



Working Group Meeting

Wednesday, June 7, 2023, 11:30am-1:00pm EST

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

Chair: Nancy Krieger

AGENDA

- **Introduction [11:30-11:35am]**

- Welcome, brief introductions
- Attendance:
 - WGH Chair: Nancy Krieger
 - WGH Staff: Laura Chen and Kieran Todd
 - WGH Faculty: Sabra Katz-Wise, Liz Janiak
 - Students: Alexa Towsen
 - Postdocs: Aimee Huang
 - Natalia Linos
- Evaluation of past year and planning for next year

- **Review of 2022-2023 activities and accomplishments [11:35 - 11:45am]**

- **Please review these documents before the meeting and bring any comments, concerns, or questions**
 - [WGH Course Ratings AY 2022-2023](#) (See Document)
 - Summary: The overall average course rating for WGH courses is 4.83 (with Spring II course WGH 207 pending an updated course rating). The newest course, WGH 230: The Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People, received a course rating of 4.8. All of the courses performed well!
 - [WGH Events for AY 2022-2023](#) (See Document)
 - Take Action Tuesday highlights
 - WGH hosted events and attendance
 - Summary: Attendance at events (both virtual and in-person) averaged around 30 people this year across 7 events. Events ranged from in-person guest speakers in the realm of gender and health, virtual speakers, and a trip to Schlesinger Library for the Age of Roe exhibit. The Fall and Winter Socials brought out 39 and 21 individuals, respectively.
 - [WGH Conference Stipend Awards for AY 2022-2023](#) (See Document)
 - 7 applicants were fully funded (1 Fall, 6 Spring) to attend/present at a wide range of conferences, including SER, American

Urological Association, American Diabetes Association, Rural Health Conference, Intersectionality Research Summer Institute

- Spring cycle applicants have all been notified, will fill out [written reportback form](#) with option to also attend and share at a working group meeting
 - reportback form to be emailed to WGH as well as to Loretta and Lauren for the reimbursement process (has been added to instructions on form)
- [WGH Concentration Completion Letters for AY 2022-2023](#) (See Document)
 - 8 wonderful concentrators this year, many were able to come to May working group meeting to celebrate and share their experiences with the concentration.
 - All letters have been handed/mailed out to concentrators
- **Review of WGH 2022-2023 budget [11:45-11:55am]**
 - [WGH Budget Review 2022-2023](#) (See Document): to set fiscal basis for planning
 - Funds allocated, funds spent, funds remaining – all amounts approved for proposed budget for 2023-2024
 - Changes for allocation amounts (including carryover)
 - The student staff rates have increased by 3% for each corresponding rate level (e.g., 2nd year rate is 23.02 and the 3rd year and above rate is 25.61). This has been reflected in the proposed budget allocation for 2023-2024.
 - Confirmation of the process for obtaining the funds: in process
 - New suggestion: WGH staff should add data to the budget regarding the amounts contributed by co-sponsors for events, to capture the full actual costs of the events
- **WGH courses for AY 2023-2024: updates [11:55am-12:00pm]**
 - [WGH Course Offerings 2023-2024](#) (See Document)
 - No changes
 - WGH 201: Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice: Fall 2 - *Dr. Elizabeth Janiak*
 - WGH 230: The Health of Transgender and Gender Diverse People: Fall 2 – *Dr. Sari Reisner*
 - WGH 250: Embodying Gender: Public Health, Biology, and Body Politic: January 2024 -*Dr. Nancy Krieger*
 - WGH 220: Sexuality and Public Health: Spring 1 - *Dr. S. Bryn Austin*
 - WGH 210 Critical Issues in Mental Health: Spring 1– *Dr. Elizabeth Boskey*
 - WGH 207: Advanced Topics in Women, Gender, and Health: Spring 2 - *Dr. Sabra Katz-Wise*
 - Changes

