

Ms. Classroom

Workshop Presenter Biographies

Carrie N. Baker is a professor and in the Program for the Study of Women and Gender at Smith College in Northampton, MA. She has published three books, *Fighting the US Youth Sex Trade: Gender, Race, and Politics* (Cambridge University Press, 2018), *The Women's Movement Against Sexual Harassment* (Cambridge University Press, 2008), which won the 2008 NWSA Sara A. Whaley book prize, and *Sexual Harassment Law: History, Cases and Practice* (Carolina Academic Press, 2020), coauthored with Jennifer Ann Drobac and Rigel C. Olivieri. She earned her JD and PhD from Emory University in Atlanta, GA. She is a frequent writer for *Ms.* magazine, where she serves as co-chair of the *Ms.* Committee of Scholars, and has a monthly column in the *Daily Hampshire Gazette* (Northampton, MA). She engages the broader public as a member of the Scholars Strategy Network and of SheSource, a project of the Women's Media Center (WMC), and is an alumna of WMC's Progressive Women's Voices, a media and leadership training program for women.

R. Dianne Bartlow is a Professor and current Chair of the Department of Gender and Women's Studies at California State University, Northridge. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego (2000) in Communication with an emphasis on critical cultural/media studies, gender, race, and discourse, cognition and human interaction. Her research focuses on representations of African-American women in popular music, culture, and film, 19th century Black Feminism, pedagogy and diversity, mothering and violence against women. Bartlow has also worked extensively in television production and is a multiple Emmy Award-winning director/writer/producer. She teaches courses on Women and Violence, Men and Masculinity, and Women and Entertainment as well as general GWS classes including online classes. She is the author of "Punishing Abused Women: A Retrospective on a Ms. Magazine Blog," in *Illuminating How Identities, Stereotypes and Inequalities Matter through Gender Studies*, edited by D. Nicole Farris, Mary Ann Davis and D'Lane R. Compton (Springer, 2014). Dr. Bartlow's forthcoming publications include: "Judicial Response to Court Assisted Child Murders," and she is co-author, with Barry Goldstein, of "Judicial Response to Court Assisted Child Murders. Part II: Solutions and Recommendations" in *Domestic Violence, Abuse, and Child Custody* (2nd edition), edited by Mo Therese Hannah and Barry Goldstein (Civic Research Institute, 2014). Bartlow is also co-author with Florence Kyomugisha of "Enhancing Diversity through Innovative Pedagogy: Some Challenges and Considerations" (*National Social Science Journal*, 2014). She is currently developing the documentaries *Justice Denied: Mothers Who Lose Custody*, and *New Agenda: African-American Women and Music*.

Michele Tracy Berger is Associate Professor in the Department of Women's and Gender Studies at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Her research, teaching, and practice all focus on intersectional approaches to studying areas of inequality, especially racial and gender health disparities. This work spans the fields of public health, sociology and women's and gender studies.

Her books include *Workable Sisterhood: The Political Journey of Stigmatized Women with HIV/AIDS* (Princeton University Press, 2004), the co-edited collections *Gaining Access: A Practical and Theoretical Guide for Qualitative Researchers* (Altamira Press, 2003) and *The Intersectional Approach: Transforming the Academy Through Race, Class and Gender* (University of North Carolina Press, 2010) and the co-authored *Transforming Scholarship: Why Women's and Gender Studies Students Are Changing Themselves and the World* (Routledge 2011, 2014). *Black Women's Health: Paths to Wellness for Mothers and Daughters* will be published in 2021 by NYU Press.

She is a sought after public speaker and commentator. Her public scholarship has appeared in *The Chronicle of Higher Ed*, *Ms. Magazine*, *The Feminist Wire* and other media outlets. She is currently co-chair of the Ms. Scholars Board.

Upon the completion of her Ph.D. in English (University of Georgia, 2001), **Tracy R. Butts** (she, her, hers) joined the faculty at Chico State as a professor of American and African American literature. A native of Norfolk, Virginia, Butts earned her bachelor's and master's degrees at Virginia Tech. Prior to assuming the position of Interim Dean of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, she served as the director of Multicultural and Gender Studies, chief diversity officer, and chair of the Department of English. She is a firm believer that with privilege comes great responsibility, which is why service is a top professional priority for her. Butts is a recipient of the Lantis Endowed University Professorship, the A.S. Women's Center Carol Burr Lifetime Achievement Award, the Black Grad Celebration Outstanding Faculty Award, and the 2015/16 Outstanding Faculty Service Award.

