

THE EVOLUTION OF FAMILY ROLES

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

AND BALANCING
WORK AND FAMILY
DYNAMICS

April 14 and 15

Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center,
King's College



Wilkes
University



KING'S COLLEGE
TRANSFORMATION. COMMUNITY. HOLY CROSS.

"THE EVOLUTION OF FAMILY ROLES AND BALANCING WORK AND FAMILY DYNAMICS"

WELCOME!

Monday, April 14, 2025

1:15 - 2:45 p.m.

Session A

Session Title: Gender and Medicine

Location: Fitzgerald Room, Third floor of Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

Moderator: Dr. Karen Mercincavage, King's College

Presenters: Ms. Sierra DiBiase, King's College, Ms. Carlee Dellose, King's College, and Ms. Lindsay St. Pierre, King's College, "Gender Inequality in Medicine"

Description: Women have been making strides in working on equality in medicine worldwide, as they face obstacles in leadership advances in the medical field, and that will be our main focus. Women have been faced for many decades with the inequality of pay between men and women. For example, in the OB/GYN field, there is a \$36,000 difference between men and women. In addition, women who go to the gynecologist have a bias and want to see another woman. Because of this, men are also going through this problem, with women having that unconscious bias, like previously mentioned, about choosing a female doctor who can relate to the patient better in terms of having the same female anatomy. There have also been gender biases against male OB/GYNs because there have been numerous reports of male perpetrators of sexual assault and misconduct. In the broad scheme of things, medicine is always evolving and making changes for the benefit of doctors, staff, and patients.

Presenters: Ms. Bobbi Chaban, King's College, Ms. Marissa Miller, King's College, and Ms. Lucy Monahan, King's College, "The Sex Gap in Medical Research"

Description: The underrepresentation of females in medical research has led to a gap in the knowledge of female health. This paper explores the history of this gap, the pitfalls that it has led to, and strategies that can be used to address this gap going forward.

Presenters: Sr. Sang Nguyen, King's College, Veronica Nunez, King's College, and Celeste Nunes, King's College, "Gender Disparities in Healthcare (Access and Outcomes)"

Description: Despite the recent medical advancements in this day and age, access to having quality healthcare remains uneven across genders, leading to preventable suffering and disparities in health outcomes. Notably, women are 50% more likely to receive an incorrect initial diagnosis following a heart attack compared to men, and approximately 24% of women have experienced misdiagnosis of gynecological conditions such as endometriosis and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS) due to it. These systemic barriers, including economic limitations, biased medical research, and inadequate healthcare policies, further worsen these discrepancies. Meanwhile, men's health concerns, particularly in mental health, are frequently overlooked, leading to delayed diagnoses and untreated conditions. Because of this, these disparities are not just medical issues but reflected in broader socio-economic and cultural inequalities embedded in healthcare systems.

We hope you enjoy the 2025 Women's and Gender Studies conference. We are pleased to have presenters from King's College, Wilkes University, and the local community. The theme of this year's conference is "The Evolution of Family Roles and Balancing Work and Family Dynamics." Papers analyzing the lack of adequate childcare, evolving family roles and responsibilities, parental leave, and effective ways to manage professional responsibilities while maintaining a healthy family dynamic were solicited with other gender-related topics accepted as well.

This year marks the fourteenth 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 opportunities to our students to explore women's and gender issues across the 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 just simply to listen to the many fascinating talks the conference offers.

Please note that nearly all conference events will be held on the third floor of the Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center on the King's College campus. The one exception is the keynote speaker event which will take place in the Burke Auditorium in the William G. McGowan School of Business. Should you require assistance or need information, please contact Dr. Valerie Kepner at valeriekepner@kings.edu or 570-394-2521 (cell).

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

Dr. Helen Davis
*Interim Director, Women's and Gender Studies
Wilkes University*

Monday, April 14, 2025

1:15 – 2:45 p.m.

Session B

Session Title: Gender Roles, Relationship Violence, Immigrant Workers, and Clothing Sizes

Location: Walsh Room, Third floor of Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

Moderator: Dr. Ayesha Ray, King’s College

Presenters: Jin-Song Cody Zheng, King’s College and Michael Kuzma, King’s College, “Sharing the Second Shift”

Description: A current global problem is sharing the responsibility of having and raising a child. Most cultures, for all of civilized humanity, have expected the woman to take full responsibility of household duties while the male took on an occupation outside the home. However, economic changes now require many families to have two sources of income. Yet, time for the new generation still seems limited between parents. Major companies like Google are introducing wellness programs, mental health support, and paid family leave to help their employees balance work and family life. Parental leave for both parents can also help encourage the participation of both parents in the child raising. However, it is hard for these policies to trickle down into smaller businesses unless there is a law in place to enforce them. It will take some compromise between legislation and both parents of a child to make sure the second shift, or duties after work, are shared.

