

**Designated Emphasis  
in  
Feminist Theory &  
Research  
Handbook**

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# A Student's Guide to the Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research

## I. Introduction

### **About the DE**

The Gender, Sexuality, and Studies Program (GSW) at UC Davis offers a Designated Emphasis (DE) in Feminist Theory and Research. Graduate students in the following fourteen affiliated Ph.D. programs are currently eligible to participate: Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies, Education, English, French, German, Geography, History, Native American Studies, Nursing, Performance Studies, Plant Sciences, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology, and Spanish.

The Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research affords doctoral students in affiliated programs the opportunity to augment their Ph.D. in a given discipline with a specialization in Feminist Theory and Research. Doctoral students in good standing may seek admission to the program. All DE courses must be completed before the student advances to candidacy. Students who complete the requirements of the Designated Emphasis will have this noted on their transcripts and their Ph.D. diploma will read "Ph.D. in X with Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research."

Feminist theory and research examines the complex ways in which gender--always forged in relation to race, class, sexual, (dis)ability and (trans)national identities--has organized every facet of culture, including language, identities, traditions of knowledge, methodologies, social relations, organizations, and economic systems. In making gender a central category of analysis, feminist scholarship engages a diverse set of questions such as: the relationship between language and institutions, the nature of social power and historical agency, heteronormativity, the relationship between gender and nation, alternative sexualities, and gender and representation.

Feminist scholarship tends by nature to be interdisciplinary. Indeed it is feminist scholars who laid some of the groundwork for such interdisciplinary formations as the new ethnography, new historicism, and cultural studies.

Feminist theory and research are among the most exciting and powerful forces in academic research and intellectual life today. Students with the DE in Feminist Theory and Research demonstrate additional training and skills that are attractive to employers inside and outside of the academy.

## **Benefits of the Program**

Students who participate in the Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research benefit in several ways:

- Coursework for the DE provides analytical tools that enhance their research.
- The DE offers graduate students the opportunity to network with students and faculty across the UC Davis campus, thereby providing a larger audience for their research and work and increasing access to information about career opportunities.
- DE students have a larger pool of professors to draw from when forming their qualifying examination and dissertation committees.
- Because of their additional training, DE students are competitive for teaching assistant and associate-in positions in the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies program.
- DE students are more competitive on the academic job market. Over the past decade, students graduating from UC Davis with the DE in Feminist Theory and Research have been told that the DE was critical to their being chosen over other candidates for teaching positions.

## **II. Requirements for the DE in Feminist Theory and Research**

### **Admission to the Program**

Ph.D. candidates in affiliated graduate programs (Anthropology, Comparative Literature, Cultural Studies, Education, English, French, Geography, German, History, Native American Studies, Nursing, Performance Studies, Philosophy, Plant Sciences, Psychology, Sociology, Spanish, and Study of Religion) may apply for admittance to the Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research.

### **Coursework**

The required coursework for the DE in Feminist Theory and Research consists of four courses—two Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies core courses, one additional course in the student's Ph.D. program, and an additional course outside of the student's Ph.D. program:

Course	Offered	Description
WMS 200A: Current Issues in Feminist Theory (4 units)	Winter	This course focuses on current issues or debates in feminist theory and provides a foundation in feminist theory to graduate students interested in interdisciplinary approaches to feminist scholarship and research.
WMS 200B: Problems in Feminist Research (4 units)	Spring	This course applies feminist theoretical perspectives to the interdisciplinary investigation of a problem or question chosen by the instructor.
Course in your Ph.D. program		Must be approved by DE adviser.
Course from outside your Ph.D program		Must be approved by DE adviser.

Please note that courses will be approved if the topic of the course substantively addresses issues of women or gender. Students should consult with the DE adviser before enrolling in the course to ensure that it will fulfill the DE requirements. If possible, please bring a copy of the syllabus or an expanded course description and syllabus to your meeting.

