IFC congratulates two of our work-study students on their graduation:

**Betel Tesfamariam** majored in Environmental Analysis with a minor in Africana Studies at Pomona. Betel is from Ethiopia but her family lives in Accra, Ghana. Betel helped IFC with publicity and organizing events, providing a connection with Pomona’s Women’s Union. Betel was co-founder of the 5C African Students Association and is passionate about anti-colonialist and anti-imperialist Black Liberation through transnational social movements and solidarity. She completed her thesis, *Belonging While Black at Lake Merritt: The Black Spatial Imaginary and Place-Making in Oakland, CA*, in December. Zayn Kassam was a reader.

**Angélica Campos** majored in Human Biology and Spanish at CMC with a concentration in Anthropology. Her thesis was titled *Surfacing Contexts of Violence in Novel Forms of the Reproductive Justice Framework Through Lessons from Latin America: A Study of Brutality, Migration and Bodily Autonomy and Progressive Solutions for Use in Public Health*. She will be joining Keck Medicine of USC as a Gehr Family Fellow in Health Systems Science and also plans to teach secondary biology in Los Angeles as a Teach For America corps member. She writes, “The work I do and will continue to do is done by women, with women and for women. I take pride in radicalizing my community and pushing forth the importance of equity on the bases of gender, class and race; I am incredibly humbled and grateful to be a small part in that fight.”

**News from around the Colleges**

**AWS name change:** CGU’s Applied Women’s Studies M.A. program is now **Applied Gender Studies**.

**Aimee Bahng**, associate professor of GWS at Pomona, has received a $285,000 New Directions Fellowship from the Mellon Foundation. During her two-year leave, she will be at work on her interdisciplinary project, “Settler Environmentalism: Transpacific Ecologies and the Gentrification of the Sea.” For the project, she will be studying environmental law, Native Hawaiian law and Indigenous law, taking her to law schools at Lewis and Clark, the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, and the University of Victoria. Congratulations, Amy!

**Natalia Duong** will join GWS at Pomona as visiting assistant professor. She is a scholar, writer, and performance maker whose work spans transnational Asian American studies, disability studies, and environmental humanities. Her research analyzes the legal, cultural, and aesthetic effects of the herbicide Agent Orange. She received a BA in Psychology and Dance from Stanford, MA in Performance Studies from NYU, and PhD in Performance Studies with Designated Emphasis in Gender and Women's Studies from UC Berkeley. She has published in the *Canadian Review of American Studies* and *Dance Research*. She is thrilled to be joining GWS. Welcome to Natalia!
Pomona’s GWS Program has moved to beautiful new quarters at 740 N. College Ave.

National Women’s Studies Association announcements
The 2020 NWSA National Conference to have been held in Minneapolis has been cancelled. See the NWSA’s statement here. Conference co-organizers are reviewing options for a virtual conference. NWSA has also extended its deadlines for its annual Book Prizes and Student Awards into June. For information and deadlines, visit here.

Faculty News

NWSA presentations. Eight Claremont Colleges faculty members were on the program at the National Women’s Studies Association meeting in San Francisco in November 2019. They were: Aimee Bahng and Kyla Tompkins from Pomona; Martin Vega Olmedo from Scripps; Fazia Aitel from CMC; and Joe Parker, Laura Harris, Suyapa Portillo, and Mukasa Mubirumusoke from Pitzer.

Suchi Branfman (Dance, SCR) received a 2020 Claremont Colleges Diversity Teaching Award and Kathy Yep (Asian American Studies, PZ) received a 2020 Claremont Colleges Diversity Mentoring Award. Other Teaching Award recipients were Derik Smith (Literature, CMC) and Jorge Moreno (Physics and Astronomy, PO). Other Mentoring Award recipients were Janice Hudgings (Physics, PO) George Montañez (C.S., HMC). The awards are determined by the 7C Diversity Working Group.

Jih-Fei Cheng (FGSS, Scripps) published AIDS and the Distribution of Crises, co-edited with Alex Juhasz and Nishant Shahani (Duke University Press, April 2020). The volume includes his piece, “AIDS, Women of Color Feminisms, Queer and Trans of Color Critiques, and the Crises of Knowledge Production.”

Isabel Balseiro (Humanities, HMC) edited the collection Poesía descalza. Selected poetry of María Acuña, for which she also wrote the introduction. The book was published in October 2019.

