Another year has passed and again there is much to celebrate about the people and activities in Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies.

In January, our liaison librarian, Moninder Bubber, was recognized by the Centre for Indo-Canadian Studies for her efforts in preserving South Asian history and her invaluable contribution to the launching of the exhibit “Challenge and Denial – Komagata Maru 100 years later 1914-2014.” In April, Marjorie Griffin Cohen received the President’s Media Relations Life-Time Achievement Award for her unstinting contributions to media discussions about timely issues such as the environment, BC Hydro rate increases, gender and work, temporary foreign workers, the

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We’re also on Facebook

If you’re on campus, you can come to our offices on the fifth floor of the AQ (directly above the East Concourse Cafeteria). The main office is AQ 5102A.

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR (CONT’D)

(Continued from page 1)

Enbridge Northern Gateway Pipeline, and the Living Wage Campaign. Congratulations to both!

GSWS was very proud to collaborate in the publication and launch of a collection of essays authored by the Quirk-e collective (co-edited by Claire Robson, our SSHRC postdoctoral fellow, and Kelsey Blair) titled The Bridge Generation: A Queer Elders’ Chronicle form No Rights to Civil Rights. The book was launched before a large and enthusiastic crowd in March. Other books published by GSWS faculty this year include Willeen Keough and Lara Campbell’s Gender History: Canadian Perspectives (Oxford University Press) and Jennifer Marchbank and Gayle Letherby’s Introduction to Gender: Social Science Perspectives, 2nd Ed. (Routledge). Faculty and students also produced numerous reports, scholarly articles, and conference papers. Well done to all our GSWS authors.

Community outreach has always been our department’s forte, and 2014 was no exception. Our students led the way with multiple engagements within the academic community and beyond. Here are just a few of the highlights. The GSWS Student Union held a number of activities through the year, including its first Sexual Health Outreach event in the Convocation Mall at Burnaby in March. Nathalie Lozano Neira, an MA student with our department, worked with young immigrants in the Multicultural Youth Circle (MY Circle) Program with Immigrant Services Society of BC. Our MA/PhD student Nadine Boulay performed regularly with “Man Up,” a queer drag show in East Van that celebrates the diversity of gender identities. In September, PhD candidate Eli Manning launched a thought-provoking curatorial project on the Video Aid website entitled “HAART in Art: Temporal Reflections on Artistic Representations of...”

(Continued on page 9)
In 2013, SFU officially launched the “Community Engagement Initiative” (CEI) to encourage the development of innovative projects to build new and mutually beneficial partnerships with “communities” that include “not-for-profit” organizations, industry associations, First nations, and local and global networking through research and knowledge mobilization. Thus, the “vision” of community engagement encompasses institutional and academic involvement at the local, national and international levels. CEI is an excellent initiative to bring the “ivory tower” to the community and the people for mutual learning and benefits.

This short piece reflects my own “engagement” with the community for academic knowledge and feminist activism. This was in mid-1990s at SFU when community research and publications raised eyebrows among academics and administrators across the university campus. Considering the complex tenure, promotion and biennial review process, my feminist and experienced colleagues rightfully cautioned me about community research and the potential “battle” for recognition of my works and engagement for promotion in the university system. As an academic, I encountered in the past a number of challenges to persuade academia that community research carries weight and should be recognized as scholarly research.

My training in community research and engagement began with “exposures” to Manitoba’s farming communities during my graduate studies under my mentor and guide, the late Professor Louise Sweet. An ardent Marxist scholar, she routinely took her graduate class to rural farming communities – mostly during weekends – to discuss the farms’ relations of production as well as relations of circulation. Due to our frequent visits to the farms, the graduate class was once invited by the local farmers to attend “thanksgiving” dinner with the community, which still makes me nostalgic of the

(Continued on page 5)
Community Engagement (CONT’D)

(Continued from page 4)

rural Prairie life. Louise also introduced me to the renowned German sociologist Maria Mies’ classic ethnography *The Lace Makers of Narsapur*, which explained how world capitalist forces accumulate profits while the primary lace producers in India, almost all female, were super-exploited and became alienated from production processes. As a graduate student at that time, I was not fully able to see a link between Manitoba’s farming community and the lace producers for the world community!

