

# WOMEN'S, GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES

Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies introduces students to the processes by which gender and sexuality are socially constructed in different historical, geographical, and cultural contexts, with particular attention to the intersection of gender and sexuality with other categories of difference such as race, class, ability, religion, and national origin. WGSS majors gain a broad understanding of feminist and queer thinking and activism. They learn to use interdisciplinary methodologies for feminist and queer research and pursue a deeper understanding of the issues that interest them through the development of an area of concentration and a senior capstone project. WGSS also offers three minors (women's studies, queer studies, and women's leadership and social change) that complement any major.

The WGSS major and minors emphasize the development of skills in critical and creative thinking, interdisciplinary research, and written and verbal communication. In addition to engaging with feminist and queer histories, cultural production, and political movements, students learn to apply an analysis of gender and sexuality to a broad range of topics. Our students pursue careers and graduate study in diverse fields like education, social work, medicine, law, community activism, religious studies, literature, and the arts. The flexibility offered by the WGSS major enables students to tailor their education to their own interests and goals while providing them with a strong foundation in feminist and queer approaches to knowing and shaping the world.

## Program Goals

- Students will understand how gender and sexuality are constructed in relation to one another and to other social structures.
- Students will understand the role of gender and sexuality in cultures and histories.
- Students will learn to think critically.

## Majors & Minors

### Major

Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies Major—BA (<https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/womens-gender-sexuality-studies/womens-gender-sexuality-studies-ba>)

### Minor

Queer Studies Minor (<https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/queer-studies/queer-studies-minor>)

Women, Leadership, & Social Change Minor (<https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/women-leadership-social-change/women-leadership-social-change-minor>)

Women's Studies Minor (<https://catalog.mills.edu/undergraduate/majors-minors/womens-gender-sexuality-studies/womens-studies-minor>)

## Faculty & Staff

### Faculty

**Judith Bishop**

Alice Andrews Quigley Professor

Associate Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Vera Long 128, 510.430.3249, [jbishop@mills.edu](mailto:jbishop@mills.edu)

Professional Interests: Women in world religions; theoretical approaches to gender, body, and sexuality; religion in public discourse

### Priya Kandaswamy

Associate Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Co-Chair of Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Vera Long 132, 510.430.3106, [pkandaswamy@mills.edu](mailto:pkandaswamy@mills.edu)

Professional Interests: Feminist and queer theory; race, gender, and US welfare politics; women of color in the US; theories of race and sexuality; sexuality and citizenship; geographies of race, gender, and sexuality

### Natalee Kehaulani Bauer

Assistant Adjunct Professor of Race, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Mills Hall Room 338, [nkbauer@mills.edu](mailto:nkbauer@mills.edu)

Professional Interests: American literature; decolonizing education; Polynesian and Native feminism

### Brinda Mehta

Professor of French and Francophone Studies

Program Head of French and Francophone Studies

Mills Hall Room 326, 510.430.2212, [mehta@mills.edu](mailto:mehta@mills.edu)

Professional Interests: Nineteenth-century French literature, psychoanalysis and feminist critical theories, Caribbean and African francophone literatures

### Margo Okazawa-Rey

Barbara Lee Distinguished Chair in Women's Leadership

Vera Long 115, [mokazawa@mills.edu](mailto:mokazawa@mills.edu)

Professional Interests: gender and militarism, economic globalization, transnational feminist activism, feminist activist research methodologies, critical multicultural education

### Bidita Tithi

Assistant Adjunct Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies

Vera Long 130, [btithi@mills.edu](mailto:btithi@mills.edu)

Professional Interests: South Asian women's literature and film, environmental justice, geography, disaster and displacement

## Staff

### Nikole Wilson-Ripsom

Faculty Administrative Assistant

Vera Long 118, [nwilsonripsom@mills.edu](mailto:nwilsonripsom@mills.edu)