

Feminist & Gender Studies Presents:

Senior Spotlight Rag! April 2026 Part 1: FGS Majors

Brailey Harris

Why did you decide to major in FGS?

When I was in a tailspin, trying to choose my major, my sister told me “study something that gives you the foundational perspective through which you will want to see and understand the world.” I realized that the work I was doing in the FGS was already helping me develop a critical eye that not only impacts how I approach school, but also every other area of my life in ways I STILL can’t fully articulate!

What would you tell students considering a major in FGS?

Majoring in FGS will force you to confront how many things you don’t realize you don’t know. That’s work that requires you to have humility and patience with yourself and others. On the bright side, when you know something, you KNOW you know it!

What is a favorite memory you have from FGS?

In summer 2024, I had the pleasure of interning for the National Women’s Studies Association. Later, I was invited back to attend and work at NWSA’s 44th annual conference. My first task was to install an ancestral altar for Black feminist and queer scholars and activists who contributed to this revolutionary history that I’m not only studying in the classroom, but which also provides me a lens through which I can deepen my wider political consciousness and self conception. This moment was so surreal for me that it brought me to tears! Dr. Lewis, the President of NWSA at the time, walked in on me and said “Brailey! I don’t have time for tears. But you know what, it’s good that you young people are so in touch with your emotions!” Then, she silently handed me the candles I needed for the altar, and let me take a moment to reflect. Since then, it’s been important to me to honor those who

have come long before me as well as make community with the Professors and mentors who are literally paving the way as they walk ahead of me.

What is the topic of your capstone project?

My project thinks of Afrofuturistic literature as an example of Black feminist worldmaking. Taking seriously the oftentimes contentious relationship between Black queerness and Black religious thought, I explore Octavia Butler’s *Parable of the Sower* to ask “what happens when we think of Black queerness as sacred?”



Kendall Reynolds

Why did you decide to major in FGS?

I decided to major in FGS because it gave me a language that I had been longing for. At the same time, it enabled me to be interdisciplinary and engage multiple genealogies of thought, which has been incredibly helpful as I begin to enter the workforce

What is a favorite memory you have from FGS?

One of my favorite memories is attending the NWSA conference this past year, where I had the opportunity to learn from and listen to scholars I deeply admire. A close second would be the time my Critical Disability Studies class all did the chicken dance together!

What would you tell students considering a major in FGS?

My biggest piece of advice I would offer to someone considering a major in FGS would be to take your wholeness seriously. FGS has been an incredible place for me to both grow academically and personally in ways that can only be discovered when they go hand in hand.

What are you looking forward to after graduation?

I am excited to continue my education at Rutgers, where I will pursue a Master’s in Feminist and Gender Studies.

What is the title of your capstone project?

Crip’s With Holding: The Geopolitics of Disability Aesthetics and Minimalist Forms.



Elsa Chadwick

Why did you decide to major in FGS?

I decided to major in FGS because after taking my first few classes with the department, I couldn’t see myself doing much else. I declared my major at the last minute, going with my gut rather than trying to choose something practical, and I will never regret that.

What is a favorite memory you have from FGS?

In my Transnational Sexualities class with Prof. Kumar, we had a whiteboard at the back of the room where we wrote down all our complaints, big and small. We were in Palmer facing South, so the chapel bell was always on the board. It was a little space where we could be angry and frustrated and silly all together, in solidarity with one another’s complaints.

What would you tell students considering a major in FGS?

An FGS major will challenge you and it will change you. You will read texts that blow your ideas about the world into pieces, and you will build a more complex, loving way of understanding things. You will meet people who will stay in your heart for the rest of your life. FGS is a tight-knit community where we care for each other and hold each other accountable to our shared values.

What are you looking forward to after graduation?

I’m looking forward to seeing where the wind takes me! I’m planning on getting a master’s degree in library sciences a few years down the road, but until then I’m going to keep working in catering and take a break from thinking too hard.

What is the topic of your capstone project?

How do memoirs by trans people that blur the line between fact and fiction open up new possibilities for ways of being?



Lila Garfield

Why did you decide to major in FGS?

I decided to major in FGS because I loved the classes I took with Dr. Guessous and Dr. Lewis my freshman and sophomore years.

What is a favorite memory you have from your time in FGS?

My favorite memory from my time in FGS was a roundtable discussion on the ALHAMDU Muslim Futurism exhibit at the FAC hosted by Dr. Guessous.

What would you tell students considering a major in FGS?

I would tell a student considering a major in FGS that it is really formative and will teach you how to think about the world. And not to be scared that you can’t do it even if sometimes it feels like you can’t.



What is a fun fact about you?

A fun fact about me is that I’ve been on the CC women’s club soccer team since freshman year.

What is the topic of your capstone project?

My capstone is about how Jewish leftists in the US today grapple with the tensions between affective attachments to Israel and Zionism and their political commitments. I conducted a case study on a Jewish leftist summer camp which I see as exemplifying larger dynamics on the Jewish left today. I explore diasporism as a path towards building Jewish communities and institutions that align with our values and politics.

Join us for the FGS Senior Capstone Presentations!

Wednesday, April 29th

3pm – 5pm

Tim Fuller Event Space

(Tutt Library 201)