I began full time teaching in 1992 at the Women’s Studies Department, University of Victoria. I was impressed to see the Department’s engagements with local communities and community-oriented programs for community building. I was drawn to several community events including *Take Back the Night*, *Chilly Climate Committee Meeting*, and *Reproductive Rights and Wrongs Conference*. I recall our demonstrations and protests in front of the Legislative Building for Bosnian Women and challenging the rape of a sex worker on campus.

My knowledge about community-building and grass-roots networking was further enhanced by several thought-provoking invited speakers from an array of communities ranging from First Nations to racialized groups to lesbians and gays. I must admit that my research with the community was theoretically and methodologically grounded in Victoria and, thus, I owe much to those radical but community-oriented feminists.

While at the University of Victoria, I met Cecilia Diocson, one of the founders of the Philippine Women Centre (PWC) in BC and two other members of the PWC. These three community activists delivered an insightful presentation on Filipino migrant workers and their resistance to neo-liberal policies. When I moved to SFU in 1995, I approached the PWC for a collaborative community research project. PWC evaluated my project internally and then asked me to deliver a presentation to the members of the PWC Collective. My proposal received formal approval from the PWC. Together we successfully conducted the research and presented the findings at a PWC workshop. This was followed by several other

(Continued on page 10)
Both queer youth and queer seniors are often seen to be in need of help and support, since they suffer more than their share of oppression and, as the research shows, they are more likely to feel alone, unsafe, and depressed or even suicidal. A current GSWS initiative is addressing this situation, not by providing therapy or services, but by engaging LGBTQ youth and elders in artivism – a radical blend of arts and activism that seeks to empower participants as it engages them in outreach in their communities.

Youth For a Change (http://www.gaysurrey.com/y4ac.htm) was founded by associate professor Jen Marchbank and Sylvia Traphan in March 2012 under the name Youth Outreach. Its members, who range in age from 13 to 22, are advocates, activists, and educators, who offer workshops and training, monitor government policies, lobby local politicians and go on field trips (among many other activities). The Queer Imaging & Riting Kollective for Elders (Quirk-e), whose ages range from 55 – 76, was founded in 2006 by Claire Robson (a postdoctoral fellow in GSWS). Quirk-e is a critical arts collective, committed to challenging and changing stereotypical notions of what it’s like to be old and queer. The group has presented numerous shows, readings, and workshops in the lower mainland. Both groups pride themselves on their ability to take things in their own hands by connecting with their communities and demonstrating their capacity to make a positive difference.

In this pilot project, Call & Response, each group has sent writing prompts to the other, as members ask each other the questions that are on their minds. These prompts have included the following – What was it like to come out in the 60s? Have you been oppressed or victimized because of your sexual orientation or choice of gender expression? What inspires or motivates you? Who do you learn from? Who are your role models? The writing produced has been tough, honest, and sometimes surprising. We’ve learned a lot from each other and continue to send along critiques and ideas for new writing. We’ve
also met to discuss ideas for the project and to practice performing our work to potential audiences. A banner event was a performance by local punk rock singer-songwriter Kate Reid. We look forward to two joint presentations — one on February 22nd at the Canucks Family Education Centre at Britannia Services Centre, and one at the Surrey campus of Kwantlen Polytechnic University (date and venue TBA). These will showcase some of the graphic, theatrical, and literary work produced.

We are all very excited about a future project we’ve dreamed up — an Intergen(d)erational Makeover Day, planned for May 2015. This evolved from the groups’ writing and conversation about hair and clothes. The bottom line is that we all make statements about gender and sexuality through how we look. As queer folk, these choices matter more than usual, as we proclaim our countercultural differences, strut our style, or possibly, try to blend in. Many young queers have fun with gender, some older queers quietly envy their freedom to do so, and probably many of us are curious about how it would feel to change our look — even for a few hours. Hair stylists at a salon on Commercial Drive have donated their services, and we’ll have clothes and style consultants on hand to offer advice. For a small donation, you’ll be able to punk out, shave your head, or try on a new look — from Drag King/Queen, through butch, femme, and everything else on the Rainbow continuum. Come play queer dress-up and get a cool photo memento.

