

WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

November Newsletter

Berea College

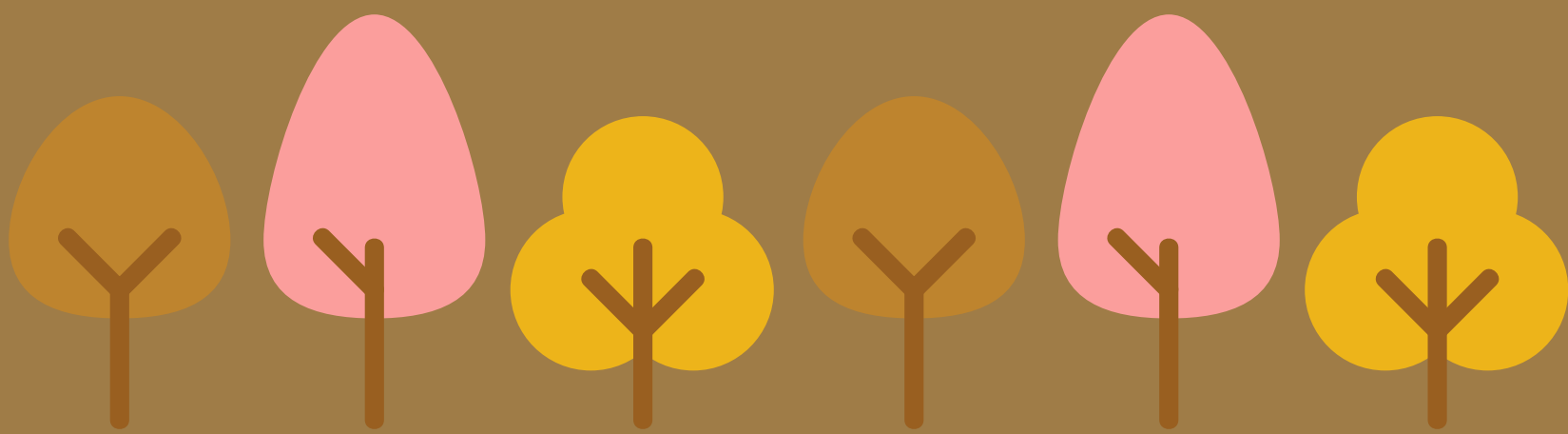
Events:

Pumpkin Painting and Carving @ Seabury Pavillion **11/ 6 (4-6 PM)**

Gender Talk with Che Gossett via Zoom **11/12 (12-1PM)**

Convocation with Julio Salagado via Zoom **11/12 (7-8 PM)**

(AFR event:) The Black Radical (Techno-) Imagination: Data and Technology as Sites of Struggles via Zoom **11/13 (12 -1PM)**



CHECK OUT "BEREA COLLEGE WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES" ON FACEBOOK FOR ZOOM LINKS AND MORE INFORMATION



SMASH THE PATRIARCHY!!

BC Student Input:

"HOW HAS YOUR SEX/GENDER IDENTITY BEEN AFFECTED BY COVID-19?"

"During Quarantine I had time for myself. Time to self reflect and be honest with myself and figure out who I really am."

"COVID-19 gave me time to myself. Time to fall back in love with myself. I was always putting energy into more people than I did myself, I was able to focus on me rather than another person."

WGS + Latinx Studies + Convocations *present*

JULIO SALGADO:

UNDOCUMENTED + QUEER

Challenging Legalities of Immigration
and Queerness Through Art



Visual artist **Julio Salgado** is a queer artist of color whose work explores themes of immigration and queerness. As an undocumented and queer artist living in times of crisis, he uses his art to deal with anti-immigrant narratives. His lecture is a journey that takes a look behind the pieces he has created in the past decade to celebrate undocuqueer identities.

12 November 2020 @ 7PM via Zoom



SPRING '21 SESSION A WGS CLASSES

WGS 124: INTRO TO WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES WITH DR. MEREDITH LEE VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAYS (10AM-12PM)

WGS 286: GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND BLM WITH DR. M. SHADEE MALAKLOU VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAYS (10AM-12PM)

WGS 286: FEMINIST AND QUEER DIS/ABILITY STUDIES WITH DR. MEREDITH LEE VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAYS (1PM-3PM)

SPRING '21 SESSION B WGS CLASSES

WGS 286: BLACK FEMINIST THEORY WITH DR. JAKEYA CARUTHERS VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAYS (11AM-1PM)

GSTR 410: THE REVOLUTION WILL NOT BE HUMANIZED WITH DR. M SHADEE MALAKLOU VIA ZOOM ON WEDNESDAYS (10AM-12PM)

