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## Mission and Vision Statements

### Mission Statement

Feminist & Gender Studies fosters inquiry into structures and modes of power as they are mediated by gender, sexuality, race and ethnicity, class, nation and citizenship, age, and ability. Through teaching, scholarship, and service, we study and develop critical interdisciplinary and feminist theories and practices in collaboration with artists, activists, and scholars at Colorado College and beyond.

### Vision Statement

Feminist & Gender Studies aims to embody a feminist ethos of critical engagement and responsiveness that is attentive to shifting relations of power; to be an intellectual, political, and creative space for the pursuit of exemplary collaborative initiatives locally, regionally, nationally, and transnationally; and to remain conversant with myriad intellectual legacies while reimagining the possibilities of feminist knowledge and practice.

## Staff and Faculty

### Staff

**Linda Inzer** is our Staff Assistant. She also works with the Asian Studies and Race, Ethnicity, & Migration Studies programs.

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### Faculty

**Heidi R. Lewis, Ph.D.** is Director and Associate Professor of Feminist & Gender Studies. She earned her Ph.D. in American Studies with a Minor in Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies from Purdue University. Her research and teaching are primarily focused on Black Feminist Theory, Critical Race Theory, and Critical Media Studies. She has published "An Examination of the Kanye West's Higher Education Trilogy" in *The Cultural Impact of Kanye West*, "Let Me Just Taste You: Lil Wayne and Rap's Politics of Cunnilingus" in the *Journal of Popular Culture*, and "Damn, I Love the Strippers!: A Black Feminist Analysis of Rihanna's 'Pour It Up'" in the *Journal of Black Sexuality and Relationships*. She is also the author of forthcoming essays that examine FX's *The Shield*, VH1's *Love & Hip Hop*, Bravo's *Married to Medicine*, her teaching and research in Berlin, and the relationship between "expertise" and Women's Studies and other interdisciplinary fields in the academy. She has given talks at the Black Feminist Methodologies Working Symposium at Vanderbilt University, Kim Bevill's Gender and the Brain Conference, the Educating Children of Color Summit, the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement, the Gender and Media Spring Convocation at Ohio University, the Conference for Pre-Tenure Women and Visiting Peace and Justice Movements in the 21st Century Conference at Purdue University, and the

Kampagne für Opfer Rassistischer Polizeigewalt in Berlin. She has also been a contributor to Mark Anthony Neal's *NewBlackMan*, NPR's "Here and Now," KOAA news and KRCC radio (the Southeastern Colorado NPR affiliate) in Colorado Springs, Bitch Media, *Racialicious*, and Act Out.

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**Nadia Guessous, Ph.D.** is Assistant Professor of Feminist & Gender Studies. She earned her Ph.D. in Anthropology from Columbia University. Her research and teaching interests include gender and sexuality; postcolonial and transnational feminism; religion and secularism; progressive politics; modern subjectivity; affect and viscosity; North Africa, the Middle East and Islam. Her current book project describes the sense of anxiety, exhaustion, and disorientation that prevails among older secular-leftist feminists in the wake of the Islamic Revival in contemporary Morocco. The book raises questions about the faith in the promises of secular modernity that undergirds this anxiety and argues that it gives rise to an exclusionary politics of avoidance that comes in the way of a more generous ethos of intersubjective and cross-generational exchange. The book contributes to thinking about feminism in non-teleological ways by highlighting some of the tragic consequences that can accompany the search for feminist progress. It also seeks to think about the affect and blind spots of secular progressive subjectivities. Although based on research prior to the Arab Uprisings, the book provides insights into some of the fractures, fissures and intersubjective tensions that continue to make alliances difficult across political and ideological lines in postcolonial places like Morocco.

