



## **Working Group Meeting**

Tuesday, June 15, 2021, 12:00-2:00pm Boston Time

[Online Meeting Zoom](#)

Chair: Nancy Krieger

### **AGENDA**

**Participants:** Nancy Krieger, Andi Goodall, Amy Luo, Eli Godwin, Liz Bosky, Sabra Katz-Wise, Claire Packer, Liz Janiak, Farah Shroff, Gwen Feeny

- **Introduction [12:00-12:10pm]**
  - **Welcome, brief introductions**
    - The purpose of this meeting is to reflect on the past year, regarding what went well and what can be improved, and start planning for the coming year
    - *Participants introduced themselves*
  - **Evaluation of past year and planning for next year**
    - Taking into account COVID-19 disruption
      - This past school year was completely remote for all faculty, staff, and students
        - This includes classes, events, and most in-person research activities
      - Adapting the positives of the past year to help plan as the school transitions into reopening this next year
- **Conference Presentation [12:10-12:15]**
  - **American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG) Annual Clinical and Scientific Meeting 2021 - Claire Packer**
    - Presentation on research poster “Drivers of teenage pregnancy in Zambia between 2007-2018”
    - An analysis of DHS survey data found that demographic, intrapersonal, and SES factors significantly impacted rates of teenage pregnancy in Zambia
- **Review of 2020-2021 activities and accomplishments [12:15 - 12:30 pm]**
  - **WGH Course Ratings AY 2020-2021**
    - Liz Bosky: Remote accommodations allowed for students outside of Boston to enroll and participate. The class and teaching experience benefited from having the options for international and out-of-state students join
    - Sabra Katz-Wise: Reflecting on student motivation, Sabra noted the student fatigue as the Spring semester wrapped up

- Nancy Krieger: To follow Sabra's comment, it was a trying year for everyone, students, faculty, and staff, requiring lots of additional time to address all the academic and personal disruptions due to COVID and also activism re racism, police brutality, the elections, etc.
  - **WGH Events for AY 2020-2021**
    - *Past year's events were reviewed*
    - Take Action Tuesday highlights
      - The increase in time available to help plan TAT and recent international and national events spurred incentive and motivation to dive into the issues to raise collective awareness and advocacy
      - Using online communication platforms (such as the WGH Newsletter and Facebook) worked reasonably well, but did not have the same student contact in the absence of Tuesday tabling
      - Highlight events included collaborations with other HSPH student groups
        - Such as the campaign for donations to support India COVID-19 response May 2021
      - For future TAT tabling events, the committee should consider keeping track of student engagement, which is difficult in the past year's online-only format.
    - WGH hosted events and attendance
      - All events were virtually held
      - Events helped keep WGH presence in the school community afloat, amidst general student attrition in extracurricular activities
        - Event topics included: 2020 Election, Police Violence, Racial Justice
      - The virtual social hour and breakfast events were not successful and are not recommended in a virtual format
      - Other event types - digital theater performance, panels, and speakers - were well-attended
      - Larger events and co-sponsored conferences, such as the annual International Women's Day event and Cultivating Joy and Collective Restoration, benefited from the virtual accessibility from participants from within HSPH and outside of HSPH
    - Encouraging attendance and event promotion
      - Consider Twitter and other sharing platforms to advertise events to complement the reliance on emails & our newsletter
      - Following reopening guidelines, post event flyers near high traffic areas (e.g., elevators in Kresge & FXB buildings)
  - **WGH Conference Stipend Awards for AY 2020-2021**
    - *List of AY 2020-2021 recipients was reviewed*
    - Conference stipends support students to go to a conference to present or learn more about gender and health, using a gender analysis, and then share what they learned and/or presented at a WGH meeting
      - Stipend applications are reviewed by the Curriculum Committee on a rolling deadline

