On September 10, 2015, GSWS along with the Department of Political Science came together to celebrate Marjorie Griffin Cohen's contributions to SFU and beyond. She has been an outstanding member of our community as a researcher, teacher, policy analyst, and public intellectual. She has particularly been a wonderful colleague and mentor in Political Science and our own Department of GSWS.

Marjorie Griffin Cohen’s retirement party was an excellent opportunity to get a historical snapshot of the department’s leadership as the past six Department Chairs were all in the same room!
Interested in more information about Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies at Simon Fraser University? You can visit us on the web at: www.sfu.ca/gsws

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.

Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies
Simon Fraser University
8888 University Drive, AQ 5102A
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6

Phone: 778-782-3333
Fax: 778-782-5518

CONTACT US

Chair
Lara Campbell
gswschr@sfu.ca
778-782-5526

Graduate Program Chair
Jen Marchbank
jmarchba@sfu.ca
778-782-7607

Undergraduate Program Chair
Habiba Zaman
hzaman@sfu.ca
778-782-4404

Manager,
Academic and Administrative Services
Roberta Neilson
gswsmgr@sfu.ca
778-782-3593

Department Secretary
Kathryn Hunter
gswssec@sfu.ca
778-782-3333
This year sees GSWS enter a period of transition and growth. In taking on the position of Department Chair, I have big shoes to fill! Willeen Keough, who has served as department chair for three years, is now on a well-earned study leave while full-time faculty member and former graduate chair Helen Leung is on sabbatical. Jennifer Marchbank has moved into a full-time appointment in GSWS and has taken up the position of Graduate Chair for the next two years.

We are also very lucky to have a new Tenure-Track Assistant Professor, Dr. Coleman Nye, who joined us this fall from Brown University. Coleman’s area of specialty is feminist science and technology studies and disability studies: we look forward to further developing our undergraduate and graduate curriculum in these areas. This fall sees Dr. Lucas Crawford take on a two-year appointment as the Ruth Wynn Woodward Junior Chair, and we look forward to working with him over the next several years.

This fall, we also welcomed Dr. Mike Ward as a Visiting Scholar. From Wales, Dr. Ward has been studying and presenting on working-class masculinity. We are also delighted to welcome Dr. Claire Robson (former SSHRC postdoctoral fellow) and Dr. Tiffany Muller-Myrdahl (former RWW Junior Chair) as GSWS adjuncts beginning Fall 2015. We look forward to future collaborations with Claire and Tiffany as they continue their research in Vancouver.

This year we also wished two long-time faculty members a happy retirement. Marjorie Cohen has taught in Women’s and Gender Studies for many years as a joint appointment with Political Science, and has served as both department and graduate chair. She’s won numerous awards, most recently the President’s Media Relations Life-Time Achievement Award. Dr. Jacqueline Levitin has served as a joint appointment between Contemporary Arts and GSWS and also served the department as graduate chair in the past. We will miss both Dr. Cohen and Dr. Levitin and wish them much happiness and success in the future.

As you’ll see in the numerous updates from faculty, associate faculty, and students, GSWS is a vibrant and successful department committed to cutting-edge research, community engagement, and innovative pedagogy.

~ Lara Campbell
Marjorie Griffin Cohen was invited by the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences to give a breakfast lecture in the Parliamentary Dining Room for their Big Thinking series. The FHSS describes his series as one that “brings together leading researchers and decision makers to discuss pressing policy issues facing Canada. This lecture is part of the 20th anniversary of the Big Thinking series on Parliament Hill.” The lectures this year were focused on how policy issues have—or have not—changed, and what we can learn going forward.

Marjorie’s lecture occurred on April 28, 2015 with the title “Austerity for prosperity? How women and men are faring in the Canadian economy.” The main point of the lecture was to show that while Canadian governments have understood good government to be balanced budgets, budget cuts to social programs, and reduced taxes, these policies have not produced good economic results. The lecture showed that compared with other countries, Canada has the worse record of government spending compared to the national income. It also has the worse rates of growth. The lecture drew the connection between the undervaluation of ‘care’ services and poor economic performance. The message that ‘austerity’ in social programs is essential for economic success simply is not born out with the evidence.

~ Marjorie Griffin Cohen
Marjorie Griffin Cohen organized and convened an international workshop on *Climate Change, Gender and Work in Rich Countries*. This occurred at SFU from June 24-26, 2015 with twenty-two papers delivered. The paper presenters were from Sweden, the UK, Australia, the US, and Canada. The point of the workshop was to bring together researchers from rich countries who deal with the gendered aspects of climate change and policies to deal with it. While there is considerable international attention on gendered issues in developing nations, there is almost none on what is happening in developed ones.

The researchers’ papers covered a wide variety of topics including policies on climate change and disasters, the masculinities of climate change, urban planning and gendered issues related to climate change, the gendered future of good, gender in the Canadian Arctic, Forest-based communities, the renewable energy sector, and low-energy construction.

