

WGSRF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 28, 2018, University of Regina (LB 235)

In attendance (Executive Members): Allyson Jule (President), Kathryn Trevene (Conference), Ann Braithwaite (Member-at-large, Membership Liaison), Annalee Lepp (Member-at-large, Coordinators' Liaison), Tatjana Takseva (Communications), Connie Guberman (President-Elect), Ilya Parkins (Secretary)

Regrets: Heather Latimer (Treasurer)

In attendance (General Membership): Claire Carter, Ali Greey, Manuela Valle-Castro, Marsha Braundy, Sarah Smith, Meg Peters, Shawna Ferriss, Lisa Robson, Somayeh Bahrami, Elyse Cotrell, Jennifer Dyer, Sharlee Cranston-Reimer, Susan Manning, Marie Lovrod, Alissa Overend, Susanne Luhmann, Natasha Patterson, Ranjan Datta, Jebunnessa Chapola, Kathleen Cummins, Dominique Bourque, Miglena Todorova, Corinne Mason, Roewan Crowe, Anne Quéma, Ela Przybylo

1. Introduction

Welcome, territorial acknowledgement, general reflection.

2. Acceptance of agenda.

- Moved by Marie Lovrod, seconded by Shawna Ferriss. Carried.

3. Acceptance of 2017 AGM Minutes

- Moved by Annalee Lepp, seconded by Alissa Overend. Carried.

4. President's Report (Allyson Jule)

- President's Report is appended.

5. Conference Liaison Report (Kathryn Trevenen)

- Conference report is appended.

6. Membership Report (Ann Braithwaite)

- Membership report is appended.
- There was then a discussion of the fact that this is the first year in which WGSRF did not require people to become members in advance of submitting an abstract. Ann believes that this will have a long-term impact on membership and thus association visibility. Ann points out that membership is heavily tied to the conference, and so it dips when people are not attending the conference. A lot of senior scholars in WGS are not members. The culture of

- the association needs to be changed, suggested Ann. Strategies tried over the last couple of years have not been particularly successful.
- Ann moved that a committee be struck to strategize around building and sustaining membership. Tatjana Takseva seconded. All in favour.

7. Treasurer's Report (Allyson Jule for Heather Latimer, Treasurer)

- Treasurer's report is appended.
- The funds have been healthy, but will dip as membership dips.

8. Coordinators' Liaison Report (Annalee Lepp)

- Report is appended.

9. Communications Report (Tatjana Takseva)

- Report is appended.
- Tatjana asked for any thoughts and suggestions about how the association might improve communications with membership.
- It was suggested that the issue of membership lows is tied to communications. Ideally members of the Communications team would join the membership strategy committee.
- It was suggested that there be more engagement with the French language in the Communications function.
- It was suggested that we revive the idea of translations done by members instead of paid translators, which would enable us to translate more materials than is currently the practice.

10. Secretary's Report (Ilya Parkins)

- Report is appended.
- There was a discussion of the small number of submissions for the Undergraduate Essay Prize (four this year) and the complete absence of any Graduate Essay prize nominations. It was suggested that the requirement that nominators be members is a barrier to people nominating.
- It was suggested that we bring on board program coordinators as members, and that nominations flow through those coordinators.

11. Outstanding Scholarship Prize Report (Marie Lovrod)

- Report is appended.

12. Executive Committee Nominations and Elections

- Secretary nominee: Annalee Lepp, acclaimed

- Treasurer nominee: Heather Latimer, acclaimed
- Member-at-large 1 (coordinators' liaison): Shawna Ferris, acclaimed
- Member-at-large 2 (membership): Jennifer Dyer, acclaimed

