

Center for WOMEN'S AND GENDER Studies

Annual Report 2016-17



Center for **WOMEN'S AND GENDER** Studies *Annual Report | 2016-17*

The FIU Center for Women's and Gender Studies promotes scholarly inquiry related to women and gender. Through interdisciplinary courses in women's studies and cross-listed courses in other disciplines, the center enhances student knowledge about women, feminism, and the significance of gender in diverse cultures and contexts.

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Director's Message

We are pleased to share with you the accomplishments of the Center for Women's and Gender Studies (CWGS). Our center continues to excel in research, teaching and engagement within FIU and the South Florida community. Women's and Gender Studies continues to show strong leadership in the advancement of women, diversity, equity and LGBTQ+ visibility.

One of this past year's highlights was the successful launch of three initiatives that will expand our center's academic reach and community involvement. The center initiatives are: Women in STEM, Gender Based Violence Prevention, and FIU's 100 Women. The Women in STEM initiative at FIU seeks to increase the number of women in science, math and engineering through outreach, recruitment and retention efforts. Our Center aims to achieve this goal by making FIU a family-friendly institution. We also aim to explore the intersections of gender within these fields. The Gender Based Violence Prevention initiative will educate students through course work and connect FIU with the South Florida community to contribute to violence prevention efforts. FIU's 100 Women initiative honors female students, staff and faculty for their achievements, successes and contributions for a better society.

I am also proud to announce that the CWGS has secured two prestigious grants: the National Science Foundation ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Grant (NSF IT) and a Ware Foundation Grant. The NSF IT grant aims to make FIU a friendlier and more family-oriented environment for women and minorities. These goals will be achieved at FIU through a Diversity and Inclusion Initiative, Bystander Intervention Training and STRIDE (Strategies and Tactics for Recruiting to Improve Diversity and Excellence). The Ware Foundation Grant will bring South Florida and FIU communities together through education and activism which will bring awareness to prevention tactics.

In the past academic year, 8,638 students were enrolled in CWGS courses. We continue to see an increase in engagement

with our internship program, up from just 16 students in 2015 to 23 students in 2017. That's almost a 50% increase in just one academic year, and we are expecting to see even more gains next year. The CWGS is now serving over 200 students and has been ranked one of the top ten academic departments for advancing Global Learning at FIU. Many of our students have served as interns in programs that range from Planned Parenthood to the Women's Fund of Miami-Dade. Non-curricular activities featured more than 35 events including research conferences, faculty seminars and cultural activities. This year, CWGS introduced new courses to answer the needs of FIU's students and to expand our course offerings for the Queer Studies Certificate. We introduced two new, interdisciplinary LGBTQIA-focused courses entitled "Queer Rhetorics" and "Introduction to Transgender Studies." Both courses seek to address problems of heteronormativity and to center the experiences of LGBTQIA individuals.

We also continued to help our South Florida community by organizing several signature events, including the South Florida arm of the National Women's March, the Women in Politics event and the 7th Annual Women Faculty Leadership Conference. Each of these events is meant to engage women and minorities at FIU and show there's always a path forward. Through these events we hosted the Mothers of the Movement and local lawmakers. We hope to continue forging connections and opportunities for our FIU community.

Lastly, for their commitment, advocacy and efforts, I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to all faculty, staff and community activists whose contributions and hard work have made this an excellent year for the center, FIU students and the larger FIU community.