### **Qualifying Examination**

The student's qualifying examination must incorporate gender as a central category of analysis. Additionally, one member of the candidate's qualifying examination committee must be a member of the DE. Members are recommended by the student's Ph.D. program graduate adviser in consultation with the student and the chair of the qualifying committee.

Upon completion of the qualifying examination, students are responsible for notifying the Women and Gender Studies program of their advancement to candidacy status. Students may do this by providing a copy of the official Graduate Studies Advancement to Candidacy (ATC) form indicating the date the qualifying examination was passed and noting that the student has advanced to candidacy. The Women and Gender Studies program staff liaison records advancement to candidacy in the student's DE file.

### **The Dissertation**

Students graduating with the DE must incorporate gender as a central category of analysis in their dissertations. As with the Qualifying Examination, one member of the candidate's dissertation committee must be a member of the DE.

Policy on Notification: It is the students' responsibility to notify the DE adviser when their dissertation has been accepted and all requirements for their Ph.D. program have been completed.

### **Final Verification**

Students must file a copy of their signed dissertation title page with the Women and Gender Studies office. Once the program receives the title page, the DE adviser signs the final verification form and forwards it to Graduate Studies for approval. Student Completion of the Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research will be noted on the official transcript. When all requirements for the DE have been successfully completed, the DE adviser will sign and forward the Final Verification form to Graduate Studies for approval.

### **Degree**

The "Ph.D. in X with Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research" is awarded to candidates who successfully complete the requirements of their Ph.D. program and the requirements for the DE.

## **III. Getting Started: Where to go for help**

### **The DE Adviser**

The Chair of the DE in Feminist Theory and Research also acts as the faculty adviser for the program. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with the DE faculty adviser at least once each academic year. The DE adviser can help you select courses, approve course substitutions, sign forms, and help keep your course of study on track. The adviser will also update your progress report each time you meet. It is always a good idea for you to check on the status of your DE file to make sure we have the most up-to-date information on your progress.

## **IV. How to join the DE in Feminist Theory and Research**

### **Checklist**

1. Make an appointment with the DE in Feminist Theory and Research adviser. Before your appointment, download an application form from the DE or Graduate Studies webpage ([DE Application Form](#)). Obtain the signature of the graduate adviser of your Ph.D. program. Bring the signed form and a copy of your transcript to the appointment.
2. Once the application form has been signed by the DE adviser, make a copy of the form and keep it for your own records.

3. The signed original form must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies. After the Office of Graduate Studies approves the form, your transcript should note your participation in the “Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research.”

If this does not appear on your transcript by the quarter following your application be sure to notify the DE adviser as soon as possible.

Students are strongly encouraged to see the DE adviser at least once a year to update their DE Progress Report and to address any questions or concerns.

**There are four forms:**

1. [The Office of Graduate Studies Designated Emphasis Application](#). This is used to apply to the DE.
2. [The Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research Progress Report](#). This form is internal to the DE and is used for advising purposes. The DE Adviser will update this form when you meet with her.
3. [The Qualifying Examination Application form](#). This form certifies that all required coursework, including DE coursework, has been completed. It also identifies the member of the DE affiliated faculty on the qualifying exam committee.
4. [The Designated Emphasis Report - Final Verification](#). This form must be filed with the Office of Graduate Studies when all degree requirements for the designated emphasis have been met.

Forms 1, 2, & 4 are also available on the DE in Feminist Theory & Research web page.

## V. The DE Faculty

### The Executive Committee

The Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research is organized on the model of a graduate group with an executive committee. The Executive Committee will ordinarily consist of at least two members of the Women and Gender Studies core faculty and at least one member from three affiliated Ph.D. programs or participating departments. The faculty committee members serve a three-year term and meet at least once a quarter. The members of the DE Executive Committee are valuable resources and are available to answer questions about the DE program.

