

MIT Program in Women's and Gender Studies

As it enters its 31st year, the MIT [Program in Women's and Gender Studies](#) (WGS) continues to build on its success as an interdisciplinary undergraduate program, providing a community in which students, faculty, and staff can participate in scholarly inquiry focusing on women, gender, and sexuality. The core mission of WGS is to educate MIT undergraduates on the importance of gender equity and to promote a broad understanding of gender and its complex intersectionality with sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, ability, religious affiliation, and other categories of identity. WGS also plays an important role at the Institute in organizing programming to facilitate the discussion of gender and women's issues among faculty members, students, staff, and the broader MIT community. WGS faculty affiliates engage in cutting-edge research on a variety of subjects relating to historical and contemporary questions of gender and sexuality as manifested in the US and across the globe. In these various aspects of the program's educational mission, whether through teaching, research, or programming, WGS seeks to support the Institute's efforts to promote community, equity, inclusion, and diversity while educating the next generation of leaders for an increasingly diverse workplace.

Since its genesis in 1984, WGS has provided a much-needed space for the discussion of gender, sexuality, and related issues within an academic framework. With gender equity an issue of ongoing importance, and with attention being drawn nationally to campus sexual assault and related questions of gender or sexual discrimination, WGS continues to play a crucial educational role at the Institute. Student outreach and the development of courses to meet student needs and interests have been ongoing goals for the program. A surge in enrollments in WGS subjects this year indicates the success of these efforts: enrollments increased from 280 in AY2014 to 387 in AY2015, including 27 concentrators.

Another central objective for WGS as an interdisciplinary program is to serve as a resource and support for faculty who have advanced knowledge of women's and gender studies within particular disciplines and who want to enrich their research by collaborating across disciplinary lines. The [WGS Intellectual Forum](#), a monthly platform for sharing work in progress, brings the faculty community together for interdisciplinary conversation on topics of shared concern, and also provides engagement with outside guest speakers, who bring new expertise and insights to our intellectual community. WGS-sponsored conferences and symposia furthermore serve as an invaluable opportunity for interdisciplinary inquiry and collaboration.

Along with teaching and research, programming is essential to the WGS mission. WGS regularly collaborates with other academic units, student groups, and offices across the Institute to bring to MIT events dealing with such topics as the history and current status of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), gender equity, global development and migration, medicine and health, harassment and violence prevention, and women's contributions to literature, arts, and the media, among others. The goal of this programming is to foster crucial conversations on issues of gender, sexuality, diversity, inclusion and equity, while attracting students to the program's classes.

The program's commitment to the study of women, gender, and sexuality extends beyond MIT to the broader Cambridge and Boston-area communities. In AY2015, WGS continued to work with the Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies (GCWS), which is currently hosted at MIT. Founded in 1992, the GCWS draws from nine local universities (Boston College, Boston University, Brandeis University, Harvard University, MIT, Northeastern University, Simmons College, Tufts University, and the University of Massachusetts–Boston) whose faculty members offer team-taught interdisciplinary graduate courses. Professor Sandy Alexandre served as the MIT representative to the consortium and successfully lobbied for MIT to extend its commitment to the GCWS for another five years.

WGS undertook numerous activities in AY2015 in support of the current goals of the program. These goals are:

- To strengthen collaborative and interdisciplinary research initiatives in WGS, building on the success of the Intellectual Forum and WGS-sponsored symposia in fostering intellectual community across academic units at MIT;
- To recruit new faculty affiliates and to foster diversity within the program;
- To update and reinvigorate the WGS curriculum in alignment with current directions in the broader field of women's and gender studies, with special attention to underdeveloped areas of the curriculum such as gender and health, gender and public policy; and gender and race/ethnicity;
- To extend WGS's outreach to underrepresented and first-generation students at MIT; and
- To build on collaborative ties with offices such as the Student Affairs Office (SAO), the Office of Minority Education (OME), and the Institute Community and Equity Office (ICEO).

Personnel

In AY2015, Professor Emma J. Teng [Department of History and Global Studies and Languages (GSL)] completed her final year as program director. She continued to be an active member of the Borders Research Initiative (BRI) and participated in the organizing of two academic symposia for WGS this year. Professor Teng will be moving into a new role as head of GSL effective July 1, and will be succeeded by Professor Helen Elaine Lee [Comparative Media Studies/Writing (CMS/W)] as WGS program director.

