



UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE

Centre for Gender Studies

# PANDEMIC YEARS REPORT

Academic Years 2019/20, 2020/21 and 2021/22

The COVID-19 pandemic affected all of our lives but not everyone's lives equally or in the same way, with many disparities related to gender, race, class, and the global economy.

# Contents

Note from the Director	4
Introduction	5
Note from the Frankopan Director	6
Centre's Governance	7
1 MPhil in Multi-Disciplinary Gender Studies	8
2 Scholarships	20
3 The Distinguished Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professorship	24
4 Public Engagement Series	32
5 PhD Programme in Multi-Disciplinary Gender Studies	42
6 Gender Studies Profiles	52

**The University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies**  
**Alison Richard Building**  
**7 West Road**  
**Cambridge CB3 9DP**

[www.gender.cam.ac.uk](http://www.gender.cam.ac.uk)

# Note from the Director



In the Academic Year 2021–2022 we were still very much affected by the COVID pandemic, but happy to be able to return to in-person teaching, albeit

with masks and open windows for most of the year. I was pleased to take over as Director of UCCGS, having been Deputy Director since my arrival in Cambridge in 2013 and occasionally Acting Director. In this year, Professor Jude Browne took over as the Head of Department of POLIS and we continue to benefit from her skilled leadership in this new role at the helm of the diverse and growing department to which we belong.

A highlight in 2021–22 was Professor Stephen Brown's presence as a Leverhulme Visiting Professor. Stephen Brown is a Professor in the School of Political Studies at the University of Ottawa, and was also hosted by CRASSH and Clare Hall during his time in Cambridge. Having postponed his visit due to the pandemic, Stephen was at least able to conduct research for his project *Foreign Aid and LGBTI Rights in the Global South: International and Local Dynamics*. As part of his Professorship, he gave three lectures on his ongoing research, and led some MPhil and PhD seminars for our students. We greatly enjoyed having Stephen Brown as a part of our Centre this year. More information on his visit can be found on pages 30–31.



The Centre hosted Professor Linda Connolly of Maynooth University as a Visiting Scholar in Lent 2022 for her project on *Understanding Violence Against Women in the Irish Revolution*. While in residence, Professor Connolly convened an online panel of prominent and up and coming scholars of the Irish Revolution to discuss memory and gender issues, a very important event that coincided with the centenary of the Irish Revolution.

In 2021–22 we hosted our regular Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies Research Seminar series, coordinated by Sigal Spigel, with a mix of online and in person talks. The innovative

*Race Talks* series convened by Christina Gaw Postdoctoral Researcher, Dr Kerry Mackereth and PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies student Ola Osman continued this year, examining the co-constitution of race and gender, with unmissable speakers, reading groups, and other forms of intellectual engagement to deepen our engagement with anti-racist forms of knowledge production across the breadth of Gender Studies and the wider University. The series is featured at page 41.

The *Gender and Technology Research Project*, generously funded by Christina Gaw, has been a tremendous success so far. It is hard to keep up with all the papers, conferences, talks, books and even podcasts this research project has spawned, led by Professor Jude Browne with postdocs Dr Kerry Mackereth and Dr Eleanor Drage, but the extraordinary achievements of the project are demonstrated on pages 36–38. Their podcast *The Good Robot* interviews some of the most influential and interesting people working on ethics and technology, particularly on questions of feminism and intersectional approaches. Dr's Mackereth and Drage will move on to further their excellent, ground-breaking work at the Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence Studies in the coming years as the project nears completion. We are looking forward to celebrating a book launch for *Feminist AI*, edited by Jude Browne, Stephen Cave, Eleanor



Jessica and Peter Frankopan



David Bell



Primrose Bell



Carl Djerassi and Diane Middlebrook



# Introduction

**The University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies is a multi-disciplinary centre for research and teaching. Working together with over 20 departments within the University and an international network of gender scholars beyond, the Centre conducts outstanding research and teaching on a broad spectrum of approaches to understanding gender and sexuality in relation to the human subject. Uniquely, the Centre has evolved from intellectual engagement with front-line research topics rather than developing from any particular discipline, political view or methodology and its network of world-class experts enables it to facilitate outstanding teaching, research and public engagement.**

**The aim of the Centre is to increase our capacity for rigorous gender analysis and to promote awareness of its relevance in historic, economic, political, artistic, social, and scientific contexts. As such, we welcome inquiry from multiple and overlapping perspectives including various forms of feminist theory, lesbian and gay studies, queer theory, transgender/trans\* theory, and critical sexuality studies. We aim to push across the boundaries of disciplines and identities to promote ambitious and ground-breaking work that is able to build on the strengths of research across the University of Cambridge and to deeply engage with the complexities of studying gender in our world.**

Drage and Kerry Mackereth, as well as the many important reports and publications from this project at forthcoming symposium.

By the start of the summer, with the warm weather and reduced COVID restrictions, we were very pleased to celebrate with our students and lecturers at a Garden Party hosted at Peterhouse, where our Deputy Director Holly Porter had just joined as a fellow. Everyone was thrilled to be able to celebrate together, especially since our MPhil students had just submitted their dissertations. The MPhils conducted excellent research on topics such as performance art and the climate crisis, 'unsexing' the woman in historical Parliamentary discourse, race and gender in jazz vocalists, queer embodiment in Interwar Berlin in sexological and avant-garde photography, the coloniality of gender in 'post-colonial' Nigeria and much more. All of their work can be found on pages 11–15. They were an excellent cohort with many very highly marked dissertations.

We were sad to say goodbye to Dr Julienne Obadia, UCCGS Affiliated Lecturer; Junior Research Fellow, King's College, in 2021–22. We wish Julienne all the best in future endeavours. We are looking forward to once again welcoming a *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor* in the coming academic year. We are honoured to be hosting Professor Cynthia Enloe, Clark University, Massachusetts, USA in Michaelmas 2022. Professor Enloe is a world-renowned scholar of gender and war and militarization, who will be researching an all-too-timely project on gender matters in Russia's war on Ukraine and will also be giving a public lecture and workshop for our students. We are pleased to welcome back to the Centre Dr Farhana Rahman, once an MPhil, then a PhD

student in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies, and now a BA Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

The Centre has recently (re)launched the *Gender Advisory Network*, made up of scholars from across the University of Cambridge whose research is engaged in the themes of gender and/or sexuality. The aim, especially after such isolation in the pandemic, is to bring together scholars across the University and Colleges who provide insights into cutting edge work and debates from different fields, and who may wish to collaborate across disciplines. We held our first meeting at a garden party, which proved to be a great success in building new relationships and rekindling longstanding ones. We hope to grow this network and its activities in the future.

We are deeply grateful to all of those who have helped sustain us, especially in these few difficult years, including of course Professor Jude Browne in her role as Head of Department, Head of School Tim Harper, Holly Porter as Deputy Director of UCCGS, Joanna Bush as Centre Administrator, Vincenzo Paci as Administrative Assistant, and Sigal Spigel as Research Seminars Coordinator. With many special thanks to our donors Jessica and Peter Frankopan, Sir David and Lady Primrose Bell, Ms Christina Gaw, and remembering Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi, whose support has enabled the Centre to thrive and grow as a site for international excellent research and teaching on gender in all its forms.



**Dr Lauren Wilcox**  
Centre Director  
University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies

# Note from the Frankopan Director



I am writing the Director's letter for this 'Pandemic Edition' of our Annual Report, covering the activities of the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies, 2019–2021. I

am currently on leave as the Frankopan Director of Gender Studies while I serve as Head of the Department of POLIS and I'm delighted that the Centre continues to thrive under Lauren Wilcox's leadership.

Our wonderful cohort of MPhils from 2019–2020 unfortunately spent the last few months of their MPhil under lock-down conditions and similarly our MPhil programme for 2021–2022 was conducted almost entirely online. Nonetheless and as a marker of their commitment, both cohorts of MPhil students produced excellent work under very difficult circumstances. Many congratulations to our Bell Scholars (those with the very highest marks for research dissertations) Mansi Hitesh, 2019–2020 and Suiyi Tang, 2020–2021 (see pages 8–10).

A significant number of our PhD students also submitted their theses and successfully defended in their viva voce over Zoom during this period. Congratulations to Dr Julia Doyle, Dr Kerry Mackereth, Dr Maimuna Mohamad, Dr Lena Moore, Dr Sharmila Parmanand, Dr Farhana Rahman, Dr Hakan Sandal-Wilson and Dr Shuai (Eddie) Wei. We are thrilled to see what the future brings for these outstanding scholars.

Before the pandemic struck, we welcomed Professor Rosi Braidotti of the University of Utrecht, who had just published the second book of a trilogy of works on posthumanism, the (post)humanities, and feminism. Her thoroughly



engaging lecture on *Posthuman Feminism and Affirmative Ethics* captivated a large full house at Newnham College in October 2019. We very much enjoyed Professor Braidotti's great humour, kindness and generous intellectual engagements with our students. More about Professor Braidotti's visit can be found on pages 25–27. One silver lining to the need to work on-line was the ability to connect speakers and audiences from all around the world with our students in Cambridge including Zakiyyah Iman Jackson of the University of South California, Joy James of Williams College, Massachusetts, and Lindsay Clowes of the University of Western Cape, South Africa.

In support of BlackLivesMatter, our Centre began hosting a student-led series called *Race Talks*, organised by PhD students Kerry Mackereth and Ola Osman, and this series involved curated reading lists, seminars, guest speakers, and important discussions on the co-constitution of race and gender (see page 41).

Due to a generous donation from Christina Gaw, I devised a research project in collaboration with Cambridge's *Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence* on Gender and Tech. We hired two postdoctoral research associates, Dr Eleanor Drage and recent UCCGS PhD Dr Kerry Mackereth as Christina Gaw Research Associates. The aim of the project is to explore what gender scholarship and feminist thinking can bring to the development and deployment of ethical AI. I am looking forward to working with them on this project over the next several years in what promises to be a landmark both in intersectional feminist approaches to AI and for our Centre's growth as a research unit.

Thanks, as always to the Department of Politics and International Studies and our Head of Department Jason Sharman. Thanks also to our Centre Administrator Joanna Bush and to our new Administrative Assistant Vincenzo Paci, and to the Deputy Director Lauren Wilcox and Gender Studies lecturer Holly Porter who have worked so hard to keep everything running during these difficult years. Thank you particularly to our donors – Jessica and Peter Frankopan, David and Primrose Bell, Cambridge University Press, and the late Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi, who with us have helped create and sustain the Centre as a hub of internationally excellent teaching and research.

**Professor Jude Browne**  
Frankopan Director  
University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies



# Centre's Governance

## Management Committee

The membership of the UCCGS Management Committee for the academic years 2019–20, 2020–21 and 2021–22 was as follows:

- **Chair: Professor Robin Osborne, FBA** (School of Arts and Humanities, Faculty of Classics, King's College)
- **Professor Carol Brayne CBE**, (School of Clinical Medicine, Cambridge Institute of Public Health)
- **Professor Jude Browne** (Frankopan Director of UCCGS, King's College)
- **Professor Susan Golombok** (School of Biological Sciences, Centre for Family Research, Newnham College)
- **Professor Mateja Jamnik** (Computer Laboratory, School of Business and Technology)
- **Dr Alex Jeffrey**, (School of Physical Sciences, Department of Geography, Emmanuel College) (until Easter 2021)
- **Dr Holly Porter** (Acting Deputy Director of UCCGS)
- **Professor Ulinka Rublack**, (School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of History)
- **Professor Jason Sharman**, (Head of Department of Politics and International Studies, King's College) (until Easter 2021)
- **External: Professor Anne Phillips** FBA FAcSS (London School of Economics)



Our Founding Director, Juliet Mitchell, is Emeritus Professor of Psychoanalysis and Gender Studies at the University of Cambridge, and a Fellow of Jesus College. Her seminal works include *The Women's Estate*, *Psychoanalysis and Feminism*, *Women: the Longest Revolution*, *Mad Men and Medusas*, and *Siblings: Sex and Violence* all of which have shaped generations of feminist and psychoanalytic scholars. Professor Mitchell's vision and passion for politically engaged, rigorous scholarship continues to inspire our Centre of which she remains an integral part.



The Centre for Gender Studies was created informally in the late 1990s when a backlash against feminism was at its height. The decision was made not to engage with this recurrent conflict but to set up a new and different project in the University of Cambridge. This was to provide a multi- and inter-disciplinary academic analysis of Gender itself.

Today is different. The pandemic has increased the immiseration of women but feminism is established world-wide. So too are other struggles - notably Black Lives Matter specifically in the Western democracies such as our own. Intersectional analysis can help us understand the relationship between oppressions - the negative feminization of all peoples who are declared inferior, the classism, the racism and the inherent violence that subtends them”.

**Professor Juliet Mitchell**

# 1 MPhil in Multi-Disciplinary Gender Studies

The Master of Philosophy degree course at the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies provides rigorous advanced training in multi-disciplinary gender analysis. The MPhil introduces the very brightest students from a wide variety of academic backgrounds, cultures and nationalities to the traditions, methods and front-line research which shape gender analysis at an advanced level, incorporating insights from various feminist theories, lesbian and gay studies, queer theory, transgender/trans\* theory, and critical sexuality studies. The MPhil provides a variety of intense taught courses and close supervision in undertaking an original research project on any gender-related topic in subject areas such as diverse as Conflict and Violence, Development, Education, Globalization, Labour Markets, Social Policy, Culture and Antiquity, Representation, Art, Literature, Bio-medical Advances, Human Rights and International Law.

Students follow four mandatory components:

- *Theory, Controversy and Methodology*
- *Gender and Methods*
- *Multi-disciplinary Text Seminar*
- *Multi-disciplinary Gender Research Seminar Series*

The ninth year of the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies programme (2018–19), successfully concluded with the External Examiner's visit in September 2019. Professor Linda McDowell, University of Oxford, highlighted in her report that "Despite the demands of reacting to what may turn out to be the 'new normal,' it is clear that this year's cohort responded well, accessing the impressive range of material offered to the students, and achieving high standards in both their essay writing and dissertation research."

The tenth year of the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies programme (2019–20), successfully concluded with the External Examiner's visit in September 2020. Professor Linda McDowell, University of Oxford, highlighted in her report that "The standards are high and the quality of the course material, as well as the teaching, is excellent. The degree recruits from an international pool of applicants and the result is a lively group of students from different disciplinary backgrounds and interests that provides a stimulating environment for debate about key issues that are often contentious and sometimes deeply personal. The result is some astonishingly good work by students, especially in their dissertations."

The eleventh year of the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies programme (2020–21), successfully concluded with the External Examiner's visit in September 2021. Professor Linda McDowell, University of Oxford, highlighted in her report that "This academic year, like the previous one, has been atypical and demanding for both students, faculty and staff" but that "The whole team – the course director, lecturers and administrative staff – provide an intellectually demanding yet supportive environment, including personal support and help with writing and dissertation topic choices, as well as a mounting a degree that is comparable with the best masters courses in gender studies in the UK and elsewhere." The twelfth year of the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies programme (2021–22), successfully concluded with the External Examiner's visit in June 2022. Professor Marysia Zalewski, Cardiff University, concluded in her report that "This is an excellent programme with rigorous and high-quality teaching. The students do very well indeed."

## The Bell Scholars

Each year the author of the best research dissertation for the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies is awarded the title of 'Bell Scholar' in recognition of outstanding scholarship.

Lady Primrose and Sir David are key supporters of the Centre and we are extremely grateful to them for all their help and guidance.



Sir David Bell



Lady Primrose Bell





## Caleb Shelburne Bell Scholar 2018–19

### MPhil Thesis

*Gender, Sexuality, and Slavery in the Late Ottoman Empire.*



Caleb Shelburne was selected as the Bell Scholar 2018–19 for his excellent research dissertation, *Gender, Sexuality, and Slavery in the Late Ottoman Empire*, which received the highest Distinction mark on the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies 2018–19.

### Abstract:

This dissertation examined the discourses surrounding slavery and enslaved people in the late-nineteenth-century Ottoman Empire, in terms of their entanglements in contemporary debates on gender and sexuality. İrvın Cemil Schick and Şefika Kurnaz have proposed that new understandings of gender and family, particularly the normalization of “companionate marriage,” established a cultural vocabulary for the women’s rights reforms of the late Ottoman Empire and early Turkish Republic. Meanwhile, historians of slavery, most notably Madeline Zilfi, have contended that Ottoman slavery was cast as feminine and thus benign compared to trans-Atlantic slavery. My dissertation brought these two strands of scholarship together, emphasizing how gender and slavery intersected in legal, literary, and popular constructions of enslaved people and Ottoman society more generally. In doing so, I revealed the connections between topics that are often separated in the historiography: race and gender, family law and slavery, reproductive politics and domestic labour. In dialogue with the standard thesis of transplanted Western norms of gender and sexuality, I suggested domestic slaves continued to have a normative position in elite Ottoman households. I extended histories of Ottoman slavery by showing that concepts of gender and sexuality were far from stable, complicating Zilfi’s analysis of the “feminization” of slavery. By interrogating the Western understanding of gender implicit in both fields, my dissertation also worked to ‘decolonize’ the definition of gender itself, opening up alternative conceptions of family, reproduction, and personhood.

## Mansi Hitesh Bell Scholar 2019–20

### MPhil Thesis

*Transgenderism, Transnationality, and the Race/Gender Analogue*



Mansi Hitesh was selected as the Bell Scholar 2019–20 for her outstanding research dissertation, *Transgenderism, Transnationality, and the Race/Gender Analogue*, which received the highest Distinction mark on the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies 2019–20.

