Providing a free, thoughtful forum for individuals from all academic disciplines to engage in discussion on issues of gender. The 12th annual conference addresses how we live our gendered lives online.

April 17th / 10:15 - 7:30
April 18th / 9:30 - 6:00
Penn State Behrend’s Reed Union Building

https://behrend.psu.edu/gender-conference-2019
Receive A Digital Badge

Attendees are eligible for the Penn State Digital Badge in “Responding to Image-Based Abuse.” Digital badges are validated credentials indicating accomplishment in a learning environment. They can be included on resumes or other professional materials.

Please note the requirements to obtain the badge. Attendees must go to one of the following color-coded sessions and answer brief questions online:

Yellow = Foundational
Green = Digital Citizenship
Blue = Trauma
Pink = Activism

Ongoing Events

“My Dinner Party” Exhibition (Reed 113)
This student-led art exhibition honors the pioneering work of Judy Chicago, whose famous sculpture “The Dinner Party” put women throughout history in conversation. Observe the artwork and reflections of Behrend undergraduates – and feel free to create your own design!

Film Series:
The Lilley Library presents a film series that:
The Film & Her Showcase (2018)
  - Showcases the work of emerging women filmmakers
Audrie & Daisy (2016)
  - Examines the impact of sexual assault crimes on communities
I am Evidence (2017)
  - Exposes troubling patterns within the criminal justice system in

Check the program for specific film times.
Free and open to the public.
Wednesday, April 17
Image Based Abuse: Informing and Empowering Northwest PA

10:15AM: “Why We Should Treat Image-Based Abuse as a Crime: International Perspectives”
Reed 114
Dr. Asher Flynn - Sponsored by the Behrend Public Policy Fund
Moderated by Prof. Caitlin Handerhan
Dr Asher Flynn is an Associate Professor of Criminology, and Director of the Social and Political Sciences Graduate Research Program at Monash University in Australia. She is known worldwide as an expert in the study of image-based abuse, and has published widely on sexual and gender-based violence, plea negotiations and access to justice. Dr. Flynn is co-author of the forthcoming volume Beyond Revenge Porn: Gender, Justice and Image-Based Sexual Abuse, and has co-authored two other books about legal justice. Her work has been cited in dozens of scholarly and popular publications, and she has testified before the Australian government on the subject of image-based abuse. In her presentation, she will provide an overview of the legal, emotional and social costs of IBA, and explain the impact of shifting how we view this crime.

11:15AM-11:45AM: “Cat-calling, Sexting and Groping: What You Can Do About Sexual Harassment”
Reed 114
Megan Morrow, Prevention Education Specialist, Crime Victim Center
#MeToo #TimesUp #UsToo – We’ve seen the hashtags and heard the stories. But what can you do about sexual harassment? Come find out. The Crime Victim Center provides the NWPA region with comprehensive services for victims of crime and their families, including a hotline, hospital and court accompaniment, therapy groups, crime victim compensation funds, and more.

12:00PM-12:45PM: “My Story”
Reed 114
Darieth Chisolm, Emmy Award Winning News Anchor
Ms. Chisolm is a businesswoman, life coach, filmmaker and Emmy-winning television anchor formerly out of Pittsburgh. She is also a survivor of image-based abuse. After taking legal action against an abusive ex-partner, Ms. Chisolm became determined to help empower others. Her “50 Shades of Silence” campaign is aimed at raising awareness of how the internet can facilitate - but also resist - sexual violence. In her presentation, Ms. Chisolm will share her story and show clips from her film in progress.

1:00-1:30: Image-Based Abuse & College Students
Reed 114
Moderated by Dr. Carrie Payne
Join Behrend students Isabelle Odell, Lauren Osmanski and Heather Riley for an interactive presentation in which they present an overview of the history, costs, and college student impact of image-based abuse.

