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Treva Hodges is an alumna of the University of Louisville's Comparative Humanities PH.D program and received a certificate in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Learn more inside!



Dr. Cate Fosl is one of the core faculty in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department and just received the prestigious Kellogg award that funded her revolutionary LGBTQ History research in Queer Kentucky. Learn more about her work inside this issue!

Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department

Spring Newsletter

no. 1

WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES CERTIFICATE RECIPIENT, DR. TREVA HODGES, WINS MAYORAL RACE IN CHARLESTOWN, INDIANA

DR. TREVA HODGES IS A GRADUATE FROM THE COMPARATIVE HUMANITIES PH.D PROGRAM AND HAS EARNED A CERTIFICATE IN WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES.

"I've lived in a lot of places in my life, but when I moved to Charlestown I knew I was home. From impromptu reunions in the produce section of the Jay C store to crisp fall evenings on the porch, there's never a shortage of opportunities to connect with friends. The warmth of our community rivals any city I know. Sadly, in the time I've been here, I've watched as our leadership has actively worked to turn us against one another. In the place of healthy civic engagement, we've struggled under the weight of administrative bullying. For over a decade now I've taught young adults in my college courses that they are the real agents of change in their communities. I've always had a strong sense of justice and compassion for others. Combined

with my unwavering work ethic, I've never been timid about taking on the hardest of tasks. In the past, I've served my communities in quiet humility, seeking to avoid any notions of grandstanding. My focus has always been on inspiring others, especially young people, to step into leadership."

-Dr. Treva Hodges

Campaign Website

Mayoral Race

2019

Learn more about Dr. Treva Hodges, her campaign, and more about her role as Mayor in Charleston, IN inside this issue of the WGST newsletter.



SUMMER SEMESTER '20, THE WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES DEPARTMENT IS OFFERING A NEW LGBTQ HEALTH STUDIES CERTIFICATE

The Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department will offer a 15 credit hour Undergraduate Certificate in LGBTQ Health Studies starting Summer 2020. It is the perfect complement to any degree plan, especially for students who are interested in working with people in areas like healthcare, social/community service, non-profit agencies and businesses. Please contact the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department to enroll today!





GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: TARA SEXTON

Tara Sexton is a 2nd Year student in the master's program offered by the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department. She is the recipient of the Akers Graduate Assistantship, a prestigious award granted by the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department.

Q: What was your undergraduate education? Where did you go?

A: I received a Dual Degree Bachelor of Science, Criminal Justice and Police Studies with minors in Psychology, Sociology, Anthropology and Biology from Eastern Kentucky University, Graduated 2004 and 2016.

Q: What got you interested in Women's and Gender Studies?

A: I originally became interested in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies when taking classes at Eastern Kentucky University. Then, the 2016 election really pushed me toward getting more involved in women-specific issues and studies.

Q: What are your interests academically?

A: My whole life I have been interested in politics and social justice and those are the things that really interest me. I would like to continue on toward a Doctorate in Women's Studies with a concentration in political science.

Q: What do you do for fun?

A: I love to travel, my next

destination is Scotland and England, hopefully this Spring and of course Mardi Gras, which I take in every year, I love to hike, ride bikes, read, watch tv, go to the movies. I also make art and jewelry when I have time.

Q: What are your top 3 favorite songs right now?

A: I have always loved Nirvana and the Seattle grunge scene bands, really digging the new Tyler Childers stuff but my likes are too diverse to just name three.



5 Fun Facts about Tara

1. She is an amazing photographer! When she is not studying hard, she is taking pictures of nature and of cool buildings.

2. She is deeply invested in the welfare of missing indigenous women. She has spent a lot of time working with the indigenous population in Forks Washington, namely the Ho tribe. She has been an advocate for their welfare, as well as the welfare of the Ho people.

3. She loves Monster energy drinks! It helps her stay awake while she is hand beading jewelry and other accessories.

4. She is from Mount Sterling Kentucky. She has deep familial roots in the Kentucky Appalachian area and culture.

5. She used to work on a cruise ship! She has seen so many corners of the world. Stop by the WGST student lounge and talk to her about her adventures.

CAREER DAY PANEL RECAP: WGST ALUMNI PANEL

On October 9th, WGST alumni were invited to speak to undergraduate majors to showcase how a degree in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies has informed the work that they do.