Julie R. Enszer (she, her, hers) is a scholar and a poet. Her book manuscript, *A Fine Bind*, is a history of lesbian-feminist presses from 1969 until 2009. Her scholarly work has appeared or is forthcoming in *Southern Cultures*, *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, *American Periodicals*, *WSQ*, and *Frontiers*. She is the author of four poetry collections, *Avowed* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2016), *Lilith's Demons* (A Midsummer Night's Press, 2015), *Sisterhood* (Sibling Rivalry Press, 2013) and *Handmade Love* (A Midsummer Night's Press, 2010). She is editor of *The Complete Works of Pat Parker* (Sinister Wisdom/A Midsummer Night's Press, 2016), which won the 2017 Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Poetry and *Milk & Honey: A Celebration of Jewish Lesbian Poetry* (A Midsummer Night's Press, 2011), which was a finalist for the 2012 Lambda Literary Award in Lesbian Poetry. She has her MFA and PhD from the University of Maryland. Enszer edits and publishes *Sinister Wisdom*, a multicultural lesbian literary and art journal, and a regular book reviewer for the *The Rumpus* and *Calyx*. You can read more of her work at www.JulieREnszer.com.

Shawnika Johnson is a doctoral student in the dual PhD/Master's Degree Program in Politics and Government, and Gender Studies at Claremont Graduate University. Her

research interests include women and public policy and comparative politics and environmental justice. Shawnika is passionate about the intersectionality of women and public policy; and particularly interested in increasing the number of women in executive public policy positions, thus enabling them to make decisions germane to the health, education, and development of themselves and the families and communities they serve. As founder of Sister to Sister, Ms. Johnson has worked tirelessly to support women in advancing their careers and achieving their personal goals. Shawnika's professional background includes 20 years of experience in community engagement, community development, land use development, and land use analysis and policy. She has extensive experience in engaging communities, facilitating workshops, conducting research, data collection and conflict resolution.

Ms. Johnson is a Lecturer at California State University Polytechnic University, Pomona; and, an Adjunct Professor at Los Angeles Community College District where she teaches the following courses: Sustaining Social Justice Campaign, Victories and Organization; Elections, Community, Power and Systems Reform in Community Development; Social Context for Urban Change; Plan Making: History and Future; and Environmental Justice. Ms. Johnson holds a Bachelor of Science in Community Health from California State University, Long Beach; and, a Master of Urban and Regional Planning from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona. She is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP). Shawnika's Master's Thesis, "The Demographic and Socioeconomic Development of Inglewood, California, 1950-2010", is a socioeconomic and demographic analysis of the City of Inglewood, California which included an analysis of qualitative and quantitative data to determine economic growth and decline decennials and factors contributing to the economic triumph and descent in the City. Her thesis concluded with recommendations for social and economic revitalization and sustainability in the City of Inglewood. Ms. Johnson is also the sole proprietor of Innovative Planning (*IP*), a social justice, land use planning and environmental consulting firm which specializes in utilizing female professionals to create policy, engage communities in city visioning, and land use and environmental planning processes to create equitable, healthy, and environmentally sustainable communities. In her spare time, Shawnika enjoys water sports, spending time with family and friends, interior design and inspiring others.

Karon Jolna, Ph.D. (she, her, hers) is program director of *Ms. Classroom*, an innovative education program that brings cutting-edge feminist scholarship to *Ms.* magazine – and *Ms.* to the next generation of feminist students, teachers and activists. Dr. Jolna is series editor of the *Ms. Digital Readers*, including: *Introduction to Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies: So You Want to Change the World?*, *Gender, Race and Class*, and *A Ms. Companion to Gendered Voices / Feminist Visions*. She is co-author with Carrie N. Baker, Aviva Dove-Viebahn, Michele Tracy Berger and Carmen Rios of "Amplifying Our Voices: Feminist Scholars Writing for the Public" in *Feminist Formations* (forthcoming Summer 2020). Research interests include public scholarship, feminist leadership and organizing, as well as feminist pedagogy. Dr. Jolna was among the first cohort of scholars to earn a Ph.D. in Women's Studies from Emory University.

