

NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES

PRESENTS

TRANSITIONS

THE 17TH ANNUAL RED RIVER
WOMEN'S STUDIES CONFERENCE

8:15AM - 4:00PM
OCTOBER 20, 2017
NDSU MCGOVERN ALUMNI CENTER
PLENARY WITH JANET MOCK

TRANSITIONS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017

REGISTRATION · 8:15AM - 9:10AM

📍 ATRIUM, MCGOVERN ALUMNI CENTER

Includes tabling by various community organizations.

Enjoy juice, coffee, fruit and muffins as you browse.

SESSION 1 · 9:15AM - 10:30AM

A PLENARY SESSION: TRANSGENDER LAW AND POLICY

📍 ATRIUM

Chair: Alison Graham-Bertolini, North Dakota State University

Panelists will discuss current legal challenges for transgender individuals, including health care, the military, so-called "bathroom" laws, as well as important steps for advocacy.

Janet Mock is a writer, TV host, and advocate whose work has appeared in *Marie Claire*, *The New Yorker*, the *New York Times* and *Lenny*. In 2014, she released *Redefining Realness*, her path-clearing *New York Times* bestseller about her journey as a trans teenager. bell hooks called Janet's memoir, "a life map for transformation" and Melissa Harris Perry said, "You will be changed by this book." With a master's in journalism from New York University, the Honolulu native worked as an editor at People.com, produced the HBO documentary *The Trans List*, hosted a series of specials for MSNBC, and appeared on *Super Soul Sunday* where Oprah Winfrey called her a "fearless new voice" and "trailblazing leader," who "changed my way of thinking." She's been honored by the Ms. Foundation for Women, Planned Parenthood, and the Sylvia Rivera Law Project, spoke at the Women's March on Washington, and *Time* magazine named her one of the "most influential people on the Internet." Her new memoir, *Surpassing Certainty: What My Twenties Taught Me*, was released in June.

Brooke Maylath has led the Transgender Allies Group (TAG), bringing awareness of the disparities experienced by transgender people in our healthcare systems. Her advocacy has led to the adoption of a gender non-conforming student policy for the Washoe County School District, inclusion of "gender identity and gender expression" into Nevada's Hate Crimes law, defeat of a proposed "bathroom bill" in the 2015 legislative session, and inclusion coverage for Gender Affirming Therapies in the health plans for the City of Reno, NV, the City of Sparks, NV, and the State of Nevada. Due to her advocacy, the Nevada Insurance

Commissioner issued guidance in June 2015 that bans exclusionary language or interpretation against transgender care in Health Insurance. During Nevada's 2017 Legislative session, she successfully led the effort to ban conversion therapy, teach LGBT awareness throughout the state's foster care and juvenile justice system, and to teach gender diversity to faculty and staff in all public schools.

Brittney James is 22-year veteran of the US Marine Corps and US Army National Guard. Brittney had three tours in combat, and was the recipient of the Bronze Star Medal for leadership and actions in combat and is a service-connected disabled veteran. She has a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science. She has been speaking to universities, conferences and community groups about crossdressing and gender for over 20 years. She is married, with three children and is a youth football coach, volunteer firefighter and active in veterans' organizations in the Fargo-Moorhead area.

Rebel Marie is an advocate with Tri-state Transgender, as well as the ND Human Rights Coalition. When she is not advocating, she works and studies at Minnesota State University-Moorhead in the Counseling Outreach Center, where she is focusing on agency mental health counseling. She will be speaking at the American Counseling Association conference in Spring 2018, and is also a keynote speaker for the Great Plains Affirming Campus at Mayville State on October 28th. Rebel set a milestone this year, becoming the first openly transgender person to serve as a district chair for the DEM-NPL in North Dakota.

A GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN LAW REIMERS

Chair: Sean Burt, North Dakota State University

“It Was Partially Her Fault for Letting Him In”: An Investigation of Sentencing Justifications among Jurors who Voted Guilty in a Mock Sexual Assault Trial

Presenters: Kelsey Keimig, North Dakota State University and Antonia Curtis, North Dakota State University

Utilizing qualitative methodologies to examine themes in juror responses in a mock sexual assault trial, explanations for recommended sentences from jurors who voted guilty were examined. Several major themes emerged from the data, including a need for punishment, rape is serious, and evidence of rape myths. Some mock jurors who voted guilty, meaning they recognized the crime was legally rape, still showed evidence of belief in rape myths in their sentencing justifications.