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**Rushaan Kumar, Ph.D.** is Assistant Professor of Feminist & Gender Studies. He earned his Ph.D. in Feminist Studies from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. His teaching and research interests are transnational gender and sexuality, critical trans/masculinity studies, postcolonial media, public culture, and queer social movements in India and the South Asian diaspora. His current project is an examination of the simultaneous impact of globalization as well as the rise of Hindu supremacist nationalism on female- and trans-masculine people in India, specifically in and through media representation.

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## Curriculum

### Core Courses

#### **FG110 Introduction to Feminist & Gender Studies**

Introduces theories and methodologies that examine the relationships between power and markers of identity, such as gender, sexuality, race, class, nation, and dis/ability. Informed by the civil rights, student, labor, LGBTQ, and women's movements, this course encourages

student reflection on their participation in institutions of power and in effecting change. 1 unit.

### **FG114 Introduction to Queer Studies**

Takes an interdisciplinary approach to studying these questions by wrestling with the changing nature of LGBT and Queer as categories across time and space/location. Studies a critical consciousness on LGBTQ issues that recognizes the ways gender and sexuality are complicated by intersectional experiences of race, class, and nationality. Interrogates gender, sex, the “body,” erotic pleasure, sexuality, and sexual orientation as social constructions embedded in power structures, analyzing the impact of myriad intellectual and activist approaches to social policy, popular culture, law and governance, science, and public discourse. 1 unit.

### **FG200 Feminist Theory**

Surveys and historicizes feminist theories, including, but not limited to, Black feminism, Transnational feminism, Xicanisma, Marxist feminism, Transfeminism, and Ecofeminism. This course encourages students to understand feminist theory as a multivocal intellectual project grounded in shifting geopolitical conjunctures. Prerequisites: FG110 Introduction to Feminist & Gender Studies or FG114 Introduction to Queer Studies. 1 unit.

### **FG211 Critical Feminist Methodologies**

Examines feminist approaches, modes of inquiry, and debates about the politics of knowledge production. In exploring these concerns, this course focuses on how feminist scholars ask methodological and epistemological questions about positionality, objectivity/subjectivity, authority, voice, and (inter)disciplinarity. Prerequisites: FG200 Feminist Theory. 1 unit.

### **FG322 Junior Seminar**

Prepares students to conceptualize and articulate the theoretical frameworks and methodologies that will guide their senior capstone projects. Students will produce an annotated bibliography and senior capstone project proposal. Prerequisites: Feminist & Gender Studies major, junior standing. 1 unit.

### **FG404 Senior Project**

This independent study, guided by the assigned faculty First Reader, results in a completed first draft of the senior capstone project, which may take the form of an internship, social justice project, research project, creative project, or a combination of the above. Prerequisites: FG322 Junior Seminar. 1 unit.

### **FG405 Advanced Senior Project**

This independent study continues the work of FG404 Senior Project, resulting in the completion of the senior capstone project. Prerequisites: FG404 Senior Project. 1 unit.

### **FG416 Senior Seminar: Advanced Readings in Feminist & Gender Studies**

Provides advanced engagement with feminist and gender studies texts. Prerequisite: Feminist & Gender Studies major, Senior Standing. 1 unit.

## Completing the Major

The Feminist & Gender Studies major was revised during the Spring 2019 semester. Any student who declares the major subsequently must complete the following 14 units with a C- or higher:

### Core Courses (7 units)

- FG11X Introduction to Feminist & Gender Studies or Introduction to Queer Studies
- FG200 Feminist Theory
- FG211 Critical Feminist Methodologies
- FG322 Junior Seminar
- FG404 Senior Project
- FG405 Advanced Senior Project
- FG416 Senior Seminar: Advanced Readings & Feminist & Gender Studies

### Elective Courses (7 units)

- Core Elective at the 100 or 200-Level
- Core Elective at the 200-Level
- Core Elective at the 200 or 300-Level
- Core Elective at the 300-Level (2 units)
- Cross-Listed Elective at Any Level (2 units)

All electives must be approved by the major adviser.

You may discuss declaring the major with any of our faculty. However, please note that we adhere to a rotational advising policy, which means another faculty could be assigned to advise you through the major. On that note, please note that your major adviser and senior capstone project adviser may be different.