- WGH 211 Gender and Health: Fall 1 2022 - Introductory Perspectives: *Post-doc: Colleen Reynolds [new instructor: Dr. Reynolds is a post-doc of Brittney Charlton, who previously has taught this course]*
 - Reminder: WGH course refreshment fund – agreed to allocate \$100 per WGH course
 - A reminder about the amount for refreshments will be sent at the beginning of the 2023-2024 academic year to faculty for WGH courses
- **Brainstorming for WGH events for AY 2023-2024 [12:00-12:30pm]**
 - Event ideas are listed in the [WGH Event Schedule](#) (See Document – which includes chronology of events planned and who is the lead for each event)
 - Decided to set theme for AY 2023-2024 to be: “Advancing Health Justice Work in a Polarized World” – with a focus for Fall 2023 being “Navigating and Resisting Mis/Disinformation” and for Spring 2024 being “Intersectionality”
 - Motivating this decision is:
 - the US and global rise in anti-LGBBTQIA+, anti-abortion, and other conservative assaults on sexual and reproductive rights and justice, along with their seeking to undermine public health regulatory authority and types of teaching & books permitted in public education and public libraries, and their implications for health care access and health equity
 - within HSPH, the controversies triggered in Spring 2023 by an HSPH faculty member having signed, as a public health professional, an anti-gay amicus brief in 2015 for the US Supreme Court case on gay marriage and in the past year publishing popular articles on abortion and gender identity (despite having published no scientific research on these issues) that contradict the expertise of WGH and other HSPH faculty and the scientific evidence on these matters
 - For each semester we will have 3 events:
 - one a panel focused on the relevant issues as they are playing out in the US & the rest of the world
 - one focused internally in school on implications for pedagogy
 - one focused how to have conversations about these potentially polarizing topics with peers, colleagues, family members, and others
 - All events will be in-person, and some will have an option to livestream (but will not be “hybrid,” i.e., no expectation that those on-line can participate)
 - We also will bring back the fall event we used to have (before COVID) to connect students to various groups who would be interested in having students work with them on projects (including internships & practica) that have a gender & health justice aspect:
 - this included various community groups in Boston, and we can work on making these links with FXB, who has agreed to participate
 - it also included bringing in a speaker to inform students about the “Nation Building” I & II courses offered in January & Spring semester by the Harvard University Native American Program (HUNAP), since the

Spring course includes working on projects requested by different tribal governments in the US (and sometimes in Canada and other countries), many of which have a public health focus, and several WGH students have worked on these projects (most recently, one involving two-spirit Indigenous youth in Canada, and another on mitigating health ramifications of climate change in Inuit villages in Alaska).

- **Taking stock of how we work & planning for next year [12:30-12:45pm]**

- WGH Student Staff: Kieran Todd (who will be a 3rd year PHS/SBS doctoral student in AY 2023-2024) and Laura Chen (who will be a 2nd year PHS/SBS doctoral student in AY 2023-2024)
- Subcommittee Leadership & Student recruitment
 - General comment: attendance at meetings for many groups continues to be lower, as tied to the continued impact of COVID on how people connect and engage
 - Will try new approach in coming year of reaching out to students to help with specific tasks, as opposed to “join a subcommittee” (for example, request assistance with review of stipend applications, as opposed to inviting the students to join the “curriculum subcommittee,” which oversees this review)
 - Events Subcommittee
 - Led by WGH Staff
 - Curriculum Subcommittee
 - Led by Dr. Liz Boskey & WGH Staff
 - Take Action Tuesday subcommittee
 - Led by WGH Staff, Sophie Hathaway & Rachael Powers
- Monthly Working Groups ([See Document](#))
 - Continue to hold in-person, with lunch, with option for people to participate remotely
 - Add new incentive of “swag” – e.g., bring a button making machine & supplies, have some WGH patches or other swag on hand to distribute
 - Continue also to build connections between WGH students & with WGH faculty via the socials we hold in the fall, winter, & spring Experiment with seeing if a student wants to lead a conversation on a WGH-relevant topic for the latter half of the monthly meeting

- **Fall Orientation: Timeline, Logistics, Plans, Materials, and Events: [12:45-12:55pm]**

- See schedule for WGH orientation/welcome meeting on the [WGH Event Schedule](#) (See Document)
- WGH participation in Fall schoolwide orientation
 - Orientation is scheduled for August 21 - 25, 2023
 - Mix of live programming and asynchronous content likely
- WGH orientation: Wed, Aug 30, 1 to 1:50 pm
- WGH Fall Social: Wed, Sept 6, 5 to 6:30 pm (likely Penguin Pizza)
- See updated [WGH info sheet & brochure](#) for 2023-2024

- - Will be updating website this summer to refresh for AY 2023-2024

- **Close of meeting [12:55-1:00pm]**