### Affiliated Faculty

**Moradewun Adejunmobi** (Professor) *African American & African Studies* – Multilingualism, translation, and intercultural communication in postcolonial societies; Literacy studies; African literature; African popular film and culture; Francophone studies

**Susan Taber Avila** (Professor) *Design* – Fashion Design; Experimental Fashion; History of Fashion; Textile Art; Issues of Containment (including language, the body, and identity)

**Beverly Bossler** (Professor) *History* – China in the High Imperial period (Tang-Song-Yuan, 618-1368), especially social, intellectual and gender history in this period; history of women and family in China; gender and sexuality in China; early imperial China; 19th century China; and China in global trade networks in the Song and Yuan.

**Marisol de la Cadeña** (Professor) *Anthropology* – Indigeneities; Politics and the Political; Cultures of History and Memory; Science and Technology Studies (particularly the interface Science/Politics); World Anthropologies, Race Critical Theory; Anthropology of the State (Areas: Latin America: Andes and Central America)

**Claire Cannon** (Assistant Professor) *Human Ecology* – environmental justice, gender inequality, and health disparities in urban, rural, and disaster contexts

**Ryan Cartwright** (Associate Professor) *American Studies Program* – Disability Studies; Cultural Studies; Queer & Crip History of Rural White Nonconformity

**Angie Chabram-Dernersesian** (Professor) *Chicano/a Studies* – Chicana literature; cultural studies; Chicana/o representations, including feminism, cultural theory, and health narratives; documenting Chicana/o knowledge forms, practices of everyday life, culture, and activism

**Allison Coudert** (Professor) *Religious Studies* – Religion and Science; Jewish-Christian Relations and Christian Kabbalah; Race, Class, Gender and Religion; Western Esotericism (Alchemy, Kabbalah, Mesmerism, Spiritualism, Theosophy)

**Maxine Craig** (Professor) *Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies* – Masculinities, sociology of the body, race, gender & class

**Amanda Crump** (Assistant Professor) *Plant Sciences* – researches way to improve the uptake of agricultural technologies for marginalized groups and improve student and trainee learning through novel pedagogies

**Corrie Decker** (Associate Professor) *History* – 20<sup>th</sup> century social and cultural history of East Africa, childhood and youth, education, gender and sexuality, colonialism, Islam, development.

**Joseph Dumit** (Professor) – *Anthropology and Science and Technology Studies (STS)* - PET scan brain imaging and what assumptions about brain anatomy, psychology, and human nature needed to be made in order to conduct experiments, and then how the images circulate through popular culture, courtrooms, and patients' lives; patient experiences, difficult to define illnesses, and the history of medicine



**Gail Finney** (Professor) *Comparative Literature and German*– Psychoanalysis and literature/film, especially trauma theory; Turn-of-the-century culture; Modern drama, 19th-century European fiction, Feminism, Postwar German women writers

**Yvette G. Flores** (Professor) *Chicana/o studies* - Latina/o mental health; feminist psychologies; state, family and intimate partner violence

**Kathleen Frederickson** (Associate Professor) *English* - Victorian literature and culture; feminist and queer studies; the history of biology, psychology, and the social sciences; Marxism; and psychoanalysis

**Elizabeth Freeman** (Professor) *English* – 19th century American Literature; gender and sexuality; critical theory; cultural studies

**Lorena Garcia** (Professor) *Public Health Sciences* - Health disparities, in particular obesity and diabetes (metabolic and nutritional disorders), intimate partner violence (injuries), immigrant health and acculturation in the Latino community.

**Laura Grindstaff** (Professor) *Sociology* – Culture: cultural studies, popular culture, film and television, gender/race/class; Feminist Studies: gender, sexuality, race/class, media and popular culture, feminist theory

**Christoph Hansmann** (Assistant Professor) *Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies* – feminist, queer and trans feminist health and justice, the politics of health, science and medicine, focusing on relationships between biomedicine and social movements

**Ellen Hartigan-O'Connor** (Professor) *History*– 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century American history; American women's history; Social, business and economic history

**Inés Hernández-Ávila** (Professor) *Native American Studies* – Native American Women's Poetry; Contemporary Indigenous literature of Mexico; Indigenous/Native Theater; Native American Religious Traditions; Native American Literature in Performance; Narratives of Indigeneity; Native American women's and Chicana spiritualities; creative writing/poetry/short fiction

