

# FIVE COLLEGE WOMEN'S STUDIES RESEARCH CENTER

Amherst College | Hampshire College | Mount Holyoke College | Smith College | University of Massachusetts Amherst

## Spring 2022 Community News

The Center's new home at Hampshire College has not only provided a lush, vibrant environment in which to build community; it's also offered a variety of unexpected and invigorating opportunities to experiment with where, how, and with whom we cultivate feminist thought. Creativity, pedagogy, poetry, caring for elders and community members, parenting, publications — feminist work emerged in so many configurations and spaces: from accountability partnerships and gracious email accolades of each other's research, to conversations in the hallway and walks around campus, to sharing food, laughter, and tears.

As we conclude this academic year and step into our summer routines, we're both reflecting backward and looking ahead. We are grateful to everyone who joined us in our experiments with outdoor gatherings, Zoom-based events, and hybrid happenings. We are looking

forward to what will hopefully be a less remote 2022-23 academic year. Eleven Research Associates will be joining the Center, ten for the full year, one for fall and one for spring (we've listed their project titles on page 8 to give an initial sense of their fascinating work). We'll open the year with our Fall reception on September 14, from 5-7pm and look forward to seeing you there. Please feel welcome to invite new colleagues and old friends. In the meantime, don't hesitate to reach out if you have any ideas you would like to share with us: suggestions for book salon guests, additional writing sessions, or reading groups.

*We acknowledge that the Five College Women's Studies Research Center is located on Nonotuck land. We also acknowledge our neighboring Indigenous nations: the Nipmuc and the Wampanoag to the East, the Mohegan and Pequot to the South, the Mohican to the West, and the Abenaki to the North.*



### End-of-Semester Gathering: Wednesday, May 11

Center alums, current Research Associates, new Hampshire friends, and many other members of the Five College feminist community bonded over sandwiches and conversation. The event was hosted in the courtyard outside our new offices at Franklin Patterson Hall, Hampshire College.



## Connections & Collaborations

We were excited to participate in and co-sponsor a number of opportunities for intergenerational connections, collaborations, and community engagement at Hampshire, the Five Colleges, and the greater New England region.

The Center's first hybrid event in November, *The New Works of Patricia Montoya: A Community Education Day presentation*, co-sponsored by the Hampshire College Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, was a true community effort, with real-time technological hiccups and fixes, generative questions from undergraduate film students, and, very importantly, piping hot tamales cooked by Comida Latina. Patricia screened her film, *Cuando La Rumorosa Calla / When La Rumorosa Quiets*, and then walked us through a series of images from the look book for her current project, *Horse*. This detailed glimpse into the process of Patricia's work as a filmmaker highlighted the complexities of decision-making, artistic vision, and representation.

Throughout the Spring, we were excited about connections with Hampshire College's Learning Collaboratives, or LCs. Maegan Bergeron-Clearwood presented *Encounters in the Woods: The Transformative Unknown of Musical Theater* as part of the Time and Narrative Learning Collaborative. Shailja Patel was involved with the In/Justice Learning Collaborative and Michele Hardesty's (an alum of the Center) course Literature, Culture and Empire. In March, Shailja read from her own work and conversed with Robert B. Caldwell, Jr. Later in the semester, Shailja was in dialogue with Uzma Khan about the launch of her novel *The Miraculous True History of Nomi Ali*. These events drew attention to ways in which ideas grow in conversation, over time, and in dialogue with new experiences and memories.

Research Associates Emily Mitchell-Eaton and Katherine Side presented work from ongoing projects within the Reproductive Politics Faculty Seminar, and the Center co-sponsored an event organized by the Five College Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice Certificate program, *Police Violence as a Reproductive Issue*. As Emily articulated a call for a postpartum undercommons and Katherine demonstrated the dimensions of spatial isolation experienced by asylum seekers in Ireland, the expansive scope of work within the frame of reproductive politics was clear, as was the potential impact of engaging with topics situated in disciplinary frames different from one's own.