Presenters: Shelby Shepanski, King’s College, Juleesah Hines, King’s College, and Sophie Vincent, King’s College, “Relationship Violence”

Description: Relationship violence is an issue that persists even more during periods of isolation and societal disruption. Males and females experience this issue, but we’re going to hone in on women who have experienced this. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw lockdowns across the globe, which created an environment for abusers to take control of. Victims of DV were isolated from public support groups, which led to increased rates and severity of DV. This phenomenon isn’t strictly tied to the pandemic; similarly, during natural disasters, this issue exists as well. They both cause isolation from community resources and support networks, removing safety nets for victims. Both COVID-19 and natural disasters disrupt routines and add stressors, which can be catastrophic to people who are in a relationship with an abuser who cannot control themselves in such times.

Presenters: Hilary Olivo, King’s College, Rubelis Oliveras, King’s College, and Cindy Acosta, King’s College, “The Importance of the Jobs of Immigrant Women”

Description: This paper will explore the journey of our mothers, migrant women coming to the United States with a dream of securing a better life not just for themselves, but for their children and family members. How their hard work and sacrifice allows us to succeed in life and have better opportunities than they had. However, it is not easy, factors such as language barriers, discrimination, and financial struggles, make their journey a hard one. Many immigrant women take on caretaker jobs, working in homes, daycares, as home assistants, and other caretaker jobs. This could reflect women in the first world taking on more corporate jobs and not having enough time

to take on the role of caretakers. Yet, the labor of migrant women is often undervalued. Through personal testimony of our mothers and relatives who migrated to the United States for a better life, we will highlight their voices, share their experiences, and their strengths to make their voices be heard and learn through them, the importance of their jobs, and the role that they play in our society.

Presenters: Amanda Carr, King’s College, Zackary Bedwell, King’s College, and Lillian Taylor, King’s College, “Clothing Based on a Unisex Scale”

Description: Over the years, clothing brands have often categorized clothing into just two sections: male and female. This has led to many gender stereotypes, even in small children that believe they can’t wear an article of clothing based on the color alone. This discrepancy in clothing styles has created unnecessary barriers in accessibility, sizing, and pricing. Dozens of women going to the stores have found clothing that tends to be confusing based on the sizes. There is a ‘pink tax’ people tend to see across most brands on a majority of women’s clothing, like a crop top costing thirty dollars while a male’s regular shirt would be around seventeen even though it took less fabric to make. There have been several individuals challenging gender stereotypes based on clothing over the years and hoping to finally see a change. Moving into the future, there has been an abundance of advancing digital technology like ChatGPT, Copilot, and Gemini. When you ask it a simple question, such as “What do I wear today?”, is it giving responses based on a unisex level or only relating to one’s sex? These are questions that must be answered since these Large Language Models are going to continue to grow exponentially in the future, so it is imperative that we achieve a level of understanding to just what extent this could impact even little things like everyday clothing choices.

Our solution to the problem is to have a more standardized, gender-neutral sizing system based on body measurements. Large online companies like Amazon have shown more of a shift in ordering clothing only based on measurements, rather than splitting up clothing sections that are tailored towards a specific gender which most retailers abide by. A big part of this solution would be targeting companies that are still persisting with this outdated style of considering and enforcing gender-neutral standardized sizing that could bring them more business. The companies would most likely lose a portion of money if they could no longer charge a ‘pink tax,’ so instead the pricing could be based on the material quality and durability of the clothing. They may also be able to streamline the manufacturing process into one single production line, decreasing the amount of cost it takes to produce their products.

3:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Session Title: Men, Masculinity, and Gender Studies

Location: Walsh Room, Third floor of Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

Moderator: Mr. Jonathan Kadjeski, King’s College

Presenter: Ms. Subata Zannat Riya, Florida Atlantic University, “Engaging Men in Gender Studies: Understanding the Experiences and Challenges of Male Students Studying Women and Gender Studies at the University of Dhaka”

Description: Gender Studies is an interdisciplinary field that serves as a powerful analytical framework to examine gender power dynamics, advocate for women’s rights, and challenge structural inequalities. It transcends the narrow focus on the study of women alone, instead engaging with the complexities of gender, identity, and intersectionality in society. The discipline is pivotal for achieving societal change, yet it remains underexplored by male students who often perceive it as solely catering to women’s issues. Including more men in Gender Studies is essential, as changing men’s attitudes can foster a more inclusive society where gender equality benefits everyone. This paper explores the experiences, challenges, and perceptions of male students studying at the Department of Women and Gender Studies (DWGS) at the University of Dhaka. By adopting a qualitative research approach and employing stratified purposive sampling, twelve male students were identified and interviewed in-depth. The study uncovers the nuanced ways patriarchal norms and societal expectations shape the experiences of male students within this academic field. The findings highlight that male students’ experiences in Gender Studies vary significantly based on intersecting factors such as geographic origin, parental occupation, and family values. Students from urban areas and those with working parents reported more positive experiences, as their social environments often align more closely with the progressive ideals taught in the discipline. Conversely, students from rural areas and those with homemaker parents faced greater challenges, largely due to traditional family structures and restrictive gender norms. These students often struggle to reconcile the academic messages of gender equality with their deeply ingrained social learning, leading to feelings of isolation and conflict.