Margaret Lowry (she, her, hers) currently holds the position of Lecturer in the Women & Gender Studies Department at TCU, where she teaches Introduction to WGST and the Advanced Seminar in WGST. In 2018, WGST students selected Lowry to be the recipient of the department's "Wise Woman Award," which recognizes faculty members' outstanding teaching and mentorship. Lowry currently serves as the Chair of NWSA's Social Justice Education Task Force.

Oluwanifemi Ologunorisa (she, her, hers) has a master's degree in Applied Gender Studies from Claremont Graduate University. She is from Nigeria and uses she/her pronouns. Her research interests include: Global Gender issues, Girlhood studies, Black & African Feminism(s), Sustainable development, and Educational innovation. Oluwanifemi is interested in girlhood studies and has worked on providing mentorship programs to girls of African descents while working as Program Associate intern for National Council of Negro Women, Inland Empire Section.

In January 2020, she was awarded a 5-month fellowship by the Women Graduates-USA Education Innovation Fellowship through a chapter of the United Nations Economic and Social Council to conduct research on "Using Innovative Education to empower girls and young women." She recently delivered a presentation on "The Girl Child; Beijing +25" for the UNA Pomona Valley Chapter. In summer 2020, she developed an online course on Afrikana Feminism which intersect various feminist frameworks to achieve social change. The course has 23 students from 10 African countries and North America.

In fall 2020, Oluwanifemi will begin a PhD in African American and African Diaspora studies with a minor in Women's Studies at Indiana University Bloomington. Currently, she works as a Girls Learn International Intern for Feminist Majority Foundation and also as a Teaching Assistant at Claremont Graduate University.

Sherith Pankratz (she/her/hers) is an Executive Acquisitions Editor for Sociology and Gender & Women's Studies at Oxford University Press, where she has been for the last 14 years. She has spent her entire post-college career in textbook publishing. She was the editor on the second edition of Susan Shaw and Janet Lee's book when all of us were affiliated with McGraw-Hill, and she is delighted to be in that role again, now on the 7th edition, and at a not-for-profit publisher.

Maddy Pontz (she/her/hers) is the Community Engagement Editor at *Ms.* Magazine, managing *Ms.*'s social media and email marketing strategies. Previously, she worked as the Social Media Marketing Manager at a boutique stationery company in Los Angeles, and as the Social Media Coordinator at a lifestyle magazine in central Pennsylvania. She interned at the Democratic National Committee during the 2016 Presidential Election, where she worked on the development of original social media content to encourage voter participation. She graduated summa cum laude from The George Washington University with a B.A. in Political Communication and a minor in Women's and Gender Studies. You can find her on Twitter @MaddyPontz.

Loretta J. Ross is a Visiting Professor of Practice in the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University teaching "Reproductive Justice Theory and Practice" and "Race and Culture in the U.S." for the 2018-2019 academic year. Previously, she was a Visiting Professor at Hampshire College in Women's Studies for the 2017-2018 academic year teaching "White Supremacy in the Age of Trump." She was a co-founder and the National Coordinator of the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective from 2005-2012, a network founded in 1997 of women of color and allied organizations that organize women of color in the reproductive justice movement. She is one of the creators of the term "Reproductive Justice" coined by African American women in 1994 that has transformed reproductive politics in the U.S. She is a nationally-recognized trainer on using the transformative power of Reproductive Justice to build a Human Rights movement that includes everyone. Ms. Ross is an expert on women's issues, hate groups, racism and intolerance, human rights, and violence against women. Her work focuses on the intersectionality of social justice issues and how this affects social change and service delivery in all movements. She is a graduate of Agnes Scott College and holds an honorary Doctorate of Civil Law degree awarded in 2003 from Arcadia University and a second honorary doctorate degree awarded from Smith College in 2013.

Susan Shaw is professor of women, gender, & sexuality studies at Oregon State University. She is co-author of *Gendered Voices*, *Feminist Visions*, a member of the Ms. Committee of Scholars and a regular contributor to *Ms. Magazine Online*.

Michelle McGibney Vlahoulis, Ed.D. is a Senior Lecturer and current faculty head in the Women and Gender Studies program in the School of Social Transformation at Arizona State University. Michelle pioneered large online and hybrid courses in WST that she has been teaching for over 15 years. Her research and teaching interests include online teaching and pedagogy and gender and popular culture through a feminist lens. She is a contributing editor for *Ms. Magazine's Ms. In the Classroom* and serves on the Ms. Committee of Scholars.