



CENTER FOR THE
STUDY OF WOMEN IN SOCIETY
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CSWS Impact Report: 1973–2023

October 2026



Above: The Center for the Study of Women in Society is located in the third floor south wing of Hendricks Hall on the University of Oregon campus. Front cover: Brilliant fall foliage graces the lawn outside of Hendricks Hall's north wing / stock photos.

CSWS IMPACT REPORT: 1973–2023 **OCTOBER 2026**

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OUR MISSION

Generating, supporting, and disseminating research on the complexity of women's lives and the intersecting nature of gender identities and inequalities.

Faculty and students affiliated with CSWS generate and share research with other scholars and educators, the public, policymakers, and activists. CSWS researchers come from a broad range of fields in arts and humanities, law and policy, social sciences, physical and life sciences, and the professional schools.

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CSWS Impact Report is a publication of the Center for the Study of Women in Society. While CSWS is responsible for the content of the **CSWS Impact Report**, the viewpoints expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the organization.

WRITER/EDITOR Jenée Wilde

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Mission and History

“CSWS was always a place that felt exciting, vibrant. It was also a place that felt like home, a place that I wanted to go to, that was welcoming, that had a sense of care and solidarity, and that nurtured a kind of academic inquiry based on cooperation. I learned so many skills there. I gained organizing skills and leadership skills that I still carry with me today.”

—Barbara Sutton, Professor and Chair of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, State University of New York at Albany, 2003 CSWS Jane Grant Dissertation Fellow

For five decades CSWS has funded feminist scholarship at the University of Oregon. Our mission is simple—we create, fund, share, and support research on the complexity of women’s lives and the intersecting nature of gender identities and inequalities.

Faculty and students affiliated with CSWS generate and share research with other scholars and educators, the public, policymakers, and activists. CSWS researchers come from a broad range of fields in arts and humanities, law and policy, social sciences, physical and life sciences, and the professional schools at the University of Oregon.

1970s: Foundations

In the early 1970s, a group of visionary University of Oregon scholars recognized the need to study, spotlight, and confront gender inequality throughout society. Joan Acker, Miriam Johnson, UO President Robert Clark, and other notable faculty founded the Center for the Sociological Study of Women (CSSW) in 1973, on the heels of Title IX of the Education Amendments, as women’s roles in the United States and elsewhere were undergoing massive changes. One of only two research centers on women in the nation at the time, CSSW had as its first project a study of the status of women at the UO.

1980s: Harris–Grant Endowment

In 1983, CSSW became the much larger Center for the Study of Women in Society (CSWS), beneficiaries of a generous bequest from editor William Harris and journalist Jane Grant. An early feminist, Grant was active in women’s rights issues long before second-wave feminism. She was the first female news reporter for *The New York Times* and one of the originators of *The New Yorker* magazine. During the 1960s, Grant and Harris advocated for research on women before it generally became accepted in American academic life, but they were unsuccessful in establishing a women’s research center—until a UO librarian contacted Harris about archiving Grant’s papers after her death in 1972. At \$3.5 million, the Harris–Grant endowment was at that time the biggest single gift ever awarded to the UO—and it was all for the purpose of improving the status of women in society by increasing knowledge about women (see story p. 4).

1990s: Women in the Northwest

In 1992, CSWS began a five-year research initiative to promote and spotlight research on women’s lives in the Pacific Northwest. Its purpose was to investigate how women’s lives are complex, historically conditioned, and fractured by other key aspects of identity in the region, especially race, class, and ethnicity. In 1997, CSWS received a second large private gift from Mazie Giustina to endow the Women in the Northwest Initiative. Because of this expansion, a core group of researchers—largely from the social sciences, history, and the professional schools—developed ongoing research that linked theoretical, substantive, and policy concerns about women, work, families, economic restructuring, social policy, politics, and the law. Today, the Mazie Giustina gift continues to provide funding for research projects related to women in the Northwest.



1995 photo of Sandra Morgen, left, with Mazie Giustina, who endowed the Women in the Northwest Initiative / CSWS archive photo.



Pictured from left are past CSWS directors Miriam Johnson, Cheris Kramarae, Sandra Morgen, and Joan Acker. Johnson and Acker helped to found the Center for the Sociological Study of Women (CSSW) in 1973 / CSWS archive photo.

2000s: Diversifying Leadership

The Women of Color (WOC) Project started in 2005 as a CSWS research interest group to address the current and historical absence of women of color leadership at the Center and on campus. In 2008, WOC received a Ford Foundation grant from the National Council for Research on Women (NCRW) to promote a leadership pipeline for women of color at universities. CSWS and the UO Office of the Vice President for Research provided matching funds to launch the WOC initiative. From 2008–2016, WOC developed under the leadership of Lynn Fujiwara, Lamia Karim, Gabriela Martinez, and Sangita Gopal, who all served as associate directors of CSWS. Later, WOC received funding from the Office of the Provost and other campus units to continue their mission in partnership with CSWS.

Over time, WOC has successfully diversified CSWS leadership and established a support system for junior women of color faculty to achieve tenure and promotion at the UO. Programs have included: small grants for individual projects and events across departments and schools; research workshops for assistant and associate professors to finish their research portfolio or to jumpstart their pipeline for post-tenure research; grant-writing workshops with expert consultants to review grant proposals for faculty wishing to submit applications to outside funders; and a fellowship that provides summer support to complete research projects that will have immediately measurable impacts.

“I think CSWS has been pivotal in my sense of community. I love being able to be part of a group of women, like the Women of Color Project that really made me give, really practice solidarity, and have a sense of community that helps each other and shares the challenges that we’re facing as women of color faculty, that we can ask questions and we can help each other get feedback. With WOC, I’ve participated in different types of events that have been really important in my career.”

—Cecillia Enjuto Rangel, Associate Professor of Spanish, University of Oregon

For Love of a Feminist

Jane Grant, William Harris, and the “Fund for the Study of Women”

by Jenée Wilde, Associate Teaching Professor, Department of English

In 1975, retired financial analyst and *Fortune* editor William B. Harris willed most of his estate to establish the “University of Oregon Fund for the Study of Women.” By the end of 1984, the sum of his endowment amounted to just over \$4 million, the largest single gift the university had ever received.¹ At a time when women’s studies was struggling to gain ground in the academy, what led Harris to fund research on women? The story of the Center for the Study of Women in Society’s greatest benefactor begins and ends with his love of a feminist, Jane C. Grant.

Early Years

Jane Grant learned early how to handle herself in the domains of men. Raised in a family with lots of males, she successfully navigated pressrooms, poker games, and variety shows in early twentieth-century New York City and wartime Paris. As she would write in 1943, “Adjusting myself to their world is one of the things at which I have been rather competent.”²

Born in 1892, Grant was raised in rural Missouri and Kansas. While the women in her family were expected to marry or become schoolteachers, Grant wanted neither. At 17 she moved to New York to study voice, where new friends introduced her to a sophisticated society life she grew to love. As a performer, however, she struggled to make ends meet. A steady job was the only way she could stay in her beloved New York.

So, like growing numbers of young women seeking independence in progressive-era New York, Grant took a business course and got a stenography job at *The New York Times* in 1914.

“[T]he Fourth Estate glowered at women in those days,” she would later write, “and despite warnings . . . that there would never be advancement for a woman at the *Times*, I began my career.”³

Grant learned the publishing world from the bottom up, working her way from the stenography pool to the society desk to hotel reporter after the First World War. By 1923, she was writing several syndicated



weekly columns and had become the first woman promoted to general assignment reporter at the *Times*. Married in 1920 to editor Harold Ross, the couple shared a publishing dream and cofounded *The New Yorker* magazine in 1925. Thanks to her keen financial sense and social aplomb in a business world dominated by men, Grant saved the magazine from ruin twice, once in its early days and once during the Second World War.⁴

While Grant had learned early to use male power to her advantage, it was only after her first marriage to Ross that she began to understand the price that women paid for that power. On the day of her wedding, when called “Mrs. Ross” by a witness, “I was jolted out of my apathy,” she wrote. “My heart stood still at the realization that my own little name had dissolved.”⁵

So she worked hard to keep it. In 1921, Grant and friend Ruth Hale founded the Lucy Stone League to fight for a woman’s right to her name in marriage. From property ownership to passport renewals, the roadblocks she tackled by maintaining her birth name awakened Grant to the larger problems of pervasive sex discrimination. But her growing feminism also irritated her husband. By 1929, even as *The New Yorker* succeeded, their marriage failed.

“My marriage to Miss Grant split largely on the reefs of women’s rights,” Ross later wrote.⁶

Romance

When William Harris met the divorced Grant at a cocktail party in 1934, her feminism was in full view. Having just returned from a seven-month trip around the world, her journalistic forays in China, Manchuria, Russia, and Europe included, among other stories, interviewing the director of the Nazi Foreign Press Bureau about restrictions on women in Hitler-occupied Germany.⁷

Harris fell in love with the independent-minded Miss Grant. For nearly five years, he ardently wooed her in New York, penning her many love letters when she traveled.

