

CURRICULUM VITA

SAMANTHA PINSON WRISLEY

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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's City, MD. July 2025 – present.

Visiting Assistant Professor, The Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Emory University, Atlanta, GA. July 2023 – July 2025.

Fellow, The Institute for Research on Male Supremacism, July 2023 – present.

EDUCATION

PhD, Emory University, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, May 2023.

MA, Georgia State University, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, May 2017.

BA, The University of Georgia, Women's Studies & BSc, Psychology, May 2014.

RESEARCH AREAS

feminist digital/technology studies, new media studies, social media research, generative AI, cultural studies, critical theory, affect studies, literary studies, contemporary social movements including feminism and transnational hate movements (e.g., TERFs, white supremacy, Christian nationalism, and incel), theories of misogyny, far-right conservatism/fascism, conspiracy theories, social ontology, critical theory, male supremacy, discursive practices.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Feminist media studies, social movements (e.g., the history of feminism), sexuality studies, intersectionality, transnational feminisms, feminist science and technology studies, cultural studies, critical theory, discursive practices, politics and rhetoric, film/television studies, feminist research methods, public humanities.

REFEREED ARTICLES

"Trans Exclusionary Reactionary Feminism and the Politics of Ressentiment." *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society* vol. 50(4), July 2025.

"Heteropessimism and the Pleasures of Saying 'No.'" *Capacious: Journal for Emerging Affect Inquiry*. December 11, 2023. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.22387/CAP2024.78>

"Feminist Theory and the Problem of Misogyny," *Feminist Theory* 24(2), October 13, 2021. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.1177/14647001211039365>.

REFEREED BOOK CHAPTERS

“It’s a Love/Hate Thing: Heteropatriarchy, Anti-Feminism, and the Indelibility of Misogyny.” In *Challenges and Issues Facing Marginalized Groups in the United States*, edited by Maruice Mangum. New York: Routledge. Forthcoming 2025.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

“Neoliberalism and the Cultural Politics of Shame.” The New Polis, September 3, 2019. Available at: <https://thenewpolis.com/2019/09/03/neoliberalism-and-the-cultural-politics-of-shame-samantha-pinson-wrisley/>

“Heteropessimism and Anesthetizing Affect,” The Heteropessimists Podcast. July 11, 2023. Available at: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/volume-1-coda-misogyny-and-the-anesthetic-affect/id1636266281?i=1000621206608>

BOOKS IN DEVELOPMENT

The Sexual Politics of Hate: Affect, Anti-feminism, Algorithms, and Artificial Intelligence, to be submitted to Goldsmiths/MIT University Press.

Trans Exclusionary Reactionary Feminism: A Queer Feminist Analysis of Transphobia within the Feminist Movement (with Shelley Feller and Riley Johnson) to be submitted to Illinois Press.

ARTICLES IN DEVELOPMENT

“AI in Isolation: The Contours of Incels’ Hyperreality,” to be submitted to Media, Culture, and Society.

“‘Cat Person,’ Social Media, and the Ambiguity of Consent,” to be submitted to Women and Communication.

“‘Woman’ as Property: Transphobic Feminism’s Politics of Possession,” to be submitted to Feminist Theory.

FELLOWSHIPS

The Institute for Research on Male Supremacism (July 2023 – present)

Mellon Interventions Project Public Humanities Teaching Fellowship (AY 2022 – 2023)

Emory University Dean’s Teaching Fellowship (Awarded January 2022, deferred May 2022)

Laney Graduate School Fellow (August 2017 – August 2022)

AWARDS

The Catharine Stimpson Prize for Outstanding Feminist Scholarship, Shortlisted (January 2025).

Emory’s Studies in Sexualities Graduate Student Essay Competition, Honorable Mention (March 2021).