Warm regards,

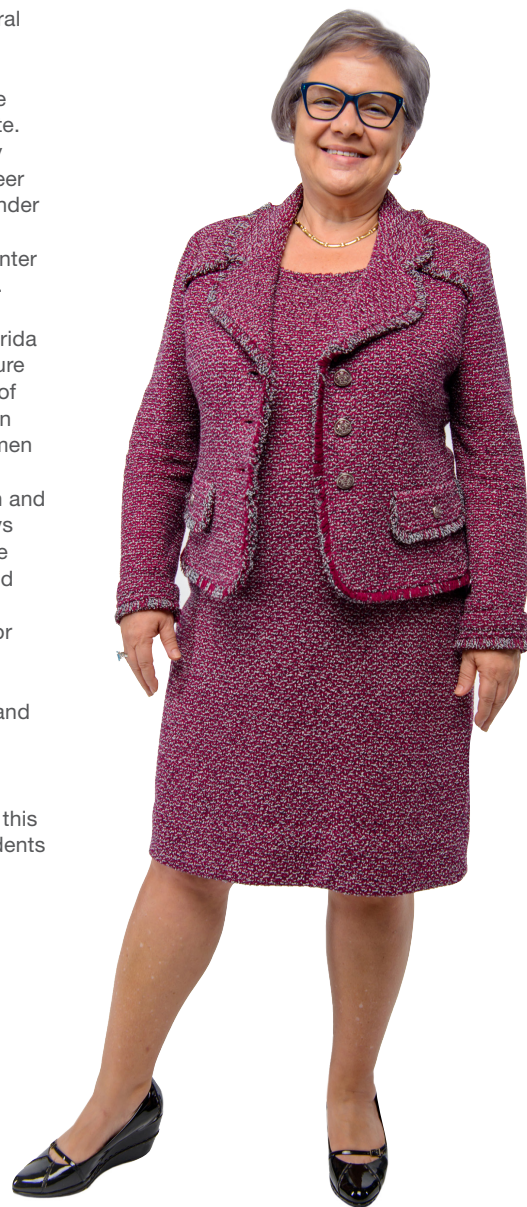


Yesim Darici

Director

Center for Women's and Gender Studies

Professor of Physics



Meet our **GRADUATE ASSISTANTS**



Jessy Abouarab

Jessy Abouarab has been a graduate assistant at the Center for Women's and Gender studies since 2015. Currently, Jessy is a Ph.D. candidate in International Relations. Her dissertation focuses on gender security and the Syrian refugee crisis. As part of her academic work, Jessy finds herself traveling back and forth between Lebanon and Miami to gather a first-person perspective of gender-based refugee disenfranchisement.

In addition to contributing to important scholarship on global gender issues, Jessy also helps the center organize and recruit. She is a member of the diversity panel at FIU and helps orchestrate diversity week. She is instrumental in recruiting efforts and you can often find her tabling in the Graham Center to introduce students to the center. Jessy's ability to network extends beyond the FIU community, where she has made inroads in voter registration efforts, grassroots organizing and hosting impactful public speakers who help educate our faculty, staff and students.



Allison Sardinas

Allison Sardinas is a second year Master's candidate in English literature. She is a graduate assistant with the CWGS and a community organizer. Her scholarship focuses on the intersections of race, gender and literature in online discourse.

Outside of her academic interests, Allison is very active within FIU and the South Florida community. She organized Miami's Muslim Ban Protest in early 2017 at the Miami International Airport. Since, she's organized a screening of the Syrian refugee documentary, '8 Border, 8 Days' at O Cinema in Wynwood. She also helped launch the new FIU 100 Women initiative by CWGS. Currently she is working with local undocumented activists in her community, to provide better justice for them and representation in an uncertain political climate. Allison is also part of the Coalition to End Child Marriage in Florida on behalf of the CWGS Initiative for Gender Violence Prevention.

Student SPOTLIGHT



Daniela Deas

B.A in Women's and Gender Studies,
Expected Graduation: Fall 2017

Daniela Deas is an inspiring student. She is set to graduate in the summer of 2017 with her Bachelor's in Women's and Gender studies. Daniela is currently an intern at the Center for Women's and Gender Studies.

Daniela's road to graduation has not been an easy one. Early in her life, Daniela found herself at odds with the juvenile justice system. Pregnant and considered 'at-risk', Daniela found support in the PACE Center for Girls. With the help of Pace, her community, and her family, Daniela once again found her footing.

Daniela is now a proud mom to a beautiful three-year-old girl named Autumn. After she graduates from FIU, she plans on pursuing a Master's degree in order to help other women and girls declared 'at-risk' by the system.



Katherine Campaniony

B.A. in Psychology, Undergraduate
Certificate in Women's and Gender Studies,
Expected Graduation: Fall 2017

Katherine Campaniony is a dedicated student, activist and caretaker within the FIU community. Katherine took Professor Sandy Skelaney's course on Sex Trafficking when it was first offered in 2016. This inspired her to become an advocate fighting gender violence while interning for the new Initiative for Gender Violence Prevention.

