

SIUE WOMEN'S STUDIES 2017-2018

FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

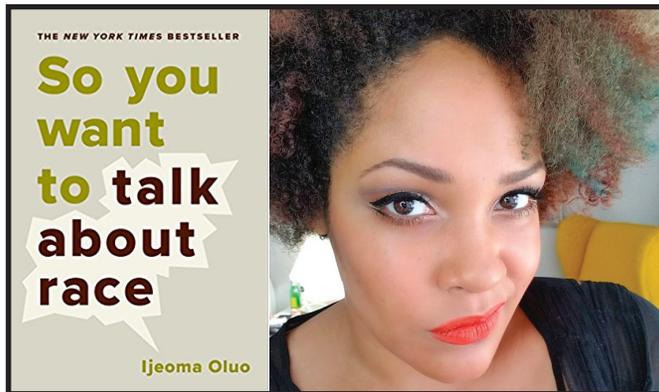
First, I would like to thank our alumni and faculty for their support of the SIUE Women's Studies program. Occasionally, alumni and faculty serve as guest speakers in our Women's Studies Speaker Series or cool women in our Coffee With Cool Women series. Others contribute to the Women's Studies Program financially during SIUE Day or Alumni fundraising drives. These funds provide additional awards to students for Honors Day when we have multiple standout students eligible for our single endowed honor, the Martha Welch Award. They also provide food or drink to student, community, and faculty attendees (state funds cannot legally be spent on food or drink). Eating together provides a sense of community and care.



Sandra Yokely was this year's recipient of the Martha Welch Award for Honor's Day.

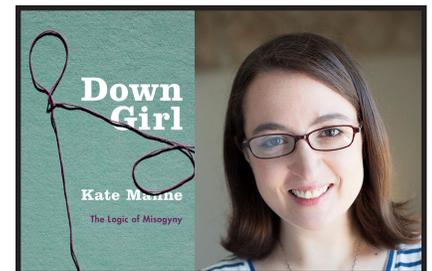
Second, I would like to update you on the program. We have drawn a wide variety of speakers to campus. This newsletter contains a sample list. Our featured speaker in Spring of 2018 was Ijeoma Oluo, author of *So you want to talk about race*. We ran a book club on this excellent book prior to Oluo's visit to campus. The event itself was standing room only. We brought in extra chairs to accommodate additional visitors. Students, faculty and

staff, and community members from outside SIUE attended. Oluo's book is aimed at both white folks and people of color who seek to discuss tricky issues of race. She often leads with her own mistakes or experiences in discussing race and openly says that this is a subject on which we will make errors, but cannot afford not to try. I strongly recommend this book for anyone of any age who is engaging in self-reflection on race or is grappling with how to talk about race with others, whether family and friends or beyond.



Our featured speaker in Spring of 2019 will be Kate Manne, author of *Down Girl: the logic of misogyny*. Her work has been profiled in many popular press pieces ranging from Vox to Guernica to The New York Times. Both Oluo and Manne are active on Twitter and the internet more generally through social media, blogging, and articles in traditional media. I recommend their work.

Our minor continues to offer SIUE students in a wide variety of majors the opportunity to deepen their familiarity with issues around gender and sexuality, through both courses and events. We have welcomed some new faculty the last few years, one of whom is profiled in this newsletter. This past year, WMST has taken a leadership role in responding to racial bias incidents on campus—see our Statement on the blog—and we have maintained our active role in sexual assault prevention efforts through the brand new SIUE PEACE center. PEACE is directed by Samantha Dickens and supported by a federal grant from the Violence Against Women Act. VAWA support would not have been possible without the involvement of numerous Women's Studies faculty who had a hand in crafting the grant proposal in addition to their usual faculty duties. I will be on Sabbatical Fall of 2018, and Christy Ferguson will ably serve as Interim Director of Women's Studies during that time.



Finally this new format of newsletter is short and sweet. It can be archived online while directing readers to our robust online content. You can join us regularly online throughout the year, or attend our events if you are still in the area, as well as looking forward to this annual newsletter. We are glad you are with us. Now, more than ever, we have work to do. Let's get to work.

Alison Reiheld
Director of Women's Studies
Associate Professor of Philosophy

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2017-2018 EVENT TOPICS

Coffee with Cool Women

Trans Basics and Best Practice for
Inclusion

LGBT Family Life

Decolonizing Academic Spaces

Sexual Self-Efficacy

Men of African Descent: Intersec-
tional Identity Development During
the College Years

Stitch and Bitch
with Christy Ferguson

Walk a Mile in Her Shoes

Careers in the Foreign Service

Women and Girls with Autism

and many more!

Director of Women's Studies, Alison Reiheld, will be on sabbatical in Fall of 2018 doing research on transgender health. English Department faculty member Christy Ferguson will serve as Interim Director for Fall 2018. Thank you for your service, Christy!

ASHTON SPENO



NEW FACULTY INTERVIEW

What is your focus for research and what do you hope to accomplish?

My research primarily focuses on issues of gender and sexualization in the media, adolescents' experiences with new media technologies, and media effects on attitudes, behaviors, health outcomes, and self-concept. My current research projects focus on sexting. I hope to add to the growing body of research on sexting and adolescents by investigating linkages between media use and sexting, sexualization and sexting, and sexting and health outcomes. Practically speaking, I want to help foster an understanding of what sparks and results from risky sexting and help parents and professionals to intervene in these processes. I love doing collaborative and interdisciplinary research, and hope to continue to grow my research program here at SIUE.

What do you like about Mass Communications and/or Women's Studies?

I think my favorite thing is the ever-changing nature of media and women's role in society. It's never boring and there is something new to learn every day! It's so much fun to teach, and I love empowering students by arming them with knowledge and skills to navigate our complex media landscape.

How does being in two departments help you learn and teach more about the subjects?

I think interdisciplinary teaching, learning, and research is where the really exciting and important stuff happens! It helps me to be less of a silo in my thinking, and more connected to others. It would be incredibly short sighted to talk about media without discussing women, and conversely it would be senseless to talk about women without considering media. Both exist in a larger system, and the more we can understand about the whole the more we can know about the parts (and vice versa, of course). I cannot imagine one without the other.

What would you like people to know about you?

Things I like: movies, cheese, dogs, logic, teaching, hiking, running, learning, nature, science, an informed and empowered public, music, equality, research, non-conformists, laughing, time with the people I love, social progress, carbonated water, when everything seems to come together finally, sunshine
Things I dislike: olives, hard-boiled eggs, institutionalized racism, inefficiently-run meetings, wastefulness, hegemonic masculinity, over-cooked pasta noodles.

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Visit us online to see complete lists of past and future events, read our blog, find course descriptions, and much more!

Students, faculty, staff, and alumni are encouraged to join our SIUE Women's Studies Program on Facebook!