INVITED TALKS

- “A Simulacrum of Love: Gender, Sexuality, and AI Girlfriends.” Delivered at the Invitation of Grand Valley State University’s Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. February 22, 2025.
- “A Simulacrum of Love: Gender, Sexuality, and AI Girlfriends.” Delivered at the Invitation of St. Mary’s College of Maryland’s Program in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, January 18, 2025.
- “AI in Isolation: Relationship Apps and the New Subjectivity.” Delivered at the Invitation of the Mercer University Department of Communication, October 14, 2024.
- “AI in Isolation: Relationship Apps and the New Subjectivity.” Delivered at the Invitation of the Mercer University Department of Communication, October 14, 2024.
- “Transphobic Feminism’s Wounded Attachments.” Delivered at the Invitation of the Purdue Fort Wayne Program in Women’s Studies, March 12, 2024.
- “Transphobic Feminism’s Wounded Attachments.” Delivered at the Invitation of the Emory University Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, October 24, 2023.
- “Trans Exclusionary Reactionary Feminism and the Gatekeeping of Misogyny.” Delivered at the Invitation of the Notre Dame Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies, May 2023.
- “Trans Exclusionary Reactionary Feminism and the Gatekeeping of Misogyny.” Delivered at the Invitation of the New Mexico State University Department of English and Gender and Sexuality Studies, April 2023.
- “Black Pill Feminism and the Affective Contours of Heteropessimism.” Delivered at the Invitation of the Emory University Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, April 2022.
- “Developing Your Own Unique Authorial Voice.” Delivered at the invitation of the Public Writing Initiative at The University of Georgia, Athens, GA, September 27, 2019.
- “The Alt-Right.” Delivered at the Invitation of the Progressive Student Alliance, Georgia State University. December 5, 2016.

TALKS – PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCES

- “Are AI Girlfriends ‘Real?’: The Sexual Politics of Chatbot Companions.” Paper presented to WGS South Conference, Decatur, Georgia, March 8, 2025.
- “TERF Wars: ‘Woman’ as Property” Paper presented to the National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, Detroit, Michigan, November 13-17th, 2024.
- “Transphobic Feminism and the Politics of Ressentiment,” Paper presented to the WGS South Conference Annual Meeting, Spartanburg, South Carolina. March 28-30th, 2024.
- “Anti-Trans Feminism and the Gatekeeping of Misogyny,” Paper presented to the National Women’s Studies Association Annual Meeting, Minneapolis, Minnesota. November 10-12th, 2022.

“Heteropessimism and the Pleasure in Saying ‘No.’” Paper accepted to the Third Global Conference on Women’s Studies. Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands. February 25-27, 2021. (Canceled due to COVID-19).

“Reading ‘The Black Pill’: Incel, Nihilism, and The Death Drive.” Paper accepted to The Psychoanalysis and Politics Conference 2020. The Institute for Group Analysis, London, UK, May 2020. (Canceled due to COVID-19).

“Transgressing Boundaries: Reading for Abjection in Incel Texts.” Paper presented at Critical Juncture 2019, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia. April 2019.

“Whiteness as the Gatekeeper of Being: Wynter, Biopower, and the Imperfect Application of the Designation ‘Human.’” Paper presented at philoSOPHIA 2018, University of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia. March 2018.

“Misogynists Have Feelings, Too: Affect in the Manosphere.” Paper presented at the Annual Southeastern Women’s Studies Association (SEWSA) Conference, Atlanta, Georgia. March 27-29, 2017.

“Promised Land? The Intersection of Latinx Culture, Neoliberalism, and Fear in Gainesville, Georgia.” Paper presented at the University of North Georgia Arts and Letters Conference, Dahlonega, Georgia. February 26-28, 2016.

“Natural Birth as Resistance: Power, Violence, and Oppression in Modern Birthing Practices.” Paper presented at the Annual Southeastern Women’s Studies Association (SEWSA) Conference, Wilmington, North Carolina. March 27-29, 2014.

TALKS – SYMPOSIUMS

“Where Your Feelings Don’t Matter: Affect in the Manosphere.” Paper presented at SPEAK’s graduate student symposium titled “Digital Identities.” Atlanta, Georgia. February 13, 2017.

“Locating the Society of Control: A Post-Foucauldian Analysis of Leaking Carceral Logics.” Paper presented at SPEAK’s graduate student symposium titled “The Internet,” Atlanta, Georgia. February 10, 2016.

“Natural Birth as Resistance: Reclamation of Agency in the Face of Patriarchal Medicine.” Paper presented at The University of Georgia’s 21st Annual Women’s Studies Student Symposium, Athens, Georgia. March 21, 2014.

TALKS – PANELS & ROUNDTABLES

“Philosophy and Gender Studies in Jeopardy.” The Department of Philosophy, Georgia State University, July 2023.

“Gender Studies in Georgia Conference.” Representing Emory University, Virtual Conference, October 2020.

