment. Integrating various disciplines, GSWS provides a supportive and challenging liberal arts education through a distinct interpretive framework. At SOU, GSWS emphasizes the relationship of classroom learning to social awareness and community involvement.

## Graduating Seniors Speak!

"The program has shown me that we need to be able to accept people for who they are regardless of their sexuality, gender, race or class. Acceptance is a big part of what makes a country great. Through this program I have learned not to judge people based off who they are and accept that there are other sexualities out there." Sana Osorno



"I wasn't sure I would be able to succeed in college until I found the GSWS department. I found a community of learners where my voice is valued and I am supported and challenged. Being a GSWS minor helped me bridge the gap between my academic

work and my activist work outside that classroom, and I am extremely grateful for everything the department has done for me." Sean Carter

"The GSWS Program taught me to view the world with a sociological imagination.



Cameron Diaz

It granted me an awareness of how systemic and individual oppression works and flourishes in our society at every moment. Lastly, it has taught me there is SO MUCH work to still be done. I will be taking this passion and education to my next institution this summer, the Oklahoma State University Counseling Psychology Ph.D. Program." Cameron Diaz

## Contact Info

**Associate Professor  
& Program Chair:**  
**Dr. Kylan de Vries**  
devriesk@sou.edu  
(541) 552-6759

**Assistant Professor:**  
**Dr. Carey Jean Sojka**  
sojkac@sou.edu  
(541) 552-6750

## Congratulations 2019 GSWS Graduates!

Julia Adams-Opperman

Sky Carpenter

Sean Carter

Cameron Diaz

Olivia Ferguson

Mary Gently

Nora Hall

Torrey Hazelquist

Payton Henderson

Jessee JoLee

Star Knight

Katrina Miranda

Darcy O'Brien

Sana Osorno

Rachel Routh

Emma Hitzbleck

---

### Fall

Arth 450: Race, Gender, and Ethnicity in Art; GSWS 201: Intro to Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies; GSWS 301: Global Gender Movements; GSWS 311: Masculinities; NAS 440: American Indian Identities; PSY 369: Human Sexuality; SOAN 304: Poverty, Family, and Policy

### Winter

EC 340: Gender Issues In Economics; GSWS 313: Fat Studies, SOAN 340: Sociology of Gender, GSWS 399: Trans Institutions, GSWS 410: Feminist & Queer Theory in Action

### Spring

GSWS 201: Intro to Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, GSWS/SOAN 343: Gender and the Body, GSWS 417: Sexual Politics in US History, GSWS 399: Disability Studies

And more!