



Working Group Meeting

Thursday, September 10, 2026, 1:00pm-1:50pm EST

Hybrid Meeting: Kresge 708 and [Zoom](#)

Chair: Nancy Krieger

Attendees (in person): [Nancy Krieger](#), [Karolina Edlund](#), [Ariel Beccia](#), [Sabra Katz-Wise](#), [Hannah Naztn](#), [Yvonne Chen](#), [Hannah Hamling](#), [Hoilin Cao](#)

Attendees (via Zoom): [Ann Caroline Danielsen](#), [Kristin Javaras](#), [Brittany Charlton](#)

MINUTES

1:00-1:05 pm

Introduction - Nancy Krieger

- Welcome, brief introductions
- Brief overview of today's agenda
- Purpose: align on concentration priorities at the start of academic year, update on summer/fall activities, and plan upcoming events

1:05 - 1:10 pm

Back-to-School & Orientation Recap - Ann Caroline Danielsen & Karolina Edlund

- Back-to-School Events
 - WGH Welcome Event
 - Thursday, September 3, 1-1:50pm (28 participants)
 - WGH Social at Penguin Pizza
 - Thursday, September 3, 5-7pm (18 participants)
 - WGH Tabling at OSA Resource Fair
 - Wednesday, September 19, 5-7pm
- Any feedback? Suggestions for next year?
- [Attending students confirmed that they enjoyed the Welcome Event and Fall Social; they also confirmed that the timing of the events worked well](#)

Events Committee Updates - Ann Caroline Danielsen & Karolina Edlund

- Panel series theme: "Defying Erasure: Gender, Solidarity & The People's Health" (set at June 2026 planning meeting)
- Upcoming confirmed events:
 - Panel Series:
 - Wednesday, October 7th, 2027: Panel Discussion on Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice in Light of the Upcoming Midterm Elections (Confirmed panelists: Clara Spera, Esq & Dr. Claire Decoteau & Lyv Norris; Moderator: Prof. Liz Janiak; 1-1:50pm,

FXB G13)

- Monday, April 19th, 2027: Panel Discussion on Public Health Approaches to Clinical Care through the Lens of Gender (Confirmed panelists: Dr. Deborah Bartz & Dr. Edward Kim; Moderator: Prof. Sabra Katz-Wise; 1-1:50pm, Location TBD)
- Thursday, December 3rd, 2026: Webinar with Dr. Khiara Bridges (1-1:50pm, on Zoom); discussant TBD (Dr. Bassett suggested and is checking with prior FXB post-doc Brittney Francis)
- Monday, March 8th, 2027: International Women's Day 2026 (speaker: TBD, Prof. Erica Chenoweth unavailable)
 - Note: Spring 2027 will be the 25th anniversary of the founding of WGH. IWD could be an occasion to celebrate WGH's "birthday" - invited speakers could include students and faculty who have engaged with WGH throughout the years
- Monday, April 5th, 2027: SBS Co-Sponsored Seminar with Dr. Evelyn Hammonds (1-1:50pm, Kresge 110)
- Minimum 10 business days advanced notice of Sebastians' food orders
 - Pizza can once again be ordered every day of the week

1:10 - 1:15 pm

Curriculum Committee Updates

- Fall 1 & Fall 2 WGH course enrollment updates
 - WGH 211 (Beccia), Fall 1: 5/40 enrolled, 2 wait-listed
 - Prof. Beccia confirmed 2 waitlisted have now been enrolled, so enrollment is now 7/40
 - WGH 201 (Janiak), Fall 2: 17/20 enrolled, 2 waitlisted
 - WGH student staff confirmed on my.harvard that 2 waitlisted have now been enrolled, bringing total enrollment to 19/20
 - WGH 230 (Katz-Wise), Fall 2: 2/20 enrolled
 - After discussion, Prof. Katz-Wise confirmed that she will cancel WGH 230 this Fall 2, 2026 due to low enrollment; this preemptive decision was made to avoid unnecessarily engaging with invited guest speakers and bookmarking funds for honoraria
 - Prof. Katz-Wise proposed some options to consider: (1) going back to the prior scheduling option of 1 session per week on Monday afternoons (instead of the new format this year, of 2 shorter sessions, one on Tuesday and one on Thursday), and (2) holding the course every other year (as opposed to every year), though Prof. Krieger did note that this schedule may exclude students in one-year master's programs
 - Prof. Katz-Wise might potentially be interested in exploring the option of turning WGH into a "Frontiers of Human Health" Advanced Learning Academy (ALA)