13. Committee nominations

- Conference committee: Sharlee Cranston-Reimer, Roewan Crowe, Jebunessa Chapola, Allyson Jule, Ela Przybylo (in addition to Habiba Zaman, Kimberly Williams, Claire Carter, Lisa Armstrong, Reema Faris, self-nominated in advance of the meeting via email)
- Undergraduate prize committee: Kathleen Cummins, Shawna Ferris (in addition to Lisa Armstrong, self-nominated in advance of the meeting via email)
- Graduate prize committee: Marcia Braundy (in addition to Scott Morgensen, Sonja Boon, Laura Parisi, self-nominated in advance of the meeting via email)
- Outstanding scholarship prize committee: Dominique Bourque, Manuela Valle-Castro, Marie Lovrod, Annalee Lepp (in addition to Hans Rollman, self-nominated in advance of the meeting via email)
- Membership committee: Alissa Overend, Corinne Mason, Ann Braithwaite

14. Transition of the Presidency

- Brief remarks by incoming President, Connie Guberman.

WGSRF Treasurer's Report 2018

Heather Latimer

I am pleased to report to the membership that our finances continue to be in good shape for the year ending December 31, 2017, and for the second year in a row we gained income, this time \$2068.53.

The information that I have prepared for the AGM are not audited. The last audit was done of the 2012 financial statements. An audit was intended for 2014, but was not been done because of cost, and last year we decided to stop the process of auditing.

❖ 2017 Income Statement (Highlights)

- For the second time in recent years, our revenue exceeded our expenditures for a net gain of **\$ 2068.53**
- **2017 saw a small increase conference costs**
- **Our increase in income can be attributed to an increase in student travel donations. As that money is earmarked for student travel it is not a true increase in income.**
- In 2016 we has a net gain of **just over \$200.00.**

❖ 2017 Bank Reconciliation

- The difference between the book balance and the account balance as of December 31, 2017 was **\$0.00** with no outstanding cheques or withdrawls. As of December 31, 2017 we had a balance of **\$ 28, 601.70** (previous year's balance was **\$ 26, 533.17**).

❖ 2017 Conference (Toronto)

- Expenses of **\$ 19, 107.16** (which includes cost of plenaries, administration and travel funding) exceeded revenues of **\$ 12, 810.00** for a net loss of **\$ 6, 702.63** (roughly \$2, 000.00 more than the cost of 2016 conference, but in line with previous years).
- I've attached the conference spending report.

❖ 2017 Student/Low Waged Travel Fund

- On January 1, 2017 the Travel Fund had a carry forward of **\$ 2,988.16**
- We received a total of **\$2, 220.00** in donations from members.
- We paid out a total of **\$150.00** to 1 eligible applicant.
- On December 31, 2017 the Travel Fund had a closing balance of **\$5,208.16**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE - Toronto

2017 A**Conference Revenue**

	Registration Fees	\$ 11,310.00
CFHSS	CFHSS International/Interdisciplinary Aid	\$ 1,000.00
CFHSS	CFHSS Interdisciplinary speaker	\$ 500.00
Total		\$ 12,810.00

Conference Expenses

CFHSS Invoice	Printing	\$ -
CFHSS Invoice	Catering	\$ 6,273.75
CFHSS Invoice	Furnishings	\$ 466.00
CFHSS Invoice	AV equipment	\$ 1,030.00
CFHSS Invoice	PST/QST	\$ -
CFHSS Invoice	GST/HST	\$ 1,010.08
Total CFHSS Invoice		\$ 8,779.83
Our Conference Spending (plenaries, admin, travel prizes)		\$ 10,327.33

Total Conference **\$ (6,297.16)**

	2011	\$ (501.68)	2010	\$ (1,557.41)
	2012	\$ (4,102.99)	2009	\$ (4,052.20)
	2013	(\$9,765.18)	2008	\$ (4,981.78)
Historical Surplus (Deficit)	2014	\$ (9,242.06)	2007	\$ (1,005.06)
	2015	\$ (8,505.74)	2006	\$ (2,097.14)
	2016	\$ (4,321.20)		

WGSRF membership report AGM 2018

Ann Braithwaite

Let me start by pointing out to you our membership administrator, Elyse Cottrell – that is, the person who handles much of the email and processes all your forms and payments and puts everything on a lovely spreadsheet for easy reference. She's now been doing this work with me for two years, and has been terrific to work with. I especially commend her efficiency and enthusiasm and her desire to also grow membership in the association. Elyse graduated from UPEI last year and is currently doing her Masters of Social Justice at Lakehead – so this has also been a lovely way to stay in touch and continue working with her as we did at UPEI. She's probably available if the next membership person is interested ☺

My second year of being member at large responsible for membership has been more challenging than last year, and highlights for me, again, some of the ongoing issues the association faces with membership. To be clear, these are not necessarily new issues, but some of our changes this year really bring those issues into focus.

