Transgender Studies at Rutgers

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The Leadership Scholars Certificate Program is a two-year selective, interdisciplinary certificate program that prepares Rutgers undergraduate women to be informed, innovative, and socially responsible leaders.

Leadership Scholars design and implement social action projects to expand their understanding of issues and problems and to develop leadership skills.

This project gives Scholars the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they have gained about leadership, advocacy, and social change with the practical and experiential knowledge they have developed about a particular policy issue or problem through the field site placement. It also further develops leadership skills by giving undergraduates the opportunity to practice leadership through action.

To find out more please visit the Institute for Women’s Leadership’s website at http://iwl.rutgers.edu.
Context and Scholarship: Intellectual/Conceptual Foundations

The benefits and limitations to teaching transgender studies in women's and gender studies Classes (Drabinski, 2014; Beauchamp & D'Harlingue, 2012; Cooper & Tebra, 2006)

History of Trans activism

Transgender in our contemporary understanding of it

Transgender Studies Quarterly (2014-)

University of Arizona - Trans Studies Initiative and cluster hire

The reception of trans studies as “Queer Theory’s Evil Twin” (Stryker, 2004)

Trans studies allows for a more deeply comparative study of gender difference in varied contexts as well as producing implications to what constitutes an intelligible, livable, recognizable life and embodied subjectivity (Currah & Stryker, 2014)
Transgender Justice and Transgender Studies

The “Transgender Tipping Point” and trans visibility

Trans visibility amidst continuing violence and oppression

Intersectional, transnational, and decolonial trans studies

Transgender people positioned as subjects of knowledge, not just objects of knowledge, trans experience as a source of knowledge (Currah & Stryker, 2014)
Trans Feminist Leadership and Social Justice

Collaboration

Speaking truth to power

Radical respect for difference

That transgender is central to understanding gender as well as livable possibilities under systems of oppression more broadly

The importance of multiple voices

Resisting a master narrative (especially around trans experience and “trans enough” gate-keeping phenomena)

Step by step work, being flexible and listening to what is actually needed
Partnerships and Alliances

Institute for Women's Leadership
Institute for Research on Women
Center for Social Justice Education and LGBT Communities
Transmissions
Rutgers Queer & Asian
History of Transgender Studies at Rutgers

Needs Assessment/What is wanted?

Actionable Items/What can be done?

Next Steps/Where to take this next?
Impact

Fostering a conversation that wasn't happening otherwise in that way (across undergraduate students, graduate students, faculty, and staff)

Resuming action on the inclusion of trans studies at Rutgers

Working towards having Introduction to Transgender Studies (888:215) taught again

The dual goals of inclusion of trans scholarship as well as trans competency (across disciplines/departments)

Compiling resources for students, faculty, and staff on trans language

Moving beyond trans inclusion as tokenization

Moving towards collaborative, proactive, and productive approaches to trans inclusion at Rutgers

Setting up for next steps
Bibliography