We are grateful, as always, for the support of our community partners Britannia and QMUNITY, and to the City of Vancouver for their current funding of Quirk-e’s work. Thanks to a grant from SFU’s Community Outreach committee, we’ll have a dedicated website up and running soon.

Stay tuned for another exciting initiative from GSWS!

~ Jen Marchbank & Claire Robson
A Little Bird Told Me!

Last year I enrolled in the Teaching and Learning Centre’s EdMedia Protégé programme to learn how to develop ways to, in the words of the programme, ‘enhance multimodal support of the student learning experience’. By the end of the programme I had produced a social media tool that was publicly available. It all sounds pedagogically advanced, but in truth I just wanted to take advantage of our attachment to the digital screens held in our hands!

I have two teens, do youth work, and teach in a first year programme (Explorations), so I am around teens and young adults lots. They are digitally savvy and many are constantly using their phones. I’ve watched as they strap hang on the 145 staring at their screens and thought, I need to be able to reach them at these moments. So, via Dropbox, Twitter and IFTTT (If this then that technology) I set up a system of creating pdf documents sent directly into students’ Twitter feeds. You don’t need an IPod or smart phone to access the feed as it can be reached via a PC, but most used their hand-helds. Not all had Twitter accounts, so they had to sign up, and a number of other folks did so too (the class was followed by a Sociology teacher from Luton, UK).

I tweeted out pdfs supporting the lectures, additional material that was in the news, links sent by class members, and details of the artefact -response assignments. I’ll be doing it again in Spring 2015. You can follow along Feminist Action 102, @GSWS102.

~ Jen Marchbank
HIV Medication.” In the fall, GSWS undergraduate student Nathan Lindsey led a successful campaign, under the mentorship of our Ruth Wynn Woodward (RWW) Lecturer, Lucas Crawford, to encourage the university to support the safety and autonomy of trans* students by allowing students to use preferred names rather than legal names on university IDs and class rosters. They have since formed a student working group to lobby for gender-inclusive washrooms on campus. Watch this space!

In March, international trans* scholar (and former RWW Chair) Susan Stryker delivered our Margaret Lowe Benston lecture, titled “The Transgender Turn,” to a large and highly engaged audience at the Segal Building. Many thanks to Helen Leung for organizing this major annual event to honour Maggie Benston’s social justice legacy. GSWS also sponsored/co-sponsored a variety of other public talks throughout the year. In January, Professor Shirley Randell, international human rights activist and one of the International Alliance for Women’s 100 World of Difference Awardees in 2013, delivered a talk entitled “Rwanda after Genocide: Gender in Politics, Education, and Leadership.” In March, Dr. Lisa Z. Sigel of DePaul University spoke about vernacular pornography in “Handmade and Homemade: Alternative Sources for American Sexual History” (co-sponsored with English and History). Professor Audrey Yue of Melbourne University visited in April to deliver a talk on “Creative City Singapore & the Illiberal Pragmatics of Sexuality” (co-sponsored with Urban Studies). GSWS and History combined resources to bring Dr. Dominique Clement of the University of Alberta to campus in September to deliver a talk titled “Equality Deferred: Human Rights in British Columbia History.” In October, we worked with the Labour Studies Program to sponsor a talk by Dr. Rebecca Scott Yoshizawa on “Reproductive Labour in/of Science and Medicine.” Several of these talks received funding from the FASS Visiting Speaker’s Fund, for which we are very grateful. And, of course, none of these events would have happened without the support and expertise of our wonderful staff members, Roberta Neilson and Kat Hunter.