The research emphasizes that men’s participation in Gender Studies is crucial for breaking the cycle of patriarchal thinking. Male students have the potential to serve as catalysts for change by challenging stereotypes and promoting gender-sensitive practices within their communities. However, to realize this transformative potential, institutions must address the barriers that discourage men from enrolling in Gender Studies programs. This includes reshaping societal perceptions of the discipline, creating support systems for male students, and fostering an environment where diverse voices can thrive. Ultimately, the study underscores the need to reconsider the role of men in Gender Studies through a lens of inclusivity and intersectionality. By engaging men as active participants in the fight for gender equality, the discipline can expand its reach and effectiveness, creating a ripple effect that benefits all genders. This shift is not just about adding male voices to the conversation but about reshaping societal norms to advance equality for everyone.

Presenter: Mr. Ozzie Priebe, Wilkes University, “Family and Japanese Manhood”

Description: Modern Japanese masculinity rests itself upon the idea of rejecting Western ideals and honing in on a strictly Japanese view on what it means to be a man. Where does the family fit into what it means to be a modern Japanese man? In this project I intend to search for where the family fits into Japanese manhood. Does the family play a role in Japanese manhood or is it a trait exclusively pushed toward women? This project is a subset of a larger project for an independent study.

4:30 – 5:45 p.m.

Session A

Session Title: Gender and Educational Leadership

Location: Walsh Room, Third floor of Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

Moderator: Dr. Megan Lloyd, King’s College

Presenter: Dr. Jessica Noel, Wilkes University, “Why Female Secondary School Principals Leave”

Description: This dissertation investigates the lived experiences of former female secondary school principals and assistant principals in Pennsylvania who departed their roles. Despite increasing numbers of women in education, they remain underrepresented in secondary school leadership positions. This study aims to understand the factors that motivated these women to leave their positions, contributing to the existing literature on female leadership in education. Grounded in self-determination theory (SDT), the study explores how factors related to autonomy, competence and relatedness may have influenced their decisions. Utilizing a phenomenological approach, in-depth interviews were conducted with five former female secondary school leaders. Findings from this research will provide valuable insights into the challenges and barriers faced by women in secondary school leadership, potentially informing policies and practices to support their retention and success.

Presenters: Edweana Alexis, Wilkes University, and John Sudol, Wilkes University, “Black Lives Matter: Fighting for systemic change against racial injustice”

Description: The Black Lives Matter movement is committed to combating systematic racial injustices, specifically mass incarceration, police brutality, and the Black communities’ lack of political rights. BLM promotes equality, Black liberation, and an end to anti-Black violence. Its foundations are found in feminist intersectionality, critical race theory, and social dominance theory. Notable incidents like Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Trayvon Martin, which show racial biases and systemic violence in law enforcement, are among the main issues brought to light by the movement. BLM also fights voter suppression and mass incarceration, while highlighting the prison-industrial complex. Campaign Zero and the BLM Global Network are the two activist groups that we will be focusing on that seek to bring about change using data-driven solutions, policy advocacy, and community support. Although BLM has been criticized for its lack of transparency and leadership, its influence on Black communities and compatibility with racial justice and feminist frameworks can’t be denied. In the end, BLM aims for structural change, increased enforcement accountability, and racial and economic justice.

Session B

Session Title: **Revolutions, Gender Stereotypes, and Hypersexuality**

Location: Fitzgerald Room, Third floor of Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

Moderator: **Ms. Robyn Snyder, King's College**

Presenter: **Courtney Mallon, Wilkes University, "The Role of Feminism in Revolutions"**

Description: Revolutions are a period of crisis and cultural change, from which a new historical period and social structure is born. In this paper, it will review the impact of revolutions on the emergence of feminism in Ireland and Mexico, and the role of feminism during these revolutions. The review will be through the theoretical perspective of Feminist Theory and Theda Skocpol's Theory of Revolutions. It will also focus largely on the historical timelines of the revolutions and comparing their revolutionary characteristics. Both of these revolutions emerged during the early 1910's and entered their most intense period of conflict during WW1. Women were resistance members and allied forces with the IRA, while Soldaderas in Mexico fought alongside the men. Some Soldaderas went on to lead their own armies under Pancho Villa, which was unprecedented for the women of Mexico. As a result of the ambitions of the Irish Revolution, the first woman parliament member was elected in, Constance Georgine Markievicz. With revolutions as a time of social and cultural crisis and change, it is a beautiful opportunity for the development of social progress and the growth of feminism. Ireland and Mexico display that theme, with both revolutions resulting in the development of political and cultural reforms to begin the journey towards equality of women in their countries.