Katherine also works at the crisis unit at Citrus Health Network — a not-for-profit community mental health facility. There, she works with children who have suicidal thoughts or actions.

Recently, Katherine was elected to the executive board of SAFE — the Student Alliance Fighting Exploitation. There, she hopes to expand her fierce advocacy for LGBTQIA+ initiatives and to incorporate an intersectional approach to ending oppression in vulnerable communities.

Alumni SPOTLIGHT



Laura Hernandez

Laura Hernandez earned her B.A. in Women's and Gender Studies in 2015. After graduating, she secured a job with Planned Parenthood of South, East and North Florida as a regional organizer. Not forgetting her FIU roots, Laura frequently visits her alma mater, specifically the women's and gender studies classrooms, to give talks about the importance of reproductive rights and how to get involved in the fight for furthering reproductive justice. She credits the CWGS with enabling her to communicate why organizations like Planned Parenthood are so important to women's and girls' autonomy and why they should be here to stay.

Laura was recently honored by the Miami Girls Foundation for being an example to strong women in Miami. Her portrait, along with other exemplary Miami women, was on display at the Miami Museum to honor her accomplishments. She says that, armed with her WGS degree, she plans on moving forward with a Master's degree so that one day she can run for office and continue her advocacy on a larger scale.

Angelina M. Gonzalez

B.A. in Psychology and Women's & Gender Studies, 2007



Angelina M. Gonzalez has always been focused on correcting inequalities. After she graduated with her B.A. in women's and gender studies, she quickly used her knowledge of diversity and inclusion to push for wider representation in her law school curriculum.

Currently, Angelina works at Panza, Maurer & Maynard, a full service law firm in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Her practice areas include administrative litigation and healthcare law. She also continues to be engaged in programs and organizations that support diversity in our community like the Broward County Women Lawyers Association and the Emerging Leaders Program in the Greater Fort Lauderdale Alliance. She is currently mentoring two emerging female lawyers.

"My Women's Studies degree taught me how to critically analyze the world around me and the pre-established systems in our society," Angelina said. This lesson is one that she vows to carry with her to her colleagues and the South Florida community at large.

Karla Gonzalez-Rubio

B.A. in Psychology and Women's and Gender Studies, 2007

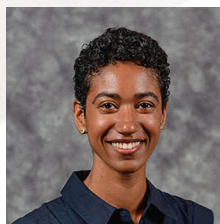


Karla Gonzalez-Rubio time at FIU was an arduous one. Karla suffers from Type 1 diabetes and while she was at FIU, her symptoms flared to almost unmanageable degrees.

Karla found herself navigating eye surgeries and insulin pumps in between class exams and assignments. With the help of the disability resource center and the loving staff in the Psychology Department and the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, Karla was able to graduate and continued on to obtain her M.S. in Social Work.

Currently, Karla is a social worker whose focus is on dialysis patients. She sees this as a way of giving back and having her life come full circle.

Celine Leboeuf



Congratulations are in order for Dr. Celine Leboeuf for her new position as an Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Visiting Scholar at Pennsylvania State University for the 2017-2018 academic year. Her chapter, "Anger as a Political Emotion: A Phenomenological Perspective" will appear in the edited volume *The Moral Psychology of Anger* in January 2018.

Even though Celine Leboeuf is fairly new to FIU, she is already making waves. She graduated from Harvard's department of Philosophy only a year ago. While at Harvard, she was recognized as a Harvard Horizon Scholar. She has now accepted a tenure track position with FIU in the philosophy department.

Dr. Leboeuf is also an affiliated faculty with the Center for Women's and Gender studies. Her focuses in philosophy regard feminist theory, gender and race theory, and other intersectional ideologies.

Our own Doctor in Residence

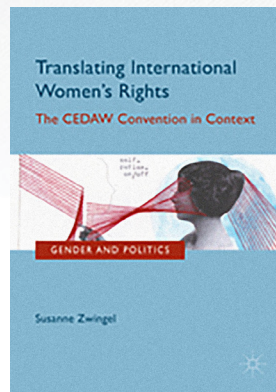


Dr. Dorothy Contiguglia-Akcan recently joined the FIU family in June of 2016. Her strong commitment to furthering the rights and education of women and girls in the field of medicine led her to become an affiliated faculty member of the CWGS. She teaches clinical skills to Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine's medical students

as well as a public health course for the FIU Academy for International Disaster Preparedness in addition to her regular duties as a physician at the faculty practice in the FIU Ambulatory Care Center.

