

**THE 12th ANNUAL GENDER
RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

“Women and Ethnicity”

**Wednesday March 6, 2013
9am-5:00pm**

**The University Center:
Cardinal, Catamount, Multipurpose Room A, the Grandroom, and Illusions.**

**Presented by Western Carolina University, the Women’s Studies Minor, CEAP Diversity
Committee, and Phi Kappa Phi.**

9:00 Registration Table Opens

Grand Room A 9:05 – 10:45

Invited Address

**‘Subject 2 Change’
Dr. Crystal Leigh Endsley**

Crystal Leigh Endsley, Ph D, is currently a Visiting Assistant Professor in Africana Studies at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York where she also serves as director of the Institute for Global Africana Studies. Dr. Endsley is a networked fellow with the Digital Humanities Initiative at Hamilton College. Originally from Louisiana and raised in Virginia Beach, Crystal Leigh earned her doctorate from the Pennsylvania State University. Recognized by Cosmopolitan Magazine as a “Fun, Fearless Female,” for her international spoken word poetry and activism, Crystal Leigh is part performer and part professor. She has performed and presented workshops at numerous universities and venues around the world including South Africa, Tanzania, Trinidad & Tobago, and Jamaica. Her current research focuses on intersections of performance and identity with themes such as feminist pedagogy, race, and popular culture; Hip Hop and cultural production as activism; and the connections between academic/home communities, motherhood and knowledge production.

Subject 2 Change

What does it mean to exist in the in-between? Who determines who or what we are? In this spoken word poetry performance/research presentation, Crystal Leigh explores these questions and more by examining the role of performance in identity formation. Our subjecthood is constructed by context, location, and the perspectives of other people, thus it is constantly under re-vision. In other words, we are not only who we imagine ourselves to be, but also who others perceive us to be. *Subject 2 Change* is also an interactive photograph exhibit that invites viewers to probe their conceptions about race particularly in regards to the racially ambiguous female body. These images are a direct response to the question “What are you?” typically asked by people attempting

to categorize, organize, or manage a racially ambiguous woman. This is an ongoing exploration of power, and the ways that gender and race are assigned, performed, and scribed on and by a subject.

PRESENTATIONS

10:10 – 11:15

CATAMOUNT ROOM: 10:10

Title: Voluntary use of Rohypnol and club drugs by female undergraduates: Prevalence, frequency, motivations, consequences, and cultural implications.

Although research documents female undergraduates in the United States as increasing in voluntarily use of Rohypnol and other club drugs, there is a paucity of research investigating the prevalence, frequency, motivations, consequences, and cultural implications of such use. This presentation will describe the research findings currently available on the topic. More specifically, implications of voluntary use of Rohypnol and other club drugs to lower social inhibitions will be discussed. Presenters will discuss current research regarding the breadth and depth of this issue. Finally, cultural expectations for young women in American society and implications for working with this population will be addressed.

Presenters: Tiffany Franzo: Graduate of Human Services and Clinical Mental Health Counseling at Western Carolina University; Dr. Valerie Schwiebert: Professor of Human Services, and Counseling Program at Western Carolina University

CARDINAL ROOM:

Title: Emerging Voices of Resilient Jamaican Women

This paper uses the framework of risk and resilience in a qualitative study that examines the protective factors affecting the educational attainment of 26 Jamaican women in a graduate program of education. All of these women rose from poverty to become successful, success being defined as having attained graduate student status. The protective factors found in these women can be categorized under three broad umbrellas: strong personal identity traits such as self-efficacy; positive relationships that served as sources of support; and the ability to reframe barriers to success.