Presenter: **Ms. Darlene Nunez, King's College, "The Impact of Menstrual Stigma"**

Description: "How do I address secrecy and emotional distress related menstruation?"

As each day goes by, we witness a plethora of changes in the world. New discoveries constantly arise in different fields such as modern technology's AI, NASA's unraveling of the cosmos' mysteries, and revolutionary medical advancements. Although these innovations are all of grandiose importance to humanity, we fail to confess that society is still failing women. By silencing the fact that menstruation has been an intrinsic part of human existence for millennia, we create barriers to knowledge on this matter. Consequently, without such enlightenment, people around the world, regardless of their socio-economic status, geography, or culture, become victims of the menstrual stigma. Menstrual stigma refers to the cultural, social, and personal shame or taboo surrounding menstruation. It is often linked to perceptions of menstruation as "dirty" or "unhygienic." This hinders access to proper menstrual hygiene products and medical care, contributing to negative health outcomes, such as infections, discomfort, and emotional distress. Today, I want to address these issues with you so that we can combat menstrual stigma together, promoting gender equality, health equity, and social acceptance.

Presenter: **Scarlette Reed, Wilkes University, "But I'm a Cheerleader Analysis"**

Description: I will do an analysis of the film *But I'm a Cheerleader*. I will break down the stereotypes in the movie, and how certain characters break the mold while others play into the stereotype. I would also analyze how the satirical nature of the film plays out into the flaws of certain perspectives.

Presenter: **Samara Carey, Wilkes University, "Hypersexuality and Its Impact on Society, Humans and Statues"**

Description: The purpose of this research paper is to examine hypersexuality as a whole, as well as discussing the history of hypersexuality, its effects on humans, society and statues. Choosing to analyze statues gives researchers a different perspective when studying the topic of hypersexuality. This is due to the fact that statues are often overlooked in all aspects of research. Since they are just physical objects, often in touristy areas, humans do not usually give them a second thought. However, due to the human condition and how hypersexuality is viewed in our society, these statues are sexualized against their own will. When this happens, the overall meaning is stripped away from the statue itself, the creator and the person the statue was designed for. When this happens, instead of being a symbol of knowledge or remembrance, it is then a symbol of sex and lust.

7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Keynote Address: **"Intensively Empty Nests: What Happens When Ideologies of Intensive Motherhood Grow Up and Go to College"**

Location: Burke Auditorium, First floor of William G. McGowan School of Business

Keynote Speaker and Biography: This year's keynote speaker is **Dr. Abby Palko**. Dr. Palko is the inaugural Director of the Residential Commons Program at Colgate University. She works with and across the four Residential Commons to support the intellectual life component of Colgate's Living-Learning communities. Her scholarship focuses on cultural and literary representations of mothers and motherhood, with a particular interest in the ways that rhetoric about motherhood shapes and influences women's mothering practices. Dr. Palko also serves as a Board Member for IAMAS (the International Association of Maternal Action and Scholarship) and has taught courses in Irish literature, comparative literature, gender studies, and motherhood studies at every level from middle school through graduate school.

Abstract: What do ideologies of mothering practices have to do with you, a current college student, you might ask? I often start my talks and articles with the observation that, while not everyone is a mother, everyone has a (biological) mother. Contemporary parenting is shaped by philosophical ideologies and social trends, amplified by (social) media messages. Intensive mothering ideologies impose pressures that, exacerbated by insufficient sociopolitical support systems (paid leave, robust child care options, etc) for parents, intensify the contemporary burden of motherhood.

From the 1980s onward, American culture, broadly speaking, has embraced and incentivized intensive mothering ideologies. For example, in 2012, a *Time* magazine cover went viral: it depicted a mother who had embraced attachment parenting philosophies breastfeeding her three-year-old child. What does this parenting trend mean for you, raised under its influence, or for your collegiate experience, or for your potential parenting future? Does Winnecott's "good enough mother" answer the societal expectation to, in the words of A. Rochau Meadows-Fernandez, founder of the #FreeBlackmotherhood movement, "live only for your children, and not for yourself"?

How does this connect to the epidemic of loneliness spreading among your generation? What role does (social) media play? How can these questions prompt insights that lead you to the tools that will empower you to build the life you want to live? This talk will explore these questions to reflect on how intensive mothering ideologies enforce current expectations held of mothers, and how they, in turn, impact your generation's experience of higher education.

