



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Centre for Gender Studies

ANNUAL REPORT  
Academic Year 2022–23

**Declaração do artista:**

Na pintura intitulada *Ocupar e resistir I*, existem camadas de discursos provocadas pelas imagens e os contextos dos quais elas foram deslocadas: a pintura "A Intervenção das Sabinas", do pintor francês neoclássico Jacques-Louis David, a fotografia da estudante secundarista Marcela Nogueira Reis, um auto-retrato, a imagem de uma pomba defecando do alto, um burro e um cachorro copulando. Esta polifonia de imagens compõe os diálogos que cada situação pictórica instiga, engendrados a partir da minha visão de mundo - ou ao menos, do momento político em que a tela foi pintada. A imagem central é uma fotografia apropriada da internet, ícone de um determinado período político do estado de São Paulo, à qual acrescentei a imagem do vira-lata amarelo, mascote do Brasil, trepando na perna do policial. A figura do cachorro agrega ironia e sarcasmo, além de propor uma crítica à violência do Estado. A pintura dialoga com o contexto político em que ela foi produzida: um contexto em que a extrema direita foi apoiada por uma parte da população ignorante e privilegiada. No canto esquerdo, há um autorretrato da artista, que aparece empunhando um estilingue apontado para a cabeça do policial. Vestida apenas com calção e chinelas, presas aos antebraços, sugere o lúdico porém nada pacífico. A pintura invoca um desejo de reparação histórica ao tratar do corpo da mulher lésbica, negra, periférica, artista, um corpo que foi invisibilizado pela história, mas na pintura em questão são figuras centrais e protagonistas de suas próprias lutas e vontades.

**Artist's statement:**

In the painting entitled 'Occupy and Resist I', there are layers of discourses provoked by the images and the contexts from which they were displaced: the painting "The Intervention of the Sabine Women", by the neoclassical French painter Jacques-Louis David, the photograph of high school student Marcela Nogueira Reis, a self-portrait, the image of a dove defecating from above, a donkey and a dog copulating. This polyphony of images makes up the dialogues that each pictorial situation instigates, engendered from my worldview - or at least, from the political moment in which the canvas was painted. The central image is an appropriate photograph from the internet, an icon of a certain political period of the state of São Paulo, to which I added the image of the yellow mutt, Brazil's mascot, climbing on the police officer's leg. The figure of the dog adds irony and sarcasm, in addition to proposing a critique of State violence. The painting dialogues with a political context in which it was produced: a context in which the extreme right was supported by an ignorant and privileged part of the population. In the left corner, there is a self-portrait of the artist, who appears holding a slingshot aimed at the police officer's head. Dressed only in shorts and flip-flops, strapped to her forearms, she suggests something playful but far from peaceful. The painting invokes a desire for historical reparation when dealing with the body of the lesbian, black, peripheral, artist woman, a body that has been made invisible by history, but in the painting in question they are central figures and protagonists of their own struggles and desires.

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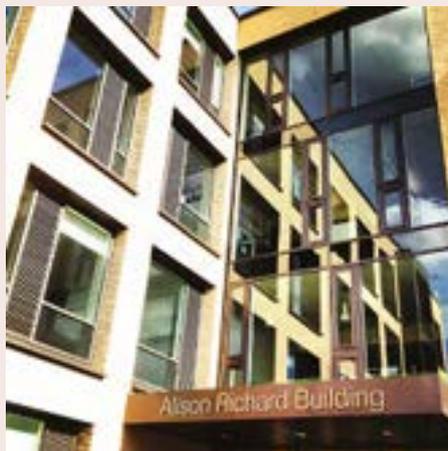
# Note from the Director



This year we were very pleased to be in very minimal COVID restrictions at last and were invigorated by the renewed sense of community and purpose

that being able to host more events in person brought. A highlight this year was a visit by our Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor, Cynthia Enloe of Clark University, MA. A trailblazer of feminist thinking about war and militarization, Professor Enloe set forth to “make feminist sense” of Russia’s war on Ukraine and all of the myriad gender dynamics at play in this ongoing conflict at her talk in November. We greatly enjoyed Cynthia Enloe’s warmth and enthusiasm for feminist conversations across different nationalities and generations, and her guiding light for asking feminist questions in times of great struggle. More about her visit can be found on pages 19–21.

Another memorable occasion this year was provided by former Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor Judith Butler’s visit of over a week. In collaboration with our friends and colleagues at the LGBTQ+@CAM programme, we hosted Professor Butler for a seminar with our PhD students, a conversation with (also a former Middlebrook/Djerassi VP) Sara Ahmed, and other events. The culmination was a



spectacular talk on their forthcoming book *Who is Afraid of Gender?* to a capacity audience at the West Road Concert Hall in April. The tangible excitement in and solidarity of the audience and of course Judith’s talk was an inspiration in a time in which women’s and LGBTQ+ rights are under threat in so many places around the world.

Just a few days after Judith Butler’s talk, we were honoured to host a book launch for our Founding Director Professor Juliet Mitchell’s latest book *Fratriachy: The Sibling Trauma and the Law of the Mother*. Deputy Director Dr Holly Porter led the ‘in conversation’ and it was a wonderful celebration of Juliet’s

intellectual project over the years as well as the characteristically brilliant insights this book provides. Juliet, Holly, and our Gender Research Seminar Series Coordinator Sigal Spigel are set to reprise their conversation on Juliet’s work at the Freud Institute in London this fall. Pictures from this event are on page 28. We also enjoyed partnering with the LGBTQ+@CAM programme, CRASSH, and others for a conference on *Queer Hispanisms Now* over the summer, a fascinating and joyous occasion.

Our MPhil and PhD programmes had much success this year. From our PhD programme, we congratulate Dr Lisa Vickers, Dr Juliana Demartini-Brito, and Dr Naoise Murphy for successfully passing their vivas and completing their PhDs. We also thank Juliana Demartini-Brito for her hard work teaching on the MPhil this year as an affiliated lecturer and wish her the best in her new academic job at UCL! From the MPhil, we congratulate last year’s Bell Scholar, Jess Molyneux and our 2022–23 Bell Scholars, Annabelle Clawson and Gabby Colangelo, as well as all of this year’s MPhils, who have worked diligently on topics such as Black women and the Enlightenment, biohacking in Chinese feminism, lesbian photography and public health announcements, Susan Sontag’s diaries, the impact on COVID-19 on Asian American women’s pregnancies, and so much more. More information on the MPhil can be found on pages 10–11.



Jessica and Peter Frankopan



David Bell



Primrose Bell



Carl Djerassi and Diane Middlebrook



# Introduction

The University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies is a multi-disciplinary centre for research and teaching. Working together with over 20 departments within the University and an international network of gender scholars beyond, the Centre conducts outstanding research and teaching on a broad spectrum of approaches to understanding gender and sexuality in relation to the human subject. Uniquely, the Centre has evolved from intellectual engagement with front-line research topics rather than developing from any particular discipline, political view or methodology and its network of world-class experts enables it to facilitate outstanding teaching, research and public engagement.

The aim of the Centre is to increase our capacity for rigorous gender analysis and to promote awareness of its relevance in historic, economic, political, artistic, social, and scientific contexts. As such, we welcome inquiry from multiple and overlapping perspectives including various forms of feminist theory, lesbian and gay studies, queer theory, transgender/trans\* theory, and critical sexuality studies. We aim to push across the boundaries of disciplines and identities to promote ambitious and ground-breaking work that is able to build on the strengths of research across the University of Cambridge and to deeply engage with the complexities of studying gender in our world.



In the academic year to come, we are looking forward to partnering with Downing College and the Isaac Newton Trust to hire an Academic Career Fellowship that will be part of our Centre for up to three years. We are also eagerly anticipating having Professor Patricia Hill Collins, University of Maryland, a towering figure of Black feminist thought and intersectional theorizing, as our Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor in Michaelmas 2023.

I wish to thank Professor Jude Browne for her ongoing support for UCCGS as the Head of Department for Politics and International Studies, and Tim Harper as Head of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences. At UCCGS, many thanks to Deputy Director Holly Porter, our Centre Administrator Joanna Bush, and Administrative Assistant Vincenzo Paci for all their hard work and dedication to the success

of the Centre. With deep gratitude also for the dozens of scholars from all around Cambridge who teach seminars on our MPhil, supervise MPhils and PhDs, serve on our committees, and generally contribute to the amazing community of gender/sexuality related scholars around our Centre. Our Centre's success is also built on the generosity of our donors, Peter and Jessica Frankopan, David and Primrose Bell, Christina Gaw, and the late Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi. We are extremely grateful for their support in helping to build an internationally excellent Centre for research and teaching on all aspects of gender.

Handwritten signature of Dr Lauren Wilcox

**Dr Lauren Wilcox**  
Centre Director  
University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies

## Management Committee

The current membership of the Management Committee is as follows:

- **Chair: Professor Robin Osborne, FBA**  
(School of Arts and Humanities, Faculty of Classics, King's College)
- **Professor Jude Browne**  
(Frankopan Director of UCCGS, King's College)
- **Professor Pasco Fearon**  
(Centre for Family Research)
- **Professor Matthew Gandy**  
(Department of Geography)
- **Professor Mateja Jamnik**  
(Computer Laboratory, School of Business and Technology)
- **Dr Holly Porter**  
(Deputy Director of UCCGS)
- **Professor Ulinka Rublack FBA**  
(School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of History)
- **Professor Tine Van Bortel**  
(Department of Psychiatry, School of Clinical Medicine)
- **Dr Lauren Wilcox**  
(Director of UCCGS)
- **External: Professor Anne Phillips FBA FAcSS**  
(London School of Economics)



Our Founding Director, Juliet Mitchell, is Emeritus Professor of Psychoanalysis and Gender Studies at the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of Jesus College. Her seminal works include *Woman: The Longest Revolution*, *Woman's Estate*, *Psychoanalysis and Feminism*, *Mad Men and Medusas*, *Siblings: Sex and Violence*, *Fratriarchy: The Sibling Trauma and the Law of the Mother* which have been widely translated and reprinted shaping feminist and psychoanalytic thinking and action. She has a draft of her new book: *Getting to Know Each Other: Louise Bourgeois and Psychoanalysis*. Professor Mitchell's vision and passion for politically engaged rigorous scholarship continues to inspire our Centre of which she remains an integral part.



The Centre for Gender Studies was created informally in the late 1990s when a backlash against feminism was at its height. The decision was made not to engage with this recurrent conflict but to set up a new and different project in the University of Cambridge. This was to provide a multi- and inter-disciplinary academic analysis of Gender itself."

"Today is different. The pandemic has increased the immiseration of women, but feminism is established world-wide. Psychoanalysis aims to be a scientific endeavour, but its focus has been the dominance of patriarchy. Fratriarchy demands a lateral social analysis, and this has revealed the oppression of the sister. Feminism's 'sisterhood' is the essential political struggle against this oppression; psychoanalysis must turn its attention not only to the brother-sister dynamic but to the oppressed sister whose psyche has been missing from the picture."

**Professor Juliet Mitchell**



# 1 MPhil in Multi-Disciplinary Gender Studies

The Master of Philosophy degree course at the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies provides rigorous advanced training in multi-disciplinary gender analysis. The MPhil introduces the very brightest students from a wide variety of academic backgrounds, cultures and nationalities to the traditions, methods and front-line research which shape gender analysis at an advanced level, incorporating insights from various feminist theories, lesbian and gay studies, queer theory, transgender/trans\* theory, and critical sexuality studies. The MPhil provides a variety of intense taught courses and close supervision in undertaking an original research project on any gender-related topic in subject areas such as diverse as Conflict and Violence, Development, Education, Globalization, Labour Markets, Social Policy, Culture and Antiquity, Representation, Art, Literature, Bio-medical Advances, Human Rights and International Law.