Presenter: Dr. Sharon Dole: Professor of Special Education in the School of Teaching and Learning at Western Carolina University

POSTER SESSIONS
Grand Room 11:15 - 12:05

Title: The Effects of Media and Stereotyping on Men and Women who conform to Society's Expectations of Beauty

This study examines perceptions of men and women who conform to society's expectations of attractiveness. The expectation is that both males and females who are considered conventionally attractive by society's standards will be rated more negatively on criteria outside of attractiveness. Participants were asked to respond to measures of demographic variables (i.e., gender, age, ethnicity), as well as measures of personality and self-esteem. Participants then provided ratings of various attributes (e.g., friendliness, intelligence, self-esteem) for two randomly selected images/scenarios (one male, one female) that varied on: gender, conformity to society's expectations of attractiveness, and success.

Presenters: Olivia Muse: Department of Psychology at Western Carolina University; Dr. Erin Myers: Assistant Professor of Psychology at Western Carolina University

Title: Female Criminality Explained through Parental Attachment and Involvement

The purpose of this study is to determine if a relationship exists between parental attachment/involvement and criminal/deviant behavior in females, either as a juvenile or adult. A self-report survey was administered to urban and rural community college students. The reason for surveying community college students, as opposed to university students, is that university students are generally comprised of students whose parents pay their tuition, implying a certain level of existing attachment or involvement of parent. The hypothesis is that there will be a higher correlation between the relationship with parent and deviant behavior in females, more so than males.

Presenters: Amelia Mitten: Departments of Psychology and Criminal Justice at Western Carolina University

Title: The Influence of Body Image on Women: an Intersectional Approach

This poster will examine beauty norms and ideals, self-expression, negative talk, cosmetic surgery, eating disorders, and aging, with a focus on how these affect women of different races. This research will also consider different body perceptions and how the above concepts influence said perceptions.

Presenter: April Russell: Women's Studies Program, Western Carolina University

Title: Military Families: Deployment Impact on College Students

The deployment of a family member in the military has been shown to have serious and potentially long lasting impacts on families left behind. Our current extensive and long-term presence in a war zone has, and will for years to come need to be analyzed in terms of the consequences of this experience for the soldiers and their families. The current research is focusing on a subgroup that is impacted by military deployment – the college student with a family member in a war zone. Previous research on relatives of deployed soldiers has only focused on how effective new programs/ treatments are for this population. This study will measure the effect relatedness to a deployed soldier has on a college student. Participants include 100 undergraduate students from a midsize university. Participants will complete the DASS-21 (to assess depression, anxiety, and stress) , as well as a demographic survey (to assess academic, social and behavioral/emotional variables). It is hypothesized that the stronger the reported relationship with the deployed soldier is, the more significant the DASS-21 scores will be and the more likely the individual's academic performance will decline, and he or she will engage in high risk/deviant behaviors (e.g., drinking, fighting, and social isolation). Recommendations for colleges and universities will be discussed in terms of possible programs to offer for this subgroup of students.

Presenter: David R. Chandler, Drs. Candace Boan and Mickey Randolph Department of Psychology, Western Carolina University,

Title: Consequences of Rape at an International Level

We will take an in-depth look into rape laws and consequences within racial groups in countries worldwide.

Presenters: Tallah Wilson: Women's Studies Program, Western Carolina University; Nina Gabatino, Women's Studies Program, Western Carolina University; Mandy Waynick, Women's Studies Program, Western Carolina University; and Mikayla Mann, Women's Studies Program, Western Carolina University

Title: Traditional Family Roles of Women

With research focus on mothers and grandmothers, and their choices over being out of the home or in the home, the various racial groups of the U.S will be researched, and traditions taken into consideration throughout history and in our current society.

Presenters: Brittney Anderson: Women's Studies Program at Western Carolina University; Kirstan Blender: Women's Studies Program at Western Carolina University.