Version: 09/12/2026

course; to be further discussed at next WGH working group meeting

- WGH student staff to work with Profs. Katz-Wise and Krieger (and potentially Bekka Lee) to develop a short student survey to assess barriers to course enrollment (e.g., course timing; program-specific course requirements; current political context etc.); WGH staff to share survey and news that WGH 230 has been canceled due to low enrollment in forthcoming WGH newsletter(s)
 - WGH student staff to look into the possibility of WGH courses being added to BST elective course list, per student feedback that the SM80-BST students primarily choose courses from a pre-approved list
- Course advertising actions: flyering at HPSH and on main Harvard campus; email outreach to more than 70 contacts at schools/program/centers at other Harvard and non-Harvard Schools; multiple reminders through WGH newsletter; individual encouragement to enroll during the WGH Welcome Event and the Fall Social
 - Flyering & extensive outreach/advertising was successful
 - SBS 506 enrolled two cross-registrants from MIT, one cross-registrant from HMS, and one Harvard college undergraduate; WGH 211 likewise enrolled cross-registrants, two from HMS and one from HKS
 - Prof. Beccia shared that Dr. Rachel Levine, former US Assistant Secretary for Health, reached out and will be guest lecturing in WGH 211 (as well as WGH 201); this may have been a direct result of extensive WGH outreach
 - New WGH course under development for Spring 2: LGBTQ+ Health in Context: From Evidence to Action (Prof. Katz-Wise)
 - Great news: Obtained letters of support from the departments of Environmental Health, Global Health and Population, and Health Policy and Management
 - The course was created under the auspices of Nancy Turnbull; will be reviewed by the CEP later in the fall
 - Prof. Katz-Wise plans to have a full course proposal drafted by the end of September, in time for it to be reviewed at the Dept. of SBS's October faculty meeting and submitted to the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) by the end of Fall 2026
 - WGH & some SBS course syllabi now include a brief statement on requirements for the WGH concentration (discussed at June 2026 planning meeting)
 - Any scheduling/enrollment issues to flag?
 - Funding of \$50 available for WGH courses this fall for snacks and coffee
 - Parking passes for guest speakers in WGH courses may also be covered
 - Reminder of winter/spring enrollment deadlines
 - Fall 2: Enrollment closes on November 5, 2026

- Winter Term: Enrollment opens on November 12, 2026 and closes January 5, 2027
- Full Spring and Spring 1: enrollment opens on January 7, 2027 and closes on February 4, 2027
- Spring 2: Enrollment closes on April 1, 2027
- Independent studies (WGH): open call for students & faculty

1:15 – 1:35 pm

Discussion about the Advanced Learning Academy with Prof. Rifat Atun

- Introductions
 - Prof. Atun joined the working group meeting together with Taylor Mitchell, an ALA marketing analyst
- Topics for discussion: the structure of the ALA; how to propose new courses; how funds are allocated to faculty, teaching fellows, and/or departments; how WGH faculty can get involved
 - ALA was launched in April 2026:
 - Branding: ALA is a new HSPH entity that took the place of existing continuing and executive education programs
 - Segmentation: ALA is now a school-wide offering, that was developed to ensure opportunities to learn are life-long. As a consequence of this, ALA's target audience has changed; it now ranges from high school students to experienced executives and country leadership
 - Clusters of courses: ALA aims to develop courses that relate to one another, allowing progressive acquisition of knowledge, skills, and competencies; participants receive a certificate for course completion, similar to concentrations
 - ALA course structure (three models):
 - Frontiers: short courses, 4 modules, focused on cutting-edge topics (e.g., frontiers of sleep science); faculty research at forefront (0.65 credit equivalent); more flexible in format (e.g., self-paced, asynchronous, exercises) but could incorporate live components
 - Fundamentals: mid-length courses, 8 modules, 6-8 segments focused on specific topics; recorded in high quality to allow for fully asynchronous/self-paced learning; faculty can develop various reinforcing exercises
 - Full courses: longer courses; cohort-based model where students come together for several weeks and work on capstone projects; offered in an online blended format, including a mix of asynchronous and live sessions where students can engage with faculty on Zoom
 - How the ALA model works:
 - ALA provides a \$5,000 one-time payment for the development of a Fundamental course (1.25 credit equivalent; 8 modules); for 2.5