The working papers from this workshop can be seen at the website that has been developed for the new network on climate change and gender in rich countries. The url for this is [https://www.sfu.ca/climategender.html](https://www.sfu.ca/climategender.html)

Later in 2016 the papers will appear in a collection edited by Marjorie Griffin Cohen.

~ Marjorie Griffin Cohen
Undergraduate Chair Report

The undergraduate enrolment increased by 17.5% from Fall 2014 to Fall 2015. Dr. Jen Marchbank’s course GSWS 335W-4 *Through a Gendered Lens* was approved as a regular calendar course by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee (FASSCC). In addition to regular calendar courses, GSWS offered six new Selected Topic courses in 2015. These include: GSWS 321-4 Queering Borders: Exploring Sexuality in Migration, Transnationalism, and Globalization | Fobear (Spring 2015); GSWS 411-4 Women, Property, and the Law in the Mediterranean | Doxiadis (Spring 2015); GSWS 320-4 A Womb of One’s Own?: Feminisms Engaging Reproduction | Yoshizawa (Summer 2015); GSWS 321-4 Critical Disability Studies | Nye (Fall 2015); GSWS 333-4 Ruth Wynn Woodward Advanced Seminar: Food-Writing: Queering the Culinary | Crawford (Fall 2015); and GSWS 411-4 Transgender Before Transgender: The British Novel 1891-1993 | Crawford (Fall 2015)

The compiling of Minor in GSWS Distance Education/ CODE course is almost complete. GSWS 101, 102, 312, 398W were offered. Dr. Trish Garner completed and submitted GSWS 319 *Creeping the Norm* to CODE. Ruth Wynn Woodward Junior Chair Dr. Lucas Crawford signed contract with CODE for GSWS 204. Now, GSWS has one more upper division course to develop. Once Dr. Crawford’s course is compiled and submitted to CODE, students can do minor in GSWS Distance Education if they use only one Upper Division CODE course from another department. The Centre for Online and Distance Education (CODE) went through some internal portfolio shuffle. The GSWS portfolio has moved from Dr. Rob McTavish’s to CODE new Program Director Ranga Venkatachary. Thanks to Dr. Rob McTavish for his extraordinary support to GSWS in developing Minor in Distance Education.

The Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Student Union (GSWSSU) has been very active this past year. GSWSSU held a number of on-campus events such as 'The Mask You Live In' movie screening, joint DSU BBQ, bake sales, seminars/panels, club days, etc., and contributed to Faculty conversations, and attended GSWS department meetings. Currently, they are working on an on-campus initiative to bring a gender-inclusive Sexual Assault Support Centre to SFU.

~ Habiba Zaman
Coleman Nye

I am thrilled to be well into my first year as a new faculty member in GSWS, and already have some exciting updates to share.

In terms of my research, my collaborative work of graphic ethno-fiction, *Lissa* (Arabic for “Still Time”) is well under way. My co-author Sherine Hamdy (anthropologist at Brown University) and I are currently working with two fabulous illustrators to bring our script about global bioethics to life. We have booked a 10-day trip to Cairo, where much of the book takes place, and are working with a documentary filmmaker who is capturing the “making of...” process. We hope to bring the book out in print through University of Toronto Press’s “ethnoGRAPHIC” series in 2016, and to supplement this with a digital pedagogical component.

Beyond my ethno-graphic novel, I am also currently working on my book manuscript, *Speculative Science: Gender, Genetics, and the Futures of Life*. This project locates breast and ovarian cancer genetics as a site from which to explore the speculative mechanisms at work in biotechnological processes of knowing and intervening in women’s bodies – from the clinical practice of treating genetic risk much like already manifest disease to legal disputes over whether genetic materials are bodily natures or patentable scientific inventions. This book project, along with an article that I am currently finishing on the futures of lab-grown meat, will animate some of our explorations of biologies, biotechnologies, and bi-ecologies in my Spring 2016 course, “Dude, Where’s My Body?”

In addition to my working on these projects this fall, I have been teaching the course “Critical Disability Studies.” Within the classroom, we have had some exciting guests come and share their experiences. Two police officers from the Delta Police Force led a highly informative and moving discussion on the pervasiveness of Posttraumatic Stress Injury in policing, drawing particular attention to the gendered dimensions of mental health in the police force, as well as the massive bureaucratic and cultural barriers the face in trying to access treatment and support. We also have Loree Erickson, a self-described “queer femmegimp porn star academic,” joining our class for a screening and discussion of her award-winning short film on sex and disability, “Want.”

Outside of the classroom, I am happy to report that some of my students, through their work in the student organizations SUDS (Students United for Disability Support) and OOC (Out of Campus), held the first Disability Awareness Week here at SFU. The organizers did an excellent job making the event accessible - providing a nut-free, scent-reduced, wheelchair accessible space with access to closed captioning, ASL interpreters, large-print materials, and gender neutral and disability accessible restrooms. Not only did they model a commitment to accessible event planning and hold some spectacular workshops and film screenings, but they also held a uniquely informative, coalition-building session that brought an intersectional and social justice-oriented approach to accessibility in education. Important insights and suggestions on how to reduce barriers to accessing education gleaned from this workshop are currently being compiled into a policy recommendation that reflects SFU’s commitment to fostering a supportive and engaged learning environment.