**Robert McKee Irwin** (Professor, Herbert A. Young Fellow, Chair of Cultural Studies Graduate Group) *Spanish & Portuguese* – Mexican and Latin American Cultural Studies; Border Studies/Latino Studies; Gender and Sexuality Studies; Mexican Golden Age Cinema; Sports Media Studies; Digital Storytelling, Community Based Scholarship

**Beenash Jafri** (Assistant Professor) *Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies* – critical race and ethnic studies; relational theory and critique; settler colonialism and decolonization; queer studies (esp queer of color critique); Black, Indigenous, and women of color feminisms; diasporic film and media; and representations of structural violence

**Rana Jaleel** (Associate Professor) *Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies* – Fields: critical transnational gender studies, law, Asian American studies, critical ethnic studies, queer/trans studies, and creative methodologies and hybrid writing. Topics: international law; militarisms; transnational social justice movements; sexual violence; war; labor; racial capitalism; transnational feminisms; reproductive justice

**Elisabeth Krimmer** (Professor) *German* – Gender studies, History and representation of war, German literature 1800-2000, Hollywood film

**Sunaina Maira** (Professor) *Asian American Studies* – Youth culture; popular culture; South Asian diaspora; Arab, Afghan, and Muslim American communities; War on Terror; U.S. empire; Palestine

**Amina Mama** (Professor) *Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies* - culture and subjectivity; politics and policy; women's movements and militarism

**Desirée Martín** (Associate Professor) *English* – Mexico border studies; Chicano/a & Latino/a literature & culture; literature of the Americas; 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>-c. Mexican literature; performance art & theater; subaltern studies

**Lisa Materson** (Associate Professor) *History* – American women's history, African American history, late nineteenth- and twentieth-century political history of the U.S., history of women's involvement in the movement for Puerto Rico's independence from the U. S.

**Beth Rose Middleton Manning** (Professor) *Native American Studies* - Native environmental policy and Native activism for site protection using conservation tools; intergenerational trauma and healing, rural environmental justice, indigenous analysis of climate change, Afro-indigeneity, and qualitative GIS

**Susette Min** (Associate Professor) *Asian American Studies* – Asian American Literature and Art; Ethnic American Literature; Contemporary art and visual culture

**Kimberly Nettles-Barcelon** (Associate Professor) *Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies* – Politics of race, gender, and food; issues of critical feminist pedagogy, intersectionality; ethnography, autoethnography, and narrative writing; consumption, authenticity, and culinary tourism; feminism and food; women entrepreneurs

**Bettina Ng'weno** (Associate Professor) *African American & African Studies* – Cultural anthropology; States; Property; Race and ethnicity; Rural societies; Politics; Social justice; Equality; Law; Latin America and Africa

**Ana Peluffo** (Professor) *Spanish & Portuguese* – Latin American literatures and cultures with an emphasis on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century; gender and ethnicity; literature and the nation; Andean and Southern Cone cultures; poetry and visual arts

**Jessica Bissett Perea** (Associate Professor) *Native American Studies* - music, sound and media studies; 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century American music history; Indigenous aesthetics and philosophies; Alaska Native and Circumpolar Inuit cultures, histories, and politics; intertribal and intercultural alliances and cultural production; popular, folk, jazz and improvisational performance cultures; critical race and gender studies; research methodologies and critical pedagogy

**Joanna Regulska** (Vice Provost & Associate Chancellor) *Global Affairs Division* women's agency, political activism, grass-roots mobilization and the construction of women's political spaces.

**Gloria M. Rodriguez** (Associate Professor) *School of Education* –School finance/resource allocation and educational leadership from a critical, social justice perspective; notions of educational investment that reflect efforts to build upon community strengths in order to address community needs within and beyond educational settings; educational conditions and trajectories of Chicana/o-Latina/o communities, other communities of color, and low-income populations in the U.S.