- Stipend awardees are required to present at a WGH meeting about their experience
  - No stipends were requested for Fall 2020, reflecting COVID-19 disruptions
  - 1 stipend was awarded Spring 2021
    - Stipend requests only covered conference registration fees as travel expenses were not required
- **WGH Concentration Completion Letters for AY 2020-2021**
  - *List of 2020-2021 AY WGH certificate awardees were reviewed*
  - This year the department observed a boost in number of graduates with WGH certificates for a total of 8 students this year
  - Remote gifts for graduates in lieu of traditional celebration activities
    - Plants were mailed for those that completed the concentration. Email copies of the certificates were sent to concentrators. Official copies will be mailed once campus reopens in Fall 2021.
- **Review of WGH 2020-2021 budget [12:30-12:45pm]**
  - **WGH Budget Review 2020-2021:** to set fiscal basis for planning
    - *Funds allocated, funds spent, funds remaining were reviewed.*
    - Changes for allocation amounts proposed include two ranges for contingency plans for 2021-2022
      - An “all virtual” outcome allocates amounts that closely follow the model of the past year. This includes no allocations for food and catering for working group meetings, orientation, graduation party, socials.
      - An “all in-person” outcome allocates amounts that closely follow the model of traditional semesters. More spending is predicted to cover expenses on food/catering, events, traveling/lodging for speakers etc.
        - Given new school guidance that all Fall 2021 event speakers must be remote, allocated amounts for travel in Fall 2021 could be shifted to cover future spending.
      - For both “all virtual” and “all in-person” outcomes, budget for student staff, course support, and buffer are equivalent
        - WGH budget supports WGH 207 pedagogy fellow
    - Liz Janiak asked if the course support could be expanded to ensure TAs for courses whose enrollment falls below the required N of students
      - In the past, this suggestion from WGH has not received administrative approval
      - However, given the new requirements for being a TA for the PHS PhD doctoral program, it might be possible to have some of these doctoral students be WGH course TAs (at no cost to WGH)
      - WGH must coordinate with other offices/departments to find out what is permissible. Andi and Amy will ask if WGH funds can be used to cover TAs for course support.
    - Suggestion to use this year’s carry forward for research mini-grants
      - In November, review status of WGH budget and carry forward funds

- If sufficient funds available, set up mini-research grant committee to prepare for a pilot mini-grant program in Spring 2022
  - Confirmation of the process for obtaining the WGH funds for AY 2021-2022
    - Andi and Amy to confirm when HSPH will allocate the AY 2021-2022 WGH budget
    - Assuming the same yearly budget, combined with the extant carry forward, WGH should have adequate funds for the coming academic year to plan a wide breadth of events, socials, and WGH activities
- **Taking stock of how we work & planning for next year [12:45-1:15pm]**
  - WGH Student Staff
    - Continuities with Andi and Amy
      - Andi and Amy will be continuing – Both joined as the new WGH staff members in March 2021 and will graduate in May 2022. They are currently employed as “temp” workers.
    - For the AY 2022-2023, WGH Student Staff will be brought on Spring 2022 to transition to full responsibility during Summer 2022
      - Unknown if the current hiring freeze will continue, and if so, for how long. To prepare for the new Student Staff onboards, Andi and Amy will work with school admin to approve of new hires in advance.
  - Subcommittee Leadership
    - Events Subcommittee
      - Andi Goodall, Amy Luo
      - This subcommittee is still looking for a faculty member to help assist and oversee
    - Curriculum Subcommittee
      - Dr. Liz Bosky, Gwen Feeney
    - Take Action Tuesday subcommittee
      - Andi Goodall
    - Farah Shroff is able to join either Curriculum or TAT subcommittee. Roles for each committee will be discussed with Andi and Amy.
  - **WGH Course Offerings 2021-2022**
    - Changes
      - WGH 201 Reproductive Health, Rights and Justice: *Moved to Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:30am-1pm for Fall 2 2021*
      - WGH 211 Gender and Health: Introductory Perspectives: *Dr. Brittany Charlton Confirmed for Fall 1 2021*
      - WGH 300: *Fall 2021 - Dr. Sabra Katz-Wise*
      - WGH 210 Critical Issues in Mental Health: *Dr. Liz Bosky -- Awaiting credit change from 1.25 to 2.5 for Spring 1 2022*
      - Trans Health course planned for Spring 2022: *Currently undergoing the proposal process for EPI admin approval*
        - Update SOGIE group re Sari’s course plans
    - **To Do: Schedule Monthly Lunchtime WGH meetings**
      - Select day and time for monthly meeting
        - Hold meetings on Wednesdays at lunchtime (1-2 pm)

