

Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

1:00-1:50 pm Boston Time

Kresge 606

[Click here for Zoom Link](#)

Minutes

Attendees (in person):

Karestan Koenen, Ariel Beccia, Sirad Hassan, Ann Caroline Danielsen, Nancy Krieger, Dougie Zubizarreta

Attendees (Zoom):

Brittany Charlton, Cris Alonso, Sabra Katz-Wise, Trish Homan, Jocelyn Viterna

1:00 - 1:05 pm

Welcome – Nancy Krieger

- Introductions
- Purpose of meeting: review current WGH activities & plan new ones (including TAT)!
- Community building and discussion of current “hot topics”

1:05 – 1:15 pm

Current “Hot Topics”: Attacks by Trump administration on gender & science

- Discussion of attacks by Trump administration on “gender ideology” & DEI, including via NIH (shut down of OWH re “sex and gender” & impacts on funding) & WGH see:
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/defending-women-from-gender-ideology-extremism-and-restoring-biological-truth-to-the-federal-government/> & <https://orwh.od.nih.gov/> vs. disappearance of: <https://orwh.od.nih.gov/sex-gender>
- New memo issued on Jan 29, 2025 regarding “gender ideology” ([posted on X](#))
 - Next Steps & Action Items
 - Schedule a special meeting on Wednesday, February 19, from 1–2 PM to continue community discussions on these issues.
 - Book a room for in-person attendees.
 - Share invitation via the WGH listserv
 - Agenda: Share experiences, strategize responses, and discuss next steps.

1:15 – 1:25 pm

Planning for June 2025 Meeting - Nancy Krieger + WGH Staff

- Needs to be in the latter part of June
- Poll: What day works best during the week of June 23?
 - Proposed date: Tuesday, June 24th, from 11 AM–1 PM.
 - Note: both Sirad & AC will be unable to attend this meeting in person
 - Next steps and action items:
 - Communicate date to WGH faculty
 - Book room

1:25 – 1:35 pm

Events Committee – Ann Caroline Danielsen and Sirad Hassan

- Spring Event Planning
 - **Spring Social:** Thursday, January 30 at MFA (5:30 - 7:00 pm)
 - 11 people attended the event
 - **February 13th event:** bringing back panelist from Sept 19 event (Aziza Ahmed, Sarah Chaisson-Warner and Liz Janiak) (Kresge 200)
 - Sarah & Liz confirmed for in person, Aziza is joining via Zoom
 - 18 RSVPS so far (as of 02/05/25)
 - Confirm that Dr. Krieger will moderate, and what our order of speakers will be
 - Yes, Dr. Krieger will moderate
 - What questions do we want to ask during the Feb 13 event?
 - Allocate 10 minutes per speaker to discuss updates on reproductive justice since the last panel and how their area of focus intersects with or is affected by recent executive orders.
 - **International Women's Day Luncheon**
 - Friday, March 8, 2023, 1-1:50 pm (Kresge 110); [Dora María Téllez](#) secured as speaker
 - Discuss questions to ask [Dora María Téllez](#) for the IWD event
 - Coordination meeting with speaker, interpreters (Nylca Munoz and Cris Alonso), Prof. Krieger and WGH student staff happened on December 4, 2024 (9:30 - 10:00)
 - Dr. Krieger will give 10-15 min radical history intro to IWD
 - Changing this to 10 minutes
 - Dr. Tellez will give a 5 min introduction, followed by WGH asking 2-3 pre-circulated questions. Then, Q&A from audience (Nylca Munoz will translate from English to Spanish, Cris Alonso from Spanish to English) & statements from co-sponsors.
 - Speaker will have 10-15 minutes for her presentation.
 - Her speech will be translated as she speaks.
 - Follow up with her to ensure she is informed and prepared for how translation will be handled.
 - Singing Bread & Roses
 - Action Items:
 - WGH Staff to share list of questions with Dr. Tellez by end of January
 - WGH Staff to coordinate ride app voucher with Nylca (she will meet Dr. Tellez in Cambridge and go together to HSPH)
 - March to May WGH events: ideas?
 - Proposed Event Idea: Educators Panel on Teaching in The Current Political Environment
 - Invite educators from different Harvard schools to share their experiences.
 - Potential invitees:
 - Jocelyn and faculty from WGS (Women, Gender &