But Harris was married to another woman, so while his affair with Grant was passionate, it was hidden from public view. In September 1935 he told her, “Not that I even dare to hope that you’ll ever marry me—but at least I should like to be in a position to be seen with you on the street.”⁸

Grant had little financial incentive to marry again. As a journalist and *New Yorker* shareholder, she was assured of her ability to live as an independent woman. Her 1936 and 1937 letters to Harris describe not her feelings but her travels abroad and the people whose company she was enjoying, including good-looking men.⁹

The scales tipped in his favor in 1938. Sometime that year, Harris began divorce proceedings, having secured a stable position as literary editor at *Fortune* magazine. Also, Grant purchased acreage in Litchfield, Connecticut, including an old barn that she planned to renovate as a weekend and vacation retreat, accompanied by Harris. But when Grant told the woman who had owned the property of her plans, the woman said that neighbors would not take kindly to an unmarried couple living there.

Grant and Harris wed in 1939, before the renovations were complete. Splitting time between New York and their Connecticut



Left: Jane Grant's favorite photograph of herself, taken sometime in the 1950s. Above: Jane Grant and William Harris in their later years together / courtesy of the Jane Grant Photograph Collection, PH141, UO Libraries Special Collection.

retreat, which later became White Flower Farm, Grant and Harris lived their lives together until her death in 1972.¹⁰

The Cause

Grant's feminism began with the Lucy Stone League's fight for women's names in the 1920s, but in the following decades she became well versed in problems of women's civil and social rights. "Beginning mildly with names," she wrote, "I soon worked up indignation over other feminine taboos."¹¹

Though the League ceased activities in the late 1920s, Grant continued to write about women's rights in news columns and letters. She joined the Connecticut Committee for the Equal Rights Amendment when it was founded in 1943 and was active in the National Woman's Party, which was devoted to passage of the ERA. In 1956, Grant joined the national advisory committee of the Massachusetts Committee for the Equal Rights Amendment, the most successful state committee in the 1960s.¹²

Harris joined her quest, becoming a feminist advocate in his own right. He was a member of the Connecticut group's national advisory committee and later was a member of the same committee of

the Massachusetts ERA group. In 1955, he prepared a written brief countering an anti-ERA argument, which Grant then used at an American Civil Liberties Union debate to argue in favor of the ERA. And of course Harris joined the Lucy Stone League's advisory committee after Grant revived the organization in 1950.¹³

As president, Grant initially guided the league toward what she knew best—a woman's right to her own name. But times had changed, and new members were more troubled by widespread sex discrimination in postwar America. In 1951, members approved changing the organization's scope to include "activities to safeguard and extend all civil, legal, social, and political rights of women" and to serve as "a center for research and for information on the status of women."¹⁴

In the 1950s, Lucy Stoners made a practical difference by establishing small libraries honoring women's contributions to society and by funding scholarships for women studying in male-dominated fields. Grant also took to heart the League's new function as a research center. She wrote to countless authors and organizations to gather data and studies, drawing on this information in her many speeches and

letters protesting sex discrimination. Her work helped the League become known as a useful feminist resource, and she was asked to consult with the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor in 1961 and the President's Commission on the Status of Women in 1962.¹⁵

While Grant saw many of the requests for information the League received and personally collected much of the material it distributed, she also realized more research was needed if the problems of women were to be addressed. In 1964, Grant and League vice president Doris Stevens established the Harvard-Radcliffe Fund for the Study of Women to finance and promote "research and instruction in the problems of women in present and past societies anywhere."¹⁶

Harris and Grant plunged into raising money for the fund, eventually collecting about \$35,000 at a time when women's studies was not yet an academic discipline. In addition, Grant assigned to the fund all the income from publishing her memoir *Ross, "The New Yorker," and Me*. The couple also planned to will their estates as an endowment for a chair for the study of women. But Harvard "dragged its feet" on the fund and objected to their independent

continued on p. 7

Research

Since 1983, CSWS has awarded more than 960 grants to UO faculty, graduate, and undergraduate researchers who investigate the complexities of women’s lives and the intersecting nature of gender identities and inequalities across a range of disciplines in the natural and social sciences, humanities, arts, and professional schools.

Faculty Support

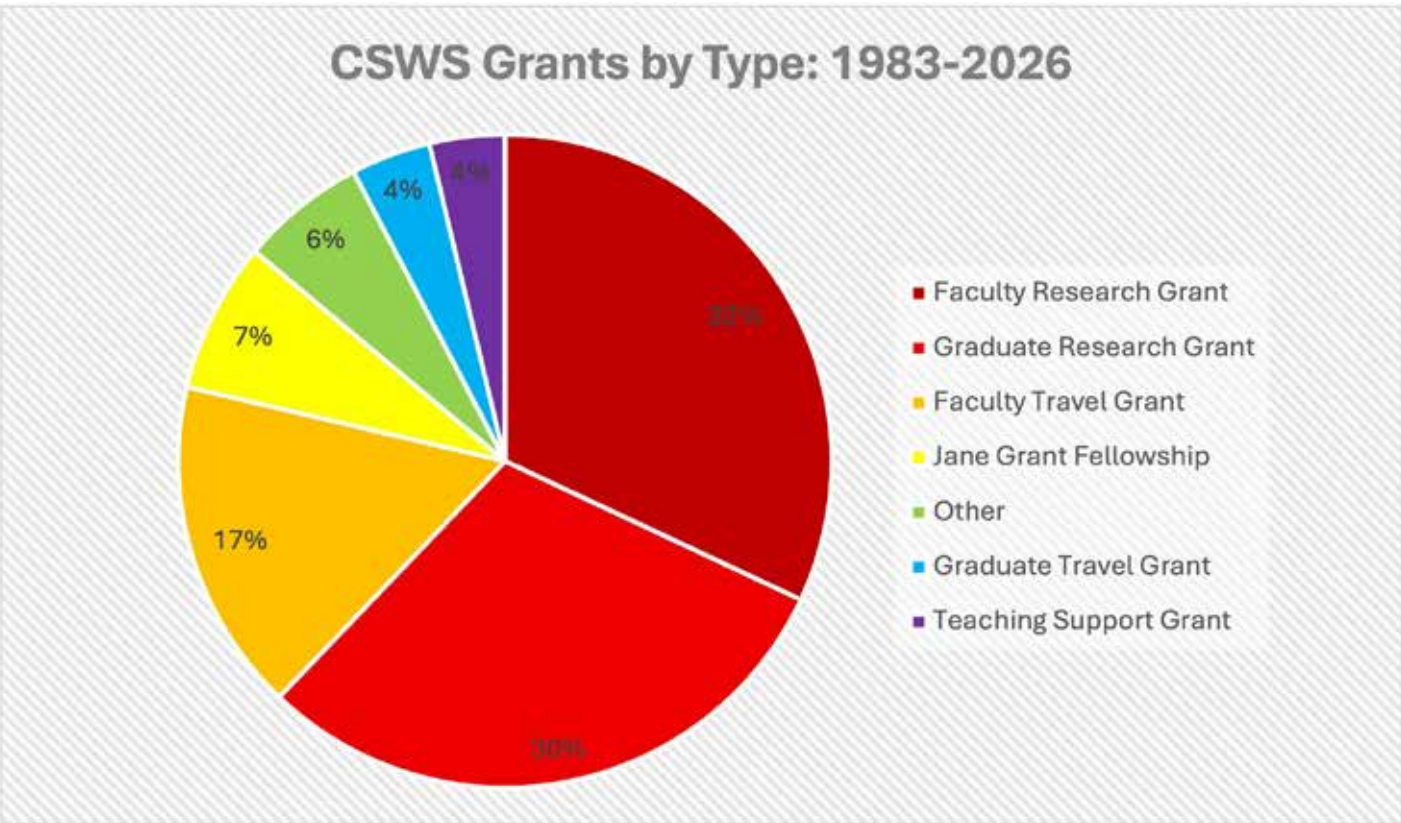
Faculty Research Grants

These small grants (up to \$6,000) provide support for a variety of research methods, such as archival research, visits to archeological and cultural sites, and ethnographic studies, as well as summer writing support and conference travel to engage with colleagues. This new knowledge production enhances their fields and student learning and skill building. Grants also provide seed funding for pilot projects that can be leveraged for large external grant applications.

Faculty Research Fellowships

Starting in AY 2026–27, in response to a changed funding landscape on campus, CSWS is awarding a new Faculty Research Fellowship that may be taken as a course release (up to \$20,000, not including OPE) or as research funds (up to \$15,000). The fellowship gives faculty at all ranks the focused time and resources needed to make significant progress on research projects.

