The New Jersey Women’s and Gender Studies Consortium is a state-wide forum for a discussion and support of all aspects of the functioning of Women’s and Gender Studies Programs. The mission of the New Jersey Women’s and Gender Studies Consortium is to ensure the continued strength, visibility and development of interdisciplinary women’s and gender studies at universities and colleges in New Jersey. The Consortium stands as the formal organization of women’s and gender studies programs, departments and initiatives across New Jersey. The Consortium serves as a network of WGS programs, departments and initiatives and provides collaborative space where WGS students, staff and faculty can share resources, knowledge and strategies for achieving our common goals of feminist, multicultural education, research and practices for social justice.

Dr. Arlene Holpp Scala, William Paterson University
Dr. Melda Yildiz, Kean University

What is the New Jersey Women and Gender Studies Consortium?

Lynn M. Paltrow, JD, Executive Director, founded National Advocates for Pregnant Women in 2001. Ms. Paltrow has served as a senior staff attorney at the ACLU’s Reproductive Freedom Project, as Director of Special Litigation at the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy, and as Vice President for Public Affairs for Planned Parenthood of New York City. Ms. Paltrow conceived of and filed the first affirmative federal civil rights challenge to a hospital policy of searching pregnant women for evidence of drug use and turning that information over to the police. In the case of Ferguson et. al., v. City of Charleston et. al., the United States Supreme Court agreed that such a policy violates the 4th amendment’s protections against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Through her work at these organizations, Ms. Paltrow recognized the need for a shift in the reproductive rights paradigm – away from divisive (and inaccurate) *“pro-choice” and “anti-choice”* categorizations and toward a set of inclusive, positive reproductive and family justice values around which a broad base of allies can mobilize. As Executive Director of NAPW, Ms. Paltrow combines legal advocacy with grassroots and national organizing and policy work to bring about this shift. She is a frequent guest lecturer and writer for popular press, law reviews and medical journals.

Ms. Paltrow is the recipient of the Arthur Garfield Hays Civil Liberties Fellowship, the Georgetown Women’s Law and Public Policy Fellowship, the Justice Gerald Le Dain Award for Achievement in the Field of Law, was selected in 2005 as one of 21 Leaders for the 21st Century by Women’sEnews, and has received the National Women’s Health Network’s Barbara Seaman Award for Activism in Women’s Health, and in 2011, an honorary degree from the John Jay College of Criminal Justice. She is a Gemini and mother of twins.

Program SCHEDULE

/// 8:30-9:30AM – Registration & Continental Breakfast
North Dining Room

/// 9:30 AM - Welcome, Introductions, Invocation
North Dining Room
Dr. Rita Kipp, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, Georgian Court University
Dr. Cynthia Ninivaggi, Director of Women’s Studies, Georgian Court University
Dr. Arlene Holpp Scala, William Paterson University

/// 9:45 - 11:15AM Morning Panel Sessions
Panel 1: Transnational/Global – FC Room 201
Panel 2: Feminist Literary Criticism – FC Room 203
Panel 3: Performing/Reading Gender – FC Room 208
Panel 4: Gender and Social Justice – FC Room 305

/// 11:30-12:30 - Lunch and Performance
North Dining Room

/// 12:30-1:30PM - Keynote Speaker
North Dining Room
LYNN M. PALTROW, JD, Executive Director and Founder National Advocates for Pregnant Women

/// 1:45-3:15PM Afternoon Panel Sessions
Panel 5: LGBTQ/Sexuality – FC Room 201
Panel 6: Issues in Women’s and Gender Studies – FC Room 203
Panel 7: Gender in Material and Pop Culture – FC Room 208
Panel 8: Gender, Genre and Memes – FC Room 305

/// 3:30-4:15PM Closing Remarks/Awards Ceremony
North Dining Room
Dr. Cynthia Ninivaggi, Georgian Court University
Dr. Melda Yildiz, Kean University

*FC indicates Farley Center*