Advocating for Change in Law and Government Policy

Presenter: Brooke Maylath, President, Transgender Allies Group

Understanding of marginalized people is often difficult for persons immersed in a heteronormative, cis-gender, racially segregated community. Yet all of us have unique lives and issues that can help us relate to others that are struggling. Using intersectionality to provide a framework for advocacy, I am able to offer experiences and observations of how to build intersectional relationships to effect change at local and state levels.

Bringing a Discrimination Lawsuit Against Your Higher Education Employer or Institution

Presenter: Claudia Murphy, Independent Scholar

In discussing my own experience standing against discrimination, I will focus on steps that resulted in success, including exhausting your protections at the institution, picking an attorney, deciding whether or not to file an EEOC complaint, understanding some of the limitations of the legal definitions of various forms of discrimination, understanding the use of case law in current lawsuits.

B TRANSITIONS OF CULTURE AND FRAGILITIES OF TRUST KLEFSTAD

Chair: Wendelin Hume, University of North Dakota

Transitions in Culture and the Impact on Native American Female Offenders

*Presenter: Wendelin Hume,
University of North Dakota*

The social and economic conditions, as well as historical trauma and poor treatment, faced by most Native American women may contribute to rates of criminality and victimization. In particular, sexual violence is deeply embedded in the historical colonization and past genocidal policies of the dominant United States government.

Transitions in Cultures and the Impact on Native American Female Victims of Crime

*Presenter: Sherina Hume,
University of North Dakota*

The complexities of victimization and crime are particularly problematic in a minority population which has endured colonization, sexual violence, dehumanization and, as Stannard calls it, the *American Holocaust* (1992). This presentation will focus on Native American female victims

Public Concerns Regarding Law Enforcement's Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV's)

*Presenter: Nicole Johanneson,
University of North Dakota*

Law enforcement agencies' domestic use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) has become far more common in recent years. The public is currently divided on UAVs' uses, not just by law enforcement but by businesses and private citizens as well. This study is an examination of the case law, federal laws, state laws, and North Dakota laws that have impacted law enforcement's use of UAVs.

The Female College Student's Transition into Mature Relationships and the Violation of Trust with Sexual Assault

*Presenter: Tara Lulla,
University of North Dakota*

Sexual violence on college campuses has been the focus of several studies and numerous prevention and outreach efforts to reduce the occurrence of violence. Nevertheless, sexual assaults continue to take place on most if not all campuses as young women try to transition into healthy adult relationships.

C GLOBAL GENDER ISSUES

STENEHJEM

Chair: Ashley Baggett, North Dakota State University

Some Transitions of the Greek Rebetiko Singer Bellou

Presenter: Kathleen Dixon, University of North Dakota

Recently, a trans activist in Athens, Greece proposed considering the *rebetiko* singer Sotiria Bellou as a “trans icon of the South” (Preciado). Because female homosexuality even today in Greece is largely “invisible” (Kantsa), we need to see how Bellou becomes, or “transitions” from a village girl who married a village man into an urban woman who made her own way into a lively world of *rebetiko* singing.

License to Rape – The Rhetoric of the Raped Rohingya Women: A Study of the Interviews of Refugees in Bangeldash

Presenter: Shaibal Devroy, North Dakota State University

This paper aims at examining interviews of the Rohingya women, who were taken captive, raped, but ultimately escaped or were ‘let go’ by their captors so that their stories and terror would spread and compel others to leave. This is a study of the rhetoric, i.e., the persuasive power of these women’s stories, which might earn this illiterate and unprivileged group a voice.

Women and the Others: Reading Yugoslav History in the Novels of Biljana Jovanovic

Presenter: John K. Cox, North Dakota State University

Biljana Jovanović (1953-1996) was a Yugoslav avant-garde novelist and dramatist and a key member of Serbian civil society who worked energetically and concretely, for almost two decades, on behalf of anti-war and feminist causes. This presentation will briefly position the author in the world of Yugoslav feminism and then discuss her first and third novels, less in terms of their reception at the time than of their importance to historians today.

