

SEPTEMBER 2022

A 1973 NEWSLETTER,
REVITALIZED

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DEPARTMENT UPDATES

On June 24th, the United States Supreme Court overruled the constitutional right to abortion established in *Roe v. Wade*. The decision made in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* is a contentious topic that has caused protests throughout the country. Reproductive Justice and the *Dobbs* decision will be a topic of discussion and organization for the department throughout the year.



NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

The Women's and Gender Studies department is excited to welcome Dr. Iris Blake as a new visiting professor! Dr. Blake grew up in Wisconsin and completed her undergraduate education at Arizona State University. After receiving her bachelor's degree, she spent a year teaching English in France. She then decided to pursue her master's degree in Ethnomusicology at UT Austin. Her project was on the gendered, racialized, and sexualized dimensions of burlesque performance, concentrating on burlesque in relationship with minstrelsy, and how the historical effects that are still present in today's white performers' music selections. Dr. Blake has a Ph.D. in Ethnic Studies at UC Riverside and her dissertation reflected on her early life interest in voice. She is currently working on transforming her dissertation into a book. For the past two years, she was a University of California President's Postdoctoral Fellow in the musicology department at UCLA. Dr. Blake was drawn to LMU due to its emphasis on discussion-based learning and the teacher-scholar model. In her free time, Dr. Blake can be found singing, gardening, and hiking! Her favorite feminist author is Audre Lorde. Importantly, Dr. Blake is a Capricorn sun, Virgo moon, and Sagittarius rising. She is excited to meet everyone and happy to be in the department!

ATTENTION ALL WGST MAJORS, MINORS, AND FACULTY! The WGST department is holding the annual Fall Reception on September 29th from 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm in the WGST Village (UNH 3500). The Reception will feature WGST Alum Blake Colton and Darlene Moreno of The Feminist Front. We can't wait to see you there!

Follow our Instagram @lmuwgst for
news, spotlights, events, and more!