

# Gender Studies Newsletter Fall 2023

## Message from the Chair

2023-24 year begins an exciting chapter in the history of the department of Gender Studies even as our field, along with Critical Race Theory, is under attack across the nation. When books are banned, professors silenced and censored, reproductive rights are under relentless attack and Trans people persecuted, in this highly politicized moment, we, in Gender Studies at UCLA celebrate that we not only resist and endure but thrive. We begin with the tenure and promotion of Professor Zeynep Korkman and the publication of her deeply insightful and path-breaking ethnography of fortune tellers in Turkey, a study of how feminized subjects resist the gender politics of heteropatriarchy, precarity and Islamic authoritarianism. As a reviewer recently noted, *Gendered Fortunes* “is a necessary read for those who aim to grasp the shifting terms of the affective atmosphere in the political sphere and public culture of millennial Turkey and how divination publics constitute novel public arrangements at the intersection of gender precarities, emotions, affect, neoliberalism and postsecularism.”<sup>1</sup> A scholar of the politics of transnational feminist solidarity, Dr. Korkman and the remarkable scholars of transnational feminism in the department (notably, Professors Judy Han and Juliann Anesi and new faculty Giancarlo Cornejo) mark Gender Studies, UCLA as the premier hub of transnational feminist scholarship.

The year also begins with Assistant Professor Giancarlo Cornejo who joins the department of Gender Studies as a scholar of Queer and Trans Studies. Professor Cornejo, whose work develops the idea of a Peruvian transfeminist imaginary, proposes *travestismo*, “as a critical tool to read the unstable and contested production of gender, sexuality, and race in contemporary Latin America.” Professor Cornejo adds to the department’s strength in Queer and Trans Studies forged by Professors Guzman, Han, Hong and others. In 2024, Professor Dan Bustillo will also join the faculty adding to this area of concentration and, significantly, enriching the department’s strength in Latinx and Latin American Studies (Professors Marchant and Speed) as a new scholar of Trans Latinx Studies and media.

Finally, on October 19, 2023, Chicasaw scholar Professor Shannon Speed will be installed as the holder of the professorial Chair in Gender Studies established in honor of Indigenous feminist writer and former UCLA professor, Dr, Paula Gunn Allen. A groundbreaking feminist writer who brought to the world’s attention a canon of Native American literature to which she herself contributed seventeen books ranging from works of poetry, novels, literary criticism, short stories and a remarkable body of essay, Dr. Gunn Allen had international impact on Feminist Studies. Dr. Speed’s own award-winning work on Indigenous women migrants and violence follows in Dr. Gunn Allen’s footsteps.

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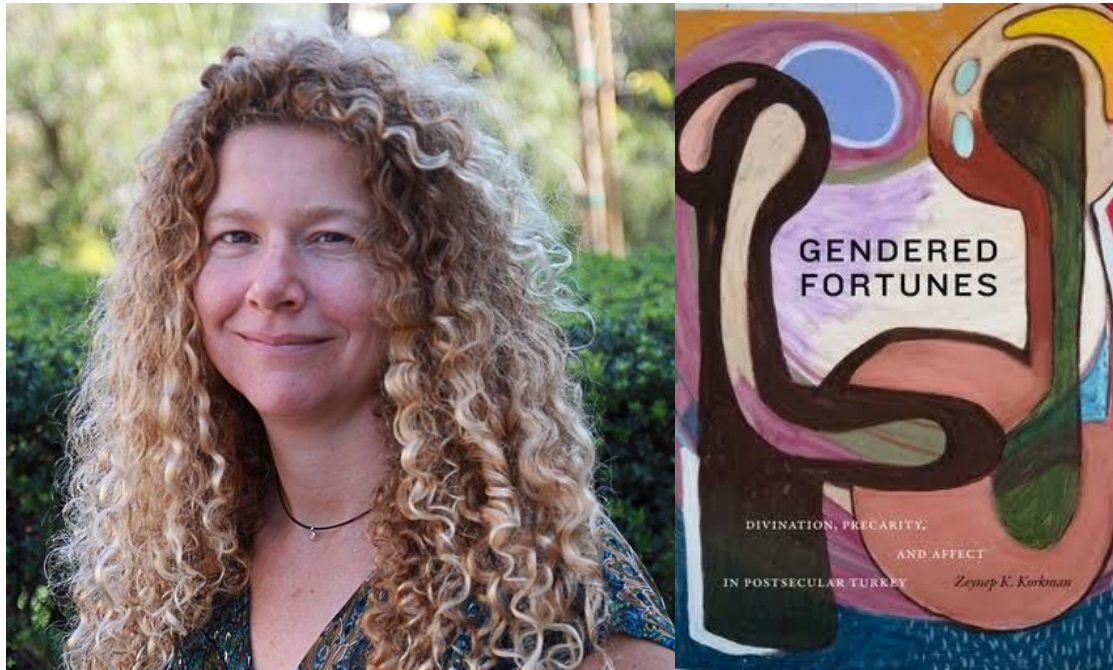
<sup>1</sup> Unal, D. (2022). [Review of the book *Gendered Fortunes: Divination, Precarity and Affect in Postsecular Turkey*, by Zeynep K. Korkman]. *Feminist Encounters: A Journal of Critical Studies in Culture and Politics*, 7(2), 36. <https://doi.org/10.20897/femenc/13564>

