

Wilkes University

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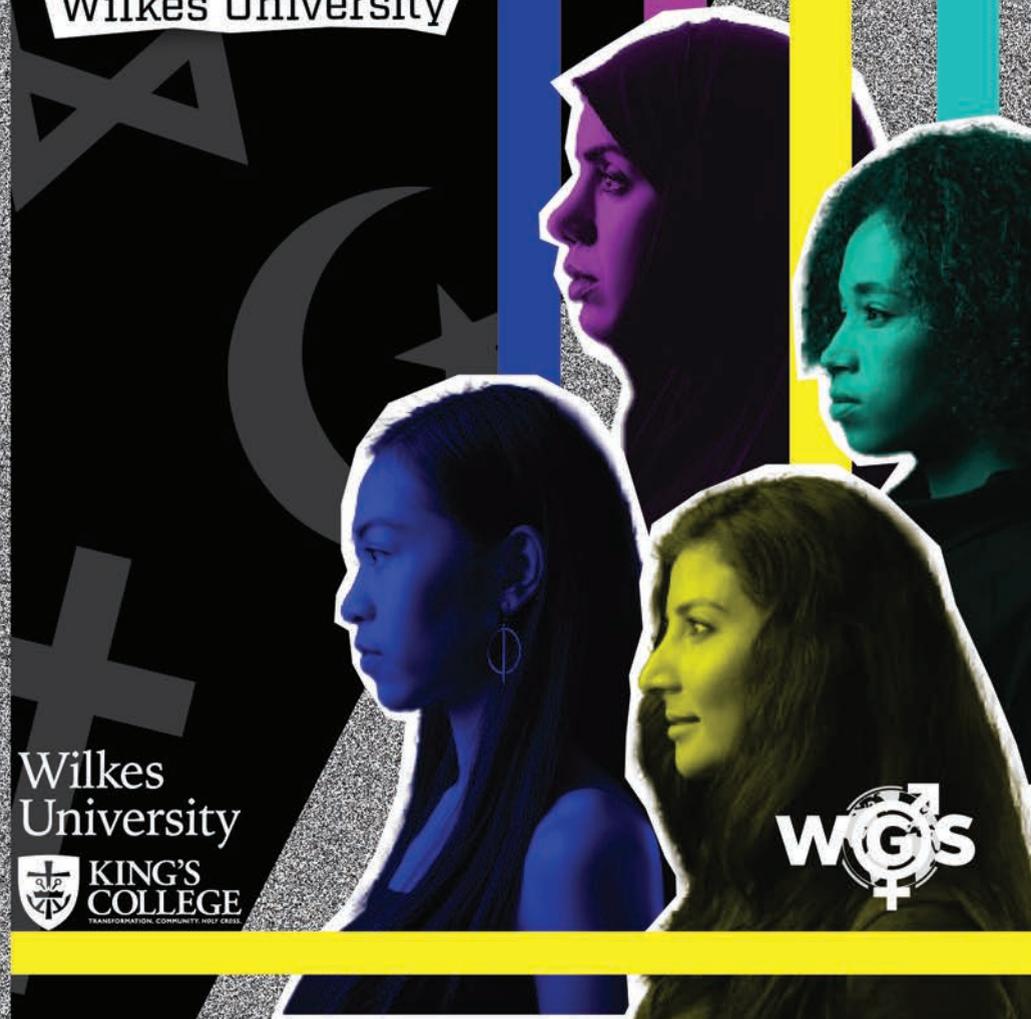
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Women's and Gender Studies at Wilkes University
and King's College present:

GENDER, RACE, AND RELIGION

April 4-5, 2022
Wilkes University

Wilkes
University



Wilkes University and King's College 2022
**WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES
CONFERENCE PROGRAM**
"Gender, Race, and Religion"

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.

WELCOME!

We hope you enjoy the 2022 Women's and Gender Studies Conference. This year's conference has an exciting array of panels in disciplines such as computer science, English, history, mathematics, pharmacy, philosophy, political science, psychology, and more. We extend a warm welcome to our presenters and attendees. It is clear that issues surrounding gender, women, power, culture, and social justice are important topics in our institutions of higher learning.

The theme of this year's conference, "Gender, Race, and Religion," is meant to examine how gender and race shape religion and vice versa. Whether one identifies as a follower of a specific religion or not, religion plays a major role in defining our lives. It influences how people connect with one another and develop systems of accountability. For example, systems of power, such as governments, create laws and an understanding of human rights based on religion. Social norms and gender roles also mold religious practices. It is our hope that this year's keynote address, as well as individual conference presentations, will allow opportunities to critically explore our understanding of how societal institutions such as religion, influence our beliefs. We also hope this year's theme will encourage conversations that center around change and the ways in which each of us can take action, no matter how big or small, to transform consciousness and create a more just and equitable world. The presentations will challenge us to take a second look at the world around us and hopefully inspire us to enact change in our own lives and assist those around us.

