

Women's and Gender Studies at Wilkes University
and King's College present

New Narratives of **GENDER IN THE MEDIA**



April 8 - 9, 2019
King's College



Welcome!

We hope you enjoy the 2019 Women's and Gender Studies Conference. This year's conference has an exciting array of panels in disciplines such as English, Communication Studies, Health Sciences, History, Political Science, Sociology, and the Arts. We are pleased to have presenters from King's College and Wilkes University, alongside panelists from Drexel University and the local community. It is clear that women's and gender issues are important topics, not only in our institutions of higher learning, but across Northeast Pennsylvania as well.

The theme of this year's conference is "New Narratives of Gender in the Media." The theme is meant to center our conversations around traditional and emerging patterns of gender representation in varying media: print and journalism, broadcast forms like film and music, social media and the internet, and other platforms. We live in cultures inundated by media and are increasingly scrutinizing how women, men and gender non-binary individuals are treated in the public sphere. As the United States faces a political primary season, questions of fair representation, stereotypes, and use of media will become central to people's choices. These are conversations we must have if political and social movements are going to gain new voices and make continued strides toward gender equality.

This year marks the eighth collaboration between King's College and Wilkes University in organizing the Women's and Gender Studies conference. We are pleased that our collaboration strengthens our respective programs and offers even more opportunities to our students to explore women's and gender issues on two college campuses. We hope that our future conferences continue to attract students and faculty from the many colleges and universities in Northeast Pennsylvania, as well as community members who wish to present or simply to listen to the many fascinating talks the conference offers.

Please note that all conference events will be held at King's College in the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center. The Keynote Address will occur in the Burke Auditorium in the McGowan School of Business at King's College. Should you require assistance or need information, please come to the conference registration area on the third floor of the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center and someone will assist you.

DR. NICOLE MARES

Director, Women's Studies
King's College

DR. JENNIFER THOMAS

Director, Women's and Gender Studies
Wilkes University

Wilkes University and King's College
2019 Women's and Gender Studies Conference Program

"NEW NARRATIVES OF GENDER IN THE MEDIA"

Monday, April 8, 2019

9:00 AM

Welcome to "New Narratives of Gender in the Media"

Conference programs and name badges will be available at a table across from the elevator on the third floor of the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

9:30-10:45

SESSION A

Session Title: Reproductive Rights in Fiction Writing

Location: Walsh

Moderator: DR. NOREEN O'CONNOR, King's College

Presenter: MAURA MAROS, MFA, Wilkes University,
"Abortion in Fiction Writing"

Description: The discussion and presentation will examine how abortion is presented as a choice in fiction writing when a character experiences an unplanned pregnancy. What tools and language do writers rely on to describe abortion? Abortion is a polarizing subject that is deeply personal but mired in religious and political beliefs. As reproductive rights are challenged, and laws change how can the writing community function as historians? In 2014, 926,200 abortions were provided in the US. Location, religious affiliation, and socioeconomic standing contribute to the choices available to them. Women who had abortions are silent for many reasons; shame, guilt, fear, etc. It's not a stereotypical person who experiences an unplanned pregnancy. It's important for the writing community to transcend race, age and religion to tell stories that show abortion as a choice and keep up with evolving laws that challenge reproductive freedom.

SESSION B

Session Title: ***I am Strength: True Stories of Everyday Superwomen***

Location: Snyder Room

Moderator: **MS. ALYSSA WAUGH**, King's College

Presenters: **MS. ALYSSA WAUGH, MS. DAWN ZERA,
MS. TARA LYNN MARTA, MS. KABRIA ROGERS**

Description: This session includes readings from *I am strength: True Stories of Everyday Superwomen*. There will also be a question and answer session with the authors.

11:00-12:15

SESSION A

Session Title: **"Fictions of Feminism"**

Location: Walsh Room

Moderator: **DR. MEGAN LLOYD**, King's College

Presenter: **JILL PATTON**, King's College, ***"Rewriting American Success Myths: The Self-Made Girl in A Tree Grows in Brooklyn and The House on Mango Street"***

Description: The self-made girl is a character who rewrites traditional success myths about self-made men, such as Horatio Alger's rags-to-riches stories and Benjamin Franklin's *Autobiography*. She reappears in American literature from the 1940s through the present day. This project combines literary theory, original research, and sociocultural theories to define the common traits of the self-made girl. Aspects like setting, education, and sexual assault directly challenge the self-made man and create a feminist version of the typical success story. To illustrate each trait, this project analyzes the protagonists in *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith and *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros. The self-made girl is not just a passing trend in literature; instead, she breaks the boundaries of gender, race, and class and inspires readers to rethink their notions of success. Her story provides a much more realistic and satisfying alternative to the outdated, male-dominated success myths.