Students follow four mandatory components:

- *Theory, Controversy and Methodology*
- *Gender and Methods*
- *Multi-disciplinary Text Seminar*
- *Multi-disciplinary Gender Research Seminar Series*

The thirteenth year of the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies programme (2022-23), successfully concluded with the External Examiner's visit in September 2023. Professor Marysia Zalewski, Cardiff University, highlighted in her report that "It's an excellent course with very high standards. The quality of the work produced by students ranges from high to outstanding."



Sir David Bell



Lady Primrose Bell

## The Bell Scholars

Each year the author of the best research dissertation for the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies is awarded the title of 'Bell Scholar' in recognition of outstanding scholarship.

Lady Primrose and Sir David are key supporters of the Centre and we are extremely grateful to them for all their help and guidance.

# 1 MPhil in Multi-Disciplinary Gender Studies

**Annabelle Clawson**  
Bell Scholar 2022–23  
MPhil Thesis

*Sister-Wife Suffragettes: Political Activism in the Woman's Exponent*



Annabelle Clawson was selected as the Bell Scholar 2022–23 for her excellent research dissertation, ***Sister-Wife Suffragettes: Political Activism in the Woman's Exponent***, which received the joint highest Distinction mark on the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies 2022–23.

**Abstract:**

This dissertation examines the complex relationships between gender, sexuality, and citizenship through a critical discourse analysis of the *Woman's Exponent*, a semi-monthly newspaper published by Mormon women in Salt Lake City from 1872 to 1914. A close reading of the *Exponent* yields a complex picture of Mormon women – loyal to both their church and their country which were in constant conflict, wilfully secondary yet somewhat equal to men in their religious community, and activists for both suffrage and polygamy which seemed mutually exclusive. In this project, I explore these contradictions in Mormon women's identity to expand definitions of activism, agency, and citizenship.

This analysis demonstrates how blurring the lines in supposed paradoxes enriches our understanding of the concepts situated within those paradoxes. For Mormon women, their adherence to their religious principles

complicated their commitment to their nation. They were activists who submitted to one form of authority by challenging another, and vice versa. Moreover, in the *Exponent*, many women shared that they became plural wives by choice, a stance which boggled their opponents. Empowered *by* and *from* their subordinate place in their religion, Mormon women deemed themselves superior to other American women in agency and in womanhood itself. In addition, they discussed both suffrage and polygamy as vehicles for civilization's progress in an attempt to prove their whiteness and sameness to their intended audience.

Utilizing feminist and queer methodologies, this research takes Mormon women as a case study in broader conversations about the influence of religion in the history of sexuality as well as the role of the state in (de)legitimizing certain kinship structures. I contextualise *Exponent* writings against nineteenth-century United

States citizenship ideals, considering the Mormon practice of plural marriage in light of strict gender, sexuality, and racial norms. Mindful of the *Exponent's* sceptical intended audience, I frame the newspaper as a reflection of how Mormon women wanted to be perceived: white, Christian, progressive, *American* women. Their efforts to correct and elevate their own public persona through journalism, and the virtual failure of these efforts, echo a greater story of a marginalised group's deviation from and subsequent assimilation to the norms which qualify them for citizenship and acceptance.



## Gabby Colangelo Bell Scholar 2022–23

### MPhil Thesis

*Lesbians Take Photographs: Tessa Boffin's Lesbian and Queer Dyke Safer Sex Representations, 1985–1993*



Gabby Colangelo was selected as the Bell Scholar 2022–23 for her excellent research dissertation, ***Lesbians Take Photographs: Tessa Boffin's Lesbian and Queer Dyke Safer Sex Representations, 1985–1993***, which received the joint highest Distinction mark on the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies 2022–23.

### Abstract:

Tessa Boffin was a lesbian writer, photographer, and performance artist working in London from the late 1980s to her death in 1993. This dissertation focuses on Boffin's three main published projects—"A Lover's Distance" (photography, *The Feminist Review*, March 1987), *Ecstatic Antibodies: Resisting the AIDS Mythology* (photography and criticism, ed. with Sunil Gupta, 1990), and *Stolen Glances: Lesbians Take Photographs* (photography and criticism, ed. with Jean Fraser, 1991). I place these works in conversation with archival materials from the Tessa Boffin collection at the University of Creative Arts, namely, research notes, grant applications, and Boffin's unpublished essay "The Slings and Arrows of Outrageous Fortune: Aids and the Body Politic" (1986). Boffin's work sought to acknowledge the mediated nature of all photographs, and, in doing so, draw attention to the staged and socially constructed nature of sexuality and sexual subjects. Her photographs, which featured intricately conceived costumes, stage settings, and captions, were often explicitly

lesbian restaging's of famous classical and historical images. Boffin's photographic practice informed her politics, and vice versa: she argued that the goal of activist movements should not be "to claim a natural status for lesbianism" or a natural status of the AIDS 'victim' but rather to argue against naturalist views of identity and illness more generally (Boffin, 1991, p. 10). Boffin's work was thus implicated in key political and cultural debates of the late 1980s, particularly in terms of the uses of identity and self-identification within queer movements. Her photography sparked controversy from many angles: she was critiqued by anti-porn activists, who saw her use of erotics and the naked portrait as anti-feminist and anti-socialist; by right-wing proponents of Section 28, a series of laws prohibiting the public "promotion of sexuality" in Britain; and even by fellow queer activists, who saw her use of blood on stage as dangerously antithetical to the AIDS-prompted safer sex movement. Much research has examined the impact of anti-porn censorship

on lesbian political identity, and separately the impact of political censorship and legally codified social biases (i.e. Section 28) on the AIDS crisis. However, little work bridges the gap between anti-porn censorship and anti-gay censorship, and less examines how these parallel crises affected AIDS activism in particular. This dissertation examines interactions between censorship movements—represented both by the specifically anti-gay Section 28 and more general anti-porn feminist movements—and lesbian photographic AIDS activism in late 1980s/early 1990s London. Through a combination of oral history and archival research, I argue that censorship groups attempted to force Boffin into an oppositional stance that employed a different type of lesbian identity and community than she employed in her photographs: her key political resistance was to avoid the idea of a stable lesbian subject or stable lesbian identity in general.

# 1 MPhil in Multi-Disciplinary Gender Studies

## MPhil students Academic Year 2022–23

In line with previous years, Gender Studies students for the past academic year come from a very wide range of disciplinary backgrounds and are pursuing diverse research interests.

In the academic year 2022–23, the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies had 17 students and their research titles were as follows:

- **Michelle (Elle) Cai (USA)**  
*Mental Health and Pregnancy in Asian Americans during the COVID-19 Pandemic*  
Supervisor: Dr R. Sánchez-Rivera, Department of Sociology
- **Yinuo Chen (China)**  
*(Bio-)Hacking: A Homo-Techno Sinophone Yellow GRRRL Manifesto*  
Supervisor: Dr Sarah Abel, Centre of Latin American Studies
- **Annabelle Clawson (USA)**  
*Sister-Wife Suffragettes: Political Activism in the Woman's Exponent*  
Supervisor: Dr Tom Smith, Faculty of History
- **Gabrielle (Gabby) Colangelo (USA)**  
*Lesbians Take Photographs: Tessa Boffin's Lesbian and Queer Dyke Safer Sex Representations, 1985-1993*  
Supervisor: Dr Diarmuid Hester, Faculty of English
- **Haley Howard (USA)**  
*Enslaved Women & The Enlightenment: The Infinite Plasticization of Black(ened) Flesh*  
Supervisor: Dr Lauren Wilcox, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Cheuk Yui (Charles) Leung (Hong Kong)**  
*Constructing Masculinities in Evelyn Waugh's Inter-war England*  
Supervisor: Dr Juliana Demartini-Brito, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Natasha Llewelyn (UK)**  
*Spiritual Stories and Gender in the Riverine Communities of the Peruvian Amazon: Approaching the Kukama Cosmivision*  
Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Milo Koot (Germany)**  
*Can the Plantationocene Speak? (Searching for the subjects of a green future)*  
Supervisors: Dr Rebecca Buxton, Department of Politics and International Studies & Professor Duncan Kelly, Department of Politics and International Studies
- **Brooke Nagler (USA)**  
*Susan Sontag's Diaries: Reframing Queerly Expressive Works to Produce Masqueraded Affects Towards Unfixed, Inventive Embodiments*  
Supervisor: Dr Diarmuid Hester, Faculty of English
- **Anuli Ononye (USA/Nigeria)**  
*Getting Verified When Your Life Depends on It: The Uncertainty of Twitter Verification in the Era of Elon Musk*  
Supervisor: Dr Eleanor Drage, Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence
- **Amber Onver (UK)**  
*Visual-Tactics of Fascist Feminisms: "Because the Beauty of the White English Woman Must not Perish from Britain"*  
Supervisor: Dr Lauren Wilcox, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies



- Ida Josephine Pajunen (USA)**  
*Postured: Women, Nation and Yoga in Twentieth Century India*  
 Supervisor: Dr Anjali Bhardwaj Datta, Faculty of History
- Phoebe Roberts (USA)**  
*Nabokov and Siblings*  
 Supervisor: Professor Catriona Kelly, Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics
- Aparna Sankaran (India)**  
*Comprehensive Sexuality Education: The Missing Kerala Model*  
 Supervisors: Dr Holly Porter, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies & Dr Elizabeth Maber, Faculty of Education
- Natalya Stone (UK)**  
*Contesting Bodily Norms, Claiming Sexuality, and Imagining Crip Futures: An Analysis of the Disruptive Power of Disability Performance Art*  
 Supervisor: Dr Lauren Wilcox, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- Muda Tariq (India)**  
*Traumascapes: Gendered Politics of Militarized Public/Private(s) in Kashmir*  
 Supervisor: Dr Garima Jaju, Department of Sociology
- Shalanka Weerasinghe Arachchige (Sri Lanka)**  
*Exploring the Relationship Between the State and Sexuality: India's 'Coming Out' of Section 377*  
 Supervisor: Dr Lauren Wilcox, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies



Dr Holly Porter and MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies Students at the holiday party.

# 1 MPhil in Multi-Disciplinary Gender Studies

## MPhil Lecturers: Academic Year 2022–23



**Dr Helen A. Alderson**  
Archaeology



**Professor Caroline Bassett**  
English



**Professor Carol Brayne CBE**  
Cambridge Public Health



**Dr Eleanor Drage**  
UCCGS; Future of Intelligence Studies



**Dr Isaias Fanlo**  
Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics



**Professor Loraine Gelsthorpe**  
Criminology



**Dr Ruth Jackson Ravenscroft**  
Divinity



**Dr Jo Lysons**  
Centre for Family Research



**Professor Juliet Mitchell**  
UCCGS; Psychoanalysis



**Dr Douglas Momberg**  
Human Evolutionary Studies



**Dr Eleanor O'Gorman**  
Development Studies



**Professor Robin Osborne**  
Classics





**Dr Holly Porter**  
UCCGS; African  
Studies



**Dr Mezna Qato**  
Asian and Middle  
Eastern Studies



**Dr Garima Sahai**  
Geography



**Dr R. Sánchez-  
Rivera**  
Sociology



**Professor Helena  
Sanson**  
Italian; MMLL



**Professor Samita  
Sen**  
History



**Dr Amy Tobin**  
Visual Arts



**Dr Lauren Wilcox**  
UCCGS; International  
Relations



**Dr Vicky Young**  
Asian and Middle  
Eastern Studies

## 2 Scholarships



Gates Cambridge Scholarships ([www.gatescambridge.org](http://www.gatescambridge.org)) are awarded to outstanding applicants from outside the UK to pursue a postgraduate degree in any subject at the University of Cambridge. The highly competitive programme aims to build a global network of future leaders committed to improving the lives of others. Applicants to our MPhil and PhD programmes are strong contenders for the Gates Scholarships and in the academic years 2022-23 we were delighted to have Gates US and Gates International Scholars studying at the Centre.



