



Middle Tennessee State University

CREATING GLOBAL CHANGE

Interdisciplinary Conference in Women's and Gender Studies

Thursday, March 23–Saturday, March 25, 2017



Urvashi Vaid

Keynote Speaker

Irresistible Revolution:

Understanding the LGBT Movement Today



Andrea Gibson

Spoken Word Artist

Author of *PANSY*



Wagatwe Wanjuki

Workshop Facilitator

Beyond Hashtags:

*Using New Media to
Combat Campus Rape Culture*

Conference Agenda

Thursday, March 23

- 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Registration
- 9:40 a.m.–2:25 p.m. Paper Sessions
- 3:00–4:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker, Urvashi Vaid
- 4:30–5:30 p.m. Urvashi Vaid Book Signing
- 5:30–6:45 p.m. Conference Dinner
- 7:00–8:30 p.m. Performance by Andrea Gibson
- 8:30–9:00 p.m. Andrea Gibson Merchandise Sale and Meet-and-Greet

Friday, March 24

- 8:30 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Registration
- 9:10–11:15 a.m. Paper Sessions
- 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. Empowerment Workshop Facilitated by Wagatwe Wanjuki
- 1:50–3:55 p.m. Paper Sessions
- 5:00–7:30 p.m. Featured Film and Discussion:
UnSlut: A Documentary Film

Saturday, March 25

- 8:30–10:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m.–1:15 p.m. Paper Sessions

Conference is free for MTSU faculty, staff, and students.
Register at mtsu.edu/womenstu/conference/registration.php

Co-Sponsors

American Association of University Women–Murfreesboro; American Association of University Women–MT Students; College of Graduate Studies; College of Liberal Arts; College of Media and Entertainment; Department of Human Sciences; Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Distinguished Lecture Fund; Intercultural and Diversity Affairs; June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students; MT Lambda; MT Planned Parenthood Generation Action; MT Student Sociologists; MTSU Dance Program; National Women's History Month; Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance; President's Commission on the Status of Women; Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence Fund; Students Active for Feminism and Equality; Virginia Peck Trust Fund; and Women's and Gender Studies

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Middle Tennessee State University

CREATING GLOBAL CHANGE

Interdisciplinary Conference in Women's and Gender Studies

Thursday, March 23 • 3:00–4:30 p.m. • STU Ballroom A/B/C

Featured Speaker

Urvashi Vaid

Keynote Speaker

Irresistible Revolution:
Understanding the
LGBT Movement Today

Urvashi Vaid LGBT leader, attorney, and community organizer for over three decades depicts an award-winning analysis of the gay rights movement. She was named by *Time Magazine* as one of the "Fifty for the Future"—America's most promising leaders.

Author of *Virtual Equality: The Mainstreaming of Gay and Lesbian Liberation* and *Irresistible Revolution: Confronting Race, Class and the Assumptions of LGBT Politics*. Vaid will provide an analysis of understanding the LGBT movement today. As director of the Engaging Tradition Project, Vaid studies the use of tradition in arguments by advocates of gender- and sexuality-based social justice projects to shape legal and legislative strategies, frame public education messages, and strengthen arguments that advance the rights of groups seeking social justice. Former director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Policy Institute, she remains committed to being an LGBT leader through community-based change, strategic thinking, and coalition building.



Co-Sponsors

College of Liberal Arts; Distinguished Lecture Fund; June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students; MT Lambda; National Women's History Month; Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance; Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence Fund; Students Active for Feminism and Equality; and Women's and Gender Studies



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CREATING GLOBAL CHANGE

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Thursday, March 23 • 7:00–8:30 p.m. • STU Ballroom A/B/C



Featured Performer



Andrea Gibson

Spoken Word Artist

Author of *PANSY*

Andrea Gibson is an award-winning spoken word artist and activist and co-founder with Kelsey Gibb of the Tumblr website and support system "Stay With Me". Gibson's poetry and most recent book *Pansy* balances themes of love, gender, politics, sexuality, illness, family, and forgiveness with stunning imagery and a fierce willingness to delve into the exploration of what it means to truly heal.

Each turn of the page represents both that which has been forgotten and that which is yet to be released. While this book is a rally cry for political action, it is also a celebration of wonder and longing and love. Gibson's albums and publications include *Trees that Grow in Cemeteries*, *Yellow Bird*, *What the Yarn Knows of Sweaters*, *Pole Dancing to Gospel Hymns*, and *The Madness Vase*.