First – some numbers for you. As of the writing of this report (on May 25), we have 205 members, of which nine are institutional members. Of the other 196, 84 are members at the full rate price of \$70.00, while the rest are largely student rates of \$15, and a smattering of other membership categories. This means that a little over half our members are faculty, or at least, join at the full faculty rate. Last year, at the end of the year, we had 343 members, and also nine institutional members; I didn't count the other ratios for last year, but suspect they're pretty similar. On the good news front, of those 196 members, 40 made additional donations to the travel fund to help offset costs for student, unwaged, and low-waged colleagues to attend the conference. That reflects a significant sense of community, I think.

But the difference between the two years is 138 members—which is not insignificant. Membership numbers are important for a number of reasons. Our relationship to the CFHSS differs depending on our size; we pay less in fees, but we also receive less in terms of such things as complimentary passes etc to the conference. More importantly, though, 138 members reflects a significant amount of money, even if most of those memberships are reduced rate ones. If this trend continues, it will have long term impact on the association's budget – and thus on our ability to do things such as organize this conference, invite and pay for speakers that raise the association profile, feed folks, etc.

There are no doubt several reasons for this difference between last year and this year – including that a conference in Regina does not attract as many people as a conference in Toronto (or next year, in Vancouver). One big difference, though, is that this year (as opposed to the last many years), we did not ask folks to become members of the association in order to submit an abstract – opting instead to only require those who were presenting at the conference to be members. Clearly, this has also made a difference to our membership numbers.

But this shift in practice actually highlights a significant issue with our membership – one that is longstanding for the association. Our membership is tied very closely (perhaps too closely) to the conference, and too many people don't join unless they are submitting or presenting at the conference. Many of these people don't renew the next year, in spite of several reminders, if they are not participating in the conference. We clearly have a hard time retaining members from year to year—and don't seem to have a culture of joining and supporting the association, no matter our relationship to it in any given year. Additionally, our membership at the faculty rate doesn't reflect the numbers of faculty teaching in and appointed to WGS across Canada. We have some longstanding and dedicated members who are mid-career and senior colleagues in the field – but we are missing many others. Perhaps we are not the only small association with this issue. And of course WGSRF is an association that reflects a field where many people affiliate their scholarship with another discipline, and join that association and go to that conference instead; this probably doesn't happen as much with disciplines such as History or English or Sociology and Anthropology.

If we are going to continue the practice of only requiring membership to present at the conference, then we need to figure out other ways to build and sustain membership. I'd like to suggest that we establish a small membership committee to further investigate some of these questions. Perhaps 4 or 5 current members could take on this job for the next year or so – contacting other associations and trying to identify membership trends we share with them and that are unique to us, and identifying strategies to grow our membership and change the culture of what being a member of this association means.

We need to change the culture of what being a member of a professional academic association means to more people... and rather than be an entry to a conference, come to think of it as a level of support for desperately needed work these days. As I put it in my email about joining: "Given the times we are in, as well as recent events that directly attack many different social identity groups, the importance of WGS as a field—along with many other fields dedicated to anti-oppression, critical identity, and social justice focuses—seems clear! In doing this WGS work in academic, as well as in supporting WGSRF, you are also supporting a field in the university dedicated to constantly challenging and changing the worlds we inhabit, and a mechanism to bring those of us dedicated to this work together—in spirit and virtually most of the year, and in person for the annual conference and the exciting discussions there. The more of us involved in this project, and the more we know each other and find others to work with, the stronger our community."