Fig. 1: From 1983–2026, CSWS awarded a total of 962 grants. Two-thirds of those were given in support of faculty and graduate student research at the UO (including 238 Faculty Research Grants, 267 Graduate Student Research Grants, and 66 Jane Grant Dissertation Fellowships).



continued from p. 5

fundraising, Harris said later, so in the early 1970s, “we finished up with that institution.”¹⁷

The Legacy

Grant’s death in 1972 left Harris to decide what would become of her papers and their unfinished dream to fund the study of women. He found a solution to both in a letter from Ed Kemp, the acquisitions librarian for what was then called the University of Oregon Library Special Collections Department.

As a man who valued women’s accomplishments, Kemp had long been searching out the papers of women whom larger institutions had overlooked. After seeing Grant’s obituary in the *Times*, a little research told him that she was special. A year later when his travel schedule permitted, Kemp sent Harris a letter asking to see Grant’s papers. Harris agreed to a visit but had more on his mind, mentioning in his letter the couple’s attempt “to get some of the Eastern universities interested in a chair for the study of women.”¹⁸

In November 1974, Kemp met Harris in New York, looked over Grant’s papers, and gladly told him that they were valuable. Harris then asked if the University of Oregon had a women’s studies program, to which Kemp replied that it had just started a very small one. Harris said he would donate the papers, but as the two men continued talking over a long lunch, Kemp gradually realized that Harris also expected him to ask for the funds originally earmarked for Harvard, perhaps for Oregon’s women’s studies program. Stunned at the opportunity but knowing nothing of fundraising, Kemp returned to Eugene and went straight to president Robert D. Clark. “He jumped,” Kemp said later. “There was no persuasion needed.”¹⁹

Conditions at Oregon were ripe for the fund Harris wanted to establish. In 1970, an interdisciplinary research group reported that women were woefully under-represented among faculty tenure-track and staff positions. A year later, students organized the University Feminists (later becoming the ASUO Women’s Center) to fight for women’s services and the institutionalization of women’s studies on campus. Meanwhile, the research group had established a small center to encourage research on women across disciplines. By 1973, the Center for the Sociological Study of Women (CSSW) had received a three-year funding commitment from the university, and the State Board of Higher Education had approved the formation of a women’s studies program, the first of its kind in Oregon.

As a dean in the 1950s, Clark had tried and failed to create a program addressing



CSWS founders and friends, from left: UO librarian Ed Kemp; then CSWS director Sandra Morgen; president emeritus Robert Clark; and professors emeriti Marilyn Farwell, Joan Acker, and Don Van Houten / archive photo circa 1997.

women’s issues at Oregon. But the 1970s were different. “Because of the courage and foresight of feminists and their supporters,” he wrote to Harris, “we have a new perception of the role of women in our society.”²⁰

Harris’s past dealings with Eastern universities made him wary, but his talks and letters with Clark and Kemp, as well as a visit with CSSW faculty affiliates in Eugene, convinced him that Grant’s wishes would be fulfilled at Oregon. In May 1975, Clark received a letter from Harris’s attorney announcing a new will had been prepared in which “Mr. Harris intends to bequeath a very substantial portion of his estate to the ‘University of Oregon Fund for the Study of Women.’”²¹

Harris died in 1981, and CSSW worked to develop a women’s research center with a vision befitting the legacy of Jane Grant and the Lucy Stone League. After two years of planning, the renamed Center for the Study of Women in Society (CSWS) launched an expanded program of generating, supporting, and disseminating research on women through faculty and student grants, conferences and visiting scholar support, institutional collaborations, publications, the Jane Grant Dissertation Fellowship, and more.

While women have been leaders in feminist research and activism, it remains important also to remember the advocacy of men such as Harris, Kemp, and Clark. For love of a feminist, CSWS became possible. Its mission continues today through women and men who love equality for all. ■

—Jenée Wilde is an associate teaching professor of English and research dissemination specialist for the Center for the Study of Women in Society.

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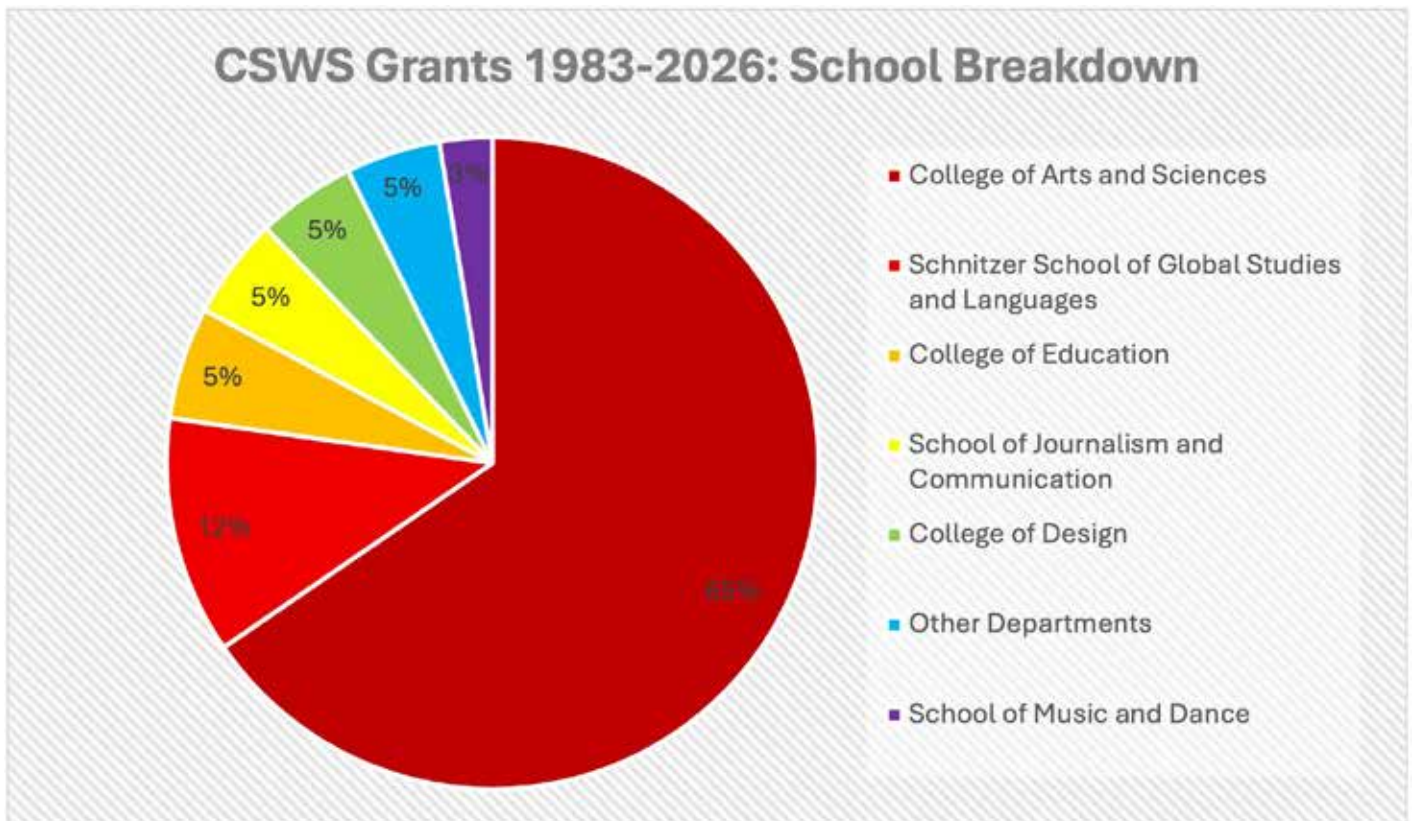


Fig. 2: CSWS has awarded grants to faculty, students, and staff across seven of UO's ten schools and colleges. Of the 962 CSWS grants awarded from 1983–2026, 625 (65%) were awarded within the College of Arts and Sciences, with another 115 (12%) awarded to departments now housed within the recently formed Schnitzer School of Global Studies and Languages.

Graduate Student Support

Jane Grant Dissertation Fellowship

CSWS has awarded the Jane Grant Dissertation Fellowship to graduate students at the University of Oregon since 1983. This highly competitive award provides a year of dissertation writing support for projects related to women and gender from a range of disciplines. The Jane Grant Fellow receives a \$27,000 stipend and UO student health insurance for the academic year. In addition, the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (OVPRI) provides tuition remission for the academic year.