### UCCGS Gates US Scholar 2022–23

#### Haley Howard (USA)

#### MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies 2022–23

*Enslaved Women & The Enlightenment*

The objective of this dissertation is to add to the growing academic reimagining of the Enlightenment by examining the historical circumstances of infanticide amongst enslaved women in relation to Enlightenment philosophy. More specifically, the project will demonstrate how past and present philosophical contextualizations of agency and independence—as defined by Enlightenment principles—cannot be divorced from enslaved women's bodies. The emphasis on infanticide is important as it explores the ways in which enslaved women literally reproduced the racial hierarchies and economic efficiencies that formed the basis of the Enlightenment's key concepts.

In short, the project's goal is to upend the traditional dynamic between the slave trade and the Enlightenment by asking how slavery influenced the Enlightenment, rather than the other way around. Furthermore, the project seeks to challenge common academic and cultural discussions of infanticide committed by enslaved women. Typically, legal theory provides the tenet framework, or the act is solely seen as an emotional response rather than a logical conclusion, stripping these women of their agency and rationality.

The research will be done via case studies by finding any documented records of court cases,

newspapers, or other transcribed evidence of infanticide committed by enslaved women during this era. Due to gaps in the archive, the dissertation will rely on methodologies distinct to women's, gender, and queer methodology, including feminist historiography. The intention is to re-conceptualize the Enlightenment and body politics as a means of interrogating the physical and philosophical exploitation of enslaved women's bodies. A Black feminist lens will also be incorporated when close-reading canonized texts, ideals, and materials from the Enlightenment age to emphasize the differences between freedom in theory and autonomy in practice as experienced by those of marginalized identities.

Too often, the Enlightenment and the Transatlantic Slave Trade are imagined as separate projects occurring tangentially to each other. Instead, they must be revisited as simultaneous events that were mutually influential and inextricably linked. This re-examination will have broad theoretical and material implications because—despite the utilized case studies occurring in the Americas—the implications of these events and their connections to the Enlightenment are far-reaching due to their influence on global understandings of rationality, humanity, and who possesses those characterizations.





## UCCGS Gates Cambridge International Scholar 2022–23 Waruguru Gaitho (Kenya)

### PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies 2022–23

*To Revolutionary Type Love: Legal Mobilization by Black Lesbian Bisexual and Queer (LBQ+) Women and Non-binary people in Kenya and South Africa*

Using a legal-sociological framework, this transdisciplinary study seeks to engage in a three-pronged examination: a.) how, paying special mind to the unique challenges in each context, Black LBQ womxn in Kenya and South Africa have employed legal mobilization to advance their rights and improve their lives, b.) why they choose legal mobilization and c.) the impact - both possible and actual - that legal mobilization can have on law and society. The study focuses on the interplay between law and society, thereby moving beyond purely theoretical legal analysis and into the practical aspects of making human rights work and engineering shifts in social norms and values.

By examining how we translate ideas of political and personal identity, human rights, social advocacy and legal mobilization into specific strategies, I hope to expatiate intersectionality as lens, epistemology, method, and action. In particular, how individuals at the nexus of intersecting vulnerabilities navigate systems of oppression and complex power relations, to successfully articulate their demands before both the law and society and transform both.

## 2 Scholarships

### UCCGS Funding Awards, Academic year 2022–23



**Jenny Carla Moran, PhD.**  
**AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership**  
*Loveability*

**Aaron Muldoon, PhD.**  
**AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership and Trinity College Studentship**  
*Queer Cultural Memory in Literature, Film and Television since 1999*



**Yinuo Chen, MPhil.**  
**Cambridge Trust Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC) Cambridge Masters Scholarship**  
*(Bio-)Hacking: A Homo-Techno Sinophone Yellow GRRRL Manifesto*

**Stefanie Felsberger, PhD.**  
**Cambridge Trust European Scholarship**  
*Global Data Flows and Menstruation*

**Ayanda Mhlongo, PhD.**  
**Cambridge Trust and Churchill College South African Scholarship**  
*Historical Intergenerational Trauma in South Africa - Centering the experiences of Black female freedom fighters and their progeny*

**Jenny Carla Moran, PhD.**  
**Cambridge European and Newnham College Scholarship**  
*Loveability*

**Anuli Ononye, MPhil.**  
**Cambridge Trust and Corpus Christi Michael Sharpston Master's Scholarship**  
*Getting Verified When Your Life Depends on It: The Uncertainty of Twitter Verification in the Era of Elon Musk*

**Muda Tariq, MPhil.**  
**Cambridge Trust and Fitzwilliam College Charlton Scholarship**  
*Traumascapes: Gendered Politics of Militarized Public/Private(s) in Kashmir*





Economic and Social Research Council  
Shaping Society

### **Michelle (Elle) Cai, MPhil.**

**University of Michigan Roger M. Jones  
Fellowship Abroad**

*Mental Health and Pregnancy in Asian Americans  
during the COVID-19 Pandemic*

### **Stefanie Felsberger, PhD.**

**ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership**

*Menstruation and Data Flows*

### **Kyla Piccin, PhD.**

**ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership and  
Rosalie Crawford, Girton Studentship**

*Unsettling Carceral Landscapes of Extraction:  
An Abolitionist Feminist Analysis of Logging  
Infrastructure at Ada'isx/Fairy Creek*



### **Amelia Amemate, PhD.**

**Gates Cambridge International Scholarship**

*Traditional Cultural Norms, Technology and Gender  
Relations in Ghana*

### **Mamasa Camara, PhD.**

**Gates Cambridge International Scholarship**

*The Political Economy of Female Circumcision in the  
Gambia*

### **Ola Osman, PhD.**

**Gates Cambridge International Scholarship**

*Where are they Now? Documenting the  
Reintegration Needs of Ex-Combatant Women in  
Liberia fifteen years after the civil war*

### **Reetika Subramanian, PhD.**

**Gates Cambridge International Scholarship**

*The Invisible Drought: Negotiations Between  
Girlhood, Marriage and Labour in Climate-Change  
Intensified Migration in India*

### **Emmah Wabuke, PhD.**

**Gates Cambridge International Scholarship**

*Towards A Gendered Disarmament, Disengagement  
and Reintegration (DDR) Program in Countering  
Violent Extremism: The Somalia Conflict and Female  
Militancy in Al-Shabaab*

### 3 The Distinguished Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professorship

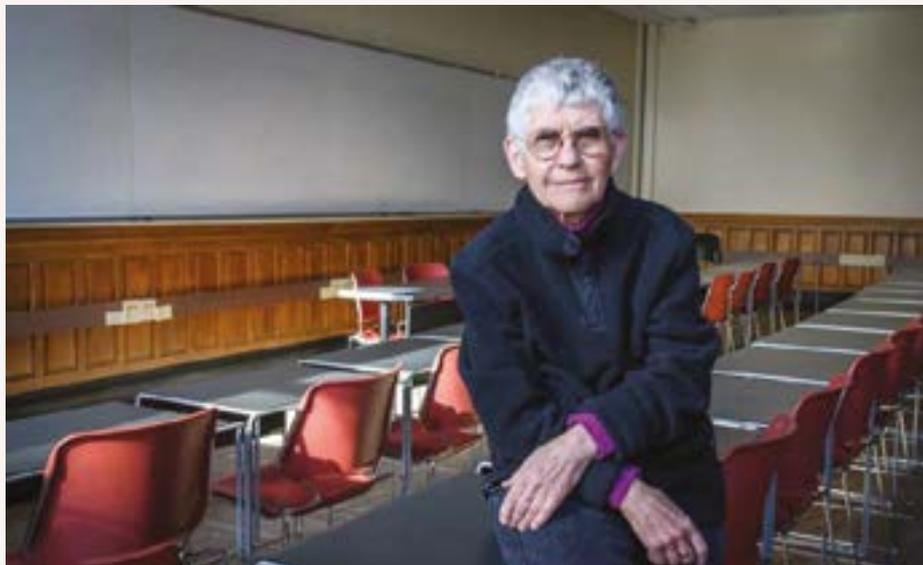


Professors Carl Djerassi and Diane Middlebrook

**The Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professorship was generously established by Carl Djerassi (29 October 1923 – 30 January 2015), Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Stanford University, inventor of the contraceptive pill and an internationally renowned playwright, poet and author. He established the professorship in honour of his wife Diane Middlebrook, (16 April 1939 – 15 December 2007) who was herself Professor Emerita of Stanford University and Chair of Feminist Studies there. The Visiting Professorship scheme is a unique academic position designed to host the most distinguished international scholars from any academic discipline with an interest in gender at the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies. As seen on pages 19–23 this scheme enables an exceptional range of scholars to think on the fundamental questions of humanity through a gender lens and we are extremely grateful to Carl and Diane for such an extraordinary endowment.**



## The Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor 2022–23



### Visiting Professorship Report, Cynthia Enloe, Michaelmas term 2022

I was so pleased – and honoured – to be invited to spend the Michaelmas Term of 2022 as the Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor with the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies. I have long admired the late-Professor Diane Middlebrook’s feminist biographical research.

The six weeks with the Centre flew by. They were lively, productive and intellectually expansive. The entire Centre staff were so welcoming and made my six weeks memorable. Dr Lauren Wilcox, Centre Director, is brilliant in her

academic networking across the University, working so effectively to ensure that the Centre’s impact is ever-widening, which, in turn, translated into my meeting many engaging people across several colleges. She also managed to acquire one of the very nice new Croft Gardens, King’s College flats for the Visiting Professor. Wonderful conversations with Dr Holly Porter, Deputy Director, about her innovative research with rural Ugandan women made me rethink how women survivors of war shape their post-war lives. She also gave me the opportunity to enjoy the unique glories of a formal Peterhouse dinner. Professor Jude Browne, despite her hectic schedule as Head of Department of POLIS, introduced me to

King’s College and shared her first-hand insights into her own and Professor Juliet Mitchell’s co-founding of the Centre for Gender Studies.

Joanna Bush, the Centre Administrator, worked wonders (with Katia Averina in HR) to make the complex 4-month pre-arrival visa-application process successful, and then, in countless daily ways, used her deep knowledge of Cambridge to teach me the University ropes. Vincenzo Paci, Admin Assistant and editor of the Centre’s lively Events Newsletter, added to the pleasures of being part of the Centre’s team.

My principal activity during the stay was the November presentation of the Visiting Professorship annual public lecture. I chose for my theme *Making Feminist Sense of the Ukraine War*. It is a testimony to the Centre’s University-wide outreach and positive reputation that the Christ’s College auditorium overflowed with eager participants, some of whom came up from London. The open discussion after the talk was thoughtful and probing. So many people in the audience had had their own first-hand experiences of militarization and violent conflict to contribute. The lovely small dinner following the lecture gave me a chance to converse with the Centre’s faculty and chief donors, whose creative generosity is so admirable.