Lex Lawson, Andrew Tucker, and Corey Feger employ the skills that they gained by attaining a WGST degree in very different ways. However, one experience that the panelists had in common is that they have found that it is essential to understand how to make a Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies degree marketable to an employer. They

emphasized that it is not always clear to employers that a degree in gender studies equips an individual with critical thinking skills and helps students develop clear, concise, and intentional communication skills.

However, as evidenced by the panelists' fruitful careers, a degree in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from the University of Louisville can lead to fulfilling and rewarding jobs in the future.



STUDENT PROTESTING: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS EVENT RECAP

The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department teamed up with the Anne Braden Institute, the Women's Center at University of Louisville, and AAUW student group to create a workshop about how to do a student led protest on campus.

During this 2 hour event, facilitators and WGST graduate students Liz Perkins and Jerika Jones guided conversations around protest. They took real scenarios that are happening on campus and did mock planning session with students, to help teach them how to utilize existing channels that University of Louisville provides to report grievances. The main resource explored was the Bias Response Team, which is a group of University of Louisville Faculty and Staff dedicated to investigating discrimination

claims.

However, it is not always wise and appropriate to use University of Louisville's pre-established channels to stand up for social justice. The facilitators help students understand the rights they have, and do not have, when protesting outside of University sanctioned channels and spaces.

The facilitators help students craft critical conversations around the controversies on campus around free speech zones and free speech policies on campus.

This was a powerful and transformative event that equipped students with the knowledge they need to stand up for what they believe in as a student.

STUDENT PROTESTING: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

LEARN ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS WHILE PROTESTING ON CAMPUS AS A STUDENT
A LIGHT SNACK WILL BE SERVED

NOVEMBER 21ST 6-8PM SHUMAKER 139

AN EVENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE
ANNE BRADEN INSTITUTE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE RESEARCH

WOMEN'S CENTER
AAUW
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES DEPARTMENT



WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES CERTIFICATE ALUMNA, DR. TREVA HODGES, WINS MAYORAL RACE IN CHARLESTOWN, INDIANA

DR. TREVA HODGES IS GRADUATE FROM THE COMPARATIVE HUMANITIES PH.D PROGRAM AND EARNED A CERTIFICATE IN WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES.

Treva Hodges began her graduate studies in the fall of 2015. In addition to completing her Humanities Ph.D. coursework, she completed requirements for graduate certificates in Women and Gender Studies and Public History. While working on her degree, Dr. Treva Hodges was the recipient of the Celeste M. Nichols research grant (Fall 2016), the Anne Braden Institute Social Justice Research Paper Graduate Award (Spring 2017), and the Carolyn Krause Maddox Prize for top graduate paper in Women and Gender Studies (Spring 2018). Treva's dissertation explores the cultural relevance of the traumatic captivity narrative of Cynthia Ann Parker, an Anglo woman who entered into a kinship relationship with her Comanche captors before being returned to her Anglo family twenty-four years later. Treva lives happily with her husband and many furry and feathered friends in southern Indiana and has put her academic career search on hold temporarily in order to run for Mayor of her home city. She graduated in August, 2019 and won her hometown mayoral race in November.

After completing her doctoral degree and certificate, Dr. Hodges began her Mayoral campaign in Charlestown, Indiana. In an interview with graduate student Jerika Jones, she explains that during her time in grad school she learned so many skills that translated into a successful mayoral campaign. She explains that the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies certificate had prepared her specifically for the challenges of creating change within her

community because the courses that were offered helped her learn about the history of marginalized groups, helped her bring a focus to diversity, and learn how to build consciousness to inspire change.

She is hopeful for change in her community. Dr. Hodges states that, "what my election shows that people will take a chance for change". She acknowledges that historically her town has elected conservative men to govern the small, rural city. But she believes that it is because of the history she learned while completing the certificate in Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies as well as learning how to articulate ideas well that directly contributed to her success.





FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. CATE FOSL

Dr. Cate Fosl is one of the core faculty in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department and received the prestigious Kellogg award for her revolutionary LGBTQ History research in Queer Kentucky.

