

SUMMER 2023 COMMUNITY NEWS



THE YEAR IN REVIEW...

We come to you all with a big end-of-year exhale; much gratitude for the ecosystem of community, care, and labor that supported the Center this year; and a never-faltering open invite into our space as we transition into summer and look ahead to the 2023-2024 academic year. This year was experimental in many ways: from building-back in-person events and mobility between the Five Colleges, to hybrid Research Associate Program configurations, to an open embrace of low-stakes experimentation with genre and media outside our wheelhouses in our Against the Rules programming initiative. The Steering Committee, Director and Program Coordinators completed a review of the Center's leadership model culminating in a set of recommendations to enable the Center to continue to play a key role within the Five College community in a sustainable and integrated manner.

Looking forward, our Writing Community is strong, with a number of us meeting weekly on Monday mornings, which will continue throughout the summer (see page 2). Our pilot pop-up Write Together at Smith and co-organized Writing Workshop at Mount Holyoke highlighted that energizing feeling one gets from working in a unique space, as well as the joy of being able to drop-in to a co-working space close to home or on one's home campus. It was a really exciting year to literally host (and be hosted by) Research Associates (including those living here in the area), foregrounding opportunities to attend events across the Five Colleges together and engaging in that type of on-going comparative conversation about feminist work and life that emerges when in other spaces, structures, and environments. Eight Research Associates, working on a diverse range of topics and employing a variety of approaches, will be joining us in 2023-24 (see page 6). We invite you to read their bios and project abstracts early and to help us host them throughout their stay by inviting them to participate in faculty seminars, attend lectures or workshops in your department, or to join you for a coffee, tea, or visit to your favorite museum or dance performance in the area.

We are wishing everyone a summer of rest and recharging. We look forward to seeing some of you throughout the summer, as well as kicking-off next year with our Fall Reception on September 13, from 5:00pm to 7:00pm.

In appreciation,

Jacquelyne Luce
Director

Lily Sendroff
Program Coordinator

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LEADERSHIP UPDATES

The daily life of the Center and programming relies on a full-time Program Coordinator and a faculty member of one of the Five College campuses, who receives a course release per semester. We are excited for Jaquelyne Luce to continue as Director for the 2023-2024 academic year! Between the fall and spring semesters, the FCWSRC underwent a transition in our Program Coordinator role. We invite our community members to join us in thanking our former Program Coordinator, Maegan Bergeron-Clearwood, for all they did during such a transformative period for the Center, as well as welcoming our new Program Coordinator, Lily Sendroff.

LILY SENDROFF | SHE/HER



I assumed the Program Coordinator role in January, 2023, and during my first few months at the Center, I've been incredibly grateful to be part of such an engaging, dynamic, and supportive community. I hold a BA in the Study of Women and Gender and Government from Smith College, and my primary areas of research center on transnational feminisms and feminist economics. Before coming to the Center, my recent projects include "Democratic Precarity from Below: Exclusion, Resistance, and the Gendered and Racialized Division of Labor" and contributions to "Anti-Imperialism and the United Nations: Mapping the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization during the U.N. Decade for Women." My writing has also appeared publicly in the open-access second edition of *Women Worldwide: Transnational Feminist Perspectives* as well as online in *Ms. Magazine*.

MAEGAN BERGERON-CLEARWOOD | SHE/THEY



Since relocating to Cambridge this January, I've been keeping plenty busy by finding my way into new musical, spiritual, and martial arts communities. I finished teaching a public speaking course a few weeks ago, an unexpectedly joyous experience in which, as one of my students reflected, we got to spend two months "practicing how to be human." I'm [writing about Boston theatre](#) with New England Theatre Geek and I started a couple of writing projects during the Center's Write Together sessions, attended virtually, that I hope to continue during the Writing Retreat. It's remarkable how much I learned about myself as a feminist professional, writer, and all-around human at the Center, and I strive to approach all of my ongoing work with the kind of care, intentionality, and reflexivity that were so central to the collaborative work I engaged with there. The Center set a high bar for the kind of compassionate come-as-you-are feminist community that I strive to find here in my new home city, but I'm grateful all the same!