Presenter: **TRISTIN MILAZZO**, King's College, ***"'Reform is born out of need, not pity': Industrial Cities, Ethnicity, and Social Inequality in Naturalist Fiction of the Industrial Era"***

Description: Literature, whether it is poetry or prose, often narrates stories. Narratives serve to entertain readers or to present much more

pressing issues. Humans develop and understand themselves through narrative, which means that stories can do more than captivate readers. As a result of American industrialization in the 19th and 20th centuries, however, authors began to focus on new conditions of life, such as the industrial city, ethnicity, and poverty created by social inequality and class division. Works such as Rebecca Harding Davis's "Life in the Iron Mills" from 1861, Stephen Crane's 1893 novel *Maggie, a Girl of the Streets*, and Theodore Dreiser's "Old Rogaum and His Theresa" from 1901 turned toward naturalism, which focused on reality, social conditions, and the environment's effect on humans. Naturalist fiction, which began in the 1850s, depicted characters who were victims of events outside of their control. Naturalism used pessimistic literature to focus on the negative aspects of society in order to make them known and ultimately overcome them through social reform. The plots are not intricate, so one can read beyond the plot to look at the negative social conditions in the society. By analyzing the pessimistic literature with simplistic plots by Davis, Crane, and Dreiser, this presentation shows how authors highlighted themes such as industrialization in the city, ethnic division, and poverty to implicitly argue for social reform during the Progressive Era in the United States by narrating real-life experiences of those who often did not have a voice.

SESSION B

Session Title: "Normalization of Violence against Women in the Media"

Location: Snyder Room

Moderator: DR. MIA BRICEÑO, Wilkes University

Presenters: ANNA CULVER, NICHOLAS WHITNEY,
SAMMANTHA VERESPY, and
DR. MIA BRICEÑO, Wilkes University

Description: This panel discussion examines the normalization of violence against women in the media. Within this discussion, we will analyze media representation of specific types of violence against women through examples of pop culture. We will focus on violence such as rape, domestic violence, emotional/psychological abuse, and stalking in pop culture television shows. The television shows that we will focus on are *Game of Thrones*, *Law & Order: Special Victim Unit*, and *You*. Through the discussion of these television shows, we will examine the normalization and draw conclusions about the media influence.

12:30-1:45

SESSION A

Session Title: **Presentation and Utilization of Gender in the Electronic Health Record**

Location: Walsh Room

Moderator: **DR. NOREEN O'CONNOR**, King's College

Presenters: **MIA LUSSIER, SARAH METZINGER, and LISA KOPPENHAVER**, Wilkes University

Description: Patient care is affected by not only the patient's sex but by their preferred gender and their sexual identity. Health systems are beginning to provide training sessions for health care providers on the most appropriate use of gender and sexual orientation as part of a treatment plan and are updating their HER's to incorporate this information. We will be presenting on how local health systems are doing this with a particular emphasis on the Geisinger Health System.

SESSION B

Session Title: **Building Blocks of Social Justice: Teaching Leadership at Every Level**

Location: Snyder Room

Moderator: **MS. JOLENE CAREY-PACE**, Lackawanna College and Wilkes University

Presenters: **MS. JOLENE CAREY-PACE**, Lackawanna College and Wilkes University, **MS. AMY E. KUIKEN, and MS. DEBORAH SCHEIBLER**, Wilkes University

Description: This roundtable discussion consists of a brief examination of the impact of adultism in our educational settings, as well as the potential benefits of empowering students to take part in leadership. Three panelists thoughtfully and humorously relay actual examples of what worked and (what did not) from their experiences as educators working with students at their institutions. The panelists share practical tips for encouraging leadership skills in students while considering the developmental realities of the specific age groups they represent. Specifically, this will be with a focus on teaching how to help students find their own voice and become the leader they envision. The presentation will also touch on the importance of leadership through service learning. Attendees will have a unique opportunity to interact with a panel of

professionals dedicated to promoting a sense of shared leadership in students of all ages.

