



WOMEN'S STUDIES

INVIGORATING, EVOLVING, TRANSFORMING

FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 2 ISSUE 4

TAKE THIS COURSE

As covered in the previous issue, Dr. Kim McKeage has research passions in many different areas of life. In spring 2016, she teaches the WMS graduate online course "Take Back the Kitchen." This course is a culmination from Dr. McKeage's life and research experiences. While working on her MA in the Women's Studies master's program at SCSU, her mother passed away, and to keep her memory alive, Dr. McKeage studied her mother's cookbook through a feminist lens, which left her "shuddering." What left Dr. McKeage "shuddering" was the way cookbooks inform society on how "people 'should' be," specifically referencing women because the notions in her mother's cookbook were traditional in the sense that women were mainly caretakers, specifically involving cooking. Because of Dr. McKeage's background in business and marketing, her cookbook interest also includes how cookbooks relate to material culture, such as branding, equipment, food supplies, and other facets of the kitchen. Dr. McKeage finds that "the feminist exhortation to women to get out of the kitchen and go do other things opened up a great marketing opportunity," and due to this drive to get women out of the kitchen, companies have been targeting consumers more than ever with packaged and pre-cooked food ever since, in efforts to make cooking easier and to "provide dinner with less effort." Through her research, Dr. McKeage came across a question posed by feminist educator Peggy Rivage-Seul: "What has that done to our food and our relationship with nourishing ourselves and our loved ones?" Dr. McKeage's answer is that "we need to 'Take Back the Kitchen.'" Upon her research of Peggy Rivage-Seul, Dr. McKeage has developed her own version of "Take Back the Kitchen," while including the examination of the "social, political, and economic aspects of food production and consumption." This course is offered by the Women's Studies graduate program.



THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES

This spring, Triota, the Women's Studies Honors Society, is once again hosting a performance of *The Vagina Monologues* to honor the voices of ourselves and to honor the voices and stories of all women. *The Vagina Monologues* is an award winning play written by Eve Ensler. It is a collection of over 200 interviews with women from different backgrounds, countries, races, ages, classes, religions, and identities. These interviews have been transformed into different monologues that explore the taboo subject of the vagina.

The goal of *The Vagina Monologues* is to end violence against women and girls. So, we fight to end violence against women and girls and invite others to do so too. Some of the monologues are happy, some are sad. Some share fear, pain, and anger while others carry hope and humor. All of the stories share a reality about those who are born or identify as a woman, and her relationship with herself.

Show days will be: February 25th & 26th, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the Adanti Student Center Theatre. If you have questions or want to be a part of V-Day, please contact Kate at anderstromk1@southernct.edu.



FEMINIST OF THE MONTH: KRISTEN LEIGH



Kristen Leigh, single mother of two, is a reader, writer, former professional dancer, and feminist. With her BA in Creative Writing, she honed her ability to craft literary narratives and, more importantly, a keen sense of compassion and empathy. Being able to connect with others, regardless of language or cultural barriers, has landed her a position in the Office of International Education where she works as a graduate assistant while completing her MFA in Fiction with a Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies. For Kristen, there is such a connection among Women's Studies, Fine Art, and International Education that has influenced Kristen's writing and shaped her thesis project, a collection of essays that focuses on the social systems of different times and places. Kristen is grateful for the opportunities SCSU has provided for her to develop her intellect, professional skills, and sense of how she can be of service to her community.

Women's Studies Staff

Yi-Chun Tricia Lin, *Director & Professor*
Alisha Martindale, *Graduate Assistant*
Isabel Skarzynski, *Graduate Assistant*
Mariame Clement, Nikia Halim, and
Nadia Khalil,
Undergraduate Interns
Questions and comments are always welcome, please stop by at
Engleman B229,
or call us at 203.392.6133,
or email us at
womenstudies@southernct.edu,
or visit
www.southernct.edu/womensstudies



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22ND WOMEN'S STUDIES CONFERENCE AT SCSU

"Women, Community, Technology"

The 22nd SCSU Women's Studies Conference: "#FeministIn(ter)ventions: Women, Community, Technology," April 15-16, 2016. Women's Studies is proud to announce its keynote speaker, **Anita Sarkeesian**. A media critic and public speaker, Sarkeesian is the creator of *Feminist Frequency*, a video web-series that explores the representations of women in popular culture narratives. Her work focuses on exposing and deconstructing the sexist stereotypes and patterns in popular culture while also highlighting issues surrounding the targeted harassment of women in online and gaming spaces. In 2015, Anita was chosen as one of the Time 100, Time Magazine's annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world.