STEERING COMMITTEE

The FCWSRC Steering Committee is comprised of faculty teaching in departments or fields of Women's and Gender Studies, Queer Studies, and Trans Studies at each of the Five College campuses. This year involved additional work to support the search for our new Program Coordinator and to complete a review of our leadership model. We issue a huge thank you to all. Special thank you to our outgoing Steering Committee members Jennifer DeClue and Steve Dillon, as well as a congratulations to Steve as he takes up a new position in the School of Culture, Gender, and Social Justice at the University of Wyoming! We're expecting two additional members, but issue a warm welcome at this time to incoming Steering Committee member, Suzana Loza, Associate Professor of Critical Race, Gender and Media Studies at Hampshire.

2022-2023 MEMBERS

Laura Ciolkowski

UMass Amherst | Senior Lecturer in Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies

Jennifer DeClue

Smith College | Assistant Professor of the Study of Women and Gender

Steve Dillon

Hampshire College | Associate Professor of Queer Studies

Katrina Karkazis

Amherst College | Professor of Sexuality, Women's and Gender Studies

Ray Rennard

Five Colleges, Inc.

FEMINIST KNOWLEDGE MAKER-SPACE

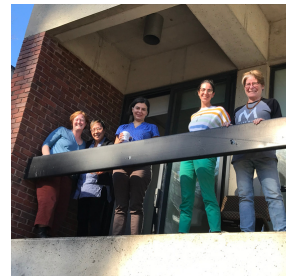
As we've navigated these past few years, experiencing the differential impacts of COVID, racism, academic contingency, and unanticipated change across our communities, we've found ourselves increasingly in an introspective space of reflection. The Center's mission is to enable interdisciplinary collaborations and support feminist scholarship across the Five Colleges. We've often done this by hosting work-in-progress sessions, write-on-sites and retreats, roundtable conversation series. For many of us the spaces in which we worked, our weekly rhythms, who we talked with about on-going projects or shared the very initial bits of writing on a topic shifted, disappeared, or required a tremendous amount of emotional labor to reignite. We found ourselves reverse outlining the concepts of feminist collaboration and support of scholarship. How can the Center support feminist scholars across the Five Colleges to create, conceptualize, analyse, write? How could we foster co-working space and unstructured chances for conversations across disciplines and genre, cultivating that time before work enters into more public circulation? Imagining the Center as a feminist knowledge maker-space is one response at which we arrived.

WRITING COMMUNITY

Weekly Write Togethers allowed in-person attendees and Zoom participants to gather and then write in each others' company. Conversations during the half hour before the 10am start of quiet writing time fostered connections (including with Research Associate Alums based in Florida, Texas, and Hawaii), generated knowledge about events happening elsewhere, and allowed a regular practice of writing to be a social event. At monthly writing community lunches we shared more about on-going projects and favorite downtime environments. We also introduced our first ever Pop-Up Write Together, held at Smith College and co-sponsored by *Meridians* Journal and the Smith College Study of Women and Gender Department! In September and January, we co-organized writing workshops and co-writing afternoons with Mount Holyoke College. Our annual Kick-Off-the-Summer Writing Retreat, scheduled for June 6-8 at Hampshire College offers a chance to step into or step out of writing in an intensive two-day co-writing extravaganza.



Pop-Up Write Together attendees writing away!



Writing Community members getting some fresh air on the balcony.

WRITE TOGETHER SESSIONS

Mondays, 9:30am - 12pm
R.W. Kern Center, Room 202
Hampshire College; also on Zoom

To stay up-to-date on Writing Community happenings, please register for our Writing Community mailing list using [this form](#).

We're excited to write with you!

AGAINST THE RULES SERIES

A recurring theme during our weekly work-in-progress sessions with Research Associates and coming up in other spheres was how scholars were coming up against ideas of what forms of writing/representation 'count' in the diverse environments in which we work. What holds meaning for appointment and promotion, getting grants, receiving contracts? When can one take chances? The Against the Rules series was launched with a panel conversation inviting exploration of what we as feminist thinkers have been told is the "correct" way to approach our work, and how we can break through those boun-

daries by experimenting with expansive modes of knowledge-making. A spring workshop, "Layer Upon Layer: Creating Collage, Moving Image and Installation," facilitated by Elitza Ranova, cultural anthropologist and professional leadership coach, offered a low-stakes opportunity to experiment with creating collage as an analytical tool and mode of scholarly representation, offering strategies and techniques for the creative juxtaposition of images, objects and text as a way to engage with and think through research material in a non-linear fashion.