Graduate Writing Completion Fellowships

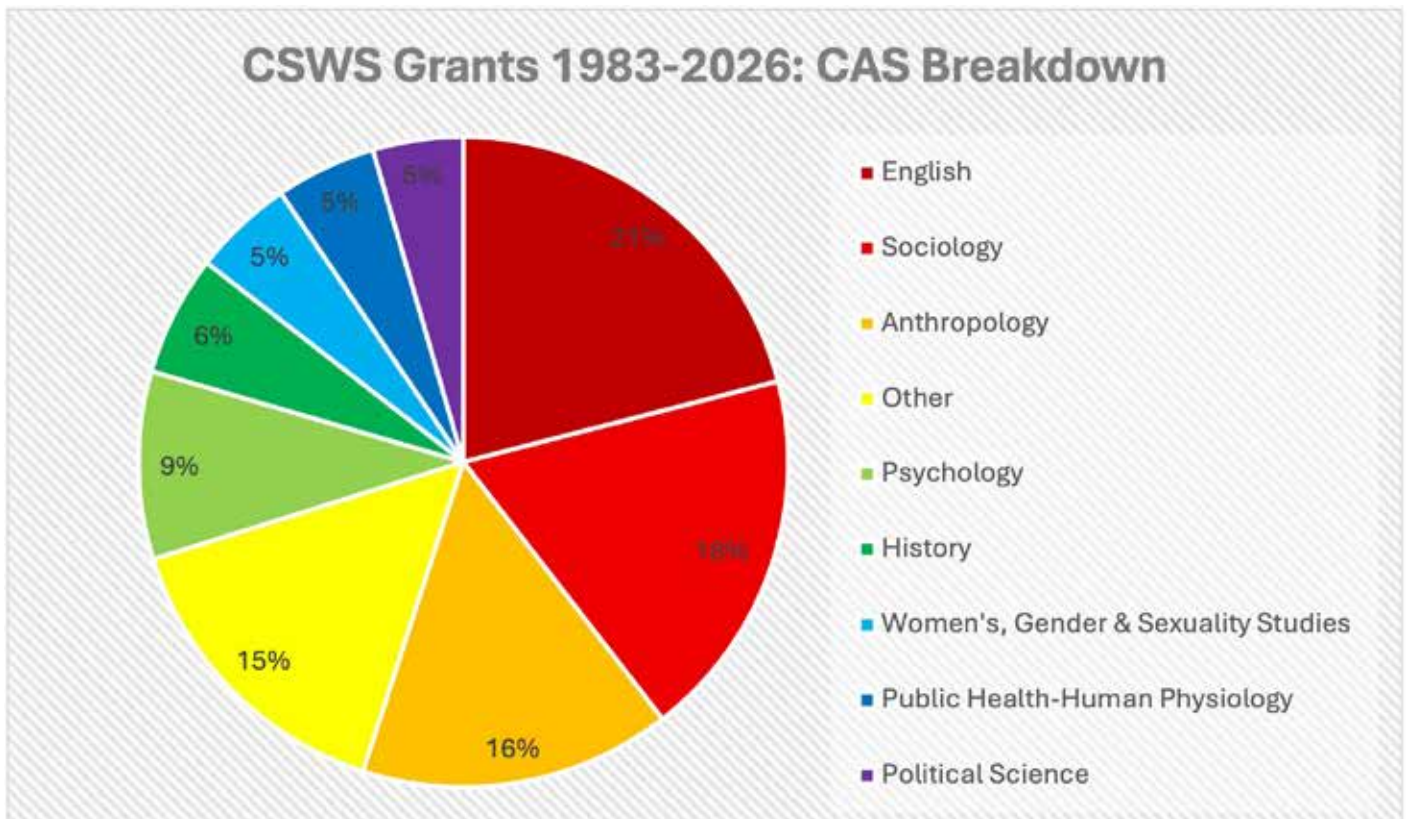
CSWS offers a \$3,000 Graduate Writing Completion Fellowship to doctoral students who are in the early stages of dissertation writing. The intent of this competitive fellowship is to provide a summer writing stipend to one or more top finalists for the Jane Grant Dissertation Fellowship. All dissertation award applicants are automatically considered for the writing stipend.

Graduate Student Research Grants

Available to UO graduate students, the CSWS Graduate Student Research Grants provide up to \$3,000 to support research and/or creative work on women and gender for UO students across all colleges and professional schools. These grants often fill a needed gap in funding from students' home departments, giving them the resources they need to complete a variety

"So what's really been important about having CSWS here? This research center has helped so many students, so many faculty, so many administrators over the years. By having CSWS here to help organize fascinating talks as well as giving grant support for our grad students and support for travel and support for research for faculty, CSWS has indeed played a really important role on campus."

—Anita M. Weiss, Professor Emerita of Global Studies, University of Oregon



of projects such as ethnographic studies, archival investigations, creative productions, and fieldwork around the globe.

Graduate Student Travel Grants

Conferences are a crucial part of students' professionalization and development as thinkers and researchers, but funding gaps can impact their ability to travel. To fill this need, CSWS travel grants provide up to \$300 of support for expenses incurred by UO graduate students giving a virtual or in-person workshop or conference presentation related to women and gender.

Undergraduate Student Support

Undergraduate STEAM Summer Research Fellowship

This fellowship is intended to create opportunities for cross-disciplinary collaborations among science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) fields on campus and to create and/or enhance pathways for underrepresented students in STEAM to succeed. CSWS provides grant funding for STEAM-field undergraduates (\$3,000) and faculty mentors (\$1,000) to partner on cross-disciplinary summer projects that support the CSWS mission.

Calderwood Seminars in Public Writing

With a \$97,000 grant from the Calderwood Foundation, CSWS is sponsoring six Calderwood Seminars over three years (Spring 2025 through Spring 2027) on gender-related topics across several departments at the UO. In Calderwood Seminars, students learn to translate complex arguments and professional jargon to make their writing accessible and interesting to a broad audience. Students revisit knowledge acquired in major coursework

Fig. 3: Of the 625 grants CSWS has awarded to faculty, students, and staff in the College of Arts and Sciences since 1983, a majority have been in the departments of English, sociology, and anthropology. However, the framing of gender-based research by our fellows is predominantly interdisciplinary and intersectional in nature.



Science fiction author Ursula K. Le Guin spoke at the CSWS 40th anniversary celebration. In 2013, CSWS established the Le Guin Fellowship for research in the feminist science fiction papers housed in the UO Libraries Special Collections and University Archives / photo by Jack Liu.

and shape it for general readers, while faculty receive specialized pedagogical training that enhances their own writing and teaching skills.

Internships and Student Workers

CSWS supports undergraduate employment and internship opportunities focused on building critical career-readiness skills. Our student workers and interns are mentored and taught a wide range of professional skills including multimedia communications, event planning and publicity, project management, office administration, problem solving, and critical thinking.

Jane Higdon Senior Thesis Scholarship

In 2009, CSWS established the Jane Higdon Senior Thesis Scholarship, which honors the life and work of Jane Higdon, a faculty researcher at the Linus Pauling Institute at OSU and an avid cyclist who was killed while bicycling on a rural road outside Eugene in May 2006. Financial support for the scholarship was provided by the Jane Higdon Foundation, which is dedicated to encouraging and empowering young people to pursue healthy and active lifestyles and academic excellence. For several years, recipients were awarded \$1,000 to work on a senior thesis on issues related to women and/or gender across disciplines at the UO.

The Le Guin Fellowship

As part of our 40th anniversary in 2013, CSWS established the Le Guin Feminist Science Fiction Fellowship. This \$3,000 award supports travel for the purpose of research on, and work with, the papers of feminist science fiction authors housed in the UO Libraries Special Collections and University Archives (SCUA). These short-term research fellowships are open to undergraduates, master's and doctoral students, postdoctoral scholars, college and university faculty at every rank, and independent scholars working in feminist science fiction.

SCUA houses the papers of authors Ursula K. Le Guin, Joanna Russ, James Tiptree Jr., Kate Wilhelm, Suzette Haden Elgin, Sally Miller Gearhart, Kate Elliot, Molly Gloss, Laurie Marks, and Jessica Salmonson, along with Damon Knight. SCUA is also in the process of acquiring the papers of other key feminist science fiction authors. The Le Guin Fellowship was originally sponsored by CSWS, SCUA, and the Robert D. Clark Honors College. In 2017, administration of the fellowship moved to the UO Libraries.

Research Interest Groups

In 1992, CSWS began strategic planning, from which two primary approaches took shape: CSWS-housed research initiatives—beginning with an endowment for the Women in the Northwest Initiative in 1992—and a new model of “substantive interest groups.” In 1994, the Center launched its bold new vision to foster scholarly collaboration through research interest groups, or RIGs.

While the Center had primarily funded individual research in earlier decades, the RIG model was designed to support a variety of intellectual and social connections among scholars working on gender in broadly related fields. Goals of RIGs include facilitating collaborative research and inquiry, assisting RIG members in preparing and submitting grant proposals, building



links between scholars and community activists, supporting innovative thinking about curricula and pedagogy, and creating opportunities for cross-disciplinary discussion among scholars. In 1995, CSWS awarded \$30,000 to several new RIGs, including Reclaiming the Past; Women's Health and Development; Women, Work, and Economic Restructuring; Women in Vietnam; Women and the Environment; RIG on the Right; and Rationality, Intuition, and Gender in Science and Other Creative Processes (RIG Squared).

For more than three decades, our RIGs have served many purposes. Some have been ephemeral, meeting a need for connection and intellectual community at a given moment, but many have had lasting impacts on the research communities of the UO and beyond. With up to \$1,000 in funding annually, RIGs may lead a discussion group, provide feedback on writing projects, invite guest speakers to campus, organize a symposium or conference, collaborate on research projects, and much more.