credit courses, that include asynchronous and live instruction, faculty receive an additional \$1,000 per 60-90 min session

- ALA has a revenue sharing model, whereby net revenue is shared between HSPH (50%), faculty (20%), and departments (30%). Department chairs and members can decide how to use funds
 - Course development must be treated as salaried labor, but recurring revenue can be allocated as discretionary funds
 - Prof. Atun is engaged in early discussions surrounding whether ALA courses can count towards required faculty teaching credits
 - ALA process looks the same for primary and secondary faculty, but different for external non-faculty colleagues
 - Prof. Krieger noted that WGH is neither a department nor a cost center, which may impact revenue sharing model
- Steps to develop an ALA course:
 - Faculty complete a course an online Qualtrics course proposal including information on the intended audience, learning objectives, and outlined agenda
 - A team, including Prof. Atun, reviews each proposal based on a transparent scoring system; part of the evaluation process involves market research (e.g., a review of similar courses within the ALA/HSPH/Harvard ecosystem and neighboring institutions)
 - Three potential outcomes:
 - Approve course proposal without revision
 - Revise
 - Reject and/or request to submit a new Stage 1 course proposal
 - Timeline:
 - End-end typically spans ~8 months
 - Once an ALA course proposal is submitted, ALA team will review it, conduct market research, and draft a tentative budget within 2-3 weeks
 - Timeline is highly dependent on a) course type and b) faculty availability, however

1:35 – 1:40 pm

Conference Stipends

- Updated deadlines (Fall: October 5, 2026; Spring: February 26, 2027)
- Previously streamlined the conference application process (i.e. switched to a Google form instead of emailing to wgh@hsph.harvard.edu)
- Reminder of reporting requirements for funded students

1:35 – 1:40 pm

Take Action Tuesday (TAT) – Ann Caroline Danielsen & Karolina Edlund

- First tabling on Tuesday, Sept 15
- Gathered some interest in volunteering from attendees at the WGH Welcome Event and Fall Social
- Encourage students to contribute suggestions (collaboration with SBS 208)
 - **Suggested TAT themes:**
 - Trans health & NIH funding comments through a gender lens
 - “Get out the vote” and “What is your voting plan?” (e.g., do you know whether you will be voting in MA or out of state? If the latter, do you know when absentee ballots are due? Do you know when early voting starts? Do you know where ballot boxes are in your neighborhood?)
 - “[SOS for Health](#)” event (Thurs, Sept 24; 1-1:50pm)
 - “SOS for Health” is a national one-day visibility event to protest federal attacks on health care, public health, and evidence-based health policies, and is co-sponsored by: Doctors for America, Protect Democracy, American Public Health Association, Public Health Awakened, Health in Partnership, Public Citizen, Families USA, Defend Public Health, and the American Medical Women’s Association,
 - Could promote event via TAT tabling on Tues, Sept 15 & 22
 - Students could brainstorm slogans and make signs
 - WGH presence with others: in nooks outside Kresge building
 - WGH student staff to submit HSPH event request and draft flyer

1:40 – 1:45 pm

Community Building & Hot Topics

- Open discussion: current issues at the intersection of women, gender & health
- Resource sharing (articles, advocacy opportunities, etc.)

1:45 – 1:50 pm

Wrap Up – Nancy Krieger

- Reminders:
 - Fall working group meeting schedule
 - Thursdays every month this fall
 - October 8, November 12, and December 10
 - Same time (1-1:50 PM) & room (Kresge 708)