



ABOUT THE PROGRAM

In the women's and gender studies (WGS) program, students engage theories of feminism, gender and sexuality; the diversity of women's experiences and representations, past and present; and social movements in the United States and around the globe. Classes address the extensive research on women, gender and feminism that has grown during the past 40 years, as well as historical and cross-cultural knowledge that recognizes the intersections of gender and race, class, religion, sexuality, ethnicity, age, ability and nationality. Research and analysis, critical thinking, creative problem solving and leadership are all involved in the study of women and gender.

What makes the program distinctive?

Brandeis' women's and gender studies program brings together faculty and students from across the university. The range of disciplines represented by WGS professors reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the study of women and gender, from

the humanities to the sciences, from the creative arts to public policy, and from the classroom to the community. Students draw on the program to make knowledge and create change through research projects, internships and community activism.

FAST FACTS

Current number of majors and minors: 48

Number of faculty: 20

Can you minor in this program? Yes

Emphasis within the major: interdisciplinary study

Popular second majors: English, politics, sociology

Website: brandeis.edu/programs/wgs

ACADEMICS AND RESEARCH

The research and teaching interests of WGS faculty combine the best aspects of disciplinary focus with interdisciplinary methodologies and insights. Faculty come from the disciplines of African and Afro-American studies, American studies, anthropology, classics, English, economics, German, health and social policy, Hispanic studies, history, Latin American and Latino studies, law and social policy, Near Eastern and Judaic studies, philosophy, sociology and South Asian studies. All WGS faculty are committed to the study of women and gender.

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Internships

Students have the opportunity to do internships around the world. Locations have included Boston, Boulder, Costa Rica, the Sudan, India, Ghana and Haiti. Becky M. '11 spent three months as an intern at Gay & Lesbian Advocates & Defenders (GLAD), an organization that focuses on rights and legal issues concerning the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning community. "The internship at GLAD changed my perspective on my own life and the world at large," she reflected.

Senior thesis

For his senior thesis, Aaron B. '10 investigated policies in Boston-area domestic violence shelters that exclude transgender people from access. "My internships and course work gave me the power of feminism — the agency to pursue queer activism and to fight assimilation and its harrowing effects on those it oppresses," he said.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Distinguished faculty

Professor Joyce Antler won the 2008 Emily Toth Award for Best Book in Women's Issues in Popular Culture and American Culture from the Popular Culture/American Culture Association for "You Never Call! You Never Write! A History of the Jewish Mother." Professor Jane Kamensky has been recognized for both her scholarly writing and her fiction. "The Exchange Artist: A Tale of High-Flying Speculation and America's First Banking Collapse," was a finalist for the 2009 George Washington Book Prize. The historical novel "Blindspot,"

jointly written by Kamensky with Jill Lepore, has been a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice and a Boston Globe bestseller.

AFTER BRANDEIS

Diverse career fields

Recent WGS alumni have gone on to work as the women's coordinator at Massachusetts' Women Veteran's Network; research director at Cogent Research; a self-employed veterinarian; the assistant director of gift planning and administration at Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago; and an administrative assistant at a nonprofit housing development association.

WGS and human rights

After Brandeis, Colleen J. '00 earned an M.A. in gender and cultural studies from Simmons College before pursuing the J.D. degree at Boston College Law School. She is now an investigative attorney and the acting executive director at the Cambridge Human Rights Commission in Cambridge, Mass. She reflected, "Women's and gender studies at Brandeis provided me with the strong academic understanding of social justice that led me to pursue a law degree and to work for an organization dedicated to addressing issues of discrimination."

"Women's and gender studies is not just one of my majors at Brandeis; it has become a part of who I am and the academic experience I had while attending Brandeis. WGS impacted my life through the people I met, the professors whose lectures spoke words of wisdom to me, the special programs I participated in, and the ways in which the knowledge WGS gave me enabled me to create change and open the minds of those around me."

Elyssa C. '08