2:00PM-2:45PM: “Digital Citizenship” (R114)
Reed 114
Agent Alan L. McGill – Supervisory Narcotics Agent, Pennsylvania Office of the Attorney General
Moderated by Prof. Kristy McCoy
Agent McGill has served as a professional investigator for 30 years with 23 years in law enforcement. His program educates students about three basic areas; Social Media, Cyber Bullying and Online Predators. Agent McGill utilizes real world examples and filmed scenarios to discuss how individuals may inadvertently expose their information to online predators, and how best to protect themselves.
School bullying has received considerable criminological, psychological, educational, and governmental attention. However, scant attention is paid to this problem on the African continent. In this age of globalization, the importance of the African continent cannot be overemphasized. Over 70% of Africa’s population are young people under the age of 30 (United Nations, 2013). Using self-report cross-sectional data from a sample of 1,192 junior secondary school (middle school) students in Nigeria, this study examines the prevalence of cyberbullying and for secondary school students. Findings show relatively fewer cyberbullying behavior in this sample, but consistent with the western literature, findings show that males are more likely to cyberbully than girls.

“Digital Project Design: Apps To Make A Difference” – Dr. Aaron Mauro.
The course “Digital Project Design” asks students to engage in how good design shapes social and cultural issues. I will discuss applications students have worked on and focus on the General Knowledge Project app, a collaborative research project exploring the relationship between generalized encyclopedic knowledge formation and the racialization of people, cultures, and practices. The project is seeking to develop a classifier capable of discovering racialized language from sources of universal knowledge.

“In a digital world, how you are represented online can define your reputation and job opportunities. This presentation will discuss ways to monitor your online presence with tips to remove unwanted posts and ways to promote the best version of you.

2:30PM: Film Series - I am Evidence (1hr 29min)
Produced by Law & Order: Special Victims Unit’s Mariska Hargitay (Detective Benson), I AM EVIDENCE exposes the alarming number of untested rape kits in the United States through a character–driven narrative, bringing much needed attention to the disturbing pattern of how the criminal justice system has historically treated sexual assault survivors. Why is there a rape kit backlog? What can we do to fix the problem? This film explores these questions through survivors’ experiences as they trace the fates of their kits and re-engage in the criminal justice process.

3:00: 3:00-4:00PM: Legal and Psychological Responses to Victims
In this panel, community leaders will discuss the impact of cyberviolence and bullying on their citizens.

Ms. Niken Astari Carpenter currently serves as the executive assistant to Erie Mayor Joe Schember; she is also the Refugee and Immigrant Liaison for the City of Erie. Originally from Surabaya, East Java Province in Indonesia, Ms. Carpenter is a Penn State grad who volunteers for multiple organizations and is committed to making Erie “a more welcoming place for everyone, especially New Americans.” Karen Galbraith is the Training Projects Coordinator at the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR). A licensed social worker, Karen has over 20 years of experience in the field of sexual violence, volunteering and working at both the local and state levels. Betsy Grinder is a Corry, Pennsylvania native and contributing journalist for the Corry Journal. New to Safe Journey as a Domestic Violence Advocate/Counselor and Website Designer, Ms. Grinder currently leads the YMCA Girl Power after-school program and participates on the Safe Dates Matter Teen Dating Violence Awareness Team

3:30PM-4:30PM: “Trauma: Picking up the Pieces”
Recent efforts to provide justice for victims of image based abuse have included implementation of laws in several European countries, Australia, and 41 states in the United States. The punishments for perpetrators vary from fines to misdemeanors to even jail time in some areas. Although these laws are a long overdue step in the right direction, victims of image based abuse and scholars have several criticisms. Most laws require the proof of malicious intent to harm victims but harm occurs whether or not intention occurs. I will explore and compare the severity of punishment from the various laws, question privacy claims related to the First Amendment, and make suggestions for future legislation
“The Double Victimization of Women in Nonconsensual Online Pornography and The Speech Act Theory,” Francine Maitland

Nonconsensual online pornography (otherwise known as revenge porn) and image-based abuse are on the rise in our ever-growing digital and online world. In a porn and rape culture women that are victims of nonconsensual online pornography are doubly victimized by the images’ initial release and again by the victim blaming that often occurs when prosecution is sought. My work explores how the Speech Act Theory (in conjunction with Catherine Mackinnon’s essay “Only Words” can be used to argue for stronger legislation for nonconsensual online porn and IBA. I examine why the filming and perpetrating of certain sexual acts, and the subsequent release of those images, should not be protected as free speech under the First Amendment, why in a porn culture it is too often the victim’s life that is ruined by the release of the IBA or nonconsensual porn, and I argue for the need for stronger legislation against nonconsensual online pornography and IBA.