- Aim for 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays of the month
    - Selected dates:
      - 2021: Sept 1, Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 1
      - 2022: Feb 2, March 2, April 13, May 11
      - [Working Group Meeting dates](#) (See Document, with more details on agenda items to include)
  - Remote or in-person meetings?
    - Aim for in-person monthly meetings with food
      - Andi and Amy will look into room reservations (typically SBS Conference Room, Kresge 708) and AV component for remote participants
    - Prepare Zoom call-in options and in-person Zoom coordinator to raise questions/comments from virtual participants during meetings
- **Brainstorming for WGH events for AY 2021-2022 [1:15-1:40pm]**
  - Hybrid or In-person Planning Considerations
    - Agreed priority is to transition back to in-person meetings or events following school guidance, but likely with hybrid option (for speakers & for participants, noting again that all Fall 2021 guest speakers must be remote)
    - Future hybrid events can include both remote and in-person events
      - Balance considerations for remote participants, for whom it is more difficult to actively engage and participate
      - Propose that future events include a mix of events that balance both in-person, hybrid, and remote events
    - **Fall Events - [Events Summary AY 2021-2022](#)** (See Document)
      - Fall event series, potential headliner titles – Gender, health justice, and structural injustice; gender justice and health; Gender challenges and the Public Health Perspective; Another World is Possible: Challenging US legal challenges to gender justice and health – Intersectional, Structural, Global, and Grassroots perspectives
      - Fall series tying in themes of legal and reproductive justice (and challenging conservative opposition to what they term “gender ideology”) in a collection of specific events focused on discrete but connected topics
        - Fall events (3) can link events together under a thematic approach
        - Multiple speakers in a mini panel or single speaker with follow-up discussion – likely with preference for mini-panel
        - Bring in perspectives from other countries on what can be possible to uplift and provide strategies
    - September
      - September 29 lunchtime event
      - On conservative attacks on who gets to be family & to adopts and whose families have been torn apart, e.g., Who

gets to be family & who decides? – adoptions & LGBTQIA+ rights, histories of Indigenous child removal & adoption

- October
  - October 28 lunchtime event
  - On challenges to trans youth, gender-affirming health care, & trans rights, focusing on legal and litigation from both civil society and public health perspectives
- December
  - December 9 lunchtime
  - On rights to safe abortions, focusing on the upcoming Supreme Court case (likely to be decided in June 2022) that may gut *Roe v Wade*
- Potential speakers
  - Adoption and Trans: Sabra's colleagues on Fulton decision and parentage bill for LGBTQIA; HSPH alums from Sabra's course
  - Family disruption: Farah to reach out to potential speakers on adoption of indigenous children in Canada
  - Trans rights: Liz Janiak recommendation for a speaker ACLU Director Ria Tabacco Mar
  - Abortion: Liz Janiak can recommend speakers
- Spring 2022
  - IWD Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup> in Kresge 110 (lunchtime, 1-2 pm)
  - As usual, seek out many co-sponsors (student groups; staff & union reps; other School centers & programs, e.g., FXB Center, WHI, CAWF, etc) – see list of co-sponsors for IWD events in 2019 & 2020 as examples
- How do we maintain our presence? Balance of remote and in-person activities?
  - Aim for in-person events
  - Arrange for events to be recorded (as we did in prior years for in-person events, with video links then posted to our WGH website)
- General Event Ideas – intersecting issues
  - Farah: Genocide, racism, and indigenous communities; role of women and leadership combatting against racism
  - Sabra: Solidarity and Justice; carrying forward racial justice pieces
  - Nancy: Gender, health justice, and structural injustice as themes – gender justice and health; challenging legal challenges to abortion, trans health care, and LGBTQIA+ rights
  - Liz Janiak: *Roe v Wade* Supreme Court decision to occur late next Spring (June); the abortion rights strategy of litigating in defense of provider rights to provide care (e.g., abortion) is setting a precedent for the new fights over trans health care, i.e., litigation from a physician provider side for trans right to healthcare; challenges, public health perspective
  - Eli: Reproductive justice; Legal rights for access to abortions and trans kids
- Andi and Amy to reserve room and AV equipment

- **Fall Orientation: Timeline, Logistics, Plans, Materials, and Events: [1:40-1:55pm]**
    - To Do: Schedule WGH orientation/welcome meeting
    - WGH participation in Fall schoolwide orientation
      - Fall Orientation is scheduled for August 23 – 27
        - WGH lunchtime orientation event/1<sup>st</sup> Fall WGH meeting is scheduled for September 1<sup>st</sup> to introduce incoming students to the department faculty, WGH concentration, and upcoming events
          - Andi and Amy to book WGH faculty to attend this orientation event to speak on their courses, research and interests
          - Andi and Amy to reserve room
        - To Do: Update WGH brochure; generate flyer that advertises WGH Fall 1 & 2 courses; generate flyer that advertises WGH Fall events & working group meetings
      - Fall social
        - Outdoor social at Penguin Pizza September 8<sup>th</sup> from 5 – 6:30pm
    - WGH info sheet for 2020-2021
      - Andi and Amy to finalize WGH brochure and Fall advertisement materials by July 30
        - Including information for students on: WGH concentration, WGH course offerings for the AY 2021-2022, Fall events
- **Close of meeting [1:55-2:00pm]**