Tuesday, April 15, 2025

9:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Session Title: Unmasking Sex and Gender in the 18th Century

- Location:** Walsh Room, Third floor of Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center
- Moderator:** Dr. Robin Field, King’s College
- Presenter:** Ashley Kenia, King’s College, “The Last Laugh: Wycherley’s Liberation of Women in *The Country Wife*”
- Description:** Critics often conclude that *The Country Wife* by William Wycherley satirizes the institution of women, including their desires, behaviors, and nature in the 18th century. While this reading is valid and textually evidenced, in my paper I argue that Wycherley’s critique of men in the play is more pronounced than the critique of women, and that the play, therefore, actually liberates women. By analyzing the relationship dynamics in the play and the actions of the women with an emphasis on analyzing the relationship dynamics in the play and the actions of the women with an emphasis on the play’s unexpected ending, it becomes evident that Wycherley gives the women the last laugh.
- Presenter:** Samantha Smith, King’s College, “The Reality of the Gender Dynamics in *The Country Wife* by William Wycherley”
- Description:** This paper analyzes a piece of work from William Wycherley called *The Country Wife* and how he portrays the hypocrisy and deception between the gender dynamics in relationships. One of the popular themes of this play is about power struggle. It shows how the men have the power whilst the women have less. This paper also emphasizes deceit and manipulation used towards women as well as how women are conditioned. This is seen through the imbalance of power, being proven with how Horner manipulates Margery Pinchwife. Another example would be the conditioning of women in this play, also shown through Margery and how her husband has sheltered her completely, leaving her submissive and vulnerable. During the time that this play was written in, women were not at all free. The way Wycherley depicts women in here is ironic compared to the way he depicts men. He is satirizing the way women are perceived and having it align with the way society viewed women. All these findings suggest that William Wycherley’s *The Country Wife* portrays the hypocrisy and deception between the gender dynamics in relationships.
- Presenter:** Olivia Anderson, King’s College, “The Cave of Spleen and Hysteria: An Analysis of the Invalidation of Women’s Emotions in *The Rape of the Lock*”
- Description:** For an incredibly long time, women’s emotions have been limited to only the work of their biology. The etymology of the word hysteria is directly linked to the womb. This degradation of women’s emotions involves itself in both medical practices and in literature, like Alexander Pope’s “The Rape of the Lock.” Pope mocks women’s hormonal fluctuations with a fictional – and scary – place called the Cave of Spleen. This paper is going to analyze the invalidation of women’s emotions inside and outside of literature. Women, no matter what, will be associated with instability. Belinda’s out-of-order emotions has the power to flip the entire world on its axis, with talking jars and pies. Both examples are attempts to create the idea that female emotions are unnatural, even though where they are claiming the issues come from is the most natural, defining quality of what it means to be a woman.

- Presenter:** Darling Victoria, King’s College, “The Frailty of Masculine Identity in William Wycherley’s *The Country Wife*”
- Description:** William Wycherley spends much of his time satirising the masculine obsession with cuckoldry in his play *The Country Wife* despite its stated focus on the mockery of women. The obscenity with which the men speak about the women when they believe none are present reveals their need to exercise control as a premature defence mechanism. Horner excuses his home wrecking by placing the blame solely on the women, Pinchwife isolates and torments his wife under the assumption that she’s a hair’s breath away from cheating, and Sparkish is so assured Alithea will be his that he treats her like a rag he can freely pass around. Margery’s temporary disguise exposes the fluidity of hyper masculine sexuality where it is more about the roles the men get to play rather than an innate quality within women that begs their attraction. This paper seeks to examine what has been written about this text with special emphasis on how Wycherley depicts the men in *The Country Wife* within the context of 18th century ideals about sex and gender.

9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

Poster Session Title: The Economics of Gender

- Location:** Snyder Room, Third floor of Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center
- Presenter:** Lindsay Arezina, King’s College, “The Impact of Employment Rates, Minimum Wage and Demographics on Poverty Levels: A Statistical Analysis”
- Description:** This study will look at the influence of minimum wages and the employment and unemployment rates on poverty levels. It will look across cities and regions in the United States to compare their poverty rates for a group of years. The study will also look at other economic impacts such as minimum wage and cost of living in those cities as well. Lastly, it will look at the ideas of race/ethnicity and gender to see if those play a role in the poverty rate. The percentage of people in the area that are of each race in the area would be considered as well as the labor force participation rates of men and women in those areas as well.
- Presenter:** Michael Mohan, King’s College, “The Impact of Gender Difference in the Workforce, Household Income, and Education on Annual Household Expenditures”
- Description:** This study will examine whether there is a significant relationship between gender difference in the workforce, median household income, education level and annual household expenditures. Throughout this project, the research conducted will include the education levels, including those with and without a college degree, of the United States work force as well as the difference between men’s and women’s participation in the labor force. Along with median household income and in conjunction with prior research articles, these factors will be used to determine their statistical significance and contribution to annual household expenditures.
- Presenter:** Teodor Benno Vaage, King’s College, “Analyzing the Key Drivers of Norwegian GDP: Economic and Social”
- Description:** This study examines the correlation between Norwegian GDP growth and key economic and social factors, including the unemployment rate, female workforce participation, consumer spending, inflation, exchange rate fluctuations, crude oil prices, and immigration. By studying how these elements interact, this study aims to provide a deeper understanding of the collective impact to Norway’s global economic performance.