Faculty and staff organized a variety of other events to bring the discussion of important issues into public spaces. Our RWW Chair, Tiffany Muller Myrdahl, continued her community discussions about harassment on Transit in the “Surrey Transit Personal Safety Forum” in March. Also in the spring, Lucas Crawford launched a year-long series of events—screenings, panels, workshops, and talks — titled Fat Matters. In July, Jennifer Marchbank and community activist Martin Rooney unveiled an exhibit on Surrey LGBTQ history at the atrium of Surrey’s City Hall. Marjorie Griffin Cohen and Willeen Keough worked with the Rosemary Brown Awards Committee to organize the inaugural Rosemary Brown Memorial Conference, “Inequality and Rights: A Feminist Perspective,” in September. This event also launched a fund-raising appeal for an endowment in Brown’s name for an undergraduate GSWS scholarship in social justice; the response was tremendous, and the endowment is now reaching the mark to fund two scholarships per year. In October, Habiba Zaman worked with the Philippine Women’s Centre’s in co-sponsoring a National Consultative Forum on LGBTQ rights in Canada. The department continued its commitment to co-sponsor numerous Herstory events, organized by founders Lara...
Campbell and Jolene Cumming, from a roundtable on women in the trades, to talks about rodeo cowgirls and the first women RCMP officers, to a walking tour in Stanley Park on indigenous plants and their traditional uses, led by Cease Wyss, a Skwxw’u7mesh ethnobotanist, media artist, educator, and food security activist.

GSWS also received the long-awaited news that we could hire a new colleague in a tenure-track Assistant Professor position. The job posting attracted more than 230 very fine applicants, and it was exciting to see so much interest. The PWC took extraordinary initiative to launch my latest book, *Asian Immigrants* in BC. Briefly, the PWC aggressively promoted my publications to advance their cause, i.e. workers’ rights — exposure that would not have otherwise materialized even if I had hired a marketing guru.

In May 2014, the PWC in BC organized a conference entitled *History, Rupture and Continuity: Creating and Nurturing Our New Path* and invited me to give a talk in Vancouver. The goal of the conference was “an ongoing commitment to advance on the new path by continuing to educate, organize and mobilize for social transformation on the part of the working-class in Canada.” In my talk, I raised issues related to many disadvantaged groups — for instance, LGBTQ, and recommended that PWC should hold a workshop on LGBTQ. Within a month, Cecilia approached me as to whether the PWC would get any support from GSWS to hold a workshop. GSWS enthusiastically supported the initiative. Thanks to GSWS Manager Roberta Neilson and GSWS Chair Dr. Willeen Keough for supporting the event held at the SFU Harbor Center on 24/25 October 2014. This was the first LGBTQ National Consultative Forum in Canada!

Finally, in concluding this piece, I have one issue in mind to raise here. What is community? Recently, Kinder Morgan’s pipeline exploration has organized the SFU community—students, faculty, residents, staff, and employees—to resist Kinder Morgan’s agenda. Indeed, the “community” that has been resisting this pipeline exploration has gone beyond the SFU community, taking the people’s agenda to the larger community in BC and other parts of Canada. Hope those who are in power will not treat community as a commodity!

~ Habiba Zaman
A recent graduate of the PhD program in Sociology at Queen’s University and an alumnus of SFU GSWS, Rebecca Scott Yoshizawa delivered an invited talk for students and faculty of the SFU Labour Studies and GSWS programs regarding her research into the utilization of human placentas in scientific research and medicine. The talk, entitled “Reproductive Labour in/of Science and Medicine” and delivered on October 23rd, addressed the little known but widespread practice of collecting placentas after delivery for use in a variety of scientific fields and therapeutic applications. Though often viewed as hospital wastes by scientists, clinicians, and publics, audience members were intrigued to learn that placentas are valuable sources of tissue for research and therapy. Even after delivery, placentas are therefore important to the health of many people.

Discussing results from two empirical research studies into placentology, or the science of placentas, the talk explored how women are simultaneously marginalized, empowered, and drawn into the projects of reproductive science and medicine by virtue of donating their placentas. However, Yoshizawa also exposed and critiqued the fact that, in some cases, placentas can be collected for use in scientific research without informed consent. “A respect for the ideals of modern bioethics is enough to find that the practice of collecting placentas without consent… is problematic and should be reformed,” she argued.