~ Coleman Nye
Graduate Chair Report

The past year was an exciting one during which many of our graduate students reached important milestones. Many congratulations to Huai Bao for completely his Ph.D. degree, and to Micaela Roughton, Aleisha Ross, Alexa Dredge, Bonnie Thornbury, and Kat Davidson for completing their M.A. degrees. It has been a genuine pleasure to worked with such stellar students in our program. I believe I can speak on behalf of everyone that we warmly wish them the best in their future endeavours and hope they will keep in touch and share with us their news and accomplishments.

Our current students have also had tremendous success: Ph.D. students Nadine Boulay and Rob Bittner were awarded the prestigious Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarships, while incoming M.A. student Nathan Flaig was awarded the highly competitive SSHRC Master’s Scholarship. We welcome to our program new Ph.D. students Somayeh Bahrami and Simranpreet Badesha, as well as M.A. students Nathan Flaig, Masashi Yoshida, Charis Lippett and Leah Bishop. We wish them the very best as they embark on their new graduate careers.

As we welcome our new graduate cohort, we also take pride in looking back at the impressive achievements of our alumni. In a project funded by the Dean of Graduate Studies, we began building a database detailing graduate (Continued on page 9)
alumni's career paths. We are very grateful to the many alumni who supported our initiatives and graciously offered to have their professional profiles on our website and to provide networking and mentorship opportunities for our current graduate students. We hosted a Career Development & Alumni Appreciation Day, which took place on May 2, 2015 at the SFU Wosk Centre For Dialogue. We were especially delighted to feature four of our most outstanding alumni (three from our graduate program and one from our undergraduate program) on a panel, discussing the value of a GSWS degree for their respective career paths. Sam Bradd (graphic facilitator), Pooneh Ehsani (career counsellor and researcher for non-profit organizations), Meghan Murphy (writer and journalist) and Baharak Yousefi (university librarian) all gave impassioned and compelling presentations which were absolutely inspiring. They also passed on down-to-earth and practical advice which proved immensely useful for the students in attendance. One of the department's donors Ms Carla Poppen was in the audience and she was so impressed with our alumni that she suggested we should regularly host such events not only for students but for donors as well so they could see the fruit of their generosity. We certainly share Ms. Poppen's enthusiasm and are looking forward to connecting much more with our alumni and learning from their many insights and achievements in the near future.

As I go on sabbatical, I would like to extend my best wishes to the new grad chair Dr. Jen Marchbank and to all of our wonderful grad students. I look forward to hearing all about your many activities and accomplishments this year!

~ Helen Hok-Sze Leung
RESEARCH:
LOVE, CITIES & SOUND

I am happy to see two book chapters long in the making finally materialize in print this year. The first, “Love In The City: The Placing of Intimacy in Urban Romance Films” (Esther M.K. Cheung, Gina Marchetti, and Esther C.M. Yau, eds, A Companion to Hong Kong Cinema, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2015, 265-28) examines how urgent issues in heritage and collective memory in Hong Kong are expressed through the cinematic genre of urban romance. The second, “New Queer Angles On Wong Kar-wai” (Martha P. Nochimson, ed. A Companion to Wong Kar-wai, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2015, 250-271) offers adventurous queer readings in the seemingly “straight” erotics of beloved auteur Wong Kar-wai’s œuvre. I also co-author (with Audrey Yue) a journal article “Notes Towards the Queer Asian City: Singapore and Hong Kong” (Urban Studies Sep 2015. Sage Open DOI: 10.1177/0042098015602996) which will be published next year but is now available via Sage Open’s on-line first access. We are very proud to have published in the discipline of Urban Studies for the first time and have learnt a lot in the process of

(Continued on page 11)
researching and writing the article.

My current research continues my love of screen culture and commitment to queer/trans cultural politics but takes my previous work in decidedly new directions. My first new project, *Hollywood North, Asiawood West: Vancouver As A Transpacific Film City*, examines our city as a site of transpacific film production. I had completed one article that examines the case study of Holiday Pictures, a local production company that has successfully straddled between providing location service for Asian productions and developing critically acclaimed local films. I presented this research this Fall at Melbourne University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong and received many interesting feedback. The project is in an exploratory stage and I hope to develop it into a larger collaborative project with colleagues across the Pacific that examines the film cities of Vancouver, Hong Kong, and Singapore as “junior media capitals.” My second project, *Queer Sound On Screen: Sonic Perspectives on Queer Film and Television* contributes to the growing scholarship that addresses the visual bias of film and television studies. It has been a joy to develop my literacy in the terrific interdisciplinary field of sound studies and the provocative scholarship on film and television sound. The project asks the following questions: How do screen media express queerness sonically? How does sound (ranging from voice, dubbing, music, sound design amongst others) interact with other cinematic and televisual elements in queer media? I am currently writing a chapter on the show *Hannibal* (of which I am a huge fan!) and hope to finish a short book by next year. My third project, co-
authored with Audrey Yue and titled *Queer Asia As Method*, takes up the intellectual and ethical challenges put forward in Chen Kuan-Hsing’s seminal work *Asia As Method*. While studies of queer and trans phenomena in Asia have multiplied exponentially in the past decade, much of this work has been approached as “area” knowledge rather than theoretical interventions into the global (which in reality is an Anglo-American) debate on gender and sexual variance.

