WELCOME: 9:00 AM

La Fleur F. Small, PhD - Chair Department of Sociology and Anthropology and social science programs

Linda Caron, PhD - Dean of College of Liberal Arts

Symposium Presentations (Morning Session)

Julie L. Williams, Psy.D. ABPP  
Disability Justice and Feminist Movement

Julie Williams is a Professor of Psychology at Wright State University School of Professional Psychology. She teaches about the struggle for inclusion, equity, and justice as the source of marginalization and suffering in the disability community. Williams advocates for solidarity across and within groups and a space to celebrate the mind/body in all its forms. Disability as a diversity variable is often absent from, and remains an untold story within, the psychology curriculum including feminist and multicultural psychology. Disability, however, shares the historical oppressive experiences of other bodies at the margins, and it should be understood as a social political experience. Understanding disability as an intersectional identity variable is a powerful strategy to bring voice and visibility to this untold story. This session reviews the use of critical disability studies, Crip art, and feminist scholarship to inform and contextualize the sociopolitical roots of disability. As a presenter and teacher who identifies as hard of hearing, Dwarf, cisgender woman, and queer, Williams will discuss strategies to remove social distance and promote collective healing.
Verjine Adanalian  
**Sexual Trafficking in the Criminal Justice System**  
Verjine Adanalian, Esquire, joined the Ohio Justice & Policy Center in June 2018 as an Equal Justice Works Crime Victims Justice Corps Legal Fellow. She is an attorney who provides legal services specifically to address the legal needs of human trafficking survivors. Adanalian provides education and training to not only survivors of trafficking, but also social service providers, legal professionals, and volunteers. Additionally she is an adjunct professor at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio, where she is currently teaching a Human Trafficking and Criminal Justice class in the Applied Behavioral Sciences master’s program. Adanalian graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where she served as Managing Editor of the internationally-acclaimed *Human Rights Quarterly*.

Sierra Leone  
**Vision Perfected**  
Writer, Healer, Teaching Artist, Entrepreneur, Chief Executive Director and Mother, Sierra Leone captivates audiences with her unassuming ingenuity, profound insight, and comedic sense of "knowing." A Governor's Award winner, Leone is the president and artistic director of OFP Theatre Company. For more than a decade, Ohio has benefited from her vision of creative urban arts as a powerful artistic medium to bring communities together across racial, cultural, ideological, and economic divides. Often she speaks joyously about being one of few Poets with an MBA! Leone’s work with youth arts organizations, schools, community organizations, and regional businesses has been ongoing through her company's educational arm, Signature Educational Solutions. She has written and performed commissioned work for local and national organizations. Leone continues to directly impact and empower Women daily through I Am Moon Power.

Dayton YWCA Staff Member  
**Domestic Violence Locally and Nationally**  
A representative from the Dayton YWCA will discuss domestic violence nationally and locally and the resources that the YWCA offers for women. Such services include shelters in Montgomery and Preble counties, a year-round crisis hotline, and a variety of support services.

Kelli Zaytoun  
**Gloria Anzaldúa: Border Poetics and the Politics of Rewriting the Past**  
Kelli Zaytoun is Professor and Director of Graduate studies in the Department of English at Wright State University. Her research and teaching focus on identity and narrative, multi-ethnic American literature, and the works of Gloria Anzaldúa, María Lugones, and Clarice Lispector. Zaytoun’s articles have appeared in *MELUS, CWW, Frontiers*, the *NWSAJ, Feminist Teacher, El Mundo Zurdo*, and in numerous book publications. She is currently working on a book project on the shapeshifter trope in the works of Gloria Anzaldúa to be published in the series “Transformations: Womanist, Feminist, and Indigenous Studies” with University of Illinois Press. This talk focuses on the literature and activism of Chicana writer Gloria Anzaldúa, whose groundbreaking 1987 book, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*, remains remarkably relevant today. Anzaldúa’s engagement with her indigenous ancestry is one of the most celebrated yet controversial features of her work. In this talk Zaytoun proposes that Anzaldúa
avoids primitivism and appropriation in her careful rewritings of Mesoamerican myths by way of what she called a theory and practice of “border arte.” Instead of recreating or romanticizing the past, Anzaldúa articulates new forms of identity, belonging, and writing that are not bound to, and indeed resist and subvert, colonialist logic. In general the talk addresses contemporary issues such as border politics, culture appropriation, and the importance of contributions by feminists of color to the American literary canon and U.S. social movements.