Special Projects and Initiatives

CSWS special project funding provides seed money (up to \$5,000) for projects with well-formulated, collaborative ideas and plans from affiliated faculty members, RIG members, and CSWS staff. Special projects are those that have potential for either external funding or activities that will make them sustainable parts of CSWS programming and initiatives.

In 1998, for example, the Women and the Environment RIG was awarded a \$250,000 Rockefeller Foundation grant to study the intersections of gender, science, and the sacred. Not only was it the first Rockefeller grant received by the UO, it was also the first to be awarded in the humanities in the state. In 2001, the Women's Health and Aging Research Initiative received just over \$1 million from the National Institutes of Health for two studies on the acceptability of the vaginal diaphragm among women for protection against pregnancies and some sexually transmitted diseases.

Over time some RIGs have developed into their own centers, such as the UO Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies and the UO Wired Humanities Project. Others have expanded into major regional and national partnerships.

Beginning as a RIG in 2011, the Women Writers Project was so successful that it migrated into CSWS Special Project status as the Northwest Women Writers Symposium in 2012. The initiative sought to foster and enhance opportunities for women writers on campus, in the community, and throughout the Pacific Northwest; to bring distinct voices of published women writers to campus; and to support the work of creative writing by bringing together writers from different disciplines. This program was aimed toward exploring local, regional, and university collaborations, most notably through an evolving annual women writers conference. From 2013 to 2018, CSWS collaborated with Eugene Public Library to host a portion of the symposium in its downtown facility to increase public access to events.

Established in 2010, the Gender, New Media, and Technology RIG incubated the wide-reaching Fembot Collective—an international collaboration among faculty, graduate students, media producers, artists, and librarians that promotes research on gender in media production spaces and supports an open peer reviewing process for their online journal, *ADA: A Journal of Gender, New Media, and Technology*.

"From its start, Reclaiming the Past seemingly went against the stream in several ways. The RIGs aimed to foster collaborative work, but joint projects are unusual in the humanities. Moreover, CSWS itself, in its origins and founding vision, was oriented towards the social sciences and professional schools. Fortunately, we feminists are accustomed to operating not only in, but also alongside and outside the "mainstream" of academia, which rarely regards feminist projects as central to funding goals. Our participants were eager to explore collaborative models, learning from feminist scholars in other disciplines and seeing what forms we could adapt to our own work. Perhaps our totem should be the salmon; upsteam progress has been fruitful."

—Dianne Dugaw, English;
Amada Powell, Romance
Languages, Spanish, and
Latin American Studies; and
Barbara Altman, Romance
Languages and French
(*From the Center* Fall/Winter
2003 newsletter)

Feminist Futures

A Timeline of Fem

1970s

1970 – A report on “The Status of Women at the University of Oregon” finds women woefully underrepresented among faculty tenure-track and staff positions, earning lower wages, and clustered around stereotypically female disciplines. Joan Acker teaches “Women’s Role in Society” through the Sociology Department, the first course to focus solely on this subject.

1971 – Federal audits find UO guilty of discriminatory policies against women. Students organize the **University Feminists** to fight for women’s services and the institutionalization of women’s studies on campus. University Feminists secure gynecological services at the student health center. Women who had been denied health services for decades now had access for two hours each week.

1972 – Congress passes Title IX legislation prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex in any educational program or activity receiving federal financial assistance. The first Introduction to Women’s Studies course is offered at UO, taught by a graduate teaching assistant.

1973 – **The Center for the Sociological Study of Women (CSSW)** is founded within UO’s Sociology Department, with Joan Acker serving as director. Faculty members pursue research on women, and graduate students begin writing dissertations on women. The Oregon State Board of Higher Education approves the formation of a Women’s Studies Program at UO, the first of its kind in Oregon. More than 30 university feminists take

over the steps of Johnson Hall to demand childcare facilities for all university women, immediate hiring of a full-time coordinator for a women’s studies department, funding for women’s studies faculty, free access to continuing education for low-income women, increased access to women’s health care, and a campus women’s research center.

1973 – UO librarian Edward Kemp writes to *Fortune* editor William Harris in New York to ask about acquiring the papers of his late wife, **Jane C. Grant**, an early women’s liberationist and cofounder of *The New Yorker* magazine. Harris offers to show Kemp Grant’s papers.

1974 – Kemp meets with Harris in New York to examine Grant’s papers. Harris asks if UO has a women’s studies program, and Kemp tells Harris about the Center for the Sociological Study of Women. Harris donates Grant’s papers and talks about establishing a fund for the study of women at UO. UO President Robert Clark meets with William Harris in New York to discuss the fund. Harris expresses frustration that other universities have wanted to use the money he intends to donate for purposes other than women’s studies.

1975 – President Clark receives a letter from a law firm announcing that William Harris intends to bequeath a very substantial portion of his estate to the “University of Oregon Fund for the Study of Women.” Harris visits Eugene as the guest of President Clark and meets with leading UO faculty doing research on women. Two years following its approval by the state board of higher education, the **Women’s Studies** certificate program is launched at UO. University Feminists change their name to **Women’s Resource and Referral Service (WRRS)** and continue advocating for women’s rights on campus.

1976 – The UO Library Special Collections Department receives the papers and photographs of Jane Grant, as well as her personal book collection.

1977 – William Harris sells White Flower Farm and changes his will to reflect, with a few small exceptions, that his entire estate is to go to “the University of Oregon Fund for the Study of Women.” The Women’s Resource & Referral Service (WRRS) coordinates the first weeklong Women’s Symposium.

1979 – The WRRS organizes the first campus Take Back the Night rally, march, and speak-out in conjunction with Sexual Assault Support Services, called the Eugene Rape Crisis Center at that time.

1980s

1981 – The UO Foundation receives a \$3.5 million endowment from the estate of William



Harris for a women’s research center. At the time it was the largest gift UO had received from a single donor. Planning begins to expand the mission of the Center for the Sociological Study of Women (CSSW).

1983 – CSSW changes its name to the **Center for the Study of Women in Society (CSWS)** to reflect its broader mission to generate, support, and disseminate research on women.

1987 – CSWS expands its annual publication into a glossy magazine format with full-color cover. The CSWS *Review* is designed to acquaint a broad scholarly audience with the Center and its ongoing research projects.

1988 – Project Safe Ride, the Women’s Resource & Referral Service, Women in Transition, and the Women’s Task Force join to form the **ASUO Women’s Center**.

1990s

1990 – CSWS implements “A University for Everyone,” a two-year curriculum program to integrate scholarship on women of color into large survey classes in the social sciences and humanities. It represents the first full-scale attempt to promote curriculum integration of materials on either race or gender at UO.

1992 – Further shaping its identity as a center for research on women, CSWS launches Women in the Northwest—a major initiative to promote, support, and disseminate research on women in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest, as well as across regions, national borders, and racial, ethnic, and class lines.

1993 – The Women’s Studies Program and the Center for the Study of Women in Society move to the third floor of Hendricks Hall. CSWS hosts “At the Epicenter: Women, Research & Communities” to celebrate ten



Joan Acker

inist Research, Teaching, and Activism on Campus

years since the Center began administering the Harris–Grant endowment.

1995 – CSWS honors life-long Oregon resident and centenarian Mazie Onorato Giustina for her gift of \$100,000 to support the Women in the Northwest Research Project. In the coming decades, the initiative will fund numerous visiting scholars, research conferences, and publications.

1997 – The State Board of Education approves the **Women’s Studies Major** at UO, though the Women’s Studies Program remains without independent departmental status.

1999 – CSWS launches *Policy Matters*, a series of reports that consider issues of public policy affecting women and their families and communities in Oregon, the Pacific Northwest, and beyond. *Policy Matters* was produced as part of Center’s Women in the Northwest research initiative. The UO Knight Library exhibits materials from the Jane C. Grant collection, “Talk of the Town: Jane Grant, *The New Yorker*, and the Oregon Legacy of a Twentieth-Century Feminist.”

2000s

2000 – Major research initiatives at CSWS include the Women in the Northwest project, the Feminist Humanities Project, the Women’s Health and Aging initiative, and Ecological Conversations: Gender, Science, and the Sacred.

2005 – CSWS provides support to establish the **Center for Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality Studies** at UO. The goal of CRESS is to highlight intersectional research being done by UO faculty and to generate a climate of intellectual exchange and conversation about that work. For six years, CRESS fills a need for intersectional research and BIPOC faculty mentorship that is later taken up by CSWS, CLLAS, and the WOC Project.

2007 – Through a Research Interest Group on the Americas, CSWS begins incubation of a new center that will focus on Latin America and U.S. Latino/a populations.

2008 – CSWS is awarded a Ford Foundation grant from the National Council for Research on Women (NCRW) to foster women of color in leadership positions in UO administration. The Women of Color Project has since evolved into a vital ongoing research, mentoring, and support network for BIPOC women faculty at all levels.