Even though Dr. Contiguglia-Akcan is a doctor and a professor, she finds time for advocacy work, as well. She is actively furthering her education regarding the specific health needs of those in the LGBTQ+ community, as well as health consequences of violence against women. In the future, she hopes to influence healthcare in a way which is supportive of the needs and rights of women.

Susanne Zwingel



The Center for Women's and Gender Studies would like to congratulate Dr. Susanne Zwingel, who recently published her book *Translating International Women's Rights*.

Dr. Zwingel's book looks at the centerpiece of the international women's rights discourse, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and asks to what extent it affects the lives of women worldwide.

Dr. Zwingel's innovative analysis shows that while the Convention has worldwide impact, this impact is fundamentally dependent on context-specific values and agency. Rather than thinking of women's rights exclusively as normative content, Zwingel suggests to see them as in process. This book will especially appeal to students and scholars interested in transnational feminism, gender, and global governance.

Grants & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of FIU's ADVANCE program is to develop institutional structures, processes, and climate that build an affirming and fair workplace for women and underrepresented groups.

FIU ADVANCE is guided by four objectives:

- Attract, recruit, retain and promote more women STEM faculty, particularly underrepresented minority women, to better reflect the demographics of the FIU student body.
- Educate faculty about gender-by-ethnic biases and microclimates that affect the advancement of women.
- Move faculty from insight to action to promote gender equity by developing and implementing an evidence-based intervention program and a university-wide diversity, inclusion, and excellence plan.
- Develop the ADVANCE Florida Network, a joint steering committee and seminar series for women STEM faculty and postdoctoral fellows comprised of the Florida metropolitan research universities of FIU, University of Central Florida, and University of South Florida.

FIU ADVANCE



FIU ADVANCE is supported by a five-year \$3.2 million Institutional Transformation grant awarded in 2016 by the National Science Foundation (NSF) for Florida International University to develop innovative organizational strategies to produce comprehensive change within an academic institution across all STEM disciplines. Provost Kenneth G. Furton serves as the project PI, and Drs. Suzanna Rose, Yesim Darici, Mike Heithaus and Ranu Jung are ADVANCE Co-PIs.

FIU ADVANCE is aimed specifically at developing strategies to increase the number of women and minority professors in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), and the social and behavioral sciences (SBS) at the university. This grant follows FIU's successful implementation of the NSF-funded ACE Partnership for Adaptation, Implementation, and Dissemination (PAID): Awareness of, Commitment to, and Empowerment of Women Scientists at FIU in 2011-2014.

FIU ADVANCE is overseen by the Office to Advance Women, Equity & Diversity (AWED) and the Center for Women's and Gender Studies (CWGS).

Pictured above from left to right:

Kenneth G. Furton — Project PI, Provost and Chief Operating Officer
Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Suzanna M. Rose — Founding Associate Provost of the Office to Advance Women, Equity & Diversity | Professor of Psychology and Women's Studies, College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Yesim Darici — Assistant Provost, STEM | Director, Center for Women's and Gender Studies | Professor of Physics, College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Michael R. Heithaus — Dean and Professor of Marine Biology, College of Arts, Sciences & Education

Ranu Jung — Department Chair and Professor of Biomedical Engineering, College of Engineering & Computing

Dr. Yesim Darici receives the 29th Annual In the Company of Women Science & Technology Award



In the Company of Women was created in 1989 as a way to unite the diverse population of Miami-Dade County by recognizing outstanding women who have impacted our community in a positive way. Winners are from many professions including government and politics, law, health, education, the arts, sports, business, journalism and the social sciences.

This popular and prestigious event serves as part of Women's History Month, observed annually in March. The event has received recognition from the National Association of Counties and the Southern Region of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission. Dr. Darici, who is the first woman to teach physics in the state of Florida at a university, has been instrumental in paving the way for women in STEM. Her leadership in the arena of STEM and Women's and Gender studies is an asset to our community and we are thankful for her continued service.