Dr. Cate Fosl is a professor and a core faculty member of the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department at University of Louisville. She is the founder and Director of the Anne Braden Institute. She is passionate about racial justice and LGBTQ history. As she states on her faculty profile on the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department website:

"Trained in modern U.S. southern and women's history (PhD, Emory University Department of History, 2000), I have evolved into an interdisciplinary scholar of twentieth-century U.S. social justice movements. I am an oral historian whose areas of concentration include race, gender, and grassroots-level activism in post-WWII social justice movements in the US South. I have won several awards and fellowships, including a Humanities fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at University of Edinburgh (2013); a sexuality fellowship with the Social Science Research Council (2005-06); the Catherine Prelinger Award of the Coordinating Council for Women in History as a nontraditional scholar (2005); and the Oral History Association book award (2003)."

Dr. Fosl was granted the prestigious Kellogg award for her radical research on LGBTQ history in Kentucky. This research was a few years in the making. In 2016, Dr. Fosl and a team of researchers completed the Kentucky LGBTQ Heritage Initiative-- which was the first of its kind. This initiative was forged by a partnership between the Anne Braden Institute and the Institute for Social Justice Research, the Williams-Nichols Archive, Kentucky Heritage Council, State Preservation Office, and Preservation Louisville. As stated on the Fairness Campaign's website;

"It is the result of a matching grant from the National Park Service and U.S. Department of the Interior as part of their Underrepresented Communities Grant via the State, Tribal and Local Plans and Grants Division.

Kentucky's project yielded the nation's first statewide LGBTQ Historic Context Narrative and two National Register of Historic Place amendments, including the site of Kentucky's first LGBTQ Bar, the Beaux Arts in the Henry Clay Building, and longtime LGBTQ gathering spot The Downtowner in Whiskey Row."

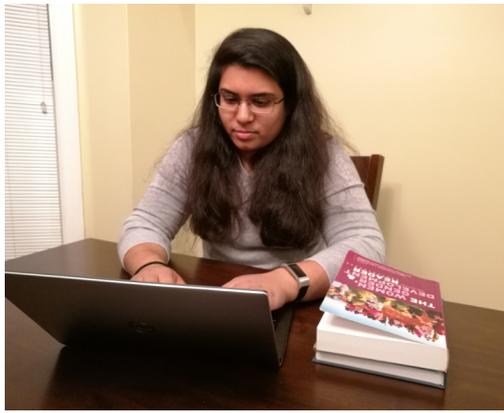
Check out more of Dr. Fosl's radical work! Here are some really good reads that Dr. Fosl has written: *Freedom on the Border: An Oral History of the Civil Rights Movement in Kentucky*, co-authored with Tracy E. K'Meyer (University Press of Kentucky, 2009).

Subversive Southerner: Anne Braden and the Struggle for Racial Justice in the Cold War South (Palgrave, 2002; University Press of Kentucky, Fall 2006).

Women for All Seasons: The Story of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (University of Georgia Press, 1989).



Dr. Fosl accepting the Kellogg Award



GRADUATE STUDENT REFLECTION: SHAINA KHAN

SHAINA KHAN IS IN THE 2020 COHORT OF THE WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES . SHE IS A GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT. SHE GAVE US A REFLECTION OF HER TEACHING EXPERIENCE FOR HER INTRO TO GENDER STUDIES COURSE.

I hadn't expected that teaching would be so much fun. I had taught middle and high school before, but this semester was my first experience of teaching at the college level. Somehow, I was entrusted with a section of WGST 201, Women in American Culture. I've spent the last 14 weeks talking to students about issues that matter to me: gender identity, the different experiences of women of color, bisexuality, inequities in healthcare access. It probably sounds cliché, but I genuinely believe that I learned as much from my students as they might have learned in my course.

Before the semester began, I was worried about teaching. I was sure that I wouldn't explain concepts well, that the reading materials I had chosen would be boring, that I wouldn't lead class well enough to get discussions going. I thought carefully about how I should phrase an explanation or a question. I debated whether to make PowerPoint presentations or write notes on the blackboard. After classes started, I spent a lot of the first two weeks replaying class periods in my head, wondering whether I was making any sense to my students.

My concerns were very overblown. I couldn't have asked for a more engaged and thoughtful group of students. They not only did the reading, but also had plenty to say about the articles we read and the videos we watched. They thought of issues that hadn't occurred to me. They listened and responded to each other's ideas. They sometimes disagreed with me, which pushed me to reconsider my own viewpoints.

I especially enjoyed talking to students after class and in office hours. When students asked questions about the topics we had discussed, I saw gaps in my explanations of concepts, and I discovered nuances that I hadn't considered before. Hearing about my students' experiences and their opinions—during and outside of class—has changed how I will teach this course next semester. My understanding of the topics has been deepened through conversations with my students.