Esther Hernández-Medina (Sociology, PO) conducted fieldwork in the Dominican Republic in winter as part of her ongoing research about the Dominican feminist movement and its support for women’s right to choose. While there, she co-organized a daylong exchange between Tertulia Feminista Magaly Pineda, a group she co-founded with Yildalina Tatem Brache, and feminist training organization Aquelarre RD. She presented “Hablemos de Igualdad: The Dominican Feminist Movement and the Conservative Backlash in Latin America” at the 2020 Winter Meeting of the Sociologists for Women in Society, part of her new research project on the controversy surrounding an ordinance the Dominican Ministry of Education issued in 2019 to expand gender equality in education.

Peggy Waller (Romance Languages and Literatures, PO) has been named to the Dr. Mary Ann Vanderzyl Reynolds Professorship in Humanities at Pomona. Congratulations, Peggy!

IFC extends a very warm thank you to our 2019-2020 Steering Committee members: Isabel Balseiro, Harvey Mudd College; Piya Chatterjee, Scripps College; Nazia Islam, The Claremont Colleges Library; Zayn Kassam, Pomona College; Harmony O’Rourke, Pitzer College (fall); Linda Perkins, Claremont Graduate University; Sarah Sarzynski, Claremont McKenna College; Sharon Snowiss, Pitzer College (spring).
Spring 2020 Retirements

Two faculty members who have been active in women’s studies will be retiring at the end of spring semester.

Nita Kumar (History, CMC) holds the Brown Family Chair of South Asian History at CMC. She came to CMC in 2005, having taught at the University of Michigan, Reed, Brandeis and other institutions. Nita has been an active in intercollegiate women’s studies programs and has served on IWS committees. Her many gender-related publications include her 1994 edited volume Women as Subjects: South Asian Histories, her 2007 book The Politics of Gender, Community, and Modernity: Essays on Education in India, and her co-edited volume, Food, Faith, and Gender in South Asia: The Cultural Politics of Women’s Food, published in February 2020. Her book Women, Gender and History in South Asia is forthcoming from Routledge in January 2021. Nita also direct NIRMAN, a non-profit focusing on education, research and the arts in Varanasi, India. She writes a blog, Imagination, Pain, Anger, and Love.

Joe Parker (Critical Global Studies, Pitzer) began teaching at Pitzer in 1989, where he has been an active member of the Gender & Feminist Studies field group. He has also served on IFC committees, and IWS co-organized and co-sponsored the spring 2011 event series “Rethinking the War on Terror: Gender, The Law, Immigration, State Terror, Economics” that Joe initiated. Joe co-founded Pitzer’s International and Intercultural Studies field group (now Critical Global Studies) and IDAAS and has taught courses in Asian Studies, Religious Studies, Media Studies and Environmental Analysis, as well as Gender & Feminist Studies. His many publications include his 2017 book, Democracy Beyond the Modern State: Equality in Practice (Routledge) and a forthcoming co-edited volume, Spivak Moving. He presented “Materializing Decolonization: Queering Settler Practice” at the National Women’s Studies Association annual conference in November. Joe writes a blog, “Democracies 2 Come, and maintains a personal website.

In Memoriam: Agnes Moreland Jackson

Agnes Moreland Jackson, Distinguished Professor Emerita of English and Black Studies at Pitzer, passed away in early April at age 89. The first tenure-track African American faculty member at Pitzer, she was one of the founders of black studies and of women studies at The Claremont Colleges. She came to Pitzer in 1969, having taught at Spelman, Boston University, and Cal State Los Angeles. Her community-based work included serving on the Pomona Unified School District board as well as working with other community organizations. On her retirement, Pitzer established the Agnes Jackson Moreland Annual Scholarship in her honor.

2020 Seniors Theses

Students receiving degrees in women’s/gender/feminist/sexuality studies program wrote the following theses:

Erin Baranko (CMC), Visualizing Participatory Politics: The Communal Power of Street Art in Revolutionary Egypt, Warring Syria, and Divided Lebanon.