Workshop participants in the beautiful, sustainable R.W. Kern Center on Hampshire campus.



Workshop participants working on their collages.



Workshop facilitator, Elitza Ranova.

CONNECTIONS/COLLABORATIONS

FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR, RACHEL SIMON-KUMAR



In December 2022, we hosted Dr. Rachel Simon-Kumar, Associate Professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Auckland and co-director of the Centre for Asian Health Research and Evaluation (CAHRE) for a visit. At the time a Fulbright Scholar from Aotearoa/New Zealand in the Women's and Gender Studies Program at Georgetown University, Rachel's visit was supported by the Fulbright Outreach Lecturing Fund. Rachel joined our Writing Together and community lunch, a Research Associate cohort work-in-progress session, visited a faculty seminar and undergraduate class, and delivered a hybrid lunch-time presentation about her work on migration, health, and intersectionality. Excitingly, Dr. Simon-Kumar had planned on coming to the Center as a Research Associate nearly 20 years ago, but was unfortunately unable to do so due to funding constraints. What a lovely way to close a loop and open opportunities for further conversation!

PARTICIPATORY COLLABORATIONS

As we continued to resume in-person programming this year, one of the hallmarks of FCWSRC events was robust and intentional collaboration. Together with Hampshire College's In/Justice Learning Collaborative, we organized a two-part event featuring a class presentation (opened-up in-person and via Zoom to the wider Five College community) with Research Associate Ever E. Osorio Ruiz on "Feminist Activism and Reproductive Justice in Latin America" and a hands-on workshop co-facilitated by Ever and Oliver Arellano. We also collaborated with Research Associate Ruthfirst Ayande and the UMass School of Public Health and Health Sciences on another two-part event, "The Legacy of Henrietta Lacks: A Discourse on Medical Capitalism, Health Equity, and Social Justice." The event featured a film screening, presentation by Dr. Sarah Berry, and a moderated cross-status open forum facilitated by Ruthfirst. In April, we supported an emerging faculty initiative to host a dinner and screening of *PERSONHOOD: The Policing of Pregnant Women in America*, followed by a talk back with director Jo Ardinger, moderated by Karen Cardozo.



Ruthfirst presenting at "The Legacy of Henrietta Lacks" event.



Ever, Prof. Margaret Cerullo, Prof. Amy Jordan, Prof. Lili Kim, and Smith postdoc fellow Ana Del Conde at Ever's workshop.

CO-SPONSORING COMMUNITIES

For a number of us in the area, having connections with staff, faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students across the Five Colleges holds a special place in our intellectual community hearts. Being able to engage with one another and to invite guest speakers to events via Zoom has broadened our chances to learn and collaborate in many ways. This year was incredibly exciting as we emerged into a felt sociality of hybrid and in-person events, peppered with spontaneous side-bar conversations and more casual interactions. We are grateful to all who co-sponsored our initiatives over the year, and who co-organized events with us, including: Amherst College Sexuality, Women's, and Gender Studies Department, Five College Reproductive Politics Faculty Seminar, Five College Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice Certificate, Hampshire College In/Justice Learning Collaborative, Hampshire College Dean of Faculty Office, *Meridians: feminism, race, transnationalism*, Mount Holyoke College Department of Gender Studies, Smith College Department of the Study of Women and Gender, UMass Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies Department, and the UMass School of Public Health and Health Sciences. We were also thrilled to be able to support feminist events and programming across the Five Colleges this year, including:

- Radical Relationalism & Abundant Affinities: A QTBIPOC Artist Series at Mount Holyoke College and on Zoom
- After Archives/Archives After Symposium at Smith College, Mount Holyoke College, and UMass Amherst
- *Fly in Power* screening, panel, and reception at UMass Amherst with Red Canary Song
- Public talk by Dr. Monica Huerta at UMass Amherst, organized by Scholars of Color in Communication
- Collective Power for Reproductive Justice Annual Conference at Hampshire College

THE RESEARCH ASSOCIATE EXPERIENCE

Over the year, we hosted nine Research Associates, including two scholars who participated in the Program in a hybrid capacity and two scholars who visited from international locations – the first time that has been possible since offices were vacated in 2020.

Throughout the year, Wednesdays were dedicated to "Cohort & Coffee" Work-in-Progress sessions that provided a more structured opportunity for Associates to share, read, and engage with each other's work. Outside of Wednesdays, Associates shared lunches, celebrated each other's achievements, and supported each other's struggles.