Yoshizawa leveraged this finding to argue that social scientists and scientists need to work together more closely. “As a sociologist of science… also trained in feminist theory, anthropology, and bioethics, I know that I am called to improve how care and knowledge are mobilized.” She also argued that researchers and healthcare practitioners need to become educated in the feminist and bioethics issues associated with the use of placentas in science and medicine.

“Through that kind of engagement, we realize that science and social science can be done differently, opening up transformations that enhance the health and wellbeing of people and the planet.”

“I certainly do not accept that the [delivered] placenta is just trash,” she stressed at the conclusion of her lecture. “It is vital to life as we know it.”
With guidance from Professor Habiba Zaman, our GSWS 312 Immigration, Women, and Transnational Migration class conducted a workshop in which we explored Canada’s Temporary Foreign Worker Program using group presentations and class discussions about policy alternatives. The morning began with five presentations that introduced the history of temporary foreign workers in Canada, the Federal Skilled Worker Program, the Provincial Nominee Program, the Seasonal Agricultural Worker Program, and lastly, the Live-In Caregiver Program.

The five groups used different methods to communicate their knowledge. Two used PowerPoint, one used Prezi, and two groups effectively used their presence and voices to provide information. All the presenters were well-organized and came to class ready with notes, which was reflected in the rich and critical information they presented. In ten minutes or less, my peers demonstrated their knowledge with clear and concise information. Students were able to incorporate useful data, statistics and examples; it highlighted their ability to critically analyze the strengths and limitations of each program. The presentations revealed to the class how temporary foreign labour programs revolve around the capitalist labour market and Canadian government’s incentives and objectives. Students employed a micro- and macro-level lens to convey information about these programs and challenged the idealized image presented by the Canadian government. As a result, the class gained a better understanding of the reality of these temporary foreign worker programs. The presentations were a wonderful way to introduce important details about the programs, allowing us as students to contextualize it with knowledge we gleaned from class readings and resources.

At the conclusion of the presentations, the class took a short break during which Professor Habiba Zaman graciously provided the class with snacks. The students were very appreciative of this gesture and many went back for seconds while chatting with other classmates. After the break, the workshop continued as our assigned groups collectively discussed and generated possible policy reforms and alternatives. During discussion, students used information about the temporary foreign worker program and suggested intersectional policy alternatives to improve these programs. Many groups recommended the creation of better support groups and training for individuals. In addition, the students also suggested that these programs needed to be reworked so that they are equitable for employers and the foreign workers. Students also proposed the creation of a database that allowed temporary foreign workers to file anonymous complaints. Other groups stated that this should also occur in conjunction with better screening, monitoring, inspecting, and regulation of working and living conditions. The common thread in discussion was the need for temporary foreign workers to have better life conditions in order for these migrant workers to be equal and protected while living and working in Canada.

In the future, I think a workshop that includes relevant guest speakers who are knowledgeable about the subject matter would bolster back-and-forth dialogue and provide another perspective. As a student, I believe the (Continued on page 13)
Learning through an In-Class Workshop
(CONT’D)

(workshop was a creative way to facilitate the learning process. Instead of a rigid lecture, it involved student-led presentations and discussions. The structure and relaxed atmosphere of the workshop was advantageous because it allowed students to communicate with one another with straightforward but important details about the different temporary foreign worker programs that exist in Canada.

~ Marilynn Khoo

Undergraduate Chair Report

After a long period of preparation, our new undergraduate curriculum is now live on SFU calendar! You will find all courses under the integrated acronym GSWS. Also, the previously separated Gender Studies Minor and Women’s Studies Minor are now integrated into one GSWS Minor. In addition, our introductory courses have been redesigned under the new titles: GSWS 100 Sex Talk, GSWS 101 Gender Talk and GSWS 102 Feminist Action. There are also three new advanced seminars: GSWS 431 Local Sex On Global Screen; GSWS 432: Sex In The Sixties; GSWS 433: Gender, Violence, Resistance, which will be offered in the forthcoming semesters. Look out for these courses and share in our excitement for the unveiling of our new undergraduate program in GSWS!