We also hosted book salons over Zoom to celebrate the publication of the first books by feminist scholars based in Women and Gender Studies at colleges in the Northeast: *Bio-Imperialism: Disease, Terror, and the Construction of National Fragility* by Gwen D'Arcangelis (Skidmore) and *Weighing the Future: Race, Science, and Pregnancy Trials in the Postgenomic Era* by Natali Valdez (Wellesley).



Patricia Montoya (above), in-person at Hampshire College, discusses her work with guest speaker Margaret Cerullo (below), over Zoom, in our first hybrid event last November.

## Work in Progress Series

The Center's Work in Progress series began with internal presentations among Research Associates in the Fall, aiming to support Research Associates who were stepping back more fully into projects while continuing to navigate numerous other commitments and contingency plans in their lives.

When we opened this space up in November, holding late morning sessions via Zoom, we were excited to be able to reach out with invitations to alums of the Center, Five College community members, and folks interested in feminist scholarship well beyond the Valley. During this stretch of time, we've been able to play with and expand our notions of where and how feminist scholarship thrives and how to further cultivate communities in which we can share projects in various stages of development, from burgeoning ideas to fleshed out presentations and everything in between.

In our [Year in Review gallery](#), we've included details about these diverse presentations; you can also learn more by exploring the [Past Events section of our website](#). Continue reading, and in the Research Associate updates section (starting on page 5), you'll find information on where else these ideas are circulating — in talks, podcasts, articles and new books.

# Hybrid Writing Communities: Accountability, Solidarity, Support

Monday mornings this spring semester, writers from across the Five College community gathered in the spirit of feminist productivity. In-person participants filled up on caffeinated beverages and spread out in one of many sunny spaces in the RW Kern, Hampshire's fully sustainable, living building. Remote participants joined us on Zoom and contributed to a goal-setting virtual whiteboard.

The Red Barn at Hampshire College offered an ideal setting for the Center's annual Writing Retreat, the first since 2019! We kicked-off the retreat with a dinner reception, allowing us to map out ideas, set goals, and cultivate new support networks. The following two days were dedicated to quiet writing time, interspersed with sandwiches, coffee, and conversation. The strength of this community coming together to share in a co-working space, a space of just knowing that there is a lot of energy and support in your surroundings no matter what you individually are working on, was palpable. The retreat was in some ways a liminal space, somewhere within which an academic year

ends and summer begins. It's a time during which 'work' shifts, time recalibrates, deadlines loom, and deadlines shift. Some folks worked inside, others out on the deck, others out on the lawn. These are the spaces in which thoughts and ideas can form, work can thrive.

## Join Our Writing Community

### Summer Write Together Sessions

Mondays, 10am - 12pm

RW Kern Center, Room 106

Hampshire College; also on Zoom

If you would like to join this ongoing writing community, or be the first to hear about our Fall 2022 plans, you can sign up to be added to our google group: [fill out this form](#) or email us at [fcwsr@fivecolleges.edu](mailto:fcwsr@fivecolleges.edu).

*We look forward to writing with you!*



**Top left:** A spring semester Monday morning Write Together session, with delicious hot drinks from the Kern Kafé.

**Top Right:** The Red Barn, our quiet writing oasis for two-and-a-half-days.

**Bottom left:** Old friends and new connections gathered for the Writing Retreat Kickoff Reception.

**Bottom Right:** A productive afternoon on the porch of the Red Barn.

## Spotlight on Special Collections & Archives

Amherst College Special Collections acquired feminist poet **Adrian Oktenberg's** archive in 2021 to supplement the archive of feminist literary publisher Paris Press, which was acquired in 2018, thanks to support from President Bidy Martin. Oktenberg's papers add to the manuscripts, editorial work, production materials, correspondence, educational outreach, and marketing materials for all Paris Press books, including edited drafts, galleys, and page proofs of *Open Me Carefully: Emily Dickinson's Intimate Correspondence with Susan Huntington Dickinson*; *Virginia Woolf's On Being Ill with Notes from Sick Rooms* by Julia Stephen; one memoir and two novels by Bryher; Ruth Stone's *Simplicity* and NBCC-award winning *Ordinary Words*; *Sisters: An Anthology*; Muriel Rukeyser's iconic *The Life of Poetry*, *Houdini: A Musical*, and *The Orgy*; Adrian Oktenberg's *The Bosnia Elegies*; Zdena Berger's *Tell Me Another Morning*; Elizabeth Cady Stanton's *Solitude of Self*; Jan Freeman's *Simon Says*; and other groundbreaking literary works by women. In addition to material related to the books, there is also footage from two documentaries in progress: Muriel Rukeyser's *Life in Poetry* and *Sisters*, and 23 years of letters and emails between nationally acclaimed and regional writers and supporters, as well as distribution, sales, and development documents.