- Sexuality Studies).
 - Medical school faculty addressing similar issues.
 - Other Harvard educators teaching topics affected by recent executive orders
 - Student voices to share perspectives on the impact in the classroom.
- Key Discussion Topics:
 - How are faculty navigating teaching topics like gender, race, and systemic oppression?
 - What strategies are educators using to ensure these discussions remain part of the curriculum?
 - How are students experiencing these changes in their coursework?
- April/May is an ideal time for this discussion, as faculty and students are planning fall courses.
- The event can provide guidance and resources for educators preparing for the next academic year.
- Any feedback? Suggestions for the spring?

1:35 – 1:40 pm

Curriculum Committee – Liz Boskey & Sirad Hassan

- Courses:
 - Winter term:
 - **WGH 250 Embodying Gender: Public Health, Biology, & the Body Politic** (N. Krieger): 3 enrolled
 - Full Spring:
 - **WGH 300 Independent Study**: Any independent studies to report?
 - Spring 1 term:
 - **WGH 210 Women, Gender, and Health: Critical Issues in Mental Health** (K. Javaras)
 - Liz Boskey will be teaching remotely (with appointment via Epi Dept) due to unexpected emergency
 - Javaras still wants to teach in Spring 2026
 - 15 students enrolled, 0 waitlisted (as of 02/05/25)
 - **WGH 220 Sexuality and Public Health** (B. Austin)
 - 12 students enrolled, 2 waitlisted (as of 02/05/25)
 - Spring 2 term:
 - **WGH 207 Adv Topics in Women, Gender, and Health** (S. Katz-Wise)
 - 9 students enrolled (as of 02/05/25)
 - Fall 1 2025:
 - **WGH 211 Gender and Health: Introductory Perspectives** [Ariel Beccia](#) has agreed to take over teaching the course, and she and Brittany Charlton are in the process of getting the paperwork approved for Ariel's appointment in EPI to have her teach WGH 211 via an EPI dept appointment (starting in Fall 2025)
 - Ariel Beccia will seek to identify better time slot for the course to

minimize conflicts

- Beccia will report back on options at the WGH meeting in March.
- To keep in mind:
 - Avoid conflicts with PHS, SBS, EPI and GHP mandatory courses.
 - Can be useful to consult with EPI, GHP, SBS administrators for insights on scheduling.
 - Recognize that some conflicts are inevitable, but aim for the best possible solution.
- **Conference Stipends**
 - Spring application deadline April 28, 2025 (funded 4 in the Fall)
- Reminder of enrollment open dates and deadlines to register for winter and spring courses:
 - Deadline for Spring and Spring 1 term is February 6, 2025
 - Deadline for Spring 2 is April 3, 2025
 - Sign up in advance to secure a spot in the course and to avoid the waitlist!

1:40-1:45

Take Action Tuesday – Sirad Hassan

- Weekly Actions are included in the weekly newsletter and every Tuesday at a table in Kresge Cafeteria
- Upcoming Actions (& brainstorm for new ideas)
 - 16 Days of Activism against GBV
 - Lebanon/Haitian/Palestinian actions locally

1:45 – 1:50pm

Wrap up and Questions – Nancy Krieger

- Reminder: Spring 2024 monthly Working Group Meetings
 - Select Wednesday's of each month (*unless otherwise noted*), 1-1:50 pm Boston Time, in-person and Zoom
 - Wednesday, March 5, 2024 (Kresge 606)
 - Wednesday, April 9, 2024 (Kresge 606)
 - Wednesday, May 7, 2024 (Kresge 606)

