



*The Ellyn Uram
Kaschak Institute*

for Social Justice for Women and Girls



First (Extended) Annual Report

9/2019-12/2020

BINGHAMTON
UNIVERSITY
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



Introduction

In its initial year, the Kaschak Institute supported research projects dedicated to expanding social justice for women and girls. It created conversations and links among affiliated faculty and students working on this goal from a wide range of disciplinary angles throughout the university. It supported specific research projects dedicated to this goal, and it encouraged expanding numbers of students and faculty to consider their research objectives in relation to the active pursuit of social justice for women and girls. In collaboration with the Human Rights Institute and other international partners, the Kaschak Institute co-hosted an international conference featuring distinguished speakers, including Ellyn Kaschak, to mark the 20th anniversary of the U.N. Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

In its next phase, the Kaschak Institute plans to expand opportunities for collaboration on research work dedicated to social justice for women and girls. Additional faculty talks are scheduled to enhance opportunities for shared research among student and faculty scholars across the university, and presentations of Institute-funded research will become an annual event. Discussions are underway on the creation of a “collaboratory,” a virtual (and eventually physical, post-COVID) space designed to stimulate research projects addressing real-world issues for women and girls. The Kaschak Institute aims to make Binghamton University widely recognized as a significant home for research on social justice for women and girls.

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Board Members

External Advisory Board Members

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[Judge Elizabeth Odio Benito](#), Human rights and international humanitarian law expert

[Phyllis Chesler](#), Feminist and author

[Patricia V. Sellers](#), International criminal attorney

[Lenore E. Walker](#), Educator and psychologist

[Deborah Gray White](#), Historian and author

Executive Committee

[Alexandra Moore](#), Professor of English, Co-Director; Director, Human Rights Institute

[Susan Strehle](#), Distinguished Service Professor of English, Co-Director

[Suk-Young Kang](#), Associate Professor of Social Work

[Sara A. Reiter](#), KPMG Professor of Accounting

[Benita Roth](#), Professor of Sociology, Director, Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies

[Kathleen A. Sterling](#), Associate Professor of Anthropology

[Melissa A. Sutherland](#), Professor and Director, Kresge Center for Nursing Research

Grant Support for Faculty Projects

2019-2020

Dr. Suzy Lee, Assistant Professor, Human Development (CCPA)

“Human Trafficking Data Project” to develop a codebook and protocol for the coding of T-visa applications for victims of trafficking. The codebook was developed, reviewed by an advisory council of scholars, activists, service providers, and survivors of trafficking, and revised following a day-long collaborative workshop.

Dr. Myra Sabir, Associate Professor, Human Development (CCPA)

“Life Writing Workshops and Women’s Generative Leadership Institute” to study 24 women’s progress after participating in an 8-week series of workshops designed to increase personal effectiveness. The workshops will contribute to developing a curriculum for a Women’s Generative Leadership Institute (WGLI), designed to teach leadership skills and confidence.

2020-2021: Projects in process

Dr. Jennifer Stoeber, Associate Professor, English (Harpur)

“Living Room Revolutions: Black Women and Latinas Collecting and Selecting Records in the 1960-70s Bronx and Beyond” explores the empowerment of women of color through their collecting and playing of records, especially hip hop. Countering the masculinist historiography of popular music, this project studies how black women and Latinas remade themselves and their families in a moment of crisis and helped to develop major social, artistic, and political movements.

Dr. Leigh Ann Wheeler, Professor, History (Harpur)

“The Girl Who Couldn’t Go Home”: Anne Moody and Coming of Age in Mississippi” tells the story of Anne Moody, who wrote Coming of Age in Mississippi, one of the most trenchant and beloved memoirs of the Civil Rights Era. In 1969, she called out American racism on the day’s most popular talk shows. She then disappeared from public life. This biography will tell her story, confirming the truth of her powerful memoir and showing the radical possibilities and tragic limits of civil rights for a teenage girl and mentally ill mother burdened, always, by racism and poverty.



Grant Support for Student Projects

2019-2020

Emily Mendelson and Emily Lancia, bachelor's students, Psychology (Harpur)

“Empowerment through Consent: An analysis of sexual violence and pleasure in college hookup culture” studies college women’s hookup encounters and finds differences in consensual behaviors across sexuality and gender. Leading to two research posters presented at Binghamton University Research Days, the project found that sexual consent varies in relation to social closeness; partners familiar with one another (friends or regular hookup partners) were significantly more confident in obtaining verbal consent than those who were socially distant (strangers or acquaintances). Those with more previous sexual partners were less likely to exchange verbal consent, but more likely to verbally communicate about what is pleasurable to them.

