

Institute for Research on Women  
**Learning Community Scholars Program**  
*Gendered Agency*

Thursdays, 4:30-6pm  
160 Ryders Lane, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

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Office Hours: Thurs 2-4pm  
Or by appointment

IRW LC Scholars will explore how attention to gender complicates and challenges contemporary understandings, uses and expressions of agency (or the ability to make and implement choices). We will consider whether there are explicitly gendered forms of agency, and if so, how these are constituted, expressed and experienced at different times, in different places, and through different media. By thinking about the relationship of gender and agency through a comparative, interdisciplinary lens, LC Scholars will investigate: What does agency mean? How is it constituted and expressed? Where is it located? How does agency shape and become shaped by structures of power, for example colonialism, capitalism, religion, and the media? How do women and men respond, sometimes simultaneously, in ways that are gendered, creative, complicit, resistant, effective, or self-destructive?

Through readings, group discussion, participation in the IRW Distinguished Lecture Series, and faculty mentoring, scholars will create an intellectual space where they will develop research skills and theoretical understandings in preparation for independent or collaborative scholarship.

Learning Community Scholars are expected to:

- Attend the three IRW Distinguished Lectures on September 17<sup>th</sup>, October 8<sup>th</sup>, and October 29<sup>th</sup>, from 4:30-6pm.
- Participate in group discussions of readings and lectures at the Thursday seminars. All of the readings are posted on the Sakai IRW LC site and should read them in preparation for the class meeting for which they are indicated.
- Attend research information session at Douglass library on October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Participate in moderated class discussions on the Sakai IRW LC site.
- Present an individual or group final project to a public audience of family members, friends and IRW Mentors during the third week of December. Projects should be linked to the IRW theme “Gendered Agency” and can take a variety of forms, such as a research report, social action project, or website. Scholars will meet at least once with an IRW mentor (faculty member or advanced graduate student) and at least twice with the LC Coordinator to discuss their project.
- Abide by the Rutgers Academic Integrity Policy which identifies and defines violations of cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, plagiarism, and denying others access to information or material. For details see:  
<http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html> and  
<http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/student.html>

## Course Outline

September 3	Introductory Meeting: Creating Our Learning Community Pre-Assessment, discuss syllabus, etc. <b>READ:</b> Messer-Davidow, “Acting Otherwise.”
September 10	Discussion and Preparation for first lecture— <b>READ:</b> Ahearn, “Language and Agency,” and Sidlauskas, “Time/Body/Neurasthenia”
<i>September 17</i>	<i>IRW Distinguished Lecture Series</i> ; Reception begins at 4pm Susan Sidlauskas, “Gender and Agency in the Asylum: Casebook Photographs in Early 20th-Century England”
September 18	IRW LC Field Trip to the Metropolitan Museum of Art
September 24	Discussion of first lecture and field trip
October 1	Preparation for second lecture— <b>READ:</b> Desai, “Transnational Solidarity,” and Negron-Muntaner and Martinez-San Miguel, “In Search of Lourdes Casal’s ‘Ana Velford’” [Optional: Guzman, “Queer Theory and Race”]
October 8	<i>IRW Distinguished Lecture Series</i> ; Reception begins at 4pm Yolanda Martinez-San Miguel, “Sexiles: (post) Colonialism and the Machine of Desire
October 15	<b>DUE:</b> Brief abstract of Final Project to <u>be posted on Sakai by noon on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup></u> ; Meeting with Kayo Denda <b>at Douglass Library</b> “Researching Your Final Project at Rutgers Libraries”
October 22	Discussion of second lecture and final projects; preparation for third lecture— <b>READ:</b> Selected chapters from Liow, <u>Piety and Politics</u> .
<i>October 29</i>	<i>IRW Distinguished Lecture Series</i> ; Reception begins at 4pm Saba Mahmood, “Religious Ethics, Agency, and Feminist Politics: Some Reflections on Politics of Piety”
November 5	Discussion of third lecture
November 12	Research Week—Work on your final projects, meet w/ Mentor and Alex
November 19	Discussion of Final Projects; <b>DUE:</b> Draft Outline/Overview of Final Project
Week of November 26	<b>DUE November 23rd:</b> Outline/Notes for Final Project Presentation No Formal LC Meeting; Feedback and discussion of projects via Sakai
December 3	<b>DUE:</b> First Draft of Presentation & Run-through
December 10	<b>DUE:</b> Second Draft of Presentation & Run-through
December 15	Final Project Presentations: Celebrate Our Work!