### Abstract:

Are race and gender analogous categories? Emergent from the transgender-transracial comparative, this question enables an examination of feminist epistemological investments in the analogical method, i.e., comprehension through comparison, to draw attention to the “master stories” of the constitutions of race and gender as identity categories that are produced and sustained in rendering the two (dis)analogous. Rather than affirm an analogy between race/gender, or articulate race and gender as importantly disanalogous, I interrogated into the conditions of possibility that enable the visibility and traction of certain analogies over others. I suggested that an arbitrary separation is enacted when the transgenderism-transracialism question is dissected such that an examination of the conceptual prefix that connects the two together (‘trans’) is discarded for an examination of the elements that allow for the separation – race and gender. Anchored in the empirical cases of Caitlyn Jenner, Rachel Dolezal, Caster Semenya, and A.K. Mozumdar, this paper contended that ‘trans’ is most useful when it is used to examine the “what is” and “why” of the operations of race/gender/nation/ethnicity/indigeneity as intertwined modes of subjection, sustained by interpellative hails from both subjects and states.

**Suiyi Tang**  
Bell Scholar 2020–21

**MPhil Thesis**

*Of Monsters and Ornaments: Yellow Femininity, Animacy, Form*



**Abstract:**

The yellow woman has long been a figure of fantastical appeal, regularly conjured as a sexualized and racialized stereotype. More than her tropes, however—as the vengeful femme fatale, the debased but girlishly naïve whore, the indebted daughter, or the sexually repressed

model minority—she also occupies an impressive array of *forms* (the animated sex doll, the cyborg, the monstress, the e-girl) across a range of fleshy materials (silicone, nylon, fur, cartilaginous tentacles) that are regularly inhuman, yet pulsating with liveness. Reading three works that explore the emergent forms of the yellow woman—as the monster (*Lovecraft Country*, HBO 2020), the machine (*Watchmen*, HBO 2019) and the animal (*The Word for World is Forest*, Le Guin 1972)—this dissertation argued that yellow femininity is a cultural logic and force that animates fleshy materials in between life and death. Yellow femininity occupies not a single figure but a *genre of in- and extra-humanly forms* whose animacies comprise the cultural inscription of the “yellow woman.” Extending literary scholar Anne Cheng’s premise, in *Ornamentalism*, that the yellow woman is “consecrated and desecrated as an inherently aesthetic object,” I considered how the aesthetic conglomeration and commodity-adjacency of yellow femininity is founded on a trope of racial-sexual violence borne by imperial warfare. I argued that this racial sexual violence—an iterative force that not only injures and kills but inscribes a new grammar of the flesh—sutures the logics of yellow femininity along asymptotic lines of killability and reiterability, rendering the yellow woman available for death and regeneration within a racialized and gendered animacy structure that includes but ultimately exceeds Cheng’s paradigm of ornamentality.

**Jess Molyneux**  
Bell Scholar 2021–22

**MPhil Thesis**

*Displaced Dependencies: Family Ties In/Against UK Asylum Narratives and Policy*



**Abstract:**

Forced displacement generates countless varieties of spatial and affective separations, which asylum adjuncts like family reunification are expressly instituted to redress. But what remains underexplored in scholarship on asylum is how disavowals of certain relationships, and stringent

controls on what counts as a family, place violent limits on the kinds of families which can be successfully reunited in the UK asylum system. This dissertation scrutinised experiences of family separation and narratives of national and personal (in)dependence to present new understandings of the British state’s self-positioning in relation to displaced people’s experience. I drew on feminist legal theory and decolonial theory to identify the postcolonial specificities of UK asylum law and its role in the construction and maintenance of borders which deliberately divide families. I also used reproductive justice work and Black feminist critiques of the white, nuclear, patriarchal family to rethink gendered and racialised asylum in the UK context. To examine how family ties and (in)dependence play out in asylum law, I focussed specifically on the Conservative government’s Nationality and Borders Bill. Introduced to the Commons in July 2021, this bill is the latest instalment in a long history of British legislative violence which has recently accelerated into explicitly “hostile environment” policies. Analysing the bill itself, parliamentary debates, and evidence submitted to committee hearings, I worked with oral and textual testimonies from UK refugees, asylum seekers, and associated organisations, alongside politicians’ contributions to the debate around the new bill. I also drew on related first-hand testimony collated in earlier reports by Oxfam and Women for Refugee Women. I analysed personal narratives of family separation and (attempted) reunification, and the political rhetoric which surrounds them, to make three interlocking arguments. My analysis drew out multi-layered, gendered conceptions of connection, autonomy, and (in)dependence as mobilised by the UK government for hostile political ends, and emphasised the lived practices which resist and reshape these understandings. This analysis brought decolonial feminist critiques of the nation state and the family into the urgent contemporary context of UK asylum policy-in-the-making.



## MPhil students Academic Years 2019–20, 2020–21 and 2021–22

In line with previous years, Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies students for the last three academic years come from a very wide range of disciplinary backgrounds and are pursuing diverse research interests.

**In the academic year 2019–20**, the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies had 21 students and dissertation research titles were as follows:

- **Maryam Al-Ammari (Saudi Arabia)**  
*Marriage and Status in Saudi Arabia*  
Supervisor: Dr Sertac Sehlkoglou, Department of Social Anthropology
- **Anna Atwell (USA)**  
*Gender & The Alt-Right: Liberal Language, Indigeneity and Victimization*  
Supervisor: Dr Julienne Obadia, King's College, University of Cambridge
- **Charlotte Berger (Belgium)**  
*Gender Equality Rights in Corporate Leadership: Corporate Responsibility as an Alternative Board Equality Justification*  
Supervisor: Professor Jude Browne, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Merle Chappell (UK)**  
*Strong Independent Woman: Exploring the Assemblage of an Idealised Selfhood*  
Supervisor: Dr Julienne Obadia, King's College, University of Cambridge
- **Arthur Davis (UK)**  
*Geographies of Sexual Risk: Reimagining Migration through an Analysis of Sexual Health Research and Clinical Practice*  
Supervisor: Dr Richard McKay, Department of History and Philosophy of Science
- **Isobel Duxfield (UK)**  
*Bodies and Bikes: The Reproduction of Gendered Subjectivities and Relations in Amateur Cycling Clubs*  
Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Mansi Hitesh (India)**  
*Transgenderism, Transnationality, and the Race/Gender Analogue*  
Supervisor: Dr Julienne Obadia, King's College, University of Cambridge
- **Emma Howlett (UK)**  
*Medea and British Legislation, 1914 – 1940: Staging the 'Infanticidal Woman'*  
Supervisor: Dr Jennifer Wallace, Peterhouse, University of Cambridge
- **Cecile Huber (Germany) Cambridge Trust**  
*Sibling Trauma and Fellow Feeling: Reading Rousseau's Emile and Grouchy's Letters on Sympathy with Mitchell's Law of the Mother*  
Supervisor: Dr Chris Brooke, Department of Politics and International Studies
- **Dayuan Jeong (Korea)**  
*Mobilization of the (Trans)national Girlhood in the Post-Colonial Developmental Project: Contextualizing K-Pop Girl's Sexual Capital*  
Supervisor: Dr Lauren Wilcox, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Eliana Johnson-Leighton (UK)**  
*Menstruation in the UK Transgender Community*  
Supervisor: Dr Marcin Smietana, Reproductive Sociology Research Group, University of Cambridge

- **Amelia Mazzarella (USA)**  
*The Crisis of Childcare in the Modern Workplace: Parenthood and Parental Leave Policies in the United States*  
Supervisor: Professor Jude Browne, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Cassandra McMaster (USA)**  
*Responses to Sexual Misconduct within Institutions of Higher Education*  
Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Julianne McShane (USA)**  
*Feminist Objectivity in Journalism: Conceptualising and Historicising an Alternative Ethic*  
Supervisor: Dr Lauren Wilcox, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Lily Mead (UK)**  
*The Lad Pack: An Investigation into the Motivations of Collectives of Men who Sexually Harass Women and Girls in UK Public Spaces*  
Supervisor: Dr Katie Dow, Department of Sociology
- **Hayley Morgan (UK)**  
*The Consent Defence in Homicide Trials*  
Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Sarah Patterson (UK)**  
*Cyber-Abuse Towards Female Politicians in the UK: Unveiling the Invisible Labour of Hypervisible women*  
Supervisor: Dr Katie Dow, Department of Sociology
- **Alice Roberts-Dunn (UK)**  
*The Group Representation of Women: Representation, Justice, and the Principal/Agent Model*  
Supervisor: Professor Jude Browne, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies



Dr Holly Porter and MGS MPhil Students at the UCCGS Holiday Party, Michaelmas 2019

- **Clara Sánchez Trigo (Spain)**  
*Hester Prynne in Popular Culture: Gossip and #MeToo on Women's Competition, Solidarity and Sexuality*  
Supervisor: Dr Clare Walker-Gore, Faculty of English, University of Cambridge
- **Anita Slater (UK)**  
*Witches & Self-care: Re-imagining the Feminist Magical Subject*  
Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Mahé Wajnblum (Belgium)**  
*The Performance of Gender in Late Eighteenth-Century Literature by Women: A Study of Performative Doings at the Intersection of Ritual, Gender, and the Literary*  
Supervisor: Dr Corrina Russell, Faculty of English, University of Cambridge



In the academic year 2020–21, the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies had 18 students, and dissertation research titles were as follows:

- **Catherine Chapman (USA)**  
*Incorporated: Corporate Sector Diversity & Inclusion, Methods, and Norms*  
Supervisor: Professor Jude Browne, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Lyndsay Elliot (UK)**  
*Colonial Education and Gender: A past ever present seen through the lens of laïcité*  
Supervisor: Dr Julienne Obadia, King's College, University of Cambridge
- **Isabel Gebhardt (Germany)**  
*Gender-neutral parenting: Exploring how Parents Conceptualise an Anti-Norm Approach and Navigate it in a Gendered World*  
Supervisor: Dr Susan Imrie, Centre for Family Research, University of Cambridge
- **Ashley Huntington (USA)**  
*The Cultural Significance of 'Karen' and her sinister mirror of Whiteness: a feminist refraction*  
Supervisor: Dr Francesca Moore, Department of Geography
- **Sara Laursen Hald (Denmark)**  
*Sugar Dating: An Exploration into the Lived Experiences of Female Sugar Babies and their Sugaring Work*  
Supervisor: Mr Gavin Stevenson, Department of Sociology
- **Isabel Lewis (UK)**  
*The Construction of Femininities Through Body Hair Removal in Britain: Making Boundaries and Doing Respectability*  
Supervisor: Dr Tobias Müller, Department of Politics and International Studies
- **Ying Liu (China)**  
*Bodies on display: A Critical Investigation of the Making of Neoliberal Selfhood Represented in Advertisements*  
Supervisor: Mr Gavin Stevenson, Department of Sociology
- **Ayanda Mhlongo (South Africa)**  
*Menstrual Hygiene Management: A study of refugee women's experience*  
Supervisor: Dr Francesca Moore, Department of Geography
- **Rhiannon Mulligan (UK)**  
*Embodying Queerness: The Experiences of Student-Athletes at Historically Women's Colleges in the United States*  
Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Anne-Sophie Pasquino (Denmark)**  
*"Inside the Gilded Cage": Exploring the Concept of Representation in the Rwandan Parliament*  
Supervisor: Professor Jude Browne, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Kenneth Rosario (India)**  
*Queer asylum in Berlin: The dissonance between the lived realities of queer refugees and intelligibility of 'fear' and 'persecution'*  
Supervisor: Dr Geoffrey Maguire, Murray Edwards College; Peterhouse, University of Cambridge
- **Pauline Savouré (France)**  
*Performing the Sexual Other: A Literary Inquiry into German Colonial Writings*  
Supervisor: Dr Stephanie Galasso, Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics
- **Noora Sharara (USA)**  
*When Women's Self-Writing Becomes Pathological: Reading Eating Disorders and Narrative Identity as Co-Constitutive Conditions in 'Wasted'*  
Supervisor: Dr Jessica Hamel-Akre, Department of History and Philosophy of Science

- **Adam Takar (UK)**  
*Perverts and Curios: Collecting the Queer Curiosity Cabinet in Magnus Hirschfeld's Sexology Around 1900*  
Supervisor: Dr Charlotte Woodford, Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics
- **Suiyi Tang (USA)**  
*Of Monsters and Ornaments: Yellow Femininity, Animacy, Form*  
Supervisor: Professor Caroline Bassett, Faculty of English
- **Úna Yates (UK)**  
*Other Prisons and the Prisoner's Others: Gendering Political Prison Regimes in Northern Ireland 1968–1998*  
Supervisor: Dr Hannah Elisi, Faculty of History
- **Jinny Yoon (South Korea)**  
*Vessels of Colonial Trauma: Symbolic Representations of the Korean 'Comfort Women' in Films*  
Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Yingxin Zhang (China)**  
*Salvation or Violation? Decoding the Compulsory Medical Interventions in Chinese Intersex Memoirs*  
Supervisor: Dr Caroline Rusterholz, Faculty of History

**In the academic year 2021–22**, the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies had 15 students, and dissertation research titles were as follows:

- **Eseosa Akojie (UK/Nigeria)**  
*Disrupting Colonial Legacies of Gender in 'Post-Colonial' Nigeria: A Queer Feminist Evacuation*  
Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Pauline Eller (Germany)**  
*Unsexing the Woman, 1820–1920: Parliamentary Discourse and the Challenge of Maintaining a Gender Binary*  
Supervisor: Professor Laura Wright, Faculty of English
- **Megan Ennis (USA)**  
*Whose Voice Is It Anyway? Inclusive Engineering Education through Grassroots and Institutional Practices*  
Supervisor: Dr Eleanor Drage, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Adelle Goldenberg (USA)**  
*Religion, Gender, and the Law: Tackling Tensions Between Free Exercise and Human Rights*  
Supervisor: Dr Julia Borcharding, Faculty of Philosophy
- **Ciara Hervas (USA)**  
*Envisioning Queer Embodiment, Expression, and Desire in Interwar Berlin Through Sexological and Avant-Garde Photography*  
Supervisor: Professor Alyce Mahon, Department of History of Art/ Professor Emma Wilson, Centre for Film and Screen
- **Ruoyang Li (China)**  
*Revisiting Wilma Stockenstrom's 'The Expedition to the Baobab Tree': Female Subjectivity, Stream of Consciousness and Nature*  
Supervisor: Dr Sura Qadiri, Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics



- **William Meek (UK)**  
*Gendered Logics of Domination: Israeli Settler-Colonialism, Masculinity, and the Question of “Tomorrow”*  
Supervisor: Dr Hannah Elsi, Faculty of History
- **Madison Miszewski (USA)**  
*Homonationalism Re-Oriented: The US Withdrawal from Afghanistan as a Critical Juncture in Sexual Hegemony and Imperial Occupation*  
Supervisor: Dr Hannah Elsi, Faculty of History
- **Jess Molyneux (UK)**  
*Displaced Dependencies: Family Ties In/Against UK Asylum Narratives and Policy*  
Supervisor: Dr Kerry Mackereth, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Olga Nikonenko (Russia)**  
*Victims of Laughter? The portrayal of women in Soviet comedy films of the Brezhnev era*  
Supervisor: Professor Emma Widdis, Centre for Film and Screen
- **Camile Oliveira (Canada/Brazil)**  
*WPS and the Climate Crisis: Rethinking Possibilities Through Art*  
Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies
- **Michael Pastor (Philippines)**  
*Masculinity, Privacy, And Sex Work: Interrogating Sexual Imageries of Male Sexual Content Creators on Twitter*  
Supervisor: Dr Sarah Steele, Jesus College, University of Cambridge
- **Krisztina Rékai (Hungary)**  
*A queer intersectional analysis of the lived experiences of Roma transgender individuals within the geopolitical context of contemporary Hungary*  
Supervisor: Dr Marcin Smietana, Reproductive Sociology Research Group (ReproSoc)
- **Rachel Sung (Australia/Hong Kong)**  
*Scatting Queer! Race, Gender and Performing Identities in the Case of Jazz Vocalists*  
Supervisor: Dr Natalie Morningstar, Department of Social Anthropology
- **YanQing Wang (China)**  
*Flower Buds of the Nation and Cultural Globalisation: Mothers, Boys and Masculinity Training Camps*  
Supervisor: Dr Hakan Sandal-Wilson, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies

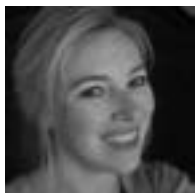
# MPhil Lecturers



**Professor Caroline Bassett**  
English



**Professor Carol Brayne CBE**  
Cambridge Public Health



**Professor Jude Browne**  
UCCGS; Public Policy



**Professor Clare Chambers**  
Philosophy



**Dr Leigh Denault**  
History



**Dr Eleanor Drage**  
UCCGS; Future of Intelligence Studies



**Dr Hannah Elsis**  
History



**Dr John Filling**  
Philosophy



**Professor Robert Foley**  
Human Evolutionary Studies



**Professor Sarah Franklin**  
Sociology



**Professor Susan Golombok**  
Centre for Family Research



**Dr Susanne Hakenbeck**  
Archaeology







**Dr Susan Imrie**  
Centre for Family  
Research



**Dr Ruth Jackson  
Ravenscroft**  
Divinity



**Dr Sarah Kennedy**  
English



**Professor Rae  
Langton**  
Philosophy



**Professor Tony  
Lawson**  
Economics



**Dr Kerry Mackereth**  
UCCGS; Future of  
Intelligence Studies



**Professor Alyce  
Mahon**  
Visual Arts



**Dr Beatriz Marín-  
Aguilera**  
Archaeology



**Professor Emma  
Mawdsley**  
Development Studies  
and Geography



**Professor Juliet  
Mitchell**  
UCCGS;  
Psychoanalysis



**Dr Douglas  
Momberg**  
Human Evolutionary  
Studies



**Dr Mónica Moreno  
Figueroa**  
Sociology

# MPhil Lecturers



**Dr Julienne Obadia**  
UCCGS; Social  
Anthropology



**Dr Eleanor  
O'Gorman**  
International Studies  
and Development



**Professor Robin  
Osborne**  
Classics



**Professor Catherine  
Pickstock**  
Divinity



**Dr Holly Porter**  
UCCGS; African  
Studies



**Dr Mezna Qato**  
Asian and Middle  
Eastern Studies



**Professor Sarah  
Radcliffe**  
Geography



**Professor J.D.  
Rhodes**  
Film Studies



**Dr Alessia Ronchetti**  
Italian; MMLL



**Dr Rihlat Said-  
Mohamed**  
Human Evolutionary  
Studies



**Professor Helena  
Sanson**  
Italian; MMLL



**Professor Jens  
Scherpe**  
Law





**Dr Erica Segre**  
Visual Arts



**Dr Sertaç Sehlkoglul**  
Social Anthropology



**Dr Brigitte Steger**  
Asian and Middle Eastern Studies



**Dr Amy Tobin**  
Visual Arts



**Dr Karina Vold**  
Future of Intelligence Studies



**Dr Lauren Wilcox**  
UCCGS; International Relations

## Dr Erica Segre



We were saddened to learn of the death of Dr Erica Segre, Fellow of Trinity College and Affiliated Lecturer, Newnham College after a long illness in 2021. Erica was an awe-inspiring and beloved guest lecturer on the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies Text Seminar course for many years, and was of the world's foremost specialists on Mexican and Latin American visual culture in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. With her yearly presentations to our MPhil students on the works of Ana Mendieta, Frida Kahlo, and other artists, Erica brilliantly brought alive many themes of memory, materiality, texture, gender, violence and much more, inspiring us and our students alike with her dazzling and wide-ranging analysis. She will be much missed.

