

### Why Women's and Gender Studies at Brandeis?

An education in women's and gender studies offers students the opportunity to build global knowledge in fields across the creative arts, humanities, sciences, and social sciences. Men and women who take courses in women's and gender studies gain valuable skills in research and analysis, critical thinking, writing and public speaking, creative problem solving, and team building. Our program draws an enthusiastic and diverse group of students who seek intellectual challenges and who are committed to social justice.

### Curriculum Overview

The interdisciplinary field of women's and gender studies explores the broad range of intellectual questions surrounding the roles of women and men in society, culture, and history. Students in the program have the opportunity to study theories of sex; gender and sexuality; the international diversity of women's experiences and gendered social structures, present and past; movements for equality and rights in the United States and around the globe; and the intersections of gender with race, class, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, nationality, and age, within and across cultures. This curriculum brings students into contact with exciting developments in research on women and gender and explores ways to apply knowledge to the challenges of social justice and the struggle for human rights in our own communities and around the world.

### What Will Your Curriculum Look Like?

The major requires nine courses—three core courses and six electives chosen from an extensive list of more than eighty courses. The core courses are as follows:

- WMGS 5a: Women and Gender in Culture and Society
- WMGS 105b: Feminist Theories in Historical and Cross-Cultural Perspective
- WMGS 198a: Research Seminar

At least one of the six elective courses must have a historical focus and at least one must focus centrally on cultural difference. Majors may elect to write an honors thesis.

The minor requires successful completion of WMGS 5a and four elective courses in women's and gender studies.

### Areas of Special Interest

Students in our program are eligible for special awards and receive priority for paid summer internships, research grants, and credit-bearing teaching assistantships.

## Career and Education Opportunities

The curriculum in women's and gender studies prepares students for a wide range of careers. Alumni of our program apply their skills and knowledge to academic and professional pursuits in medicine, law, education, government, social service, public policy, religion, counseling, international relations, journalism, publishing, business, and the arts.

## Faculty

Following is a list of faculty members and their areas of specialization:

- **Joyce Antler**  
U.S. women's history. Jewish women's history and culture. The history of education. History as theater.
- **Silvia Arrom**  
Latin American history. Latino/a history. Women's history. Social history.
- **Bernadette Brooten**  
Early Christianity. Women and religion. Jewish women's history in antiquity. Feminist sexual ethics.
- **Dian Fox**  
Spanish poetry, and prose, and the comedia. Early modern masculinities.
- **ChaeRan Freeze**  
History and culture of the Jews in Russia and the Soviet Union. Jewish family history. Jewish women.
- **Karen Hansen**  
Sociology specializing in contemporary families. Community studies. Historical sociology. Feminist theory. Sociology of gender.
- **Anita Hill**  
Antidiscrimination law (race and gender). Race and legal history in the United States. Education equality.
- **Jane Kamensky**  
History specializing in colonial America. American social and cultural history.
- **Sarah Lamb**  
Sociocultural anthropology. Gender in cross-cultural perspective. Aging. The body. Migration and transnationalism. Contemporary South Asia and the United States.
- **Susan Lanser**  
Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century European literature and culture. Narrative theory. History of sexuality. Lesbian studies. Women writers. Feminist thought.
- **James Mandrell**  
Modern and contemporary Spanish and comparative literature, film, and culture. U.S. popular culture. Gender and sexuality.
- **Ellen Schattschneider**  
Religion. Anthropology of the body. Community-engaged learning. Commodification. Psychoanalytic theory. East Asia. Japan.
- **Harleen Singh**  
South Asian studies and literature. Gender Studies. Film studies. Immigration.
- **Marion Smiley**  
Moral, social, and political philosophy. Feminist theory. International and global studies. Social justice and social policy.
- **Faith Smith**  
Literature and cultural production of the Caribbean. Literature of the African Diaspora. Politics of genders and sexualities in the Caribbean and its diasporas.
- **Sabine von Mering**  
German women writers. German cinema. Age of Goethe.