

GRADUATE ALUMNI

The graduate certificate program provides Ph.D. students in the humanities and social sciences formal certification in the study of women, gender and sexuality. Students complete interdisciplinary coursework; gain rapid acquaintance with faculty and resources across departments; form an intellectual community with fellow graduate students and participate in the colloquium, an annual series of seminars and public lectures given by leading scholars. Certificate students are eligible to receive a stipend in the semester they achieve Ph.D. candidacy. They also may compete for travel funds, teaching assistantships, teaching fellowships and dissertation completion fellowships.



David Ponton '17

Assistant professor of race and society, University of South Florida

"The certificate fundamentally altered how I encounter archives, ultimately differentiating me from many other historians. It also fostered long-lasting relationships with colleagues and faculty while transforming my personal politics and professional pedagogy to be more empathetic, inclusive and self-reflective."



Abby Goode '16

Assistant professor of early American literature, Plymouth State University

"The certificate was vital to my graduate experience. Guest speakers like Jasbir Puar, Robyn Wiegman and Inderpal Grewal shaped my understanding of transnational and biopolitical turns in gender and sexuality studies, and Center faculty inspired my work on sustainability, transnational American literature and eugenics."



Meina Yates-Richard '16

Assistant professor of African American studies and English, Emory University; 2018–2019 Ford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow

"The certificate offered an abundance of intellectual resources: colloquia, graduate seminars, mentorship from senior scholars, and research and conference funding that ultimately helped me shape my own feminist-oriented research methodologies and pedagogical practices."



Nessette Falu '15

Assistant professor of anthropology, University of Central Florida

"CSWGS bountifully and unapologetically watered my early feminist formation as a Black queer woman and scholar."



Casper Bendixsen '14

Director, National Farm Medicine Center, Marshfield Clinic Research Institute

"The certificate gave me a critical eye for how the world intersects with our identities. Nothing could be more vital in understanding how gender, especially masculinities, influences the risks farmers and ranchers take in their daily lives."



Samhita Sunya '14

Assistant professor of Middle Eastern and South Asian cinema, University of Virginia

"I emerged from the certificate with very kind mentors, a tremendous bibliography, and an attunement both to interlocking histories of gender/race/sexuality/class and to the located histories of such categories themselves."



Ann Gleig '10

Associate professor of religion and cultural studies, University of Central Florida; Editor for Journal of Global Buddhism

"The interdisciplinary nature of the certificate prepared me for a department that houses three majors: philosophy, religion and humanities. I have the confidence and skills to incorporate feminist theory and perspectives into existing classes, as well as develop classes focused specially on gender and sexuality such as Sex and the Sacred."



Victoria Ford Smith '10

Associate professor of English and director of graduate studies, University of Connecticut Storrs

"At UConn, both my research and teaching have grown increasingly interdisciplinary. I learned how to do that type of work through the mentorship, coursework and speakers that are part of the certificate."



Beth Womack '10

Associate professor of English, Penn State Brandywine

"CSWGS brought greater interdisciplinary and theoretical breadth to my scholarship and also supported the research leading to my first two publications."



Kevin Morrison '09

Distinguished professor of British literature, Henan University

"The certificate quite simply opens doors. I was recently invited by the National University of Singapore to spend a semester co-teaching its inaugural undergraduate course on Gender and Sexuality in Literature."



Rebecca Yarrison '09

Clinical ethicist, OhioHealth Grant Medical Center and Doctors Hospital

"The contexts and frameworks that I learned through SWGS are critical to understanding people's experiences, perspectives and realities. I rely heavily on this understanding in my work with learners, patients and hospital staff."

RICE HUMANITIES
Center for the Study of
Women, Gender, and Sexuality

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RICE HUMANITIES

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WHERE WILL CSWGS TAKE YOU?



From the Director:

Why study women, gender and sexuality? What is the relationship between poverty and gender? These are especially important questions in the current climate, and we believe that now, more than ever, feminist voices are needed to address them.

We also know that the study of women, gender and sexuality deepens critical thinking, raises social awareness, sharpens interpersonal skills and spurs civic engagement — strengths that will fuel any career.

But don't take it from us. This brochure gives you a chance to get to know some of our undergraduate and graduate alumni. As you will see, the study of women, gender and sexuality deeply informs their careers, whether in academia, law, business, medicine, science or nonprofit work.

We hope our talented former students will give you some idea of where CSWGS might take you.

—Helena Michie

UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI

Established in 1991, the major in the study of women, gender, and sexuality (SWGS) includes courses in feminist theory, critical race theory and non-Western studies. While majors and nonmajors alike can participate in the seminar and practicum in engaged research, majors have the option of completing a yearlong senior honors thesis.

Established in 2009, the minor in poverty, justice and human capabilities (PJHC) includes courses in international development, critical race theory and non-Western studies. Minors supplement coursework with direct service learning experiences.

Many students pursue both degrees.



Brooke English '19 (SWGS and PJHC)

Linguistics Ph.D. student, University of California, Santa Barbara

"The SWGS major and PJHC minor both helped me develop a framework for research with marginalized communities that grounds theory in the practical world."