SESSION C

Session Title: Expectations and Realities for Women in the Workplace and Beyond

Location: Fitzgerald Room

Moderator: DR. SUNNY WEILAND, King's College

Presenter: DR. MARCIA SKEEBA BALESTER, Wilkes University, **"Ageism and Sexism in the Workplace: (Unfortunately) Ubiquitous**

Description: Women are expected to work longer than ever and have the same or more responsibilities than male counterparts--but once they reach a certain age that may not be possible. How common is ageism? This presentation examines what happens and why along with the lives of some remarkable women who seem to defy the norm.

Presenter: SARA LYNN STELLATELLA, ABD, Drexel University, **"Gender and Beauty in the Media: Beyond Skin Deep..."**

Description: Beauty is in the eye--or country--of the beholder. Globally, images defining gender and beauty resonate throughout social media to inform us of what is "acceptable." These ubiquitous notions are ever diverging and keep us competing with ephemeral definitions of beautiful. Are curves in or out today? Do I wear my glamorous makeup, or do I wear my makeup so that I look like I'm not wearing makeup? Let's look beyond the superficial attributes to our experiences, the situations that have shaped who we are, and--particularly--those that we share. These experiences comprise what is termed "trait diversity," which are stable characteristics, such as educational and career, or experiential background. We should not consider these experiences as defining us, but as informing our identity. Imagine how valuing shared and diverse experiences could afford us to see the true beauty--beyond skin deep--within one another.

2:00-3:15

SESSION A

Session Title: **Global Women: Education, Spirituality, and the Twenty-First Century**

Location: Walsh Room

Moderator: **MS. HEATHER DAVID**, King's College

Presenter: **MS. HEATHER DAVID**, King's College, **"Cultural Diversity in the College Classroom"**

Description: This presentation centers on the subject of cultural diversity of women in the American college classroom. Women in the classroom represent various socioeconomic, ethnic and cultural populations. How has it changed the classroom? How will classrooms continue to evolve?

Presenters: **DR. GINA ZANOLINI MORRISON and MS. KARLEY STASKO, MFA**, Wilkes University, **"Everyone, Everywhere, Everyday: Women, Spirituality, and Modernity in Bali"**

Description: From 2016 to 2018, researchers traveled to Southeast Asia to interview seventy working women on their spiritual beliefs and practices. This part of the larger study investigates Balinese career women who must reconcile their home life in a culture known for its openness about spiritualism with their careers in a global marketplace influenced by a western bias that rejects spiritualism in modernity. As this research aims to present a contemporary perspective, it is important to understand the modern position of religion, beliefs, cultural forces, and the women themselves. While this research identifies how Balinese women utilize the island's unique spirituality to maintain social mobility, it also underscores the practical effects of spirituality in modern business, health, and gender roles. This project was supported with a grant from Wilkes University.

SESSION B

Session Title: **Intercultural Dialogue and Gender**

Location: Snyder Room

Moderator: **MS. MARGARET KOWALSKY**, King's College

Presenter: **ISABELLA SOBEJANO**, Wilkes University, **"Rigoberta Menchú: A Voice for the Silenced and Oppressed People of the World"**

Description: Rigoberta Menchú (1959) was born in a small Mayan community in Guatemala, and in her childhood she traveled with her father, Vicente, to different Mayan communities to teach "campesinos" their rights and to organize themselves. These experiences as a child seemed to mold the character of this Mayan woman and to set the foundations for a struggle with global repercussions. This paper comments on the role played by Rigoberta Menchú in her fight to give voice to the silenced and oppressed people of the world. Living in exile, in Mexico specifically, Menchú has galvanized millions of people into taking action against the oppression suffered by women and by the indigenous communities at the hands of dictator José Efraín Ríos Mont (1926-2018). In 1992, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her work for social justice and ethnocultural reconciliation, and in her talk, Rigoberta Menchú addressed the following issues that have become a landmark in her struggle for justice: rights denied to indigenous people, social justice in her country, women's equality and dignity, and respect for nature. This presentation explores some of the personal experiences that to Menchu had to undergo to bring justice to the world and the role the Rigoberta Menchú Foundation plays in keeping her dreams and hopes alive.

Presenter: **JACOB HEBDA**, **"Precious Gems: Indian Philosophy and Gender Hybridity in *Steven Universe*"**

Description: Rebecca Sugar's popular children's television series *Steven Universe* marks gender as one of its central concerns. However, gender, as with all facets of identity, remains bound up with intersecting modes of being. South Asian thought and culture is also present in *Steven Universe* and appears to govern at least in part the rules of Steven's universe, including the show's approach to gender. The metaphysics of great Indian philosophers like Samkara and Ramanuja implicitly shape Sugar's depictions of the gendered self, especially through the extraterrestrial gems and the bodies they generate, as well as the gems' unique ability to join together in a state of fusion. In doing so, *Steven Universe* represents gender as both

fixed and fluid, as well as inseparable from hybridity, a term from race/ethnicity theory particularly relevant to both Indian and American experience, while also envisioning gender constructions that simultaneously blur and reach beyond the male-female binary.