Fall 2022 in-person cohort group photo.



Silke and Sneha enjoying the Hampshire campus walking/hiking trails.



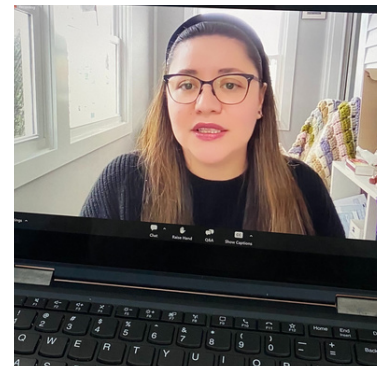
Spring 2023 in-person cohort group photo.



An outdoor lunch as the weather began to warm this spring!



A surprise birthday celebration for Ruthfirst combined with a going-away party for Silke.



Tuning-in to a panel Ever moderated and co-organized with the Yale Beinecke Library.



I have found the ideal community for finishing my dissertation and for engaging in feminist praxis. I have received the most thoughtful comments on my writing while feeling nourished and supported not only through my peers' voices and hugs when needed, but also with hot coffee and seasonal snacks. Discussing the complexities of our present while indulging in the best cider doughnuts in the country has made this space a home. In our monthly lunches, I have had the opportunity to meet with feminist scholars, artists and activists from the area; it is really a productive and generous transgenerational space in which I have asked more senior and experienced scholars awkward questions about academia and life in general that I would not ask elsewhere.

— **Ever E. Osorio Ruiz**, Doctoral Candidate at Yale University

THE RESEARCH ASSOCIATE EXPERIENCE



I particularly enjoyed our Wednesday cohort meetings when we reviewed each other's works in progress and provided constructive feedback, or just allowed the meeting to breathe and take on a life of its own, ideas bursting from all angles. Through these interactions, I have found myself examining and re-examining my own approach to engaging feminist thinking in my life both inside and outside of the classroom and as I continue to explore ways to incorporate feminist theory in my scientific and creative work. Besides the much-appreciated mental stimulation from my colleagues and administrators at the center, the physical space provided by the center for the duration of the program to "in-person" Associates is another wonderful perk of this fellowship that I am always raving about to whoever would listen! Lack of access to physical space or a conducive work space can easily become a barrier to creative writing, so as someone who was also writing some poetry this year, I do not take for granted my large office with tall book shelves and extra storage space that suits my current busy schedule juggling TA work with the fellowship and my dissertation work.

— **Ruthfirst E.A. Ayande**, Doctoral Candidate at UMass Amherst



The Center was a perfect environment for me to read and reflect and revisit my relationship to the written word, a place to develop new ideas and revisit existing ones through the exchange with other Associates and members of the community. Particularly the engagement with others who have a completely different area of expertise and focus has helped me sharpen my own thoughts. The engagement with others at different moments in their career has helped me reflect where I stand and where I want to be. Other standouts from my time: having meaningful side conversations over a cup of coffee or lunch in the communal space; knowing that someone is there when you get to campus; stepping outside my office, picking an apple from the tree and sitting down to enjoy the beautiful view from Hampshire campus into the hills; going for a walk in the Hampshire woods with a colleague after lunch, enjoying the fresh air and the conversation; enjoying thoughts, recommendations for books and recipes for yummy food with the other Associates; being able to enjoy everything the Five College libraries have to offer, including enjoying the support of the extremely helpful and friendly staff in the Hampshire library; enjoying the community, picking healthy veggies and garden flowers at the Hampshire Farm through a membership in their CSA was a highlight of my week; and getting to know and enjoying the differences in focus, 'style and culture,' student body and campus environment between the Five Colleges.

— **Silke Steinhilber**, International consultant based in Germany

CELEBRATIONS & UPDATES

2022-2023 RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

PROFESSIONAL CELEBRATIONS

Ruthfirst E.A. Ayande has accepted a Postdoctoral Fellowship in Lactation Science and Neonatal Nutrition at Yale University.

Tiarra Cooper will be attending the Summer Institute for Genocide Studies and Prevention at Keene State College.

Jack Jen Giesecking has accepted a position as an editor at the organization Political Research Associates.