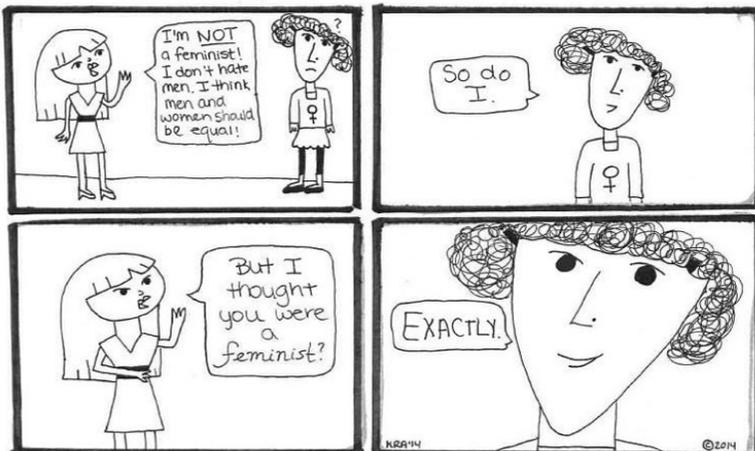


The conference aims to provide a critical site of inquiry into the intersections of women, community, and technology. In what ways have women and girls worked with technology, broadly defined, for the advancement of communities and/or shaping and building movements? We collectively investigate the past, present, and future of the intersections of women, community, and technology and showcase feminist in(ter)ventions with technology. How have women and girls participated (or not) in the fields of technology? In what ways does this inquiry intersect with the studies of gender, race, class, and sexuality?

Pre-registration is now available, please visit

www.southernct.edu/womensstudies

PASSIONS & PATHS



FemiNancie was created and illustrated by Kate Anderstrom

INTRODUCING THE WMS INTERNS OF PCH

In spring 2016, Women's Studies Office is delighted to have three Public Health intern additions to our team, Miriame Clement, Nikia Halim, and Nadia Khalil. We are excited to have them join us in the Women's Studies program. With them, we anticipate the semester and the conference to be productive and full of growth!

A major in Public Health, **Miriame Clement** is in her senior year at Southern Connecticut State University. Miriame has been very interested in fitness, eating healthy, and healthy lifestyle habits overall. She is excited to work with the Women's Studies office to get hands on experience and to learn ways in which Women's Studies works with different communities.

Nikia Halim enjoys laughing, dancing, eating, reading, and spending time with family and friends. She hopes to contribute to the WMS community at SCSU through her internship by adding on to an already amazing team that is geared towards advocating for human rights and other intersecting boundaries of daily life. Nikia has an extensive background in student leadership, on and off campus, and access to different resources that can contribute to community outreach and other aspects that a public health internship in the WMS community may cover. She is very interested in working alongside other peers and professionals to reach common goals.

Nadia Khalil holds close to her heart being a camp counselor at *Camp Rising Sun*, a camp for kids with cancer that she volunteers at. Some of her favorite hobbies are swimming, traveling, eating, hanging out with friends, cooking, baking, and volunteering. Nadia is very excited to be part of a great program and community at Southern, and looks forward to making a difference. Nadia also hopes to contribute to an amazing team in the Women's Studies office. She anticipates working with the WMS office to further its community outreach and is very excited at the opportunity to work with her peers.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 64 DAYS OF NONVIOLENCE

February 24: MLK Memorial @1:00pm ASC Ballroom

February 25 & 26: The Vagina Monologues @7:00pm

March 31, 2016: Slut Walk @ SCSU ASC Ballroom

April 15-16, 2016: 22nd Women's Studies Conference at SCSU: "Women, Community, Technology"

Jan. 19– May 7, 2016 : 64 Days of Nonviolence