~ Habiba Zaman
Helen Leung

Events/Research/Media
Susan Stryker

We welcomed back old friend and former RWW Professor Susan Stryker, who gave a public lecture entitled “The Transgender Turn” to a packed house for the Maggie Benston Lecture Series on March 24.

Audrey Yue on Cultural Research & Queer Singapore

Dr. Audrey Yue from the University of Melbourne facilitated a cultural research workshop and gave a public lecture on “Queer Singapore” in a scintillating two-day event on April 10-11, co-sponsored with Urban Studies & CPCC and generously funded by FASS.

Publications


Media

Two important events prompted me to be more active than usual in media engagement this year. I was honoured to work with an amazing group of parents, therapists, and trans students and braved the measures attracted attention from the Chinese-speaking media. I helped out with the BC Safer School Coalition in June when the VSB was consulting on its LGBT policy revisions. Vocal opposition from some Chinese-speaking parents against trans inclusion

(Continued on page 15)
The pro-democracy protest, a.k.a. the umbrella movement, in Hong Kong continues to garner international attention. I spoke about its cultural context on CBC on Oct 2; and interviewed with Vancouver Sun, The Province & SFU’s CJSW. My heart is with the people of Hong Kong!

Conferences
I am working on several new projects, which took me to conferences all over the world this year, including Melbourne (Feb), Sydney, (Feb), Seattle (March), Toronto (May), and Singapore (July). New works in progress that I presented include: a study of sound and queer cinema; a co-authored work with Audrey Yue on queer Asian cities; and an exploration of queer Asia as methodology.

International Engagement
Kirsten McAllister (Communications), Christine Kim (English) and I received $10,000 from the SFU’s International Engagement Fund for our initiative to develop an international research cluster on TransPacific Cultural Research. We are very excited about our project and look forward to many future research exchanges and initiatives. I will be developing a new project on “Vancouver as Asian City” which explores contemporary transpacific flows in the city’s urban culture.

~ Helen Leung
Interracial Intimacies: Sex and Race in Toronto 1910 to 1950

I am excited to share with you a new digital learning tool I've built this past year based on my research on the history on interracial intimacy between men of Chinese heritage and women of non-Asian heritage in Toronto from 1910-1950. I stumbled across this rich and so-far undocumented history quite by accident. The tool, www.interracialintimacies.org, shows just how serendipitous the research process is. It also teaches about modes of critical inquiry, and it strives to demystify the publication process for graduate students. If you have a chance to visit it, do send me your feedback. I am very keen to know if people find it helpful.

~ Elise Chenier

Marjorie Griffin Cohen

Published:


Review of Indigenous Women and Work: From Labor to Activism, (Carol Williams, ed), in Aboriginal History vol 37, 2013.

Op Eds:
“Why BC’s Lower-wage Workers are Struggling” (with David Fairey), The Tyee, April 24, 2013.


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Forthcoming in 2014:


Funding Received:

Conference Papers:

“Including Gendered Perspectives in Ideas About a Green Economy: How this might Lead to a Radically Different Economic Approach to Climate Change,” Gender and Climate Change, Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Society for Socialist Studies, Brock University, May 28, 2014.

“What Happened to the NDP in BC?” Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, Society for Socialist Studies, Brock University, May 27, 2014.


Sustainability,” Status of Women Canada & Natural Resources Canada, Ottawa Nov. 22, 2013

Talks:


March 10, 2014, SFU, Political Science talk – “Gendered Emissions.”


Award:
SFU’s President’s Award for Service to the University, April, 2014.