IDEAS & VOICES

Ruthfirst E.A. Ayande delivered two guest lectures at UMass Amherst.

Tiarra Cooper presented at the German Studies Association in September 2022, the Association for Jewish Studies in December 2022, and at a German symposium on Nazi reparations in March 2023.

Jack Geiseking delivered the keynote address at the 2023 Association of American Geographers Conference; and launched the LGBTQ*S Dating & Hookup App Study survey.

Sneha Gole contributed to organizing the international conference: Beyond Access and Parity: Complicating the Narrative of Gender Equality in Higher Education in India. She also presented at Swarthmore College, University of Pavia, UMass Amherst, Smith College, and the Gender Equality in Higher Education in India Symposium.

Ever E. Osorio Ruiz presented at three conferences (Juan Bruce-Novoa Mexican Studies Conference at UC Irvine; Mixed Realities: Ethnographic Approaches to the Virtual at Yale University; and will present at the American Studies Association annual conference later this year. She also moderated and co-organized two webinars, "Women that Fight in Mexico: Weaving, Sowing, Recording the Memory and Struggle" and "Protest(art)e: Visualities of Feminist Protest in Mexico."

Urmila Seshagiri presented at the Modernist Studies Association Conference in Portland, Oregon.

Silke Steinhilber presented "Structural Labour Market Inequalities, Gender Equality/Non-Discrimination and Algorithm-Supported Hiring" at a working meeting for the project "Fairness and Intersectional Non-Discrimination in Human Recommendation FINDHR." She also facilitated the panel, "Climate Change and Global Inequalities in the Use of Natural Resources: Resistances Against Extractivism," at the WIDE+/WIDE Capacity Building on Gender and Climate Justice in Vienna.

HONORS & RECOGNITION

Ruthfirst E.A. Ayande was the recipient of three awards: she was named an Outstanding Student Scholarship Award winner by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; she was recognized by the Yale New Haven Hospital with the Heidi Larson Memorial Dietetic Internship Award for Excellence in Clinical Practice; and her research poster, "A Preliminary Analysis of Factors Associated with Infant Dietary Diversity among Ghanaian Mothers during the COVID-19 Pandemic," won third place for the UMass School of Public Health and Health Sciences Research Day.

PUBLICATIONS

Tiarra Cooper published "Women's Experiences of Forcible Sterilization under the Nazi Regime, 1933-1945" in the *German Studies Review*, as well as a book review of Ceija Stojka's memoirs.

Jack Jen Giesecking co-curated a special dossier on Hil Malatino's "Trans Care" in *Feminist Formations*, which includes his article "Privates: Theorizing Private Space in Trans Care."

Sneha Gole published two book reviews in *Economic and Political Weekly*.

Urmila Seshagiri's new edition of *JACOB'S ROOM* by Virginia Woolf, published by Oxford Press, was published in the United States.

WHERE TO FOLLOW OUR RESEARCH ASSOCIATES:

Ruthfirst E.A. Ayande

🌐 <https://bit.ly/fcwsrcruthfirst>

Tiarra Cooper

🐦 @TiarraCooper

Jack Jen Giesecking

🌐 <http://jgieseking.org/>

Ever E. Osorio Ruiz

🐦 @intweettion

Silke Steinhilber

🐦 @feminism_alive

🌐 <https://bit.ly/fcwsrclsilke>

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE COHORT

2023-2024 ACADEMIC YEAR



CHANIDA CHITBUNDID

University of Wisconsin-Madison

PhD Candidate in Anthropology
and Gender and Women's
Studies

ACADEMIC YEAR

Project: *Agents of the Postcolonial State: Women's Agency and Sexuate Knowledge in Environmental Justice in Thailand*



SNEHA KRISHNAN

University of Oxford

Associate Professor of Human
Geography

SPRING 2024

Project: *Unhomely Histories: Archiving Girlhood in 20th Century India*



EIR-ANNE E. EDGAR

**Norwegian University of
Science and Technology**

Associate Professor of Literature
in English

ACADEMIC YEAR

Project: *Women in the Wastelands: the World-Making of Feminist Critical Dystopian Fiction*