## 2 Scholarships



Gates Cambridge Scholarships ([www.gatescambridge.org](http://www.gatescambridge.org)) are awarded to outstanding applicants from outside the UK to pursue a postgraduate degree in any subject at the University of Cambridge. The highly competitive programme aims to build a global network of future leaders committed to improving the lives of others. Applicants to our MPhil and PhD programmes are strong contenders for the Gates Scholarships and in the academic years 2019–20 and 2020–21 we were delighted to have Gates International Scholars studying at the Centre.



**UCCGS Gates US Scholar 2019–20**  
**Anna Forringer-Beal (USA)**  
**PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies 2019–20**

*From White Slaves to Trafficking Victims: The impact of white slavery narratives on contemporary human trafficking policy*

The White Slavery Panics at the end of the nineteenth century laid the foundation for anti-human trafficking law. However, the connection between these events and contemporary policy has remained elusive. My research examines the legal history behind the UK Modern Slavery Act of 2015 and the US Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to better understand how early perceptions of immigrants and sex workers impact current policy decisions. Using critical discourse analysis to examine historic anti-trafficking laws and popular white slavery narratives, I investigate the conversation between these two discourses. This reveals a series of legislative decisions influenced by xenophobia that I further explore using critical race and gender theory. These patterns in early human trafficking law carry implications for how we approach anti-trafficking measures today. This work argues to refocus policy using a human rights-based approach that places the needs of trafficking survivors at its centre.



**UCCGS Gates Cambridge International Scholar 2019–20**  
**Ola Osman (Canada)**  
**PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies 2019–20**

*Where are they Now? Documenting the Reintegration Needs of Ex-Combatant Women in Liberia fifteen years after the civil war*

The transatlantic slave economy and “post-colonial rebel movements” have conventionally been regarded as distinct phenomena (Mkandawire, 2002); this study is interested in mapping the continuities between racial slavery, its attendant gendered logics and the Liberian civil war (1989–2003). If “insurgencies derive basically from blocked political aspirations, and in some cases also from reactive desperation” (Clapham, 1998, p. 5) it is imperative to consider how the spectre of the plantation economy is a constitutive aspect in the genealogy of modern forms of Liberian governance, sovereignty, social life, subjection and *insurrection*. This study looks at how anti-blackness functions as a kind of absence that composes and propels the epistemological and ontological orderings of space and subjectivity and examines the evidence that it always already permeates rebel ideology. There subsists an extensive body of scholarship that attends to how Liberian women contributed to the end of that country’s civil war; but writings on their wartime experiences and *why* they fought remain meagre. Ruminating on the *why* can aid in an investigation of how sexualized and racialized configurations of power persisted and transmogrified on the *other* side of the Atlantic waters, bringing about the “resubordination of the emancipated” (Hartman, 2010, p. 16).





### **UCCGS Gates Cambridge International Scholar 2019–20**

**Reetika Revathy Subramanian (India)**

**PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies 2019–20**

*Brides of Drought: Gendered interlinkages between labour and marriage migration of adolescent wives/workers in India's climate crisis*

Anchored at the intersections of marriage migration and girlhood studies, my doctoral research proposes to make visible the labour and experiences of adolescent girls in the context of a climate crisis. I seek to combine a multi-sited feminist ethnography with an informed interpretation of community women's oral folk songs of labour, to understand the complex ways in which early marriage is used as an institutional means to produce a particular workforce of adolescent wife-workers in capitalist labour markets, in India's historically drought-prone and caste-ridden Marathwada region. To develop this exploratory thesis, I will pursue two simultaneous trajectories set against the backdrop of frequent and intense droughts: one linked to the historical and socio-economic changes that have driven early marriage and survival migration, and another occurring as the adolescent girls become wives and workers. By training the spotlight on the analytical idea of girlhood and (re)productive labour, I aim to demystify the structural hierarchies and complex processes underlying these exchanges.



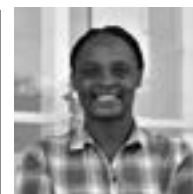
### **UCCGS Gates Cambridge International Scholar 2020–21**

**Dela Amemate (Ghana)**

**PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies 2020–21**

*Traditional Cultural Norms, Technology and Gender Relations in Ghana*

Traditional cultural values and norms play a role in how gender is conceptualised, understood, and portrayed in African societies. Although the fight for gender equality is not new in many African societies, women and non-binary gender identities continue to be disadvantaged by discriminatory cultural systems and structures. Technology has become a significant aspect of gender equality efforts that are changing cultural norms and gender relations in many African societies. But the impact of technology also holds negative consequences for African women and non-binary gender identities. Citizens of countries like Ghana have used social media to shut down sexuality education and homosexuality legalisation efforts. My research aims to understand the relationship between traditional cultural values and norms in Ghana, technology, and Ghanaian peoples' perceptions of gender equality and non-binary gender identities and relations. The study will explore the traditions of the Ewe and Akan people of Ghana and look at how cyberfeminism is changing the norms that these two ethnic groups uphold regarding gender through a qualitative research approach.



### **UCCGS Gates Cambridge International Scholar 2020–21**

**Emmah Wabuke (Kenya)**

**PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies 2020–21**

*Towards A Gendered Disarmament, Disengagement and Reintegration (DDR) Program in Countering Violent Extremism: The Somalia Conflict and Female Militancy in Al-Shabaab*

Earlier generations of DDR Programming came into effect after completion of the armed conflict. However, 'new wars' such as violent extremism necessitates a DDR Program capable of operating in contexts of continuing threats to peace and security. While international stakeholders are in the process of fine-tuning DDR-CVE Programs, my research project argues that it is important to include gender into these deliberations. To do so, my work attempts to merge three outwardly-distinct terms in post-conflict legal studies: socio-legal theory, gender and Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration in Countering Violent Extremism (DDR-CVE) in order to generate a better understanding of developing realistic and socially-relevant legal frameworks to counter violent extremism in Kenya. Herein, I shall interrogate how the international legal principles on DDR-CVE given in the UN-based WPS and CVE normative frameworks are applied in the Kenyan domestic context. I shall primarily employ socio-legal methodology which will be helpful in guiding the fieldwork experience by ensuring that the empirical data collected can speak back to the principles contained in the WPS and CVE normative frameworks.

## UCCGS Funding Awards, Academic years 2019–20, 2020–21 and 2021–22



Jenny Carla Moran, PhD.  
**AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership**  
*Loveability*

Naoise Murphy, PhD.  
**AHRC Open-Oxford-Cambridge Doctoral Training Partnership, Isaac Newton Trust Studentship**  
*Queering Irish Women's Writing in the Twentieth Century*



Stefanie Felsberger, PhD.  
**Cambridge Trust European Scholarship**  
*Global Data Flows and Menstruation*

Adelle Goldenberg, MPhil.  
**Harvard-Cambridge Scholarship**  
*Religion, Gender, and the Law: Tackling Tensions Between Free Exercise and Human Rights*

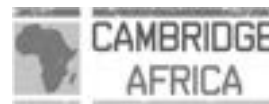
Cecile Huber, MPhil.  
**Cambridge European and Newnham College Scholarship**

*Sibling Trauma and Fellow Feeling: Reading Rousseau's Emile and Grouchy's Letters on Sympathy with Mitchell's Law of the Mother*

Ayanda Mhlongo, MPhil.  
**Cambridge Trust and Churchill South African Scholarship**  
*Menstrual Hygiene Management: A study of refugee women's experience*

Jess Molyneux, MPhil.  
**Cambridge Trust and Trinity Hall Studentship**  
*Displaced Dependencies: Family Ties In/Against UK Asylum Narratives and Policy*

Krisztina Reкаи, MPhil.  
**Cambridge Trust Master's Opportunity Scholarship and the Paula Brown Scholarship, Murray Edwards College**  
*A queer intersectional analysis of the lived experiences of Roma transgender individuals within the geopolitical context of contemporary Hungary*



Maimuna Mohamud, PhD.  
**Cambridge Trust Africa Scholarship**  
*Peace Negotiations and Remaking Political Community in Somalia*

Jenny Carla Moran, PhD.  
**Cambridge European & Newnham College Scholarship**  
*Loveability*



Farhana Rahman, PhD. Cambridge  
**International Trust and Murray Edwards Scholarship; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Scholarship**  
*Making a Life for Themselves: Gender, Identity, and Everyday Negotiations of Rohingya Women in Bangladesh's Refugee Camps*

Alice Roberts-Dunn, MPhil. Cambridge UK  
**Masters Scholarship**  
*The Group Representation of Women: Representation, Justice, and the Principal/Agent Model*

Kennith Rosario, MPhil.  
**Chevening Cambridge Scholarship**  
*Queer asylum in Berlin: The dissonance between the lived realities of queer refugees and intelligibility of 'fear' and 'persecution'*



Lisa Vickers, PhD.

**Cambridge Trust Scholarship**

*Feminist Political Parties: Sustainability, Longevity, and Impacts*

Shuai (Eddie) Wei, PhD.

**CSC Cambridge Trust Scholarship**

*Judges' Gender and Judging in China*



Julia Doyle, PhD.

**Emmanuel College Derek Brewer Scholarship**

*Syrian Refugee Storytelling and the 'Survivor-Witness-Messenger': Knowledge and Violence in Displacement Narratives*



Economic and Social Research Council  
Shaping Society

Juliet Allen, PhD.

**ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership**

*Social Norms and Fathers' Use of Parental Leave Entitlements*

Stefanie Felsberger, PhD.

**ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership**

*Menstruation and Data Flows*



Mamasa Camara, PhD.

**Gates Cambridge International Scholarship**

*The Political Economy of Female Circumcision in the Gambia*

Juliana Demartini-Brito, PhD.

**Gates Cambridge International Scholarship**

*Queer Futurity in Latin America*

Kerry Mackereth, PhD.

**Gates Cambridge International Scholarship**

*Bodies at their Limits: Rethinking Political Violence Through Women's Hunger Strikes*

Sharmila Parmanand, PhD.

**Gates Cambridge International Scholarship**

*Saving our Sisters: Critical inquiry into sex trafficking discourses and interventions in the Philippines*



Megan Ennis, MPhil.

**Hughes Hall College Research Grant and University of Michigan – College of Engineering**

*Whose Voice Is It Anyway? Inclusive Engineering Education through Grassroots and Institutional Practices*



Rachel Sung, MPhil.

**Sir Edward Youde Memorial Fellowship for Overseas Studies**

*Scatting Queer! Race, Gender and Performing Identities in the Case of Jazz Vocalists*

### 3 The Distinguished Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professorship



Professors Carl Djerassi and Diane Middlebrook

**The Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professorship was generously established by Carl Djerassi (29 October 1923 – 30 January 2015), Professor Emeritus of Chemistry at Stanford University, inventor of the contraceptive pill and an internationally renowned playwright, poet and author. He established the professorship in honour of his wife Diane Middlebrook, (16 April 1939 – 15 December 2007) who was herself Professor Emerita of Stanford University and Chair of Feminist Studies there. The Visiting Professorship scheme is a unique academic position designed to host the most distinguished international scholars from any academic discipline with an interest in gender at the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies. As seen on pages 25–29 this scheme enables an exceptional range of scholars to think on the fundamental questions of humanity through a gender lens and we are extremely grateful to Carl and Diane for such an extraordinary endowment..**





## The Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor 2019–20



### Visiting Professorship Report, Rosi Braidotti, Michaelmas term 2019

It is with pleasure and gratitude that I write this report of my term at the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies, under the directorship of Professor Jude Browne, Frankopan Director of Gender Studies, Dr Lauren Wilcox, Deputy Director, Dr Holly Porter, Lecturer in Gender Studies and Ms Joanna Bush, Centre Administrator.

I look back upon my time in Cambridge as one of the most inspiring I have had in my career.

The company of students and colleagues was both intellectually stimulating and personally enjoyable. I am deeply grateful to the Centre and to Professor Carl Djerassi, the sponsor of the Visiting Professorship, for having made it possible. This is an important and valuable academic scheme, which I hope will continue and even grow in the future. I felt honoured to be part of it.

#### Research

The main project I pursued during my visiting professorship in Cambridge was the drafting of the third and last volume of my posthuman

trilogy, called *Posthuman Feminism*, forthcoming with Polity Press.

This book sums up my argument about the posthuman turn in feminist theory, which I had been developing over the last seven years and provides provocative readings of contemporary developments in women's, LGBT+ and feminist issues. It takes into account both a social context marked by political regression in terms of rights and the encouraging rise of new women's movements all over the world. Applying the affirmative but critical stance, which I like to think of as the trademark of my work, this book offers a cartography of the intersections between feminism and the posthuman predicament. The latter is defined as a convergence phenomenon between post-humanism on the one hand and post-anthropocentrism on the other: two intellectual traditions that intersect but never fully coincide. The book aims to work out the implications of the double impact of these two lines of critical enquiry for contemporary feminist practice.

In this book I argue the following theses: that contemporary feminism is neo-materialist and that in theoretical terms, feminism today is *not* a humanism; that Anthropos has been de-centred and so is the emphasis on *bios* and that as a result non-human life, *Zoe*, is now the ruling concept. The last thesis is that as a result of these shifts of perspective, today sexuality can be defined as a force beyond, beneath and after gender.



Professor Rosi Braidotti and Dr Lauren Wilcox, Visiting Professorship Lecture, Michaelmas 2019



Capacity audience at the Visiting Professorship Lecture, Newnham College, 14th October 2019.

Arguing against a hasty recomposing of an undifferentiated sense of a 'new' humanity, critical posthuman feminism calls instead for embedded and embodied, relational and affective cartographies of the new power relations that are emerging from the current geo-political order. Class, race, gender and sexual orientations, age and able-bodiedness are more than ever significant factors in framing the notion of and policing access to something we may call 'humanity'. Thus, the awareness of the global reach of the problems we are facing in the world today must not however flatten out the power differentials that sustain the collective political practice in the posthuman era.

The challenges of our era call for more complexity even and especially in the public debates about the problematic intersection of

climate change and advanced technological developments. The book ends with a plea for affirmative ethics and collaborative political projects, radical immanence, feminist new materialism and the feminist politics of locations.

My time at the Centre gave me the ideal opportunity to pursue this complex project first by comparing notes with my colleagues: Jude Browne on human rights and the general status of women, Lauren Wilcox on materialism and the posthuman turn, and Holly Porter on new and old forms of patriarchal violence. Secondly, the feedback I received on my public lecture (see below) was extremely valuable for the book project. But it was especially the discussions in the workshop and seminar, as well as the many informal talks we were able to hold, that really enriched and productively complicated the

book project. The many long hours spent in my University office and the College library were precious moments of meditation, evaluation and self-criticism that added an extra layer of moral focus and intellectual intensity to my book project. I am immensely grateful for this opportunity.

### Lectures and Teaching

I was delighted and honoured to deliver the public Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professorship Lecture at Newman College on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2019: *Posthuman Feminism and Affirmative Ethics* attracted a large and very young audience, which exceeded the expected room capacity. I was especially honoured to have some distinguished visitors in the audience, including my old friend Professor Juliet Mitchell, Professor Caroline Bassett and my



mentor, Professor Ulinka Rublack. The crowd of young students and starting researchers asked well-informed and challenging questions. I was very honoured to be treated to a splendid official dinner afterwards, hosted by the Director of the Gender Studies programme, Professor Jude Browne and I thank her warmly for her generous hospitality.