## Completing the Minor

The Feminist & Gender Studies minor was revised during the Spring 2019 semester. Any student who declares the minor subsequently must complete the following 6 units with a C- or higher:

### Core Courses (3 units)

- FG11X Introduction to Feminist & Gender Studies or Introduction to Queer Studies
- FG200 Feminist Theory
- FG211 Critical Feminist Methodologies

### Elective Courses (3 units)

- Core Elective at the 100 or 200-Level
- Cross-Listed Elective at Any Level (2 units)

All electives must be taught by core faculty in Feminist & Gender Studies (not cross-listed) and approved by the minor adviser.

You may discuss declaring the minor with any of our faculty. However, please note that we adhere to a rotational advising policy, which means another faculty could be assigned to advise you through the minor. We do not require a capstone project for minors.

## **Counting Non-FGS Courses toward the Major or Minor**

Students can request that a non-cross-listed CC course count toward the major or minor. Only two of these courses may count as two units toward the major and one course as one unit toward the minor with approval from their adviser and the Program Director.

To request permission, students should send their adviser an email, copying the Program Director, providing the course number, title, description, instructor of record, host institution, and a 150 to 200-word rationale for counting the course as an elective. Subsequently, your adviser and the Program Director will discuss your petition and notify you of a decision within a 14-day period.

## **Students**

### **Graduation with Distinction**

FGS core faculty discuss each student's academic accomplishments and decide whether a student has earned distinction. Typically, students graduating with distinction have maintained a 3.5 GPA in their FGS courses and earned an A- or A in FG404 and FG405.

### **Shannon McGee Prize**

The Shannon McGee Prize in Feminist and Gender Studies is awarded to Colorado College juniors or seniors who have demonstrated a real and abiding interest in Feminist and Gender Studies. The award will be presented in recognition of the student's active engagement, activism or leadership. The award is announced at Honors Convocation in Block 8. FGS Core Faculty nominate students for the award and decide who will receive the reward.

The award honors the memory of Shannon D. McGee, class of 1989, who was a sociology major and women's studies minor. She won a Watson Fellowship for the summer of 1990 to study Islamic women in Egypt. While taking a break to travel to Jordan, Shannon died in a freak fall as she was climbing behind the monastery ruins at Petra. The award may be based upon, but not limited to, the student's political or artistic endeavors on or off campus, research or project development, or participation in conferences and the like, where the purpose is to enhance the understanding of or commitment to women's issues and/or gender issues. Such purpose is reflective of Shannon's adventurous and inquisitive nature and her commitment to keeping women's issues alive and vibrant.

For more information about this award, including past winners, click here:

<https://www.coloradocollege.edu/academics/dept/feministandgenderstudies/resourcesforstudents/shannon-mcgee-prize.html>.

## **Iota Iota Iota (Triota) National Honor Society**

In 2011, the Feminist & Gender Studies Program (FGS) developed the Student Advisory Council (SAC), which provided FGS majors and minors with myriad opportunities to serve as leaders within the program.

In August 2016, FGS revised the SAC after becoming an official chapter (Delta Mu) of Iota Iota Iota (Triota), a National Women's Studies Honor Society with over 50 chapters nationwide, "Iota" selected to represent three goddesses Inanna, Ishtar, and Isis. Triota strives to maintain the feminist values central to Women's Studies and encourage diversity, egalitarianism, and a supportive academic environment for all students. Triota also encourages volunteerism, advocacy, and activism within the community as important methods for promoting and maintaining the feminist values central to Women's Studies.