**The Valley Women's History Collaborative** is coming to an end following 24 years of extensive oral history projects to document the lives and contributions of women and feminists in the region. The structure and intent of the Collaborative first came together during a meeting at the Five College Women's Studies Research Center in 1998. The topics covered by the Collaborative were diverse, including the history of reproductive rights in the area, domestic

### Welcome to Our Summer Interns!

We're delighted to introduce two undergraduate interns, both of whom bring an impressive array of feminist skills and interests to the table: **Su Than Thar Nyi**, a junior at Smith College majoring in Government, Statistical & Data Sciences; and **Wenqi Zou**, a sophomore at Mount Holyoke College majoring in Politics and Chemistry.

Su and Wenqi will be assisting us with two interrelated projects to establish an enhanced understanding of the Center's history, map the local and transnational flow of feminist knowledge via participation and interaction with the Center, and identify site-specific resources related to work at the Center.

violence shelters, and the Mary Vasquez Women's Softball League. Many of the oral history collections can be accessed via the Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center ([finding aid](#)). To learn more about the Collaborative and its history, and to access toolkits to support oral history projects, [please view the archived website](#). Anyone interested in continuing the work of the VWHC should reach out to Joyce Berkman at: [jberkman@umass.edu](mailto:jberkman@umass.edu).

**We're building our [list of special collections and archives in the area](#) that may be of particular interest to feminist scholars. We're also interested in collections generated during Research Associateships that may be housed elsewhere. If you would like to spotlight an archive or add to our list, please reach out.**

### Special Thanks

...to Linda Slakey and Amherst Community Land Trust, for their very generous donation of books from the personal library of Dr. Maurianne Adams, Professor Emerita at UMass Amherst College of Education, who passed away on October 6, 2020. As 2021-22 Research Associate Jennifer Cannon, one of Maurianne's former graduate students, notes, "Maurianne was a tireless advocate for social justice, feminist struggles, and issues of class equity. She was a brilliant and prolific scholar and had an eclectic and inspiring personal library collection." Maurianne Adams is known for her foundational leadership in establishing the academic field of Social Justice Education, and we at the Center are grateful to be a part of her ongoing legacy.

...to Kimberly Chang, Associate Professor Emerita of Cultural Psychology and Creative Nonfiction at Hampshire College, for donating a robust collection of books on gender, women, and feminist theory and philosophy.

...to the many Hampshire College staff members who have helped us navigate the strange new world of event planning on a new campus: Franny Krushinsky, Nick Mason, Erdim Yilmaz, and the Dining Services department; the student baristas at the Kern Kafé; Deanna Theroux, Barbara Brizzolari, and the Special Events department; and Rae Ann Wentworth and Neil Young for their ever-patient tech support.

...to photographer Noah Loving for beautifully capturing our spring events, as seen throughout this document.

# 2021-22 RESEARCH ASSOCIATES UPDATES

## PROFESSIONAL CELEBRATIONS

**Pempho Chinkondenji** completed the Graduate Certificate in Feminist Studies with the UMass Amherst Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Department this May.

**Meltem Ince Yenilmez** changed institutions, from Yasar University to Izmir Democracy University's Department of Economics. She was also named Scholar-in-Residence at University of California, Berkeley and Visiting Associate Professor at Tohoku University.