2009 – The Women’s Studies Program becomes the **Department of Women’s and Gender Studies** at UO. The Queer Studies minor is established in WGS, and the Sally Miller Gearhart Fund for Lesbian Studies is

established to enable WGS to bring outstanding scholars to campus.

2010s

2010 – After three years of development within CSWS, the **Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies** is established as an independent research center at UO. The purpose of CLLAS is to facilitate collaborative research, scholarship, intellectual community, and community outreach focused on Latin America and U.S. Latino/a populations. CLAAS shares office space with CSWS on the third floor of Hendricks Hall.

2011 – The annual **Northwest Women Writers Symposium** (NWWS) program begins as a CSWS Research Interest Group to bring regional women authors to campus. It is so successful that it migrates into Special Project status as the Women Writers Project in 2012, then becomes an internal CSWS program in 2014. From 2013 to 2018, CSWS collaborates with Eugene Public Library to host a portion of the symposium in its downtown facility to increase public access to readings, talks, and workshops. The final symposium is held in 2018.

2013 – CSWS launches the **Le Guin Feminist Science Fiction Fellowship**, in collaboration with the Clark Honors College and UO Libraries’ Special Collections and University Archives. The award supports travel for the purpose of research on, and work with, the papers of feminist science fiction authors housed in special collections. SCUA continues to oversee the fellowship.

2017 – CSWS establishes the Acker–Morgen



Sandra Morgen

Memorial Lectureship honoring two powerful feminist voices, founding director Joan Acker and longtime Center director Sandra Morgen, both of whom passed away in 2016. The annual lecture series commemorates their legacies by bringing to campus renowned feminist scholars who work on economic justice and gender equity—issues that were very near and dear to both Joan and Sandi.

2018 – Work begins on “Outliers and Outlaws: The Eugene Oral History Project,” which includes filmed oral histories with 83 narrators, a digital exhibit, a museum exhibit, and a documentary film. CSWS provides seed funding for the project’s website and documentary film.

2019 – The UO Department of Women’s and Gender Studies changes its name to the **Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies** to better reflect developments in the discipline and unit, including a new Queer Studies Minor.

2020s

2020 – CSWS sends an urgent request to UO leadership asking for action to alleviate labor inequities that have arisen from the coronavirus pandemic. The Center’s Caregiver Campaign gathers faculty testimonials and collaborates with United Academics to make lasting changes to UO’s caregiving and employee assistance policies.

2023 – CSWS celebrates five decades of supporting feminist research, scholarship, teaching, and advocacy at the University of Oregon with a year of programming.

2025 – CSWS begins undergraduate Calderwood Seminars and STEAM Research Fellowships with 50th anniversary fundraising. ■



Public Programming



Below: Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Sheryl WuDunn presents the inaugural CSWS Lorwin Lecture / photo by Jack Liu.

Lorwin Lectureship

Created in 2009 with funding from the estate of Val and Madge Lorwin, the Lorwin Lecturship on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties invites high-profile scholars and experts to speak at the University of Oregon to promote greater appreciation for the importance of civil rights. The lectureship, overseen by the College of Arts and Sciences and the UO School of Law, is administered on a rotating basis by CSWS, the Oregon Humanities Center, and the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics. CSWS Lorwin events have included renowned speakers Anita Hill, Cherrie Moraga, Wendy Murphy, and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Sheryl WuDunn, plus a range of panels and symposia on urgent women's rights issues.

Acker–Morgen Memorial Lectureship

Established in 2017, the Acker–Morgen Lecture honors two powerful feminist voices: CSWS founding director Joan Acker and longtime Center director Sandra Morgen, both of whom passed away in 2016. This annual lecture series commemorates their legacies by bringing to the UO campus feminist scholars who work on issues of economic justice and gender equity. For example, in 2022 UC Berkeley Professor Raka Ray spoke on “The Politics of Masculinity in the Absence of Work,” which examined what men in India do when faced with structural irrelevance in the workplace.



Public Talks

CSWS invites intersectional feminist thinkers to the UO to give free public talks and lead workshops on critical issues related to women and gender, and we organize panels and symposia on themes that support the CSWS mission. For example, in 2019-20, CSWS put together a series of talks for the Race, Ethnicities, and Inequalities Colloquium. Speakers included Annie Isabel Fukushima on “Witnessing Violence in these Migratory Times,” Sylvanna M. Falcón on “Finding ‘light born in darkness’: The Urgency of Feminist Activism in these Times,” and Tiffany Lethabo King on “The When and Where of Our Talk: The Shoals of Black and Native Feminisms.” We also share works in progress by our faculty and graduate student research fellows through our CSWS Noon Talk series.

In addition, CSWS promotes the groundbreaking work of UO faculty and visiting scholars and artists through partnerships on symposia and speaker series that are free and open to the public. For example, in Spring 2023, CSWS collaborated with the UO Environmental Initiative to present *Haunting Ecologies: The Past, Present, and Future of Feminist and Indigenous Approaches to Forest Fire*. This two-week event series included the 2023 Acker–Morgen Memorial Lecture as well as a “Native Ecologies” panel that featured native scholars and activists from regional tribes discussing indigenous land management practices. Both events were presented in conjunction with *Ghost Forest*—a photography exhibit by Eugene artist Sarah Grew, featuring UO School of Music and Dance Instructor Jon Bellona’s sound installation *Wildfire*. In 2019, CSWS helped the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies to bring to campus Judge Yassmin Barrios, who was the presiding judge in the prominent case against former dictator General Efraín Ríos Montt. The trial concluded with his conviction for genocide against the indigenous Ixil Mayans of Guatemala, marking the first time a former head of state was tried for genocide in his home country. She delivered a lecture titled “Justice and Reparation in Guatemala: Challenges and Possibilities” to a sizeable audience of campus and community members.

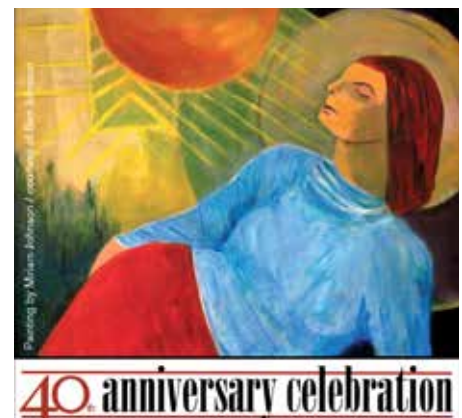
40th Anniversary Celebration

In November of 2013, CSWS presented three days of anniversary events showcasing feminist research, teaching, and activism at the UO, including a documentary film screening and two symposia.

Kicking off the celebration was the premiere of *Agents of Change: A Legacy of Feminist Research, Teaching, and Activism at the University of Oregon* (2013) by Gabriela Martinez, an award-winning documentary filmmaker and professor at the School of Journalism and Communication. The documentary chronicles the development of the Center for the Study of Women in Society within the broader context of the women’s movement. Through a combination of archival footage, photographs, documents, and interviews, the film provides new insights into the efforts and challenges of creating a program for the study of women, and the struggle for amplifying discourse about women in academia. Special guest speakers at the screening spoke on women in leadership and the founding of CSWS.



University of Utah Professor Annie Isabel Fukushima gave a talk on “Witnessing Violence in these Migratory Times” for the 2019–2020 CSWS Race, Ethnicities, and Inequalities Colloquium series / photo by Jack Liu.





The “Women’s Stories, Women’s Lives” Symposium explored four decades of feminist research and activism through the personal narratives, visual illustrations, and dialogue of more than 20 women activists, professionals, scholars, and community leaders. Sessions explored four decades of feminist research and activism—the 1970s, 1980s, 1990s, and the 21st century—through five interwoven themes: women’s rights, violence against women, women’s health, activism and policy, and education and employment.

The Sally Miller Gearhart “Worlds Beyond World” Feminist Science Fiction Symposium opened with a special evening event, “A Conversation with Ursula K. Le Guin,” setting the stage for feminist speculations of future worlds at the all-day symposium that followed. Sessions included “Feminists in the Archives,” “Feminist Science Fiction as Political Theory,” “Building Feminist Worlds,” and “Directions in Feminist Science Fiction Research.”

Special anniversary exhibits included “Women’s Stories, Women’s Lives,” a photography exhibition from the permanent collection of the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art; “40 Years Strong: A Timeline of Feminist Research, Teaching, and Activism on Campus” in the UO Knight Library; and an exhibit at the Eugene Airport highlighting the CSWS mission and impacts over time.

50th Anniversary Celebration

Right from the start, CSWS leaders, affiliates, and collaborators imagined the CSWS 50th anniversary as an opportunity to reach beyond the usual partnerships. From the UO Environmental Initiative to the School of Music and Dance, and from UO Common Reading to the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, we built a program of events that speak to the ways that intersectional feminism informs research, scholarship, and creative production across the University of Oregon and shapes our collective visions of social justice.