This year marks the eleventh year Wilkes University and King's College will collaborate 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 our future conferences continue to attract students, faculty, and community members who wish to present or simply to listen to the many fascinating talks the conference offers.

Please note that all conference events, except for the keynote address, will be held at Wilkes University on the second floor of the Henry Student Center. Should you require assistance or need information, please come to the conference registration area on the second floor of the Henry Student Center and someone will assist you. The keynote address will be held via Zoom on the evening of Monday, April 4th at 7pm. To register, please go to: <https://www.wilkes.edu/wgs>

Dr. Jennifer Thomas
Director, Women's and Gender Studies
Wilkes University

Dr. Valerie Kepner
Director, Women's Studies
King's College

Presentation will occur virtually via Zoom.

To register please go to <https://www.wilkes.edu/wgs>

NOT FIT FOR POLITE COMPANY: RELIGION, RACE, AND GENDER

***Ilyse Morgenstein Fuerst, PhD, Associate Professor of Religion
and Associate Director Humanities Center at the University of Vermont.***



When we think about religion, we often think of a particular religion, our personal experiences, or we may even think: we don't talk about this without risk. It isn't, after all, fit for polite company. Yet, whether or not we are ourselves religious, religion shapes our world. It shapes law, politics, healthcare, and calendars. It even shapes our interpretations and constructions of gender and race. Ignoring religion, then, means to ignore a major sociocultural force that helps people understand themselves, their communities, their identities, and even their own bodies. Fit for polite company or not, we have to talk about religion, race, and gender.

Ilyse Morgenstein Fuerst is Associate Professor of Religion and Associate Director Humanities Center at the University of Vermont. She earned her PhD at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in religious studies, with a specialization in Islamic studies; a Master's of Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School; and a BA from Colgate University in Religion and Asian Studies. Her research centers on Islam and Muslims in South Asia; histories of imperialism; and theories of religion, race, and language. Her first book is titled *Indian Muslim Minorities and the 1857 Rebellion* (I.B. Tauris 2017; paperback, Bloomsbury 2020). She is co-editor of the volume *Words of Experience: Translating Islam* with Carl W. Ernst (Equinox 2021). Her next books are about religion, race, and politics: The first, *Imperial Pandemics*, is about global Islamophobia and antisemitism; the second, *Religion Isn't Done With You*, focuses on how religion is a system that shapes our world. Morgenstein Fuerst is the author of numerous articles about Islam, Islamic studies, and religion in South Asia that appear in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*, *Comparative Islamic Studies*, and *The Muslim World*, among others. She is also the cohost and coproducer of the grant-funded podcast *Keeping It 101: A Killjoy's Introduction to Religion*. At UVM, Morgenstein Fuerst has been recognized as an award-winning teacher whose courses are about the study of religion, Islamic practice and history, race, and imperialism and, occasionally, Hindu traditions.

Tuesday, April 5, 2022 - 10:30 a.m.

Welcome to "Gender, Race, and Religion"

Conference programs and name badges will be available at a table across from the elevator on the second floor of the Henry Student Center.

11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

SESSION A

Session Title: Restricted Access: Gender-Based Discrimination in Sports and Art

Location: Savitz Lounge

Moderator: Dr. Helen Davis, Wilkes University

Presenters: Dr. Kristiana Feeser and Shyanne Wydo, Wilkes University, "Transgender Athletes in Collegiate Sport"

Description: Transgender athletes have become a topic of national interest. What are the rules surrounding transgender athletes inclusion in sport? What effect does testosterone have on physiology and sport performance? Do transgender athletes have an advantage or disadvantage? During this talk, these and other questions about the science behind transgender athletes in competition will be discussed.

Presenters: Laurel Hopfer and Angela Croop, Wilkes University, "How Gender Polarization Creates Discrimination in Sports for Transgender People"

Description: This presentation will address not only the systemic issues of gender polarization, but also how the topic of transgender people participating in sports is increasing, which is leading to many questions about how equality will remain. In addition, we will discuss the lack of support for transgender people in sports because of gender polarization (Flores et al., 2020) at the legal level, citing states that have passed laws about transgender people participating in sports (Sharrow, 2021).