ii) almost every university in Canada has WGS in some form, or a related field that intersects closely...and yet our membership does not reflect this. We should have many hundreds of members, not just a little over 300. And especially, we don't have the numbers of senior faculty in the field, or who do WGS broadly defined in a range of institutional locations... I think there are several reasons for this... but this will be my main focus in a membership drive next year.

iii) we also want to explore the possibility of joint memberships with some other associations, or other partnerships that help build membership numbers not just for us, but for other associations too. Our professional associations, I want to argue, need to also work towards dismantling disciplinary silos through institutional structures, rather than reify them

May 29, 2018

Communications Report

Since last year, the Communications Committee has been functioning as the WGSRF Communications Team! The team consists of Shannon Stettner (a long-standing member), Corinne Mason (who joined us last year), and Tatjana Takševa (who acts as coordinator). This structure works well in terms of sharing various communications related duties. Elyse Cottrell continues to jump in when needed with specific technical expertise relating to particular types of website updates, and we are very lucky to have her onboard.

The WGSRF Facebook page remains active. If you would like to have your news posted, please remember to send Word documents instead of pdf files for easy sharing/posting.

The WGSRF Twitter feed remains active. As of May 23, we have tweeted 1,118 times and have 339 followers.

A new WGSRF communications platform this year is FeministFridays that runs via the Facebook page. FeministFridays is a place for feminist academics, students, and activists to join in a weekly discussion about a provocative, interesting article/meme/Twitter rant/blog post relating to teaching, research, higher-ed, and community-engagement material. Don't forget to check-in on Friday mornings and join the discussion or volunteer to start a conversation about something that is important to you!

This year we have established a new partnership with Demeter Press, an independent feminist press committed to publishing peer-reviewed scholarly work, fiction, poetry, and creative non-fiction on mothering, reproduction, sexuality and family. Demeter is partnered with the Motherhood Initiative for Research and Community Involvement. WGSRF members receive 25% off the regular title price. Our partnership with McGill Queen's Press and Innana Publications continues with a discount benefit for our members. See WGSRF website for details or get in touch with us.

Your thoughts and suggestions on how to improve communications with membership are always welcome and most appreciated!

Prepared by the WGSRF Communications Team:

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WGSRF SECRETARY REPORT 2018

Ilya Parkins, Secretary

I took minutes at the Annual General Meeting in Toronto in 2017, and compiled annual reports from the other Executive members to append to those.

I managed the list of volunteers for committee and Executive positions and liaised between them and the relevant Executive member.

The Executive Committee held monthly meetings from September through May, and a couple of ad hoc additional meetings. The Secretary took notes at nearly all of those.

I corresponded with the members of the Undergraduate and Graduate Essay Prizes to administer those competitions. I also accepted nominations for the prizes.

This year, the Undergraduate Essay Prize Committee consisted of Thea Cacchioni, Kathleen Cummins, Amber Dean, Emma McKenna and Jackie Newman. They received four nominations, which is a significantly lower number than there has been in previous years. The winner of the prize was Jacqueline Kittel of the University of Victoria, nominated by Annalee Lepp for the essay "Women in the Cannabis Industry in British Columbia: Is there a 'Green' Ceiling?" Jacqueline attended the awards presentation and spoke about her work yesterday.

The Graduate essay Prize committee volunteers were disappointed to learn that there were no nominations for the essay prize this year.

WGSRF Coordinators Liaison Report 2018

Annalee Lepp

The 2018 annual Coordinators' meeting was held on Sunday, May 27 from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. There were about 20 participants present. This year's topics included the following:

- **Academic Freedom in the Context of Equity and Human Rights Working Group: A Preliminary Report**

At the 2017 Coordinators' Meeting, a Working Group chaired by Jen Roth (Lakehead University) was established to explore questions related to academic freedom in the context of equity, intersectional, and anti-oppressive politics. The Working Group drafted a preliminary document that examined such questions as the changing realities in the post-secondary context, the boundaries of academic freedom and 'freedom of speech', and the uneasy relationship between academic freedom and equity. The preliminary report served as the basis for discussion of current challenges experienced by Women's and Gender Studies departments/programs and potential strategies moving forward. Based on the discussion at the meeting, the Working Group will continue its work in 2018-2019.

