

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

----- MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER -----

VISIT US IN THE **WOMEN'S AND GENDER NON-CONFORMING CENTER** (DRAPER 106)

the center

MISSION: The Women's and Gender Non-Conforming Center is an inclusive space where historically underrepresented students, including but not limited to women, LGBTQPIA+, and sex and gender non-conforming students, can come to be as they are, outside of social scripts. We curate programs, collaborations, and events that affirm these students' sense of self and belonging—on campus and in the world. Our work is motivated by bell hooks' famous insights that "patriarchy has no gender" and that, therefore, **"feminism is for everybody."** Our center honors hooks' legacy of feminist activism by supporting students as social justice leaders who are active in the creation of a radical undercommons where their many and varied expressions of difference can thrive at Berea College and beyond.

VISION: Our programs, collaborations, and events encourage students to think about sex and gender intersectionality, and about what it might take to dismantle what bell hooks calls "imperialist white supremacist capitalist patriarchy." Our flagship "Gender Talk" series hosts leading feminist scholars, activists, and artists who can teach our campus and community how to navigate and agitate against these structures of power. We believe that an understanding of how sex and gender oppression are products of not just patriarchy, but also and especially of white supremacy has the potential to chart a new chapter in Berea College's great, historical commitment to cultivating a politics of radical coalition—one that forges community between women, LGBTQPIA+ students, sex and gender non-conforming students, and students of color. Our center is thus committed to equipping students with language and tools to imagine and enact new relationships that need not reproduce the gender hierarchy, which we believe is also a racial hierarchy. Our "Evening with an Activist" series especially emboldens students who want to change the campus, their communities, and the world to do so in ways that address both race and gender oppressions.

WORD ON THE STREET

WHAT DOES FEMINISM MEAN TO YOU?

"Feminism means equality for all races, gender identities, religions, abilities, and classes." -Anonymous student



Pictured: Daniela Cordova



"Feminism needs to be intersectional. Race, class, and gender, etc. are all a part of feminism. The "traditional" feminist movement has not recognized

black and brown women enough, and when white women won the vote, black and brown women were excluded from that. Intersectional Feminism also deconstructs what it means to be a man or woman, and recognizes people who don't fit into those boxes." - Ivan Arce

"FEMINISM, TO ME, MEANS EQUALITY FOR BOTH WOMEN, MEN, AND NON-BINARY PEOPLE. FEMINISM SHOULD BE INTERSECTIONAL AND TAKE INTO ACCOUNT DIFFERENT CULTURES AND RELIGIONS. FEMINISM IS IMPORTANT TO ME, BUT SO MANY PEOPLE THINK IT'S A DIRTY WORD OR SOMETHING THAT WOULD LEAD TO A MATRIARCHY INSTEAD OF PATRIARCHY, WHICH WOULD NEVER HAPPEN. **WOMEN STILL DON'T HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS AND GET PAID LESS. TRANS WOMEN ARE STILL BEING MURDERED. WE STILL NEED FEMINISM.**" - [ABBY WALTERS](#)



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: [JULIA BULLOCK](#), CLASS OF 2019

After receiving an education in Women's and Gender Studies – a department which, Julia notes, functions as an “[activist incubator](#)” – Julia went on to work in the education field, specifically, with preschool students. While she is not teaching feminist philosophies explicitly, her teaching, for example, of cross-cultural understanding, the value of the natural world, the importance of consent, and the necessity of challenging gender stereotypes are certainly inflected with feminist theory. In the future, Julia would like to go back to school and pursue a mental health field relating to education, or horticultural therapy. Julia reports that her Women's and Gender Studies degree has made her more mindful of how she interacts with the world, and that this has helped her to be more thoughtful about the impact of her actions on young, malleable minds.

----- UPCOMING EVENTS -----

EVENING WITH AN ACTIVIST (*tea and coffee will be served*)

Tuesday, March 10 (5-6pm) in Draper 106: [Kat Beck](#)

Wednesday, April 1 (5-6pm) in Draper 106: [Kati Hurd](#)

COLLOQUIUM (*tea and coffee will be served*)

Wednesday, March 25 (12-1pm) in Draper 106: How to leverage a WGS degree, with [Tammy Clemons](#)

Wednesday, April 8 (12-1pm) in Draper 106: Feminist entrepreneurship and empowerment, with [Angela Anderson](#)

GENDER TALK (*lunch will be served*)

Wednesday, March 18 (12-1pm) in Draper 106: [Jasmine Syedullah](#) (Africana Studies, Vassar College)

Wednesday, April 15 (12-1pm) in Draper 106: [Glen Coulthard](#) (Indigenous Studies, University of British Columbia)