From left to right: George Navarrete — Director, Miami-Dade Parks, Recreation and Open Spaces; Dr. Yesim Darici — Director, FIU Center for Women's and Gender Studies; Marie Woodson — Chairwoman, Miami-Dade County Commission for Women



WOMEN'S RALLY IN SOUTH FLORIDA

The largest inaugural protest in U.S. history took place on Saturday, January 21, 2017. The event was organized to raise awareness of a number of intersectional issues such as reproductive rights, women's rights, the rights of trans individuals, the rights of people of color, the rights of people with disabilities and human rights in general. The main event, the Women's March on Washington, saw over 500,000 people in attendance. Miami hosted its own event in collaboration with the Center for Women's and Gender Studies at FIU, the Women's Rally in South Florida, on the same day. The Women's Rally had over 10,000 people fill Bayfront Park Amphitheater to capacity, with hundreds waiting to get in.

Among those 10,000 were some of the CWGS' own. Sandy Skelaney, the Director of the Initiative for Gender Violence Prevention at the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, a change maker and a community leader in anti-trafficking, was on the executive committee organizing the rally. She helped recruit and organize the almost 30 speakers present and made

sure the event went as smoothly as possible. She also spoke on the main stage with Dr. Moura-Koçoglu, a faculty member at the Center for Women's and Gender Studies, to briefly discuss how college students can get involved and fight for human rights. The presidents of the center's student organizations, Sergio Andrade and Allison Sardinias, along with several FIU students, stood on stage in solidarity.

Later in the rally, CWGS affiliated faculty and professor of medicine, Dr. Sarah Stumbar, delivered a speech on women's reproductive health. FIU alumni were also in attendance. Laura Hernandez, who earned a dual degree in Political Science and Women's and Gender Studies, represented Planned Parenthood at the rally. Interested students and faculty were able to attend with transportation provided by CWGS and the FIU's Women's Center. The Center for Women's and Gender Studies is proud to be at the frontier of the fight for human rights, diversity and equity in our South Florida community.



EVENTS



- 1 Civil Rights Activist Andrea Pino Visits FIU to Talk About Campus Sexual Assault**
August 25, 2016
- 2 Women in Politics Discussion**
September 27, 2016
- 3 CWGS, WSSA, WSGSA Counter Protest for Reproductive Health**
February 13, 2017
- 4 VDAY Celebration**
February 14, 2017
- 5 Diversity Week Kick-Off Event**
April 3, 2017
- 6 Moonlight Screening and Panel**
April 4, 2017
- 7 9th Annual Miami Beach Pride Parade**
April 10 2017