- **Women's and Gender Studies Curriculum and Pedagogies**

At the 2017 Coordinators' Meeting, there was a consensus that there should be a focused session on WGS curricular and pedagogical questions. This grew out of a discussion about difficult classroom situations which escalated into flaming wars between students online. Some of the questions that were discussed included: How do we create (transformative) learning environments? What are some practical strategies? How do we manage growing class sizes with decreasing support? What are some curricular and pedagogical approaches to address hostility, resistance, or apathy and encourage student engagement? What is the role of WGS classrooms and pedagogies in the prioritizing of Indigenous and international strategic and education plans in most Canadian universities?

- **Women's and Gender Studies: Strategic Interventions in the Institutional Context**

This session build on the previous session and focused on the oft-repeated concern that universities are now tackling issues and valuing certain pedagogical and methodological approaches that WGS programs have always addressed and promoted. Yet, WGS's contributions often go unrecognized or are overlooked in the institutional context. How can WGS programs/departments develop "smart" interventions and strategies in this context? Given that WGS as a field is defined less by content and knowledges than by particular approaches to any number of topics, is the often stretched departmental structure the best way to organize and 'govern' the field? How do we thrive and survive in the midst of austerity?

- **What Gives Sustains Us? What Inspires Us?**

At the 2017 Coordinators' Meeting, it was suggested that space be created to discuss some of the positive aspects of working in and administering Women's and Gender Studies programs. It was felt that we spend a lot of time focusing on the challenges and not enough time on what sustains and inspires us.

WGSRF Outstanding Scholarship Prize Report

Respectfully submitted, Marie Lovrod

Each year, WGSRF evaluates books (or films) nominated for our Outstanding Scholarship Prize. Nominations can be made by publishers/media distributors or WGSRF members and may include monographs, edited collections, or significant documentary films in English or French, published or released in the previous year, ideally by association members in good standing. Members may not nominate their own projects, as they may have a financial or professional stake in the outcome of the award – so get your friends and colleagues to nominate works you have published or produced in 2017 for next year's award!

We request submissions that focus on the works of Canadian scholars and filmmakers, published or produced by Canadian presses/film production agencies, often, but not necessarily exclusively on Canadian topics, of interest to Canadian scholars. This year, we were reviewing works produced in 2016. Keep in mind that there is a 1-year lag, due to the timing of nominations in fall term (at the end of September) and Congress, in spring. Assessment criteria include relevance to Women's and Gender Studies as a discipline (a measure with which reviewers sometimes struggled this year); currency of subject matter to debates/developments in the field; quality of style, presentation, research, and methodology; and originality. In the case of collections/anthologies, an important consideration is also diversity of materials covered and selection of contributors.

Committee members for this year included: Heather Latimer, Annalee Lepp, Marie Lovrod, Anne Quema, Hans Rollman, and Manuela Valle-Castro. We received 27 books for review this round, 26 in English and one in French, which was itself a strong submission. Of those books received, 2 were disqualified because they were not published in 2016. Reviewers commented on the substantive intersectional feminist analysis that characterized most submissions, and on the serious efforts made by many nominated works to tackle neoliberal politics in sophisticated ways.

Committee members noted that every year we receive a significant number of books from the Demeter Press, on an ambitious range of topics, one of which received an honourable mention last year. We appreciate the ways that this feminist press provides opportunities for PhD students and new graduates to publish their work. Demeter Press demonstrates considerable energy and scope, at a time when small publishers are facing serious challenges, and with no commercial gain intended. For all of these reasons, we wish to acknowledge and encourage the efforts of the Demeter Press, for their exemplary commitments to feminist publishing.

