New Directions in Gender Studies: 2016
2nd Biennial Midwest Undergraduate Conference

Hosted by
The University of Notre Dame’s Gender Studies Program

Co-sponsored by:
The Department of Gender and Women’s Studies, Saint Mary’s College
The Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Indiana University South Bend
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The Genevieve D. Willis Endowment for Excellence in Gender Studies, University of Notre Dame
The Notre Dame Departments:
- American Studies
- Anthropology
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology

Conference planning committee:
Abigail Palko
Mary Celeste Kearney
Stacy Davis
Sonalini Sapra
Ann Marie Short
Jamie Wagman
April Lidinsky

The committee is grateful to Lauri Roberts and Linnie Caye for their administrative assistance.
Friday, February 12

Masculinity and Film — Chair: Prof. Susan Ohmer
Dakota Connell-Ledwon (University of Notre Dame), The Hammer is (Not Just) My Penis: Masculinity and Physicality in Action/Adventure Movies
Jack Rooney (University of Notre Dame), Brave New World? The Newsroom, The Wire and a Contemporary Crisis in Masculinity
Bailey Scales (University of Notre Dame), “The Bumbling Bachelor” Starring Hugh Grant as Hugh Grant

Transgressing Norms — Chair: Prof. Abby Palko
Alyssa J. Martin (University of Minnesota, Twin Cities), Woolf and Stein: Androgyny and Biography
Rachael Schwabe (Loyola University Chicago), The Fabric of Being: Undressing Gender’s Normativity
Melissa Monier (University of Michigan-Dearborn), The Laverne Cox Effect: The Hypersexualization, commodification, and colonization of Transwomen

Gendered Identity Politics — Chair: Prof. Jamie Wagman
Josie Wenig (Indiana University – Bloomington), Allo-Gays, Ally Gays: The Future of Radical Asexual Politics
Eleni Coleman (Denison University), An Upper-Class White Girl’s Struggle to Maintain Perfection
Anneliese Steele (Saint Mary’s College), The Elimination vs. The Preservation of the Gender Binary

Gender and Health Issues — Chair: Prof. Ann Marie Short
Alexis Alvarez (Saint Mary’s College), The Sex/Gender Ratio in Autism Spectrum Disorders: Identifying Females on the Spectrum
Stephanie Egyed (Indiana University), BDSM as a Site of Exposure Therapy: Reimagining Methodologies in Trauma Reduction for Victims of Sexual Assault
Cristina Hidalgo McCabe (University of Notre Dame), Intimate Partner Violence in Uganda; Perceptions and Intervention Initiatives

Gender and the Workplace — Chair: Prof. Mary Celeste Kearney
Megan M. Mull (University of Michigan-Dearborn), Gender Equity and Women in Law: Lean In or Lean On
Abbi Hanson (University of Evansville), Connie Rodd: Smart Sergeant or Pornographic Pinup?
Pete Freeman (University of Notre Dame), Training Technopreneurs: Potential Solutions for Improving Female Technopreneurs’ Self-Efficacy in Switzerland
Hannah Cagle (Wheaton College), Exclusively Women, Freely Feminine: An Ethnography of Suburban Women Entrepreneurs

Gender and (Geopolitical) Conflict — Chair: Prof. Sonalini Sapra
Bailey Williams (Northwestern University), CNN’s Online Depictions of Women and ISIS: A Close Analysis in the Wake of the 2015 Paris Attacks
Madeline Corsaro (Saint Mary’s College), La Malinche: The Silhouette of the Conquest
Zia Kandler (Oberlin College) and Chelsea Viteri (Clark University), Women in Resistance: Impacts on Land, Life and Community
Anna Forringer-Beal (University of Michigan), Invisible Genders: How Central American Women Migrants Navigate Agency and Vulnerability

Saturday, February 13

Gender and Politics — Chair: Prof. April Lidinsky
Abigail Bartels (University of Notre Dame), My Strategy Brings All the Boys to the Yard: an analysis of the gender gap and its impact on the swing vote in American presidential elections
Taylor Phillips (Ohio Northern University), Female Lobbyists and Their View on a Gender Gap within the Lobbying Field
Connor Hayes (University of Notre Dame), Outing the Party: Irish Political Parties and the Shaping of Activist Behavior in the 2015 Same-Sex Marriage Referendum

Challenging Masculinity — Chair: Prof. Darlene Hampton
Daniel Bland (University of Notre Dame), Warrior Culture and Hypermasculinity in Macbeth
Katherine Will (Loyola University Chicago), The “Golden Age” of the French Foreign Legion: A Cultural Analysis of the Legion through Film and Memoir Depictions
Megan McCormack (University of Notre Dame), Male Fantasy in French Literature from the 18th to 20th Century

Motherhood — Chair: Prof. Stacy Davis
Rebecca Wornhoff (University of Notre Dame), “There’s No Parent Training”: The Interplay of Medical, North American, and Traditional Parenting Models in Nicaragua
Lindsay Bean (Purdue University), Comparing Infant and Maternal Mortality in Kenya and the Democratic Republic of Congo
Anne Kuster (University of Notre Dame), La Mujer Manda: Economic Barriers to Financial Independence amongst Mexican Single Mothers
Alyssa Santos (Saint Mary’s College), Pregnancy and the Birth Process in America: Who Really Holds all the Control?

Women and Empowerment — Chair: Prof. Liz Evans
McKenzie Campbell (University of Michigan), 50 Shades of Agency: The Impact of Fifty Shades of Grey on Sexual Agency in America
Lesley Stevenson (University of Notre Dame), “Bad Bitch Mentality”: The Mean Girls of High School Films