### St John's College

One of the greatest joys and privileges of my visiting professorship was to have been welcomed to St John's College where I was housed in a superb penthouse apartment (A-28) overlooking the river. That space alone would have made the visit worthwhile and I also spent many happy hours writing and reading in the working Library, which is an ideal and highly practical space for all college residents. My stay at St John's was facilitated by the caring and thoughtful mentorship of Professor Ulinka Rublack, who bestowed friendship and advice to me with grace and insight. I am truly grateful to her for showing the ways and habits of the College.

### In Addition

I want to express a sincere word of thanks for being allocated a bright and spacious office in the Alison Richard Building into which the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies is housed. Special thanks to the Centre Administrator, Ms Joanna Bush, who was a precious and constant presence and a thoughtful and efficient assistant throughout my time. I am deeply grateful for her assistance in what was at times a difficult visit – marked by the

death of my mother-in-law and the strikes that prevented many activities from taking place. My eternal gratitude to Jude Browne, intellectually brilliant, institutionally astute and personally warm, and fellow neo-materialist thinker Lauren Wilcox, who made me feel so welcome to the Centre. I enjoyed learning more about their work and getting to know them during my visit to the Centre. Thanks especially to Lauren for her generous book lending. I felt privileged to belong for a while to the academic and political project that is the Centre for Gender Studies in Cambridge and hope to be able to sustain our collaboration in the years to come, as feminist excellence becomes more and more necessary to the contemporary world.



### Prof. Rosi Braidotti (FAHA, MAE)

Distinguished University Professor  
Utrecht University, The Netherlands

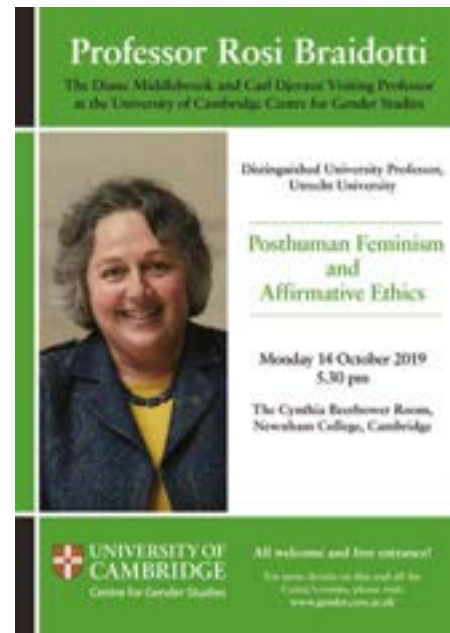
Tel +31-30-2536507

[r.braidotti@uu.nl](mailto:r.braidotti@uu.nl)

[www.rosibraidotti.com](http://www.rosibraidotti.com)

[www.uu.nl/staff/RBraidotti/0](http://www.uu.nl/staff/RBraidotti/0)

Global Development Institute,  
University of Manchester, UK



**Professor Rosi Braidotti**  
The Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor  
at the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies

Distinguished University Professor,  
Utrecht University

**Posthuman Feminism  
and  
Affirmative Ethics**

Monday 14 October 2019  
5.30 pm

The Cynthia Brooker Room,  
Newnham College, Cambridge

UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE  
Centre for Gender Studies

All welcome and free entrance!  
The event is free for all and all are  
welcome to attend. Please email  
[www.gcsu.cam.ac.uk](http://www.gcsu.cam.ac.uk)

## Previous Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professors



**Bina Agarwal**, Professor of Development Economics and Environment, University of Manchester, served as The *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting*

*Professor* during Michaelmas 2018, conducting research on *Group Farming in Asia and Europe*.



**Sandra Harding**, Distinguished Professor of Education and Gender Studies at UCLA, Los Angeles, served as the *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi*

*Visiting Professor* for the Michaelmas Term 2017, conducting research entitled *Feminist Philosophy of Science and Technology: Thinking from Latin America*



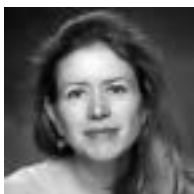
**Seyla Benhabib**, Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Yale University, served as the *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi*

*Visiting Professor* for the Lent Term 2017, conducting research entitled *Legal Utopianism and Democratic Pessimism. Transnational Law and Democratic Sovereignty*.



**Judith Butler**, Maxine Elliot Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature and the Program of Critical Theory at the University of California,

Berkeley, served as the *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor* for the Michaelmas Term 2016, conducting research entitled *New forms of vulnerability*.



**Mignon Nixon**, Professor, History of American Art, The Courtauld Institute of Art, served as the *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor*

for the Michaelmas Term 2015, conducting research entitled *Sperm Bomb: Art, Feminism, and the American War in Vietnam*.



**Jack Halberstam**, Professor of American Studies Ethnicity, Comparative Literature and Gender Studies, at the University of Southern California,

served as the *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor* during Lent 2015, conducting research on *The Wild: Histories and Futures of Queer Anarchy*.



**Jacqueline Rose**, Professor of Humanities, Birkbeck College, University of London served as The *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor*

during Michaelmas 2014, conducting research on *Feminism and the Abomination of Violence*.



**Nancy Fraser**, The Henry A. and Louise Loeb Professor of Political and Social Science and Department Chair at The New School for Social Research,

served as The *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor* during Lent 2014, conducting research on a new book project: *A Feminist Theory of Capitalist Crisis: re-reading Marx, Polanyi, and Habermas in the 21st Century*.



**John Dupré**, Professor of Philosophy of Science and Director of the ESRC Centre for Genomics in Society (Egenis) at the University of Exeter served as The *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor*

during Michaelmas 2013, conducting research on *Gender and 21st Century Biology*.





**Sara Ahmed**, Professor of Race and Cultural Studies at Goldsmiths College, University of London served as The *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting*

*Professor* during Lent 2013, conducting research on *Willful Women: Feminism and a History of Will*.



**Akbar Ahmed**, the Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at American University in Washington DC served as The *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor*

during Michaelmas 2012, conducting research on *Gender, Security, and Inter-Generational Conflict in Muslim Societies Post 9/11*.



**Cindi Katz**, Professor of Geography Environmental Psychology Program & Earth and Environmental Sciences Program at The City University of

New York, Graduate Center served as The *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor* during Michaelmas 2011 and Lent 2012, conducting research on *Childhood as Spectacle: Relays of Anxiety and the Reconfiguration of the Child*.



**Catharine MacKinnon**, the Elizabeth A. Long Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School and James Barr Ames Visiting Professor of

Law at Harvard Law School, served as The *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor* during Lent 2011, conducting research on *Trafficking, Prostitution and Inequality*.



**Marcia Inhorn**, the William K. Lanman Jr. Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs at Yale University, served as the inaugural *Diane*

*Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor* during Michaelmas 2010, conducting research on *Global Gametes: reproductive 'tourism' and Islamic bioethics in the high-tech Middle East*.

## Leverhulme Visiting Professor 2021–22



### Report of Activities

#### Stephen Brown

Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professorship

University of Cambridge  
Centre for Gender Studies

1 August 2021 – 31 July 2022

I held a visiting professorship at the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies, funded by the Leverhulme Trust, from 1 August 2021 to 31 July 2022. During that period, I spent about 46

weeks in Cambridge, taking into account travel for academic conferences abroad, a PhD viva at the University of Iceland and some personal holidays.

As Leverhulme Visiting Professor, I gave a series of three public *Leverhulme Lectures*, one per term. They were organized and hosted by the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies and open to the public. All three were well attended and elicited lively audience participation. A reception was held after each event to facilitate further exchanges.

The three Leverhulme lectures were:

*Global frictions on homosexuality: International relations and the case of LGBTQI+ rights in Tanzania*, held on 24 November 2021. The event recording is available at <https://sms.cam.ac.uk/media/3737412>.

*Visibility or impact? International efforts to defend LGBTQI+ rights in the Global South*, held on 14 March 2022. The event recording is available at <https://sms.cam.ac.uk/media/3844104>.

*Leaving No One Behind vs. Respecting Local Ownership in Development Cooperation: Conflicting Norms about LGBTQI+ Rights in Hostile Environments*, held on 6 June 2022 (in person and online). See [www.gender.cam.ac.uk/news/leverhulme-visiting-professorship-lecture-easter-term-2022](http://www.gender.cam.ac.uk/news/leverhulme-visiting-professorship-lecture-easter-term-2022).

I presented the second lecture at two international conferences: the Congreso Internacional de Estudios del Desarrollo, Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals, Spain, 8–10 June 2022 and the European Conference on Politics and Gender, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, 6–8 July 2022. I also gave it as part of a seminar series at the Institute for Diplomacy and International Governance, Loughborough University, London, 18 May 2022 and presented it at the Cambridge Centre for Research in Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities work-in-progress seminar series on 26 January 2022.

In addition, I organized with the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies to co-





host a webinar on *LGBTQ+ rights in Botswana and Ghana: Recent Victories and Current Challenges*. It was held on 27 April 2022 and featured activists from those two countries. The recording is available at <https://sms.cam.ac.uk/media/3909746>.

I was due to give a talk at the University of Leeds in February, but it was cancelled due to industrial action.

I held two activities specifically for the University of Cambridge Centre of Gender Studies: A seminar on academic publishing for

postgraduate students and early career faculty, held on 5 November 2021 in hybrid format. Attended by PhD students in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies and the event was also open to students and faculty of the Department of Politics and International Studies.

An online text seminar on 24 January 2022 during which I discussed in depth two academic articles on LGBTQI+ rights in the Global South with MPhil and PhD students in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies.

During my visiting professorship, I met with and informally provided guidance and mentorship to Cambridge University students at all levels (undergraduate, Master's and PhD), including from Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies, Sociology and Social Anthropology.

At the request of the Margaret Anstee Centre for Global Studies, Newnham College, University of Cambridge, I made a presentation on 23 May 2022 on *Current trends in Canadian development cooperation* to a visiting delegation from the EXIM Bank of India.

During my fellowship, I submitted article manuscripts on the topics of my first two Leverhulme lectures to two academic journals. I co-authored and submitted a third article, on COVID-19 vaccines and the failure of global cooperation, to a scholarly journal. All are currently under review. A co-authored chapter on Canada, France and COVID vaccines, also written during my fellowship, will be published in an edited volume in November 2022. I

published five blog entries during my visiting professorship.

I believe that my knowledge of and research on LGBTQI+ rights in the Global South and in Africa in particular was of significant benefit to University of Cambridge staff and students, especially but not limited to those at the Centre for Gender Studies, as it helped fill a gap in expertise at the University. It exposed them to facts, analysis and methodologies that complemented what was otherwise available. I was pleased to provide guidance in the area of academic publishing, especially in interdisciplinary contexts, as such training is not normally part of the official curriculum.

I am very grateful to the Leverhulme Trust to have afforded me this opportunity. The Visiting Professorship at the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies was a highlight of my career.

**Professor Stephen Brown**

Email: [brown@uottawa.ca](mailto:brown@uottawa.ca) August 23, 2022  
Professor Stephen Brown, Leverhulme Visiting Professor 2021–22

## 4 Public Engagement Series



UCCGS public lecture

### Public Lectures and Seminars in 2019–20

**Professor Sara Ahmed** (Independent Scholar) with **Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern** (Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology; Life Fellow, Girton College) and **Dr Natasha Tanna** (Lecturer in Spanish, Christ's College, Cambridge). Book launch for *What's the Use?*

**Professor Rosi Braidotti** (Distinguished University Professor, Utrecht University; Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor) on *Posthuman Feminism and Affirmative Ethics*

**J.D. Cooper** (PhD Candidate, Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages and Linguistics, University of Cambridge) on *"Barren Karens and Crazy Cat Ladies": (In)Voluntary Childlessness in the Contemporary*

**Professor Xin He** (Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong) on *Gendered Divorce Litigation in China*

The public events programme consists of high-profile lectures, symposia and a multi-disciplinary gender research seminar series. The Centre has an unparalleled record of eminent speakers on gender including Nobel Prize winners such as Amartya Sen and Shirin Ebadi; academics such as Mary Beard, Judith Butler, Jack Halberstam, Catharine MacKinnon, Carol Gilligan and Onora O'Neill; cultural figures, writers, and activists such as Jane Fonda, Larry Kramer and Nawal el Saadwi; professionals such as Helena Kennedy, scientific pioneers such as Carl Djerassi and political figures such as SRS Margot Wallström (see the Centre's 'Public Events' archive at [www.gender.cam.ac.uk](http://www.gender.cam.ac.uk)).

The Centre's Public Event Series is extremely popular and consistently attracts capacity audiences to events that span the disciplines. Below are the academic events organised in the academic years 2019–20, 2020–21 and 2021–22. The Centre ran an online events programme only in 2020–21 due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

**Dr Yasemin Giritli İnceoğlu** (Professor Emerita of Media Studies, Galatasaray University, Turkey; Visiting Research Fellow, The Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities) on *Media Coverage of LGBTI Individuals in Turkey*

**Dr Eftihia Mihelakis** (Assistant Professor, Classical and Modern Languages, Brandon University, Canada) on *At the Edge of Control: The Textual Experiment of the Gendered Body in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*

**Dr Tiffany Page** (Lecturer in Sociology, University of Cambridge) on *Vulnerable Events and Unspectacular Time: The Temporal Conditions of Knowledge*

**Dr Holly Porter** (Lecturer in Gender Studies, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies) on *Sex and War: Beyond Rape*

**Mr Samuel Williams** (PhD Candidate, Faculty of English, University of Cambridge) on *The Ethics and Politics of LGBT Representation in Young Adult Literature Schools and Health Services*





The Centre for Gender Studies hosted a book launch with lgbtQ+@cam for *What's the Use?* on Thursday 13 February 2020 in the Main Lecture Theatre, Divinity School, St. John's College. Sara Ahmed gave a fascinating presentation on her new book, which was followed by a launch discussion with Professor Dame Marilyn Strathern, Emeritus Professor of Social Anthropology; Life Fellow, Girton College and Dr Natasha Tanna, Lecturer in Spanish, Christ's College, Cambridge. There was also a special appearance by Puff Dolly, the Sheep Poet! Informal discussion was continued at the drinks reception and book signing.



Top and centre-right: Professor Sara Ahmed and UCCGS staff and students at the book signing for *What's the Use?*

Bottom: Professor Sarah Franklin (aka Puff Dolly), Professor Sara Ahmed, Professor Jude Browne, Dr Natasha Tanna and Dame Marilyn Strathern.



## Public Lectures and Seminars in 2020–21 (conducted online)

**Jules Allen** (PhD Candidate in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies) on *Gender, Performativity and Fathers' Use of Parental Leave*

**Dr Miriam Bak McKenna** (Adjunct Lecturer in International Law, Lund University, Sweden) on *Materialist Feminism: The Political Economy of Gender Equality*

**Dr Victoria Browne** (Senior Lecturer in Politics, School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Oxford Brookes University) on *Pregnancy without Birth*

**Professor Gisela Carrasco-Miró** (Visiting Professor, Gender Studies Department, Central European University, Vienna, Austria) on *Decolonizing Feminist Economics*

**Professor Lindsay Clowes** (Women's & Gender Studies Department, Faculty of Arts & Humanities, University of the Western Cape, South Africa) on *Men, masculinity and feminist theory in a South African university*

**Professor Lucy Delap** (Faculty of History, University of Cambridge) and **Catherine Arnold, OBE** (Master of St Edmund's College, Cambridge and Former UK Ambassador to Mongolia) on *Gender justice and internationalism, past and present*. Event co-hosted with the Centre for Geopolitics.

**Professor Céal M. Keegan** (Associate Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Grand Valley State University, Michigan, USA) on *Against Queer Theory, or How to do Things with Trans*

**Zakiyyah Iman Jackson, PhD** (Assistant Professor of English, University of Southern California) on *Blackwomanhood en Abyeme: The Ecstasy and Noise of Kathleen Collins's 'Losing Ground'*

**Professor Joy James** (Ebenezer Fitch Professor of the Humanities, Williams College, USA) on *Captive Maternal Contradictions: The Limits of Advocacy when "Black Women Save Democracy"*

**Dr Sophie Lewis** (Visiting Scholar, The Alice Paul Center for Research on Gender, Sexuality and Women, University of Pennsylvania; Brooklyn Institute for Social Research) on *Mothering Against Motherhood, Gestating Against Gender?*

**Professor Nkiru Nzegwu** (SUNY Distinguished Professor, Department of Africana Studies, and Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program, Binghamton University) on *Feminism as Epistemicide: A Trojan Horse of Progressivism*

**Ms Sigal Spigel** (University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies) and **Lisa Baraitser** (Birkbeck, University of London) on *Studies in the Maternal*.

