



Department of Women's and Gender Studies

THE POWER

For more than 40 years, women's and gender studies at the University of Michigan has been a potent force for curricular, scholarly, and social transformation. The interdisciplinary scholarship of our faculty has brought recognition to the department and expanded the horizon of opportunity for generations of women. From its inception in student and faculty activism, women's studies grew to become one of the first programs of its kind in the world. It is among the strongest and most mature of such scholarly programs in the country and has seen significant development in recent years. The goal of women's and gender studies at Michigan is to recognize gender as a category of analysis that affects many research questions and to build interdisciplinary collaborations among faculty and students that bridge gender, racial, ethnic, economic, and national divides. We seek to create new knowledge about women, gender, race, and sexuality, to challenge unequal distributions of power, and to improve the lives of all women and men.



THE OPPORTUNITIES

The commitment to social change that defined the Women's Movement and gave rise to the academic field of women's and gender studies continues to inspire our scholarship, curriculum, and relationship to the world. The department fosters a commitment to activism and service in our students by bringing knowledge out of the library, laboratory, and classroom and into the world where it can positively affect the quality of all people's lives. Our undergraduates are educated to think rigorously, critically, and creatively. We prepare them to ask tough questions about the way society functions and to understand how the past has contributed to current social, political, and psychological realities. Our students go on to careers in law, medicine, education, social work, and a variety of academic disciplines and professions in which they draw from and build on their theoretical, historical, and practical knowledge of gender, feminism, and social change. Our students and faculty address complex social problems—from the medicalization of pregnancy, to the role of visual images in conveying gender stereotypes, to the use of rape as a tool of warfare. They are involved in public service projects worldwide, from investigating reproductive health and maternity care in Honduras to working as advocates in Michigan women's prisons.

THE IMPACT

Your gift will enable U-M women's and gender studies to promote social justice and support our students' professional development through innovative scholarship, research activities, and experiential opportunities that serve as an important bridge to post-graduate employment. Our graduates possess a vision of the future that is grounded in practical interdisciplinary knowledge, equipping them to be effective advocates in their fields of expertise, activists in their local communities, and leaders in the world.

Postdoctoral Fellows in Feminist Development Studies

\$1.5M endowed per fellow / \$70,000 annually for 2 years

Feminist scholarship has long recognized that in order to understand women's political rights one must understand the economic systems in which they live. Women's and gender studies scholars have provided conceptualizations of gender as a system of relations connected to economic structures and the politics that they underlie. In recent years, this field has expanded as policymakers, non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions, such as the World Bank, have turned to anthropologists, sociologists and political scientists to understand the relationship between gender and economic structures. Scholars in this area have examined the gendered causes and effects of poverty and have analyzed the links between economic inequality and social and cultural factors. Gifts would allow us to bring to campus one postdoctoral fellow from the wide field of feminist research who focuses on poverty and inequality in the United States and one fellow who focuses on gender and international development. Fellows would have a two-year position and would teach three courses, interact with doctoral students through workshops, and share their research with faculty in women's and gender studies and allied departments.



Sexuality Scholars' Initiative

\$1M endowed / \$50,000 annually

The Department of Women's and Gender Studies has unparalleled strength in sexuality scholarship, counting among its faculty international leaders in sexuality and queer studies in the humanities and social sciences, as well as in psychological approaches to sexuality, including LGBTQ and other sexual minorities. Sexuality scholarship is recognized nationally and globally as an increasingly vital area encompassing diverse forms of inquiry that result in transformative findings, key insights, and game-changing perspectives. Gifts to this initiative help guarantee that the theory and empirical research produced by our department continues to play a significant role in national and international policy-making and social change. This fund would support important activities such as:

- The International LGBT Psychology Summer Institute, where leaders in LGBT psychology mentor emerging junior scholars and students in a unique gathering to build international networks that cultivate intellectual vitality and innovation.
- Sexual and reproductive justice conferences that would ensure U-M's place as the center of progressive sexuality, justice, and health scholarship.
- Innovative and groundbreaking scholarship, graduate training, and new pedagogy in sexuality studies and research.

Preserving Women's History in the Digital Age

\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually

Advances in digital technology promise to transform the ways that students in the liberal arts engage with archives and artifacts. These technologies enable broader and fuller access to materials that were previously unavailable, or available only to those with access to top-tier university collections. Creating avenues of greater accessibility for materials such as these is central to the work of scholars who are exploring the possibility of a larger, democratic transformation of the humanities. As well, issues surrounding the transformation of the digital landscape have relevance to a variety of disciplines outside the humanities, including social sciences and the law. To achieve this vision of open access will require innovative new ways of storing, presenting and linking information. A gift to this fund will help us preserve the voices of women who have often been left out of the historical narratives and make them accessible now and in the future: poor women, racial and sexual minorities, and women who produce arts and literature. This fund could support the technological infrastructure necessary to create and maintain digital archives. It can also support specific digital history endeavors, such as Professor Maria Cotera's project to collect and archive the life history narratives and "keepsakes" (letters, books, clippings, and photographs) of Chicana feminists whose political work intersected ethnic and feminist politics in the 1970s.



Undergraduate Experiential Education Fund

\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually

Students in the liberal arts seek educational opportunities outside of the classroom where they can apply academic knowledge to real world problems without known solutions. A gift to our undergraduate initiative fund could:

- Provide seed funding for our annual Senior Women's and Gender Studies Capstone Project, a student-led collaboration for our graduating class in which students design and implement a social change project as their culminating experience. For example, students may plan an arts show, create a publication, or invite a panel of activists and scholars to campus.
- Encourage student-faculty research partnerships by funding students to provide research assistance on projects during the summer.

Artist in Residence Program

\$10,000 to \$20,000 annually

The University of Michigan has a revered tradition of supporting innovation in the sphere of artistic creativity, and this program would add a focus on gender and sexuality to this practice. This program would enhance the educational experience by enabling undergraduate and graduate students in women's and gender studies to meet with a distinguished performing artist in the areas of theatre, music, dance, or spoken word whose work addresses gender and sexuality. The department could sponsor a short-term campus artist in residence each year and organize their lectures, performances, and workshops for students.

Undergraduate Internship Opportunities

\$10,000 to \$50,000 annually

Students hone their practical skills in real world situations by participating in internships across the United States and in countries around the world. For liberal arts students, this experience is critical. With these opportunities, our students apply their skills in practical ways and gain experience and exposure that lead to future career possibilities. Your gift to the college internship program will help support women's and gender studies students with funding for summer and academic year internships. We seek gifts for internships that will provide students with support ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000 to help cover travel and living costs, as well as stipends for students in unpaid summer internships who, without such support, would not be able to participate because of financial barriers. Our students participate in internships with non-profit organizations whose missions are allied with women's and gender studies, such as Safe House, Planned Parenthood, and Project Hope in Detroit. An endowed gift of \$100,000 will provide funding for two to five students.



WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

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