

Feminist & Gender Studies and the Colorado College Antiracism Initiative

While the work Professor Heidi R. Lewis has done since 2010 has been intersectional with a clear commitment to studies of race and racism, that work continued significantly when she was joined by Professor Nadia Guessous in 2015 and Professor Rushaan Kumar in 2018. As a result, in 2018, the program made this collective commitment more explicit with the development and implementation of a new mission and vision:

Mission

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

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.

This commitment manifests in nearly all courses offered by the Feminist & Gender Studies core faculty, such as Black Feminist Theory, Critical Whiteness Studies, Masculinities, Gendered Controversies, The Politics of Transnational Feminism, and Transnational Sexualities. Over the past 10 years, most of the core and elective courses offered by the core faculty have supported the college's efforts to provide a critical curriculum, as they have fulfilled the former Diversity requirement, the former Social Inequality and Global Cultures requirements, and the current Equity & Power requirement.

This commitment also manifests in the regular and special programming organized by the core faculty. For example, in the Critical Gender & Sexuality Studies Reading Group organized by Professor Guessous, faculty across the college have gathered to read and discuss texts like Jennifer C. Nash's *Black Feminism Reimagined: After Intersectionality*, Lilia Soto's *Girlhood in the Borderlands: Mexican Teens Caught in the Crossroads of Migration*, and Mimi Thi Nguyen's *The Gift of Freedom: War, Debt, and Other Refugee Passages*. Similarly, in the Transnational Feminist Film Club organized by Professor Kumar, faculty across the college have gathered to watch and discuss films like Stephen Frears' *My Beautiful Laundrette*, Park Chan-wook's *The Handmaiden*, and Anup Singh's *Qissa*. Additionally, the FemSTEM Symposium co-organized by Professor Lewis and Dean Andrea Bruder, has highlighted the relationships between feminism, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics by featuring guests, such as Cynthia Chapple (Founder and Managing Director of Black Girls Do STEM), Dr. Deboleena Roy (author of *Molecular Feminisms: Biology, Becomings, and Life in the Lab*), and Desirae Martinez ('13), the first student to graduate with a major in Mathematics and a minor in Feminist & Gender Studies.