LUNCH · 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM

📍 ATRIUM, MCGOVERN ALUMNI CENTER

SESSION 3 · 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

A GENDER EXPECTATION AND COMPLICATING THE "BINARY"
📍 REIMERS

Chair: Emily Wicktor, North Dakota State University

As far back as written word women have been placed in a binary that hasn't been broken or replaced. Rather than removing these gender expectations society places on women, they have merely been transformed. This panel will address various binaries and gender constraints through literature/media.

**Embracing the "Dumb Blonde":
Navigating Identity in Anita Loos'
*Gentlemen Prefer Blondes***

*Presenter: Krista Aldrich,
North Dakota State University*

Using Dale Bauer's text *Sex Expression and American Women Writers, 1860-1940*, I contend that Lorelei in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* uses sexist ideology to her advantage in that the "dumb blonde" persona is a form of sex power she uses to obtain material goods and success in life.

**The Art of Courtly Consent: The
Ways in which Medieval Literature
Influences Modern Rape Culture**

*Presenter: Becky Crisman,
North Dakota State University*

This paper argues that medieval romances and *The Art of Courtly Love* are not only still relevant, but also that their continued relevance serves as the framework for rape culture today.

**"I Stuck a Blender on His Head and
Killed Him" Heroism, Violence, and
Feminine Representation, in the
Slasher Film**

*Presenter: Hannah Stevens,
North Dakota State University*

This paper applies both a feminist lens and Lazard's theory to texts using two strong women in horror fiction: Erin Harson *You're Next*, and Maddie Young *Hush*. It will focus on how women are represented by binaries, how to fight this representation, and how horror characters defy binary, and are represented as strong women through their ability to fight.

B **WOMEN IN THE CLASSROOM TO THE WORKPLACE**
CRARY

Chair: Claudia Murphy, independent scholar

**Gender-based Conversation
Dominance in a Women's
Studies Classroom**

*Presenter: Erin Pearson,
North Dakota State University*

In a study of communication patterns in a women's studies class, I did not find what previous research revealed: that men interrupt and women are relational. However, I call for more research in this area to determine whether the awareness present in students of these types of courses may work against the constructed hierarchy of power in language use.

**Workplace Feminism and Women's
Leadership: A Response to Sheryl
Sandberg's *Lean In***

*Presenter: Ashleigh Petts,
North Dakota State University*

The publication of Sheryl Sandberg's *Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead* in 2013 sparked extensive media conversations about inequality in the workplace and a "Lean In" movement for working women. I argue for a more expansive workplace feminism that takes into account the experiences of a wider variety of women.

NOTES

C NEW DIVERSITY ACTIVISM IN THE FM COMMUNITY KLEFSTAD

Chair: Alison Graham-Bertolini, North Dakota State University

African Refugee Women in Fargo/Moorhead and their Transitioning Stories

*Presenter: Jonix Owino,
North Dakota State University*

This research gives insight into the experience of refugee women who are settling in the Fargo/Moorhead community.

The Rhetoric of Community Projects and Inclusion through Story Sharing

*Presenter: Ibtissem Belmihoub,
North Dakota State University*

I am the co-founder of "The Write Your World Project," which uses storytelling to empower refugee women (and others) in the Fargo/Moorhead community. I am the project coordinator of "The World In Fargo Moorhead," a social media project that documents diversity one portrait and one story at a time. My research aims to study the rhetoric of storytelling community projects and their impact.

The Fargo Welcome Center: The Significance of Tutoring New Americans

*Presenter: Fawzia Riji,
North Dakota State University*

I am the chief volunteer tutor at the New American Consortium for Wellness & Empowerment (WE Center) in Fargo, ND. My research examines the many benefits of tutoring for both tutors and students and encourages others to get involved.

From International Student to FM Community Liaison: 7 Ways of Piercing the Campus Bubble

*Presenter: Alexandre Cyusa,
North Dakota State University*

My traveling experiences in Switzerland, Ethiopia, Rwanda, Guinea, and France help me understand the world as a smaller and simpler place to live. Cyusa has a strong passion for community development and nurturing global citizenship.