For a list of all events go to
womensandgenderstudies.fiu.edu



WOMEN IN STEM

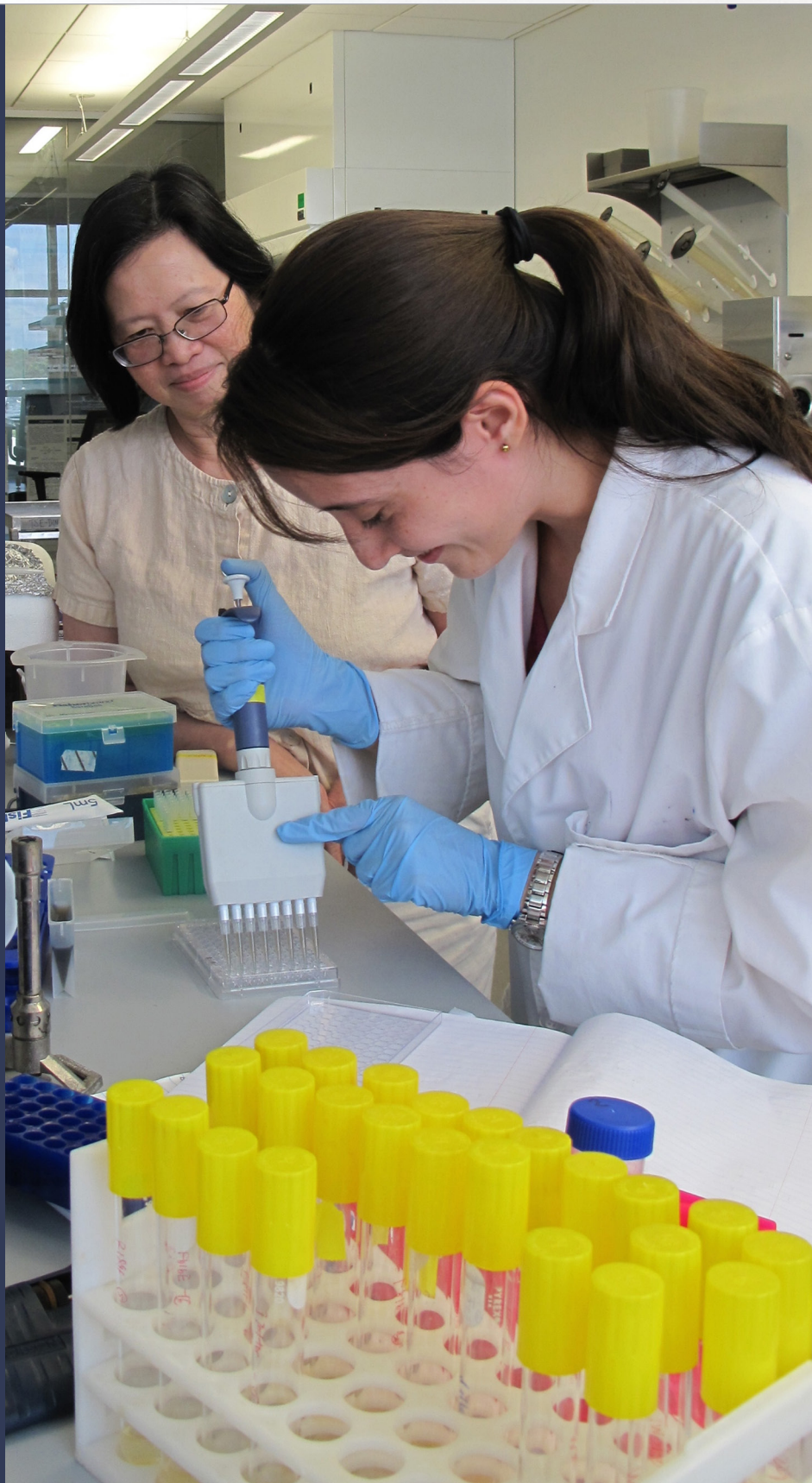
.....
"We still have a long way to go in order to increase the number of women in STEM disciplines, but through targeted outreach, recruitment, and retention efforts for students and faculty alike, we can open the doors for more women."
.....

- Yesim Darici

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In 2011, the Center for Women's and Gender Studies received a grant worth \$573,000 from the National Science Foundation to advance women faculty through fostering the recruitment, retention, and promotion of women in science and math.

In addition, the Center for Women's and Gender Studies received an additional \$3.3 million from NSF for the institutional transformation of FIU the purpose of which Darici says is to make a welcoming environment for everyone.

The Women in STEM Initiative will provide education on the issues faced by women in STEM fields and resources for enhancing their involvement. These efforts, will propel the university to succeed in recruitment efforts and applications for available grants that will strengthen both our faculty and our students.



FIU's 100 Women

This year, the CWGS and its two student organizations (WSSA & WSGSA) rolled out its first annual community-building initiative, *FIU's 100 women*, as part of FIU's diversity week. This initiative aims to highlight the adversity women of FIU face and overcome, and honors their strength and accomplishments. Eventually, the initiative plans on honoring 100 women of diverse backgrounds and sharing their stories. By exalting voices that have been previously silenced, the initiative aims to start community conversations surrounding sensitive and taboo topics including sexual assault, domestic violence, racial inequality, bigotry and other issues that many women face everyday. The initiative also gathers to honor these women's successes at FIU and the broader community.

In 2017, the initiative honored 6 women and their inspiring stories. For more information on the event and how to get involved, please visit go.fiu.edu/100women



Initiative for Gender Violence Prevention


The CWGS received a \$300,000 multi-year grant by the Ware Foundation to launch the Initiative for Gender Violence Prevention. The initiative focuses on providing education, research and outreach aimed at preventing violence against women and gender nonconforming individuals, with emphasis on intimate partner violence and sex trafficking and exploitation.

In its inaugural year, the initiative actively engaged in raising awareness, conducting trainings, connecting the FIU community to local resources and representing FIU in community task forces and coalitions. The *Sex Trafficking: Building Solutions* course that is offered in the Fall and Spring semesters guides students to understand the issue and then apply social entrepreneurial skills to addressing it.