**Emily Mitchell-Eaton** has accepted a tenure track position as Assistant Professor of Geography at Colgate University.

**Nell Lake** completed her PhD in American Studies from Brown University in June. Beginning July 1, Nell will be a Lecturer in Journalism at Brown University.

**Sandra Russell** will be a Visiting Lecturer in Gender Studies at Mount Holyoke College beginning this fall.

**Maggie Unverzagt Goddard** completed her PhD in American Studies with a Graduate Certificate in Gender and Sexuality Studies from Brown University in May. After spending the summer studying Arabic in Middlebury, she will begin a two-year postdoctoral fellowship at Virginia Commonwealth University working on the East Marshall Street Well Project.



**Mobius: Writing Through Trauma to Revise the Myths of Family — A Feminist Poetic (March 23, 2022):** A Work in Progress session with Research Associate Jan Freeman. The intimacy of intergenerational trauma transcended the boundaries of temporality, individual narrative, and Zoom screens as Jan shared excerpts from her pulsating work.

## HONORS & RECOGNITION

**Jan Freeman** spent a month in Auvillar, France supported by a Spiral Shell Fellowship.

**Siobhan Meï** was named part of the inaugural Public Interest Technology Fellowship Program at UMass Amherst. Along with Dr. Michelle Trim, she will be developing a course that focuses on social issues in computing, drawing heavily from feminist STS research.

**Sandra Russell** was nominated for an Excellence in Teaching Award for 2021-22 at Hollins University.

**Maggie Unverzagt Goddard** received the Engaged Scholarship Award from the Swearer Center for Public Service at Brown University.

**Elena Yushkova** was awarded a three-week residential fellowship through the Peredelkino Literary Residency, during which time she developed the telegram channel, "Institute of Isadora Duncan."

## IDEAS & VOICES

**Danica Anderson** presented on her Balkan Route research at the Northwest Regional Conference for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies, as well as the Western Social Science Association in April. In May, she presented to the Woman's Club of Olympia.

**Pempho Chinkondenji** presented "(Un)making schooling for pregnant learners and re-integration of student mothers: The formation and utility of Critical Afro-Feminist Education (CAFE)" at the Comparative and International Education Society (CIES 2022) in Minneapolis-MN. She also presented, with **Nyaradzai Changamire**, a paper titled, "Negotiating "third space" during COVID-19: A decolonial African feminist analysis of higher education female students' experiences in Malawi and Zimbabwe."

**Jan Freeman** gave two poetry readings: one in Pennsylvania for Northampton Community College; and one for *The Brooklyn Rail* in February. In March, at the Association of Writers and Writing Programs Conference, she participated in a panel entitled "A Celebration and Discussion of the Poet Ruth Stone," which featured clips from the newly released documentary, *Ruth Stone's Vast Library of the Female Mind*, in which Freeman makes appearances; Freeman offered observations from the perspective of student, mentee, and publisher. Also in March, Freeman lectured and participated in a talkback at Eastern Michigan University for a staged reading of *Houdini: A Musical*, published through Paris Press 20 years ago.

## IDEAS & VOICES CONT'D

**Meltem Ince Yenilmez** presented at three conferences: “Gender Inequality In Turkey” for the World Economics Association Conference: Feminist Economics, Contributions and Challenges; “Mobbing in Public and Private Academia: The Case of Turkey,” for the International Interdisciplinary Violence Conference; and “COVID-19 Influence on Gender Equality” for the World Women’s Studies Conference.

**Nell Lake** gave a talk, “Complexities of Care in White Mothers’ Activism,” at the annual conference of the International Association of Maternal Action and Scholarship in the fall.

**Siobhan Meĩ** presented on her digital humanities project, “Rendering Revolution,” with co-founder Jonathan Square at the Digital Humanities Unbound Conference and at the Latin American Studies Association Conference in May.

**Emily Mitchell-Eaton** organized a conference session with J. Villanueva, “Relational Geographies across the Caribbean and Pacific,” for the American Association of Geography Annual Meeting in February.

**Patricia Montoya’s** film was featured in the Leslie Lohman Museum of Art’s 2022 Fellowship presentations in March.

**Sandra Russell** presented at the Queer and Gender Studies in the Slavic Context Virtual Research Group in January. In March, she co-organized a teach-in on the war in Ukraine for Hollins University and the wider Roanoke community.