10:30 – 11:45 a.m.

Session Title: Women, Genocide, and Quiet Heroes

Location: Fitzgerald Room, Third floor of Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

Moderator: Mrs. Raina Evancho, King's College

Presenter: Dr. Marcia Skeeba Balester, Wilkes-Barre Area Community and Arizona State Graduate, M.A. World War II Studies, "The Comparative Influences of Gender Stereotypes on Women as Perpetrators of Genocide in Nazi Germany and Rwanda"

Description: Because of gender stereotypes dictating their place in society as passive and subordinate to men, women emerged as the unlikely perpetrators of violence and the secondary victims (almost as an afterthought in much the same way as they lived their lives in society) both in the Holocaust and the Rwanda genocides.

Gender stereotypes have been evident throughout society from the beginning of recorded history; affecting how men and women live their lives and are perceived by others.

Women face unique expectations, perceived to be more compliant, non-aggressive, social, and more demonstrative with their emotions than their male peers. This did not eliminate them, however from participation in genocides. The participation of women (as perpetrators in genocide) was inevitable, as all genocides happen with the participation of the mainstream population (of which women are a part) as accomplices. Women can be and have been as efficient as men in the perpetration of genocide.

Presenter: Prof. Lisa Reynolds, Wilkes University, "Spouse: The Quiet Heroes of Modern Design"

Description: As is the case in many fields, design is rich with tales of husband/wife teams who have achieved great success on the backs of the wives, and to much acclaim of the husbands. In this lecture, we will learn about a few of these spouses, Varara Stepanova, Ray Eames, and Lella Vignelli, to name a few, and how their careers and work are viewed, both as themselves and in relation to their spouses. We will learn how iconic work is created and often mislabeled or misattributed in the case of spousal design teams, and how the individual work of the wives was recorded and revered in relation to the work of their husbands. We will also explore the work of two young widows, Barbara Staffucher-Solomon and Elaine Lustig-Cohen, and how that work evolved after the deaths of their famous husbands.

11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Session A

Poster Session Title: Gender and International Economics

Location: Snyder Room, Third floor of Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

Presenter: Joey Barcia, King's College, "Dairy Products, Eggs, Honey, and Edible Products: The Beneficial Trade Relationship Between Ireland and the U.S"

Description: I will be presenting the trade relationship between Ireland and the U.S. concerning dairy products, eggs, honey, and edible products, and examining the difference in LFPR in Ireland specifically.

Presenter: Matthew Lewis, King's College, "Trade Impacts on Kenya's People and Economy"

Description: In this study I have focused on the trade partners of Kenya and the trade agreements they have in place. My focus in their trade is in textiles which makes up a large part of what Kenya exports. I have looked back on the past ten or so years of data to see how Kenya's economy and their trade has changed. I have gathered data about Kenya's GDP, GDP per capita. I have also studied the unemployment rates and how they affect men and women differently.

Presenter: Makenzie Lowrie, King's College, "A Dive Into Thailand's Gender Inequalities"

Description: Trade relations between Thailand and United States has thrived over the few last years along with other trading partners. One of the main industries between Thailand and their trading partners is electronics, but the labor participation in this industry varies greatly when taking a closer look. The unemployment rates however for both genders are low and close together. Why might this be? Perhaps family or gender roles play a specific part in this.

Presenter: Mr. Zachary Webb, King's College, "Study of Technological Contribution of Japan Through Consumer Electronics"

Description: This presentation will go over the consumer electronics such as digital cameras and other innovation that Japan trades with other countries. The study includes the unemployment rates of both men and women, and their contribution to the labor force. As well as the labor force participation rate of both genders.

Presenter: Elizabeth Sheeder, King's College, "Global Sips: The Global Journey of the BrüMate Era Cup"

Description: This project explores the exports, imports from the United States and finding China's top three trading partners. Also finding the GDP and the trade percentage GDP. Lastly, finding out the unemployment working rates of males and females. By combining the international trade analysis with gender studies, therefore this project will provide a comprehensive view on economic and social dimensions that shape the BrüMate Era cup.

Presenter: Mr. John Wall, King's College, "Brewing Equity: The Economic Impact of Colombian Coffee Trade on Gender and Growth"

Description: This will be a poster board presentation about the trade of Colombian coffee to the United States. It will also focus on imports, exports, GDP, and unemployment rates of Colombia.

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Presenter: Lauren Nesbitt, King’s College, “From Kiwi Farms to American Kitchens: Analyzing the Trade of Produced Foods Between New Zealand and the United States”

Description: This presentation explores the trade dynamics between New Zealand and the United States in the sector of the produced food and nut industries, focusing on the wider implications of global trade. Whilst the focus on peanut butter is niche, it serves as a lens through which we can examine agricultural trade routes, supply chains and the role of small-scale producers in international markets. The examination will focus on New Zealand’s strategy for breaking into the cutthroat US market. A gendered perspective will also be incorporated into the presentation by examining the contributions made by women in New Zealand to the labor force and production, the effects of gendered labor, especially the roles played by women in farming and production, in the agricultural industry.