Barring extenuating circumstances, Triota officers (President, Vice President, and Administrator) are elected by declared Feminist & Gender Studies majors and minors during Block 7 each year. All declared majors and minors are included on the ballot unless they request exclusion. After elections, chapter officers:

- assist with The Monthly Rag; Triota includes the Editor of The Rag, but other members are expected to contribute at least one entry per year and to solicit entries from the campus community;
- support and attend all FGS-sponsored events;
- plan and implement FGS programs (in collaboration with student organizations and other departments/programs), including, but not limited to, film screenings, informational sessions and panels, workshops, and guest speakers;
- support and represent FGS during on and off-campus events, such as New Student Orientation, Homecoming Weekend, Winter-Start Orientation, Open House, academic fairs, alumni events, and pre-registration;
- develop and maintains network with other feminist organizations at neighboring colleges and universities, the American Association of University Women (AAUW), and other Triota chapters, for example;
- represent FGS at the National Women's Studies Association annual meeting;
- and conduct the annual focus groups with declared majors and minors for program assessment purposes.

For more information, including the organization constitution, please click here:  
<https://femgeniuses.com/triota/>.

### ***The Monthly Rag***

*The Monthly Rag* is a feminist newsletter published by the Delta Mu chapter of Triota at Colorado College. Affectionately known as *The Rag*, the newsletter provides "a monthly flow" of feminist news, interests, and ideas.



The *Monthly Rag* Editor is responsible for publishing each issue on time, corresponding with Content Creators (see below) regarding content, proofreading, copyediting and checking submissions for factual inaccuracies. In some cases, the Editor may also revise materials. The Editor must also ensure that content is the appropriate length. If content is too long, for instance, it must be edited very carefully to fit the space available. Finally, the Editor is responsible for answering correspondence regarding the Rag and its content. However, some correspondence may be forwarded to the Director of Feminist & Gender Studies, depending on the level of appropriateness.

As of the Fall 2019 semester, Feminist & Gender Studies will employ two Content Creators that generate thoughtful content that converses significantly with the mission and vision of Feminist & Gender Studies and is submitted to deadlines determined by the Editor. Creators may also solicit material from other creators, including but not limited to students, staff, and faculty at Colorado College.

If you are interested in reading past issues of *The Monthly Rag*, click here: <http://femgeniuses.com/monthlyrag/>. If you are interested in applying to become the next Editor Apprentice or a Content Creator, please contact the Program Director.

## Assessment

Senior majors and minors will be asked to participate in additional assessments, for example through being interviewed to talk about your undergraduate education and more specifically the impact that your FGS major or minor has had on your thinking, doing, and being. Your participation helps us have the most effective possible program. Please respond to requests from the staff assistant, director, or FGS faculty when we ask you to participate in assessment activities such as surveys, focus groups, or interviews. Your collaboration helps us make sure that student perspectives are reflected in the curriculum and other aspects of the FGS program.

## Faculty Promotion

Faculty undergo three critical reviews that determine whether they can remain at the college for the long-term. During these reviews, faculty under review assemble a file of their teaching, scholarly, and service activities, and other provide evidence in support of their case that they should remain at the college and be promoted. At the same time, their Director or Steering Committee collects confidential evidence pertaining to teaching, scholarship, and service from students, staff, and faculty both on- and off-campus. Several committees of tenured faculty then review all of these materials and make recommendations to the Dean and to the President regarding whether someone should be retained or promoted. Additionally, all of the teaching evaluations you fill out online will be used as evidence of teaching effectiveness.

Student and alumni letters are key components of review files, because the letters provide a chance to reflect on a class and its professor long after the class has ended. They are considered essential, and when a file has too few letters, that does not look good for the person under review. If you are asked to contribute a letter to an FGS professor's file,

please do so. Your letter should directly address what you yourself have observed about that professor's teaching, advising, and mentoring. You can comment on the effects the faculty person has had on FGS more generally, especially if you were in a position as a feminist leader on campus. Your letters are strictly confidential, and will not be shared directly with the faculty person under review.

## **Funding**

The FGS budget has a limited amount of money reserved for student funding. In any given year, we receive requests for more money than we can provide. In order to apply for funding and for more information about other sources of funding that may support your request, click here: <http://tinyurl.com/k4oq82m>.