D WOMEN IN HISTORY STENEHJEM

Chair: Michelle Sauer, University of North Dakota

Her Place in History: Madam CJ Walker & Early African American Filmmaking

*Presenter: Carol Bentley,
North Dakota State University*

Madam CJ Walker, best known for the beauty empire that made her a world famous African American businesswoman, made a foray into filmmaking. This was accomplished by taking advantage of the time before the professionalization of the industry that allowed women and men of all races access to the tools of filmmaking. In doing so, she made a contribution to not just African American business history, but to film history as well.

Homesteading Rights of Deserted Wives

*Presenter: Hannah Haksgaard,
University of South Dakota
School of Law*

This article is the first to collect and analyze the numerous administrative and court decisions about deserted wives and homesteading. Deserted wives exercised their rights under the homestead laws and frequently had to litigate against husbands and strangers to protect those rights. The rich case law provides substantial insight into the meaning of being a deserted wife in America.

“Orts, Scraps, and Fragments”: Critiquing Nationalist History in Virginia Woolf’s *Between the Acts*

*Presenter: Audrey D. Johnson,
North Dakota State University*

“Between the Acts” enacts a feminist critique, not simply of war, but of how the ideology of nationalist history enables the support of war. Between the Acts reminds us that histories are stories with creators. In this case, this nationalist history justifies war and the marginalization of women, the colonized, and the lower classes. To break these cycles, we must engage a critical awareness in our approach to history that allows for interpretations that may lead to a different future.

A GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND FAITH REIMERS

Chair: Kathleen Dixon, University of North Dakota

Fking Jesus: Modern and Medieval Temporal Fragments of Sexuality and Spirituality**

*Presenter: Michelle M. Sauer,
University of North Dakota*

I will read several modern texts that reach across time, that connect to the medieval anchoritic tradition, sexualizing the past in queer ways. Each of these texts—*The Handmaid's Tale* (Atwood, 1985), *Margery Kempe* (Glück, 1994), *Anchoress of Shere* (Moorcock, 2000), and *Mother Julian and the Gentle Vampire* (Pantaleo, 2000)—imposes modern sexuality (enforced reproduction, s/m, gay and trans experiences, and lesbianism) on the medieval world resulting in queer disruption.

Faith in Transition: Medieval Religious Pilgrimage and Gender Affirmation

*Presenter: Casey Kohs,
University of North Dakota*

In this paper, I intend to draw parallels between religious pilgrimage and modern gender transition—constructing both as dangerous journeys that are undertaken by the voyager as a means to receive a form of social or personal acceptance or confirmation of faith. Similarly, I will compare the physical tests and challenges a pilgrim had to endure on their journey with the “tests” of masculinity/femininity featured in non-religious fables.

Malleable Masculinity in the Reception of Biblical Literature: The Case of Nehemiah

*Presenter: Sean Burt,
North Dakota State University*

This paper explores the gendered language of and interconnections between two primary strains of the reception of the biblical character Nehemiah in the contemporary English-speaking world. Two opposing trajectories together show that Nehemiah is a figure that simultaneously can shape one vision of masculinity that strongly differentiates between male and non-male and another vision that interrogates these purported lines.

B GENDER AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**B** KLEFSTAD*Chair: Kelly Cameron, North Dakota State University***Culture Shock: Changing the Way We Talk About Healthcare Through North Dakota's One-of-a-Kind Comprehensive Sex Ed Program**

Presenters: Amy Jacobson, North Dakota State Director of External Affairs of Planned Parenthood Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota (PPMNS) and Zach Packineau, Education and Outreach Specialist of PPMNS

Reach One Teach One (ROTO) is a comprehensive sex ed peer education program that empowers North Dakota's youth to make healthy, informed decisions and to share their knowledge with their own communities. Panelists will discuss in depth the history of Reach One Teach One, its impacts, and the transitions for youth, families, and public health in North Dakota.