Presenter: JESSICA RACZKOWSKI, Wilkes University, **"The CEO is a She: Helping English Learners Overcome Gender Roles Bias"**

Description: English Learners (ELs) come from a variety of cultural backgrounds. When learning English, they may inadvertently revert to gender role stereotypes—due both to their home cultures and prevalent media tropes. This presentation outlines some teaching experiences getting ELs to recognize women (and men) is a broader variety of career roles.

SESSION C

Session Title: "I'm Tired," Sexual Violence and the State in Women's Lives

Location: Fitzgerald Room

Moderator: DR. CORINE CONIGLIO, King's College

Presenter: MELISSA IRIZARRY, Wilkes University, **"I'm Tired"**

Description: This presentation is a poetry reading. The poem is about sexual assault, which affects one in three women.

Presenter: MAKENZIE FALLON, CHRISTIENNE BROWN, JULIA HAEFELE, King's College, **"Women in Politics"**

Description: This presentation covers a broad spectrum of women in politics including subjects such as: statistics on women voter turn-out, who they vote for and what issues are important to them, how women are seen in the political realm that hold seats, significantly historical individuals who affected the right to vote, votes that have specifically affected women, general background on women's right to vote, etc.

3:30-4:45

SESSION A

Session Title: **Women, Image, and Power**

Location: Walsh Room

Moderator: **DR. HELEN H. DAVIS**, Wilkes University

Presenters: **AGNES STYPULKOWSKI and
VISHESH RAMLALI**, Wilkes University,
"Women in Leadership Roles"

Description: This presentation focuses on the impact that gender bias has on women in leadership roles, including their choice of careers, the leadership challenges they face, and leadership styles. It will also discuss organizations that combat the issue, as well as what individuals are doing locally at Wilkes University to support women leaders.

Presenters: **ALI BUTLER and SUMMER RIVERA**, Wilkes University
"How Bodies Are Seen"

Description: Society has shaped the image of the "ideal" woman, and the media has played a large role in influencing many minds about how women are supposed to look. This presentation will analyze how women throughout the world are portrayed in the media, how body image has changed throughout time, and how body image impacts the everyday lives of women and their self-esteem. It will also touch on how society can change the unrealistic images of "ideal" women.

Presenters: **JORDAN BILLUPS, GABRIELLE MOLITORIS,
AND RYAN SMITH**, Wilkes University, **"Intimate Partner
Violence and Professional Athletes"**

Description: This presentation focuses on the prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence in our society, how it has manifested itself into the professional sports realm, and what can be done about it. It is too often reported that professional athletes are perpetrators and victims of IPV, and the consequences for those actions differ from the norm. People in the public eye are often excluded from the commonly implemented punishments and ridicule that regular citizens face, and their actions are subject to justification due to their fame and status.

SESSION B

Session Title: **Gender in American Society: Representing Women in Mass Culture**

Location: Snyder Room

Moderator: **DR. KAREN MERCINCAVAGE**, King's College

Presenters: **CAITLIN HARGRAVE, JAMES MORRIS, ALCYIA SANDELLA, and SAMANTHA RAJZA**, King's College, **"Women Athletes and Pay Equality"**

Description: Women have fought for several years for equality within society. They now have a multitude of rights that were once merely a dream. One area in society where inequality still exists for women when compared to the male counterpart is the world of sports. Women can now compete at the professional level, but the pay-out is nowhere near equal to that of a professional male athlete. This difference has been prominent in sports for several years, but female athletes have recently began pushing for equal pay in sport. This movement has shed light on the fact that though women have progressed from where they once were, there is still inequality.

Presenters: **BSHAYER AL-SALEM, ALEXA KOVALY, CALLIE DEMKO, and CODY NOONE**, King's College, **"Gender in the Media"**

Description: Media platforms are the best and most efficient ways for companies and businesses to get their message and/or products out. This typically means the employment of stereotypical gender roles, depending on what is being presented. One sees the frequent use of men and women for sex appeal to gain more attention in advertising and media. This presentation, therefore, examines how gender roles have become a commonality in advertisements and commercials. Women are often displayed as fragile and feminine while men are portrayed as strong and masculine. Times are changing and these roles are starting to become challenged. But this presentation discusses why this has not completely changed and why men and women continue to be identified by only these characteristics, leaving those who don't look or act a certain way feeling as though they do not meet society's "requirements."