A major benefit of the Visiting Professorship, I think, is becoming acquainted with the Centre’s geographically wide-ranging post-graduate students. Several students came into the office for private conversations with me about their

### 3 The Distinguished Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professorship



own gender research projects. In addition, I met with the whole MA group together, and, separately, with all of the Centre's current PhD students. I am genuinely impressed with the high quality of the Centre's post-graduate students. All of them, without prompting, told me how valuable the training and support are that they are receiving from Dr Wilcox and Dr Porter, as well as from the gender-focused faculty across Cambridge who work with the Centre to mentor these fine post-graduate students.

I was invited to give a lecture to POLIS undergraduates in International Relations and as I remain committed to undergraduate teaching, this was a special pleasure. Dr Anahita Arian, Centre for Geopolitics also invited me to speak on a panel discussion exploring the women's protest movement in Iran. I learned so much from that informed discussion.

While not a formal part of the Visiting Professorship, being at the Centre this term allowed me to accept an invitation to travel to Oxford to give a noontime lecture on gender analysis in International Relations, sponsored by Oxford's post-graduate International Relations Association, as well as to do an interview for Chatham House's journal *The World Today*.

My research and writing during the Visiting Professorship were for my new book, *Twelve Feminist Lessons of War*. While my initial motivation for writing this book has been to apply the knowledge feminist researchers and scholars have generated to making deeper and clearer sense of



Professor Cynthia Enloe, Visiting Professorship Lecture for Making Feminist Sense of the Ukraine War

the war in Ukraine, the twelve lessons explored in the book shed light on women's and men's distinct, inter-sectionally nuanced and gender-shaped experiences of wars in countries as diverse as Rwanda, Nicaragua, Britain, the US, Vietnam, Ethiopia and Japan. Thanks to the combined free time for writing and congenial atmosphere provided by the Centre, I succeeded in drafting the whole arc of the book and completing the opening three chapters.

*Twelve Feminist Lessons of War* is now finished and due to be published this September, 2023: London, Footnote Press; US, University of California Press. Of course, I have – happily! – acknowledged both the Centre for Gender Studies and the Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professorship for their crucial support.

May the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies continue to thrive.

Gratefully,

**Cynthia Enloe**  
Research Professor  
Clark University

**Opposite, top-left:** Visiting Professorship Dinner, Monday 7 November 2022; **bottom-right:** Dr Lauren Wilcox, Professor Cynthia Enloe and Dr Holly Porter, Visiting Professorship Closed Workshop; **bottom-left:** Professor Cynthia Enloe and Dr Lauren Wilcox, Visiting Professorship Q&A





**Professor Cynthia Enloe**  
The Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djezani Visiting Professor

Research Professor,  
Clark University, USA

**Making  
Feminist Sense  
of the  
Ukraine War**

Monday 7 November 2022  
5.00 pm

The Yusuf Hamied Theatre,  
Christ's College, Cambridge

 **UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**  
Centre for Gender Studies

All welcome and  
free entrance!

For more details on this and all our events  
visit: [www.gender.cam.ac.uk](http://www.gender.cam.ac.uk)



# 3 The Distinguished Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professorship

## Upcoming Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor



**Professor Patricia Hill Collins**, University of Maryland, will serve as The *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor* during Michaelmas 2023,

conducting research on *Lethal Intersections: Race, Gender and Violence*.

## Previous Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professors



**Rosi Braidotti**, Distinguished University Professor, Utrecht University, served as The *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor* during

Michaelmas 2019, conducting research entitled *Posthuman Feminism and Affirmative Ethics*.



**Bina Agarwal**, Professor of Development Economics and Environment, University of Manchester, served as The *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting*

*Professor* during Michaelmas 2018, conducting research on *Group Farming in Asia and Europe*.



**Sandra Harding**, Distinguished Professor of Education and Gender Studies at UCLA, Los Angeles, served as the *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi*

*Visiting Professor* for the Michaelmas Term 2017, conducting research entitled *Feminist Philosophy of Science and Technology: Thinking from Latin America*



**Seyla Benhabib**, Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Yale University, served as the *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi*

*Visiting Professor* for the Lent Term 2017, conducting research entitled *Legal Utopianism and Democratic Pessimism. Transnational Law and Democratic Sovereignty*.



**Judith Butler**, Maxine Elliot Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature and the Program of Critical Theory at the University of California,

Berkeley, served as the *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor* for the Michaelmas Term 2016, conducting research entitled *New forms of vulnerability*.



**Mignon Nixon**, Professor, History of American Art, The Courtauld Institute of Art, served as the *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor*

for the Michaelmas Term 2015, conducting research entitled *Sperm Bomb: Art, Feminism, and the American War in Vietnam*.





**Jack Halberstam**, Professor of American Studies Ethnicity, Comparative Literature and Gender Studies, at the University of Southern California,

served as the Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor during Lent 2015, conducting research on *The Wild: Histories and Futures of Queer Anarchy*.



**Jacqueline Rose**, Professor of Humanities, Birkbeck College, University of London served as The Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor

during Michaelmas 2014, conducting research on *Feminism and the Abomination of Violence*.



**Nancy Fraser**, The Henry A. and Louise Loeb Professor of Political and Social Science and Department Chair at The New School for Social Research,

served as The Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor during Lent 2014, conducting research on a new book project: *A Feminist Theory of Capitalist Crisis: re-reading Marx, Polanyi, and Habermas in the 21st Century*.



**John Dupré**, Professor of Philosophy of Science and Director of the ESRC Centre for Genomics in Society (Egenis) at the University of Exeter

served as The Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor during Michaelmas 2013, conducting research on *Gender and 21st Century Biology*.



**Sara Ahmed**, Professor of Race and Cultural Studies at Goldsmiths College, University of London served as The Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting

Professor during Lent 2013, conducting research on *Willful Women: Feminism and a History of Will*.



**Akbar Ahmed**, the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at American University in Washington DC served as The Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor

during Michaelmas 2012, conducting research on *Gender, Security, and Inter-Generational Conflict in Muslim Societies Post 9/11*.



**Cindi Katz**, Professor of Geography Environmental Psychology Program & Earth and Environmental Sciences Program at The City University of

New York, Graduate Center served as The Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor during Michaelmas 2011 and Lent 2012, conducting research on *Childhood as Spectacle: Relays of Anxiety and the Reconfiguration of the Child*.



**Catharine MacKinnon**, the Elizabeth A. Long Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School and James Barr Ames Visiting Professor of

Law at Harvard Law School, served as The Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor during Lent 2011, conducting research on *Trafficking, Prostitution and Inequality*.



**Marcia Inhorn**, the William K. Lanman Jr. Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs at Yale University, served as the inaugural Diane

Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor during Michaelmas 2010, conducting research on *Global Gametes: reproductive 'tourism' and Islamic bioethics in the high-tech Middle East*.

## 4 Public Engagement Series



UCCGS public lecture

### Public Lectures and Seminars in 2022–23

**Professor Bina Agarwal** (Professor of Development Economics and Environment, Global Development Institute (GDI), The University of Manchester) on *Progressive laws, Regressive practice? Gender, land and productivity in India*

**Jade Bentil** (Black Feminist Historian) on *Love in a Future Tense: Beauty, Glamour and the Sexual Politics of Black Life in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Britain*

**Dr Anna A. Berman** (Lecturer, Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics, University of Cambridge) on *The Nineteenth-Century Family Novel in Russia and England: A Gendered View*

**Professor Judith Butler** (Distinguished Professor in the Graduate School, University of California, Berkeley) on *Who Is Afraid of Gender?* Co-hosted by the Department of Sociology, LGBTQ+@Cam and UCCGS

Our public events programme consists of high-profile lectures, symposia and a multi-disciplinary gender research seminar series. The Centre has an unparalleled record of eminent speakers on gender including Nobel Prize winners such as Amartya Sen and Shirin Ebadi; academics such as Mary Beard, Judith Butler, Jack Halberstam, Catharine MacKinnon, Carol Gilligan and Onora O'Neill; cultural figures, writers, and activists such as Jane Fonda, Larry Kramer and Nawal el Saadwi; professionals such as Helena Kennedy, scientific pioneers such as Carl Djerassi and political figures such as SRS Margot Wallström (see the Centre's 'Public Events' archive at [www.gender.cam.ac.uk](http://www.gender.cam.ac.uk)).

The Centre's Public Event Series is extremely popular and consistently attracts large audiences to events that span the disciplines. Below are the academic events organised in academic year 2022–23:

**Dr Lorna Dillon** (Research Fellow, Murray Edwards College & Centre of Latin American Studies, University of Cambridge) on *Embroidering Resistance: 'Arpilleras' and the Transversality of Feminist Activism in Latin America*

**Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professorship Lecture: Michaelmas 2022 Professor Cynthia Enloe** (Research Professor, Clark University) on *Making Feminist Sense of the Ukraine War*

**Dr Isaias Fanlo and Javier Perez Osorio**, University of Cambridge and **Dr Juana María Rodríguez**, UC Berkeley on *Queer Hispanisms now*

**Dr Jamie Hagen** (Lecturer in International Relations, Queen's University Belfast) on *Queer and Feminist Collaborations in Peacebuilding*

**Professor Juliet Mitchell** (Professor of Psychoanalysis and Gender Studies; Emeritus Fellow of Jesus College; Professorial Research Associate, UCL) in conversation with **Dr Holly Porter** (Deputy Director, UCCGS) Book launch and in-conversation for *Fratriarchy: The Sibling Trauma and the Law of the Mother*



**Professor Sohela Nazneen** (Research Fellow, Institute of Development Studies) on *Voters, Brokers, Claim-makers, Protestors: Unpacking Women's Political Agency in Fragile Polities*

**Dr Rachel O'Connell** (Lecturer in Post 1350 English Literature, School of Media, Arts and Humanities University of Sussex) on "To smoke until he could see through time": *History, affect, and trans genres in Imogen Binnie's 'Nevada'*

**Dr Suzanne Persard** (Assistant Professor, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, University of South Florida) on *The Radical Limits of Decolonising Feminism*

**Professor Srila Roy** (Professor of Sociology, University of the Witwatersrand) in-conversation with **Shuvatri Dasgupta** (Associate Lecturer, School of History, University of St Andrews) Book launch for *Changing the Subject: Feminist and Queer Politics in Neoliberal India* (Duke University Press, 2022). GoMAD (Grammars of Marriage and Desire). Event supported by UCCGS.

**Dr Caroline Rusterholz** (Wellcome Trust Research Fellow, Faculty of History, University of Cambridge) on *Women, sex and family planning in Britain (1920s–1980s)*

**Reetika Subramanian** (PhD Candidate in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies, UCCGS) on *Brides of Drought: from girl, to wife and worker*

**C. Dale Young** (Poet and Writer) in conversation with **Dr Isaias Fanlo** (Assistant Professor in Modern Iberian Literary and Cultural Studies; Iberian Studies Fellow at Fitzwilliam College) *Amalgam: Queering the Body Politic*. Co-hosted by Fitzwilliam College and UCCGS

## Ms Sigal Spigel, Multi-disciplinary Gender Research Seminars Coordinator, UCCGS



Ms Sigal Spigel is the Coordinator and Chair of the **Multi-disciplinary Gender Research Seminar** series. She works as a psychologist and psychotherapist and her research is on motherhood, feminism and psychoanalysis. Sigal was a founding member of the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies and a member of the original Working Party, serving as a Deputy Director. Subsequently she has been an active member of the Centre's Gender Advisory Network.