Our students have been fantastically successful, earning fellowships and publishing articles. We also have a fantastic new cohort of graduate students.

Books, articles, honors bestowed, research chairs, new faculty, a home for feminist scholarship where students and faculty alike profoundly shape the field of Gender Studies and the feminist movement, the department is no longer merely poised to become the premier Gender Studies department in the nation, as the external reviewers noted eight years ago. It has surely *become* the premier department. In January 2024, the department will undergo its 8<sup>th</sup> year review and we're confident that this will be the conclusion of the reviewers.

There is much to do this year, and a line-up of feminist scholars to host. Let's pause, though, to savor these many achievements and toast the remarkable feminist scholars in our midst.

### 1. Tenured and promoted to Associate Professor: Zeynep Korkman



## 2. Introducing Professor Giancarlo Cornejo



Giancarlo Cornejo is Assistant Professor in the Department of Gender Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. He holds a Ph.D. in Rhetoric with a Designated Emphasis in Women, Gender and Sexuality from the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to joining UCLA in 2023, he was Assistant Professor in the Division of Cinema and Media Studies at the University of Southern California. His essays have appeared in journals such as *Camera Obscura: Feminism, Culture, and Media Studies*, *Estudos Feministas*, *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, *Journal of Homosexuality*, and *TSQ: Transgender Studies Quarterly*. His book manuscript, tentatively titled *Travesti Memory: Toward a Peruvian Transfeminist Imaginary*, proposes travestismo as a critical tool to read the unstable and contested production of gender, sexuality, and race in contemporary Latin America.

Course offered:

GS 185 Fall

### **“Queer and Trans of Color Theories/Imaginaries”**

This course offers an introduction to queer and trans of color theories. This course will engage primarily with the innovative work of queer of color and trans of color scholars. Queer and trans of color critique provides us with compelling frameworks for thinking anew the intersections (and collisions) of race, gender, class, desire, vision, affect and power. Most of the queer and trans of color theorists we will engage in this class offer us imaginaries to envision the world beyond the pull of normative whiteness and cisgender heteronormativity.

### 3. Professor Shannon Speed becomes the inaugural Paula Gunn Allen Chair in Gender Studies

## UCLA College | Social Sciences Gender Studies

**Sherene Razack**

Chair and Distinguished Professor  
Penny Kanner Endowed Chair in Women's Studies  
UCLA Department of Gender Studies

invites you to attend the installation celebration of



**Shannon Speed**

Director, UCLA American Indian Studies Center (AISC)  
Professor, UCLA Department of American Indian Studies, Gender Studies, and Anthropology

as the holder of the  
**Paula Gunn Allen Chair in Gender Studies**

speaking on the topic of

**"Chickasaw Spring: Law and Sovereign Resurgence in a Native Nation"**



**Thursday, October 19, 2023**

5:00 p.m. PT  
Reception to follow

James West Alumni Center, Collins Room  
UCLA Campus

[CLICK TO RSVP](#)

About the Paula Gunn Allen Chair: The Paula Gunn Allen Chair, a professorial chair established by the UCLA Department of Gender Studies to honor the memory and legacy of Paula Gunn Allen (1939–2008). Professor Allen was a groundbreaking scholar, writer and feminist whose outstanding academic contributions include being widely considered a founding figure of contemporary indigenous literature, defining a canon of Native American literature. As one of the key intellectual scholars of indigenous literature and history, her work and scholarship served as a bridge between indigenous literature writing and feminism. Professor Allen was a faculty member in the UCLA Department of English from 1990 to 1999 and was an active scholar with the now-established UCLA Department of American Indian Studies.