Title: Effect of religiosity and race on sexual and political attitudes of Hispanic women

Hispanic women represent a major demographic in the United States and face similar challenges as the majority of women growing up in America. To a certain degree all girls have societal ideals that they have to adhere to as they grow up. However, the factors that determine what these ideals are differ because of defining characteristics such as upbringing, socio-economic status, race, and religiosity. These factors have a huge bearing on an individual's views on life, the opportunities they are afforded, and the choices that they make. In recent years, their population has ballooned making them a force to be reckoned with both economically and in the political sphere. This research examines the interaction of socio-economic status, race, and religiosity on sexual and political attitudes of Hispanic women.

Presenter: Sandra Yankah, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Western Carolina University

Title: Organization Membership and ADHD Medication Use in College Students

ADHD medications are a class of drugs classified as stimulants. Stimulant drugs, in many forms, have been linked to improved concentration and academic performance and both non-prescription and prescription stimulants are frequently used on college campuses. Recently reports of stimulant use have been linked to student addictions and expulsions. The present study will focus on specific stimulant drugs prescribed for ADHD (e.g., Adderall) use among a specific sub group of college students. Participants in this study include members of social and academic organizations who will complete a survey assessing personal demographic data, specific information about their organization's rules and requirements, stimulant use rates, type of stimulant used, reasons for using, stress levels, and any stigma associated with using stimulant drugs. It is hypothesized that members of student academic and/or social organizations that have a GPA requirement, require a specific number of community service hours, and have a requirement to participate in a certain number of university sponsored events (e.g., a student may have to attend 3 events on campus each semester such as "Take Back the Night", the Gender Conference, Career Day) are more likely to use prescribed or non-prescribed ADHD medication than students who are members of organizations that do not have these requirements. It is also hypothesized that there exists a sex difference between uses of prescribed or non-prescribed ADHD medication with females more likely than males to use the drug. Finally the study will examine a possible difference on these variables between individual who use prescribed medications, non-prescribed medications and those who report no use.

Presenters: Danielle Lacroix; Erika Kincaid; Mickey Randolph, PhD.; and Candace Boa-Lenzo, PhD., Department of Psychology Western Carolina University

Title: Contributing Factors to Rape Culture on College Campuses: Small Rural University

This paper explores norms, stereotypes, myth acceptance and demographics that contribute to rape culture on college campuses, with specific focus on a small rural campus. Hypothesis and variables

are constructed through literature review and observations. Four types of scales and inventories are used to collect data from a student population. From the target population, two samples were taken based on gender. The male sample was asked about hyper-masculinity, alcohol consumption and rape myth acceptance by a three part survey. The female sample was asked about alcohol consumption, safety on campus and rape myth acceptance by a three part survey. This study identified the attitudes on campus surrounding the issue of rape and sexual harassment

Presenters: Caitlin Armer and Dr. Marilyn Chamberlin, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Western Carolina University

Title: Parenting: A comparison of Asian women and white men

The objective of this study is to compare Asian women that are coined “Tiger Moms” to professional working white men and how their dedication and loyalty to what they deem is important varies and is similar. Studying this will help us better understand how cultural differences determine what is important and how gender controls how we interact with the people closest to us. This study is going to be comparing literature written on white men and Asian women and their parenting styles and work ethic and coming to a conclusion based on the findings from previous research.

Presenter: Lisa Oliver, Department of Criminal Justice, Western Carolina University

Title: Gender in Sports

This is intended to be a focus on sports, and the role gender plays in professional sports, college sports, economics, and media within the sports world. The world of sports is a male dominated field, both in pay, television coverage and overall recognition. Cost of tickets, media coverage on both major sports networks and in local college media will be examined for gender differences. Results presented indicate and uneven economic and media focus on women’s and men’s sports.

Presenter: Nicholas Waites, Department of Psychology, Western Carolina University

Title: The Defense of Title IX in Sports and the Illusion of Reverse Discrimination

Title IX has been the focus of many discriminatory practices over the last decade and many have sought retaliation for such occurrences as unnecessary and unqualified firing (Buzuvis, 2010). I investigated similar stories to find that there are many instances like this one and that the only consequences of these suits were only that unfair hiring and firing practices were observed in athletic departments and serious actions were taken to reverse such instances.