“Understanding the Body and Brain’s Response to Trauma,” Kayla Jesberger

Image-Based Abuse (IBA) is the non-consensual taking and/or distribution of a nude or sexual image, including images that are digitally altered or manipulated. Survivors of IBA often experience a loss of job, support system, and composure; having photos that they entrusted to someone posted across the internet is traumatic. Family and friends ask questions such as “why were the photos taken in the first place?” and “did you not expect this to happen?”. And when the survivor just can’t seem to “get over it,” because panic still courses through their body each time someone brings the topic into conversation, they are accused of “dwelling in the past”. It’s these questions, or more accurately, accusations of “wanting it to happen” that keep our society from deeply exploring how trauma affects the functioning of the sympathetic nervous system and individual psyche. My presentation explores recent research on the sympathetic nervous system and the responses of the mind regarding the ways in which traumatic memories are stored and resurface. I will ask the questions: “How does bullying extend the period of time over which traumatic stress in both the body and brain is endured?” and “How does the inescapability of the internet prolong the effects of traumatic stress?” I will close with the notion that, by taking a trauma-informed approach, human beings can better empathize and assist one another in the process of healing from trauma.

“Beyond #MeToo: A Call to Online Activism and Suggestions for Change” – Livia Homerski, Edinboro University

I am the daughter of two survivors of sexual assault, a trauma which has affected my family’s life significantly. My presentation contains a personal account of the issues surrounding the way sexual assault cases are handled and viewed, and explores how survivors and other proponents can utilize online action to influence change. As an online movement, #MeToo educates, effectively conveys empathetic information, and allows for direct communication. As I will show, I believe #MeToo is at the cusp of influencing long-standing change.

4:00-5:00PM: “Effecting Change Through Strategic Action: A Hands-On Workshop”

Reed 114

Prof. Karrie Bowen and Lydia Lathe -- This workshop will provide professional training centered on inspiring and growing activists to move issues of social and political importance into the community conversation and then into the legislative sphere. Presented as a developmental workshop, the content is aimed at both educating and inspiring individuals new to the world of activism in action and seasoned activists as well. It will feature both a critical and strategic understanding of various activist approaches and allow those in attendance to gain a clearer understanding of how to navigate differing methods of communication essential to sustaining the movement’s overall mission, emphasizing strategic planning, cohesive and unified civic engagement, event planning, and how to use both traditional and technological means of grassroots change.

Facilitators: Lydia Laythe earned her bachelor’s degree in Social Work at the University of Portland and her master’s degree in Social Work at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. She is trained in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and has worked in a variety of therapeutic capacities professionally. Karrie Bowen earned a master of arts in communication studies from Edinboro University in 2002, and a bachelor of arts in speech and communication studies from Edinboro University in 1997. She will complete a second master’s in Social Science-History in May 2019. Before her time at Behrend, she taught at Penn State Brandywine and Broome Community College.

4:00PM: Audrie & Daisy (1h 35m)

Reed 117

AUDRIE & DAISY is an urgent real-life drama that examines the ripple effects on families, friends, schools and communities when two underage young women find that sexual assault crimes against them have been caught on camera. The film takes a hard look at American’s teenagers who are coming of age in this new world of social media bullying, spun wildly out of control. Film repeats on April 18 at 10AM.
Tarana Burke is a civil rights activist who originated the #MeToo movement. In 2006, Burke began to use the phrase on social media to help users understand the pervasiveness of harassment.

In the wake of multiple sexual harassment scandals in 2017 the phrase was explosively repopularized. During October 2017, for instance, the hashtag was retweeted half a million times in twenty-four hours, and swept Twitter feeds across the world.