**Clarissa Rojas** (Assistant Professor) *Chicano/a Studies Dept.* –Medical violence, medicalization and sociology of health; health and health policy; American Indian and Women of color feminisms; critical and comparative race studies, queer of color and two spirit studies; decolonial movements; border violence; and cultures and migration studies.

**Eric Russell** (Professor; Director of the Davis Language Center) *French & Italian* - phonology, phonetics and issues of language in society, especially surrounding sexuality and gender; French and Dutch-based creole languages; same-sex marriage, adoption, IVF, gender inclusion) in Europe, with particular focus on cases in France, Italy, Germany and Belgium

**Suzana Sawyer** (Professor) *Anthropology* – Struggles over resources in the Ecuadorian Amazon, focusing specifically on conflicts over land and petroleum development among forest peoples, the state, and multinational oil companies

**Juliana Schiesari** (Professor) *Comparative Literature and Italian* – Renaissance Literature of Italy, France and England (some interest in early modern German literature); Psychoanalysis, with a special interest in mourning and trauma; Gender studies; Feminist Theory; Post-humanist Theory with an emphasis on animals and human culture

**Jocelyn Sharlet** (Associate Professor) *Comparative Literature* – The uncertainty and flexibility of patronage as a form of social order; the development of professional status for poets as an alternative to ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic aspects of identity; portrayal of informal relationships in medieval Arabic poetry and stories

**Kimberlee A. Shauman** (Professor) *Sociology* – Social Stratification; Social Demography; Family, Kinship and Gender; Education

**Smitri Srinivas** (Professor) *Anthropology* – constructions of cultural identity and cases of spirit possession within the context of borderland political economy; understandings of "urban religion" as well as the relationship between a religious imaginary, understandings of citizenship, sites of sociality, and devotional memory; designs for utopian place-making from the early twentieth century to the present that link South Asia with Europe and North America

**Michiko Suzuki** (Associate Professor of Japanese and Comparative Literature) – early sexology include same-sex sexuality, sex difference, chastity, concepts of gendered ailments, and the influence of Western sexology in Japan; kimono, Japanese cinema, and women's literature

**Hulleah J. Tsinhnahjinnie** (Professor) *Native American Studies* – Contemporary and traditional Indigenous arts; Visual sovereignty, photography, video, multi-media installations and traditional Native American techniques

**Kieu-Linh Caroline Valverde** (Associate Professor) *Asian American Studies* – Southeast Asian American history and contemporary issues, mixed race and gender theories, Fashionology, Aesthetics, Diaspora, and Transnationalism Studies

**Heghnar Watenpaugh** (Professor) *Art History* – Early modern and modern Islamic Art and Architectural History, urban history, theory of architectural preservation, and architecture and gender; issues of cultural heritage and controversies surrounding cultural property

**Julie Wyman** (Associate Professor) *Cinema and Digital Media* – gender and the body, notions of power, physicality, and gender categories; cultural and media constructions of health, weight, gender and body image

**Suzy Zepeda** (Associate Professor) *Chicano/a Studies* – Chicana/Latina decolonial feminisms, social justice, critical race and ethnic studies, U.S. women of color feminist theory, LGBTQI and queer of color studies, transnational visual culture, oral history, oral storytelling, and archival research, collaborative methodologies, cultural memory, historical narratives, and generational healing

**Li Zhang** (Professor) *Anthropology* – Urban studies (especially space-making, urban planning, and power dynamics); global middle-classes and consumption practices; mental health and well-being; selfhood and therapeutic processes; labor migration; postsocialism; critique of neoliberalism; East Asia (especially China)

## VI. Courses for the DE

Students should consult with the chair of the Designated Emphasis in Feminist Theory and Research before enrolling in the course to ensure that it will count toward fulfilling the requirements of the Designated Emphasis. If possible, please bring a copy of the syllabus or

an expanded course description and syllabus to your meeting. Generally, if a course title contains one of the following key words it will be accepted for credit: feminism, women, Chicana, Latina, gender, intersectionalities, sexualities, masculinities, queer theory, or reproduction.