Rural Women and Development in the Undue Burden Analysis: The Effect of *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt*

Presenter: Hannah Haksgaard, University of South Dakota School of Law

Rural women face unique challenges in accessing abortions, and the exercise of the constitutional right to an abortion is currently in transition. This presentation will analyze the Supreme Court's holding in *Whole Woman's Health* and its effect on rural women. Because rurality and distance were central to the Supreme Court's reasoning in *Whole Woman's Health*, the opinion provides substantial direction to lower courts grappling with rural women's access to abortions.

C AMERICAN WOMEN IN TRANSITION: THE PUBLIC SPHERE, RIGHTS, AND GENDER EXPECTATIONS, 1840-1965

📍 STENEHJEM

Chair: Ashley Baggett, North Dakota State University

This panel explores the lives of four women who lived over the 19th and 20th centuries and demonstrate how they challenged gender expectations, pushed for issues that benefited women, and, in some cases, advocated directly for women's rights.

Harriet Tubman and the Women's Rights Movement

Presenter: Emma Novak, North Dakota State University

This paper seeks to follow Harriet Tubman's life phases from an enslaved woman to activist in the midst of changing notions on slavery and women's rights. Through her actions, Tubman became a role model for future African American women.

Sarah Comstock and the Moorhead Women's Club

Presenter: Kate Savageau, North Dakota State University

Far from upholding the domestic ideal of the Victorian Era, Sarah Comstock helped establish the first public library in the city and changes in education through active engagement in the public "sphere." She, like other clubwomen, helped women gain a foothold in local government by applying maternalist arguments for women's involvement and leadership in reform activities.

Equal Justice Under Law: Challenging Gender Roles and Norms in the Courtroom – Frances Maria Brainard O'Linn and Significant Female Attorneys on the Northern Great Plains: 1868-1920

Presenter: Robert Roy Foresman, North Dakota State University

This paper examines noteworthy female legal colleagues in the Northern Great Plains region. The historical question is to examine if their collective contributions made a significant impact in the transition to acceptance of women in jurisprudence, women's legal rights and public perception in pastoral regions of the United States in the late 19th century.

Olla Neale Ames: Middle-class Housewife to Entrepreneur

Presenter: Susan Curtis, North Dakota State University

I analyze the complexity of ideal and reality with Olla Neale Ames. Ames opened doors for the transition of women more firmly into property management with seminars to teach women the skills needed to purchase a home, secure a mortgage, and how to work with contractors.

RECEPTION · 3:30PM - 4:00PM

📍 ATRIUM, MCGOVERN ALUMNI CENTER

Join conference participants for refreshments

NOTES

NDSU WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES WOULD LIKE TO THANK...

The Laurie J. Loveland Speaker Series

**Kent Sandstrom, former Dean of Arts,
Humanities, and Social Sciences**

**David Bertolini, interim Dean of Arts,
Humanities, and Social Sciences**

**Margaret Fitzgerald, Dean of Human
Development & Education**

Liv Oland, our WGS intern

**Leah Rempfert, our WGS
office assistant**

Our student volunteers

Janet Mock

**We would like to especially thank
Dr. Ashley Baggett, Department of
History, for her assistance with this
conference from start to finish.**

**And finally, all of you for attending
and participating; we could not do
this without the support from our
fellow scholars.**

QUICK GLANCE SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017

8:15AM - 9:10AM Registration | Atrium, McGovern Alumni Center
Includes tabling by various community organizations, juice, coffee, fruit and muffins.

9:15AM - 10:30AM SESSION 1

Plenary Session: Transgender Law and Policy | Atrium

10:45AM - 11:45AM SESSION 2

Gender Discrimination in Law | Reimers

Transitions of Culture and Fragilities of Trust | Klefstad

Global Gender Issues | Stenehjem

11:45AM - 1:00PM Lunch

1:15PM - 2:15PM SESSION 3

Gender Expectation, and Complicating the "Binary" | Reimers

Women in the Classroom to the Workplace | Crary

New Diversity Activism in the Fargo/Moorhead Community | Klefstad

Women in History | Stenehjem

2:30PM - 3:30PM SESSION 4

Gender, Sexuality, and Faith | Reimers

Gender and Reproductive Health | Klefstad

American Women in Transition: The Public Sphere, Rights, and Gender Expectations, 1840-1965 | Stenehjem

3:30PM - 4:00PM Reception | Atrium