Isa Berardo (PZ), Transgressing Boundaries: Challenging Gender Within the Athletic Industrial Complex

Jorden Favors (PO), Learning to Unlearn: Black Women on Transcending and Healing from Racism and Racial Trauma

Joslyn Gardner (PO), La Terreur insidieuse: Une Relecture de la logique de l’esclavage dans Ourika (Insidious Terror: A Rereading of the Logic of Slavery in Ourika)

Zoë Hernandez (PZ), Reconceptualizing Knowledge Through Quilting

Dale Macauley (PO), Prosthetics in Search of a Body: (Re)Inserting Flesh into the Post-Human, recipient of Pomona’s Gender & Women’s Studies Senior Thesis Prize
Sahana Mehta (SCR), South Asian American Activism: Disrupting Foundations, Harnessing Fault Lines, & Imagining Collective Futures

Dale Macauley (PO), Prosthetics in Search of a Body: (Re)Inserting Flesh into the Post-Human, winner of the GWS Senior Thesis Prize

Isaac Prestwich (PO), “And All Were Welcome”: An Analysis of the Transgender Child in Contemporary Picture Books

Isabel Schmidt (PO), “A Sacred Role:” Identifying Barriers and Pathways to Well-being and Efficacy for Peer Advocates for Survivors of Sexual Assault at the Claremont Colleges

Emma Stammen (SCR), Benevolent Feminism and the Gendering of Criminality: Historical and Ideological Constructions of US Women’s Prisons

Alexandra White (PO), “May We Be Buried Alive Together”: Towards an Intersectional Feminist True Crime Praxis, recipient of Pomona’s Toni Clark Prize in Gender & Women’s Studies

Other seniors graduating with a major, minor or certificate are:

From CMC (certificate), Celia Aldrete, Bryan Douglas, Sally Carlson and Mayra Perez; from Pomona, Sophie Bax (minor) and Nicholas Imparato; from Pitzer, Julia Cohen, Isabel Downes-LeGuin, and Sophia Basseches (minor); and from Scripps, Sydney Fischer.

Spotlight on Zoë Hernandez, Pitzer

Drawing on her own skills as a fifth-generation quilter, Pitzer GFS major Zoë Hernandez designed her senior project, Reconceptualizing Knowledge Through Quilting, as collaborations with teens at the local non-profit Uncommon Good and with women incarcerated at the California Institution for Women. Providing them with materials, she invited participants to create squares conveying their views on knowledge, justice and the environment. She says, “Quilting is…traditionally regarded as a craft, rather than a fine art, which coincides with it being an art traditionally practiced by poor women and a community-building activity. Women would have quilting bees in which they would come together and help each other do the work that was more difficult to do alone… Quilts symbolize many pieces coming together to be part of a whole.” Zoe plans to display the two quilts around campus and in locations designated by the project participants. She received Honors in GFS for the project.
2020 Napier awards

The two Napier Initiative fellowships for 2020 were awarded to students proposing gender-related projects. Students worked with mentors at Pilgrim Place to develop their proposals. Out of ten proposals, two were selected to receive the $15,000 award to support work on the proposed projects in 2020-2021.

Alejandra Davila, Pomona senior, developed her proposed project as a result of her internship with https://sbgennow.org, a nonprofit that aims to increase civic engagement in San Bernardino. Alejandra founded Young Queens in Politics (YQP) as a two-week after-school program for high school femme-identifying students interested in politics. For her Napier project, she will partner with San Bernardino Generation Now to expand YQP to a full academic year, implementing it in two high schools in San Bernardino (her hometown), with the goals of educating, engaging, and empowering its students.

Sophia Knowlton-Latikin, Scripps senior, proposes to create educational workshops on reproductive health and menstruation for students in an indigenous school within an evacuation center in Manila, the Philippines. Conducting the project with Sabokahan, an organization of indigenous women, she will expand its holistic health program to include the proposed workshops, which will subsequently be offered to indigenous community members and future generations. Sophia also is partnering with the Liyang Network, a local-to-global advocacy network that supports and amplifies the calls to action of indigenous women and LGBTQ+ people in the Southern Philippines.

Pitzer senior Sophia Basseches, minoring in GFS, was also a Napier fellow this year.

Alumnae News

Romarilyn Ralston (GFS, 2014) was named Pitzer College 2020 Distinguished Alumni Honoree. The award “recognizes a graduate who boldly puts the spirit of a Pitzer education into action and demonstrates a commitment to making meaningful changes in their community.” After Pitzer, Romarilyn earned a M.A. in Liberal Arts at Washington University while serving as a CORO fellow. She is currently Program Director for Project Rebound at Cal State Fullerton; Project Rebound supports formerly incarcerated students in their pursuit of degrees at CSUs. She is a frequent guest speaker on criminal justice issues and is active in the California Coalition for Women Prisoners.