## VII. Related Programs

### Resources

**The Women's Resources and Research Center (WRRC)** provides services, a supportive environment, and resources for all women at UC Davis, whether they are students, staff, or faculty. There is an extensive current library collection on feminist theory, gender, sexuality and cultural diversity, ranging from philosophy to poetry, which is available for teaching, research, and personal growth/enjoyment, and each quarter the WRRC hosts a book sale. The WRRC Career staff consults on campus policy, gender education, self- defense, and academic development, and also plan campus community events. Student interns run peer education programs for the dorms, provide graduate student outreach, and participate in annual programming. Ongoing WRRC programs include the weekly Math Cafe, the Women in Science and Engineering Initiative, The Womyn's Art Gallery (email [womynsgallery@gmail.com](mailto:womynsgallery@gmail.com)), and the Ellen Hansen Memorial Prize for the arts. The WRRC is located on First Floor, North Hall. 530-752-3372. <http://wrrc.ucdavis.edu>

#### **Feminist Research Institute (FRI)**

The Feminist Research Institute (FRI) aims to become a collaborative, trans-disciplinary hub for exploring how gender, sexuality, race, and other social structures inform the design, execution, and interpretation of research. FRI will generate transformative, paradigm-shifting linkages across disciplines by bringing feminist ethics and methodologies to bear on inquiries spanning the basic sciences, social sciences, humanities, health sciences, engineering, law, economics, and agriculture and environmental science. <https://cevs.ucdavis.edu/confreg/index.cfm?confid=792&webid=3848>

**The Davis Humanities Institute (DHI)** organizes interdisciplinary research seminars open to graduate students and faculty, and seeks to promote creative exchanges between the humanities, social sciences, and environmental sciences. Many DE affiliated faculty working on issues of women or gender are associated with research clusters housed in the Humanities Institute. 227 Voorhies Hall, UC Davis, 530-752-2295. <http://dhi.ucdavis.edu>.

**The Gender and Sexuality Commission (GASC)** is tasked with actively promoting awareness of gender and sexuality issues, as well as sexual assault, through outreach efforts, publicity drives, and special projects. Additionally, the GASC works with campus resources pertaining to gender, sexuality, and sexual assault awareness education in order to improve these respective efforts on campus. The GASC also assists in the organization

and coordination of educational programs concerning gender, sexuality, sexual assault and sexual harassment. Programs include: Generation Sex Week, attending the Western Regional LGBT Conference, supporting student groups/campus events through co-sponsorships, educational workshops, panels, and keynote speakers. The GASC also reviews and makes recommendations to the ASUCD Senate and relevant ASUCD Commissions on gender, sexuality, and sexual assault programs at UC Davis and throughout the UC system. The GASC can offer collaboration/informational resources on projects, campaigns, and educational programs, and is also able to budget money, write, and co-sponsor bills in the senate. This voting body has legislative power and ability to mobilize students on issues pertaining to/but not limited to: domestic violence, gender equality, queer issues, sex positivity, minority groups, and awareness.

Website: <https://asucd.ucdavis.edu/government/legislative/commissions/gender-and-sexuality-commission/>

The **Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center (LGBTRC)** was founded January 1994. The LGBTRC provides an open, safe, inclusive space and community that is committed to challenging homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and heterosexism, with recognition that this work requires a continued process of understanding and addressing all forms of oppression. LGBTRC is committed to this process both through its work and in the structure of the Center itself. The LGBTRC promotes education about all genders and sexualities, as well as space for self-exploration of these identities. The LGBTRC is a dynamic, responsive and collaborative organization that serves UC Davis and the surrounding region by providing a growing spectrum of programs, resources, outreach and advocacy. Inherent in this mission are the values of respect, pride and unity for ALL individuals. University House Annex, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616. Phone: 530.752.2452; Website: <http://lgbtqia.ucdavis.edu/index.html>