Through the integration of gender analysis and trade theory, this presentation will provide insight into the relationship between gender roles and international trade.

Presenter: Jacqueline Kane, King’s College, “Shifting Tides: Vietnam’s Rising Role in U.S. Trade and Manufacturing”

Description: The evolving trade relationship between Vietnam and the United States has become increasingly significant for American businesses, especially as tensions with China escalate. To mitigate risks associated with Chinese manufacturing, many companies are shifting operations to Vietnam, which offers a competitive alternative due to low labor costs and a favorable manufacturing environment. One industry benefiting from this shift is Vietnam’s candle sector, which continues to attract foreign investment and expand its market presence. Additionally, this growth has created new economic opportunities, particularly for women, who constitute a substantial portion of the workforce in Vietnam’s manufacturing industries. The expanding role of women in production not only contributes to economic development but also fosters greater gender inclusion in the labor market. As trade dynamics continue to evolve, Vietnam’s position as a key manufacturing hub is expected to strengthen, further integrating the country into global supply chains and enhancing its economic resilience.

11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Session Title: The Medicalization of Gender Roles and Norms

Location: Walsh Room, Third floor of Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

Moderator: Dr. Corine Coniglio, King’s College

Presenter: Emma Suppon, Wilkes University, “Medicalization vs. Criminalization of Abortion: How Laws and Healthcare Shape Women’s Rights”

Description: This presentation will focus on the debate over how abortion is treated—either as a medical procedure or as a criminal act. It explores how abortion has been seen in the past, sometimes as a health issue handled by doctors, and other times as something the law should control.

Presenter: Alivia Foster, Wilkes University, “The Medicalization of Gender Dysphoria”

Description: This presentation will focus on the medicalization of gender dysphoria. The talk will explore factors such as stigma and the implications of medical procedures related to gender dysphoria.

Presenter: Madison Askew, Wilkes University, “The Medicalization of Battered Women’s Syndrome”

Description: This presentation will look at how Battered Women’s Syndrome (BWS) and abuse have been medicalized, turning survivors’ experiences into medical conditions. It also explores how this societal change affects survivors’ access to mental health professionals, legal defenses, and the way society views them.

Presenter: Mikayla Faatz, Wilkes University, “Just a Little Talkative: Gendered Medicalization of Hyperactivity”

Description: This presentation will explore the medicalization of hyperactive disorders such as ADHD, and the gender disparities in researching, diagnosing, and treating the disorder in girls and women.

2:00 – 3:15 p.m.

Session Title: What’s the Big Deal? Name Changes and Marriage

Location: Snyder Room, Third floor of Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

Presenters: Dr. Robin Field, King’s College, Dr. Margarita Rose, King’s College, Dr. Vicki Estrada-Reynolds, King’s College, and Dr. Jennifer Darrell, King’s College

Description: In 2013, Jill Filipovic published the op-ed “Why should married women change their names? Let men change theirs.” A decade later, this practice is still virtually unheard of and women still change their names to their husband’s in heterosexual marriages at a rate of 79%. But what happens when a divorce and remarriage occurs? When the marriage is between a same-sex couple? When a blended family is created? In this roundtable, four King’s professors will discuss their choice of last name after marriage and their rationales for their choices. Time will be offered for questions and spirited conversation about why choosing a last name is a big deal for both women and men.

3:30 – 4:45 p.m.

Session Title: Intersectionality and Homemaking

Location: Walsh Room, Third floor of Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

Moderator: Mrs. Beth Doherty, King’s College

Presenters: Dr. Anthony Kapolka, Wilkes University, and Matthew Tocket, Wilkes University, “Preaching Intersectionality: Human and AI Analysis of Social Justice Narratives in Harper’s Monthly Pulpit (1932-1937)”

Description: We explore intersectionality present in sermons published in Harper’s Monthly Pulpit, offering a dual-layered analysis that combines traditional human interpretive techniques with advanced AI methodologies. Our study investigates how preachers implicitly engaged with race, class, gender, and other identity markers at a time when the language of intersectionality was yet to be formalized. A specifically designed AI prompt—evoking both human-readable reasoning and structured classification—was applied in an attempt to more systematically survey the intersectionality, narrative techniques and rhetorical strategies present in these sermons. Comparison with human analyses provided a critical validation and nuanced critique of AI-derived results, thereby assessing AI’s ability to detect implicit biases, systemic critiques, and marginalized perspectives. Our comparative survey not only underscores the potential

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of digital humanities approaches in reevaluating historical texts but also enriches our understanding of how early narratives of social change intersected with emergent ideas of family roles and communal responsibility.