SESSION C

Session Title: Gender and Medicine in the Twenty-First Century

Location: Fitzgerald Room

Moderator: DR. JESSICA ANDERSON, King's College

Presenters: SOPHIA MARINO, King's College, KASI TRYONAS, MOHAMMAD ABUALBURAK, and RAYAN ALSHABANI, "Gender and Psychological Disorders"

Description: This presentation examines the research of psychological disorders between genders. It focuses on a variety of psychological conditions, and their varying impacts on individuals of varying sex and gender identities. The conditions under study include: depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder, and schizophrenia.

Presenters: KAYLA NAILOR, JASON YERGER, and ELIZABETH EMBRICO, King's College, "Abortion and Maternal Death Rates"

Description: This presentation compares maternal death rates during pregnancy/birth of countries that allow abortions and countries that limit abortions to the United States. In order for a country to qualify for the "allows abortions" section, a country cannot limit abortions in any one of the following categories: woman's life, rape, physical health, mental health, fetal impairment, economic/social, or upon request. If a country limits abortion due to any of these categories, then the country is assigned into the "limits abortions" category. The United States occupies its own category due to the possibility of major policy changes under the current administration. The paper will examine whether it is safer for a woman if the country she resides in allows the woman's right to choose if they want an abortion or not, no matter the reasoning.

CONFERENCE KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Monday, April 8, 7:00 PM

**Burke Auditorium, McGowan School of Business,
King's College**

DR. KAREN DUNAK,

**"From Martyred Widow to Swinging Single:
Public Imaginings of Jackie Kennedy, 1963-1968"**



Dunak's presentation will evaluate mass media's evolving depiction of Jacqueline Kennedy from the time of John F. Kennedy's November 1963 assassination to the time of her remarriage, to Aristotle Onassis, in October of 1968. From representations of Kennedy as a heartbroken widow, albeit one whose strength, dignity, and resolve led the American population to view her as a "profile in courage," media interpretations of the former First Lady shifted as she adapted once again to a private life, unencumbered by political responsibility. When

Kennedy behaved as the public believed she (and women, as a whole) should – deferential and self-sacrificing – she warranted praise. When she behaved outside the bounds of expected decorum, as when she attempted to wield control over the histories covering JFK's assassination, or when she stayed out late dancing at nightclubs, public admiration plummeted. Popular media coverage of Kennedy – in mainstream news periodicals, in fan magazines, and in American newspapers – reveal this shift in popular perception of Kennedy. Dunak's talk will trace the evolution of public views through analysis of media sources and will map visions of Kennedy onto broader assessments of American women at this time. Kennedy's actions did not happen in a vacuum, and contemporary events, most notably the rise of a singles culture, informed public response. Part of a larger project that argues that contemporary media evaluations of Kennedy ebbed and flowed with cultural expectations and evaluations of American women more broadly, this talk raises questions about media's framing of women's agency and autonomy and suggests a historical reluctance to recognize the legitimacy of public women's voices and actions.

Wilkes University and King's College
2019 Women's and Gender Studies Conference Program

"NEW NARRATIVES OF GENDER IN THE MEDIA"

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

9:00 AM

Welcome to "New Narratives of Gender in the Media"

Conference programs and name badges will be available at a table across from the elevator on the third floor of the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

9:30-10:45

SESSION A

Session Title: ***"Feminism Today"***

Location: Walsh Room

Moderator: **DR. MEGAN LLOYD**, King's College

Presenter: **BREANA OLANOVICH**, King's College, **"Men and Women in Accounting"**

JENNA TRENTALANGE, King's College, **"Pro-Life and Feminism"**

SARA MANGOLD, King's College, **"How Feminism has Changed"**

CASEY GENOVESE, King's College, **"Gender Roles in the Home"**

Description: Presentations in this session emanate from a course at King's College called "Macho Men and Unruly Women." These presentations are part of the broader project of investigating the strong woman in literature, history and society and explores the attitudes and anxieties about power that smart, assertive women generate. It also examines the macho, iron man, the patriarchal male, the metrosexual and asks, "Are men and women really that different from one another?" What does it mean to be unruly or macho? Are these terms positive or negative?