While queer theory and trans studies have made serious efforts to address this Anglocentric bias, much more is needed. Audrey Yue and I aim to take stock of the vibrant scholarship on queer Asia and approach them as theoretical interventions into the global production of queer knowledge. We convened a panel on “New Queer Asia Publics” at the *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* conference in Surabaya, Indonesia this summer and received very useful feedback. We will be submitting papers from our panel to the *Inter-Asia Cultural Studies* journal and will continue to develop the book project in the year to come.

**TEACHING: SEX, THEORY & INSTAGRAM**

I am currently on sabbatical but am already thinking about what I will be teaching next academic year. I always look forward to tweaking *GSWS 100*, my introductory course on sexuality studies, currently in the very able

Street art by Katie Kaff Eine, Melbourne

(Continued from page 11)
hands of my Ph.D. student Rob Bittner. For next Fall, I am planning to expand the course’s emphasis on sexuality and digital media, as there are many exciting new developments in the field. If you took the course or are planning to do so, don’t hesitate to email or tweet me suggestions and ideas. I am also developing GSWS 826, a new graduate course on Queer and Trans Studies that will be on offer next Fall. I have taught various versions of the course at an undergraduate level but the field has experienced a veritable explosion in the past decade and I am excited to explore new directions with graduate students. I will be focused on introducing students to the field formations of both queer theory and its “evil twin” (Susan Stryker’s metaphor) trans studies as well as current efforts to decolonize and globalize the fields’ Anglo-American roots. One of my favourite courses to teach is GSWS 306, on gender, sexuality and autobiographical media, which I will be offering again next academic year. In this age of twitter and Instagram, expressing one’s life has become a quotidian matter. In past iterations of the course, I have been inspired and moved by students’ critical engagement with queer life narratives and willingness to make their own, in a variety of media and with honesty, integrity, and passion. In addition to reading and watching the works of beloved life narrative divas including Kate Bornstein, Margaret Cho to Eddie Izzard, I look forward to seeing the ever creative efforts of students to participate in, critique, and innovate self-writing across different media.

SERVICE & ENGAGEMENT: COMMITTEE MEETINGS, PORN NIGHT & PHILOSOPHY CAFES

The “service” section of our job description often conjures up nightmares of endless committee meetings and labyrinths of paperwork. While those labourious duties do need to be carried out, I have found enjoyment in providing service for innovative programs around the university. I have the pleasure of serving on the steering committees of Graduate Liberal Studies (and discovered that Shad of Q fame is an alumnus!), Institute For Performance Studies, Centre for Policy Study on Culture & Communities and the World Literature program. In an International Engagement initiative with department associates Kirsten McAllister and Christine Kim, I am involved in developing a Transpacific Cultural Research cluster at SFU. The project has taken us to Singapore, Melbourne, Surabaya, Taiwan, and Hong Kong in efforts to incubate partnerships and research collaborative opportunities.

With funding from the FASS Dean’s office, I organized a talk and screening by Bryn Mawr professor and filmmaker Nguyen Tan Hoang. The event was fully attended and Dr. Nguyen’s provocative and entertaining presentation on gay male bottomhood and Asian American masculinity, complete with clips from the genre of “West Hollywood gay porn,” wowed the crowd with its insight and wit. It was also exciting to see many established queer Asian artists and activists in attendance, including Ho Tam, Winston Xin, David Khang, Jen Sung amongst others. I was so inspired by the talk that I subsequently wrote a review of Nguyen’s book Bottomhood Is Powerful which will come out in TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly next year.

I ran two Philosophy Café sessions this past year, one on “Vancouver as a film location” and one on “Are we pomosexual?” Both were really fun and allowed me to share issues I came across in my research with the general public. Many enthusiastic members of the local film industry (including actor Nelson Leis) came to the first one and debated passionately about our city’s service industry, its fate to
almost never play itself on screen, and its future as Canada’s foremost creative hub. At the second cafe, despite being briefly interrupted by a hostile gentleman, I met with a warm, witty, and insightful group whose insights from daily life far exceed what is being theorized in queer studies. I really enjoyed hosting the cafes and look forward to my next one, on social media and shaming, which will take place at the end of November.