Presenter: Joseph Rehak, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, Western Carolina University

LUNCH 12:05 – 1:15 ILLUSIONS

Lunch is \$10 per person

Invited Address

“Latina? Hispana? Neither”

By Karen Arias

The diversity of Latinas and their race is often overlooked. Karen Arias, a Bilingual Advocate and Coordinator for both Outreach Training and Children Exposed to Violence, takes this hidden topic of Latina diversity and brings it to light. She will also discuss the range of gender issues Latinas face and the barriers they endure as immigrants here in America, with a mild focus on the Hispanic community here in North Carolina.

Karen Arias is the Bilingual Advocate/ Children Exposed to Violence Coordinator/Outreach & Training Coordinator for the 30th Judicial District Domestic Violence-Sexual Assault Alliance, Inc.

PRESENTATIONS

1:25 – 2:15

CARDINALROOM

Title: Gender Issues in Native American Literature – Student Panel

In this class, students are assigned a “synthesis paper” as the culminating writing assignment. The assignment asks them to “pull the course together by identifying a reasonably large and complicated issue or question and exploring this topic by working with two or perhaps three course texts.” Ideally, this assignment results in a thoughtful, analytical piece of writing reflecting an intellectual process completed over the course of the semester. Since this conference comes relatively early in the process, each student will present an early draft of this assignment in the form of a 10-minute paper, soliciting feedback and input from the audience.

Presenters: Shaddoe Blackford: Department of English at Western Carolina University [*Native American Women and Literature*]; Emily Kilpatrick: Department of English at Western Carolina University [*Native American...Barbie?: Representations of Native American Women in Popular Media*]; Catherine Stiers: Department of English at Western Carolina University [*Native American Women and Literature*]; Jill West: Department of English in Western Carolina University [*Roles of Women in Native American Spirituality*]

MULTIPURPOSE ROOM A:

Title: The Gender Factor in Identifying with Differing Styles of Leadership and its Possible Social and Political Ramifications

Women identify significantly more than men with leaders who communicate with language, classifying them as transformational leaders. We will explore the research in which my team identified this characteristic and what it means for the leaders of the future. We will also explore theories for how this characteristic may have been a determining factor in the past two presidential elections and what impact it may have on future campaigns.

Presenter: Dr. Anne Downing: Asst. Professor of Business Law in the Department of Business Law & Sports Management at Western Carolina University

PRESENTATIONS

2:30 – 3:20

CATAMOUNT ROOM :

Title: Transgender In-Service: Focusing on a Better Outlook on the Transgender Community

The concept of transgender, or identifying as the sex not biologically assigned, is a concept that has been acknowledged for years in professional research literature, yet is not one that the average layperson is familiar with. Current research indicates that more individuals are self-identifying as transgender and at younger ages. While this concept is still greatly misunderstood, research in this area has increased to better understand transgendered perception. Interventions are being proposed, ranging from biological reassignment to understanding how to better integrate and accommodate transgender individuals in societal institutions (e.g., the workplace, schools).

The current research is an in-service program focusing on training individuals about the area of transgender. The in-service program will include definitions, prevalence, and issues that transgendered individuals encounter; anecdotal stories with suggested ways to interact appropriately with an individual identifying as transgender, and the range of intervention options available. Participants will include 200 undergraduate students from a mid-size university in the southeast. The effectiveness of the in-service will be assessed using a pre/post design in the form of an informational questionnaire which will assess participant's knowledge of transgender before and after the presentation. The content of the questionnaire will reflect the content of the in-service program. Information regarding who may benefit from this type of training will be included.

Presenters: Katie Salmons: Undergraduate Psychology Major, Western Carolina University; Miranda Dickens: Undergraduate Psychology Major, Western Carolina University. Drs. Mickey Randolph and Candace Boan-Lenzo, Department of Psychology, Western Carolina University