



WOMEN'S AND GENDER STUDIES

Addressing complex social problems and bridging divides in interdisciplinary study

For 50 years, women's and gender studies at the University of Michigan has been a potent force for curricular, scholarly, and social transformation. The groundbreaking scholarship of our faculty has brought recognition to the department and expanded the horizon of opportunity for generations of students. From its inception in social justice work, Michigan's Department of Women's and Gender Studies grew to become one of the first programs of its kind in the world.

Whether in the classroom, laboratory, archive, or in the field, we push boundaries. Bridge divides. Challenge inequalities. Improve lives. Our department fosters a commitment to the public good by bringing practical knowledge out of the academy and into the world. Our students pursue careers in medicine, education, business, social work, the arts, and many other fields. Generous gifts will enable U-M women's and gender studies to continue to provide the innovative learning opportunities that prepare our students to be effective leaders in the world; and support faculty research and scholarship on complex social problems, helping us create new knowledge that centers women, gender, race, class, sexuality, and disability.

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP

Endowed professorships, or chairs, have long been recognized as both a hallmark of academic quality and a means by which a university honors its most esteemed scholars and teachers. Professorships are reserved for scholars of national, or even international, stature, with highly distinguished records of teaching, research, and impact. In response to the urgency of this need, and to demonstrate LSA's commitment to being the leader and best in the field, the college is offering to endow the first professorship in the department. The standard investment of \$2.5M for a professorship in LSA would qualify for a \$250,000 match, enabling a gift of \$2.25M to establish an endowment to support a professorship. This investment would cement the University of Michigan's place at the forefront of original scholarship in this field, especially in the topics of Gender & Health, Sexuality Studies, and Feminist Psychology.

GENDER AND HEALTH FUND

Through our path-breaking undergraduate major in Gender and Health, our department educates the health providers of the future. Many of our students double major or minor in pre-health or science; in our classes they focus on the social determinants of health, inequality, the history of reproduction, women's health movements and activism, and more.

In addition to our educational mission, through our faculty research focus in Gender and Health, we are positioned to make meaningful change at the intersection of gender, health, and wellness research. We are leveraging the expertise of cross-discipline teaching collaborations—with partners in the Medical School and School of Nursing—to not only better train the health professionals of tomorrow, but also to advance the research in areas like the history and future of abortion rights; sexual health; mental health and well-being; reproductive and birthing justice; health data and surveillance of women; and race, class, and gender and the social determinants of health.

Expendable gifts of \$1,000 - \$25,000 would fund educational enhancements and research opportunities for their students related to their classroom teaching.

GLOBAL FEMINISMS INITIATIVE

Our department is home to the Global Feminisms Project, which archives oral history interviews with people who work on issues related to women and gender in different national contexts. We maintain a rich digital archive of over 100 interviews from 15 countries, complete with annotated transcriptions, themes, guides, and podcasts. More interviews are added each year, as funding permits. The interviews reach across the world and advance our understanding of feminism, activism, history, identity, and social movements. Enormous energy goes into creating this archive, along with the materials that facilitate its use in both research and education. To date, interviews have been conducted in Brazil, China, Germany, India, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Poland, Puerto Rico, Russia, Tanzania, United States, and Zanzibar. An endowed gift of \$1M or \$50,000 annually would ensure the future of this project, expanding its global coverage.



“I was fortunate enough to find the WGS department freshman year and to grow within it for the past four years. This department has challenged me to think deeper about the complexity of humanity by teaching me how to see the world through an interdisciplinary lens both inside and outside of the classroom. Through its unwavering support and mentorship, I have been empowered to confront complex issues like oppression and injustice throughout my time at the university.”

–Noel Harris, Gender and Health major



STRATEGIC FUND

The Women's and Gender Studies Strategic Fund helps support a wide array of initiatives within the department—in research, teaching, activism, and work in the community. A gift of \$1,000 could send a graduate student to an archive or remote interview site to conduct research on the impact of gender on her field. Larger gifts of all sizes make a critical difference in the department's ability to respond to opportunities that arise each year as well as the ability to support students' experiences.

DIGITAL STUDIES AND PUBLIC HUMANITIES

Our teaching and scholarship bring feminist perspectives to digital projects. Our faculty and students work to collect histories in digital humanities projects that focus on the history of Michigan, the history of abortion and reproductive justice activism, large-scale data collection projects, and more. Faculty and students work together on co-produced scholarship where students learn how to become content creators. Our students engage with public communities outside the walls of the university to collect data and also learn how to build websites, podcasts, archives, and other projects for wide audiences.

A gift of \$10,000 - \$50,000 annually 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. This fund could support the technological infrastructure necessary to create and maintain digital archives. It can also support specific digital history endeavors, such as Assistant Professor Jennifer Dominique Jones's project, *"Hold Me Up": Narrative Histories of Black Community Building in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, 1910s-1970s*.

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Scholars in women's and gender studies work on many different topics, from many different disciplinary perspectives. This interdisciplinarity distinguishes our field, giving rise to exciting synergies, novel insights, and creative solutions. An endowed investment of \$1.5M per fellow or \$70,000 annually for 2 years would allow us to further expand our reach and impact by bringing postdoctoral fellows to our community. 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. These fellows could specialize in any number of topics, such as: gender and mental health; reproductive justice; women in leadership; poverty and inequality; gender and the economy; LGBTQ and sexuality studies; discrimination and violence; gender, race, and nation.

UNDERGRADUATE INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

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. 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. With these opportunities, our students apply their skills in practical ways and gain experience and exposure that lead to future career possibilities. An endowed gift of \$100,000 will provide funding for two to five students. Gifts of \$10,000 - \$50,000 annually to the college internship program will help support women's and gender studies students with funding for summer and academic year internships; support ranging from \$1,000 - \$5,000 helps cover travel and living costs, as well as stipends for students in unpaid summer internships. Without such support, many students would not be able to participate because of financial barriers.

SOCIAL CHANGE SCHOLARSHIP INITIATIVE

Undergraduates in the liberal arts seek educational opportunities outside of the classroom where they can apply academic knowledge to real world problems and seek social change. Graduate students pursue research in the world to advance our understanding of those problems (e.g. what are their histories, where do they emerge, who is hardest hit) and develop solutions (learning what works, what doesn't, where to go from here). A gift to this initiative of \$10,000 - \$50,000 annually could, for example:

- Fund 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.
- Fund team-based research projects that involve travel, collection of data, and collaboration internationally or with low-resourced communities
- Provide seed funding for students or faculty working on public scholarship projects that engage community members
- Provide honoraria for community leaders, activists, and organizers to visit our department and meet with our 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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