Sigal can be contacted about the Multi-disciplinary Gender Research Seminars at: [sis22@cam.ac.uk](mailto:sis22@cam.ac.uk)

## 4 Public Engagement Series

### *Who Is Afraid of Gender?* Public Lecture: Professor Judith Butler



Professor Judith Butler, public lecture for *Who is Afraid of Gender?*

The Department of Sociology, LGBTQ+@Cam and the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies hosted a public lecture by Professor Judith Butler on *Who is Afraid of Gender?* on Wednesday 26 April 2023 at the West Road Concert Hall. The lecture was attended by a capacity audience and was followed by a Q&A. It proved to be a remarkable and memorable evening. Professor Butler's lecture was a characteristic tour de force; intense and crammed with insights, made all the more powerful by the collective solidarity and energy in the packed auditorium.

Professor Butler said that they 'had no words' to describe how meaningful it was to be in the room with such a powerful surge of support and appreciation.

"In recent years, the attack on "gender" as if it were an ideology has heightened among right-wing movements, nationalist governments, and new fascist formations. At the same time, some feminists have advanced a "critical" position on gender, seeking a return to "facts" or "biology" in their efforts to undermine trans rights. Although the fascist and feminist

movements are not the same, they end up, perhaps paradoxically, advocating similar concerns with ideas of social construction, suggesting that new gender politics is engaged in propagating falsehoods and destroying some or all of the following: sex, family, nation, God, and civilization. Both movements characterize gender as a frightening power, one that can, or will, take over educational curricula, destroy the binary understanding of sex, and propagate false and dangerous forms of knowledge. In this lecture, Professor Judith Butler asked why, and how, gender has become such a fearsome





phantasm, and considered what a psychosocial understanding of the phantasmatic domain might illuminate about these new public discourses and their political positions.”

Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies PhD students and PhD members of the LGBTQ+ programme presented their work at a seminar to the community and to Professor Judith Butler.



Anna Forringer-Beal (top) and Dr Naoise Murphy, PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies, presenting at the UCCGS PhD Workshop with Judith Butler.

## 4 Public Engagement Series

### Book Launch and 'In Conversation': Fratriarchy: Professor Juliet Mitchell



The Centre for Gender Studies hosted an event to mark the launch of Professor Juliet Mitchell's latest book *Fratriarchy: The Sibling Trauma and the Law of the Mother* on Tuesday 2 May 2023 at Keynes Hall, King's College. Professor Juliet Mitchell, Professor of Psychoanalysis and Gender Studies and Emeritus Fellow of Jesus College; Professorial Research Associate, UCL, was in conversation with Dr Holly Porter, Deputy Director, UCCGS. The event was followed by a lunch reception in the Chetwynd Rooms.

In *Fratriarchy*, Juliet Mitchell expands her groundbreaking theories on the sibling trauma and the Law of the Mother. Writing as a psychoanalytic practitioner, she shows what happens from the ground up when we use feminist questions to probe the psycho-social world and its lateral relations.



Professor Juliet Mitchell, in-conversation for *Fratriarchy: The Sibling Trauma and the Law of the Mother*



Professor Juliet Mitchell and Dr Holly Porter

### *Amalgam: Queering the Body Politic*



A poetry reading and conversation with the award-winning poet and writer **C. Dale Young** was held on Thursday 27 October 2022 in the Auditorium of Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge and co-hosted by the Centre for Gender Studies.

C. Dale Young, in conversation with **Dr Isaias Fanlo**, Assistant Professor in Modern Iberian Literary and Cultural Studies & Iberian Studies Fellow at Fitzwilliam College, discussed the creative process, writing in the intersections of race and queerness, the connections between poetry and medicine, and his forthcoming collection of *New and Selected Poems, Building the Perfect Animal*.



Dr Isaias Fanlo and C. Dale Young



## Queer Hispanisms now

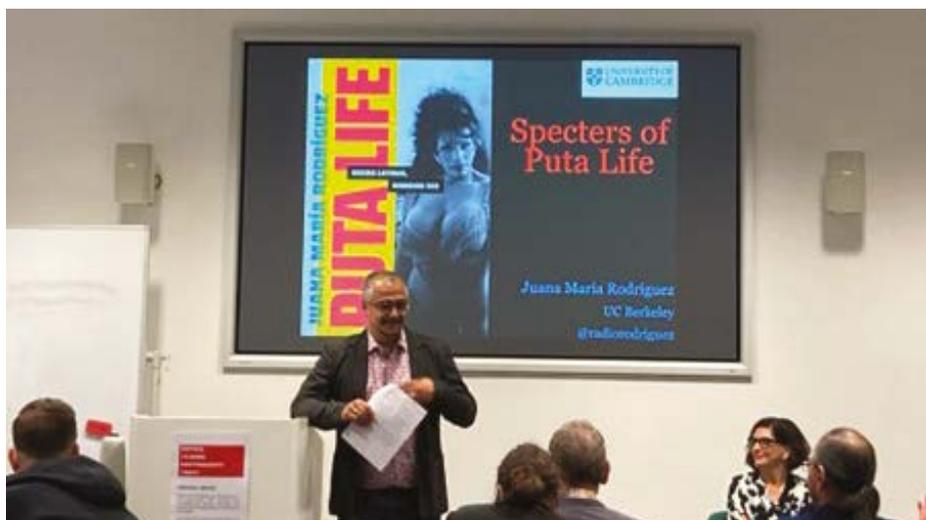
The Centre for Gender Studies co-sponsored a two-day conference on 'Queer Hispanisms now' on 3–4 July 2023.

Queerness is, among many other things, change; therefore, a queer gaze needs to be aware of mutations and deviations. In their fundamental essay "What's Queer about Queer Studies Now?" (2005), David L. Eng, Jack Halberstam and José Esteban Muñoz asked themselves a critical question: given all the achievements and the preponderance of identity politics in social, political, and academic discourses, what are the new paths Queer Theories should embrace? "The contemporary mainstreaming of gay and lesbian identity – as a mass-mediated consumer lifestyle and embattled legal category – demands a renewed queer studies ever vigilant to the fact that sexuality is intersectional, not extraneous to other modes of different", the authors claim (1).

The panels in this conference were organised around critical debates currently taking place in the field of Queer Studies. The panellists were invited to contribute to those debates by exploring the intersections between queerness and Hispanism.

Convenors: Isaias Fanlo and Javier Perez Osorio, University of Cambridge.

**Image, top:** Performance *Des-espera* (Les Impuixibles)  
© Josep Bednar; **bottom:** Dr Isaias Fanlo and Prof Juana María Rodríguez



## 4 Public Engagement Series

### ***Progressive laws, Regressive practice? Gender, land and productivity in India***



Professor Bina Agarwal, Professor of Development Economics and Environment at the GDI, University of Manchester and previous Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor, gave a public talk on *Progressive laws, Regressive practice? Gender, land and productivity in India* on Tuesday

22 November 2022 at the Alison Richard Building, POLIS. The event was co-hosted by the Centre for Gender Studies, the Centre of South Asian Studies and the Centre for History and Economics and was followed by a Q&A and drinks reception.

### **Race Talks Seminar Series**

*Race Talks* is a bi-weekly seminar series that investigates processes and histories of race and gender making. It aims to foster critical conversation about race and provides a forum for students from across the University who are interested in integrating critical race approaches and feminist scholarship into their work. *Race Talks* is attuned to the ways in which universities as institutions are animated by histories of colonialism, which in turn shape the organisation of knowledge production as well as our citational practices. In view of this fact, we are particularly committed to inviting scholars of colour in a feminist effort to honour the radical intellectual work that emerges from the margins. The seminar series was founded and is co-convened by Ola Osman (PhD Candidate, Centre for Gender Studies) and Kerry Mackereth (Christina Gaw Research Associate in Gender and Technology, Centre for Gender Studies).

We feel extremely privileged to have hosted such exceptional speakers at the seminar series in 2022–23.



Photo credit: Tiro Teodoro III on Unsplash

### **Michaelmas 2022**

#### **Thursday 20 October 2022**

Race Talks: *Accounting for Pleasure*  
Camille Borders, Princeton University

#### **Thursday 3 November 2022**

Race Talks: *Chinese Traditions and Marriage Equality*  
Prof Marco Wan, University of Hong Kong

#### **Thursday 17 November 2022**

Race Talks: *Social Death and Rastafari Reason*  
Prof Robbie Shilliam, Johns Hopkins University

### **Lent 2023**

#### **Tuesday 14 March 2023**

Race Talks: *The Women Before the Men*  
Anna Malaika Tubbs, NYTimes Bestselling author, advocate, and educator  
In conversation with Ola Osman, University of Cambridge

#### **Thursday 27 April 2023**

Race Talks: *The Black Radical Tradition: Past, Present, and Futures*  
In Conversation with Candace Borders, Yale University & K. Bailey Thomas, Dartmouth University

#### **Thursday 11 May 2023**

Race Talks: *Black Feminism and Figures of the Black Mater(nal)*  
Morinade J. Stevenson, Emory University



## 5 PhD Programme in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies

Congratulations to Dr Juliana Demartini-Brito, Dr Naoise Murphy and Dr Lisa Vickers, who graduated in 2022–23!



Dr Lauren Wilcox and Dr Juliana Demartini Brito



Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies MPhil and PhD students

# 5 PhD Programme in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies

## Current PhD Students



**Amelia AmeDela Amemate**  
(Gates Cambridge International Scholarship)

Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter

(University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies)

### ***Traditional Cultural Norms, Technology and Gender Relations in Ghana***

#### **Abstract:**

Traditional cultural values and norms play a role in how gender is conceptualised, understood, and portrayed in African societies. Although the fight for gender equality is not new in many African societies, women and non-binary gender identities continue to be disadvantaged by discriminatory cultural systems and structures. Technology has become a significant aspect of gender equality efforts that are changing cultural norms and gender relations in many African societies. But the impact of technology also holds negative consequences for African women and non-binary gender identities. Citizens of countries like Ghana have used social media to shut down sexuality education and homosexuality legalisation efforts. My research aims to understand the relationship between traditional cultural values and norms in Ghana, technology, and Ghanaian peoples' perceptions of gender equality and non-binary gender identities and relations. The study will explore the traditions of the Ewe and Akan people of Ghana and look at how cyberfeminism is changing the norms that these two ethnic groups uphold regarding gender through a qualitative research approach.



**Mamasa Camara**  
(Gates Cambridge International Scholarship)

Supervisor: Dr Adam Branch  
(Department of Politics and

International Studies)

### ***The Political Economy of Female Circumcision in the Gambia***

#### **Abstract:**

The smallest West African nation of the Gambia has, in recent years, become the stage for an intensive debate surrounding the practice of female circumcision as well as a great deal of change in both the practice itself and the discourses that surround it. Through feminist and postcolonial analysis as well as the historical analysis of archives, my research project offers a case-based study on the dynamics of these debates and the extent to which they are shaped by both global and local processes (like democratization, Islamic revivalism and modernization) and by the shifting dynamics of culture, gender and power. I ask the following questions: (1) What are the mechanisms of this process? (2) What regimes of rule, politics and entangled knowledge structure the field upon which female circumcision is discursively produced and negotiated and (3) How have they affected both the gendered subjectivities and lived experiences of Gambian women as well as the relations between citizens and the State?



**Stefanie Felsberger**  
(ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership/Cambridge Trust Scholarship)

Supervisor: Dr Lauren Wilcox (University of

Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies)

### ***Global Data Flows and Menstruation***

#### **Abstract:**

Tech companies have amassed great capital through the commodification of data generated by people in their daily lives: this data is either sold or used to gain behavioural insights. In my research, I focus on this intersection of data as source of value and knowledge, which underpins most business models in the digital economy. I look at women using fertility tracking applications which gather some of the most sensitive and sought-after information. I research how women in Egypt and Austria navigate the commodification of their personal data to question conceptions of gender and labour in discussions on surveillance capitalism, data ownership and commodification. I hope to (re) think the power relationship between data producers and technology owners and to find ways how woman can regain some say over what happens to *their* data.





