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A 1973 Newsletter, Revitalized.

Conversations with Thi Bui

We had the honor of hosting Thi Bui, author of the award-winning graphic novel, *The Best We Could Do*, at LMU on November 19th. Bui shared her story as a refugee who fled from Vietnam in 1978 with her family at three-years-old. Through the powerful images in her novel, she conveys a story of hope and trauma. Bui explained how "Being a refugee is a circumstance. It is temporary." After migrating to a new country, one may not be considered a refugee, but will still experience the hardships of navigating life in an unfamiliar place. An important part of her work is not simply showing the devastating and horrific images and stories, but rather an experience of the many inconveniences that most refugees endure throughout their journey.

Feminist News, Today

After a 5 year scandal regarding a Nike professional running team broke out, many female athletes have stepped out of the dark to talk about their experiences within elite level sports. Mary Cain, a renowned professional distance runner, was one of the first to discuss the abuses she endured as a woman in olympic-caliber athletics in a New York Times interview with Lindsay Crouse. Cain revealed that in her time as one of the best performing athletes in the world, she faced an eating disorder that was perpetuated by her all-male coaching staff at Nike. Instead of helping her, her coaches "emotionally and physically abused" her by telling her that less weight correlates with success. This is an issue of reproductive injustice because women who stop menstruating due to low weight can struggle with infertility and bone health. Crouse writes, "A big part of this problem is that women and girls are being forced to meet athletic standards that are based on how men and boys develop." Furthermore, the lack of women in elite professional coaching combined with hyper-masculinization of professional sports can be especially detrimental to the health and well-being of women athletes.

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Amanda Apgar is in her first year as a visiting associate professor at LMU. Dr. Apgar received a BA in Jewish studies with a minor in Middle Eastern studies from California State University-Long Beach. Upon graduation, she received a PhD in Gender Studies at UCLA. Dr. Apgar focuses her research and writing on the intersections of gender and disability. She analyzes memoirs written by parents raising children with disabilities: "I trace the ways in which gender norms interact with expectations about a child's development and how gender normativity and able-bodiedness work together to construct 'normalcy'-- and its absence." More recently, Dr. Apgar is exploring a new project that involves deaf schools. Dr. Apgar's research and writing is exemplary of the multifaceted dimensions of feminist scholarship today: "There is no field feminists haven't touched and changed, and I love to be a part of that huge, collective effort, and honor and admire so many people for the work they have done in scholarship, art, politics, music, and life".

Quote of the month

"I'm no longer accepting the things I cannot change...I'm changing the things I cannot accept"
-Angela Davis

Past + Upcoming Events

November 19: Thi Bui Talk
December 19: Democratic Debate at LMU

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