Burke is a Time Magazine “Person of the Year” honoree; currently she lectures across the country and serves as Senior Director for the nonprofit institution Girls for Gender Equality.

Day Two
Thursday, April 18

9:30-10:20AM: “Cyberspace: Recapturing an Avenue for Agency”
Reed 114
Anna Schmitt, Erica Sims, Quayshawnna Pennamom, Molly Grack
Kristina West, Tiffany Zinn, Elizabeth Bongiorno, & Emily Brocious
In this presentation, Behrend students will address the challenges and the opportunities of online presence to promote LGBTQ+ connections and communities, and construct more positive body images.

10:00AM: “Audrie and Daisy” (repeat showing).
Reed 112
AUDRIE & DAISY is an urgent real-life drama that examines the ripple effects on families, friends, schools and communities when two underage young women find that sexual assault crimes against them have been caught on camera. The film takes a hard look at American’s teenagers who are coming of age in this new world of social media bullying, spun wildly out of control.

10:35-11:00AM: “Recognizing Warnings Signs of Intimate Partner Violence”
Reed 113
Moderated by Dr. Sharon Gallagher
Lauren Plummer, Anna Downey, Emma Culbertson - Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a phenomenon that silently affects many of our loved ones. The purpose of this study is to determine if college students are able to recognize known warning signs of IPV. The hypothesis states that traditional college students do not recognize the warning signs of IPV. We will discuss the results of our study and what we think it says about college student attitudes.

10:35-11:50AM Gender, Education and the Internet #1: Cyberbullying and Doxing
Reed 114
Moderated by Prof. Evan Ringle
“Cyberbullying: A Worldwide Epidemic,” Emily Byers and Julia Benim - Our presentation will discuss the effects of cyberbullying, as well as prevention methods. There are extensive emotional consequences that are caused by cyberbullying. However, cases of cyberbullying could decrease significantly if preventative measures are taken in elementary and high school settings. We will examine the effectiveness of common strategies used to address cyberbullying, and analyze gender differences in cases of cyberbullying.

“Legalities of Doxing,” Alec Payne - I will employ historical arguments from the Supreme Court as well as lower court rulings to inspect doxing as a form of expression. It is my aim to argue that doxing meets the standards for a credible threat under US law and thus fall under the “fighting words” exception to the first amendment. My argument will call upon several court cases including Virginia v. Black and utilize the work of Karla Mantilla. It is my hope that this topic will raise attention to the serious threat that doxing poses and to the legal challenges facing the new digital age.
“Cyberbullying and The Latest Victims – Girls” Abigail Linski and Carolin Kimmy - Cyberbullying is the act of harassing and maliciously making fun of other people through the internet. In today’s society, girls in middle and high school are cyberbullied to an unhealthy extent. Our presentation will tackle the difficult issue of how we can start to minimize the amount of cyberbullying by educating both parents and children.

11:00-11:30AM: 21st Century Love: How the Internet Changed The Way We Connect
Reed 113
Moderated by Dr. Sharon Gallagher
Sorya Nasir and Andrea Gaez, (representing Her Campus) - In today’s hectic society, dating/hook-up apps and websites make it possible to find the perfect one (or one night stand) in a matter of minutes. Is the internet ruining the way we interact, or is it just creating new ways to do so? Our presentation will focus on the impact of websites on romantic life as they relate to both dating and sex work. Apps such as Tinder and Bumble have normalized hook-up culture, empowered women by giving them the confidence and freedom to explore their sexual desires, and served specific audiences through using algorithms and data. Meanwhile, sites such as Backpage and Camster have let people in the sex work industry find clients in a more effortless and safer way, but also created controversy.