**Anna Forringer-Beal**  
(Gates-Cambridge USA  
Scholarship)

Supervisor: Professor  
Jude Browne (University  
of Cambridge Centre for

Gender Studies)

**From White Slaves to Trafficking Victims:  
How Historic Perceptions of Migrants Shape  
Contemporary Anti-Trafficking Policy**

**Abstract:**

Campaigns against white slavery at the end of the nineteenth century laid the foundation for anti-human trafficking law. However, the connection between these events and contemporary policy has remained elusive. My research examines the legal history behind the UK Modern Slavery Act of 2015 to better understand how early perceptions of immigrants and sex workers impact current policy decisions. Using critical discourse analysis to examine historic anti-trafficking laws and popular white slavery narratives, I investigate where these two discourses converge. This reveals a series of legislative decisions that I further explore using critical race and gender theory. The aim of this research is to produce a genealogical history of anti-trafficking policy and discourse to understand how patterns and assemblages persist over time. This work ultimately argues to refocus policy using a human rights-based approach that places the needs of trafficking survivors at its centre.



**Waruguru Gaithe**  
(Gates Cambridge  
International  
Scholarship)

Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter  
(University of Cambridge

Centre for Gender Studies)

**Legal Mobilization by Black Lesbian, Bisexual  
and Queer (LBQ) Womxn in Kenya and South  
Africa**

**Abstract:**

Using a legal-sociological framework, this transdisciplinary study seeks to engage in a three-pronged examination: a.) how, paying special mind to the unique challenges in each context, Black LBQ womxn in Kenya and South Africa have employed legal mobilization to advance their rights and improve their lives, b.) why they choose legal mobilization and c.) the impact -both possible and actual- that legal mobilization can have on law and society. The study focuses on the interplay between law and society, thereby moving beyond purely theoretical legal analysis and into the practical aspects of making human rights work and engineering shifts in social norms and values. By examining how we translate ideas of political and personal identity, human rights, social advocacy and legal mobilization into specific strategies, I hope to expatiate intersectionality as lens, epistemology, method, and action. In particular, how individuals at the nexus of intersecting vulnerabilities navigate systems of oppression and complex power relations, to successfully articulate their demands before both the law and society and transform both.



**Ayanda Mhlongo**  
(Cambridge Trust and  
Churchill College South  
African Scholarship;  
Future Africa Fellow;  
recipient of the 2022

**Mail & Guardian 200 Young South  
Africans Award))**

Supervisor: Dr Mónica Moreno Figueroa  
(Department of Sociology, University of  
Cambridge)

**Historical Intergenerational trauma in South  
Africa: Centering the experiences of Black  
female freedom fighters and their progeny**

**Abstract:**

In South Africa, when apartheid ended, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established to help the country deal with the mass violence and gross human rights violations that took place during apartheid. In as much as the TRC did not solve all the challenges of a post- apartheid South Africa, it did try to disrupt the intergenerational transmission of trauma. However, the remorseful apologies by the perpetrators of apartheid were and are not enough to heal the continuing pain of those that are still disposed, poor and disenfranchised. In South Africa, it is women who experience the worst form of marginalization and oppression, especially black women. Black South African women struggle the most to deal with the imbalances of race, class, privilege, and power epitomized by South Africa's history, trauma, and legacy of apartheid. Oppression and exclusion, based on race and gender, are responsible for circumscribing the lives of black women. As a result, this study explores historical trauma

## 5 PhD Programme in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies

from the perspective of black South African women. Such an exploration will enable us to trace the ways in which historical contexts, such as apartheid, can create economic, social, and psychological disadvantages that persist across generations. This study considers the relationship between historical trauma and sustainable development in South Africa, critically interrogating what historical trauma does to a society and if questions of achieving development and growth are pertinent and to what extent. Such an exploration will provide a critical perspective that will be beneficial to South Africa (National Development Goals 2030), the rest of Africa (AU Agenda 2063) and the world (Sustainable Development Goals 2030). The study will also consider the relationship between historical trauma and a range of issues linked to inequality such as poverty, unemployment, education, health, sexism and



**Jenny Carla Moran**  
(AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership and Cambridge European & Newnham College Scholarship)

**Supervisor:** Professor Sarah Dillon (Faculty of English)

**Loveability: A Critical Theory for Understanding Love, Humanness, and Futurity in the Age of the Sex Robot**

**Abstract:**

In recent years, the phenomenon of techno-companion robotics, especially “sex bots,” has received significant attention in news media, dominant sci-fi narratives, and documentaries.

The academic engagement with techno-companions has, however, been comparatively lacking. The care work and emotional work performed by devices such as sex robots, disability assistive robots, and elderly care robots, has yet to be adequately theorised as a result. The emotional, caring, and enabling forms of work which these products are designed to replicate descend from genealogies that are deeply gendered, racialised, profit-orientated, and heteronormative. Through examinations of the nuclear family, the pursuit of capital, the valuation of labour, the hierarchisation of social roles, the sociogenetic construct of ability, and the function of affect in cisheteropatriarchal white supremacist capitalism, this project situates techno-companion devices in the context of these genealogies.

Loveability is a critical theory examining stratified assignments of humanity on a biopolitical basis. The theory is designed to identify and examine orientations and affective responses to particular traits, deemed socio-politically “loveable” or “unloveable.” I propose that techno-companions are created not only to embody loveability (as “ideal companions”), but to enable their users to become more loveable in turn through emotional work. I question the indebtedness of techno-companions’ design and usage to the structural construction of which Beings are deemed most worthy of love, empathy, and protection. Through an examination of the ways in which techno-companions simulate a colonial-capitalist articulation of “love,” I ask how loveability is (re)produced by the techno-companion industry.



**Aaron Muldoon**  
(AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership & Trinity College Studentship)

**Supervisor:** Professor Sarah Dillon (Faculty of English,

University of Cambridge)

**Queer Cultural Memory in Literature, Film and Television since 1999**

**Abstract:**

My PhD research explores how queer culture and cultural identity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century arises from a specific kind of identification with the past—what I am calling queer cultural memory. My analyses of literature, film and television of recent decades meld queer theory with cultural memory studies and aim to interrogate the assumptions underlying this identification. For example, what political and affective mechanisms facilitate thinking of queer people in terms of a transhistorical and collective ‘us’? What does it mean to inherit the queer past, or to (re)claim it? And what bearing does the historically constituted nature of contemporary queer culture have on the ways we understand ourselves today?

Some authors and directors of interest include Pedro Almodóvar, Desiree Akhavan, Gregg Araki, Neil Bartlett, Michael Cunningham, Samuel R. Delany, Xavier Dolan, Guillaume Dustan, Robert Glück, Garth Greenwell, Andrew Sean Greer, Luca Guadagnino, Todd Haynes, Andrew Holleran, Andrea Lawlor, Sam Levinson, Édouard Louis, Carmen Maria Machado, Adam Mars-Jones, Jamie O’Neill, François Ozon, Céline Sciamma, Will Self, Douglas Stuart, Colm Toibín, Sarah Waters, Edmund White, Jeanette Winterson.





## Namrata Narula

Supervisor: Professor Ankur Barua (Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge)

### **From Action to Freedom: Exploring the dialectics**

#### **of feminist agency through classical Indian thought**

#### **Abstract:**

The central aim of my dissertation is to advance ethical criteria for generating and structuring feminist action based on a compatibilist metaphysics of agency, namely, a conception that views the subject as dynamically constructed through relations of power, but nevertheless preserves the achievability of free actions within this relational framework. While there is copious discussion on the metaphysics of agency in contemporary philosophy, there remains a paucity of Euro-American philosophical approaches that actively combine these metaphysical perspectives with individual and collective ethical considerations. In other words, discussions on the possibility of free action rarely suggest to individuals how they may exercise their agential capacities and aspire towards freedom through the quotidian densities of their daily life. Classical Indian philosophical approaches, on the other hand, routinely frame individual ethics in light of metaphysical considerations – the question of who the self *is* and the question of *how* the self should act in the world are densely interrelated. The philosophical school of Advaita Vedānta, for example, argues that though the eternal Self seemingly becomes constrained by relations in *samsāra* (the worldly realm), it

can nevertheless gain soteriological freedom through renunciation, and by meditating on key scriptural texts that reveal the non-dual nature of deep reality. Though such traditions provide a transcendental blueprint for individual action based on metaphysical theory, I will argue that they fall short in providing concrete forms of reasoning for *how* the relational subject can apprehend which of its actions ultimately lead to freedom, and which of its actions will only enhance its bondage. Feminist subjects are constrained and conditioned by relations of power that structure their desires, dislikes, identities, and politics. How then can feminists understand which of their individual and collective actions spring from an authentic exercise of agency, and which of these actions are enmeshed in the patriarchal frameworks within which they operate? Is this quest for ‘authenticity’ and a primordial self of undiluted freedom a doomed enterprise from the start? My dissertation will seek to answer some of these vexed questions through a decolonial philosophical approach that puts classical Indian metaphysics in active dialogue with some contemporary voices in Western philosophy, with the ultimate view of strengthening feminist politics, idioms, and action. This work also hopes to fill a lacuna in the study of Indian thought, as the question of how one can exercise agency within *samsāra*, in the contexts of non-dualism, is yet to receive sustained scholarly attention.



## Ola Osman (Gates Cambridge Scholarship)

Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter  
(University of Cambridge  
Centre for Gender Studies)

### **Rethinking the Liberian Predicament in Anti-Black Terms**

#### **Abstract:**

The transatlantic slave economy and “post-colonial armed rebel movements in Africa” have conventionally been regarded as distinct phenomena. This thesis maps the continuities between transatlantic slavery, its attendant racial logics, and their relation to the role ethnicity played in the Liberian civil war. The Liberian crisis has been generally explicated as a problem of ethnic antagonisms between varying social groups, imbuing it with an erroneous pretense of historical inevitability. The implicit suggestion here is that the provocation of the armed actors can be explained culturally or biologically—through reference to a supposed intrinsic racial inferiority. The country’s protracted civil conflict spanned 14 years (1989-2003), killing approximately 250 000 Liberians and displacing half of the population. The war has deep and complex roots in the transnational politics of racial formation that came to structure social relations and tensions among Liberians during the Back-to-Africa Movement in the 18th and 19th centuries. In a definitive way, the *raison d’être* for this monograph is to re-think those early encounters and relational dynamics, between Indigenous Liberians and expatriated formerly enslaved Africans and their descendants, in racial terms. My aim is to

## 5 PhD Programme in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies

widen our lens to the various ways the political “afterlife of slavery” manifests in Liberia by way of elaborating the relationship between culture, labour, race and ethnonationalism.