I also appreciated that some students' recommended

articles and videos to me. About halfway through the semester, I realized that I had excluded some voices from my curriculum. For example, one student and I discussed the lack of Middle Eastern and Arab women's perspectives in our course materials. When I adjusted the reading schedule during Mid-term Break, I added to the syllabus some of the videos and articles that students had suggested. The changes made the course richer, and I am grateful that students were willing to make those recommendations to me.

I think I did at least a few things right this first time around. I knew that many of the topics that we discussed, like diminishing reproductive rights and violence against women, were heavy. I started or ended some class periods with relevant clips from woman comedians' shows. I hoped that the levity would lighten the mood—and that the clips would showcase marginalized comedian's voices and added another perspective to the topic for that class period. I have received positive feedback on those videos, which could just be because everyone prefers laughing along with a comedian over hearing their instructor talk at them.

I always enjoyed reading my students' homework responses and listening to their ideas in class. I've watched their perspectives evolve as we covered topics that were previously unfamiliar for many of us. I know that talking about these issues won't convince everyone that, for example, we need to resist colonized standards of appearance. However, the conversations we had in class clearly changed some of our viewpoints—including my own.

- Shaina Khan

Professional Engineer

MA Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

2020 Cohort



THE WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES DEPARTMENT WILL LAUNCH THE VERY FIRST UNDERGRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LGBTQ HEALTH STUDIES



THIS CERTIFICATE IS THE FIRST OF ITS KIND IN THE UNITED STATES AND WILL BE OFFERED TO UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE STARTING SUMMER SEMESTER OF 2020

In the summer semester of 2020, the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Department, in collaboration with the Philosophy Department, Health Science Campus' LGBTQ center, and other Arts and Sciences departments at University of Louisville, will launch the first undergraduate LGBTQ Health Studies certificate in the country. This is an interdisciplinary and theoretically-oriented certificate that combines gender theory,

sociology, theories coming from disciplines that participate in medical Humanities, and technology to create an innovative learning experience that students can apply to the real world.

This certificate can be tailored to a student's particular interest, maximizing their potential and receive education that is specific to their interest and ensuring student satisfaction.

This certificate is the perfect complement to any degree plan, especially for students who are interested in working with people in areas like healthcare, social/community service, non-profit agencies and businesses. Please contact the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department to enroll today!

Stay tuned for more details! about this new and exciting certificate!

THE WOMEN'S, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES DEPARTMENT WILL LAUNCH A FEMINIST HOUSING COMMUNITY IN FALL SEMESTER 2020

The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies department has teamed up with The Women's Center and Campus housing to create a feminist living community for incoming freshmen. This housing community will be a gender inclusive space.

There are some requirements for this living space. Incoming freshmen must take 2 Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies courses which are WGST 201 and WGST 203. Students will also have an opportunity to work closely with the Women's Center and their community partners to get an dynamic and engaged student living experience.

Students will team up with a Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies faculty member who will help

them by being a resource for them. Students will be able to form a meaningful relationship with faculty. Although this living community is best for students who have not yet completed their Cardinal Core classes, other students may apply.

There are a few ways that current students, alumni, and staff can support the development of this radical living space. One of the ways to support is to donate money to the community. Contact WGST's Development officer Asma Addarat-Edwards or the Women's Center Development Officer Valerie Combs to donate to the cause.



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UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE



The Feminist Social Justice Leadership, LLC is a living community that is open to all first-year students of any age, gender identity, sexual orientation, faith, race, ethnicity, or ability. Because gender inequality exists throughout society, in every discipline and professional pursuit, as well as across cultures, participants from any major are welcome to join our living community. You do not have to pursue a degree in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies or be a member of a Women's Center student group to live in this community, but community members will have the opportunity to attend Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies events and learn more about the WGST discipline and the degrees it offers. Community members will also get the opportunity to engage with University of Louisville's Women's Center. All that is required is an interest in gender equity, social justice, a willingness to enroll in the required courses, and participate in programming and service learning opportunities.

Required courses: WGST 201 "Women in American Culture", and WGST 203 "Gender and Public Dialogue"

Benefits of Joining: access to membership opportunities with the Women's Center, peer networking with like-minded students, close mentorship with WGST faculty members, and programming designed to engage students who are interested in social justice and gender equity.

Contact Campus Housing for more info!