Maggie Parker, doctoral student, Clinical Psychology (Harpur)

“Predictors of Attitudinal Acceptance towards Intimate Partner Violence” examines predictors of attitudinal acceptance or more accepting beliefs about violence, which act as determinants of future violence. To do this, the study utilized a novel multifactorial experimental vignette design (N =323), depicting ecologically valid scenarios of consent and violence, and asked participants to evaluate the perceived victim injury, culpability, and likelihood to report the offense. Previous research had not analyzed how perceptions of consent change dynamically, as this research shows. The resulting data can improve future intervention and preventative efforts.

Erica Schumann, doctoral student, History (Harpur)

“The Well-Calculated Household: Ideology and Enumeration in the Early American Domestic Sphere” explored original archival materials on numeracy during the nineteenth century as it relates to the education of women and girls. Gendered stereotypes, which first gained significant traction during the early nineteenth century, deemed women to be ill-suited for training in math and science. Original research revealed an increasing “masculinization” of math textbooks and the increasing deletion of references to math education for women.

Grant Support for Student Projects

2019-2020

Samantha Wagner and Allison McKinnon, doctoral students, Clinical Psychology (Harpur)

“Sexuality Education” identified shortcomings in existing sex-ed curricula. Research confirmed that even progressive and comprehensive sex ed programs lacked a thorough coverage of topics of desire, sexual pleasure, emotional and sexual intimacy, and consent, especially when pertaining to women, gender non-conforming individuals, and non-heterosexual individuals. Information gathered from multiple sources led the team to formulate an intervention, including a five-session, peer-led, interactive program aimed at enhancing communication, assertiveness, knowledge, and acceptance of women and gender non-conforming peoples’ own bodies and sexual desires.

2020-21: Projects in process

Erin Alexander, doctoral student, Clinical Psychology (Harpur)

“Measuring Intimate Partner Violence” responds to the severity and lethality for women of IPV. A brief and valid assessment of IPV will help victims access care and safety, and this project aims to create such a measure using item response theory to combine the strongest items from the existing measures. While IPV is widely understood to present in two distinct forms, situational couple violence and intimate terrorism, the difference between forms has not been quantitatively established using finite mixture modeling. Using data gathered through the measure created, the project will conduct a taxometric analysis to establish whether these forms of IPV are different in kind or degree.

Angela Candrilli, bachelor’s student, Psychology (Harpur)

“Masculinity and Rape” examines factors leading to rape. One in four women will be sexually assaulted during their undergraduate years, and studies have shown that situational factors, including sexual precedence (like intimacy attained within a current or previous sexual encounter), result in misperceptions of consent by men; which, in turn, can lead to assault. However, research lacks clarity on why different types of men vary in their interpretations of consent and proclivity towards rape. The study identifies how key personality traits impact perceptions of a sexual situation in ways that may lead to an assault.



Grant Support for Student Projects

2020-21: Projects in process

Jillian Morley and Courtney Nowetner, bachelor's students, Sociology/Biological Anthropology and Integrative Neuroscience (Harpur)
“Better Learning for Women and Diverse Communities” establishes that a positive learning environment is crucial to learning; it is imperative to create an equitable learning environment for a diverse student community, including women. Published research shows that the classroom environment is central to academic success, and that positive, diversity related peer interactions can be encouraged to mitigate students’ perception of prejudice in the classroom. This study examines the factors that contribute to female students’ perception of diversity and bias in the classroom and proposes ways to facilitate the success of female students.

Sarah Samson, Master of Science student, Human Rights (CCPA)
“Pakistani Women, Violence and Resilience” focuses on gender-based violence in Pakistan and women’s resilience in face of it. In collaboration with Dastak Charitable Trust in Pakistan, the project collects data through an anonymous virtual survey. Following the tradition of human rights scholarship, the project includes a community engagement component that will empower women and girls in Pakistan. Women in the community will be given cameras and be prompted to photograph women's strength from their perspective. The project will culminate in an online collection depicting the everyday strength and resilience of Pakistani women.