12:05PM: “Wuvable Oaf: Queer Comics and Gender”
Reed 114
Moderated by Prof. Dan Schank
Come meet artist and writer Ed Luce! Luce will be on hand to discuss his acclaimed indie series Wuvable Oaf, which follows Oaf Jadwiga’s search for love, friendship, great music, cats and more in a San Francisco-like city. Whitney Matheson of USA Today has written of the series, “whether you’re gay/straight/something in between, I think you’ll find yourself rooting for the Oaf and his quest for somebody to wuv.” Luce will examine various ways in which issues of gender and sexual identity have resonated in his work, and will talk about his experiences as a writer and illustrator.
Co-sponsored by GASE.

12:05-1:20: “The Black Female Literary Tradition: From Writing on Gender to Writing to Engender”
Reed 113
Students in WMNST/AAST 101 will present their research on the literary works of a variety of African American female authors and how their works explore topics such as race, class, and gender.

2 pm-4:15PM Film & Her Showcase (2h 15m)
Reed 114
Film & Her is committed to showcasing emerging female talent within the filmmaking community and creating an atmosphere of unity. The films in this presentation are generally short and run 15 minutes or less.

1:35-2:50: Gender and Education #2: Technology in the Classroom
Reed 113
Moderated by Dr. Ashley Sullivan
“Advantages and Deficits of Technology Use for Elementary School Students,” Pierce Bowser and Samuel Nicklas
Technology will always be a part of elementary school students’ lives, but teaching them how to properly use it at a young age can and will help them tremendously later in life. Our presentation will discuss the effects of technology on elementary school aged children, both inside and outside of the classroom. We will discuss potential ways to combat the negative effects of technology, as well as discuss ways to emphasize its positive effects.
“Harnessing the Strengths of Technology in the Classroom,” Abigail Saylor and Kelly Krysiak
Teachers are battling cell phones, tablets, social media websites for their students’ attention. However, not all technology is bad. Not only is technology a growing part of everyday life, it is now an essential skill that students need to master for many career paths. Our presentation shows how teacher can embrace the use of technology in the classroom to maintain students’ attention.
“Benefits of Technology in the Classroom,” Jake Pelloni, Branden VanGysel, and Sarah Tomes
The use of technology in the classroom can not only keep students engaged but it can add variation to instruction. Implementing smartphone use into a lesson plan, for instance, can turn a distraction into a useful learning tool. We will disrupt the common misconception that the implementation of technology in the classroom is necessarily expensive, and show how introducing students to specific software programs can prepare them for future success in a career.
April 18 (continued)

1:35-2:50PM: Gender and Education #3: Contemporary Digital Connectivity Issues Facing Young People
Reed 112
Moderated by Dr. Sarah Whitney

“How Social Media Affects People’s Mental Health & Self-Image,” Kaley Gregg & Cullen Tregaskis
Social media is a large part of everyone’s lives. Young people, however, are often exposed to a wide variety of people who are not always kind. A person’s self-image is an important part of his or her mental health, so it is essential to interact with others online in a respectful manner. We will be addressing the mental and physical health issues that social media can induce, and providing some possible solutions.

“Who Are You Really Battling?” Teah Lata and Morgan Szoszorek
Reports of sexual predator cases in gaming have been blowing up in the news recently. With technology developing, there are more ways for sexual predators to have access to get to anyone on a variety of different devices including Xboxes, phones, Wii’s, and Playstations. This presentation will inform you on how sexual predators are targeting anyone who will open up to them on different electronic devices and games, such as underage children. We will show you some signs to look out for and how to educate others on safety dealing with online gaming in Fortnite, Pokemon Go, Minecraft, and more.

“Cell Phone Use in Classrooms,” Libbie McFall and Kayleigh Dance
Our presentation will discuss the use and misuse of cell phones in the classroom. Not only do the students constantly have their phones available for use, but the teachers and other faculty members have an influence as well. We will discuss ways that faculty can help support students in reducing cell phone use during the day, in part through their own examples.