Sign-up for the WGH Mailing List: www.tinyurl.com/wghlist

For a brief flyer about what WGH is, all the courses offered, and how to complete the concentration, see our [new info sheet!](#)

PAST ITEMS (FOR THE RECORD)

Events Committee – Ann Caroline Danielsen and Sirad Hassan

- WGH panel discussion on reproductive justice in the context of the upcoming US elections (September 19, 2024 - 1:00-1:50, Kresge G2)
 - 28 attendees
 - Panelists: Dr. Liz Janiak (HSPH), Sarah Chaisson-Warner (Movement Voter Project), Dr. Aziza Ahmed (BU Law); Moderator: Dr. Nancy Krieger (HSPH). The Harvard Votes student organization joined for the last 5 minutes of the event to share information & resources on voting.

- Fall events series: “The politics of gender & health: social, economic, and democratic challenges”
 - Project 2025: Implications for Public Health (Wednesday, October 9 - 1:00-1:50, FXB G13)
 - Attendees: 14
 - Speakers: Dr. Elizabeth Sommers (Assistant Professor in Family Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine) and Dr. Chris Chanyasulkit (Immediate past-president of the American Public Health Association)
- Post-election lunch (Wednesday, November 6, 2024 - 1:00-2:00pm, Kresge 606)
 - Attendees: 16
- Fannie Lou Hamer' America: Film Screening (Wednesday November 20, 2024 - 5:30 to 7:00 pm, FXB Building, 7th Floor)
 - 3 attendees (but 15 RSVPs)
 - The WGH Concentration is hosting a post-election film screening of Fannie Lou Hamer's America to highlight the political and humanitarian impact of this extraordinary Mississippi civil rights activist. This event is also co-sponsored by the FXB Center for Health and Human Rights.
- Passing the Maternal Health Bill in Massachusetts: How Community Activism Transformed the Maternal Health System in the State (Thursday December 12, 2024 - 1:00 to 1:50, Kresge G3)
 - Panel discussion with Tiffany Vassell, Susan Hernandez and Emily Anesta, moderated by Cris Alonso
 - 30 RSVPs, ~15 attendees (as of 01/22/2025)

Curriculum Committee – Liz Boskey & Sirad Hassan

- Courses
 - WGH 211 Gender and Health: Introductory Perspectives (C. Reynolds & B. Charlton): Cancelled (an independent study was offered to all those who were originally enrolled – 1 student only chose to enroll in EPI300, 2.5 credits)
 - [Ariel Beccia](#) has agreed to take over teaching the course, and she and Brittany Charlton are in the process of getting the paperwork approved for Ariel's appointment in EPI to have her teach WGH 211 via an EPI dept appointment (starting in Fall 2025)
 - WGH 201 Reproductive Health, Rights, and Justice (L. Janiak): 20 enrolled, 6 waitlisted
 - WGH 230 The Health Transgender and Gender Diverse People (S. Katz-Wise): 9 enrolled, 0 waitlisted
 - Promo poster created: shared via WGH newsletter & posted across campus locations
 - WGH 300: any independent studies to report?

Stipends:

- Fall application deadline November 4, 2024
 - 3 applications received from this application cycle, 2 applications from the previous cycle that we wanted to fund as part of the AY 24/25 budget
 - Funded 4 applications in total

Take Action Tuesday – Sirad Hassan

Take Action Tuesday past actions (in Fall 2024):

- Latest Actions:
 - FreeHer Campaign (decarceration)
 - Casa Myrna + Asiyah's Women Shelter (supporting orgs that help those who are survivors of domestic violence)
 - Union Bargaining
 - Petition against sand mining in Southeastern Massachusetts (Indigenous health)
 - Voter Registration Drive
 - Planned Parenthood petition supporting pro-choice
 - Women Against Abuse
 - Support for Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act
 - March of Dimes (maternal and infant health crisis)
 - Supporting Black and Indigenous community resilience and institution-building
 - Supporting Indigenous Day of Mourning