Presenter: Jennifer Boch, Wilkes University, "Do Women have to be Naked to get into the Met Museum? Women, Art, and Representation"

Description: In the 1980s, a "radical" group of feminists known as the Guerilla Girls made quite a splash in the art world by addressing the sexism in art institutions and education. Although their campaign several decades ago helped lead to several improvements in these inequalities, there is still limited and decontextualized study of female artists. Often female artists are examined as simply that, female artists, not artists. This study intends to rectify that perspective by exploring three distinct female artists as artists of their respective periods. My preliminary choices are Mary Cassatt, Frida Kahlo, and Faith Ringgold, three artists often defined solely by their gender. First, a summary of the Guerilla Girls will introduce the topic and guiding research question: How can art education better integrate the study of female artists as equals within their respective periods? Then an analysis of each selected artist will be given, explaining how each artist deserves equal footing with their male contemporary and should be celebrated for their achievements, apart from their gender. This research does recognize the importance of gender studies in art, but there also needs to be an understanding that gender is a single aspect of an artist. Ultimately, this is important because, while there is benefit in separate analysis, it has specifically led to a lack of diversity and representation in the art world.

SESSION B

Session Title: The Socialization of Gender

Location: Miller Room

Moderator: Dr. Amy Sopcak-Joseph, Wilkes University

Presenters: Dr. Amy Sopcak-Joseph, Jennifer Boch, and Jacob Kudysch, Wilkes University, "Selling Faith/Faith Sells: Gender, Religion, and Media in Nineteenth-Century America"

Description: The monthly magazine "Godey's Lady's Book" graced the parlor tables and bookshelves of thousands of American women in the nineteenth century. The "Lady's Book" avoided discussion of partisan debates about issues like the abolition of slavery or women's suffrage, but it had plenty to say about the role of religion in American families. The magazine's editor selected and reviewed books that promoted faith and morality, while the editorial columns touted women's particular duty to shape their families' religious practices. Additionally, the published expensively-produced images calculated to attract the faithful as subscribers. In this presentation, the research team will analyze their findings from a 2021 Wilkes Mentorship Grant to explore how this phenomenally popular women's magazine sought to shape readers' perceptions of faith in their everyday lives.

Presenter: Brianna Schunk, Wilkes University, "Did You Pass the Bechdel Test?: Representation of Women in Children's Television Programming"

Description: Children learn about themselves and their gender from many places, including the television shows they consume. But what are they learning from their shows in regards to gender and representation? In my talk, I will use various tests, including the Bechdel test, as baselines to measure the representation of women in popular children's television programming. I will also dive into the complexities of gender that children's programming dares to explore, and some show's gender-related achievements that remind us - the kids are all right.

Presenters: Dr. Gazelle Taherzadeh and Dr. Anthony Kopolka, Wilkes University, "Sentiment Analysis and Clustering of #MeToo tweets for Ally Identification"

Description: We collected a dataset of 64 million tweets (geotagged from New York City, Miami, and Houston) and their corresponding user profiles, tweeted in 2021. From this, a subset of 32 thousand included some variation of #MeToo, a hashtag that emerged in 2017 as attention heightened towards sexual harassment and gender inequity, especially in the workplace. Simple frequency analysis provides insight into the differences between cities. Collected data was then augmented with both VADER (four intensity measures) and NRCLex (ten emotional measures) sentiment analysis and a clustering machine learner was constructed to identify these tweets. The resulting system can be used to identify allies (those posting #MeToo untagged tweets with similar content and sentiment.)

Presenter: Samantha Andes, Wilkes University, "Social Causes for Math Anxiety"

Description: This presentation focuses on math anxiety and how gender, race, economic status, parental influence, and teaching style can impact the level of anxiety an individual has towards math. Numerous studies have found that women and minorities are more likely to experience math anxiety due to existing stereotypes that can have an effect on self-esteem at a young age. Also, it has been found that if a student has positive parental influence and consistent help with math, they are less likely to experience math anxiety. Similarly, if a student's instructor remains positive regarding math, their students are less likely to develop math anxiety in the future.

***Note this session may last until 12:30**

12:30 - 1:45 p.m.

SESSION A

Session Title: Contemporary Issues in Women's Healthcare: Menstrual Disorders, Breast Cancer, and Nutrition

Location: Savitz Lounge

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Malinowski, Wilkes University

Presenters: Hannah Gillespie and Amanda Albright, Wilkes University, "Menstrual Disorders 101"

Description: The goal of this presentation is to provide information about the most common types of menstrual disorders. Participants will learn about possible causes, clinical presentation and treatments available for dysmenorrhea (painful periods), heavy menstrual bleeding, premenstrual syndrome, and premenstrual dysmorphic disorder.