Collaborative 50th anniversary programming began in Spring 2023 with the “Haunting Ecologies” event series on environmental justice, in partnership with the UO Environmental Initiative. Held during Spring 2023, events included “Native Ecologies,” a panel discussion on Indigenous histories and approaches to fire management; the annual Acker–Morgen Memorial Lecture on “Desire in the Aftermath of Environmental Violence” with Professor M. Murphy from the University of Toronto; and the exhibit *Ghost Forest*, with photography by Eugene artist Sarah Grew and featuring Jon Bellona’s sound installation *Wildfire*.

Fall 2023 kicked off with the *Hypatia Journal* 40th Anniversary Conference, held in September at UO, followed by an October talk and panel discussion with Professor Diana Greene Foster, author of *The Turnaway Study: Ten Years, a Thousand Women, and the Consequences of Having—or Being Denied—an Abortion*. Foster’s book was one of six UO Common Reading selections for the year connected to CSWS events on the theme of “Feminist Futures: Research on Women and Gender in Society.” The busy Fall schedule continued in November with literary agent Anjali Singh and graphic journalist Shay Mirk in conversation, in partnership with Comics Studies. Screenings and panel discussions were held with avant-garde feminist filmmaker Su Friedrich and media artist Gelare Khoshgozaran, in partnership with Cinema Studies. The term wrapped up with a special History of Women in Science Symposium, featuring a keynote address by Professor Lisa Weasel, Portland State University, on “Gender in the History and Future of Science.”

Winter 2024 saw the opening of “Artists, Constellations, and Connections:



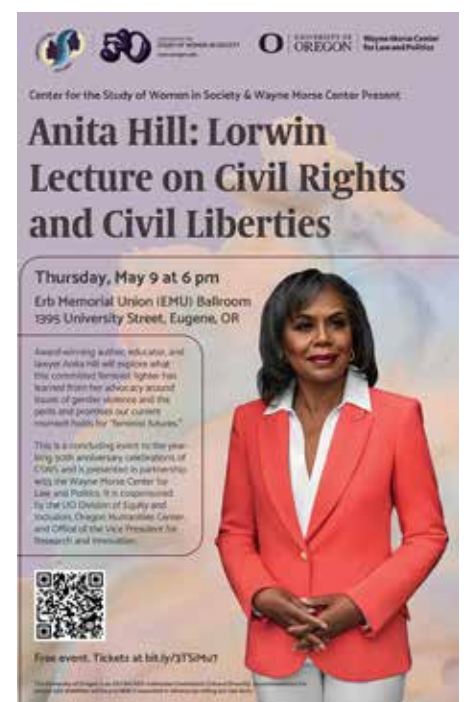


Feminist Futures” at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art. For the first time, works from UO art faculty members were displayed alongside selections from the museum’s permanent collection, with tours and artist talks linked to our 50th anniversary theme. In January, Professor Patti Duncan from Oregon State University gave a talk on the past, present, and futures of feminist knowledge and praxis in “The State of the Field,” in partnership with Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. In February, acclaimed former *New Yorker* editor Tina Brown spoke about her legendary career, in partnership with the School of Journalism and Communication. In March, CSWS partnered with the School of Music and Dance for the very first time to produce a showcase of dance, music, and discussion with faculty performers and invited guests on the theme “Feminist Futures.” The term concluded with a COACH workshop on “Effective Communication and Negotiation for Career Success” for early- and mid-career women faculty members at UO.

The year-long programming concluded in May 2024 with two marquee events: the Lorwin Lecture on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties with Professor Anita Hill, in partnership with the Wayne Morse Center, and the CSWS “Feminist Futures” Alumni Symposium. Dr. Hill spoke about the civil rights and feminist movements in the United States, the unfortunate curtailment of those freedoms in recent years, and the possibility and promise of a bright future ahead. Highlighting the immense civic value of inclusion, Dr. Hill concluded her speech by citing the efforts of the many activists and organizations currently working to realize the dreams of intersectional equality.

Three panels of faculty affiliates, former grant fellows, and friends of the Center participated in our 50th Anniversary Alumni Symposium. The “Shaping a Feminist Research Center” leadership panel opened the event with stories of what influenced CSWS’s identity as a feminist research center over time. Next, the “Incubating Feminist Futures” special projects panel shared the history and important outcomes of several CSWS Research Interest Groups and initiatives. Finally, the “Envisioning Feminist Futures” alumni panel discussed the long-term impacts of funding feminist research, scholarship, and creative work for UO graduate students and faculty. A total of 30 panelists responded to questions related to each session’s focus, as well as the “Feminist Futures” 50th anniversary theme (see story p. 18).

School of Music and Dance faculty Shannon Mockli (pictured right) and Bárbara Lima (middle) presented the improvised dance piece “(un)refined” at the “Feminist Futures” performance, with original music by Akiko Hatakeyama (left). Watch performance highlights on the CSWS YouTube channel / photo by Jack Liu.



Past Lessons, Future Visions

from the 50th Anniversary Alumni Symposium

by Jenée Wilde, Associate Teaching Professor, Department of English

On May 10, 2024, three panels of faculty affiliates, former grant fellows, and friends of the Center participated in the Center for the Study of Women in Society's 50th Anniversary Alumni Symposium.

The "Shaping a Feminist Research Center" leadership panel opened the event with stories of what influenced CSWS's identity as a feminist research center over time. Next, the "Incubating Feminist Futures" special projects panel shared the history and important outcomes of several CSWS Research Interest Groups and initiatives. Finally, the "Envisioning Feminist Futures" alumni panel discussed the long-term impacts of funding feminist research, scholarship, and creative work for UO graduate students and faculty.

A total of 30 panelists responded to questions related to each session's focus, as well as the "Feminist Futures" 50th anniversary theme. As participants shared stories of how CSWS funding, programming, leadership, and collaborations have impacted their professional and personal lives, several overarching themes emerged during the symposium. What follows is a synthesis of these themes in terms of looking inward, outward, and forward.

Looking Inward

What kind of space is CSWS? What and who has it supported over time?

Interdisciplinary feminist scholarship often is not recognized or validated by traditional departments, so the Center is an intellectual space for us to come together, to share our ideas, and to advance intersectional feminisms across disciplinary divides. We do this through grant funding, special projects, and Research Interest Groups (RIGs) that connect faculty, graduate students, and communities for interdisciplinary inquiry and collaboration. We do this through speakers, symposia, and conferences that bring to campus cutting-edge feminist thinkers and activists from across the disciplines. And we do this through major research initiatives and partnerships that focus on key regional, national, and global issues that impact women and girls, low-income families, minority groups, and more.

Some outcomes of our intellectual community mentioned during the symposium include, among many others, the very first RIG—Reclaiming the Past—which organized talks, conferences, and archival exhibits and

led eventually to the UO Medieval Studies Program; numerous research studies, symposia, conferences, and documentaries produced by the Americas RIG; and the incubation and launch of the Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies.

CSWS is an intergenerational mentoring space where graduate students make connections with peers and faculty outside of departmental silos and learn by example how to work together to create spaces and programs that serve our needs. "It has struck me today that a lot of the good ideas about what I should do at my own institution have come from here," said UO alumna Miriam Abelson, a former Jane Grant Dissertation Fellow who is now an associate professor and head of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Portland State University. "How should I be a colleague? How should I be a feminist pushing back at my institution? How can I mentor junior colleagues? Those ideas came from the folks here and from so many of the initiatives that I took part in, so I'm really grateful for that time and the support from this community."

CSWS is a space of solidarity where faculty and graduate students who are *in* but not *of* the university can find each other. We are a "soft landing" for new faculty to find like-minded colleagues who can help them navigate quagmires in departmental and institutional culture and politics, and we are a collaborative space for "subversive intellectuals" to build needed programs for diverse faculty and graduate students. Whether through informal relationships or long-running programs like the Women of Color Project, we support each other through professional advancement and career challenges, lending our hard-earned wisdom to lift each other up when the institution seems intent on keeping us down.

"It's very easy to feel deflated when the university works against you—or when society works against you—when you know what you need," said Ernesto Martínez, associate professor and head of Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies. "I feel deflated when I think of myself as an individual, but when I think of myself as a collective, I feel animated to do something . . . I'm interested in the way that we animate each other to both be critical of the world but also to think about possibility."

For five decades, CSWS has been a space of possibility.

Looking Outward

What impacts has CSWS had on the UO and beyond?

Intersectional gender inequities are embedded in institutions and perpetuate sexism, racism, and other inequities, as aptly demonstrated by CSWS-sponsored research by Joan Acker, Sandi Morgen, and many others over the Center's history. As such, CSWS has always functioned as an activist space where we call out practices that are unfavorable to women and inequitable for all and advocate for policy changes at local, state, and national levels.

"Joan showed us that you can't assume that an organization is gender neutral," said professor, economist, and policy advisor Margaret Hallock, founding director of the Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics (WMC) and former director of the UO Labor Education and Research Center (LERC). "Sandi was very theoretical, but she always led by asking, what does this mean for women's lives? She didn't believe in the public-private split. She thought it was all one and tried to teach us all how to deal with that."