Program Director Sandy Skelaney comes to the initiative with 15 years of experience spearheading programs assisting survivors of sex trafficking. She is currently leading teams of FIU students to create and implement a community needs assessment to identify gaps and best practices in gender-based violence prevention activities in Miami.



Innovative
COURSE OFFERINGS



INTRODUCTION TO TRANSGENDER STUDIES

WST-3644

Over the course of the 2016-2017 academic year, the Center for Women's and Gender studies has focused on formulating courses that uphold a message of equity and inclusion. In response to the increased enrollment in our Queer Studies Certificate program, we have developed two new courses with the help of affiliated faculty Dr. Justin Grant.

Dr. Grant, a writing and rhetoric instructor with FIU's English Department, developed a new course offered for the first time in the Spring called Queer Rhetorics. This course uses an interdisciplinary approach melding English, Gender and Queer theory to help students navigate queer and heteronormative discourse they may find on a daily basis. With Dr. Grant's help, we are also expanding the core requirements of the Queer Studies Certificate by including Introduction to Transgender Studies as a foundational course offering. The class will be offered in the fall and will help shed light on transgender studies and communities in Miami and abroad.



COME AND STUDY WITH US!

Updated Certificate Programs

The Center for Women's and Gender Studies currently offers three certificates:

Gender Violence and the Law: Global Perspectives

Visiting professor, Dr. Michaela Moura-Koçoglu, is in the process of designing a new fully online global learning course to be offered in the Spring of 2018. *Gender Violence and the Law: Global Perspectives* examines multiple forms of gender violence and its global ramifications, interrogating the complex dynamics of gender systems of power against diverse socio-cultural, economic and political contexts. Topics covered include domestic violence, workplace sexual harassment, rape as a weapon of war and online violence. Students will examine existing legal frameworks on a national, international and global level, and discuss approaches to recognizing gendered violence as a human rights violation.

This course will be part of FIU's newest initiative: Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) to empower students to become informed and engaged citizens of the world. In COIL courses, faculty from across borders co-create learning environments that engage diverse students in collaborative projects.

For *Gender Violence and the Law*, Dr. Moura-Koçoglu is working together with the Brazilian university Fatec Americana. Students from FIU and Fatec will work together on assignments revolving around online violence.

Queer Studies Certificate

This certificate has been updated and ready for the 2017-2018 academic year! New classes focusing on emerging LGBTQIA+ fields of study have been added which also bring attention to important conversations.

Women's and Gender Studies Undergraduate Certificate

Our most popular certificate has received an update with new classes added that are FIU firsts being offered only through CWGS.

Women's and Gender Studies Graduate Certificate

The graduate certificate has also gotten a makeover. We have revamped the core requirements for this certificate to allow our busy graduates flexibility in planning their academic futures.