## Public Lectures and Seminars in 2021–22

**Dr Síobhra Aiken** (Queen's University Belfast); **Professor Guy Beiner** (Boston College); **Dr John Borgonovo** (University College Cork); **Professor Linda Connolly** (Professor of Sociology and Director, Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute, Maynooth University; Visiting Scholar, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies); and **Dr Ailbhe McDaid** (University College Cork) on *The Irish Civil War: A roundtable discussion*

**Dr Jacob Breslow** (Assistant Professor of Gender and Sexuality, Department of Gender Studies, London School of Economics) on *'Sex is Real', and other Gender Critical Non Sequiturs: A TERF Grammar Book*

**Professor Stephen Brown** (Professor of Political Science, University of Ottawa; University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies Leverhulme Visiting Professor 2021–22; Visiting Fellow, Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH); and Visiting Fellow at Clare Hall, Cambridge) *Leverhulme Visiting Professorship Lecture: Easter Term 2022 on Leaving No One Behind vs. Respecting Local Ownership in Development Cooperation: Conflicting Norms about LGBTQI+ Rights in Hostile Environments*



**Professor Stephen Brown** (Professor of Political Science, University of Ottawa; University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies Leverhulme Visiting Professor 2021–22) *Leverhulme Visiting Professorship Lecture: Lent Term 2022 on Visibility or impact? International efforts to defend LGBTQI+ rights in the Global South*

**Professor Stephen Brown** (Professor of Political Science, University of Ottawa; University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies Leverhulme Visiting Professor 2021–22) *Leverhulme Visiting Professorship Lecture: Michaelmas term 2021 on Global frictions on homosexuality: International relations and the case of LGBTQI+ rights in Tanzania*

**Dr Julieta Chaparro Buitrago** (Reproductive Sociology Research Group (ReproSoc), University of Cambridge) on *Toward a Decolonial Reproductive Justice and the Cases of Forced Sterilization in Peru*

**Professor Linda Connolly** (Professor of Sociology and Director, Maynooth University Social Sciences Institute, Maynooth University; Visiting fellow, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies Lent Term 2022) on *Understanding Violence Against Women in the Irish Revolution – a global perspective*

**Professor Lucy Delap** (Faculty of History, University of Cambridge) on *Feminism, Race and 'Third World Women' in Late Twentieth Century Britain*

**Juliana Demartini-Brito** (PhD Candidate in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies) on *Devouring "Queer": Oswald de Andrade's "Manifesto Antropófago" and Queer Studies in Contemporary Brazil*

**Professor Audrey Gadzekpo** (Department of Communication Studies, University of Ghana) **Ms Anna Mmolai-Chalmers** (Programs Manager LGBTI, Sex Work & Disability, Southern Africa Litigation Centre) With hosts: **Professor Stephen Brown** (Professor of Political Science, University of Ottawa; University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies Leverhulme Visiting Professor 2021–22) and **Ms Amelia Amemate** (PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies) on *LGBTQI+ rights in Botswana and Ghana: Recent Victories and Current Challenges*

**Professor Jules Gill-Peterson** (Associate Professor, Department of History, Johns Hopkins University and General Co-Editor, *Transgender Studies Quarterly*) on *Being Street: On the Evidence of Trans Feminine Experience*

**Dr Yasmin Gunaratnam** (Professor in Social Justice, King's College London) on *Another way of telling: feminism and the politics of presentation*

**Jenny Moran** (PhD Candidate in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies, University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies) on *Loveability - A Critical Theory*

**Lola Olufemi** (Black Feminist Writer, Author of 'Feminism, Interrupted: Disrupting Power') on *In Search of an Imaginative Method*

**Dr Robert Pralat** (Leverhulme Early Career Fellow, Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge) on *Coming out as wanting (or not wanting) to have children: Sexual identities and reproductive orientations*

## Ms Sigal Spigel



Ms Sigal Spigel is the Coordinator and Chair of the **Multi-disciplinary Gender Research Seminar series**. She works as a psychologist and psychotherapist and her research is on motherhood, feminism and psychoanalysis. Sigal was a founding member of the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies and a member of the original Working Party, serving as a Deputy Director. Subsequently she has been an active member of the UCCGS *Gender Advisory Network*.

Sigal can be contacted about the Multi-disciplinary Gender Research Seminars at: [sis22@cam.ac.uk](mailto:sis22@cam.ac.uk)

## Gender and Technology Research Project



The Gender and Tech Research Project Team (Dr Kerry Mackereth, Ms Youngcho Lee and Dr Eleanor Drage)

Generously funded by Ms Christina Gaw, The Gender & Tech project is a cutting-edge collaboration between academia and industry premised on the mutual exchange and development of ideas, knowledge and products. This project has resulted in extensive outputs over the past two years, spanning from the largest industry study of its kind to presentations to the United Nations, NatWest, and DeepMind. Recent public communication work includes a podcast with over 16,800 downloads and TikTok and Twitter videos with over 20,000 views.

### Research Output

During the Gender and Tech project, Professor Jude Browne, Dr Eleanor Drage and Dr Kerry Mackereth conducted over 60 qualitative interviews with employees at a large technology company about the barriers to implementing AI ethics in practice, making it the largest empirical study of this topic to date. They have multiple papers in progress based on this dataset.

In October 2022, Dr Eleanor Drage and Dr Kerry Mackereth published their paper on AI-powered hiring tools titled *Does AI de-bias Recruitment?*

*Race, Gender and AI's 'Eradication of Difference Between Groups'* in Philosophy and Technology. This paper was covered by the BBC, BBC Today, Forbes, the Register, and the Daily Mail, among other outlets. In April 2023, Oxford University Press will publish an edited collection titled *Feminist AI: Critical Perspectives on Algorithms, Data and Intelligent Machines* collated by Professor Jude Browne, Dr Stephen Cave, Dr Eleanor Drage, and Dr Kerry Mackereth.

### Awards

The Christina Gaw Postdoctoral Fellows, Dr Eleanor Drage and Dr Kerry Mackereth have been recognised for their work in the field of gender and artificial intelligence (AI) by Women in AI Ethics™, who placed them on their 100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics list for 2022. This award acknowledges the impact the two have had on the field of AI ethics and the ongoing importance of our research.

Dr Kerry Mackereth was nominated and shortlisted for the 2022 Champion of Women award in the category Champion of Innovation, making it to the top three. The Awards recognise women who have paved the way, demonstrated extraordinary talent, provided support and encouragement to peers and the next generation. Dr Mackereth has also been shortlisted for the Women of the Future – Technology and Digital and Women in Tech Excellence – Rising Star awards (with results to be announced shortly).



## Events

Dr Eleanor Drage and Dr Kerry Mackereth co-organised Ruha Benjamin's Obert C. Tanner Lecture on Artificial Intelligence and Human Values (recipient of a £50,000 award grant), as well as an adjacent conference, *Critical Borders: Radical (Re)Visions of AI*. The conference examined both how AI operates at material borders, such as at national borders, and how AI produces or transgresses imagined, theoretical and ideological borders, such as categories of race, gender, age and class. Alongside five academic panels, the conference also featured three artists whose work focuses on the intersections of gender and technology. It provided a wonderful opportunity to exchange knowledge and network.

On April 27, 2022, the Gender & Technology research team hosted, in collaboration with the Ada Lovelace Institute, *Feminist Approaches to AI Ethics in Industry: A One-day Policy Workshop*. This closed expert workshop brought together leading practitioners, policymakers, and researchers to discuss industry practitioners' experiences of artificial intelligence (AI) in the workplace, and how a feminist approach can inform its ethical design and deployment. Around a dozen experts from across the industry and policy sphere joined the virtual workshop and contributed their valuable thoughts.

## Public Outreach

During the Gender and Technology project, Dr Drage and Dr Mackereth founded *The Good Robot* podcast, which as of October 2022 has been downloaded over 16,000 times. The Podcast has featured some of the biggest names in gender studies and science and technology studies. The aim of this podcast is to show how feminist work and ideas are driving ethical technology, and to communicate this in an accessible format to technology practitioners and the wider public. It brings the public conversations with people at the cutting edge of technological innovation and the most persuasive critics of these new technologies. Within its first week of release, *The Good Robot* reached number 42 on the Top 100 chart for Technology podcasts on Apple Podcasts in the United Kingdom in its first season. Our guests have included Rosi Braidotti, Jack Halberstam, N. Katherine Hayles, Neda Atanasoski, Anne Anlin Cheng, and Wendy Chun. Dr Drage and Dr Mackereth are in negotiations with Bloomsbury Academic for an edited volume *The Good Robot: Leading Thinkers in Feminism and Technology* and will be receiving the contract shortly in November.

As the hosts of the *Good Robot* podcast, Dr Drage and Dr Mackereth were featured on leading podcasts such as the *Radical AI* podcast and the *Guilty Feminist Live Show*. Additionally, in summer 2022 Dr Drage was commissioned to write, film and present a short video series on protest recognition technology by Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Carole Cadwalladr and her non-profit public communications group *The Citizens*. The first video reached 15k views in 3 hours, and currently has 20k+ views, 355+ likes and 273 retweets.



Dr Drage and Dr Mackereth have given a wide range of presentations in both academic and industry settings, including at NatWest, the Open Data Institute, DeepMind, the Tony Blair Institute, the UN, RightsCon, the AI World Congress, the Institute of Science and Technology, AIES, York Festival of Ideas, Mindshop Café, PhD Divas, *The Fault in Our Algorithms*, and the Cambridge Centre for Science and Policy.

Finally, Dr Eleanor Drage led a team of third-year computer scientists to create a tool called the 'Personality Machine'. By enabling the use of your computer's camera, the tool demonstrates how AI tools attempt to identify personality – and 'hireability' – from your face, body, and image background. This interdisciplinary collaboration can help candidates fight back against unfair and unregulated AI products. It was also a component of the extensive media coverage of her and Dr Mackereth's work on hiring software.

## Future Plans

As part of a wider team at the University of Cambridge Centre for Future Intelligence (CFI) Dr Drage and Dr Mackereth have contributed to applying for and successfully securing a £1.6 million grant to study the impact of AI on human values. This project, called 'Desirable Digitalisation: An Intersectional Approach' will be funded by the German foundation Stiftung Mercator and aims to develop insights and tools for ensuring that digital technologies are deployed in ways that conform to values of equality, human dignity, and rights of minorities. The two postdocs will be able to stay at Cambridge at the Leverhulme Centre for Future Intelligence as a postdoctoral researcher for an additional 5 years from October 2022 and will collaborate with researchers at the University of Oxford, Imperial College London, UC Berkeley, and the University of Bonn, as well as with industry, policy, and media partners.

Dr Mackereth and Dr Drage have been signed by a literary agent at The Science Factory to work on a book proposal on feminism and technology aimed at a general public audience.

Dr Mackereth has been recognised for her work on anti-Asian racism and AI with a Visiting Fellowship at UCL, starting in February 2023, at the Sarah Parker Remond Centre for the Study of Racism and Racialisation.

Dr Drage has been invited to be the point person and sole researcher on a €65,000+ project advising an Italian AI consultancy and solutions provider AMMAGAMMA on how to understand and respond to the potential impact of (EU values-driven) rules in an ever-changing AI landscape (October 2022 onwards).

## Ms Christina Gaw, Gaw Capital



Christina Gaw is a Managing Principal, Global Head of Capital Markets and Co-Chair of Alternative Investments at Gaw Capital. She works closely with limited partners relating to capital raising and new product developments. Christina was named Global PERE's Rainmaker 30 and one of the Top 10 PERE's Women of Influence in 2021. Prior to joining Gaw Capital, Christina had an investment banking career with Goldman Sachs and UBS as Managing Director for over 15 years. She has deep experience in covering some of the largest institutional investors globally.

Christina is also active in community and educational sector capacity work in Hong Kong and the UK. She is currently an honorary advisor of Hong Kong PropTech Association, a board member of InspiringHK Sports Foundation and an advisor of Teach

for Hong Kong, Time Auction, finance committee member and board member of Hong Kong International School, and board member of Stellart International School of Arts. In addition, she is executive committee vice chairwoman of St. Paul's Co-educational College Alumni Association, a corporate member of the Cheltenham Ladies College UK, school supervisor for TWGHs S. C. Gaw Memorial College and the council member of Lingnan University, Hong Kong. She also served as the board member of The Women's Foundation for over 10 years from 2009 to 2019 and the board treasurer of The Hong Kong Ballet Group from 2010 to 2017.

Christina received her B.S in Business Administration from the University of San Francisco, California.



## Gender and Working Lives Reading Group



Jules Allen, PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies, co-convened the *Gender and Working Lives* reading and research group.

### **Gender and Working Lives Reading Group Online Meeting**

The multi-disciplinary *Gender and Working Lives* research cluster met throughout the academic years 2019–20 and 2020–21. We held a series of reading groups pairing classic texts on gender with more recent scholarly contributions examining the gendered dynamics of work. We

revisited work by Catherine MacKinnon, Joan Acker, Nancy Folbre, Raewyn Connell and Donna Haraway and engaged with contemporary scholarship by Tithi Bhattacharya, Yu-Kang Fan, Rhacel Parreñas, Rajni Palriwala, and Neetha N.

In response to strike action that took place across Michaelmas and Lent terms, we organised two teach outs. The Michaelmas theme was 'Care and Activism in Academia'. The Lent theme was 'Gender and Labour', where we considered the types of reproductive work performed within the university as well as who undertakes this work.

Both events introduced our collective to new engagement across the University.

To adapt to the context of global coronavirus crises, we moved our reading group online for Easter term and launched a new weekly writing group. Moving the group online enabled participants to join from around the world, adding new insights and a breadth of perspectives to discussions. The weekly writing group opened up a whole new academic community as well as enriching our sense of purpose and solidarity, both invaluable during these challenging times.

**Jules Allen,**  
**PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies**

## Methods in Question: Epistemologies of Gender and Sexuality seminar series



Dr Hakan Sandal-Wilson, PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies, coordinated the **Methods in Question: Epistemologies of Gender and Sexuality** seminar series in the academic years 2019–20 and 2020–21.

The *Methods in Question: Epistemologies of Gender and Sexuality* seminar series (<https://methodsinquestion.co.uk>) at the Centre for Gender Studies, which investigates research methods and methodologies employed in gender and sexuality studies, had a thriving 2019–20 academic year. During the 2020–21 academic year, due to Covid-19, the series had a quieter year, yet online it continued to add content, send out newsletters, and publicise job adverts and calls for papers in gender and sexuality studies.

Convening the series for three years at the Centre, it has been a real pleasure for me to observe the growing interest in the series' events

from across departments and centres at the University of Cambridge, and the global reach of its blog. In the 2019–20 academic year, the series hosted a diverse range of scholars exploring topics including how coloniality operates within non-Western contexts (Professor Dibyesh Anand); feminist and anti-racist methods of engaging with archives (Kerry Mackereth); locating gender in ethnographies of work (Dr Asiya Islam); creative theorising in academic writing (Dr Natasha Tanna); and LGBT+ organising in the fields of STEM (Dr Alfredo Carpineti). Alongside the seminars, and in response to growing scholarly and popular interest, we also started a reading group, entitled 'Queer Critique and Conflict', under the 'Methods in Question' series. The objective of this reading group is to draw attention to critique developed through queer thinking about war and conflict. Participants in the first session included students and researchers from the Centre of Islamic Studies, the English Faculty, the Department of Political and International Studies, and the Department of Sociology, as well as HSPS undergraduates.

The seminar series' website has had its share of firsts as well. Some of the recordings of the seminars are available on the series' website, as are resources about methods and methodologies in gender and sexuality studies – articles, books, calls for papers – for those who are interested in researching gender and sexuality. In addition to this, I have begun conducting interviews with prominent scholars, which continue to be added to the website. At the moment, the site features interviews with Dr Paulina Palmer about using 'queer fiction' as a



method in understanding gender and sexuality, a conversation with Dr Natasha Tanna about the politics of writing during crises, and an interview with Professor James N. Green on biography as a method in understanding homosexuality in social and revolutionary movements. Alongside the seminars and the reading group, I am looking forward to cultivating this space further to provide a resource on key and alternative methods in gender and sexuality studies by foregrounding the lived experience of researchers.

**Dr Hakan Sandal-Wilson,  
PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies**





## Race Talks Seminar Series



Photo credit: Tito Teodoro III on Unsplash

*Race Talks* is a bi-weekly seminar series that investigates processes and histories of race and gender making. It aims to foster critical conversation about race and provides a forum for students from across the University who are interested in integrating critical race approaches and feminist scholarship into their work. *Race Talks* is attuned to the ways in which universities as institutions are animated by histories of colonialism, which in turn shape the organisation of knowledge production as well as our citational practices. In view of this fact, we are particularly committed to inviting scholars of colour in a feminist effort to honour the radical intellectual work that emerges from the margins. The seminar series was founded and is co-convened by Ola Osman (PhD Candidate, Centre for Gender Studies) and Kerry Mackereth (Christina Gaw Research Associate in Gender and Technology, Centre for Gender Studies).

*Race Talks* had its inaugural series of seminars in Easter Term 2020. In the first seminar, *Race + Gender*, Ola Osman and Kerry Mackereth introduced the *Race Talks* seminar series and facilitated a discussion on Hortense Spillers' *Mama's Baby, Papa's Maybe: An American Grammar Book*. In the second seminar, *Diaspora + Transnationalism*, UCCGS alumna Mansi Hitesh led a discussion on the importance of terms such as diaspora and transnationalism, exploring how we might deploy the two methodologically. The third seminar, *Knowledge + Education*, led by POLIS PhD Candidate Niyousha Bastani, examined the concept of 'education as initiation'. Bastani explored how education initiates members of society into particular 'genres of being'. She encouraged us to consider assumptions we hold about the role of education in relation to social justice, and how we might conceptualise education in the university if we were to think of it instead as an initiation. Finally, in the fourth session, *Motherhood + Mourning*, Erica S. Lawson, Associate Professor in the Department of Women's Studies and Feminist Research at The University of Western Ontario, presented her work in progress, titled *Genealogies of Black Maternal Mourning: Two Jamaican Mothers and the Politics of Death in Antiracist World*.