SESSION B

Session Title: **Macho Men and Unruly Women: Sexism and Popular Culture: Football, Journalism, and Movies**

Location: Fitzgerald Room

Moderator: **MS. HEATHER DAVID**, King's College

Presenter: **NICK SCHIPSI**, King's College, **"Women in Football"**

CHRIS SURINA, King's College, **"Unequal Opportunity for Women in Sports Journalism"**

ANTHONY DEANGELO, King's College, **"Sexism in Superhero Movies"**

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11:00-12:15

SESSION A

Session Title: **Women, Men, and Impossible Standards**

Location: Walsh Room

Moderator: **DR. JENNIFER MCCLINTON-TEMPLE**, King's College

Presenters: **NICK HARTH**, King's College, **"Romeo and Juliet Today"**

MARY KATE KUSHNERICK, King's College, **"Men and Women in Social Media"**

Description: These presentations emanate from a course at King's College called "Macho Men and Unruly Women." These presentations are part of the broader project of investigating the strong woman in literature, history and society and explores the attitudes and anxieties about power that smart, assertive women generate. It also examines the macho, iron man, the patriarchal male, the metrosexual and asks, "Are men and women really that different from one another?" What does it mean to be unruly or macho? Are these terms positive or negative?

Presenter: **BRIANNA SCHUNK**, Wilkes University, **"Pretty Girls: Taking Back Women's Roles in Dance"**

Description: Dance is one of the few art forms left that still relies on traditional gender roles and expectations. In my composition "Pretty Girls," we can examine how the dancers in the piece break the barrier on women's cultural roles in America through the art of dance. The women in this piece take control of their lives and their bodies and are permitted to do the one thing women are so often denied - the chance to be themselves. I will talk briefly about my artistic process as it applies to the feminist themes I aim to highlight in my piece.

SESSION B

Session Title: **Women on the Front Lines: Policing, the Military and Medicine**

Location: Snyder Room

Moderator: **DR. VALERIE KEPNER**, King's College

Presenters: **PAMELA BELTRAN**, King's College, **"Women on the Force"**
BRANDON DAIGLE, King's College, **"Women in the Military"**
CODY OSWALD, King's College, **"Men and Women in Pediatrics"**

Description: Presentations in this session emanate from a course at King's College called "Macho Men and Unruly Women." These presentations are part of the broader project of investigating the strong woman in literature, history and society and explores the attitudes and anxieties about power that smart, assertive women generate. It also examines the macho, iron man, the patriarchal male, the metrosexual and asks, "Are men and women really that different from one another?" What does it mean to be unruly or macho? Are these terms positive or negative?

SESSION C

Session Title: **Defining the Macho in the Modern Era**

Location: Fitzgerald Room

Moderator: **Dr. Megan Lloyd**, King's College

Presenters: **CONNOR LAVIN**, King's College, **"Mental Struggles in Men's Ice Hockey"**
MAJED ALSHAMMARI, King's College, **"Macho Men"**
JACOB PAWLICZAK, King's College, **"Rocky the Macho Man?"**

Description: Presentations in this session emanate from a course at King's College called "Macho Men and Unruly Women." These

presentations are part of the broader project of investigating the strong woman in literature, history and society and explores the attitudes and anxieties about power that smart, assertive women generate. It also examines the macho, iron man, the patriarchal male, the metrosexual and asks, "Are men and women really that different from one another?" What does it mean to be unruly or macho? Are these terms positive or negative?

12:30-1:45

SESSION A

Session Title: **Women, the Law, and Social Media: Seeking Forms of Justice**

Location: Walsh Room

Moderator: **DR. BRIDGET COSTELLO**, King's College

Presenter: **DR. ANTHONY KAPOLKA**, Wilkes University, "**Turkey to New York: Observations of Twitter Geo-Spoofing by Escort Workers**"

Description: Social Media provides a tremendous resource for gender and social justice researchers. Recent data mining work on twenty-million-plus tweets since September 2017 geotagged as either New York or Miami has produced a startling discovery: although only two-tenths of one percent (0.2%) of all tweets originating in NYC are in Turkish, hashtags for Turkish escorts appear with dramatic frequency in that city as compared to Miami. These tweets are geo-spoofed: is this simply to avoid government content filtering or could something more be going on? This is a call for conversation and collaboration.