EVER E. OSORIO RUIZ

Yale University

PhD Candidate in American
Studies and Women and Gender
Studies

ACADEMIC YEAR

Project: *Vivas: Politics and Poetics of Mexican Feminisms*



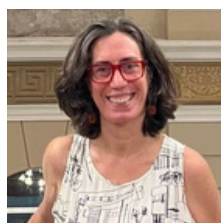
CORY ELLEN GATRALL

**University of Massachusetts,
Amherst**

PhD Candidate in Elaine Marieb
College of Nursing

ACADEMIC YEAR

Project: *'Dynamics of Prejudice': Antiracist Nursing Education and Community Health Activism, 1968-1978*



**MICHELA ROSA DI
CANDIA**

**Federal University of Rio de
Janeiro**

Associate Professor of Literature

ACADEMIC YEAR

Project: *Maternal Subjectivity/ies as a Source(s) of Identities*



SNEHA GOLE

Savitribai Phule Pune University

Assistant Professor of Women
and Gender Studies

ACADEMIC YEAR

Project: *Understanding Feminist Subjectivities in the Times of Intersectionality: Linking Narratives, Memories, Politics*



NAFISA TANJEEM

Worcester State University

Associate Professor, Department
of Interdisciplinary Studies

ACADEMIC YEAR

Project: *From Rana Plaza to COVID-19: Disjunctures of Transnational Garment Labor Organizing*

To learn more about the 2023-2024 Research Associate cohort and their projects, visit:

<https://bit.ly/fcwsresearchassociates>

LOOKING FORWARD

SAVE THE DATE!

FALL RECEPTION

Wednesday, September 13

5:00pm - 7:00pm

Hampshire College | FPH Courtyard

Join us for our annual fall reception, an opportunity for community members to come together after the summer and welcome new Five College faculty, staff & FCWSRC Research Associates.

GET INVOLVED!

During our initial planning for next year, a number of themes have emerged for faculty reading groups, seminars and workshops.

- Archives & local archival exploration
- Imagining activist-scholar careers
- Intergenerational, transnational feminisms

If you have interest in any of these or would like to propose an initiative, let us know!

SHORT-TERM VISITS & FLEX OFFICE AVAILABILITY

Are you planning a visit to the Five College area? Are you hoping to invite a collaborator or mentor to stay in the Five Colleges for a few days to a couple of weeks? Are you needing to create a mini 'staybbatical' to immerse yourself in a project and/or community?

Reach out to us at fcwsrc@fivecolleges.edu, and/or check our Flex Office availability [here!](#)

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH INTERNS

When the Center moved in 2021, we took with us 42 banker's boxes of FCWSRC files! While preparing to transfer much of this material to Archives and Special Collections at Mount Holyoke, we're re-engaging with the history of the Center, thinking a lot about lasting—as well as unknown—connections between feminist scholars, the shaping of Women, Gender, Trans, and Queer Studies programs nationally and globally, and the histories of funding social justice actions and

scholarship. Last summer, Wenqi Zou (Mount Holyoke) and Su Than Thar Nyi (Smith) helped launch two inter-related projects: (1) Mapping Transnational Flows of Feminist Knowledge and (2) Feminist Site-specificity of the Five Colleges. Over the year, Helen Gloege (Mount Holyoke) completed their Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice Certificate special project by tracing RHRJ-related projects by FCWSRC Research Associates throughout the years.

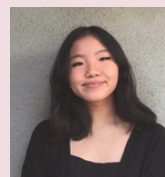
WELCOME OUR SUMMER 2023 INTERNS!



SHIVAANGI SALHOTRA

Shivaangi Salhotra (they/them) is a Linguistics and Psychology undergraduate student at UMass Amherst with a minor in Women, Gender, Sexuality

Studies. They are interested in transnational, queer, and environmental feminisms, digital psychology, community archival work, and gender-neutral language histories and development, amongst many other things. During the academic year, they work at UMass Libraries' Special Collections and University Archives and are a research assistant in the Cognition Across Development Lab. In their free time, they love to read and drink tea!



EM KIM

Em Kim is a rising junior at Smith College double majoring in the Study of Women and Gender and Anthropology. They're originally from Los Angeles, where she dev-

eloped an interest in how intersections of identities shape personal experiences, and more specifically, forming theories of liberation for marginalized communities from this knowledge. They are passionate about accessibility, free resources, education, and community building. In her free time, Em loves to read anything from history books to YA novels and cook delicious Korean meals for their friends and family. Em is thrilled to be working at the Center this summer and expanding her knowledge of feminist communities, activism, and scholarship.