ONLINE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN

Women's and Gender Studies



FULLY ONLINE
DEGREE

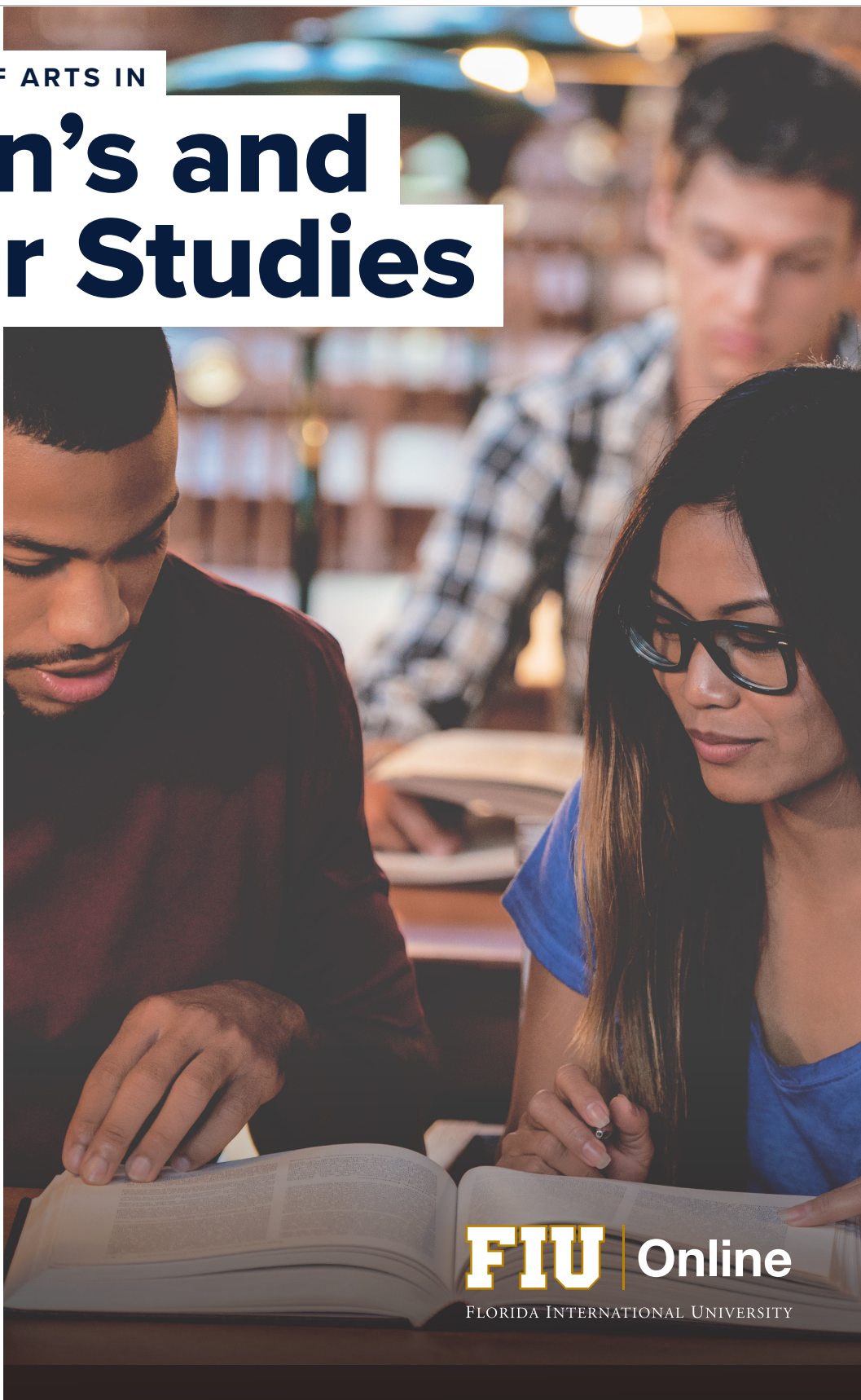


120 CREDITS

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The fully online Bachelor of Arts in Women's and Gender Studies (WGS) is an interdisciplinary study of women and gender in cross-cultural and historical perspectives. You'll explore how women's lives have been shaped by history, culture, nationality, class and other elements of diversity. The courses in the program are coordinated through FIU's Center for Women's and Gender Studies, founded in 1982, and one of the oldest such scholarly centers in the country. Students have the opportunity to conduct research with faculty on issues related to women and gender.

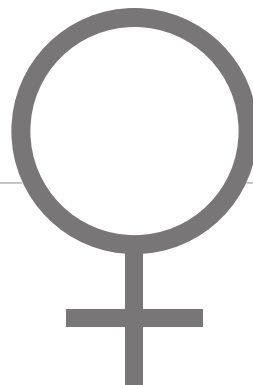
The Women's and Gender Studies major explores sex-based bias throughout society—in the workplace, in school, and at home. You'll hone your analytical, critical thinking and writing skills and become engaged with issues of social change, activism and citizenship. The program is interdisciplinary, and students may select courses from a variety of disciplines, giving you the flexibility to create a program that best reflects your interest and goals.



FIU | Online

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Women's and Gender Studies **BY THE NUMBERS**



28

Graduates

23

Undergraduate
internships

36

Events hosted, sponsored
or co-sponsored



77

Enrolled majors



80

Enrolled
certificate earners



169

Active students

146

Faculty

8,638

Students Enrolled in Women's
Studies Courses

189

Referrals from
academic advising



CWGS is one of the top 10
departments and centers
for global learning at FIU.



@FIUCWGS

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