“Using Information about Gender and Climate Change to Inform Green Economic Policies, “It’s Not Rocket Science: Diversifying Technology, Design and
It’s been a wonderful first year here at GSWS! On the research side of things, I’m very excited to be making edits to my forthcoming book, *Transgender Architectonics: the Shape of Change in Modernist Space* (Ashgate, late 2015). When not working away on that, I’ve been revising and proofing forthcoming articles for *Mosaic*, *TSQ*, *Sexualities*, etc. I’m honoured to have recently had a chapter solicited for an *Introduction to Women’s Studies* textbook. But, what excites me most is that my second book project, *Slender Trouble: Queer Theory’s Weight Problem*, is taking shape; the leading chapter has been booted out the door for review (fingers crossed!).

Now that I’m settled into Vancouver, I’m getting back to expressing my work on transgender and fatness in a way that I’ve missed this past year: poetry readings. In September, I represented *Room* magazine at the Vancouver WORD Festival, and will be reading at the *Swoon* reading series in November. Since I started at SFU, magazines *Room*, *Rattle*, *Rampike*, *Lost in Thought*, and *Between: New Gay Poetry* were kind enough to publish my work. In the coming weeks, an interview about my poetry will appear on *Geosi Reads*, a Ghanaian literature blog.

I have thoroughly enjoyed working with SFU students both in the classroom and outside of it. In Fall 2014, Sex and the City students will write blogs for the Vancouver Public Space Network (a group with which I’ve been working since the summer). I’m currently supervising an English Honours student (Emma Goyer, writing on masculinity and chef autobiographies) and a Directed Study student (Ryan Faliszewski, writing on pornography from a hybrid framework of architectural theory and masculinity studies).

Students have also played an important role in the development of our ongoing event/dialogue series, Fat Matters. In January, our first event – a screening of *My Big Fat Diet* and a panel of First Nations leaders and public health researchers – was a fantastic kick-off with a full and engaged audience. Since then, we’ve put on four other events, including October’s Visiting Artist-led collaborative urban art workshop. (See attached photos for some shots of community/student artists with their work, which we installed around the city.) Our online component, Academic Breakfast, “trended” online and drew 200 submissions from around the globe. And, the Fat Matters reading group is off to a very fun and delicious start; community members, students, and scholars come together with articles and desserts.

As for the future of Fat Matters: in the new year, I’ll be able to
(Continued from page 18)

share a resource on “Weight Bias & Stigma”, created by a team at BC Mental Health, for which I served as one of four “patient voices” of the province. We are working with students enrolled in SFPIRG’s Action-Research Exchange program to develop a “Body Positive Space” campaign, to be launched mid-Spring, at our conference. (And while we’re talking about Spring events: soon I’ll be able to ask you to circle a particular Thursday in March for the Maggie Benston Lecture, which will be delivered by Chris Vargas, filmmaker and founder of the Museum of Transgender Hirstory and Art.)

Finally, I’ve been heartened to work with new student Nathan Lyndsey and Out On Campus leader Devyn Davies to demand that students are able to have their names of choice reflected on student IDs and records. With some meetings, media, and an ID Modification party behind us, we are working optimistically towards a September 2015 when new policies that reflect SFU’s commitment to access and equality will be in place.

~ Lucas Crawford
Fat Matters Poster

ARTIST'S TALK
WITH MEGAN MORMAN
4 PM SHARP -- Tues, Oct 14
SFU Harbour Centre, Room 1325
Megan Mormon (Lethbridge) is our first Fat Visiting Artist.
Her practice uses portraiture, games, and urban text to queer the body & the city.

COLLABORATIVE ART WORKSHOP
6 PM SHARP to 9 PM -- Wed, Oct 15
SFU Harbour Centre, Room 1500
Our Visiting Artist will help us create fat termites art made out of thousands of luminous plastic beads (like the guy to the right).
SPACE LIMITED. Contact lccrawls@sfu.ca for registration link.

FAT STUDIES READING GROUP
NEXT MEETING: 1 PM -- Sat, Oct 18
Cafe at 1059 Alberni St.
Join us to discuss an article about fat, eat some sweets, and chat.
Email lccrawls@sfu.ca for the reading and to join the listserv.