WGS Program Manager Emily Neill, completed her first full year in the position in May 2015. In addition to the established duties of the program manager, Ms. Neill expanded her role by becoming the undergraduate academic administrator (UAA), attending the monthly UAA meetings in addition to the monthly meeting of administrative officers in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Science (SHASS)s. She also assumed the role of the program's webmaster, designing and launching a new WGS website to reflect current program goals better before the Humanities Visiting Committee arrived in October 2014. In addition, Ms. Neill was appointed as the SHASS liaison to the Council on Staff Diversity and Inclusion, and she joined a working group of staff from across the five Schools entitled Diversity Think Tank.

New faculty affiliates joining WGS included Andrea Campbell from the Political Science Department, Graham Jones of Anthropology, Christopher Leighton of History, and T. L. Taylor of Comparative Media Studies and Writing. To increase the program's offerings in the area of gender and health, WGS hired a new lecturer, Dr. Brittany Charlton, who taught a highly popular subject WGS.151 Gender, Health, and Society. Dr. Elena Mendez Escobar of the Sloan School of Management offered a redesigned version of WGS.150 Gender, Power, Leadership and the Workplace in spring 2015. Returning lecturers Dr. Chivi Kapungu, Dr. Abha Sur, Dr. Kim Surkan, and Dr. Andrea Walsh continued to teach for the program. Dr. Catherine Zipf continued her appointment as a visiting scholar in WGS.

Searches in SHASS this year brought to WGS three new faculty members with research and teaching interests related to the program: Professors Tanalis Padilla and Caley Horan in History and Bettina Stoetzer in Global Studies and Languages. Professor Stoetzer will offer a new class in fall 2015, Gender in Science, Technology and Environment, and Professor Horan will teach WGS.110 Sexual and Gender Identities for WGS, adding an historical dimension to the syllabus.

The WGS committee structure consists of a Steering Committee, Programming Committee, Curriculum Committee, and Prize Committee; a Film Festival Committee was added this year. In AY2015, the members of these committees were:

- Steering Committee: Director: Emma Teng (History and Global Studies and Languages); WGS Program Manager: Emily Neill (WGS); Senior Faculty Representative: T. L. Taylor (CMS/W); Junior Faculty Representative: Lerna Ekmekcioglu (History); Lecturers' Representative: Andrea Walsh (WGS and CMS/W);
- Graduate Student Representative: Renee Blackburn [History, Anthropology, and Science, Technology, and Society (HASTS)]; Undergraduate Student Representative: Margo Dawes (Department of Urban Studies and Planning); GCWS Representative: Sandy Alexandre (Literature); and WGS Librarian: Patsy Baudoin (Library);
- Curriculum Committee: Diana Henderson (Literature) and Christine Walley (Anthropology);
- Programming Committee: Heather Paxson (Anthropology);
- Prize Committee: Chair: Andrea Walsh (CMS/W); Sandy Alexandre (Literature); and Kim Surkan (WGS); and
- Women Take the Reel Film Festival Committee: Lana Cook (GCWS), Marisa Fryer (MIT undergraduate), Helen Elaine Lee (CMS/W), Emily Neill (WGS), T. L. Taylor (CMS/W).

Research Activities

WGS faculty affiliates research a broad range of topics, extending from theories of justice and feminist philosophy to the anthropology of reproduction, French adoption policy, the implications of domestic deindustrialization and long-term unemployment, the politics of the production and consumption of food, women in Mongolian electoral politics, South Asian immigrant communities in the US, gender and technology, Vladimir Putin and Russian masculinity, Taiwanese women politicians, and the history of Turkish and Armenian feminism, among other subjects. WGS faculty affiliates continued to make active contributions to their individual disciplinary fields as well as to the interdisciplinary field of women's and gender studies. Their accomplishments are listed in the reports of their home departments. In addition, faculty affiliates participated in the following WGS collaborative research initiatives:

The Borders Research Initiative

The Borders Research Initiative (BRI) in Women and Gender Studies at MIT brings together an interdisciplinary group of MIT faculty and graduate students in the humanities, arts, and social sciences who are dedicated to examining issues of border-crossing and citizenship, especially as they intersect with gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, and religion. Launched in 2011, the collaborative research group seeks to understand national borders and border crossings in historical and comparative perspective, analyzing how concepts of citizenship, identity, gender, and race have evolved over time. Participants in the BRI have included the following WGS affiliates and associates:

- Coordinators: Christopher Capozzola (History), Bruno Perreau (GSL), and Emma Teng (History and GSL).
- Participants: Azra Aksamija (ACT), Sana Aiyar (History), Vivek Bald (CMS/W), Manduhai Buyandelger (Anthropology), Catherine Clark (GSL), Ian Condry (GSL and CMS/W, Anthropology), Sasha Costanza-Chock (CMS/W), Isabelle de Courtivron (Sciences Po/MIT Professor Emerita), Frédérique Donovan (GSL), Amah Edo (HASTS graduate student), Lerna Ekmekcioglu (History and WGS), Malick Ghachem (History), Diana Henderson (Literature), Erica James (Anthropology), Heather Lee (GSL), Lucas Müller (HASTS graduate student), Hiromu Nagahara (History), Kym Ragusa (CMS/W), Margery Resnick (Literature), Sarah Song (former faculty in Political Science), Chuong-Dai Vo (WGS Visiting Scholar), Tess Wise (MIT alumna, Harvard graduate student), and Elizabeth Wood (History)

The Gender and Technology Initiative

The Gender and Technology Initiative was launched in 2011–2012 with support from a grant from the d'Arbelloff Fund for Excellence in Education. The aim of this initiative was to develop an undergraduate subject on gender and technology, in addition to annual programming and activities to foster intellectual community and collaborative research on the intersections of gender and technology. In October 2014, WGS collaborated with OME and ICEO to host a symposium, *Challenging Technical Privilege: How Race and Gender Matter* [co-sponsored by the Department of Electrical

Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) and the Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL). This symposium featured a panel with Tami Forrester (Course 6, Class of 2015), Gabriela A. Gonzalez, senior STEM strategist, Intel Corporate Affairs, Donna Milgram, executive director, National Institute for Women in Trades, Technology and Science, Jane Stout, director, Center for Evaluating the Research Pipeline, Computing Research Association, and Jean Yang (PhD student, EECS/CSAIL) that was facilitated by Professor Edmund Bertschinger, MIT Institute community and equity officer. In AY2015, WGS Lecturer Kim Surkan and Maia Weinstock, deputy editor of *MIT News* offered a four-day Independent Activities Period (IAP) subject, [Writing Women Into Wikipedia](#), a description of which [appeared on Wikipedia](#). In addition, Dr. Surkan, one of the grant's original participants, continued her work with FemTechNet and the Situated Knowledges map project.

The Gender and Technology Initiative includes the following WGS affiliates and associates: Renee Blackburn (HASTS graduate student), Michael M.J. Fischer [Anthropology and Science, Technology, and Society (STS)], Sally Haslanger (Philosophy), Stefan Helmreich (Anthropology), Erica Caple James (Anthropology), Nicole Labruto (HASTS graduate student), Amy Johnson (HASTS graduate students), J. Nathan Matias (Media Arts and Sciences graduate student), Susan Murcott (research scientist, Department of Urban Studies and Planning), Burcu Mutlu (HASTS graduate student), Heather Paxson (Anthropology), Amy Smith (D-Lab), Abha Sur (WGS and Program in Science, Technology, and Society), Kim Surkan (WGS), T.L. Taylor (CMS/W), Mitali Thakor (HASTS graduate student), Chris Walley (Anthropology), and Elizabeth Wood (History).

The WGS Intellectual Forum provides an opportunity for faculty affiliates and visiting scholars to share research and present their work in progress. WGS hosted a very successful forum series in AY2015, featuring the work of Kim Surkan, T.L. Taylor, Andrea Campbell, Meredith Schweig, Helen Elaine Lee, Coco Fusco (Martin Luther King, Jr., Visiting Scholar) and Brittany Charlton.

Teaching and Curriculum

WGS offers an undergraduate curriculum of approximately 20 subjects, including subjects cross-listed in a range of departments: Anthropology, Brain and Cognitive Sciences; Comparative Media Studies/Writing; Global Studies and Languages; History; Linguistics and Philosophy; Literature; and the Program in Science, Technology, and Society. Students may concentrate in, minor in, or petition for a major (called a "major departure") in Women's and Gender Studies. WGS offered 21 subjects during AY2015, enrolling a total of 387 students.