## **Related degrees**

**Cross-Cultural Women's and gender History (CCWgH)** is a graduate minor field offered by the History department. Beginning in 1992, Cross-Cultural Women's History was offered as a minor field in the history department at UC Davis. In 2004 the minor was renamed to acknowledge the increasing importance of gender studies to the understanding of women's history, and the minor is now designated as Cross-Cultural Women's and gender History (CCWgH). History Department, 2216 Social Science and Humanities Building, UC Davis, 530-752-0776. <http://history.ucdavis.edu/ccwh>

**The Undergraduate Minor in Sexuality Studies** at UC Davis brings together a variety of perspectives from the humanities and social sciences on the study of sexuality, including literature, history, religion, anthropology, law, sociology, and psychology. This field links sexuality to other social and historical formations, insisting on their simultaneity and interdependence. Over the past decade, Sexuality Studies has become increasingly influential in our critical understanding of social formations, political institutions, scientific knowledge, and cultural expressions. Previous formulations of sexuality couch it as either

something deeply private and personal or, in the case of sexual minorities such as lesbians and gay men, as a benign aberration of normal physical or psychological development. In doing so, and even with the best of intentions, these paradigms treat sexuality as that which defines who we are as individuals at our very essence or core. Much of the work in the new field Sexuality Studies, by contrast, interrogates contemporary systems of sexual classification, such as 'heterosexuality' and 'homosexuality,' and questions their taken-for-granted or purely biological nature. As a field, Sexuality Studies seeks to contextualize the concept of sexuality by tracing its changing histories, meanings, and effects across different political, scientific, geographic, temporal, and cultural landscapes. The field also examines the ways sexual minorities have produced vibrant cultures, communities and histories that contest their supposed pathology and marginality. At UC Davis, researchers, scholars, and teachers in Sexuality Studies pay particular attention to how related social and historical formations such as gender, race, class, nation, empire and globalization have constituted popular understandings of sexuality. Sponsored by the Women and Gender Studies Program. 2222 Hart Hall, UC Davis. 530-752-8986. Website: <https://gsws.ucdavis.edu/sexualitystudies>

## Principles of Community

**Prologue:** UC Davis is a diverse community comprised of individuals having many perspectives and identities. We come from a multitude of backgrounds and experiences, with distinct needs and goals. We recognize that to create an inclusive and intellectually vibrant community, we must understand and value both our individual differences and our common ground. The UC Davis Principles of Community is an aspirational statement that embodies this commitment, and reflects the ideals we seek to uphold.

### *Principles of Community*

The University of California, Davis, is first and foremost an institution of learning, teaching, research and public service. UC Davis reflects and is committed to serving the needs of a global society comprising all people and a multiplicity of identities. The university expects that every member of our community acknowledge, value, and practice the following guiding principles.

We affirm the dignity inherent in all of us, and we strive to maintain a climate of equity and justice demonstrated by respect for one another. We acknowledge that our society carries within it historical and deep-rooted injustices and biases. Therefore, we endeavor to foster mutual understanding and respect among the many parts of our whole.

We affirm the right of freedom of expression within our community. We affirm our commitment to non-violent exchange and the highest standards of conduct and decency toward all. Within this context we reject violence in all forms. We promote open expression of our individuality and our diversity within the bounds of courtesy, sensitivity and respect. We further recognize the right of every individual to think, speak, express and debate any idea limited only by university regulations governing time, place and manner.

We confront and reject all manifestations of discrimination, including those based on race, ethnicity, gender and gender expression, age, visible and non-visible disability, nationality, sexual orientation, citizenship status, veteran status, religious/non-religious, spiritual, or political beliefs, socio-economic class, status within or outside the university, or any of the other differences among people which have been excuses for misunderstanding, dissension or hatred. We recognize and cherish the richness contributed to our lives by our diversity. We take pride in all our achievements, and we celebrate our differences.

We recognize that each of us has an obligation to the UC Davis community of which we have chosen to be a part. We will strive to build and maintain a culture and climate based on mutual respect and caring.