“Democratizing the Feminist Classroom: Social Media and Circulations of Violence.” SEWSA 2017. Atlanta, GA.

TALKS – WORKSHOPS

“Demystifying the Publication Process.” Professionalization Workshop for Emory Graduate Students (November 2021).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Emory University, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Visiting Assistant Professor for WGS 385: Special Topics in WGS(W): The Sexual Politics of Hate; WGS 385: Special Topics in WGS: Feminist Media Studies; and WGS 300: Feminist Theory, Fall 2023; WGS 385: Critical Approaches to Heterosexuality; WGS 205: Introduction to Sexuality Studies (Lecture co-taught with Falguni Sheth), WGS 300: Feminist Theory, Spring 2024; WGS 300: Feminist Theory; WGS 385: Feminist Media Studies: Sex and Tech.

Emory University, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Mellon Interventions Project Public Humanities Teaching Fellow for WGS 385: Special Topics in WGS: The Sexual Politics of Hate, Spring 2023.

Kennesaw State University, Interdisciplinary Studies Department. Instructor for GWST 3001: Feminist Theory (Online), Spring 2023.

Emory University, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Graduate Teaching Associate for Introduction to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGS 200), Spring 2020 (in-person, moved online during COVID-19), Fall 2020 (online only), Fall 2021 (in-person).

Emory University, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Graduate Teaching Assistant for Gender Trouble (WGS 100), Deboleena Roy. Fall 2018.

Emory University, Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Graduate Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Sexuality Studies (WGS 205), Kadji Amin. Spring 2019.

Georgia State University, Institute for Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Instructor of Record for Introduction to Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS 2010). Fall 2016 and Spring 2017.

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Falguni Sheth, Emory University, Fall 2021. Organized and executed The California Roundtable on Philosophy and Race 2021 Virtual Conference.

Elizabeth A. Wilson, Emory University, Fall 2019. Copy-edited and completed citations for A Silvan Tomkins Handbook by Elizabeth A. Wilson and Adam Frank (University of Minnesota Press, 2020).

Falguni Sheth, Emory University, Spring 2018. Served as webmaster for The California Roundtable on Philosophy and Race 2019 Conference in New Orleans, October 2019.

Juliana Kubala, Georgia State University Spring 2016. Provided annotated research for an article.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Committee Member for Eleanor Byers’ Honors Undergraduate Thesis (AY 2024-2025)

Committee Member for Nava Kloppner’s Honors Undergraduate Thesis (AY 2024)

Committee Member for Marley Goldman's Honors Undergraduate Thesis (AY 2023-2024)

Webmaster and Tech Moderator for The California Roundtable on Philosophy and Race 2022 Virtual Conference, October 2022.

Social Media Manager, Emory's Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, August 2018-August 2021.

Recruitment Chair, Emory's Department of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, February 2019 & 2020.

Webmaster for The California Roundtable on Philosophy and Race 2019 Conference in New Orleans, October 2019.

SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES

Hypatia 40th Anniversary Conference, University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. September 6-9, 2023.

2022 Duke Feminist Theory Workshop, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. March 2022.

2019 Duke Feminist Theory Workshop, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina. March 2019.

2018 National Women's Studies Association Conference, Session Moderator, November 2018.

2017 Georgia State University Study Abroad Program: Quito, Ecuador, March 2017.

Three Week Summer Institute for Comparative Philosophy, University of Hawaii at Manōa, Honolulu, Hawaii. August 2014.

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

Peer-Reviewer for *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*.

Peer-Reviewer for *Critical Studies in Media Communication*.

Peer-Reviewer for *Journal of Gender Studies*.

Peer-Reviewer for *Violence and Gender Journal*.

Advisory Board and Peer-Reviewer for *Intarsia Journal*.

Peer-Reviewer for *Feminist Theory*.

SYMPOSIUMS ORGANIZED

The Institute for Research on Male Supremacy's 2025 Virtual Conference. Organizing Committee. April 2025.

SPEAK's 2017 Graduate Research Symposium, "Digital Identity." Chair and Coordinator. August 2016-February 2017.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Emory University First Generation Graduate Women's Collective, The Center for Women (2020-2021).

President of "Students Promoting Engagement Through Activism and Knowledge" (SPEAK) at Georgia State University. May 2016-May 2017.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

WGS South

National Women's Studies Association

Modern Languages Association

Southeastern Women's Studies Association