Sharon Lynette Jones
National, Transnational, and Intersectional Journeys: Angela Y. Davis and Social Justice Movements

Lynette Jones is Professor in the Department of English Language and Literatures at Wright State University. She is also affiliate faculty for the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program and faculty for the African and African American Studies program at Wright State University. Jones is editor of Conversations with Angela Davis (under contract with University Press of Mississippi) and the author of Rereading the Harlem Renaissance; Race, Class, and Gender in the Fiction of Jessie Fauset, Zora Neale Hurston and Dorothy West; and Critical Companion to Zora Neale Hurston: A Literary Reference to Her Life and Work. Further, she is co-editor with Rochelle Smith of The Prentice Hall Anthology of African American Literature and editor of Critical Insights: Zora Neale Hurston. Additionally, Jones is Managing Editor of CLA Journal and Treasurer of the Langston Hughes Society and former director and former assistant director of the African and African American Studies program at Wright State University. This talk analyzes the contributions of Angela Davis to social justice movements in national, transnational, and intersectional contexts, incorporating archival material in relation to Angela Davis’s life, writings, and activism. Texts discussed include Angela Davis: An Autobiography by Angela Y. Davis, interviews of Angela Y. Davis, Women, Race & Class by Angela Y. Davis, and other relevant texts. Jones addresses how Angela Davis’s activism in the twentieth- and twenty-first century remains relevant and significant, revealing how Angela Davis continues to influence contemporary writers and activists committed to social justice.

Lunch Break: 12-1pm

All campus eateries welcome visitors and accept cash and credit cards. A list of campus restaurants and menu options can be found at https://www.dineoncampus.com/wright/. A campus map is located at https://www.dineoncampus.com/wright/campus-map. In the alternative, several fast-food and traditional restaurant options are located just across the street from campus on Colonel Glenn Highway.

Symposium Presentations: (Afternoon Sessions) 1:15 pm

Jessica Penwell Barnett
Womxn's Liberation Today: Tracing Legacies of the Sexual Revolution

Jessica Penwell Barnett is Associate Professor of Sexuality & Gender Studies in the Department of Sociology & Anthropology at Wright State University. Her work focuses on the regulation of
the body and intimate practices, with a focus on sexuality, health, and social justice. Framed against the arc of the scholarly and activist work of the affiliated Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program and Women’s Center at Wright State University, this talk traces the legacy of the sexual revolution to the current state of sexual and reproductive equity in the United States. Has revolution led to liberation? What work remains?

**Corrie Pleska**

**Power Based Violence**

Corrie Pleska is a licensed independent social worker who has been serving as Wright State University’s Survivor Advocate and Case Manager since September 2018. She has been working with survivors of power-based violence in various capacities over the last eight years and plans to continue this work throughout the entirety of her career. After volunteering through different community organizations throughout her undergraduate career, Pleska was finally able to begin working in a more professional capacity with survivors during her graduate studies through Wright State University’s Master of Arts in Social Work program and an internship with Greene County’s Family Violence Prevention Center. Upon completion of her degree she continued her work with the Family Violence Prevention Center, first serving as a Crisis Response Specialist through the agency’s DIVERT program and then moving on to serve as the agency’s first Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. Prior to her coming to work at Wright State University, Pleska also worked with Kettering Medical Center as a Behavioral Health Assessment Team Specialist and contracted therapist for survivors of all ages. She presents today on the concept of power-based violence and why utilizing this terminology is important when addressing issues of violence within our communities and relationships.