Senyte Pierce '19 (SWGS)

AmeriCorps member; community health worker, Legacy Community Health Center

"Choosing SWGS gave me access to passionate faculty and staff. They guided me and my cohort through rigorous coursework and research with empathy and care, which made me more confident in

my capabilities as a student and researcher — capabilities I get to use every day in my work in public health."



Shivani Raman '19 (PJHC)

Community health worker program assistant, Partners in Health, Chiapas, Mexico

"The PJHC minor provided me the knowledge and skills to advocate for vulnerable communities in the pursuit of health equity. That academic background allows me to continue making important contributions

in the realm of global health and social justice."



David Cirillo '18 (PJHC)

Paralegal, Natural Resources Defense Council

"The PJHC minor helped me see the world in a more humanized, intersectional light. My professors gave me the tools to combat injustice with a more holistic vision. In my current field of environmental justice, that vision helps me advocate solutions and plans that

come from the affected communities themselves so that no one is left behind."



Michelle Tran '18 (PJHC)

M.D./Ph.D. student, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, Manhattan, NY

"The minor equipped me with a whole new way of viewing issues around me and how I can impact them in an effective and purposeful way. PJHC has indelibly shaped how I envision myself contributing to society as a future cancer physician scientist."



Gavin Cross '16 (PJHC)

Managing editor, China Policy

"The PJHC program equipped me with a set of skills and experiences that I rely on every day in my career as a policy analyst, enabling me to engage with the world in ways I never would have otherwise."



Cristell Alejandra Perez '16 (SWGS and PJHC)

Program manager, Maternal and Child Health Training Program at the Michael and Susan Dell Center for Healthy Living; Master of Public Health, UT School of Public Health

"The Center gave me the feminist framework to critically analyze public health issues and empowered me to turn theory into practice and passion as I continue to fight for human rights issues."



Lyahn Hwang '13 (SWGS)

Third-year plastic and reconstructive surgery resident, Montefiore Health System, New York

"Majoring in SWGS prepared me the most in my journey to become a compassionate and competent physician and surgeon. Every person has a story, and I am privileged to be in a position where I can help bind that

story together, including members of the transgender community who we support through our multidisciplinary clinic."



Jaclyn Dean '12 (PJHC)

Policy manager, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum; Master of Public Policy, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

"The PJHC minor taught me how to think about social justice issues holistically and intersectionally — an approach that drives and is crucial to the work I do every day as an advocate."



Kristen Gagalis '12 (PJHC)

University of Chicago Law School Rubenstein Scholar; Teach for America, 2012

"PJHC taught me how to constantly challenge my own perceptions. This mindset of seeking out perspectives different from my own guided my work as a teacher and still guides me now as a public interest law student."



Krisina Janaye Zuñiga '12 (PJHC)

Associate, Susman Godfrey; 2020–2021 president, Houston Young Lawyers Association; J.D., Stanford University

"The PJHC minor opened my eyes to the many ways I can positively impact others. Now, as a young lawyer, I use that insight to help others, whether through large-scale civil-rights cases like the Harris County bail-reform litigation, or individual pro-bono cases like representing undocumented children seeking legal status in the United States."



Kate Hildebrandt '09 (SWGS)

Campus coordinator, Oregon Attorney General's Sexual Assault Task Force; M.A., higher education administration, Ohio State University

"My SWGS classes pushed me to be a better thinker and a better human being; I use the theory and skills I learned every day in my professional and personal life."



Gary Johnson '09 (SWGS)

Senior associate, Commercial and Business Litigation, Vinson & Elkins

"SWGS' coursework requires critical thinking and questioning commonly accepted notions of how society and institutions ought to operate — important and desired skills from law to business to government."



Rachel Kinney '09 (SWGS)

Master's degree candidate in mental health counseling, Belmont University; M.Div., Vanderbilt University

"The major encouraged me to interrogate structures I had always taken as given. This way of engaging the world fostered imaginative thinking — 'what is' is not what always was or what has to be."



Noorain Khan '06 (SWGS)

Director, Office of the President, Ford Foundation; PD Soros Fellow, Yale Law School; Rhodes Scholar, Oxford University

"I'm grateful to have found a home at the Center. The interdisciplinary nature of the program, its intimate size, the professors' passion and mentorship, and the

opportunity to write a thesis alongside a passionate cohort had no small part in shaping who I am today."



Dr. Liana Gefter '99 (SWGS)

National director, Health Career Collaborative; National director, Stanford Youth Diabetes Coaches Program; M.D., Stanford University; Master of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley

"SWGS helped lay the foundation for who I am both personally and professionally — for how I see the world

and, perhaps most importantly, for the sense of empowerment I feel to shine a light on areas of injustice and to know that I can play a role in addressing them."



Rene Almeling '98 (SWGS)

Associate professor of sociology and public health, Yale University; author of "Sex Cells: The Medical Market for Eggs and Sperm" (University of California Press, 2011)

"Studying gender at Rice introduced me to analytical tools that I continue to use every day in my own teaching and research."



Angela Hunt '94 (SWGS)

Shareholder, Munsch Hardt; Dallas City Council 2005–2013

"The Study of Women, Gender and Sexuality taught me to think critically, not just about gender roles and women's issues, but to question larger political structures and social norms. It's a skill set that has

helped me analyze and sometimes challenge the status quo, making me a better attorney and public servant."