### **Kyla Simone Piccin** (ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership & Rosalie Crawford Girton Studentship)

Supervisor: Dr Lauren

Wilcox (University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies)

#### ***Unsettling Carceral Landscapes of Extraction: An Abolitionist Feminist Analysis of Logging Infrastructure at Ada'ix/Fairy Creek***

##### **Abstract:**

Addressing the root causes of the contemporary climate crisis is a primary concern for those most impacted by intensifying ecological disaster around the world. In Canada, marginalized communities, primarily Black and Indigenous communities, bear the brunt of environmental exploitation (Van Sant et al., 2021). These communities are also most directly impacted by carceral state violence, including disproportionate incarceration rates, police violence, and hyper-surveillance (Simpson, 2015). While struggles against carceral violence and struggles against environmental exploitation may seem disparate, there are deep connections and solidarities across these social movements. My project queries these interconnections through an exploration of the carceral and disciplinary logics enacted through Canada's imperial regime of resource extraction. Through the lens of abolitionist feminist thought, I ask

whether multi-species geographies of resource extraction can be understood not just as sites of colonial-capitalist accumulation, but also as gendered carceral sites, and if so, what this consideration contributes to contemporary thinking regarding solutions to climate crises. I seek to bridge and build on the literature in feminist political geography, multi-species justice, and critical prison studies by exploring the interconnections between the expropriation of Indigenous homelands, criminalization, capitalist expansion, gendered state violence, and environmental crisis within Canada's imperial resource extraction regime as a function of on-going Canadian nation-building.



### **Reetika Revathy Subramanian** (Gates Cambridge International Scholar; Winner of the 2022 Bill Gates Sr. Prize)

Supervisor: Professor Samita Sen (Faculty of History, University of Cambridge)

#### ***Brides of Drought: Gendered interlinkages between labour and marriage migration of adolescent wives/workers in India's climate crisis***

##### **Abstract:**

Anchored at the intersections of marriage migration and girlhood studies, my doctoral research proposes to make visible the labour and experiences of adolescent girls in the context of a climate crisis. I seek to combine a multi-sited feminist ethnography with an informed interpretation of community women's oral folk songs of labour, to understand the complex ways

in which early marriage is used as an institutional means to produce a particular workforce of adolescent wife-workers in capitalist labour markets, in India's historically drought-prone and caste-ridden Marathwada region. To develop this exploratory thesis, I will pursue two simultaneous trajectories set against the backdrop of frequent and intense droughts: one linked to the historical and socio-economic changes that have driven early marriage and survival migration, and another occurring as the adolescent girls become wives and workers. By training the spotlight on the analytical idea of girlhood and (re)productive labour, I aim to demystify the structural hierarchies and complex processes underlying these exchanges.



### **Emmah Khisa Senge Wabuke** (Gates Cambridge Scholarship)

Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter  
(University of Cambridge)

#### ***Towards A Gendered Disarmament, Disengagement and Reintegration (DDR) Program in Countering Violent Extremism: The Somalia Conflict and Female Militancy in Al-Shabaab***

##### **Abstract:**

Earlier generations of DDR Programming came into effect after completion of the armed conflict. However, 'new wars' such as violent extremism necessitates a DDR Program capable of operating in contexts of continuing threats to peace and security. While international stakeholders such as the UN and the AU are in



the process of fine-tuning DDR-CVE Programs, my research project argues that it is important to include gender into these deliberations.

To do so, stakeholders must take note of inherent challenges facing a gendered DDR-CVE. These challenges predominantly stem from the constructions of gender in war. Gender inequalities in new wars emerge from varied factors, such as 'predominance of male participation, differential forms of violence against men and women' and falsehood of women as natural peacemakers, all of which give credence to the 'mother/whore/monster' narratives around female militants in terrorist groups. In proposing gender inclusion in DDR-CVE, therefore, we must also explore the origin and the impact of these narratives before proposing credible solutions on how to overcome the said narratives.

This thesis is contextualised within East Africa. While the Somalia conflict has intermittently received global responses, by and large, Al Shabaab remains a regional threat in terms of location of its attacks (Somalia, Kenya and Uganda), its composition (mostly from Somalia Kenya and Mozambique) and its goals (institution of Sharia Law in Somalia and neighbouring countries). Therefore, this thesis argues that it is important to measure the effectiveness of any proposed solution within the region. Specifically, the gendered construction of war should be analysed against a backdrop of African Feminism in an attempt to isolate the tenets, if any, of an African theory of gender, militarisation and securitization in war.



### **Elizabeth Yarrow**

Supervisor: Dr Robbie Duschinsky (Department of Public Health and Primary Care)

#### ***Gendered bodies: institutions, sex binarism, and the experiences of gender minority youth within health and education systems***

##### **Abstract:**

My doctoral research focuses on gender variance in childhood and young adulthood in the UK. Through examining the experience of trans, intersex, non-binary and gender non-conforming children and youth in their interactions with schools and health systems, my work explores and theorises the relationships between gendered categories, institutions, power and identity. I ask, how categories of 'sex' and 'gender'

organise aspects of identity during childhood, how gendered embodiment is regulated through institutional practices, and what happens when the embodied lives of gender diverse children come into confrontation with specific ideological and discursive constructions of 'childhood', 'sex', 'gender' and 'sexuality', embedded within the practices and logics of public institutions. Questions explored during the research will include (amongst others):

- How do gender diverse youth experience education and health systems and services in the UK?
- How do these experiences influence aspects of young people's wellbeing?
- What practical changes, and alternative conceptions of gender, might, if embedded within institutional structures, lead to better outcomes for gender diverse youth?



Reetika Subramanian, PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies, Gender Research Seminar

## 6 Gender Studies Profiles

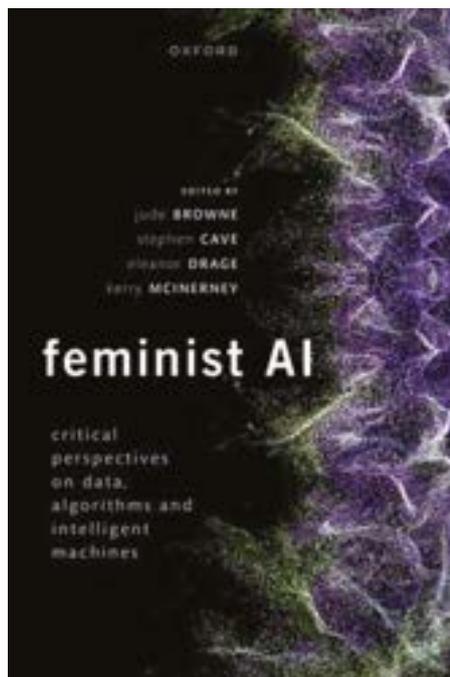


**Professor Jude Browne**  
The Jessica and Peter Frankopan Director of UCCGS and Head of the Department of Politics and International Studies

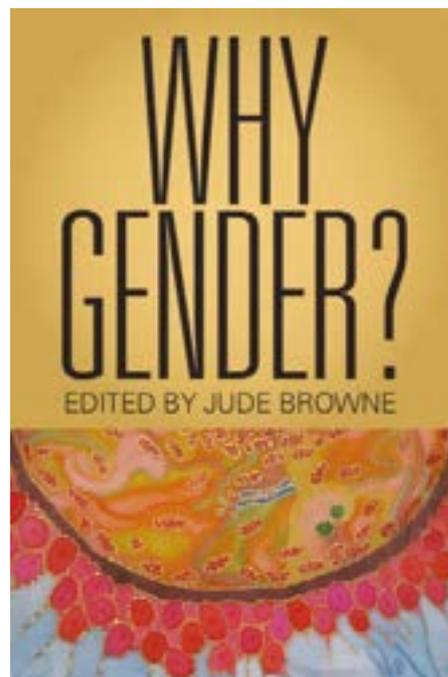
**Gender research interests:** political theories of equality, public policy, structural injustice, rights and technology.

**Browne, J.,** Cave, S., Drage, E. and McInerney, K. (2023) 'Feminist AI' in Jude Browne, Steven Cave, Eleanor Drage & Kerry McInerney. (Eds) *Feminist AI: Critical Perspectives on Algorithms, Data, and Intelligent Machines*. Oxford University Press. pp xii-xxi.

1. Technosymbiosis: Figuring (Out) Our Relations to AI, *N. Katherine Hayles*
2. Making Kin with the Machines, *Jason Edward Lewis, Noelani Arista, Archer Pechawis, and Suzanne Kite*
3. AI in a Different Voice: Rethinking Computers, Learning, and Gender Difference at MIT in the 1980s, *Apolline Taillandier*
4. Feminism Confronts AI: The Gender Relations of Digitalisation, *Judy Wajcman and Erin Young*
5. Shuri in the Sea of Dudes: the Cultural Construction of the AI Engineer, *Stephen Cave, Kanta Dihal, Eleanor Drage and Kerry Mackereth*
6. No Humans in the Loop: Killer Robots, Race and AI, *Lauren Wilcox*
7. Coding 'Carnal Knowledge' into Carceral Systems: A Feminist Abolitionist Approach to Predictive Policing, *Kerry Mackereth*
8. Techno Racial Capitalism: A Decolonial Black Feminist Marxist Perspective, *Lelia Marie Hampton*

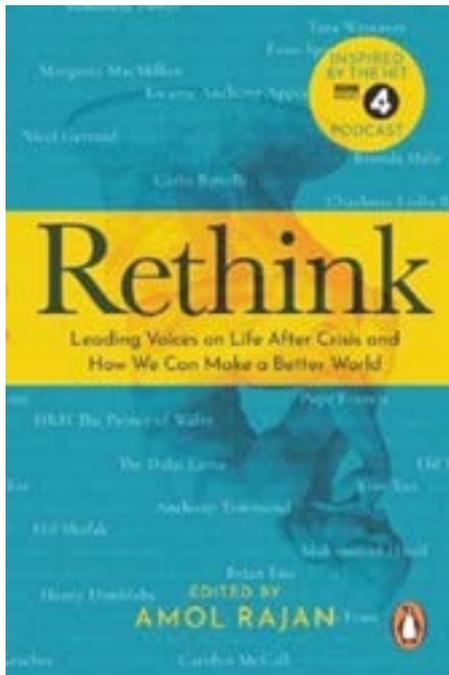


9. Feminist Technofutures: Contesting the Ethics and Politics of Sex Robots and AI, *Neda Atanasoski*
10. From ELIZA to Alexa: Automated Care Labour and the Otherwise of Radical Care, *Jennifer Rhee*
11. Of Techno-Ethics and Techno-Affects, *Sareeta Amrute*
12. The False Binary of Reason and Emotion in Data Visualisation, *Catherine D'Ignazio and Lauren Klein*
13. Physiognomy's New Clothes, *Blaise Aguera y Arcas, Margaret Mitchell, and Alexander Todorov*
14. Signs Taken for Wonders: AI, Art and the Matter of Race, *Michele Elam*
15. The Cruel Optimism of Technological



- Dreams: Thinking AI through Lauren Berlant, *Caroline Bassett*
16. AI that Matters: A Feminist Approach to the Study of Intelligent Machines, *Eleanor Drage and Federica Frabetti*
17. Automating Autism, *Os Keyes*
18. Digital Ageism, Algorithmic Bias and Feminist Critical Theory, *Rune Nyrup, Charlene Chu and Elena Falco*
19. AI & Structural Injustice: A Feminist Perspective, *Jude Browne*
20. Afrofeminist Data Futures, *Neema Iyer, Garnett Achieng and Chenai Chair*
21. Design Practices: Nothing About Us Without Us, *Sasha Costanza-Chock*





*Feminist AI: Critical Perspectives on Algorithms, Data and Intelligent Machines* is the first volume to bring together leading feminist thinkers from across the disciplines to explore the impact of artificial intelligence (AI) and related data-driven technologies on human society.

Recent years have seen both an explosion in AI systems and a corresponding rise in important critical analyses of these technologies. Central to these analyses has been feminist scholarship, which calls upon the AI sector to be accountable for designing and deploying AI in ways that further, rather than undermine, the pursuit of social justice.