Presenter: **MADISON SCARFARO**, "**Marsy's Law**"

Description: Marsy's Law is currently being worked on to be added into the Pennsylvania Constitution and is non-partisan. This law would ensure that victims of crime have the same co-equal rights as those who were accused or convicted. These constitutional rights include the right to receive information about their rights, the right to receive notification of proceedings in their criminal case, the right to be present at court proceedings, and more.

SESSION B

Session Title: **Women in American Society: Music and Social Institutions**

Location: Snyder Room

Moderator: **DR. VALERIE KEPNER**, King's College

Presenters: **ERIKA CASTRO, DYLAN WILSON, and JORDAN BOLDEN**, King's College, **"Gender Diversity Within Music"**

Description: Gender is an influential factor in music; it can be a determinative factor in which performers get lucrative contracts, in which artists get radio airtime, and how the quality of an artist's music is perceived. For instance, record deals are not offered to women as regularly as they are to men because it is assumed that men will sell more and attract a bigger audience. It is also understood that men can say certain words or phrases in their music, while women might get judged or censored. Men are celebrated for their vulgarity in music, but women who attempt this same behavior are frequently frowned upon.

Presenters: **AUDRALAINE MENTRIKOSKI, NATASHA KOSLOP, J.J. HOOPER, ISAAC MENSAH**, King's College, **"Social Sciences Views of Same Sex Relationships"**

Description: This presentation investigates perspectives on same sex marriage from four different areas of social sciences including sociology, psychology, geography, and political science.

2:00-3:15

SESSION A

Session Title: **Consequences of Chauvinism**

Location: Walsh Room

Moderator: **DR. HELEN H. DAVIS**, Wilkes University

Presenters: **RACHEL NARDOZZI, KATHERINE OSMANSKI, and GABRIELLA PEZZELLA**, Wilkes University, **"Domestic Violence: Shame, Silence, and Seclusion"**

Description: This presentation discusses domestic violence within romantic relationships. It examines the cycles of domestic abuse between a dominant and submissive person. The presentation will discuss the emotional sides of abuse as well as the physical, and identifies the psychological consequences that occur

when a victim has been in the cycle of abuse for a substantial period of time. Finally, it suggests steps that are necessary for someone in an abusive relationship to take in order to separate him/herself from the abuser.

Presenters: **BRITTANY BONK and SHAWN MULLIGAN**, Wilkes University, **"Why Such a Small Number: Women in STEM Fields"**

Description: This presentation discusses why there are not as many women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fields as there are men. Gender diversity among these Scientific fields is important not only to show that "girls can do it too," but because STEM skills are important for jobs and give women more of an opportunity than they would have had before. The presentation examines what is currently going on with women in STEM, the advantages of studying STEM, the problems women face in STEM fields, and potential solutions.

SESSION B

Session Title: **Breaking into the "Boys' Club," Redefining Traditional Male Spaces**

Location: Snyder Room

Moderator: **DR. MIA BRICEÑO**, Wilkes University

Presenters: **CABRINI RUDNICKI and KYLE SNYDER-STRAWSER**, Wilkes University, **"Women in Video Gaming"**

Description: This presentation explores the complexity of women in video games, specifically the mistreatment and oppression that women gamers experience in competitions and in online gaming.

Presenters: **NALLEYN NUNEZ and LENY GOMEZ**, Wilkes University, **"Toxic Masculinity in Boys' Friendships"**

Description: Masculinity is defined as a set of attributes, behaviors and roles typically associated with boys. In contrast, toxic masculinity is the exaggeration of these behaviors and roles e.g. stereotypes that portray men as the breadwinners, aggressive, emotionless, tough or overcompetitive. This presentation examines toxic masculinity in boy friendships. It analyzes how boys are socialized to behave in ways that demonstrate their masculinity to other boys. Toxic masculinity can cause serious conduct behaviors between boys and develop into antisocial behaviors in adulthood. The societal pressures that demand boys to exhibit hypermasculine behaviors is particularly damaging

when they begin to form relationships with other boys. Boy relationships may develop in unhealthy ways in which intimacy and softness is discouraged and deemed female like. This presentation provides alternatives for child rearing so that boys can learn healthier ways of behaving “masculine” and “feminine” in relation to other boys.

Presenters: **ABIGAIL MACHAY and OSIRIS AMARIS VANEGA GARCIA,** Wilkes University, **“Women in Politics”**

Description: Since 2018, the number of women in Congress has risen significantly. As women have made great strides in terms of social, economic, and political power, it is crucial to emphasize their role in politics and to debunk the cultural stereotypes surrounding congresswomen.