**Maggie Unverzagt Goddard** presented at the virtual annual meetings of the National Women’s Studies Association, American Studies Association, and the Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present.

**Elena Yushkova** gave a public lecture, “American Modern Dance in Russian Culture,” for Fulbright program alumni.

## PUBLICATIONS

**Pempho Chinkondenji** published “Schoolgirl pregnancy, dropout or pushout?: an Ubuntu-centric re-construction of the education for student mothers in Malawi,” with the journal *Gender and Education*.

**Jan Freeman** published three poems in *The Brooklyn Rail* this February. Poems are also forthcoming in *Barrow Street* and *On the Seawall*.

**Meltem Ince Yenilmez** co-edited a book: *Shadow Impact of COVID-19 on Economies: A Greater Depression?* She published more than a dozen peer-reviewed articles over the past year, as well as a book review and three reports.

**Emily Mitchell-Eaton** has a book under contract with the University of Georgia Press “Geographies of Justice and Social Transformation” series, tentatively titled *New Destinations of Empire: Imperial Migration from the Marshall Islands to Northwest Arkansas*. Due out soon, with K. Coddington, is “Refusal and migration research: New possibilities for feminist geographical research on migration,” in *Displacement, Belonging, and Migrant Agency in the Face of Power*, edited by Tamar Mayer and Trinh Tran.

**Mary Njeri Kinyanjui** published “Do Women in Politics Lead to Better Governance?” in *Conversations Under the Palaver Tree: Debating Enduring and Contemporary African Issues* and, with C. S. Hossein, “Conclusion: Indigeneity, Politicized Consciousness and Lived Experience in Community Economies,” in *Community Economies in the Global South: Case Studies of Rotating and Saving Credit Association and Cooperation*.



**Negotiating “Third Space” During COVID-19: A Decolonial African Feminist Analysis of Higher Education Female Students’ Experiences in Malawi and Zimbabwe (February 23, 2022):** A Work in Progress session with Research Associates Pempho Chinkondenji (top right) and Nyari Changamire (bottom), here being introduced by Director Jacquelyne Luce (top left). This kickoff event of our spring semester demonstrated the power of collaborative feminist research to respond to immediate issues of transnational importance.

## PUBLICATIONS CONT'D

**Siobhan Mei's** article "Refashioning History: Women as Sartorial Storytellers," is published in *Contemporary French and Francophone Studies* 26 (1), 40-48.

**Shailja Patel's** lyric essay "To Uncover" is in the *Massachusetts Review* special issue on Climate. Shailja also has an interview forthcoming in the Turkish literature and culture journal *Helezon*.

**Maggie Unverzagt Goddard's** article "Poking Fun: Dildo Play and Camp Aesthetics" is in *Women & Performance* 31(1): 59-78.

**Elena Yushkova's** article "'I Came to This Country to Learn:' Rabindranath Tagore's Visit to the USSR," is published in *ROSSICA: Literary Connections and Contacts* (1), 55-78.

## WHERE TO FOLLOW OUR 2021-22 ASSOCIATES

**Jan Freeman**

[www.janfreeman.net](http://www.janfreeman.net)

**Meltem Ince Yenilmez**

[melteminceyenilmez.com](http://melteminceyenilmez.com)

**Nell Lake**

[nelllake.com](http://nelllake.com)

**Patricia Montoya**

[patriciamontoya.space](http://patriciamontoya.space)

For updates on her upcoming project:

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

**Shailja Patel**

Twitter: @shailjapatel

**Sandra Russell**

[sjoyrussell.wordpress.com](http://sjoyrussell.wordpress.com)

Twitter: @TheSandraJoy

**Maggie Unverzagt Goddard**

[blogs.brown.edu/mugoddard](http://blogs.brown.edu/mugoddard)

Twitter: @mugoddard

**Siobhan Mei**

Explore her digital humanities project, "Rendering Revolution":