We feel extremely privileged to have hosted such exceptional speakers at the seminar series, and we are already looking forward to hosting another set of speakers in the next academic year.

# 5 PhD Programme in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies

## Current PhD Students



**Jules Allen**  
(ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership Studentship)  
**Social Norms and Fathers' Use of Parental Leave Entitlements**

Supervisor: Professor Jude Browne (University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies)

### Abstract:

My research examines the ways that social and cultural norms influence fathers' decisions about use of parental leave, using an understanding of parenting as gendered and performative. Despite significant changes made to parental leave allocations in Europe in recent years, fathers' take-up of leave entitlements remains consistently lower than mothers', even in countries with the most gender-sensitive frameworks including 'daddy quotas' and other paternal incentives.

This research uses a mixed methodology and focuses on Portugal, Sweden and the UK. The project investigates the significance of social norms and gendered responsibilities in decisions about who uses leave, and examines how parenting practice has the potential to both reinscribe and unsettle the gender binary.

I co-convene the Gender and Working Lives reading and research group and tweet at Jules\_Allen\_



**Amelia AmeDela Amemate**  
(Gates Cambridge International Scholarship)  
**Traditional Cultural Norms, Technology and**

### Gender Relations in Ghana

Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter (University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies)

### Abstract:

Traditional cultural values and norms play a role in how gender is conceptualised, understood, and portrayed in African societies. Although the fight for gender equality is not new in many African societies, women and non-binary gender identities continue to be disadvantaged by discriminatory cultural systems and structures. Technology has become a significant aspect of gender equality efforts that are changing cultural norms and gender relations in many African societies. But the impact of technology also holds negative consequences for African women and non-binary gender identities. Citizens of countries like Ghana have used social media to shut down sexuality education and homosexuality legalisation efforts. My research aims to understand the relationship between traditional cultural values and norms in Ghana, technology, and Ghanaian peoples' perceptions of gender equality and non-binary gender identities and relations. The study will explore the traditions of the Ewe and Akan people of Ghana and look at how cyberfeminism is changing the norms that these two ethnic groups uphold regarding gender through a qualitative research approach.



**Mamasa Camara**  
(Gates Cambridge International Scholarship)  
**The Political Economy of Female Circumcision**

Supervisor: Dr Adam Branch  
(Department of Politics and International Studies)

### Abstract:

The smallest West African nation of the Gambia has, in recent years, become the stage for an intensive debate surrounding the practice of female circumcision as well as a great deal of change in both the practice itself and the discourses that surround it. Through feminist and postcolonial analysis as well as the historical analysis of archives, my research project offers a case-based study on the dynamics of these debates and the extent to which they are shaped by both global and local processes (like democratization, Islamic revivalism and modernization) and by the shifting dynamics of culture, gender and power. I ask the following questions: (1) What are the mechanisms of this process? (2) What regimes of rule, politics and entangled knowledge structure the field upon which female circumcision is discursively produced and negotiated and (3) How have they affected both the gendered subjectivities and lived experiences of Gambian women as well as the relations between citizens and the State?





**Juliana Demartini-Brito** (Gates Cambridge International Scholarship)

**Queer Futurity in Brazil**

Supervisor: Dr Lauren Wilcox (University of

Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies)

**Abstract:**

My PhD research explores how Brazilian cultural production provides alternative lenses to interpret the topic of queer temporality. I bridge Brazilian social theory and queer theory to analyse performances, art, and activism that counter the current homogenizing and bleak discourse of sexuality in the country. I show how these notions have contributed to crafting new forms of belonging in the country's future. With my research, I hope to strengthen the tie between Latinx and queer studies and advance the debate on the different shapes the dialogue of queer temporality takes across cultures.



**Julia Doyle** (Emmanuel College Derek Brewer Scholarship)

**Syrian Refugee Storytelling and the 'Survivor-Witness-Messenger': Knowledge**

**and Violence in Displacement Narratives**

Supervisor: Dr Lauren Wilcox (University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies)

**Abstract:**

My PhD research focuses on storytelling by Syrian refugees, namely involving feminist & postcolonial readings of texts including original oral history interviews, memoirs, first person journalistic accounts and other media. My research is positioned in IR as well as the broader, interdisciplinary fields of refugee/migration studies, narrative studies. The motivation of my research is to explore the production of subjectivity in the context of numerous discourses around refugee identity which often requires negotiation of existing stories about forced migration and tropes around security, difference and the meanings assigned to journeys. I am especially interested in how systems of gender and race are understood and intertextually engaged with in reference to space, security, movement, memory and identity. My oral history data collection is supported by The Welcoming, a migrant and refugee support service in Edinburgh. My dissertation will also focus on the politics of researching refugee subjects and communities, the relationships of power and privilege between the academy and research subjects as well as developing feminist collaborative methodologies which attempt to respond to such analyses of academic practice.



**Stefanie Felsberger** (ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership/Cambridge

Trust Scholarship)

**Global Data Flows and Menstruation**

Supervisor: Dr Lauren Wilcox (University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies)

**Abstract:**

Tech companies have amassed great capital through the commodification of data generated by people in their daily lives: this data is either sold or used to gain behavioural insights. In my research, I focus on this intersection of data as source of value and knowledge, which underpins most business models in the digital economy. I look at women using fertility tracking applications which gather some of the most sensitive and sought-after information. I research how women in Egypt and Austria navigate the commodification of their personal data to question conceptions of gender and labour in discussions on surveillance capitalism, data ownership and commodification. I hope to (re) think the power relationship between data producers and technology owners and to find ways how woman can regain some say over what happens to *their* data.



**Anna Forringer-Beal**  
(Gates-Cambridge USA  
Scholarship)

**From White Slaves to  
Trafficking Victims: How  
Historic Perceptions**

**of Migrants Shape Contemporary Anti-  
Trafficking Policy**

Supervisor: Professor Jude Browne (University of  
Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies)

**Abstract:**

Campaigns against white slavery at the end of the nineteenth century laid the foundation for anti-human trafficking law. However, the connection between these events and contemporary policy has remained elusive. My research examines the legal history behind the UK Modern Slavery Act of 2015 to better understand how early perceptions of immigrants and sex workers impact current policy decisions. Using critical discourse analysis to examine historic anti-trafficking laws and popular white slavery narratives, I investigate where these two discourses converge. This reveals a series of legislative decisions that I further explore using critical race and gender theory. The aim of this research is to produce a genealogical history of anti-trafficking policy and discourse to understand how patterns and assemblages persist over time. This work ultimately argues to refocus policy using a human rights-based approach that places the needs of trafficking survivors at its centre.



**Kerry Mackereth** (Gates  
Cambridge International  
Scholarship)

**Bodies at their Limits:  
Rethinking Political  
Violence Through**

**Women's Hunger Strikes**

Supervisor: Dr Harald Wydra (Department of  
Politics and International Studies)

**Abstract:**

Hunger strikers operate in a liminal space between the active political subject and the passive “victim” of violence that underpin many theories of political violence. Through a feminist and anti-racist analysis of two women’s hunger strikes in the United Kingdom – the hunger strikes conducted by the British suffragette movement between 1909–1914 and the 2018 hunger strike at Yarl’s Wood Immigration Removal Centre (IRC) – this thesis makes three arguments regarding how women’s hunger strikes challenge conceptions of political violence centred around the liberal humanist subject and its victimised humanitarian “other”. First, in response to approaches that frame hunger strikes as a form of political speech, this thesis argues that gender and race shape how the pained body “speaks”. Second, it insists that an analysis of what hunger-striking body “says” must also include an interrogation of what the hunger striking body “does”. Consequently, this thesis examines the performative qualities of the hunger strikes in the suffragette movement and at Yarl’s Wood IRC, showing how the significance and the effects of these hunger strikes extended beyond their vernacular qualities. Third, this thesis argues that hunger strikes contain the

potential to undermine the liberal humanist figure at the centre of theories of political violence. It contends that the suffragettes’ use of hunger strikes in the service of an imperialist political platform demonstrates how the hunger striking in and of itself does not necessarily disrupt this liberal humanist ideal. Nonetheless, it suggests that the Yarl’s Wood hunger strike shows how hunger striking can challenge the division between the liberal humanist subject and the humanitarian victim through relations of solidarity and interdependency. Together, these three arguments lay the foundations for rethinking certain precepts of political violence, in particular how political violence produces the human and its humanitarian others and how political protests resist this distinction.



**Ayanda Mhlongo**  
(Cambridge Trust and  
Churchill College South  
African Scholarship;  
Future Africa Fellow and  
recipient of the 2022 Mail  
& Guardian 200 Young South Africans Award)

**Exploring historical trauma in South Africa:  
from the perspective of black South African  
women**

Supervisor: Dr Mónica Moreno Figueroa  
(Department of Sociology, University of  
Cambridge)

**Abstract:**

In South Africa, when apartheid ended, a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was established to help the country deal with the mass violence and gross human rights violations that took place during apartheid. In as much



as the TRC did not solve all the challenges of a post-apartheid South Africa, it did try to disrupt the intergenerational transmission of trauma. However, the remorseful apologies by the perpetrators of apartheid were and are not enough to heal the continuing pain of those that are still disposed, poor and disenfranchised. In South Africa, it is women who experience the worst form of marginalization and oppression, especially black women. Black South African women struggle the most to deal with the imbalances of race, class, privilege, and power epitomized by South Africa's history, trauma, and legacy of apartheid. Oppression and exclusion, based on race and gender, are responsible for circumscribing the lives of black women. As a result, this study explores historical trauma from the perspective of black South African women. Such an exploration will enable us to trace the ways in which historical contexts, such as apartheid, can create economic, social, and psychological disadvantages that persist across generations. This study considers the relationship between historical trauma and sustainable development in South Africa, critically interrogating what historical trauma does to a society and if questions of achieving development and growth are pertinent and to what extent. Such an exploration will provide a critical perspective that will be beneficial to South Africa (National Development Goals 2030), the rest of Africa (AU Agenda 2063) and the world (Sustainable Development Goals 2030). The study will also consider the relationship between historical trauma and a range of issues linked to inequality such as poverty, unemployment, education, health, sexism and gender equality, racism, peace, security and corruption.



**Maimuna Mohamud**  
(Cambridge Trust Africa  
Scholarship)

**Peace Negotiations  
and Remaking Political  
Community in Somalia**

Supervisor: Dr Devon Curtis (Department of  
Politics and International Studies)

**Abstract:**

This project is fundamentally concerned with the construction of political identity and social formations in the context of post-independence Somalia. Drawing on a feminist methodology which highlights the ways in which political identities and processes are built – reinforce – and subvert gendered hierarchies and asymmetries, I argue that ideas and practices of citizenship in Somalia have undergone a transformation in recent decades. More precisely, this thesis puts forward the notion that it has not just been war, famine and state collapse that have moulded the ways in which Somalis think about political belonging and categories of inclusion and participation in the national body politic, but that some of the externally-funded peace processes too have had a significant, hitherto underestimated impact on how citizenship is to be constituted and to be expressed. In doing so and emphasising the role of political novices and civil society – especially women and diaspora groups-, this dissertation rethinks the determinants of citizenship (re) construction and studies how political roles, rights and responsibilities are altered over time, erasing some inequities and exclusionary practices, while also erecting new barriers and (gendered) expectations. Furthermore, my work

contributes to the extant literature on peace-building, nation-building and war which is preoccupied with material concerns of who gets what and which strongly highlights the pivotal role of militarised elites and foreign experts, at the expense of investigating the importance of political identity in post-conflict reconstruction and the agency of non-state, unarmed political actors in impacting ideas and practices of belonging.



**Lena Moore**  
**Posthuman War: Race,  
Gender, Technology,  
and the Making of U.S.  
Military Futures**

Supervisor: Dr Lauren  
Wilcox (University of Cambridge Centre for  
Gender Studies)

**Abstract:**

My doctoral research examines drone warfare, the production of Special Operations Forces, and innovations in the medical treatment of war-related trauma. I draw these together to propose they may be read as indicative of a larger “Posthuman Project” that is driving technological developments and practice in the U.S. military. Through a critical race theory and feminist war studies framework, I theorize this military posthumanity as a fantasy vision of future invulnerability, total knowledge, and control that is inseparable from fantasies of white supremacy that make up the foundations of U.S. empire. I argue that in this context, the posthuman as well as the human remain exclusionary political categories that have their sense made through processes of gendering and racialization, in spite of military discourses

of technologically-enabled apoliticality and progress away from human fallibility. In the course of examining the three case studies, my research finds that the state wields the categories of human and posthuman as tools to justify and naturalize empire and war-waging, and in so doing it justifies and naturalizes race and gender as tools of oppression. This ultimately reveals the malleability of these categories, and demonstrates the extent to which harnessing this malleability is a powerful way of making state power itself seem necessary and inevitable. My work seeks to contribute to recent discussions about how race and gender produce warfare, and likewise have their sense made through acts of war and the development and deployment of advanced technologies. Similarly, by excavating the violence of the “human” throughout, this work suggests to critical scholars’ ways of thinking about the posthuman that do not lose sight of the inherent violence of such categories.



**Jenny Carla Moran**  
(AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership and Cambridge European & Newnham College Scholarship)

**Loveability: A Critical Theory for Understanding Love, Humanness, and Futurity in the Age of the Sex Robot**

Supervisor: Dr Sarah Dillon (Faculty of English)

**Abstract:**

In recent years, the phenomenon of techno-companion robotics, especially “sex bots,” has received significant attention in news media,

dominant sci-fi narratives, and documentaries. The academic engagement with techno-companions has, however, been comparatively lacking. The care work and emotional work performed by devices such as sex robots, disability assistive robots, and elderly care robots, has yet to be adequately theorised as a result. The emotional, caring, and enabling forms of work which these products are designed to replicate descend from genealogies that are deeply gendered, racialised, profit-orientated, and heteronormative. Through examinations of the nuclear family, the pursuit of capital, the valuation of labour, the hierarchisation of social roles, the sociogenetic construct of ability, and the function of affect in cisheteropatriarchal white supremacist capitalism, this project situates techno-companion devices in the context of these genealogies.

Loveability is a critical theory examining stratified assignments of humanity on a biopolitical basis. The theory is designed to identify and examine orientations and affective responses to particular traits, deemed socio-politically “loveable” or “unloveable.” I propose that techno-companions are created not only to embody loveability (as “ideal companions”), but to enable their users to become more loveable in turn through emotional work. I question the indebtedness of techno-companions’ design and usage to the structural construction of which Beings are deemed most worthy of love, empathy, and protection. Through an examination of the ways in which techno-companions simulate a colonial-capitalist articulation of “love,” I ask how loveability is (re)produced by the techno-companion industry.



**Naoise Murphy** (AHRC Open-Oxford-Cambridge Doctoral Training Partnership, Isaac Newton Trust Studentship)

**Queering Irish Women’s**

**Writing in the Twentieth Century**

Supervisor: Dr Caroline Gonda (Faculty of English)

**Abstract:**

My PhD project offers a narrative of Ireland’s ‘haunted modernity’ through queer critique, exploring voices that have been relegated to ghostly positions in the national imaginary. I am assembling an archive of this haunted modernity, excavating the work of four writers – Elizabeth Bowen, Kate O’Brien, Molly Keane and Dorothy Macardle – to give voice to the ghostly queer undercommons of post-independence Ireland. I am interested in doubled hauntings, in how women and queers haunt the mainstream of Irish culture while being haunted by the ghostly voices of the non-modern, abject subjectivities we step over in our enlistment into progressivist discourses of Irish modernity. Engaging with the history of Irish gothic, with decolonial critique and with queer temporalities, I outline how queer counternarratives in the work of these four writers offer new resources to understand the complex epistemological landscape of modern Ireland.





**Namrata Narula**  
**From Action to Freedom:  
 Exploring the dialectics  
 of feminist agency  
 through classical Indian  
 thought**

Supervisor: Professor Ankur Barua (Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge)

**Abstract:**

The central aim of my dissertation is to advance ethical criteria for generating and structuring feminist action based on a compatibilist metaphysics of agency, namely, a conception that views the subject as dynamically constructed through relations of power, but nevertheless preserves the achievability of free actions within this relational framework. While there is copious discussion on the metaphysics of agency in contemporary philosophy, there remains a paucity of Euro-American philosophical approaches that actively combine these metaphysical perspectives with individual and collective ethical considerations. In other words, discussions on the possibility of free action rarely suggest to individuals how they may exercise their agential capacities and aspire towards freedom through the quotidian densities of their daily life. Classical Indian philosophical approaches, on the other hand, routinely frame individual ethics in light of metaphysical considerations – the question of who the self *is* and the question of *how* the self should act in the world are densely interrelated. The philosophical school of Advaita Vedānta, for example, argues that though the eternal Self seemingly becomes constrained by relations in *samsāra* (the worldly realm), it can nevertheless gain soteriological freedom

through renunciation, and by meditating on key scriptural texts that reveal the non-dual nature of deep reality. Though such traditions provide a transcendental blueprint for individual action based on metaphysical theory, I will argue that they fall short in providing concrete forms of reasoning for *how* the relational subject can apprehend which of its actions ultimately lead to freedom, and which of its actions will only enhance its bondage. Feminist subjects are constrained and conditioned by relations of power that structure their desires, dislikes, identities, and politics. How then can feminists understand which of their individual and collective actions spring from an authentic exercise of agency, and which of these actions are enmeshed in the patriarchal frameworks within which they operate? Is this quest for ‘authenticity’ and a primordial self of undiluted freedom a doomed enterprise from the start? My dissertation will seek to answer some of these vexed questions through a decolonial philosophical approach that puts classical Indian metaphysics in active dialogue with some contemporary voices in Western philosophy, with the ultimate view of strengthening feminist politics, idioms, and action. This work also hopes to fill a lacuna in the study of Indian thought, as the question of how one can exercise agency within *samsāra*, in the contexts of non-dualism, is yet to receive sustained scholarly attention.



