From the Director’s Desk

The CGIS executive board welcomes conference participants of the New York Africana Studies Association on the weekend of April 4-5, featuring 40 presenters on a variety of topics.

Our online journal, Wagadu, has published the special issue of Women and Imprisonment along with a general issue edited by Dr. Tiattian Zheng, and a book review issue, edited by Dr. Kate Coffey. We are also fortunate to have the support of other faculty who assist with the review process and translation of abstracts.

In Fall 2013, in my capacity as New York Africana Studies President, I convened a newly formed consortium of SUNY and CUNY Africana studies affiliated faculty and chairs at SUNY New Paltz. Our resolution was forwarded and passed to our respective chancellors’ offices for the creation of Ph.D. programs in Africana studies, since New York does not yet have one in its public universities.

Furthermore, Dr. Seth Asumah and I traveled again to New Paltz to be founding members of another consortium devoted to strengthen women’s and gender studies programs and departments as well as Africana studies and allied intercultural programs. CGIS may very well serve as a model center for the chairs and program directors present from other SUNY comprehensive colleges.

Our board continues to be highly productive, as the list of publications produced by our faculty indicates. Furthermore, I would like to thank Dr. Seth Asumah and Dr. Caroline Kaltefleiter for engaging the campus with diverse and intellectually engaging programs during Black History Month and Women’s History Month.

Finally, I thank Erin Zucca, communication studies major and CGIS intern, for her dedication, skill and creativity in putting together a fine spring newsletter.

About the Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies

With a board of 18 faculty members and seven committees drawing about 90 faculty and staff members, CGIS has recast itself with a strong academic and scholarly mission and recommending policy at the local as well as state-wide level.

The center hosts five interdisciplinary minors — women’s studies, Jewish studies, Asian/Middle Eastern studies, Latino and Latin American studies, and Native American studies — that complement any major.

Award of Excellence in Understanding Multicultural and Gender Issues 2013

The Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies would like to take the time to congratulate Elton Closs for winning the 2013 Award of Excellence in Understanding Multicultural and Gender Issues. Elton is a current senior at SUNY Cortland majoring in history and minoring in both Asian/Middle Eastern studies and anthropology. He is extremely happy to be honored with this award from SUNY Cortland.

Asian/Middle Eastern studies is one of five CGIS interdisciplinary minors offered and was recommended to Elton by his professors in the Art and Art History Department. Elton feels that in this day and age it is extremely important to be aware of other cultures and to embrace diversity. Furthermore, he feels as if it is important to visit other places around the world because in the work environment, there are many multinational companies that exist. This is all very true — achieving cultural competence will set any job applicant apart from others.

However, Asian/Middle Eastern studies is no stranger to Elton. Outside of college, he spent six months in Vietnam and additional time in Southeast Asia. He also traveled to Asia with SUNY Cortland Professor Paul Parks.

We are enthused to learn of this amazing learning experience.

He says, “Any students interested in intercultural studies should broaden their horizons because no matter what career path you are following, it is always important to learn about the world.”

Elton is contemplating pursuing a graduate degree at Cornell University. CGIS once again congratulates him on his award and we wish him luck with any future endeavors.

Erin Zucca, Intern, Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies
Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies

CGIS Faculty Publications

Books
Lynn Couturier


Trans 101: Diversity and Respect Workshop

Rebecca Kling, a Chicago-based artist and educator, spoke to over 170 staff, faculty, students and community members about gender identity through storytelling, personal narrative, humor and movement. She gave both a talk and a performance on Thursday, March 20. Her Trans 101: Diversity and Respect Workshop offered an educational primer on transgender issues and experiences, including language, definitions, appropriate interactions and how to successfully provide a supportive community for transgender persons.

Ms. Kling gave a nuanced description of cis gender identity (gender identity that conforms to one’s biological sex) and trans* identity (includes all variations outside of cis gender). She also described common problems that trans* individuals encounter in everyday life such as issues with facilities, medical practitioners and employment challenges.

The workshop was well received and provided a robust foundational discussion about how to provide an inclusive and supportive campus and community for trans* individuals. The event was the second yearly event of the Louis Larson Lecture and Performance Series.
Additional CGIS Faculty Publications

Books


Chapters/Articles:


Additional Chapters/Articles

Book Reviews
Ellis E. McDowell-Loudan

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We’re on the Web
Visit us at:
cortland.edu/cgis

SUNY Cortland
Center for Gender and Intercultural Studies

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