Fall 2017 WGS Feminist Lecture Series
Feminism, Activism, and Social Justice
Thursdays from 12-12:50 PM in Stevenson 1002

All Lectures are FREE and OPEN to the public.

Aug. 31st: Kim Tran. From Amy Schumer to Cardi B: The New Feminism
Kim Tran is finishing her Ph.D in Ethnic Studies and Gender, Women’s & Sexuality Studies at UC Berkeley. Currently, she’s an Executive Publisher with Third Woman Press: Queer and Feminist of Color Publishing and a contributing writer for Everyday Feminism. Kim’s work has been featured on Vice News, PRI, Ms. Magazine, Vox and Mic. Her academic research explores how Asian American communities build solidarity with the #BlackLivesMatter movement.

Sept. 14th: Veronica Vences and Betzy Chavez. A Catalyst for Change: La Luz Center
Founded in 1985 by a small group of volunteers led by Ligia Booker, La Luz Center created a safe place for immigrants to go for help in emergencies and in building their new lives. La Luz provides English language training and financial support services, teaches computer skills, distributes food, hosts medical and legal services, offers crisis counseling, and supports events that celebrate the multicultural richness of the community. La Luz services ensure that Sonoma Valley residents facing all types of challenges have the opportunity to improve their lives.

Sept. 28th: Anita O’Shea. St. James Infirmary & The Movement for Sex Worker Rights
Anita O’Shea, as part of the St James Infirmary Speakers Bureau Club, works tirelessly educating clinicians and social service providers on how to treat people who work in the sex industry as well as teaching sex workers about safety, money management, self-care and more. She is passionate about spreading the message of "Sex Work is Real Work" to continue the fight against stigma and for decriminalization of sex work of all kinds.

Sept. 21st: Stephanie Manieri. Compassion, Safety, Support: Verity
Stephanie serves at Verity, Sonoma County's only rape crisis, trauma, and healing center, as a bilingual sexual assault victim advocate. With the help of many individuals like her, Verity provides a number of services to all victims of sexual violence, including a 24/7 sexual assault crisis line, walk in crisis counseling, crisis intervention, therapy for individuals and larger support groups, preventative education, and professional training. Verity's growth over the past 43 years has encompassed this and more in order to best meet the community's needs.

Oct. 12th: Chihiro Wimbush (filmmaker) and Nikiko Masumoto, organic farmer/artist/writer. Changing Season: On the Masumoto Farm
Chihiro Wimbush is an Emmy-nominated documentary filmmaker dedicated to telling stories that inspire transformation. He has worked on a wide range of projects around the world sharing empowering community stories from around the world and every walk of life; he recently edited the award-winning “Changing Season: On The Masumoto Family Farm” about a year in the peach orchards of a Japanese American family.

Nikiko Masumoto is an organic farmer and artist who combines her passions for organic farming and creativity in writing, storytelling, and community-based art. Her background in community-based art emerged from graduate studies in Performance as Public Practice (MA, University of Texas, at Austin) and continued her work; she has contributed to national conversations about the arts and sustainable farming through performances of her own plays nationwide and her service on several key farmers’ and arts boards.

Oct. 26th: Robert Smith. Violence Against Women is Men’s Issue
Rob Smith is a Campus Life Advisor in Student Involvement working with Sport Clubs. He obtained his BA in Communication from University of San Francisco and his MA in Higher Education and Student Affairs from University of San Francisco as well. Prior to working at Sonoma State, he spent a little over a year working at Santa Clara University in the Center for Student Leadership, teaching the Emerging Leaders class and planning and attending student retreats. Along with his main job at SSU, Rob co-facilitates It's A Guy Thing and has taught University 238: Foundations of Leadership.

Nov. 9th: Tatyana Brown. The Power of Poetry: Interrupting the System
Tatyana Brown is a traveling performer, educator, organizer, and activist focused on reawakening audiences to the power (both emotional and political) of the oral tradition. Using humor, honesty, and imagery-driven cathartic moments crafted through an approach that bridges the genres of magical realism and confessional work, her poetry challenges audiences and readers alike to imagine transcending cultural patterns of violence and inequity.

Nov. 30th: Taina Asili. Resistance, Rebellion, and Music
Taina Asili is a New York based Puerto Rican singer, songwriter, bandleader and activist carrying on the tradition of her ancestors, fusing past and present struggles into one soulful and defiant voice. Residing in Albany, Taina performs her social justice songs as a solo artist, and with her dynamic eight-piece band, Taina Asili y la Banda Rebelde, brings love, resistance, and ancestral remembrance to venues across the globe.

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