**Shreya Bhandari**

**Patterns of abuse among South Asian women experiencing domestic violence**

Shreya Bhandari is Professor of Social Work and also the MSW director at Wright State University. Her research interests are violence against women, specifically domestic violence among immigrant women and rural, pregnant women in the U.S. and women in India. Currently she is conducting a study titled *Exploring Intervention for South Asian Women Experiencing Domestic Violence in the U.S.*, which is supported through the Women's Center at Wright State University. This qualitative study was conducted with a convenience sample of 20 South Asian women experiencing domestic violence in the United States. The study results reveal patterns of abuse, and Bhandari will use the Landenburger model (binding, enduring, disengaging, and recovery) to explore the factors and circumstances (i.e. turning points) that motivated these South Asian women to change. The four themes that emerged from the interviews and analysis are (1) “Timing and Frequency of abuse,” (2) “Methods of control – financial, isolation and suspicion,” (3) “Cycle of Abuse,” and (4) “Turning Points – motivation to change.” Bhandari discusses implications for practice and policy-level changes for abused South Asian women in the United States.
Cynthia Marshall Burns
What’s Next for #MeToo?
Cynthia Marshall Burns is Senior Lecturer in the Department of English and Program Coordinator for Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program at Wright State University. She started her career working in writing centers and now works with underprepared college students in first-year writing courses. She also teaches business writing and introduction to women and gender studies. The #MeToo Movement, begun in 2006 by Tarana Burke, sparked a revolution through revelation: women speaking their truths and lived experience of sexual abuse and harassment. Celebrities and public figures and ordinary women felt empowered to speak up, and powerful men have been called to account as serial harassers of (usually) women. Has this movement been successful, and for whom? Who has benefitted and why? How do we acknowledge the movement’s origins, implement lessons, and move forward in an inclusive way?

Nicole Carter
Black Feminism: Reflections on Experience, Theory and Praxis
Nicole Carter is the Director of the Wright State University Women’s Center. She also teaches in various fields including the Student Affairs and Higher Education program and the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program. Her foci include creation of counter-spaces for women students of color and women students in STEMM and the intersectional experiences of women in university settings, persistence, and retention of women in higher education. She received her PhD from Eastern Michigan University and has held leadership positions with the National Women’s Studies Association and the Southeastern Ohio Consortium for Higher Education’s Women’s Center Committee. This presentation focuses on Black Feminism.

Brandy Foster
Hiding in Plain Sight: The Hidden Figures of STEMM
Brandy Foster is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science & Engineering and serves as the Executive Director of The ONEIL Center for Research Communication, which was founded in 2017 by a corporate gift of $675,000. She is an alumna of Wright State University, where she earned baccalaureate and master degrees in English Language & Literatures. Foster has created a career as a professional generalist at the intersection of her love for language and her interest in technology and has served as a freelance editor specializing in technical and scholarly manuscripts, a proposal writer to researchers in STEMM fields, a grants administrator, an educator, and the executive director of a non-profit organization focused on advancing research and clinical praxis in wound care technologies and therapies. Her research focuses on experiential and informal learning and workforce development. Foster’s 2019 TedxDayton talk, “The Rise of the Generalists,” addressed the need to develop workforce skills transferrable to new contexts in a rapidly changing, technology-driven economy. Both Margot Lee Shetterly’s book *Hidden Figures* and the major motion picture based on it revealed to the public the untold stories of the African-American mathematicians who worked for NASA during the space race. Given that women in STEMM fields continue to face inequities related to representation, pay, and career advancement opportunities, celebrating women’s contributions to STEMM remains as
important as ever to help shift public perception toward gender equity. Even more critical is the need to celebrate the work from the most hidden groups of women: women of color, native women, and transgender women. This talk includes the voices of Wright State University women in STEMM, revealing how historical women "hidden" to society, but always in full view, influenced women who followed in their footsteps.