WGS subjects for AY2015 included:

- WGS.101 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies
- WGS.110 Sexual and Gender Identities
- WGS.111J, CMS.619J Gender and Media Studies
- WGS.125J/CMS.616J Games and Culture
- WGS.222J/21H.381J Women and War

- WGS.228J/9.75J The Psychology of Gender and Race
- WGS.240J/21L.473J Jane Austen
- WGS.270J/21A.442J Violence, Human Rights, and Justice
- WGS.301J/24.237J Feminist Thought
- WGS.109 Women and Global Activism in Media and Politics
- WGS.115 Gender and Technology
- WGS.140J/21L.504J Race and Identity in American Literature
- WGS.141J/21F.022J/21L.048J International Women's Voices
- WGS.150 Gender, Power, Leadership and the Workplace
- WGS.151 Gender, Health, and Society
- WGS.225J/21A.103J/STS.046J The Science of Race, Sex and Gender
- WGS.231J/21W.742J Writing About Race
- WGS.236J/21F.030J/21F.193J Introduction to East Asian Culture: From Zen to K-Pop
- WGS.272J/21A.445J Slavery & Human Trafficking in the 21st Century

IAP offerings included:

- *Writing Women into Wikipedia* with Maia Weinstock (deputy editor, *MIT News*) and Kim Surkan (WGS lecturer),
- SmartStyle with Emily Neill (WGS program manager), Marianna Novelino (Sloan School of Management), Julia Somerdin (Sloan School of Management), and Grey Kammerer (Rhode Island School of Design),
- Beyonce: Black Feminist Thought in Popular Culture with Sandy Alexandre (Literature), and
- Full Throttle: Gender Representation in Car Films with Renee Blackburn (PhD student, HASTS).

The program's ongoing curriculum development gives priority to subjects that are tailored to meet the needs of MIT students. These include gender and STEM-related subjects and the global and comparative study of women and gender, with special attention given to the intersectionality of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and class. In response to student demand, WGS continued to offer two sections of WGS.101 Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies, a required course for all students concentrating or minoring in WGS, enabling approximately 50 students per year to explore the field at the introductory level. WGS also added two new subjects to the curriculum: WGS.151 *Gender, Health and Society* and a revised version of WGS.150 *Gender, Power, Leadership, and the Workplace*. To support students' preparation for the new [Medical College Admission Test requirement](#) instituted in April 2015, WGS offered two sections of WGS.228/9.75J *Psychology of Gender and Race* and, as noted, developed a new subject, WGS.150 *Gender, Health and Society*. Enrollments in these

subjects were robust, with the new subject on Gender, Health and Society enrolling 35 (its cap) after preregistration numbers topped 70.

Several subjects were approved for cross-listing with WGS for the coming academic year, including Gender and Japanese Popular Culture (GSL); Gender in Science, Technology and Environment (GSL); and Modern Drama (Literature). In addition, to support the program's diversity goals, WGS decided to revive the Latina Women's Voices seminar, which has not been offered for several years.

Program Highlights and Accomplishments

WGS programming continually reflects the wide spectrum of academic disciplines and issues related to the field of Women's and Gender Studies, and the program's commitment to collaborative work with groups across the MIT campus and in the Cambridge and Boston communities. In AY2015, WGS collaborated with academic departments and programs such as Anthropology; Comparative Media Studies/ Writing; Global Studies and Languages; History; Literature; and the Program in Science, Technology, and Society, as well as with non-academic units such as the OME, the SAO, Residential Life, LGBT Services and the Rainbow Lounge, the Violence Prevention Network, and the Institute Community and Equity Office (ICEO). Through co-sponsorship of their events, WGS further supported various student groups, including Spanish House, the Association of Asian American Students, [LGBT@MIT](#) (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer), [GW@MIT](#) (graduate women), the Title IX Student Working Group, and SWIM (Sloan women at MIT).

Programming highlights from AY2015 included the following events:

- In collaboration with ICEO and OME, and with co-sponsorship from EECS and CSAIL, WGS organized a very successful panel event entitled "Challenging Technical Privilege: How Race and Gender Matter." Focusing on the issues of technical privilege and implicit bias, and the intersections of race and gender, the panel featured well-known researchers in the field, professional women working in STEM fields, and MIT graduate and undergraduate students. This event attracted close to 300 people from across the MIT community and beyond, and had to be moved to a larger room to accommodate the demand. It also drew media attention and was featured in a story on [Boston.com](#). [A video of the event is available](#).
- With co-sponsorships from GSL and History, WGS organized a day-long symposium on Consuming Food, Producing Culture: Past and Present Worlds of Food and Gender, featuring an interdisciplinary group of MIT faculty as well as luminaries from the food world. The symposium was prefaced by a screening and discussion with director Ian Cheney of the documentary, *Food Truck*. Symposium panels focused on the themes of mobility, food and identity; scientific progress and pitfalls; and from the archives. The event ended with a demo of Val Wang's interactive project, Planet Takeout.
- In the centennial year of the Armenian genocide, the McMillan-Stewart Lecture Series on Women in the Developing World, led by Professor Lerna Ekmekcioglu, presented two major events. In the fall, a renowned scholar in the field of Middle