Global Conference, Spring 2020

“Women, Peace and Security: Re-evaluating Vulnerability” Conference

April 23-25, 2020, Binghamton University

Held in recognition of the significant anniversaries of UN initiatives on gender, including the 20th anniversary of U.N. Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security that reaffirmed the central role of women in peace and post-conflict rebuilding, the conference also linked to the Harpur College of Arts and Sciences 70th-anniversary celebrations and recognized Ellyn Kaschak’s career and generosity. Distinguished Keynote speakers and their titles include:

- ❖ **Laila Alodaat, MENA Director, WILPF,**
“Differential rights and their impact on women in crisis”
- ❖ **Daphne Frias, UN Major Group for Youth and Children,**
“Gen Z, Young Womxn and our collective path to change”
- ❖ **Shireen Hassim, Canada 150 Research Chair in Gender and African Politics, Carleton University,**
“Beyond Co-Option and Contestation: The Challenges of Advancing Substantive Equality in Neoliberal Times”
- ❖ **Gina Heathcote, Professor, University of London, SOAS,**
“Protesting the Preamble: Normative Pronouncements and Feminist Jurisprudence in the Security Council”
- ❖ **Ellyn Kaschak, Professor Emerita, San Jose State University, Founder, Kaschak Institute for Social Justice for Women and Girls,**
“Human Rights and Wrongs: Social Justice for Women and Girls”
- ❖ **Dame Helena Kennedy, Member of the House of Lords, Chair, British division of the International Commission of Jurists**



Global Conference, Spring 2020

“Women, Peace and Security: Re-evaluating Vulnerability” Conference

April 23-25, 2020, Binghamton University

- ❖ Lisa Levenstein, Associate Professor, University of North Carolina at Greensboro,
“US Feminism & Women's Human Rights: A Transnational History”
- ❖ Laura Murphy, Professor, Sheffield Hallam University,
“Women Narrating Slavery and Freedom in the 21st Century”
- ❖ Rhoda Reddock, CEDAW Committee Member & Professor, University of the West Indies
“Women's Human Rights in a Time of Backlash: CEDAW and the Global Women's Movement”
- ❖ Madeleine Rees, Executive Director, WILPF,
“Militarism and the Structures which Sustain It: Can Feminism Use Law to Effect Change?”

For more information, see the [Binghamton University Human Rights Institute website](#).

This conference was organized by the Human Rights Institute at Binghamton University; the Ellyn Uram Kaschak Institute for Social Justice for Women and Girls at Binghamton University; the Helena Kennedy Centre for International Justice at Sheffield Hallam University in the U.K.; and Vanessa Farr, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Academic Network.

Executive Committee Research Talks

Promoting Social Justice for Women and Girls: Research Across the Disciplines

October 26, 2020

Susan Strehle, Distinguished Service Professor of English,

“Historical Fiction for Real Social Justice: Why Literature?”

Strehle introduces her latest book, *Contemporary Historical Fiction*, forthcoming in the next month or two from Palgrave Macmillan. With Louise Erdrich’s National Book Award winning novel, *The Round House* (2012), as an example, the presentation explores fiction’s ability to advocate forcefully for social justice for women and girls. The book shows that a new form of historical fiction, written in the last twenty-five years, advances readers’ understanding of human rights and the costs of their violation.

November 13, 2020

Benita Roth

“Stop the Stigma and Save Lives: Grassroots Mobilizations and the Politics of the Opioid Epidemic”

Since 2015, I have been working with and researching grassroots efforts to combat the opioid epidemic in Central New York. These efforts are led by women, mostly but not only, white mothers of children lost to overdose. These activists have been working to raise community awareness of the epidemic, to gain resources to treat those with substance use disorder (SUD), and to lessen the stigma around drug use and against drug users. I have focused chiefly on the work of Truth Pharm (truthpharm.org) in Broome County, whose members advocate against the “war on drugs” and for “harm reduction” responses to substance use. In concert with sociology graduate students Nilufer Akalin and Gabreela Friday, I have also been conducting research on the local politics of the opioid epidemic through a comparison of activist and institutional responses to the epidemic in Broome, Tioga, and Tompkins counties in NY State. This research has been funded by the Social Science Research Council, as well as an internal grant from the Harpur College of Arts and Sciences at Binghamton University.