Latoya Williams (PhD, 2016) moderated three workshops at the National Women’s Studies Association annual conference in November: “#BlackGirlBrilliance: If You Really Knew Me”; “Spirit Song, and Sound: A workshop and report on the Afro-Cuban batá drums and women artists”; and “Stories from the Womb and the Journey of Healing.” #BlackGirlBrilliance was facilitated by Black feminist middle school girls from Oakland, California who led an interactive collage-building exercise aimed to rewrite the disparaging narratives and tropes that are often associated with Black girls. “Stories from the Womb and the Journey of Healing” addressed the current challenges that Black women and girls in the United States and the Global South experience in the areas of reproductive justice, gender-based violence, and educational disparities. Laureen Adams (PhD, 2015) was a presenter on the panel.

Feminist teaching and other resources

IFC is planning an online summer workshop on course development and teaching strategies in the COVID-19 era. Details coming soon!

Below are a few online resources we like, some specifically related to COVID-19. Please send us other resources so that we may publicize them and include them on our webpage.

Feminist Pedagogy in a Time of Coronavirus Pandemic provides advice, insights and a rich set of resources for teaching feminist courses online and using technology. Co-founded by former Pitzer Media Studies professor Alex Juhasz, is a network of “scholars, artists, and students working on, with, and at the borders of technology, science, and feminism.” Visit https://femtechnet.org for additional information about the network.

The Hybrid Pedagogy website offers twelve articles on Critical Digital Pedagogy.

The Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy offers Feminist Resources on the Pandemic.

Feminist Response to COVID-19 is a collective of organizations and activists working across global movements centered on human rights, sustainable development and economic and social justice. Resources here.

**Haymarket Books** has an ongoing series of events, many with feminist themes and speakers, including Ruthie Gilmore, Naomi Klein, Arundhati Roy, Astra Taylor, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Mariame Kaba, and others. Topics have included prison abolition, abortion, intersectionality, various book launches, and of course, the pandemic. RSVP for future events and find links to past ones [here](#).

The **African American Policy Forum** hosts an event series, *Under the Blacklight: The Intersectional Failures that COVID Lays Bare*, with a multitude of outstanding speakers, including Dorothy Roberts, Ai-jen Poo, Kimberlé Crenshaw, Dara Baldwin, Mari Matsuda, Kate Manne, Rebecca Nagle, Alyosxa Tudor, Crystal Feimster, and many, many others. You can watch on YouTube or listen on the *Intersectionality Matters* podcast. RSVP for upcoming events or access past one [here](#).

**Verso Books** hosts JoAnn Wypijewski and Amber Hollibaugh on June for a discussion of Wypijewski’s new essay collection, *What We Don’t Talk About When We Talk About #MeToo*. RSVP [here](#).

KPFA hosts **Women’s Magazine**, Mondays at 1:00 p.m. PST. Former IFC scholar/activist-in-residency Margo Okazawa-Rey hosts monthly. On May 24, she hosted Gwyn Kirk, Martha Matsuoka and the Rev. Deborah Lee for International Women’s Day for Peace and Disarmament. Full list of podcasts [here](#).

Playwright **Sharon Bridgforth**, former IFC artist/activist-in-resident, has her one-person play, *bull-jean & dem/dey back* available on the “play-at-home” website, which offers “short plays to be enjoyed at home.” Sharon’s play is [here](#). Visit [https://www.playathome.org](https://www.playathome.org) for a full list of plays. For Sharon’s other projects, including videos of her work, visit [https://www.sharonbridgforth.com](https://www.sharonbridgforth.com).

**Feminist films streaming on Frontline**: The award-winning film *For Sana*, a 2019 documentary made over five years beginning with the 2011 protests against the Assad regime by economics student Waad al-Kateab using her cell phone, can be streamed [here](#). The film “provides an unflinching view of motherhood and war.” Co-produced with The Marshall Project, the 2019 film *Tutwiler* documents a doula program at Alabama’s maximum security prison for women. Stream [here](#).

**Free meditation app for L.A. County residents**: The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health has partnered with Headspace to offer **free memberships** through December 31, 2020. The Headspace app offers meditation and sleep and movement exercises. Information [here](#).