Presenters: Rachelle Papacena, Kaylee Hornberger, Carly Lewis, and Elena Patestos, Wilkes University, "Breast Cancer Awareness and Prevention"

Description: In 2018, over 250,000 women were diagnosed with breast cancer in the United States, according to the CDC. Breast cancer is a disease which impacts many women where cells in the breast grow uncontrollably. This disease can originate in different cells and parts of the breast then potentially metastasize to other areas in the body. There are many factors that can predispose a woman to breast cancer including genetics, lifestyle, and personal health history. Prevention and early detection of breast cancer is extremely important for the potential avoidance of negative outcomes. Throughout this presentation we will provide education of breast cancer risks, signs, symptoms, and methods to promote prevention.

Presenters: Qiwei Zhou and Bryanna Polascik, Wilkes University, "Vitamin Recommendations in College-Aged Women"

Description: Women between the ages of 20-39 years old take the least amount of vitamin/supplements compared to women of other age groups according to CDC. Vitamins are essential nutrients for the body and a lack of vitamins may lead to various health consequences. It is important for women to stay informed about vitamins/supplements, so they can take part in their own health. The goal of this presentation is for listeners to leave with a better understanding of what vitamins/supplements are recommended for women in college.

1 - 2:15 p.m.

SESSION A

Session Title: Challenges to Gender Equality

Location: Miller Room

Moderator: Dr. Andreea Maiorean, Wilkes University

Presenter: Haley Katona, Wilkes University, "What is Gender Inequality," Emilie Protsko, Wilkes University, "What is Gender Inequality," Santino Brigido, Wilkes University, "What is Gender Inequality," and Connor Frey, Wilkes University, "What Is Gender Inequality? A Look into the Challenges Faced by Women in Today's Society"

Description: Students will deliver presentations addressing Goal #5 of the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls." Several key questions will be addressed such as: What is gender inequality? How can we help foster gender equity? Why is it important to address girls' education

in order to reduce gender inequality? What are some connections between natural disasters and gender inequality?

SESSION B

Session Title: Contemporary Issues Surrounding Gender Equality

Location: Ballroom

Moderator: Jennifer Boch, Wilkes University

Presenter: Morgan Steiner, Wilkes University, "Achieving Gender Equity through Strategies in Education and Employment," Nicholas Antolick, Wilkes University, "International Politics and Women's Education," Emma Guzdek, Wilkes University, "Women and Education," and Jay Gallagher, Wilkes University, "Connections between Natural Disasters and Gender Inequality"

Description: Students will deliver presentations addressing Goal #5 of the Sustainable Development Goals established by the United Nations in 2015: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls." Several key questions will be addressed such as: What is gender inequality? How can we help foster gender equity? Why is it important to address girls' education in order to reduce gender inequality? What are some connections between natural disasters and gender inequality?

2 - 3:15 p.m.

SESSION A

Session Title: Gender in an Ever Changing World

Location: Savitz Lounge

Moderator: Dr. Mia Briceño, Wilkes University

Presenter: Drew Haritos, Wilkes University, "God Help the Outcasts: Examining the Impacts Religious Exposure has on Gender Expectations and Sexual Identity"

Description: Throughout history, significant conflicts have existed between concepts of religion, gender identity, and sexual preference. Christianity condemns homosexuality in any capacity; many churches preach that homosexuals burn in hell and do not deserve compassion or respect. As well as this, Christian teachings also lay out a very clear cut strict set of rules and expectations for both men and women on how to properly live their lives: men bring home the money and protect the house, and women are expected to be pure, meek, and good homemakers. What would happen, though, if these ideas begin to be questioned and revised? In an era of rising queer identity and gender empowerment, it is essential to take a step back, challenge beliefs and values instilled into many individuals' brains from the time they were young, and open the gates to a new era of religious interpretation and identification.

Presenter: Nick Pozek, Wilkes University, "Queering Philanthropy"

Description: Often the discourse on queer philanthropy focuses on the transactional: the giving habits of LGBTQIA+ donors and the solicitation strategies utilized by charities supporting LGBTQIA+ causes. Almost absent from this conversation is an examination of the situation of practices of queer philanthropy within neoliberal systems of governance and capital flow. This talk will explore the ways in which the forms of knowing, being, and caring that undergird queer philanthropy critique, resist, and reinforce the incumbent market-based models of charitable giving. Weaving theory and history, this talk will consider how philanthropic practices could be 'queered' and offer a framework for reimagining this key component of the social sector.