**Ola Osman (Gates  
 Cambridge Scholarship)**  
**Where are they Now?  
 Documenting the  
 Reintegration Needs of  
 Ex-Combatant Women in**

**Liberia fifteen years after the civil war**  
 Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter (University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies)

**Abstract:**

The transatlantic slave economy and “post-colonial rebel movements” have conventionally been regarded as distinct phenomena (Mkandawire, 2002); this study is interested in mapping the continuities between racial slavery, its attendant gendered logics and the Liberian civil war (1989–2003). If “insurgencies derive basically from blocked political aspirations, and in some cases also from reactive desperation” (Clapham, 1998, p. 5) it is imperative to consider how the spectre of the plantation economy is a constitutive aspect in the genealogy of modern forms of Liberian governance, sovereignty, social life, subjection and *insurrection*. This study looks at how anti-blackness functions as a kind of absence that composes and propels the epistemological and ontological orderings of space and subjectivity and examines the evidence that it always already permeates rebel ideology. There subsists an extensive body of scholarship that attends to how Liberian women contributed to the end of that country’s civil war; but writings on their wartime experiences and *why* they fought remain meagre. Ruminating on the *why* can aid in an investigation of how sexualized and racialized configurations of power persisted and transmogrified on the *other* side of the Atlantic waters, bringing about the “resubordination of the emancipated” (Hartman, 2010, p. 16).



**Sharmila Parmanand**  
(Gates Cambridge  
International Scholarship)

**Saving our Sisters:  
Critical inquiry into sex  
trafficking discourses**

**and interventions in the Philippines**

Supervisor: Dr Tomas Larsson, Department of  
Politics and International Studies

**Abstract:**

Using a framework that foregrounds sex workers' reflections on their work, this research critiques the Philippine anti-trafficking sector's conflation of sex work with victimhood. It demonstrates that there was a mixture of choice and coercion in Filipino women's engagement with sex work, but it allowed them to resist gendered low-paid and labour-intensive jobs such as sewing and domestic work. Sex workers reconfigured social scripts by understanding their work as a moral project, through which they demonstrated virtue as mothers and daughters. Some saw themselves as entrepreneurial and resourceful. Some,

indeed, saw themselves as victims. However, close attention to their rendering of the word 'victim' reveals that they saw themselves as victims of poverty, stigma, and policies and practices that removed their control over their working conditions and exposed them to extortion and abuse. Instead of raids and rehabilitation, they wanted political agency and recognition. Based on these findings, I propose approaching sex work from a labour rights and social justice lens rather than full or partial criminalisation.



**Farhana Rahman**  
(Cambridge Trust  
International and Murray  
Edwards Scholarship;  
Social Sciences and  
Humanities Research

**Council of Canada Scholarship)**

**Making a Life for Themselves: Gender,  
Identity, and Everyday Negotiations of  
Rohingya Women in Bangladesh's Refugee  
Camps**

Supervisor: Dr Manali Desai (Department of  
Sociology)

**Abstract:**

My dissertation examines the everyday negotiations, contestations, and strategies that Rohingya refugee women employ to make a life for themselves after forced migration. Based on fourteen months of feminist ethnographic fieldwork in Bangladesh's Kutupalong-Balukhali mega-camp between 2017 and 2018, my dissertation focuses on how Rohingya refugee women deal with the process of settling into the camp, negotiate marriage and other intimate experiences, adjust to changing gender divisions of labour, and navigate encounters with humanitarian aid agencies and male camp leaders. It pays particular attention to the emerging and shifting power relations within the camp and its impact on Rohingya refugee women's everyday subjectivities. Rohingya refugee women engage in strategic choices and bargaining to reconstruct their lives in displacement, thereby reclaiming agency and asserting their identity despite their circumstances. My dissertation thus suggests that refugee women's everyday tactics and

contestations challenge and overturn deeply embedded gender ideologies regarding women's place in settings after forced migration. It uncovers the capacity of refugee women to bring about changes in their own lives through the spaces they create, inhabit, and reshape; the



**Hakan Sandal-Wilson**  
**The Kurdish LGBTI+  
Movement: Strategies  
and Tactics towards  
Radical Democracy**

Supervisor: Dr Ayse Zarakol  
(Department of Politics and International Studies)

**Abstract:**

My doctoral research focuses on the intersection of ethnic, gender, and sexual identities during times of war and conflict. Studying how queer activists situate themselves in ethnic and democracy struggles presents a holistic understanding of identity construction processes and resistance practices. Exploring the boundaries and formation of identities in the Kurdish queer context, and studying the Kurdish struggle and the queer struggle together within the framework of resistance and conflict, will contribute to gender studies, queer politics, and conflict studies and will engender new debates on radical queer movements and their emancipatory potential. The research will eventually not only shed light on a queer struggle in the Middle East context, but also provide an alternative reading and historicisation of the Kurdish movement and Turkey while providing insights into creative transformative resistance practices.







**Reetika Revathy Subramanian** (Gates Cambridge International Scholar; Winner of the 2022 Bill Gates Sr. Prize)  
**Brides of Drought:**

**Gendered interlinkages between labour and marriage migration of adolescent wives/workers in India's climate crisis**

Supervisor: Professor Samita Sen, Faculty of History

**Abstract:**

Anchored at the intersections of marriage migration and girlhood studies, my doctoral research proposes to make visible the labour and experiences of adolescent girls in the context of a climate crisis. I seek to combine a multi-sited feminist ethnography with an informed interpretation of community women's oral folk songs of labour, to understand the complex ways in which early marriage is used as an institutional means to produce a particular workforce of adolescent wife-workers in capitalist labour markets, in India's historically drought-prone and caste-ridden Marathwada region. To develop this exploratory thesis, I will pursue two simultaneous trajectories set against the backdrop of frequent and intense droughts: one linked to the historical and socio-economic changes that have driven early marriage and survival migration, and another occurring as the adolescent girls become wives and workers. By training the spotlight on the analytical idea of girlhood and (re)productive labour, I aim to demystify the structural hierarchies and complex processes underlying these exchanges.



**Lisa Vickers** (Cambridge Trust International Scholarship)  
**Feminist Political Parties: Sustainability, Longevity, and Impacts**

Supervisor: Professor Jude Browne (University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies)

**Abstract:**

The primary question my doctoral research seeks to answer is the following: Are feminist political parties built to last? To answer this question, I will investigate if feminist political parties need to be formed with the intention of permanence in order to address the subject of female representation, under what conditions feminist political parties are most likely to survive, how feminist political parties attempt to represent women, and how grassroots feminist political movements and feminist organizations view themselves as interacting with the state through parties. To complete this research, I plan to run a discourse analysis, engage in participant observation analysis, and conduct interviews with former and current affiliates of feminist political parties in the United Kingdom, Iceland, and Sweden.



**Emmah Khisa Senge Wabuke** (Gates Cambridge Scholarship)  
**Towards A Gendered Disarmament, Disengagement and**

**Reintegration (DDR) Program in Countering Violent Extremism: The Somalia Conflict and Female Militancy in Al-Shabaab**

Supervisor: Dr Holly Porter (University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies)

**Abstract:**

Earlier generations of DDR Programming came into effect after completion of the armed conflict. However, 'new wars' such as violent extremism necessitates a DDR Program capable of operating in contexts of continuing threats to peace and security. While international stakeholders are in the process of fine-tuning DDR-CVE Programs, my research project argues that it is important to include gender into these deliberations. To do so, my work attempts to merge three outwardly-distinct terms in post-conflict legal studies: socio-legal theory, gender and Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration in Countering Violent Extremism (DDR-CVE) in order to generate a better understanding of developing realistic and socially-relevant legal frameworks to counter violent extremism in Kenya. Herein, I shall interrogate how the international legal principles on DDR-CVE given in the UN-based WPS and CVE normative frameworks are applied in the Kenyan domestic context. I shall primarily employ socio-legal methodology which will be helpful in guiding the fieldwork experience by ensuring that the empirical data collected can speak back to the principles contained in the WPS and CVE normative frameworks.



**Eddie Wei (CSC  
Cambridge Trust  
International Scholarship)  
Judges' Gender and  
Judging in China**

Supervisor: Professor

Lorraine Gelsthorpe (Institute of Criminology)

**Abstract:**

After women began entering the judiciary in appreciable numbers, scholars worldwide started asking whether their gender would influence their decision-making processes. Although empirical findings are mixed, the existing literature reveals that judges' gender is a predictive factor in gender-related cases - especially those involving employment discrimination, sexual harassment, and reproductive rights. These findings not only advance feminists' aspirations that female judges can translate symbolic representation into substantive representation of women, but contribute to the long-standing observations about how judges of different backgrounds actually decide cases. This PhD dissertation follows this research tradition and examines the effect of gender in the process of judging within the context of Chinese criminal justice system. Chapters two and three, which used quantitative research methods, examine whether female judges decide cases differently from their male colleagues, and whether the presence of a female judge on a three-member panel causes male judges to vote in favour of plaintiffs in rape cases. Chapters four and five, which used qualitative research methods, uncover the behavioural differences at work between male

and female judges. Overall, the findings in this PhD dissertation compel us to reflect on the benefits and drawbacks of pursuing 'gender differences in judging' put forward by feminist legal scholars.



**Elizabeth Yarrow  
Gendered bodies:  
institutions, sex  
binarism, and the  
experiences of gender  
minority youth within**

**health and education systems**

Supervisor: Dr Robbie Duschinsky (Department of Public Health and Primary Care)

**Abstract:**

My doctoral research focuses on gender variance in childhood and young adulthood in the UK. Through examining the experience of trans, intersex, non-binary and gender non-conforming children and youth in their interactions with schools and health systems, my work explores and theorises the relationships between gendered categories, institutions, power and identity. I ask, how categories of 'sex' and 'gender' organise aspects of identity during childhood, how gendered embodiment is regulated through institutional practices, and what happens when the embodied lives of gender diverse children come into confrontation with specific ideological and discursive constructions of 'childhood', 'sex', 'gender' and 'sexuality', embedded within the practices and logics of public institutions. Questions explored during the research will include (amongst others):

- How do gender diverse youth experience education and health systems and services in the UK?
- How do these experiences influence aspects of young people's wellbeing?
- What practical changes, and alternative conceptions of gender, might, if embedded within institutional structures, lead to better outcomes for gender diverse youth?"



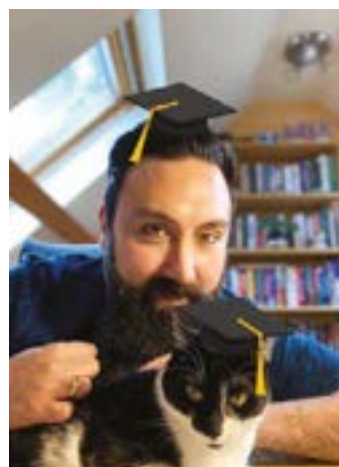


Top-left:  
Julia Doyle, PhD in Multi-disciplinary  
Gender Studies Viva, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Bottom-left:  
Lena Moore, PhD in Multi-disciplinary  
Gender Studies Viva, 19<sup>th</sup> February  
2021

Top-right:  
Dr Hakan Sandal-Wilson, Online  
Graduation, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021  
Bottom-right:

Bottom-right  
Congratulations to Reetika  
Subramanian, PhD in Multi-disciplinary  
Gender Studies, awarded 1st place, in  
the POLIS PhD fieldwork photography  
competition! Beed district,  
Marathwada, February 2021



## 6 Gender Studies Profiles



**Professor Jude Browne**  
The Jessica and Peter Frankopan Director of UCCGS and Head of the Department of Politics and International Studies

Jude's research interests are in political theories of equality, feminist theory, political responsibility, public interest, public policy, structural injustice, rights, and the impact of technology on society.

### Public Lectures and Events, Academic Year 2019–20:

- 'Technology, gender & the reproductive habits of future generations', **University of Cambridge London Engagement Series 2019**, FSH, London, hosted by Jessica Sainsbury-Frankopan (26 November 2019)
- 'Structural Injustice and the Public Interest'. Ethics and Public Policy Conference, **Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford**. (Chaired by Jonathan Wolff, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019)
- 'Gender & Tech' – **University of Cambridge in Hong Kong chaired by Stephen Toope** (30<sup>th</sup> April 2019)
- 'Political Responsibility' **Contemporary Political Theory Seminar, University of Cambridge**, (Chaired by Duncan Bell, Cambridge. 31<sup>st</sup> January 2020)



Professors Jude Browne and Duncan Bell

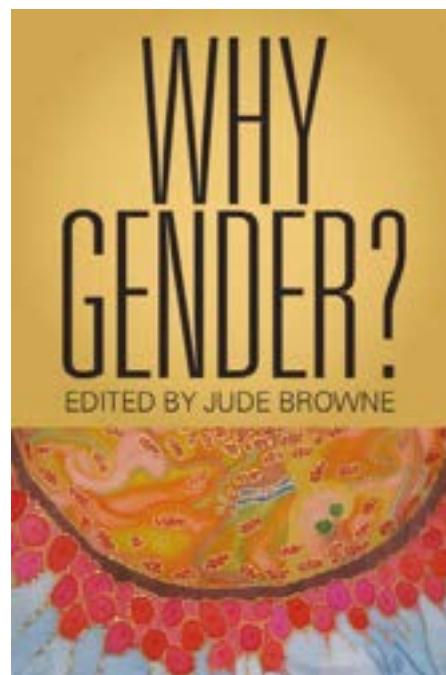
### Publication, Academic Year 2020–21:

**Browne, Jude.** (2021) Ed. *Why Gender?*  
Cambridge University Press

Together, the authors in this volume demonstrate why gender is so important for understanding the world in which we live. Gender is perhaps the oldest social ordering of human society. Its complex relationship to other social characteristics such as race and socio-economic status is vital to understanding social processes and imagining alternative societies. Its meaning is both a source of misunderstanding and of new epistemologies. It is a process, both in the social sense as well as in the biological. It is an axis of violence and exploitation, and it is a form of disruption, protest and resistance. It is a device of colonial and patriarchal politics, and yet without it, politics fails to become progressive.

Why gender? The authors in this volume make it obvious:

**Jude Browne**, the Head of Department of Politics and International Studies and the Jessica and Peter Frankopan Director of UCCGS, University of Cambridge



**Juliet Mitchell**, Emeritus Professor of Psychoanalysis and Founder Director of UCCGS, University of Cambridge

**Judith Butler**, The Maxine Elliot Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature and the Program of Critical Theory at the University of California, Berkeley.

**Jack Halberstam**, Professor of Department of English and Comparative Literature and the Institute for Research on Women, Gender and Sexuality

**John Dupré**, Professor of Philosophy of Science and Director of the ESRC Centre for Genomics in Society (Egenis) at the University of Exeter



**Sandra Harding**, Distinguished Research Professor of Education and Gender Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles

**Marcia Inhorn**, The William K. Lanman Jr. Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs at Yale University

**Jacqueline Rose**, Professor of Humanities and Director of the Birkbeck Institute of Humanities

**Mignon Nixon**, Professor of Modern and Contemporary Art in the History of Art Department at UCL

**Akbar Ahmed**, The Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at American University, Washington DC

**Sara Ahmed**, Feminist Writer and Independent Scholar

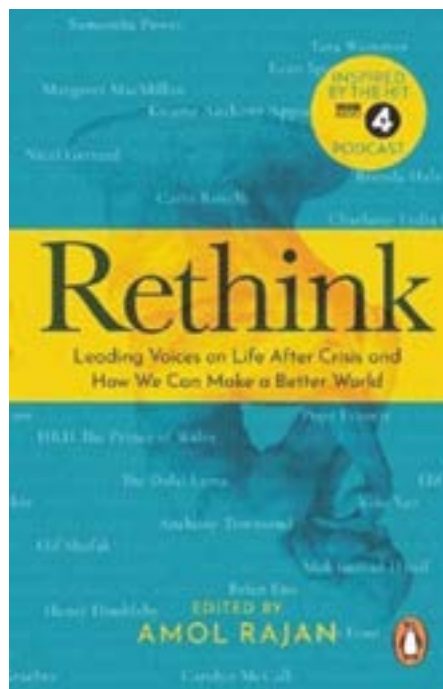
**Seyla Benhabib**, The Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Professor of Philosophy at Yale University

**Catharine MacKinnon**, The Elizabeth A. Long Professor of Law at the University of Michigan Law School and long-term James Barr Ames Visiting Professor of Law at Harvard Law School

**Nancy Fraser**, The Henry A. and Louise Loeb Professor of Political and Social Science and Professor of Philosophy at The New School for Social Research in New York City

**Cindi Katz**, Professor of Geography in Environmental Psychology and Women's Studies at the Graduate Centre of the City University of New York (CUNY).

**Bina Agarwal**, Professor of Development Economics and Environment at the Global Development Institute, University of Manchester, UK



**Browne, J.** (2021) 'Rethinking Responsibility' in A. Rajan (ed.) *Rethink: Leading voices on life after crisis and how to make a better world*. BBC Books/Penguin.