"Gibson is among the nation's most admired and emulated poets. Their verse is at once personal and political, feminist and universal, filled with incinerating verbs and metaphor, and delivered with gut-punching urgency."—Metaphor Media

Co-Sponsors

June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students; MT Lambda; MT Planned Parenthood Generation Action; MT Student Sociologists; National Women's History Month; Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance; Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence Fund; Students Active for Feminism and Equality; Virginia Peck Trust Fund; and Women's and Gender Studies



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CREATING GLOBAL CHANGE

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Friday, March 24 • 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. • STU Ballroom C

Featured Facilitator

Wagatwe Wanjuki

Workshop Facilitator

Beyond Hashtags: Using New Media to Combat Campus Rape Culture

Wagatwe Wanjuki is an activist and writer who started blogging about feminism and the campus rape culture as a student at Tufts University. Since then, she has continued to focus her work on ending campus sexual violence and using new media for social change. As a digital strategist, she has worked on progressive causes for over five years with various organizations including Color Of Change, Free Press, and RH Reality Check. She is the founder of F— Yeah Feminists, one of the first and most popular feminist blogs on Tumblr. Wanjuki is a prominent campus anti-sexual violence activist who recently received widespread media attention for starting the nationally-trending #SurvivorPrivilege hashtag on Twitter. She is a founding co-organizer of the Know Your IX ED ACT NOW campaign focusing on holding schools accountable to protect the civil right for an education free of sexual violence. Her story and commentary is featured in Jennifer Baumgardner's *It Was Rape* and *The Hunting Ground* by the makers of *The Invisible War*. She has written for Feministing, Mic, RH Reality Check, *Essence Magazine*, BuzzFeed, and the *New York Times*. Her appearances include *The Daily Show*, HuffPost Live, Democracy Now!, and MSNBC's *All In with Chris Hayes*.



Co-Sponsors

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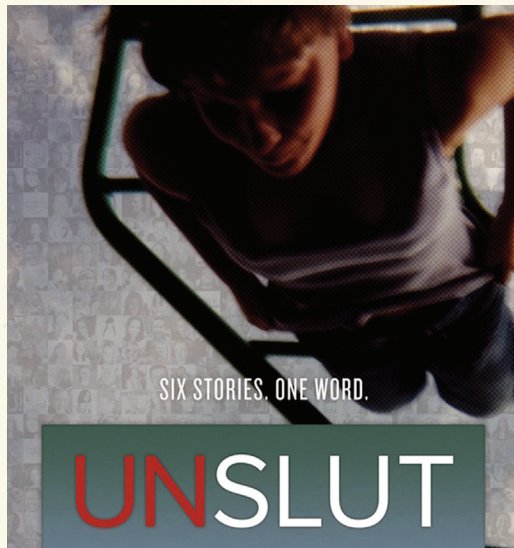
CREATING GLOBAL CHANGE

Interdisciplinary Conference in Women's and Gender Studies

Friday, March 24 • 5:00–7:30 p.m. • STU Ballroom C



Featured Film



UnSlut: A Documentary Film

Film and Discussion

The UnSlut Project uses personal story sharing as a means to work against sexual bullying and “slut”-shaming in our schools, communities, media, and culture. Emily Lindin, founder of The UnSlut Project, made this film to inspire and motivate people everywhere to speak up about the dangerous, lasting effects of sexual bullying, “slut”-shaming, and

all forms of gender-based discrimination. Today, even as our culture becomes more comfortable with sex, women and girls still struggle to define themselves in ways that include—but are not limited to—their perceived sexuality and sexual behavior. So many girls are affected by sexual bullying, from one-time comments to intense harassment, and many women experience “slut”-shaming as adults. As you will see, the film advocates for women and girls everywhere. The existence and continued usage of “slut” as an insult perpetuates the moral rhetoric that shames women for acting, dressing, or behaving in a way that is understood to be suggestive or promiscuous. “Slut”-shaming is also used to blame or dismiss victims of sexual assault. Shaming someone in this way renders her isolated and stigmatized, but due to the existence of the sexual double standard, girls and women often feel pressured to either shame others or be shamed themselves. Through this film, The UnSlut Project aims to inspire women, girls, parents, partners, and people everywhere to rethink the misogynistic culture of compulsive “slut”-shaming we live in and together, creating a world “where the word ‘slut’ doesn’t even make sense as insult.”

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College of Media and Entertainment; June Anderson Center for Women and Nontraditional Students; MT Lambda; MT Planned Parenthood Generation Action; MT Student Sociologists; National Women's History Month; Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance; President's Commission on the Status of Women; Seigenthaler Chair of Excellence Fund; Students Active for Feminism and Equality; American Association of University Women—MT Students; and Women's and Gender Studies