About Shannon Speed: Shannon Speed is a citizen of the Chickasaw Nation. She is Professor of American Indian Studies, Gender Studies, and Anthropology at UCLA, where she also serves as Director of the American Indian Studies Center and Special Advisor to the Chancellor on Native American and Indigenous Affairs. Dr. Speed has worked for three decades in Mexico and the United States on issues of indigenous rights, gender, neoliberalism, violence, migration, and activist research. Her books include the award-winning *Incarcerated Stories: Indigenous Women Migrants and Violence in the Settler Capitalist State* (UNC Press 2020) and the co-edited volume with Dr. Lynn Stephen, *Heightened States of Injustice: Activist Research on Indigenous Women and Violence* (University of Arizona Press 2021). She is currently working on a new book with her own tribal nation entitled, *Chickasaw Spring: Law and Resurgent Sovereignty in a Native Nation*. She is a recipient of the President's Award from the American Anthropological Association (AAA) and the Chickasaw Dynamic Woman of the Year award from the Chickasaw Nation. She served as the President of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) from 2018 to 2021. Dr. Speed is active in her tribe's language revitalization program as a learner and teacher, and serves as a board member of Comunidades Indigenas en Liderazgo (CIELO) in Los Angeles.

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#### 4. Gender Studies Ph.D. Incoming Cohort Fall 2023

**Cihangir Can** (he/him) Cihangir's areas of interest include queer and feminist theories; politics of subjectivity and belonging in and beyond the Middle East; sexual globalization; and studies of religion, particularly Islam. His proposed Ph.D. research questions how religious Sunni Muslim men who have sex with men negotiate the politics of subjectivity and belonging in contemporary Turkey. To achieve this, Cihangir will employ a multi-sited ethnographic approach that spans both Istanbul and Kayseri, allowing for a nuanced and detailed analysis of the social and cultural dynamics at play. BA. Political Science and International Relations, Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, 2020; MA. Anthropology and Sociology, The Geneva Graduate Institute, 2022

**Nicolás and/or Nico De Leon** (They/them) was born and raised in San Fernando Valley, California. They are currently finishing their master's program in Latin American studies at Cal State LA. Nico is completing a thesis project focusing on LGBTI art movements in Guatemala. Their research interests are U.S imperialism, settler colonialism, memory, Central American studies, performance studies, and LGBTI social movements in Central America.

**Eunjin Lee** Eunjin received her master's in Law from Seoul National University, South Korea. As an activist and researcher in South Korea, she has delved into issues such as militarized prostitution around US bases and population control policies through anti-abortion law. Her research interests center on the (re)production of gendered, sexualized, and racialized bodies in contexts of colonial governance, warfare, and security, with a particular focus on legal texts. While at UCLA, she plans to examine how biopolitical control is transformed and manifested in times of epidemic by tracing the legal renderings of infectious bodies that were considered as virulent threats to the nation-state.

#### 5. Honors

##### Faculty:

Distinguished Professor and Penny Kanner Endowed Chair, Sherene Razack, awarded the Feminist Theory and Gender Studies Section of the International Studies Association **Eminent Scholar Award for 2024.**

Associate Professor Sarah Roberts has been elected President of the Association of Internet Researchers, 2024.

Professor Safiya Noble has been featured in *Rolling Stone* as one of five Black women and women of color who warned of the risks of artificial intelligence.

<https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/women-warnings-ai-danger-risk-before-chatgpt-1234804367/>

## Students:

**Sarah Montoya:** Mellon Humanities Postdoctoral Fellow for the National Parks Service 2023-2025, "Unpacking Indigeneity, Identity and Heritage of the Anza Expedition Fellowship." Sarah Montoya will critically examine the "mestizaje" or mixture of identities of the Anza expedition, the descendants, and Native peoples along the Anza Historic Corridor on the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. Through historical and ethnographic research, she will help unpack the legacies of settler privilege, foreign invasion, and racial identities.

**Josephine Ong:** Josephine has a forthcoming (Spring 2024) article in *Frontiers' Special Issue on Asian American Abolition Feminisms* called "Sculpted Memories: Apolinario Mabini's Memorialization and Chamorro-Filipino Relations in Guam," and currently holds a predoctoral fellowship at Dartmouth as a Guarani Dean's Predoctoral to Postdoctoral Fellow.

**Taryn Marcelino:** Recipient of the Chateaubriand Humanities Fellowship in Winter and Spring 2024 supporting field research in France.

## **6. Important dates**

- Weds, Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 4-6pm Fall Reception with Gender Studies, CSW & LGBTQ Studies – Rolfe Courtyard
- Thurs, Oct 19<sup>th</sup> 5pm Paula Gunn Allen Installation Ceremony for Shannon Speed – James West Alumni Ctr, Collins Room
- Mon, Dec 11<sup>th</sup> Faculty and Staff Retreat
- January 18-19<sup>th</sup> 8-year Review Site Visit
- Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> – Commencement, Carnasale Commons