

# DEMOCRACY WIDE OPEN

## Critiquing the Present, Imagining a Feminist Future

Our current political situation demands renewed attention to the successes, failings, and unrealized promises of democracy. Globally, there is rising concern over the growing threats to the institutions, norms and practices of democratic governments. Far-right politicians and political parties are gaining power, often by promoting a politics of resentment targeting racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQ communities, women and feminists, religious minorities, immigrants and the poor. Feminist scholars have long engaged with the thorniest issues for democratic governance, including issues of power, representation, deliberation, legitimacy, inclusion, freedom and justice. Despite harsh criticisms of the failings of existing democracies, feminist scholars also defend the importance of every day democratic practices and the crucial possibilities for social justice that emerge from engaged activism. Join us as we discuss with scholars, activists and public servants how to understand the current democratic crisis, to imagine what a feminist democratic future would look like, and to create together that future.



## MARCH EVENTS

### March 4 | 12:00pm-1:30pm | ZOOM

Global Feminist Activism and Democratic Politics:  
Conversation with past Isabel S. Marcus International  
Fellowship Awardees in honor of Isabel Marcus

- Elif Ege, PhD 2019
- Maria Fernanda Glaser, PhD 2016,
- Gabriella Nassif, ABD

### March 9 | 1:00pm-2:30pm | ZOOM

"Wartime Rape and Denial: The Case Study of the eastern  
Bosnian towns of Foca and Višegrad"

- Ehlimana Memišević, PhD, University of Sarajevo;  
Fulbright Scholar, Vanderbilt University

## FEB. 18, 2022 • ZOOM

### Session 1 | 1:00pm-2:45pm

Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Dr. Gwynn Thomas Chair, UB GGSS

**"LGBT Inclusion in American Life: Pop Culture, Political Change, and Critical Civil Rights."**

- Dr. Susan Burgess Ohio University

**"India's Farmers' Protest: An Inclusive Vision of Indian Democracy."**

- Dr. Natasha Behl Arizona State University

Comments

- Dr. Carine Mardrossian UB GGSS & English

Questions + Discussion

### Session 2 | 3:00pm-4:30pm

Introductions

- Sam King-Shaw PhD Student, UB GGSS

**"Women's Neo-Liberation: Understanding How Women's Rights Do (and Do Not) Matter to American Foreign Policy"**

- Dr. Sara Angevine Whittier College

**"Interrogating 'Consent' in the Age of Biopolitics"**

- Dr. Renée Heberle University of Toledo

Comments

- Dr. Devonya Havis UB CDI Distinguished Visiting Scholar 2021-22

Questions + Discussion

### Session 3 | 5:00pm-6:00pm \*local activism\*

**A Conversation with Louisa Fletcher-Pacheco**

WNY Political Organizer at NYSUT  
Chairwoman of the Western New York Chapter of the Working Families Party

To register, visit:

<https://buffalo.zoom.us/meeting/register/tjYld-CpqT-gvG9RCKNljCpQ70hW3ijdVN72T>

Organized by the department of Global Gender and Sexuality Studies and the UB Humanities Institute, with the support of the UB College of Arts and Sciences' departments of History, Comparative Literature, English, and Political Science.