ON SABBATICAL: BEING A GEEKGIRL, FOODIE & CAT LOVER

Colleagues who know me well often find themselves receiving tips (usually solicited, but not always!) on how to tweak their iPhone settings, pick the latest writing or productivity software, or find alternatives to those terrible Powerpoint templates! I am an unabashed geekgirl at heart who has been making my own websites since before the days of Weebly and Wordpress. I was stubborn to never let web design upstarts make money off me! Such stubbornness has meant I had left my website lie fallow for far too long - but no more. As the prospect of sabbatical has removed the pressure to hunker down during the summer, I used those precious daylight saving hours to update my website, which I am happy to report is now in tip top shape! Dare I toot my own horn and say it has recently been described by random strangers as “stunning”?! Do visit www.sfu.ca/~hhl and send me feedback! I am proud to have made it on a budget of less than $80, used solely towards software from independent designers. I will be spending parts of my sabbatical as a visiting scholar at the School of Culture and Communication at Melbourne University. I can write reams about the intense academic culture, scholarly excellence, and insane metrics obsession of Australian academic life but I will save that for next year! For now I will simply report that I have dropped all my skepticism about the claim some friends in the hospitality business made to me that Melbourne is the “gourmet capital of the world.” The city has the most innovative, multicultural, and stunningly delicious cuisine I have ever experienced. It also has a vibrant street art scene and boasts several prominent female street artists. Finally, I have made the delightful acquaintance of two feline companions, majestic Spooky and sweet Ella, who love to hover around my warm laptop and never failed to pick me up when the despair of writing blocks strikes from time to time!

~ Helen Leung

... and Ella
Parin Dossa

"Entangled Emplacement: Ethnographic Reading of Canadian Muslims’ Engagement with the World of Palliative Care"

Talk given Tuesday, November 17th at SFU Burnaby

Abstract:

How do Canadian Muslims engage with the exclusive and ambiguous terrain of palliative care? An ethnographic response to this question requires addressing a systemic paradox: namely, patient-centred and compassionate care is contingent upon diagnoses of terminal illness. Drawing upon my long-standing research among Muslims in metropolis Vancouver, I use the construct of entangled emplacement to show the multiple ways in which research participants engage with this paradox. Allied closely to the non-conventional ethnographic methods of mindful walking, memory work and imagining, the construct of entangled emplacement captures the currently working on two projects (a) Transnational Aging and Kin-Work; (b) From Knowledge to Collaborative Engagement: Case Study of Canadian Muslims in "Palliative Care."

Biographical Statement:

Dr. Parin Dossa is Professor of Anthropology and Associate Member in the Department of Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies at Simon Fraser University. Her ethnographic work has focused on Muslim women in Canada, Lamu (Kenya), Afghanistan and of late India. Her research interests include: displacement, inequality and injustice, structural violence, disability, storytelling, memory work and diaspora.

~ Parin Dossa

Lara Campbell

Awards

Dean's Medal for Academic Excellence, Simon Fraser University [2015]

Publications and Research

This past year, I published a collection called Worth Fighting For: War Resistance in Canada from the War of 1812 to the War on Terror, which was co-edited with Catherine Gidney and Michael Dawson. (Toronto: Between the Lines Press, 2015). The collection has been reviewed by a number of national newspapers, and as a result, I gave a plenary speech on war resistance at the Tett Centre in Kingston in June 2015, did a podcast for Active History, and an interview with Vancouver Co-op radio.

I have also presented my research at a number of conferences this past year. In June 2015, I presented “I’d just as soon go back to the U.S. shooting”: The Politics of Amnesty in the Vietnam War,” at the Canadian Historical Association. I also spoke on “Social Justice, Social Work, and History: Reflections on Theory, Praxis, and the Welfare State,” at a conference on The Future History of the Welfare State, at Trent University, in March 2015.


~ Lara Campbell
Greeting from a Visiting Scholar

My name is Michael Ward and I am a Visiting Scholar from the UK and based in GSWS for the autumn or ‘fall’ semester. I arrived in Vancouver in mid-August and started here in GSWS at the start of September, the time has just flown by! The last two months have been a great experience and I feel that I have been warmly welcomed into this academic community. The turnout for my book launch which was kindly organized by you at the end of October was a lovely experience. I just wanted to take this opportunity to tell you all a little about me and what has brought me to SFU. I come from Wales in the UK and gained my PhD in sociology from Cardiff University (UK) during the spring of 2013. I have a range of teaching and research expertise in sociology and gender related studies and in particular young masculinities. My doctoral research focused on young men in a de-industrial community in Wales and some of this work has been published in book chapters, peer-review journals, and in my monograph From Labouring to Learning. Since completing my doctorate I have also been involved in another research project in the UK called Beyond Male Role Models, which was conducted by The Open University. This study concentrated on the relationships between young people and professionals in care and support services. The research emphasised that young people value respect, trust, consistency, and a sense of care and commitment, in workers, and these qualities are key to developing effective helping relationships. Moreover, the vast majority of young men (and young women as well) valued the personal qualities and commitment of staff above their gender or other social identities.

