

XX

A 1973 Newsletter, Revitalized.

In 2018, LMU Graduate, Vitacco, resurfaced a lost history. In the 1970s, a group of women created LMU's first women's center coupled with a feminist newsletter called XX. The XX sparked political and social engagement among LMU students, in particular, by creating a space for women to voice their opinions and learn about feminist issues on campus. The XX suffered political backlash by community members who felt that XX's feminist discourse was in conflict with the Catholic tradition of our university. After 46 years of silence, the XX is back.

Feminist News, Today

In recent months, there have been a number of climate strikes around the world. Prominent climate activists like Greta Thunberg have been at the forefront of these strikes advocating for the Green New Deal and other climate legislation. Although the emergence of youth leaders is extremely powerful and moving, there is little representation of minority climate activists who have long been fighting for environmental policy change. For example, Isra Hirsi, daughter of Minnesota congresswoman Ilhan Omar, is a 16-year-old Black environmental activist who has been working alongside Greta Thunberg and other leaders. She is a co-founder and co-executive director of the US Youth Climate Strike. Not only does she advocate for immediate climate action, but she also focuses on minority representation in the climate movement. Climate change disproportionately affects people of color and low-income communities. With that being said, Hirsi states that "People who look like me or are in low income communities don't get to see their voices being heard in movements like these and I want to help change that".

Quote of the month

And at last you'll know with surpassing certainty that only one thing is more frightening than speaking your truth. And that is not speaking."
-Audre Lorde

Past + Upcoming Events

October 1: WGST Fall Welcome
October 29: Conversations with Jade Chang
November 19: Now That We're Here: Conversations on Refugees, Art, and Trauma

Alumni Spotlight

We caught up with Alumna Beatriz Alfaro (Class of 2013) after her appearance at the Women's and Gender Studies Department Fall Welcome event. Alfaro was a double major in Spanish and Women's and Gender Studies at LMU. She is currently working as an employment discrimination attorney for the Genie Harrison Law Firm. Alfaro feels that her background in Gender studies has been crucial to her law career. She describes her degree as something that taught her to "dissect power dynamics in any situation and lead efforts to redistribute that power to those who have been historically denied the ability to share their story. Everyone has a story". Alfaro's experience as an immigrant woman of color and her feminist education gives her a unique social justice perspective. She states that "Your point of view matters and can enrich the practice ... The field needs more leaders who won't just be complicit with the status quo. We can continue to make the world a better place and that entails pushing boundaries with integrity and zeal".

Suggestions?

Email hlaplant@lion.lmu.edu or rcruz14@lion.lmu.edu for any suggestions, news, or on-campus events related to gender studies, thanks!