[www.penguin.co.uk/books/144/1443317/rethink/9781785947179.html](http://www.penguin.co.uk/books/144/1443317/rethink/9781785947179.html)



#### Public Lectures and Events, Academic Year 2021–22:

1. "Structural Injustice and the Regulatory Public Body Landscape" **Structural Injustice and the Law** (hosted by Virginia Mantouvalou (UCL) and Jonathan Wolff (Oxford). UCL, London 28th–29th March 2022);
2. "AI and Structural Injustice": **Gender & Tech International Conference in preparation for publication with Oxford University Press**. (21st September 2021 – conducted live on zoom due to COVID).
3. Jude Browne, Ian Goldin and Elif Shafak in conversation with Amol Rajan (BBC) **Hay Festival** (27<sup>th</sup> May 2021)
4. Putting the Public into Public Bodies' **Penn State University School of Public Policy** (Discussant; Anthony Bertelli, Penn State, 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021);
5. 'Structural Injustice, Traceability and Political Responsibility' **International Workshop on Structural Injustice, University of Cambridge** (22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021) in preparation for publication with **Oxford University Press**.
6. Lay-governance – the public body. **Lay-Governance Workshop** University of Cambridge and SciencesPo CAMPO (Co-hosted with Annabelle Lever SciPo April 12<sup>th</sup> 2021)



**Dr Lauren Wilcox**  
 Director of UCCGS and  
 Associate Professor in  
 Gender Studies

My current work interrogates the concept of the 'posthuman' as a way of engaging with the dynamics of race, gender, and sexuality in theories and practices of war and political violence. I was on research leave in 2020–2021 enabled by my Phillip Leverhulme Prize, during which I've worked to complete my second monograph *War Beyond the Human: Gender, Race, and Violence in a Posthuman Age*. This book should be published sometime in 2023. Pre-pandemic, I was pleased to represent UCCGS in Hong Kong in September 2019 with a keynote talk entitled *Gender Inequality and Artificial Intelligence* at The Women's Foundation's Summit on Gender Equality. I am excited to work with our growing team at UCCGS as Centre Director this fall.

**Recent and key publications include:**

**Wilcox, L.** (forthcoming) "No Humans in the Loop: Race, Feminist AI, and Killer Robots" in *Feminist AI* eds Browne, Cave, Drage, and Mackereth. Oxford University Press.

**Wilcox, L.** and Danewid I., Axster, S., Goldstein, A., Mahmoudi, M., and Tansel, C. B. (2021) "Colonial Lives of the Carceral Archipelago: Rethinking the National Security State," *International Political Sociology*.

**Wilcox, L.** (2021) "The Biopolitics of the War on COVID-19." In "Thinking Theoretically in Unsettled Times: COVID-19 and Beyond." Jennifer Sterling-Folker, ed. *International Studies Review*.

**Wilcox, L.** (2021) "The Gender Politics of the Drone." In *Drone Imaginaries: The Power of Remote Vision*, edited by Kathrin Maurer and Andreas Graae, 110-129. Manchester: Manchester University Press.

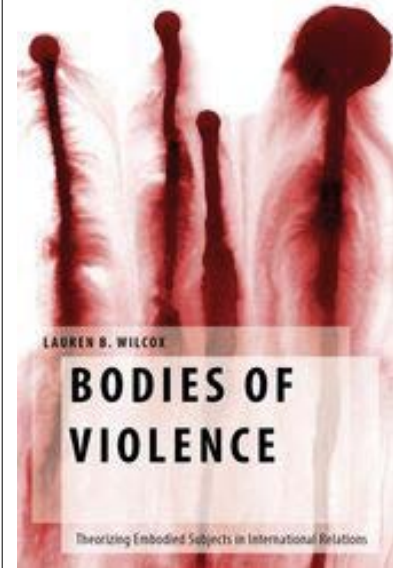
**Wilcox, L.** and Fishel, S. (2017) "Politics of the Living Dead: Race and Exceptionalism in the Apocalypse," *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 45 no. 3, pp. 335-355. Special issue on Racialized Realities in International Relations.

**Wilcox, L.** (2017) "Practicing Gender, Queering Theory," *Review of International Studies* 43, no 5, pp. 789-808.

**Wilcox, L.** (2017) "Drones, Swarms, and Becoming-Insect: Feminist Utopias and Posthuman Politics" *Feminist Review*, Special issue on Feminist Utopias and Dystopias. 116 no. 1, pp. 25-45.

**Wilcox, L.** (2017) "Embodying Algorithmic War: Gender, Race, and the Posthuman in Drone Warfare." *Security Dialogue* 48 no. 1, pp. 11–28.

**Wilcox, L.** (2015) *Bodies of Violence: Theorizing Embodied Subjects in International Relations*. (New York: Oxford University Press).



Dr Lauren Wilcox presenting at The Women's Foundation's Summit on Gender Equality, Hong Kong, September 2019





**Dr Holly Porter, Lecturer  
in Gender Studies, UCCGS**

Despite the challenges of the past two years, my first at the University of Cambridge, I have enjoyed teaching and directing two fantastic cohorts of MPhil students. Due to the pandemic, planned fieldwork in northern Uganda was impossible, but I have continued to write based on previously collected ethnographic material and to present work online to a more global audience than would have occurred otherwise.

My ongoing research is best summarized by the working title of my second book in-progress: *Sex, Love and War: Intimate relations in a violent world*. It looks at the wider context of intimate gender relationship and how war serves variously to continue, exaggerate and/or rupture 'normal' social and gendered ordering in society. In one article stemming from this work, 'Moral Spaces and Sexual Transgression', (2019) I look at the construction of moral spaces (village, camp, bush, town, and home) and how the logics and sexual norms operative in each help explain sexual violence. My most recent article, *Moving Toward Home: Love and relationships in the aftermath of war and displacement* (2020), looks at intimate relationships during displacement and return. It argues for a shift in conceptualizing marriage as primarily processual—a key tenet of Africanist anthropology—suggesting instead a view of marriage as movement.

Beyond these more solitary writings, I have contributed to a number of projects, particularly

around international criminal justice and governance responses to the pandemic in Africa. In February this year the International Criminal Court convicted Dominic Ongwen, a former commander of the Lord's Resistance Army for war crimes and crimes against humanity, setting broader precedents for the prosecution of international crimes of a sexual nature. I provided expert witness and had been involved at several stages of the case, contributing to the expansion of charges to include sexual crimes and some specific measures to aid in circumventing situations of witness interference, and safeguarding vulnerable victims and witnesses. I reflected on the experience in an online keynote at a conference on international jurisdiction, and my work with the court has been highlighted as an example of ways that academic research can make real-world impact.

A **special issue** of the *Journal of Refugee Studies* that I co-edited came out earlier this year. The articles and my introduction of them reflect on the complex dynamics of 'return' of ex-combatants and displaced populations in Central Africa. Finally, together with research collaborators from the Great Lakes region, we jointly authored an article that will be published in an issue of *Disasters* later this year entitled: *Crisis Responses, Opportunity and Public Authority during COVID-19's First Wave in Uganda, the DRC and South Sudan*.

**Key publications during this time include:  
Macdonald, Anna and Holly Porter.**

**Macdonald, Anna and Holly Porter** 2020. *The Politics of Return: Understanding Trajectories of Displacement and the Complex Dynamics of 'Return' in Central Africa*. *Journal of Refugee Studies*. Volume 33, Issue 4: 639–662.

**Porter, Holly.** 2020. *Moving Toward 'Home': Love and Relationships Through War and Displacement*. *Journal of Refugee Studies* 33(4): 813-831.

Abonga, Francis, Raphael Kerali, **Holly Porter**, and Rebecca Tapscott. 2019. *Naked Bodies and Collective Action: Repertoires of protest in Uganda's militarized, authoritarian regime*. *Civil Wars*. 22(3): 198-223.

**Porter, Holly.** 2019. *Moral Spaces and Sexual Transgression: Understanding rape in war and post-conflict*. *Development and Change* 50(4): 1009-1032.



**Dr Julienne Obadia**  
Lecturer in Gender  
Studies; Junior Research  
Fellow, King's College

My primary research interests include feminist and queer theory; the anthropology of personhood, kinship, and embodiment; liberalism and its Others; and medical anthropology. My research, located at the intersection of anthropology and political theory, examines how people in the U.S. imagine and practice new forms of intimacy amidst the ongoing neoliberal erosion of the very notion of interdependency. Considering these recent shifts alongside a longer view of American liberalism, I am interested in how new forms of American personhood and community are taking shape and what they reveal about the gendered and racialized effects of the liberal ideal of independence in the U.S. today. My forthcoming book examines a diverse array of practices where people are sharing their bodies, bedrooms, and homes in ways that push the limits of liberal individualism with new and unfamiliar forms of proximity and entanglement: living organ donation, polyamory, and intentional communities. Within and across these sites, I track how discourses of gender, race, sexuality, and health are intersecting to surprising effect in these new intimate forms, simultaneously intensifying and transforming classical liberal commitments to independence and self-ownership. By focusing on themes of personhood, gender, and embodiment, my work moves away from the binary framework of individualism versus communalism to investigate the kinds of collective life that are imaginable and livable in the practice of contemporary possessive individualism, and those, by contrast, that are foreclosed.



**Dr Eleanor Drage**  
Christina Gaw Post-  
doctoral Research  
Associate

As a Christina Gaw Research Associate on the Gender and Technology Research Project, I help to resolve AI ethics issues at a major technology multinational using feminist and anti-racist theory. I have presented findings to a range of audiences including the United Nations, NatWest, The Open Data Institute (ODI), the AI World Congress and the Institute of Science & Technology. My work on AI-powered hiring tools has been covered by media outlets like the BBC, BBC Today, Forbes, the Register, and the Daily Mail, among other outlets. As part of this work, I led a team of computer science students in developing a tool that demonstrates the problematic logics behind AI-powered hiring tools that claim to deduce personality from someone's face. I am the co-host of The Good Robot Podcast, and interview top scholars and technologists about AI ethics, appearing on popular shows such as The Guilty Feminist, and I am a TikTok for All The Citizens' data rights channel. My current research, which has been published in top journals such as Philosophy and Technology, investigates how humanity defines and constitutes itself both through socio-cultural processes such as race and gender and through its connection with computational networks and digital systems. I am the co-editor of the upcoming collection Feminist AI with Oxford University Press. My other projects can be found at [www.eleanordrage.com](http://www.eleanordrage.com)



**Ms Kerry Mackereth,**  
Christina Gaw Post-  
doctoral Research  
Associate

I am a Christina Gaw postdoctoral researcher in Gender and Technology at the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies. My scholarship has appeared in journals such as Feminist Review, Public Understanding of Science, and Philosophy and Technology. My work on AI-powered hiring tools has also been covered by media outlets like the BBC, Forbes, the Register, and the Daily Mail. I am the co-editor of the upcoming collection Feminist AI (Oxford University Press), the co-editor of the upcoming volume The Good Robot: Feminist Voices on the Future of Technology (Bloomsbury) and the co-host of The Good Robot podcast on feminism and technology, which has received over 20,000 downloads to date. I have appeared on shows like The Guilty Feminist and the Radical AI Podcast, and have been recognised as one of the 100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics 2022, and shortlisted for the Champion of Women - Champion of Innovation (2022), Women of the Future - Technology and Digital (2022), and Women in Tech Excellence - Rising Star (2022) awards.







**Dr Laurie Denyer-Willis, UCCGS Post-doctoral Research Associate**

I was a Post-Doctoral Fellow in Medical Anthropology at the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies/Department of Politics and International Studies during the academic year 2019-20. I am currently a medical anthropologist at the University of Edinburgh, using sensory ethnographic methods to understand religious experience, right-wing populism, religious feminisms, and the politics of global health. My book project, entitled *The Salvific Sensorium: Pentecostal Life in Rio de Janeiro's Suburbs*, has been selected as part of the Atelier Series at the University of California Press. I completed my PhD at McGill in 2018, and MSc at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Urban Studies and Planning.



**Ms Joanna Bush  
Centre Administrator,  
UCCGS**

The 'Pandemic Years' were certainly challenging for University staff, particularly the sudden move to online teaching and communication during the first lockdown. Our MPhil and PhD students had to cope with the effects of social isolation and travel restrictions as well as the new experience of hybrid learning and I would particularly praise the perseverance of the MPhil cohorts during these academic years. The Centre went on to receive an outstanding External Examiner Report for the MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies in 2020–21, which is testament to the hard work of both staff and students. We also discovered some benefits of the provision of hybrid teaching and public events! For the first time, the Centre could invite international speakers and attendees to participate in live, online Gender Research Seminars.

In 2020–21, we welcomed the UCCGS Administrative Assistant, Vincenzo Paci to the Centre and his support throughout the past 2-years has been invaluable. I send my warmest regards to Dr Julienne Obadia, Lecturer in Gender Studies and Dr Laurie Denyer-Willis, UCCGS Postdoctoral Research Associate and wish them every future success.

I was delighted to support our *Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professor*, Rosi Braidotti in Michaelmas term 2019, and work on the hosting and promotion of her hugely successful public lecture on *Posthuman Feminism and Affirmative Ethics*. As the new academic year approaches, I look forward to working with our next Visiting Professor, Cynthia Enloe, whose research will focus on a gender analysis of the Ukraine war.



**Mr Vincenzo Paci,  
Administrative Assistant,  
UCCGS**

I began my role as Administrative Assistant at UCCGS at the start of the 2020–21 academic year, new to not only the Centre but also to the University of Cambridge. Despite the many obstacles that the Centre has faced due to COVID-19, the past two years have been a remarkable success and it has been a pleasure to work with so many devoted colleagues, both academic and professional staff. The Centre continued to deliver a programme of teaching and public events throughout the pandemic years, due to the innovation and commitment of its staff. My work was mainly focused on the provision of administrative support for the MPhil in Multi-Disciplinary Gender Studies and I have nothing but admiration for the 2020–21 and 2021–22 class of students who, undeterred by the many hurdles that presented themselves throughout their courses of study, went on to complete their MPhils with flying colours.

“It has been a real pleasure conducting my PhD research at the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies. The Centre’s vision of multi-disciplinarity on top of its commitment to academic excellence allowed me to explore insights coming from a range of different disciplines and perspectives within the wider University. Operating as a hub for inquiries into gender and sexuality research, the Centre provided a space for my research to receive challenging, productive, and rewarding feedback, which shaped my PhD work in the best possible way. In my time as a PhD student, I had the chance to attend seminars and discuss my work with leading scholars like Professor Seyla Benhabib, Professor Judith Butler and Professor Jack Halberstam, as they visited the Centre thanks to the Diane Middlebrook and Carl Djerassi Visiting Professorship. The other PhD and MPhil students at the Centre also contributed immensely to my scholarly development, and created a supportive environment.

In addition to my PhD research, the innovative research environment at the Centre for Gender Studies encouraged me to start my own series and blog on methods and methodologies employed in gender and sexuality studies with a focus on social justice: *Methods in Question: Epistemologies of Gender and Sexuality*. Commended by the Outstanding Student Contribution to Education Awards, the seminar series brought together researchers and students at the University of Cambridge, as well as reaching a global audience through its online blog. This experience showed me that in a supportive academic setting, departments influence students and scholars, but also that the reverse is also true: students and early career scholars can dynamically shape and contribute to the scholarly environment as active members of the research community.”

**Dr Hakan Sandal-Wilson,**

PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies



“This programme is rigorous, eye-opening and challenging. In short, the perfect combination for students, like myself, who seek to think outside the firm walls of one discipline. Viewing and studying gender within 22 departments allows for and requires lateral thinking, opening up new avenues of research. I am grateful to have had this opportunity!”

**Lyndsay Elliot,**

MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies 2020-21

“The PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies programme was a nurturing and challenging environment in which to grow as a scholar. In addition to providing me with training and mentorship to conduct feminist ethnographic research for my PhD topic, the programme offered valuable professional development activities that helped me improve my teaching and publication record. I also learned so much from being part of an amazing international cohort who were all doing excellent research and engaged in important political work within the University and in their own communities.

**Sharmila Parmanand,**

PhD in Multi-disciplinary Studies

The University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies  
Alison Richard Building  
7 West Road  
Cambridge CB3 9DP

[www.gender.cam.ac.uk](http://www.gender.cam.ac.uk)



“The MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies is a timely scholarly pursuit because it enables us to envision new and apposite applications of gender as concept and method. Through its multi-disciplinarity, the course at Cambridge inspires a recognition of the fact that gender analysis resonates differently across fields, and that the pursuit of each resonance is as important as the other. I am particularly grateful to be exposed to this varied nature of gender not only through the work of path-breaking established and emergent scholars, but also through the insights of my incredibly motivated peers. I am grateful for the remarkable experience of being anchored in the gifted and generous community of feminist scholars that form the University of Cambridge Centre for Gender Studies.”

**Mansi Hitesh,**

MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies 2019–20

“I found the Centre for Gender Studies to be an incredible place to learn and to conduct research. The knowledge, support, and varied perspectives of my fellow students, together with the expertise and guidance of the lecturers, combined to create a truly unique space to study. The MPhil’s text seminars offered me an opportunity to learn from experts from a huge variety of different disciplines, many of which I had never come into contact with before. This has helped me to develop the tools needed to challenge dominant assumptions and narratives in my own discipline, as well as the confidence to engage with others. The support of my supervisor, and the knowledge and confidence I developed during the rest of the MPhil, were essential in enabling me to do this - despite the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. My time on the MPhil has helped me to grow exponentially in ability and confidence, and the skills and knowledge I developed have already proven indispensable since graduating - both in work and in further study.”

**Alice Roberts-Dunn,**

MPhil in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies 2019–20