While based at SFU I am carrying out a small study on young men’s experiences of higher education, especially those from low-income backgrounds (see my little report below!). Alongside this research, I am still currently conducting online teaching for The Open University and spending my time editing a collection of papers for a volume in the Studies in Qualitative Methods series, which is titled Gender Identity and Research Relationships. During the past few months here I have also been asked to give a couple of guest lectures, been interviewed for the student radio here on campus and to attended a panel on masculinities. It certainly has been a busy time so far! Please do get in touch if you fancy a coffee and a chat sometime.

~ Michael R.M Ward

Higher Education and Working-class Men and Masculinities

Since the 1990s there appears to have developed an increased anxiety in the global north about the position of boys and young men. These concerns have centred on a range of issues including boys’ supposed educational ‘underachievement’ (when compared to girls), high rates of suicide, and poor mental health among young men, and boys’ involvement in offending and anti-social behaviour. The supposed lack of male role models has also been highlighted as a growing

(Continued on page 17)
Higher Education and Working-class Men and Masculinities

(Continued from page 16)

concern for educators, politicians, policy makers and those in the media. These problems have been framed as outcomes of a ‘war’ on boys or a ‘crisis’ of masculinity. However, as others have pointed out, this discourse is far from novel and has a much longer history than the current ‘crisis’ suggests. Also as feminist and pro-feminist researchers have argued, boys and young men still learn to enact power in these times of ‘crisis’. Therefore, although the generic category ‘boys’ is often used in policy and cultural commentaries, in reality it is young men from working-class backgrounds who are most often associated with this ‘crisis’ anxiety and with public fears of disorder, disrespect and delinquency around their performances of masculinity.

These fears also seem to cross ethnic and racial boundaries. Consequently, while has been a significant debate around boys’ educational ‘underachievement’ across the global north and the difficulties young men face in the post-industrial era very little work has been conducted around the difficulties and challenges facing young men from working-class backgrounds who display alternative performances of masculinity through academic success and become ‘achieving boys’ and enter higher educational institutions.

So given this background (and some of my previous work on marginalized young men) I set up my current project to look at these issues further here at SFU in BC. In order to recruit participants for the study I have sent emails out and attended lectures to talk to students at SFU about the project. I have specifically advertised for young men [or those who identify as men] who come from low-income backgrounds, or those who are the first in their family to attend university or those who are in receipt of the Canada Student Grant, which is given to those from low-income backgrounds. So far I have been pleasantly surprised with the amount of young men who have come forward and want to speak to me. Since I first advertised for participants in early September, I have interviewed 10 participants with more lined up for the coming weeks. I have found some of these interviews challenging and as an educator, quite upsetting at times due to some of the issues disclosed in terms of educational experiences. A key theme which seems to be developing and one that is perhaps unsurprisingly, is the financial worries the respondents are under to combine studying and part-time paid work. What I have found interesting is that all seem to acknowledge that the undergraduate degree alone is not enough. All the participants have talked about further qualifications and the need to gain at least a Masters degree, which of course will incur more debt without the guarantee of a job at the end of it. What is also emerging from these interviews in terms of masculinity at university is that for many young men, the university experience offers the opportunity to perform masculinity in a different way to that of their home communities through academic labour. But this more studious performance of masculinity does not fit easily with their home communities, which are often situated in less affluent areas or with other men in their families who are in more traditional low-income ‘male’ occupations. But what is also surprising, is that the ‘bro’ culture or ‘party’ imagine of student life, for these young men at this university at least, is not engaged with. It would appear from these early interviews is that they simply don’t have the time for it, financially or culturally.

~ Michael R.M Ward
A Look Back at SFU's Feminist History: The Abortion Caravan

Members of the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Student Union participated in the Society of Arts and Social Sciences at SFU Amazing Race on Saturday, October 3, 2015, where they had a station in Maggie Benston Centre.

The Vancouver Women's Caucus was a second-wave feminist activist group based out of SFU; they advocated for women's rights and published a monthly feminist publication, 'The Pedestal', which began in 1969. In late 1969, following the passing of Bill C-150, which partially decriminalized abortion in Canada but kept it incredibly inaccessible and restricted, the Abortion Caravan was proposed by the Vancouver Women’s Caucus. The Abortion Caravan was planned to be a cross-Canada expedition from Vancouver to Ottawa, with stops in various cities on the way to raise awareness and to question state authority over women’s bodies following the change in the Criminal Code regarding abortion.

The Abortion Caravan began its journey across Canada on April 27, 1970, consisting of 17 women and a multitude of vehicles, including the infamous van with a coffin nailed on top to represent the women who had died due to botched illegal abortions. After an 11 day journey across Canada, the Abortion Caravan reached Ottawa on May 9, 1970. The following afternoon they held a rally outside of Parliament, followed by an open meeting in the Parliament Buildings.

The next day, May 11, the women enacted their greatest stunt of the whole campaign. 36 women managed to get into the galleries of the House of Commons.

(Continued on page 19)
A Look Back at SFU's Feminist History (Con’t)

Commons, disguised as unassuming respectable ‘ladies’, and disrupted parliamentary business by literally declaring war on the Canadian government. Before they were all dragged out of the room, some women were able to chain themselves to their chairs and proceeded to rattle them, making a noise that rang loudly throughout the House of Commons and demonstrated their insistence to be heard by the government of Canada.