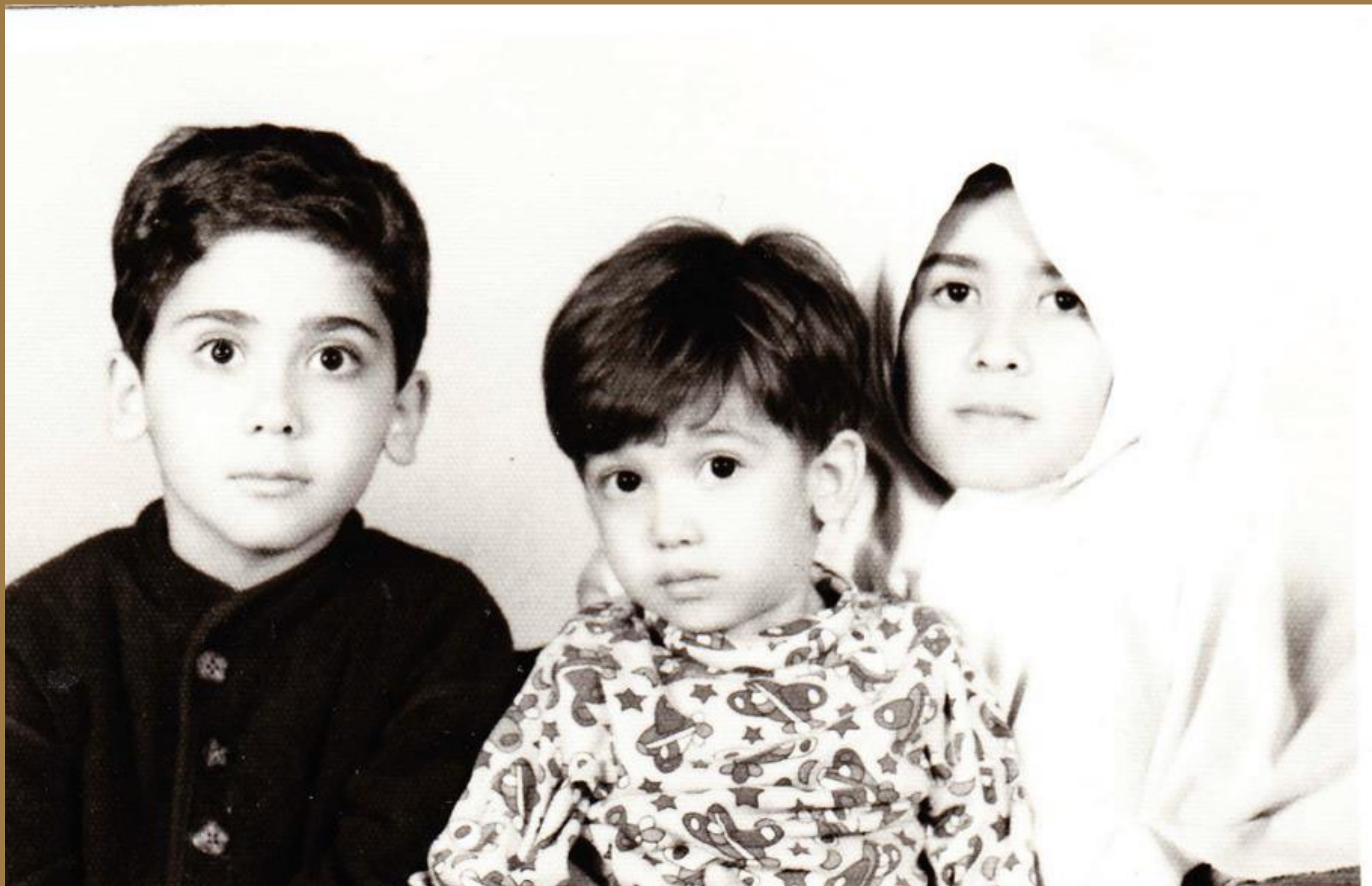
----- feminist lessons -----

LIBERALISM
ASKS US TO
PULL A SEAT UP
AT A TABLE
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ABOLITION
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TABLE.



What is college for? Making the personal political

Reflections and advice from WGS Chair Dr. M. Shadee Malaklou



When I started college in 2003, I was eager to create a way out of the racial stereotypes that were assigned to me in the white suburbs that bred and hailed but could not know me. These stereotypes were personified in the figure of my maternal Iranian grandmother. I remember the shame of taking her hand each morning on the way to school as classmates stared at her veil and whispered; and I remember the white gaze of their parents, which dismissed her (and my brothers and I, as her kin) as racially degenerate and culturally backwards, with nothing to offer to a human society that is committed to progress.

I was just beginning to understand the ways in which their stereotypes defined me when, one day in kindergarten, my white five-year-old neighbor gave me an ultimatum: she would thereafter extend her friendship to me on the condition that I stop speaking Persian and that I dissociate from my grandmother. Her racism, shrouded in friendship, was amplified by taunts from peers who called me “it” and “monkey”. As the darkest, hairiest kid in a white neighborhood, these taunts shaped my person—so much so that I did not recognize myself the first time that a classmate used “she/her” (in other words, human) pronouns to describe me. Theirs were not exceptional taunts, but rather, matters of fact, expressed also by other children of color who were eager to pass the buck of their own racial anxieties to a more plausible Other.

Desperate, like them, for a little whiteness in my life, I diligently worked to effect those changes that I could. I found that much of the white mimicry that was demanded of me—for example, I was instructed to dye my hair blonde so that I could be “beautiful”—required curating gender expression, and that if I could signpost myself as a

cis-gender girl, then I could also signpost whiteness, or at least, human belonging.

Years later, in college, I sought a language for what I already knew to be true—that for me and other people of color, race and racism intersect with and sometimes produce gender and sexuality. I found this language in the black feminist traditions of Berea's own bell hooks, Audre Lorde, Angela Davis, Sylvia Wynter, Hortense Spillers, and others. As a professor, I want to facilitate a similar learning experience for my students, by helping them to ask (and answer) their own questions. I do this in classes like *Gender, Sexuality and Black Lives Matter*, offered again in Spring 2021, Term A; the Women's and Gender Studies capstone, *Intersectionality and its Dis/Contents*, offered regularly each fall semester; and GSTR 410, *The Revolution Will Not Be Humanized*, to be offered for the first time in Spring 2021, Term B.

I hope that you will join me in one or more of these classes and that, regardless, you will be able to find at Berea College the language that *you* seek for your racial, gendered, and other woundings. As feminists implore, the personal is political, and the classroom is where we can start to build **a community of an/Other kind**.

"WITHOUT COMMUNITY,
THERE IS NO LIBERATION."

— AUDRE LORDE



HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Email WGS student programmer **Destiny Easley** (easleyd@berea.edu) with your poems, short stories, art works, and other creative pieces to feature in the next WGS newsletter!