Eastern Studies, Professor Fatma Muge Gocek, presented "The Violence of Denial: Turkish Women's Memories of Armenians, 1789–2009," showcasing her groundbreaking new book, which was released on the same day as her talk. This event was especially significant because it was the first time in MIT's history that an event was co-sponsored by both the Armenian and Turkish students' groups. In the spring term, Professor Ekmekcioglu organized a panel of three scholars—Veena Das, Melissa Bilal and Hourig Attarian—focusing on "Memory Matters: Gender and the Politics of Knowledge Production on the Armenian Genocide." Both events were widely attended by people from MIT and from Greater Boston. The video of the panel discussion was featured on MIT TechTV's highlighted videos page as a way of marking the centennial.

- In collaboration with Harvard University and Wellesley College, WGS co-organized a day-long symposium at Harvard, *New Voices and New Approaches in China Gender Studies*. Notable for its cross-institutional collaborative networking, the symposium featured panels on the two broad themes of Gender, Class and Politics: *The Gendered Effects of Social and Political Transformation in Maoist and Post-Mao China*, and *Migration and Intersectionality: Case Studies in Transnational Mobility and Gendered Social Processes*.
- WGS again partnered with GCWS to produce Boston's sixth annual Women's History Month Film Festival, *Women Take the Reel*. Films were screened throughout the month of March at nine academic institutions: MIT, Tufts University, Northeastern University, Boston College, Boston University, Lesley University, Simmons College, Brandeis University, and Emerson College. Each institution hosted film screenings followed by discussions with film directors or producers, film protagonists, faculty, or more than one of these. MIT's highlight was a screening of Joanna Lipper's *The Supreme Price* on the eve of the film's United Nations-sponsored European opening and the postponed Nigerian elections. The documentary focused on the changing role of women in Nigerian politics. Director Joanna Lipper introduced the film and also led a post-screening discussion with a packed house of MIT faculty, staff, and students, as well as community attendees.
- In collaboration with SAO, the Violence Prevention Network (VPN), and the Title IX Office, WGS co-organized an information session for students and staff about changes to Title IX processes and the resources available to them on campus. WGS also partnered with VPN and SAO to co-sponsor a campus performance of *Slut: The Play* as the headline event of Sexual Assault Awareness Month (April). The play was performed three times; all shows were well attended and were followed by discussion groups with attendees about such topics as sexual assault, date rape, and slut shaming. WGS worked with its counterparts at Harvard University, Simmons College, and Wellesley College to organize group trips to attend the production.
- WGS co-sponsored with GSL and CMS/W a talk given by former WGS Program Director Professor Thomas F. Defrantz entitled "Switch: The Dancing Body of the State, Queer Social Dance, Political Leadership, and Black Popular Culture."

- WGS co-sponsored with the History Department the Sahin Lecture by Professor Susan R. Grayzel (University of Mississippi), entitled "The Afterlife of the Chemists' War: Gas Masks and Civilian Bodies in Imperial Britain and France, c. 1915-45."
- WGS hosted a luncheon with Pam Swallow, a descendant of MIT's first woman alumna, Ellen Swallow Richards (Class of 1873), to share research and stories about her forthcoming biography, *The Remarkable Life and Career of Ellen Swallow Richards*. This luncheon was attended by MIT faculty, librarians, and graduate and undergraduate students.

WGS presented its annual Kampf Writing Prize to two MIT students this year. Jean Bauer won for "The Rise and Fall (and Rise and Fall) of Transgender Narratives in Mainstream American Comics," and Hannah Pang won for "Story Dates." The prizes included cash awards and a celebratory luncheon with Professor Emeritus Louis Kampf and other WGS faculty.

The celebration of WGS's 30th anniversary was postponed until fall 2015 because the founding director and other core faculty members of WGS were on leave and out of the country.