It was not until 1988 that abortion was entirely decriminalized in Canada, but the Abortion Caravan and the Vancouver Women’s Caucus brought a great deal of attention to the issue in 1970 and are thus recognized as critical to the eventual decriminalization of abortion. This is an incredible part of SFU’s feminist history and something that makes us proud to be studying at a school with this radical legacy.

~ Gender, Sexuality, and Women’s Studies Student Union

The GSWSSU poster is on display in the GSWS Lounge.
Moving from RWW Lecturer to RWW Junior Chair has been a very exciting transition for me. I would be remiss not to mention that I miss Tiffany Muller Myrdahl and wish the best to she and her family in Norway. Your keen teaching in feminist urban geography is evidenced by the passion and expertise that our students show on this topic. Come back soon!

Outreach and “in-reach” on the topic of “Food Matters” had a fun but auspicious start when Taylor Theodore, a student in “Food-Writing: Queering the Culinary,” won the grand prize in the annual poetry competition of the BC Association of Farmers’ Markets. For her poem, Taylor received a $150 gift certificate to the market of her choice. Congratulations, Taylor! This was a result of the class’ first assignment, a “trial by fire” in which the students had to submit their poem to the contest by the end of the first week of classes. In our in-class poetry slam, we heard pieces about queer women

The highlight of the term for me was a collaboration between the food-writing seminar and a downtown eastside community called the Thursday Writing Collective. This group, led by poet Elee Kralji Gardiner, meets weekly to write about their annual theme. How lucky for us that their theme this year is FOOD! Our first mutual meeting, which took place at Harbour Centre, consisted of “on the spot” writing prompts and share sessions, not to mention some

(Continued on page 21)
good eats. (It was all delicious but I dare say that student Hillary Kaplan’s homemade peach/mango pie “took the cake” – to mix my metaphors.)

After a few weeks apart, we met again (this time in the wonderful common room of one of the writers’ apartment buildings on Cordova Street) to feast together and present the final drafts of the pieces we’d began together weeks before. The GSWS students catered much of this plentiful meal. We ate paneer pakora, homemade lasagnas, salads of all sorts, a variety of Nova Scotian specialties from a recent trip, cheeses, meats, dips, samosas, and much more. (Special thanks are due to many folks, but allow me to highlight Taylor Theodore’s mother whose skills as a chef and caterer helped us organize the spread – which is not to mention the three delicious pastas she brought us.) The main course, however, was the poetry. Hoots, hollers, snaps, claps, and other feedback rang through the room as we heard food-focused pieces about residential school, eating with family, food and sexuality, religious food practices, poverty, plenty, and more. HUGE thanks are due to Karenza Wall who provided the space for the event. We left the event full of food, warmth, inspiration, and a meal to go.

Looking ahead, New York Times bestselling author J. Kenji Lopez-Alt will visit us (from San Francisco) on Thursday, January 28th. During the day he will work with local emerging food-writers. In the late afternoon, he will spend time with the Thursday Writing Collective. The evening will see him give a public talk about social justice, race, and food at Harbour Centre. The target audience for the talk is food service workers and activists, though all are welcome to attend. There may even be a surprise opening act or two, so hold the date! (Kenji’s new book is called The Food Lab and will be available for purchase at the talk. If you are interested in reading some of his unique recipe narratives, check out seriouseats.com, where he is Chief Creative Officer.)

On a similar note, I’ve been looking back fondly on the 2015 Benston Lecture given by filmmaker Chris Vargas

Lucas reading on The Poetry Bus at Word Festival Sept 2015
(Continued from page 21)

(Continued on page 23)

RUTH WYNN WOODWARD JUNIOR CHAIR (CONT’D)

Kelsey Mental Health Resource Centre. Last year, I was one of their four “patient’s voices” featured in their PHSA-funded online course for MDs in Weight Bias and Stigma. This term, I had the opportunity to talk about these issues further during a “webinar” for MDs. Over thirty health care sites across the province tuned in to the webinar; both this interest and their support/questions give me hope about new and renewed leadership with regards to eating, body size, and barriers to access in BC.

My poetry practice allowed me especially exciting opportunities to address communities about body matters this year. A summer highlight was performing at Edmonton’s first Transgender and Women’s Pride Festival and leading a poetry workshop thereafter. In 2015, I was fortunate enough to be invited to talk about poetry and bodies in Vancouver (6), Surrey, Sechelt, Edmonton (3), Toronto, London (ON), Sydney (NS), Antigonish, Halifax, and New Minas. Two other favourite outreach moments were visiting the Gay Straight Alliance at the local high school in Antigonish, NS and also visiting the Valley Youth Project in New Minas, NS. Plans for 2016 readings or

Lucas with GSWS grad Markus MacIntyre in Halifax.

(Continued from page 21)

(event with some poetry and with a short film about her life (made by local filmmaker Gwen Haworth).