3:30-4:45

SESSION A

Session Title: **Girls, Women, and Social Power**

Location: Walsh Room

Moderator: **DR. HELEN H. DAVIS,** Wilkes University

Presenters: **PHOEBE YOST, JESSICA SNYDER, and DANIELLE WALSH,** Wilkes University, **“Child Brides in the United States,”**

Description: This presentation will discuss the prevalence of child marriages in the United States, the harm caused to the children, and work to end the practice in the country. According to *The Washington Post*, between 2000 and 2010, around 248,000 girls, some as young as 12, were married to adult men. The argument for ending child marriage, according to the International Women’s Health Coalition, is that it could lower the perpetuation of poverty, illiteracy, and violence against women and young children while boosting educational and economic opportunities for young girls.

Presenters: **ABDULAZIZ ALZHRANI, SALEH ALANZI, MOHAMMED ALKHATHLAN,** King’s College, **“Women in Saudi Society”**

Description: There are things women in Saudi Arabia used to not be able to do, but the society is changing and allowing women more rights and privileges. This presentation will provide information about the changing status of women in Saudi culture.

SESSION B

Session Title: **Institutions, Gender, and Power**

Location: Snyder Room

Moderator: **DR. MIA BRICEÑO**, Wilkes University

Presenters: **CAMERON FORD and BRIANNA MAZZACARRO**,
Wilkes University, **"Juvenile Women and Incarceration"**

Description: This presentation takes a closer look at incarcerated juvenile women. It will discuss how incarcerated women are treated differently than men, and how that affects growth and development. It examines how incarceration affects the teenage brain, and how that can affect both treatment and mental health. This project looks at the teenage brain to explain some of the reasoning behind these juveniles' actions and discusses the types of crimes juvenile women commit and how those crimes are usually different from those of men. Finally, the presentation explains the differences in the backgrounds of incarcerated men and women and investigates how well juvenile treatment programs work and what it is like for these young girls when they leave incarceration.

Presenters: **MADELYNN DAVIS and GIANNA BROWN**, Wilkes University,
"Issues Plaguing Incarcerated Women's Healthcare Rights"

Description: Prisons and the criminal justice system overall does not have a reputation of being kind to their inmates, specifically those with physical or mental illnesses. Women make up a large percentage of those in the cells in prisons where they are vulnerable to mistreatment from guards and other inmates without proper health services and care. Specifically, they are not given proper ways to comfortably deal with menstruation, pregnancy, and overall bodily care when they are violated. The lack of healthcare rights for women is negatively affecting an already vulnerable population within the criminal justice system. This oppressive system needs to be reformed in order to help the lack of healthcare for women.

Presenters: **CASSIE MERRILL and KELCIE SHOVLIN**, Wilkes University,
"Sexual Harassment in Higher Education"

Description: Sexual harassment in higher education is something that most, if not all, women deal with on a regular basis. Our focus is on student-student harassment. This is important to Women's and Gender Studies because it often shapes the way that

women perceive experience within the environment, more specifically at colleges and universities. Women are constantly singled-out, harassed, and physically abused by men who think that they hold power. Some men even belittle women because they feel as if they are smarter and more deserving of an education. Regulations must be imposed in order to serve justice to individuals who single out women by preying on them in the upper-level education system. Radical feminists' movements tend to focus on how we can rebuild a society where harassment for women is no longer tolerated. This presentation will be sharing data collected through surveys and interviews.

7:00 PM

Session Title: **Manuscript Society and Champion Literary Society Present: Poetry and Fiction**

Location: Burke Auditorium, McGowan School of Business

Organizers: **MS. JENNIFER YONKOSKI**, King's College

Description: Writers will present original works of poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction that celebrate the lives of women, their varied voices, experiences, and visions of the world. A reception will follow.

SPECIAL THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

King's College

Fr. Jack Ryan, *President of King's College*

Anne Noone, *Executive Assistant to the President*

Dr. Joseph Evan, *Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs*

Dr. Neal Bukeavich, *Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs
and Dean of Faculty*

Josh Ulanoski, *Associate Art Director, King's College
Office of Marketing and Communications*

Carol Simonovich Scholl, *King's College
Office of Marketing and Communications*

Rae Lynn Barrett, *Conference and Catered Events Coordinator*

Courtney Zabresky, *Hafey-Marian Administrative Assistant*

Bethany Makuta, *History Department and Women's Studies Student Assistant*

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