<http://Rendering Revolution.ht>

**Elena Yushkova**

Follow her Telegram-channel "Institute of Isadora Duncan" (in Russian):

<https://t.me/duncaninrussia>

## UPDATES FROM 2019-20 ALUMS

*We're excited to highlight the work of Research Associates whose Associateships were so abruptly disrupted by the pandemic in March 2020:*

**Subhalakshmi Goptu** completed her PhD at UMass Amherst's English Department. She will be joining SUNY's Fashion Institute of Technology as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of World Literature in the English and Communication Studies Department. She also published "Watery Archives: Transoceanic Narratives in Andil Gosine's *Our Holy Waters*, and *Mine*" in *Feminist Review*, 130: 44-60.

**Eve Ng** is currently an Associate Professor in Media Arts and Studies and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Ohio University. She recently published a book, *Cancel Culture: A Critical Analysis* (2022).

**Korka Sall** has taken on the role of Assistant Director of Minnesota Studies in International Development in Senegal.

**Pamela Stone**, together with Lise Shapiro Sanders, published *Bodies and Lives in Victorian England: Science, Sexuality, and the Affliction of Being Female*.

**Perry Zurn** published two books with University of Minnesota Press: *Curiosity and Power: The Politics of Inquiry* (2021) and *Intolerable: Writings from Michel Foucault and the Prisons Information Group, 1970-1980* (2021).

## Alums: Please Stay in Touch!

How has your Associateship project evolved since your time at the Center? Have you published a book or are you involved with an exhibit or performance that you'd like to share with our community? Would you like to connect with any of our current or incoming Associates?

Reach out via email at  
[fcwsrc@fivecolleges.edu](mailto:fcwsrc@fivecolleges.edu)

**Five College Women's Studies  
Research Center Research Associates  
Academic Year 2022-2023**

**RUTHFIRST AYANDE**

Academic Year

*PhD Student in Public Health,  
Graduate Certificate in  
Feminist Studies*

University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
**Assisted Reproductive Technologies  
and the Socioeconomic  
Inequalities of Ghana**

**TIARRA COOPER**

Academic Year

*PhD Student in German &  
Scandinavian Studies,  
Graduate Certificate in  
Feminist Studies*

University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
**The Affective Experiences of  
Women Forcibly Sterilized Under  
the Nazi Regime, 1933-1945**

**SNEHA GOLE**

Academic Year

*Assistant Professor of Women  
and Gender Studies*

Savitribai Phule Pune University  
**Understanding Feminist  
Subjectivities in the Times  
of Intersectionality: Linking  
Narratives, Memories, and Politics**

**KIRSTEN ISGRO**

Spring 2023

*Associate Professor of  
Communication Studies*

State University of New York at  
Plattsburgh  
**Douglas as Communication Conduits**

**FUNGAI MACHIRORI**

Academic Year

*PhD Student in Communications  
University of Technology, Sydney*

**African Digital Cosmopolitanism:  
An Exploration of Identity, Power,  
and Agency**

**EVER ESTHER OSORIO RUIZ**

Academic Year

*PhD Student in American Studies  
Yale University*

**The Violent Spring: Radical Politics  
and Poetics of Mexican Feminisms**

**KIMBERLEE PEREZ**

Academic Year

*Assistant Professor in  
Communications*

University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
**Telling**

**MARIAM RASHID**

Academic Year

*PhD Student in Education Studies  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst*

**Theorizing with the Khanga  
and Knowledge-Making with  
African Refugee Women**

**URMILA SESHAGIRI**

Academic Year

*Associate Professor in English  
University of Tennessee*

**Three Projects in the Feminist  
Humanities**

**SILKE STEINHILBER**

Fall 2022

*Independent Scholar and  
International Consultant*

**One Step Forward, Two Back:  
Care Neglect in COVID-19 Economic  
and Social Planning**

**SAVE THE DATE  
FALL 2022 RECEPTION**



Wednesday, September 14th  
5:00 - 7:00pm EST  
Franklin Patterson Hall Courtyard  
Hampshire College  
Rain Location: Solar Canopy