3:00PM-3:30 PM Bullying and Social Media
Reed 113
Moderated by Dr. Molly Monahan Lang

“The Effects of Victimization and Social Media Use” Leanne Confer, Marna Owens, & Samantha Conway
Excessive use of social media can be correlated with negative outcomes, including depression and anxiety, as well as increased suicidal behavior. Recent research has focused on the concepts of resilience and purpose to minimize negative outcomes and optimize positive outcomes. Our study used sixth grade subjects to investigate if different forms of bullying (i.e., relational victimization, negative social media) predicted lower levels of purpose. Further, we were also interested in the effects of mentoring on the relationship between bullying and adjustment outcomes. We will share the results of our study and include the gender differences we examined.

3:30PM-4:00PM: Gender and Literature
Reed 113
Moderated by Dr. Craig Warren

“A Victim’s Plea to Society; Charlie Howard’s Dying Wish for Acceptance” – Samantha Dalrymple
The murder of Charlie Howard in 1984 was a devastation for both the gay community and the human race. In his poem “Charlie Howard’s Descent” Mark Doty gives a voice to the victim, laying blame on society and the norms created, which condemned his tragic fate. Charlie is transformed from a victim, into a forgiving martyr, who calls for a change from society to embrace diversity in gender and sexuality, rather than rejecting it.

“Blood and Gender in Bram Stoker’s Dracula” – Devin Booher
This project will discuss the gender roles of the Victorian era with a special focus upon Stoker’s character Quincy Morris. I will explore how the various characters either adhere to or challenge the gender norms of the time.

“Jodi Picoult’s Changing Depiction of Motherhood” - Isabelle Odell
Jodi Picoult is a realistic fiction author whose topics vary greatly; one that she seems to frequently revisit, however, is motherhood. Picoult’s enduring fascination with motherhood demands examination, so to understand what she is saying about motherhood, I looked at her shifting understanding of what mothering is in her early, mid-career, and recent novels.
4:10PM: “Jeans with locks on them: A panel discussion of the struggles and triumphs to live one’s authentic life” Moderated by Dr. Ashley Sullivan, Dr. Laurie Urraro

Reed 114

When transgender adult Maria was a child in school, she “felt stuck, like I was tied up you know. Tied up in jeans with locks on it, miserable, angry but at the same time there [was] nothing you can do about it.” This quote underscores both the difficulty of not being able to live one’s authentic life and the desperate need to break out of the restraints of gender, far too often a common situation for young children still actively in the process of discovering their gender identity. This panel discussion aims to present an open forum whereby various genders outside the binary realm are normalized. This panel discussion will serve as a continuation from last year’s panel. Panelists from the Behrend and the Erie community will detail the both the obstacles they faced and how they have risen above them. Through a discussion of the struggles and triumphs in 21st century society of trans individuals, this panel ultimately aims to reduce or even eliminate bias associated with differenced gender subjectivities.

6:00PM – “Speak for Yourself: Robert Schumann & Adelbert Chamisso’s ‘Frauenliebe und Leben’ reimagined”

Reed 117

Dr. Gabrielle Dietrich, soprano and Dr. Sarah Kahl, piano •This performance of Schumann’s 25-minute song cycle incorporates a film (featuring Behrend student actors Molly Boniger & Jaret Kelly) by experimental filmmaker Britty Lea in order to illuminate issues of relationship power dynamics, mental illness, and the idealization of women in artwork by men. In 1840, composer Robert Schumann completed a song cycle entitled Frauenliebe und -leben (a woman’s life and love) on a set of poems by Adalbert Chamisso. The poems are a first-person narrative of a woman of lower social station who falls in love with and idolizes a more upper-class man, who eventually returns her affections, makes an offer of marriage, and the two are married and have a child. The story ends tragically, as the woman is separated from her beloved (whether by death or betrayal, the poetry is not completely clear). Schumann’s setting was dedicated to his fiancée, Clara Wieck, and his letters and other personal reflections indicate that he may have transferred some of his own anxieties about unworthiness and potential failure onto the female narrator, even while clearly intending the female narrator to also be Clara, whom he idolized. Clara and Robert were married shortly after he completed Frauenliebe und -leben, and the cycle proved to be somewhat prophetic: Robert attempted suicide 13 years later, and was institutionalized and separated from Clara, who was left to raise their children and manage their household alone.