3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

SESSION A

Session Title: International Women's Issues

Location: Miller Room

Moderator: Dr. Mia Briceño, Wilkes University

Presenters: Dr. Gina Zanolini Morrison, Karley Stasko, Donald Ballou, Laurene Fraser, and Yanni Kleopolous, Wilkes University "International Data Analysis Project: Bornean Women of Academia"

Description: This project began in Borneo as part of a larger study on spiritual beliefs of Southeast Asian working women. Data collection involved on-site interviews in three Bornean locations with women of academia, who expressed locally influenced indigenous beliefs emphasizing the importance of sustaining harmony with land and community, past and present. To reinvigorate data analysis, stalled during the pandemic, a mentorship grant allowed undergraduate students to join the data analysis team by transcribing interviews. The team, joining co-authors from America, Indonesia, and Malaysia, attended training in qualitative analysis methods, coded data, and identified further methods to advance the project and clarify its findings. This resulted in an online survey confirming that the Bornean women participants' unique cultural and spiritual beliefs, deeply rooted in nature and community, were passed on to youth to provide an anchor of cultural sustainability during times of rapid change. Paper is under final review.

Presenters: Michelle Bazan, Xhulieta Gjoca, and Kira Meager, Wilkes University, "Latin American Feminist Movement and its Impact on Awareness of Femicide"

Description: Femicide is misogyny in its most extreme and heinous form, and although to Western countries femicide is a distant thought, to most countries in Latin America it is a real issue that looms over Latinx women. For decades in Latin America, femicide was a topic swept under the rug, often deemed a topic of little importance in countries that for decades endured turmoil that ranged from economic crisis to political upheaval. However, in this past decade with grassroots movements such as "Ni Una Menos," feminists throughout Latin America have brought femicide to the forefront of societal and political change.

5 - 6:15 p.m.

SESSION A

Session Title: Women, Power, and Change

Location: Savitz Lounge

Moderator: Dr. Helen Davis, Wilkes University

Presenters: Morgan Casciole and Lauren Wagner, Wilkes University, "Delivering a Virtual Event to Provide Local Girl Scouts with First Aid Badge"

Description: Due to the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Lambda Kappa Sigma Alpha Phi chapter at Wilkes University Nesbitt School of Pharmacy hosted our annual First Aid Badge Girl Scout Event virtually to ensure that Girl Scouts throughout the Wyoming Valley were able to earn their first aid badges. Our chapter was able to teach over 30 Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts various first aid skills via Zoom. Topics reviewed included proper EpiPen and rescue inhaler techniques, how to properly apply an ACE bandage, how to create their own at home first aid kits, outdoor safety, responsibilities of an EMT, and how to appropriately respond to an emergency situation. By providing goodie bags with items to use during the event ahead of time, we were able to

keep the Girl Scouts engaged and give back to the community during these unprecedented times.

Presenters: Dr. Helen Davis, Wilkes University, "Jane Austen and Empire," Jay Guziewicz, Wilkes University, "Emma Woodhouse: Independent Woman, Well Rounded Matchmaker...Lesbian" and Maddy Kinard, Wilkes University, "Individuality and Autonomy in Pride and Prejudice"

Description: In fall 2021, Dr. Davis taught a senior seminar titled, "Jane Austen and Empire," which aimed to study the works of white British writer Jane Austen and her literary legacy through the lens of empire, which meant that we were looking specifically at the politics and power structures that were present on the surface and underneath the novels themselves, as well as in the book and film adaptations and remixes. In her presentation, "Jane Austen and Empire," Dr. Davis will explain the pedagogical rationale for the class, and will provide contextual information about the British Empire in the 19th century. Two students from the class will share their research for the course. These two students focused on the power structures of gender, sexual orientation, and relationships of the period.

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Session Title: Manuscript Society and Campion Literary Society Present: Poetry and Fiction

Location: Ballroom

Organizers: Drs. Michelle Anthony and Chad Stanely, Wilkes University and 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.

Featured readers: Julia Sweeney, King's College, Emily Cherkauskas, Wilkes University, Angelina Falcone, King's College, Breanna Ebisch, Wilkes University, Samantha Lipperini, King's College, Brianna Schunk, Wilkes University '21, Alyse McKennetts, King's College, Jay Guziewicz, Wilkes University, Anarose Davidson, King's College, Dr. Robin Field, King's College, Dr. Michelle Anthony, Wilkes University, and Jennifer Judge Yonkoski, King's College

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Wilkes University

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Women's Studies Faculty Committee Members
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Joseph Evan, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs
Neal Bukeavich, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs/Dean of Faculty
Print Shop

Special thanks to all out-of-town guests and alumni who traveled to campus to participate.

Thank you to all participants and members of the Wilkes and King's communities
who contributed to the success of this conference!