Presenter: **Rebecca J. Thompson, King's College, "Home Making: Exploring Freedom in Domesticity in L.M. Montgomery's Jane of Lantern Hill and Pat of Silver Bush"**

Description: Can domesticity bring freedom? For many scholars the answer has been a resounding no, with domestic work viewed as an oppressive tool of the patriarchy. But what if a woman chooses the domestic? What if a woman finds freedom, identity, and confidence in home making and traditional domestic tasks? In L. M. Montgomery studies, domesticity has long been a topic of discussion, particularly around her most famous work, *Anne of Green Gables*, but even there, the overwhelming sense is that the domestic is something to trap women rather than free them. In this presentation, I explore two of Montgomery's later novels and the ways Montgomery complicates the issue of domestic work and plays with the politics and power dynamics of the home through two heroines who choose and thrive on home making.

Presenter: **Ben Rodner-Tims, King's College, "International Trade, Gender, and Economic Growth"**

Description: This study will examine the relationship between countries' openness to international trade and their economic growth. Data, specifically GDP, imports, and exports, will be collected for multiple countries around the world. Economic statistics between countries who participate in international trade regularly will be compared to economic statistics regarding countries who are not as active in international trade. This will be an indicator that shows whether if countries are open to international trade they will have significant economic growth. Unemployment rates for men and women in each country observed will also be taken into account. In addition, a dummy variable for the textile sector will be included. Analysis will be done to see if there are any trend relations between women's unemployment and higher economic growth.

5:00 – 6:15 p.m.

Session Title: **Women, Coal Mining, and Professional Sports**

Location: Fitzgerald Room, Third floor of Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

Moderator: **Ms. Krista Pegnetter, King's College**

Presenter: **Jillian Luczak, King's College, "Salves, Strikes, and Societal Roles: Women as a Key Aspect in Coal Mining Communities"**

Description: Throughout the study of history, labor and women's history are seen as two different fields of study. This paper demonstrates the roles of women in coal mining communities in Northeastern Pennsylvania and shows what is lost when there is such a separation between these two fields, while simultaneously highlighting what is to be gained when we view women's history and labor history as one and the same. Women proved themselves to be an integral part of these coal mining communities. Their work within the family economy was crucial to family survival both physically and financially. Through the transfer of generational knowledge on medical care they became imperative members of the community to ensure the survival of themselves and their neighbors. Lastly, in some cases they held specialized roles that set the stage for future generations of women and aided in allowing them additional opportunities at societal advancement.

Presenters: **Victoria Hanna, King's College, Diego D'Alessandro, King's College, and Jessica Menze, King's College, "Gender Pay Gap in Professional Sports"**

Description: Professional sports are a major source of entertainment in the United States and globally. Although professional sports are popular and enjoyable, they lack gender equality. Historically, sports were mainly performed by male athletes, and they never accepted female players to take part in those events. Women struggled to gain appearance, acceptance, and recognition. With the gain of viewership and participation, men were able to rely on playing a sport as their source of income, whereas women could not have even considered it. As society evolves, women are becoming more recognized and participate in many sports. Now, we see women gaining publicity and involvement. Although women can now rely on being a professional athlete as their income, their salary rate is nowhere near what men are being paid. There are multiple factors that contribute to the gender pay gap in professional sports. Men's leagues typically generate more revenue through ticket sales and sponsorships, leading to higher salaries. Female athletes receive fewer endorsement opportunities, therefore limiting their earnings. The structure of the Leagues also plays a role, as women's leagues typically have lower salary caps, shorter seasons, and less financial investment. Many specific major sports leagues exemplify various gender inequalities. These leagues include the WNBA and NBA, the NHL and PWHL, and collegiate athletics and scholarships. In each league, there are various and common trends that demonstrate the gender pay gap society has. This gap has created attention and a desire for change allowing players to speak up and advocate for a change. As society evolves, the gender pay gap that was once substantially big has slowly been declining, allowing female organizations to achieve pay parity and an increase of investment equal to males.

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Session Title: **Balancing Acts: Words, Work and Reality**

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

Presenters: **Campion Society, King's College**

Location: Snyder Room, Third floor of Sheehy-Farmer Campus Center

Description: This will be an open mic/poetry slam featuring creative work by students and members of the community. Student work will be presented and others in the audience will be encouraged to present their work as well.

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SPECIAL THANKS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

King's College

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

Dr. Neal Bukeavich, Dean of Arts & Sciences and Associate Vice
President for Academic Affairs

Carol Simonovich Scholl, Graphic Designer

Caryn Hawkins and Jackie Hoover Darby, Print Shop

Robyn Snyder, Women's Studies Committee

Rae Lynn Barrett, Conference and Events

King's Dining Services

King's Facilities

Wilkes University

Dr. Paul Riggs, Dean of The College of Arts and Sciences

Dr. Jennifer Thomas, Professor of Psychology

Carrie Marko, Print Shop