This book aims to be a touchstone text for AI researchers concerned with the social impact of their systems, as well as theorists, students and educators in the field of gender and technology. It demonstrates the importance of an intersectional understanding of the risks and benefits of AI, approaching feminism as a political project that aims to challenge various interlocking forms of injustice, social inequality and structural relations of power.

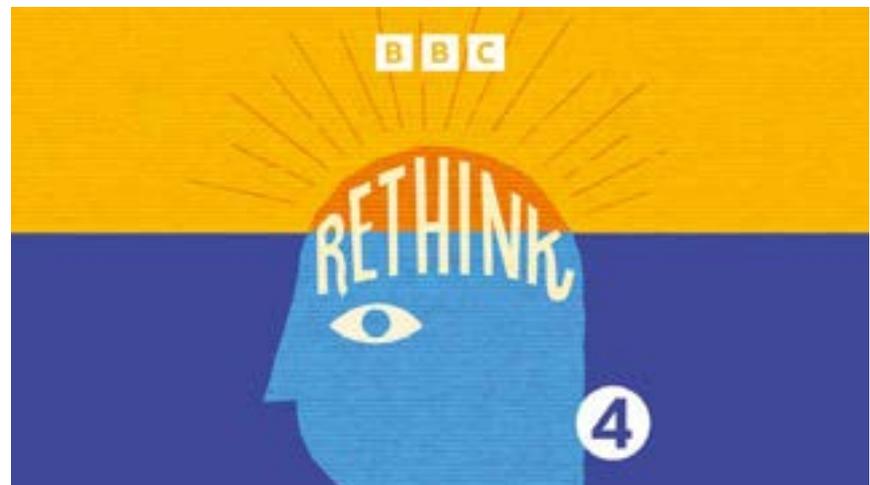
*Feminist AI* showcases the vital contributions of feminist scholarship to thinking about AI, data, and intelligent machines as well as laying the groundwork for future feminist scholarship on AI. It brings together scholars from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, from computer science, software engineering, and medical sciences to political theory, anthropology, and literature. It provides an entry point for scholars of AI, science and technology into the diversity of feminist approaches to AI, and creates a rich dialogue between scholars and practitioners of AI to examine the powerful congruences and

generative tensions between different feminist approaches to new and emerging technologies. It features original and essential works specially selected to span multiple generations of practitioners and scholars.

These contributors are also attuned to conversations at industry-level around the risks and possibilities that frame the drive to adopt AI. This collection reflects the increasingly blurred divide between the academy, industry and corporate research groups and brings interdisciplinary feminist insights together with postcolonial studies, disability theory, and critical race studies to confront ageism, racism, sexism, ableism, and class-based oppressions in AI.

#### Other publications in 2022/23:

**Browne, J.** (Early View 2023) Political implications of the 'untraceability' of structural injustice. *Contemporary Political Theory*. Early View: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41296-023-00634-4>



## 6 Gender Studies Profiles



**Dr Lauren Wilcox**  
Director of UCCGS and  
Associate Professor in  
Gender Studies

My current work interrogates the concept of the 'posthuman' as a way of engaging with the dynamics of race, gender, and sexuality in theories and practices of war and political violence. My second monograph, ***War Beyond the Human: Gender, Race, and Violence in a Posthuman Age*** is under contract and is almost complete. I'm looking forward to building on previous work to thinking through the dilemmas of embodiment for understanding contemporary global politics in my future work.

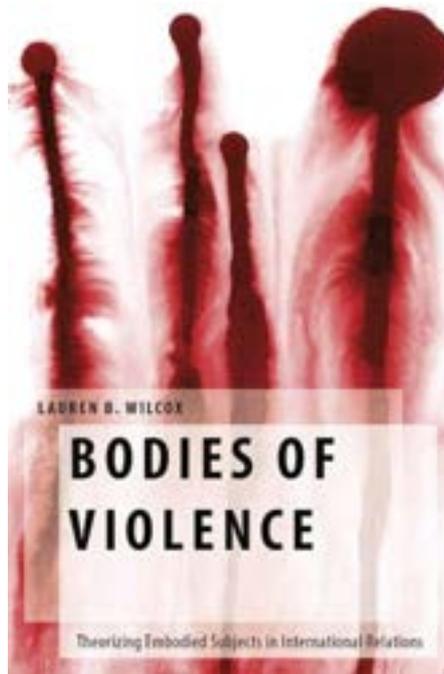
### Recent and key publications include:

**Wilcox, L.** (Forthcoming) *War Beyond the Human: Gender, Race, and Violence in a Posthuman Age*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

**Wilcox, L.** (2023). "No Humans in the Loop: Race, Gender and Killer Robots" in *Feminist AI* eds. Browne, Cave, Drage, and Mackereth. Oxford University Press.

**Wilcox, L.** and Danewid I., Axster, S., Goldstein, A., Mahmoudi, M., and Tansel, C. B. (2021) "Colonial Lives of the Carceral Archipelago: Rethinking the National Security State," *International Political Sociology*.

**Wilcox, L.** (2021) "The Biopolitics of the War on COVID-19." In "Thinking Theoretically in Unsettled Times: COVID-19 and Beyond." Jennifer Sterling-Folker, ed. *International Studies Review*.



**Wilcox, L.** (2021) "The Gender Politics of the Drone." In *Drone Imaginaries: The Power of Remote Vision*, edited by Kathrin Maurer and Andreas Graae, 110-129. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

**Wilcox, L.** and Fishel, S. (2017) "Politics of the Living Dead: Race and Exceptionalism in the Apocalypse," *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 45 no. 3, pp. 335-355. Special issue on Racialized Realities in International Relations.

**Wilcox, L.** (2017) "Practicing Gender, Queering Theory," *Review of International Studies* 43, no 5, pp. 789-808.

**Wilcox, L.** (2017) "Drones, Swarms, and Becoming-Insect: Feminist Utopias and Posthuman Politics" *Feminist Review*, Special issue on Feminist Utopias and Dystopias. 116 no. 1, pp. 25-45.

**Wilcox, L.** (2017) "Embodying Algorithmic War: Gender, Race, and the Posthuman in Drone Warfare." *Security Dialogue* 48 no. 1, pp. 11-28.

**Wilcox, L.** (2015) *Bodies of Violence: Theorizing Embodied Subjects in International Relations*. (New York: Oxford University Press).





**Dr Holly Porter, Deputy Director, UCCGS**

My ongoing research is best summarized by the working title of my second book in-progress: *Sex, Love and War: Intimate relations in a violent world*. It looks at the wider context of intimate gender relationships and how war serves variously to continue, exaggerate and/or rupture 'normal' social and gendered ordering in society. It draws on long-term ethnographic

work on gender, sexualities, and violence in the Acholi sub-region of northern Uganda (since 2005), and over 200 'love-life' history interviews including with formerly displaced people and ex-combatants. After several years inhibited by covid-related restrictions, I was finally able to return to Uganda for fieldwork in July and August of 2022 and 2023. During that time, in addition to my ordinary ethnographic work, I worked with a local radio station to hold over a dozen radio-talk shows related to my research themes. For example, one discussed changes in a 'bride wealth' policy that the customary leaders association in northern Uganda were attempting to impose raising questions of both their authority to do so and the impact on

couples wishing to begin a home together. The transcripts and shows feed into the ongoing research and are also a way to present and engage a larger audience with more preliminary observations. The talk shows were hosted by two different radio stations, both in the Luo language and with a broadcasting range that reaches most of northern Uganda and several million people. I have also given several public lectures reflecting on my involvement with the International Criminal Court and the judgment of Dominic Onwen, including at the University of Bath, at a conference on governance in 'difficult' places and at several universities in Uganda.



Radio Talk Shows, Uganda 2022



## 6 Gender Studies Profiles



**Dr Juliana Demartini-Brito**  
Affiliated Lecturer,  
UCCGS

My PhD research explored how Brazilian cultural production provides alternative lenses to interpret the topic of queer temporality. I bridged Brazilian social theory and queer theory to analyse performances, art, and activism that counter the current homogenizing and bleak discourse of sexuality in the country. I showed how these notions contributed to crafting new forms of belonging in the country's future. With my research, I hope to strengthen the tie between Latinx and queer studies and advance the debate on the different shapes the dialogue of queer temporality takes across cultures.

I hold a BA with honours in Political Science and Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies from Franklin University Switzerland, as well as a PhD and MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies from the University of Cambridge. My research interests lie in Latin American politics, queer theory, and decolonial approaches to gender and sexuality.



**Ms Joanna Bush**  
Centre Administrator,  
UCCGS

I send my warmest congratulations to our MPhil and PhD students who graduated in 2022–23. It has been a pleasure to work with so many talented scholars from such diverse academic backgrounds.

This year UCCGS hosted a number of hugely successful public lectures and we were glad to renew the Gender Studies networks across the University.

It was a particular highlight to welcome our *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor*, Cynthia Enloe to the Centre in Michaelmas term and support her in the planning and promotion of her Visiting Professorship Lecture and Dinner. Professor Enloe's public lecture on *Making Feminist Sense of the Ukraine War* attracted a capacity audience at Christ's College.

After months of planning and organisation, UCCGS was honoured to co-host with the Department of Sociology and LGBTQ+@CAM an incredible lecture from Professor Judith Butler in Easter term on their forthcoming book *Who is Afraid of Gender?* Professor Butler gave an inspiring talk to a packed West Road Concert Hall and we were delighted to receive outstanding feedback after the event.

This lecture was closely followed by a book launch and 'in conversation' hosted by the Centre for our Founding Director, Professor Juliet

Mitchell to celebrate the release of her latest book *Fratriarchy: The Sibling Trauma and the Law of the Mother*.

As the new academic year approaches, I look forward to working with our next Visiting Professor, Patricia Hill Collins, whose research will focus on *Lethal Intersections: Race, Gender and Violence*.



**Mr Vincenzo Paci**  
Administrative Assistant,  
UCCGS

The 2022–23 academic year was an eventful year for UCCGS and although my work continued to be centred on providing administrative support for the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies, I also played a greater role in organising the Centre's public events. Highlights included the arrival of the *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor* for the Michaelmas term 2022, Professor Cynthia Enloe, Clark University, whose Visiting Professorship Lecture left a captivated audience with much to deliberate. UCCGS then went on to co-host, with the Department of Sociology and LGBTQ+@Cam, another high-profile public lecture at the start of the Easter term with Professor Judith Butler who gave a truly inspirational lecture on *Who is Afraid of Gender?* to a fully-packed house that was left enthralled.



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[www.gender.cam.ac.uk](http://www.gender.cam.ac.uk)



“The MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies at Cambridge is a great programme for students to begin or continue their academic pursuit of gender studies. Although I started the course with little formal exposure to gender studies as a discipline, over the months I felt well equipped to engage with the field through several theoretical frameworks and methodologies. The Centre provides numerous opportunities to engage with questions of gender across several fields, particularly through the multi-disciplinary text seminars, which I found thought-provoking and relevant. I also appreciated the structure of the course, with daily lectures and seminars for half of the academic year. Very few master’s programmes at Cambridge have as many contact hours as the MPhil at UCCGS has. I am confident that the knowledge and skills I gained here will support me in my future professional endeavours.”

**Annabelle Clawson,**

MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies 2022–23

“The PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies programme was a nurturing and challenging environment in which to grow as a scholar. In addition to providing me with training and mentorship to conduct feminist ethnographic research for my PhD topic, the programme offered valuable professional development activities that helped me improve my teaching and publication record. I also learned so much from being part of an amazing international cohort who were all doing excellent research and engaged in important political work within the University and in their own communities.”

**Sharmila Parmanand,**

PhD in Multi-disciplinary Studies