Administrative Initiatives

Diversity Initiatives

As an outcome of last year's outreach efforts with the OME, the Committee on Race and Diversity, Lincoln Laboratory, and various MIT student groups, WGS co-organized (with the OME, ICEO, CSAIL, and EECS), the highly successful event, "Challenging Technical Privilege: How Race and Gender Matter." The event was attended by Lincoln Laboratory representatives in addition to faculty, staff, and students from the main campus, as well as community attendees. A major initiative undertaken in AY2015 was the submission of a nomination for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Visiting Scholars Program. Although the nomination did not succeed, it served to galvanize the WGS community on the urgent need to expand diversity and inclusion in the program. WGS plans to go forward next year with a symposium on Women of Color Feminisms that was originally proposed in conjunction with this nomination. WGS also supported the successful nomination of Cristina Perez for the SHASS Diversity Predoctoral Fellowship Program. Perez's dissertation, "Bodies on the Line: Violence, Disposable Subjects, and the Border Industrial Complex," "interrogates how the increasingly privatized, technologized, and militarized security complex along the United States' southern border serves to normalize and legitimize acts of violence against Mexicans. Her project explores how the construction of this border industrial complex draws on and deploys a complicated network of gendered, hyper-sexualized, and racialized narratives of Mexican migrants as disposable commodities." GSL has generously provided co-sponsorship funds to help WGS host Perez as a visiting scholar next year. Perez's research topic is an excellent fit with the Borders Research Initiative, and further dovetails with the interests of Professor Helen Lee, who will serve as Perez's mentor.

With respect to diversity in the curriculum, a significant number of WGS subjects in AY2015 addressed the intersection of race and gender, including:

- WGS.231J/21W.742J Writing About Race
- WGS.228J/9.75J The Psychology of Gender and Race
- WGS.109 Women and Global Activism in Media and Politics
- WGS.140J/21L.504J Race and Identity in American Literature
- WGS.141J/21F.022J/21L.048J International Women's Voices
- WGS.225J/21A.103J/STS.046J The Science of Race, Sex and Gender
- WGS.236J/21F.030J/21F.193J Introduction to East Asian Culture: From Zen to K-Pop and
- WGS.272J/21A.445J Slavery & Human Trafficking in the 21st Century.

In addition, the Curriculum Committee approved the revival of the *Latina Women's Voices* subject, which has not been offered for several years. It will be taught in fall 2015 as *Latino Experience in Literature, Film, and Popular Culture*. WGS affiliate Professor Ian Condry also reworked a course that will be cross-listed with WGS in AY2016 as *Gender in Japanese Popular Culture*.

WGS continued the initiative launched last year by Professor Christopher Capozzola to reevaluate and update the program's curriculum. WGS held a curriculum mini-retreat in late May to continue strategic planning on this front.

After deliberations on the Steering Committee in AY2014, WGS undertook a long-delayed initiative to redesign and relaunch the program's website to better reflect current faculty research as well as the WGS curriculum, programming, and other endeavors. The existing website was more than 10 years old and had become cumbersome to edit and update. The site was built in-house by new Program Manager Emily Neill, using the currently preferred platform, Drupal.

Finances and Funding

In addition to WGS's base budget, the program receives generous support from the SHASS Dean's Office for classes, conferences, and other programming. WGS also benefits from programming co-sponsorship from various units across MIT, as noted. Established in 1996, the Geneviève McMillan-Reba Stewart Professorship in the Study of Women in the Developing World and the Geneviève McMillan-Reba Stewart Lecture Series on Women in the Developing World are generously endowed by [Geneviève McMillan](#), a passionate believer in equal justice and opportunity. The McMillan-Stewart Chair is held by WGS affiliate Lerna Ekmekcioglu (recently promoted to associate professor without tenure in the Department of History), who teaches two WGS courses on women in the Middle East and North Africa and organizes the McMillan-Stewart Lecture Series.

A lack of space continues to be a concern for WGS. All of the program's part-time lecturers share a very small office space and a single computer, which was only recently

upgraded. The WGS main office, which houses the program director and manager in addition to student workers, continues to face a space deficit, with a need especially for storage space and additional workspace for part-time lecturers. The women's and gender studies book collection housed in WGS headquarters is seriously overcrowded; steps must be taken to install new and more secure shelving as the current bookshelves are unstable and potentially hazardous. WGS is now studying the feasibility of dividing the study room in WGS headquarters and installing office cubicles to provide more private workspace for lecturers and visiting scholars.

WGS also continues to need increased staff support. In particular, the addition of a half-full-time equivalent employee to support the program manager and reduce the program's reliance on student workers would greatly enhance the ability of WGS to meet its goals and ambitions. It is difficult to realize the program's goals and ambitions with one full-time program manager to meet all the multifaceted demands of a busy academic program and its very active faculty affiliates.

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