List of books reviewed:

Basden-Arnold & Martin, *Taking the Village Online: Mother, Motherhood and Social Media*

Brilliant Muhonja & Thomas-Bernard, *Mothers and Sons*

Carastathis, *Intersectionality: Origins, Contestations, Horizons*

Comerford, Jackson and Kosior, *Feminist Parenting*

Dea, *Beyond the Binary: Thinking about Sex and Gender*

Ellison, McPhail & Mitchinson, *Obesity in Canada*

Epprecht, *Welcome to Greater Edendale*

Goobie, *Breathing at Dusk*

Grekul & Ledohowski, *Ukrainian Canadians Writing Home*

Groeneveld, *Making Feminist Media*

Lamoureux, *Les Possibles Du Féminisme*

Lee & Tak-ling Woo, *Canadian Women Shaping Diasporic Religious Identities*

Li, *Dancing Boys: High School Males in Dance*

Malacrida & Low, *Sociology of the Body*

Mason, *Manufacturing Urgency* (resubmit)

McDonald-Harker, *Mothering in Marginalized Contexts*

McPherson, *Missing the Mark? Women and the Millennium Development Goals*

Narozhna & Knight, *Female Suicide Bombings*

O'Reilly, *Matricentric Feminism*

Rivers-Moore, *Gringo Gulch*

Robertson, *Science of the Séance*

Satterfield & Kruk, *Borderlands and Crossroads: Writing the Motherland*

Saurette & Gordon, *The Changing Voice of the Anti-Abortion Movement*

Sharp & Taylor, *Feminist Philosophies of Life*

Shenaz-Hossein, *Politicized Microfinance: Money, Power and Violence in the Black Americas*

Smith-Prei & Stehle, *Awkward Politics*

Whitaker, *Solitudes of the Workplace* (2015)

2018 Outstanding Scholarship Prize Winner

Tanya Narozhna and W. Andy Knight, *Female Suicide Bombings: A Critical Gender Approach* (University of Toronto Press, 2016).

2018 Honorable Mentions

Caroline Shenaz Hossein, *Politicized Microfinance: Money, Power, and Violence in the Black Americas* (University of Toronto Press, 2016).

Jenny Ellison, Deborah McPhail, and Wendy Mitchinson, eds., *Obesity in Canada: Critical Perspectives* (University of Toronto Press, 2016).

2018 UNDERGRADUATE PRIZE REPORT

Prize Committee: Thea Cacchioni, Kathleen Cummins, Amber Dean, Emma McKenna, Jackie Newman

“The Undergraduate Essay Prize Committee was very pleased to receive and read the four high calibre essays nominated for the award this year. We read the nominations independently, ranked and commented on each submission, and then met via Skype to discuss our rankings and impressions of each essay. While we were impressed by all of the submissions one stood out as especially strong, and after some discussion and review of each others’ rankings it was quickly agreed which essay should win the award. Because one committee member was unable to join the conference call we consulted with her about our deliberations, and she agreed with our selection for the winning essay. We are delighted to have selected "Women in the Cannabis Industry in British Columbia: Is there a ‘Green’ Ceiling” for this year’s undergraduate essay prize, for all of the reasons outlined in our citation for the prize.”

Citation:

We are pleased to announce that “Women in the Cannabis Industry in British Columbia: Is There A Green Ceiling?” is this year’s Undergraduate Essay Prize Recipient. While all of the submissions this year were compelling, this essay provided an original and timely perspective into the representational politics within Canada’s growing Cannabis Industry.

Weaving together an engaging literature review and empirical data from first-person interviews with five women working in the field, the author provides a nuanced discussion of how women entrepreneurs are navigating the economic, legal, and cultural aspects of the marijuana business in Canada. The author takes an intersectional approach to considerations of race and racialization in the industry, discussing how people of colour are systematically targeted for criminal prosecution while whiteness and neoliberal ideals of masculinity and femininity interact to privilege white entrepreneurs. The author is particularly attentive to how gender essentialism has impacted perceptions of women’s role in cannabis culture and explores how women entrepreneurs negotiate gender and sexuality to position themselves as serious economic players in a white, male dominated industry.