Another form that my outreach took this term was my continued contact with the fine folks at the
RUTH WYNN WOODWARD JUNIOR CHAIR (CONT’D)

(Continued from page 22)

talks are getting underway for Montreal, Ottawa, New York, Kelowna, and of course Vancouver (February’s Twisted Poets Series) and Surrey (Surrey Muse Series).

I was honoured to be named the 2015 Critic-In-Residence of a group called Canadian Women in the Literary Arts (CWILA). My job in this role is to create public awareness about transgender literature in Canada by writing book reviews and giving interviews.

Watch for my first review (of Trish Salah’s Lyric Sexology) to appear in Plenitude soon. If you are an emerging transgender writer, check out the call for writing for Matrix Magazine’s special transgender literature issue, of which I am editor: http://www.matrixmagazine.org/#!transcall/c14tr

On a similar note, my poetry book came out in October after winning the 2015 Robert Kroetsch Award for Innovative Poetry. It is called Sideshow Concessions and is available at Little Sister’s and most lower mainland Chapters stores. It can also be ordered directly from Invisible Publishing or from amazon.ca. Rumour has it that reviews of the book are forthcoming in Arc Poetry Magazine, Broken Pencil Magazine, and Lambda Literary. Big thanks to Mike Ward and Lara Campbell for making it out to the Vancouver launch.

Finally, I am happy to say that I have just received my advance copies of my academic book, Transgender Architectonics: the

(Continued on page 24)

Lucas with Audience Members in Antigonish, Nova Scotia
RUTH WYNN WOODWARD JUNIOR CHAIR (CONT’D)

Shape of Change in Modernist Space. It will be available to purchase as of December 28. Other writing came out in the following publications in 2015: Best Canadian Poetry 2015, Literary Review of Canada, SubTerrain’s LineBreak, Transgender Studies Quarterly, Mosaic, and Atlantic Books Today. Writing is scheduled to appear in the following publications in 2016: Plenitude, Sexualities, Trans Studies: Beyond Hetero/Homo Normativities (Rutgers), Queering the Countryside (NYU), and University of Toronto Quarterly.

~ Lucas Crawford

Lucas with SFU Women’s Centre Coord Leah Horlick at 40th Anniversary Gala of Literary Press Group

Lucas with Elee Kralji Gardiner at First Workshop with Thursday Writing Collective
## FACULTY MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lara Campbell</td>
<td>GSWS Chair</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lcampbel@sfu.ca">lcampbel@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen Hok-Sze Leung</td>
<td>GSWS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:helen_leung@sfu.ca">helen_leung@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Habiba Zaman</td>
<td>GSWS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:hzaman@sfu.ca">hzaman@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jen Marchbank</td>
<td>GSWS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jmarchba@sfu.ca">jmarchba@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coleman Nye</td>
<td>GSWS</td>
<td><a href="mailto:nye@sfu.ca">nye@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## RUTH WYNN WOODWARD

- **Lucas Crawford**
  - Ruth Wynn Woodward
  - Junior Chair 2015-2017
  - lcrawfo@sfu.ca

## ASSOCIATE FACULTY MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Balka</td>
<td>Communications Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ellenb@sfu.ca">ellenb@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olena Hankivsky</td>
<td>Public Policy Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:olena@sfu.ca">olena@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deanna Reder</td>
<td>English Assistant Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Deanna_Reeder@sfu.ca">Deanna_Reeder@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moninder Bubber</td>
<td>Liaison Librarian</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bubb@sfu.ca">bubb@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genevieve Fuji Johnson</td>
<td>Political Science Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:genevieve_johnson@sfu.ca">genevieve_johnson@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Shapiro</td>
<td>Philosophy Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lisa_shapiro@sfu.ca">lisa_shapiro@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brian Burtch</td>
<td>Criminology Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:burtch@sfu.ca">burtch@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willeen Keough</td>
<td>History Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wkeough@sfu.ca">wkeough@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Özlem Sensoy</td>
<td>Education Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ozlem@sfu.ca">ozlem@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elise Chénier</td>
<td>History Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:echenier@sfu.ca">echenier@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirsten McAllister</td>
<td>Communications Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kmcallis@sfu.ca">kmcallis@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diana Solomon</td>
<td>English Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Diana_solomon@sfu.ca">Diana_solomon@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dara Culhane</td>
<td>Anthropology Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:culhane@sfu.ca">culhane@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marina Morrow</td>
<td>Health Sciences Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:mmorrow@sfu.ca">mmorrow@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennifer Spear</td>
<td>History Associate Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jennifer_spear@sfu.ca">jennifer_spear@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Dickinson</td>
<td>English Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:peter_dickinson@sfu.ca">peter_dickinson@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine Murray</td>
<td>Communications Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:murraye@sfu.ca">murraye@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Patton</td>
<td>Sociology &amp; Anthropology Professor</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ckipatton@sfu.ca">ckipatton@sfu.ca</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## RETIRED PROFESSORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marjorie Griffin Cohen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meredith Kimball</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Levitin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marilyn MacDonald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary Lynn Stewart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan Wendell</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>