ACCESSIBILITY INFO
All spaces are wheelchair-accessible, all ages, and free.
Scent-reduction strongly encouraged.
Handed/copy of Artistic's Talk can be provided in large-font--request by Oct 10.
Fat Matters Photos

© Photos from private collection
The past year has been an eventful one, both with work and more recently at home. On the research front, I have been focusing primarily on concluding and disseminating findings from my Lethbridge, Alberta-based project. Last fall, I translated the archive of LGBTQ oral histories into a visual display that was part of “Acting Out”, a curated exhibit at the University of Lethbridge Art Gallery. Displayed alongside work by visual artist Wendy Coburn and pieces from the artist collective General Idea, the exhibit was structured around three themes that emerged through the oral history collection: Policy Matters, Being & Feeling In Place, and Keeping It “Normal”. Narrators’ voices were mapped onto the city, both literally and figuratively: in two of the topic panels, excerpts from the oral histories were pinned onto city maps. The third panel, Keeping It “Normal”, featured fourteen quotes that invoked various notions of normalcy that were cut to take the shape of the map of Lethbridge. It was an exciting challenge to think differently about data representation in order to transform narrators’ voices into a visual display of intimate, daily experiences. I am also working on more traditional routes for dissemination: the monograph that will come out of the Lethbridge project is under contract with UBC Press.

Last year’s RWW seminar “Gender, Place and Culture: Feminist Interventions in Urban Studies” also produced (Continued on page 23)
exciting outputs. As a partner course for the CityStudio program, the intent of the course was to critically engage with the praxis of creating inclusive cities. In addition to reading theory, then, students were asked to produce their own interventions to address urban exclusion. Students developed proposals for all kinds of interesting initiatives, including a walking meditation and a community-developed graffiti wall. Two exciting projects were carried out: Victoria Chen, Flora Yon and Erika De Torres’ “Art in the City” community food and art table aimed to address food accessibility and affordability, and Katie Nordgren and Alexa Dredge’s “Translink Harassment” blog generated local and national attention for giving voice to the many whose mobility is constrained by the threat of harassment and sexualized violence. They write on the still-active blog, “We believe that harassment (and, consequently, the ever-present threat of it) has a significant, demonstrably negative impact on the way women and people of other marginalized gender and sexual identities plan and utilize transportation in Metro Vancouver” (https://translinkharassment.wordpress.com/about/). In addition to generating public discourse about harassment on transit, this intervention earned Katie and Alexa an invitation to sit on a community safety board convened by Translink Police.

In other exciting news, my partner and I became parents this fall! Our wee one, Theo, arrived via a lovely birth mom and the adoption stork in September. With three days notice before bringing home a newborn, I spent much of the first six weeks of parenting
saying to myself, “Wait, what just happened?!” We’re all settling into something of a rhythm now, and it’s becoming somewhat easier to type with one hand (wink). GSWS threw us a really wonderful shower and everyone marvelled at Lara’s ribbon hat crafting talents.

~ Tiffany Muller Myrdahl
Welcome to Theo

Congratulations Tiffany & Eileen
2nd Edition

**Introduction to Gender**  
**Social Science Perspectives**

Jennifer Marchbank, Simon Fraser University  
Canada and Gayle Letherby

Thoroughly updated in this second edition, *Introduction to Gender* offers an interdisciplinary approach to the main themes and debates in gender studies. This comprehensive and contemporary text explores the idea of gender from the perspectives of history, sociology, social policy, anthropology, psychology, politics, pedagogy and geography and considers issues such as health and illness, work, family, crime and violence, and culture and media. Throughout the text, studies on masculinity are highlighted alongside essential feminist work, producing an integrated investigation of the field.

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**Transgender Studies Quarterly**

I want to share the good news that the inaugural issue of the *Transgender Studies Quarterly* (Duke UP, co-edited by Paisley Currah & Susan Stryker) is now out! Our department is one of a handful of proud institutional supporters, and we are well represented in the issue as contributors include faculty members, associates, as well as former students: Lucas Crawford, Ann Travers, Trish Garner and myself all have pieces published in it. The journal was very successfully launched to a full crowd at the Berks conference in Toronto this past month. I hope you will all check it out and continue to support the journal!

Best,  
Helen
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