With partners such as WMC and LERC, Hallock said, CSWS can mobilize the kinds of resources that are available in a large public research university to highlight the issues that affect women's lives, especially in the region and state, in order to "move the needle" on policies that impact women, children, and families in all of their diversity.

Examples of direct interventions mentioned during the symposium include an initiative to evaluate the effectiveness of 1996 Welfare-to-Work policies and make recommendations for renewing temporary assistance programs; an initiative in the early 2000s to evaluate classification and compensation in Oregon to alleviate gender-based pay inequities between female-dominated and male-dominated jobs; and a campaign with United Academics to change labor policies at UO that affected caregivers during the 2020 pandemic.

Panelists remembered Acker and Morgen throughout the day as role models for feminist leadership and activism.

"Sandi taught me more than any other single person what a feminist research center could do and should aim to do to make the world a better place," said historian Ellen Herman, co-director of the Wayne Morse Center.



Pictured from left, panelists Sangita Gopal, Michael Hames Garcia, Michelle McKinely, Vickie DeRose, Ernesto Martinez, Ellen Herman, Margaret Hallock, Priscilla Ovalle, Tannaz Farsi, and Marilyn R. Farwell discuss what over time has shaped the identity of CSWS as a feminist research center / photo by Jack Liu.

“Getting to listen and talk about Mrs. Acker today has greatly expanded my love and esteem for her,” said UO alumnus Thomas Beaumont, a former student of Acker’s and a retired professor and clinical social worker at the University of Minnesota. “She meant so much to me.”

For five decades, CSWS has been a space of advocacy and activism.

Looking Forward

What will intersectional feminisms look like in the 21st century? What can CSWS do to support this work?

CSWS has built a legacy of feminist research, solidarity, community, and activism for present and future generations at the University of Oregon. But as current rollbacks to our civil liberties and social freedoms demonstrate, the work of social justice activism cannot rest. New strategies are needed if we are to create and sustain feminist futures. During the symposium, panelists shared their visions of what this project might look like.

What does it mean to be a feminist or feminist scholar in the 21st century? We are still applying 20th-century approaches to issues that are born of entirely different social contexts, with new technologies, new social movements, and new ways of defining gender. So for feminist scholars of an older generation, we need to ask ourselves, how do we embrace this new era? What parts of our feminist legacies do we carry forward, and what parts do we update or set aside to meet the needs of the next five decades? What exactly is feminist research today, and how do we deliver and disseminate that research to reach people beyond our academic silos—to engage students as early as high school and to reach across social and political divides? How do we engage people in all parts of the world and raise the funding to make that

happen? How do we organize and collaborate internationally? One way to imagine how feminist research, solidarity, community, and activism can develop over the next decade is to pay attention to and support the visions of our graduate and undergraduate students and teach them how to communicate their research effectively in public spaces.

Academia is lonely, so another way to create a feminist future is to expand the Women of Color Project model and offer mentorship and support to young women faculty, queer faculty, and disabled faculty. Because senior colleagues are still predominantly white men in many UO departments, a program could be created where a senior CSWS faculty affiliate can receive a small stipend to mentor a junior minority faculty member on how to navigate the university and speak the language of the institution, how to secure grants and career opportunities, how to navigate work-life balance given who we are and how we’re positioned on campus, and how to advocate for our own and our family’s needs in order to protect our time and energy from institutional service demands. A similar funded mentorship structure could be developed among early and advanced graduate students who are female-identified, BIPOC, queer, first generation, and disabled. These students often enter their home departments without any real sense of support, especially BIPOC students entering a predominantly white institution for the first time. So a feminist future is identifying the ways in which we’re being told we don’t belong or measure up, and doing what it takes to change those beliefs.

A feminist future is having the space and time to do our research during the regular work week, rather than sacrificing time for family, caregiving, and personal health needs. Given the teaching and service loads at all levels, there is little support for our research and creative output, despite the UO being an

R1 institution. A solution could be research grants that offer time rather than money so our affiliates can be relieved of teaching or service burdens to complete their work.

A feminist future most obviously includes the concept of gender equity, though we should not take that for granted as we are in a moment when a dedication to diversity and inclusion, social justice, and concepts and initiatives that have empowered diverse communities are now under attack. We must think about the current rise of authoritarianism globally and the rolling back of women’s and human rights, and how democracy and social justice are interdependent. So a feminist future is a democratic one and must include these concepts and socially just spaces.

For a feminist future, we must also think bigger. As Dr. Anita Hill said in the Lorwin Lecture, we can take a bigger approach to gender-based violence. Big problems like this need a multidisciplinary approach, so we need to research collaboratively across academic and public spaces to find solutions and advocate for changes. Looking at all that we have learned and accomplished over 50 years of a feminist research center, what big problem should we focus on next, pulling together all our resources as CSWS affiliates across the UO campus and beyond? Collectively, we have the potential for multidisciplinary grants—partnerships that bring together researchers in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities to address a major question through multiple levels of analysis in multiple disciplines. So what big problem most urgently needs to be resolved?

In the next five decades, CSWS can be a space for imagining and creating the feminist futures we want, need, and deserve. ■

—Jenée Wilde is an associate teaching professor of English and research dissemination specialist for the Center for the Study of Women in Society.

Advocacy

“CSWS is also an activist space. It’s a space where people come together to fight back, to resist, to call out policies that were unfavorable to women and to faculty and to students.”

—Michelle McKinley,
Bernard B. Kliks Professor
of Law, School of Law,
University of Oregon

“CSWS deserves a lot of credit for having an organization that does include the humanities and history, but also has an actual impact on public policy—and it’s improved women’s lives.”

—Margaret Hallock, Professor
of Economics, Founding
Director of the Wayne Morse
Center for Law and Politics,
University of Oregon



As a feminist research center, advocacy is at the heart of our mission. CSWS advocates for women and girls and advances knowledge on the complexity of women’s lives both nationally and globally. Our affiliated faculty and graduate students generate and share research on the intersecting nature of gender identities and inequalities with other scholars and educators, the public, policymakers, and activists in a variety of forums online and in the world. CSWS researchers come from a broad range of fields in arts and humanities, law and policy, social science, physical and life sciences, and professional schools.

Campus Outreach

CSWS activity seeks support and funding for research on gender, fosters a robust intellectual community for faculty and students, and builds connections across the disciplines and schools at the UO. Faculty members on the CSWS Advisory Board advocate for feminist research and scholarship on campus, bringing insight from their diverse disciplines into the Center’s programming and initiatives. We invite new members into our rich community by hosting the annual CSWS New Faculty Welcome Reception along with the Office of the Provost.

Community Outreach

Our public advocacy has taken many forms over time. In the late 1990s and early 2000s, the CSWS Welfare Research Team conducted a multi-year study of welfare restructuring and how it affected families in Oregon, producing policy papers and lobbying in Salem as Congress debated reauthorizing the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program in Washington.

From 2002 to 2014, the Road Scholars Program operated as a public lecture and outreach program for CSWS, offering audiences the opportunity to engage in conversation with UO scholars about issues critical to women and families in our region and beyond. Over the course of 12 years, presenters spoke to more than 4,000 students and community members in at least 50 venues across the state.

In 2025, CSWS hosted “Gender as Target: US 2024 Elections and Aftermath,” a teach-in featuring UO faculty and Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (GTFF) representatives discussing how gender and race discourses informed the 2024 election cycle and ways we can collectively respond to the barrage of policies impacting immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities today.

Public Communications

A key component of the CSWS mission is to disseminate research on the complexity of women’s lives and the intersecting nature of gender identities and inequalities. From reports and newsletters to video interviews and social media posts, we share the work of the Center, our affiliates, and our funded research fellows across traditional and new media platforms to meet the needs of our diverse audiences and communities.

Over five decades, CSWS has published a variety of annual reports and newsletters detailing the Center’s activities and funded research. Historical research publications include *Policy Matters* and *Policy Perspectives*—a series



of reports created by the CSWS Welfare Study Research Team intended for state policy makers about the effects of Welfare Reform in Oregon. PDFs of these and other CSWS print publications are archived in the UO Libraries Scholars' Bank and our website.

In 2009, CSWS made the transition to digital media, launching a website (csws.uoregon.edu) as our primary communications hub. The website features news about our affiliates, updates on CSWS-sponsored events, grant awards and application information, and an historical archive documenting the Center's rich history and programming. Alongside the website, we launched the CSWS *Annual Review* as a digital PDF and limited-run magazine that is published in October. Through feature stories and research articles aimed at a general readership, the magazine captures some of the enthusiasm and energy of our faculty and graduate student affiliates and their activities.

To reach a variety of audiences, we developed social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn, and most recently Bluesky (replacing X). To make our online content more dynamic, in 2023 we began producing video interviews and short features in conjunction with 50th anniversary events that we distribute on our website, YouTube, and social media channels. And in 2025, we completed a project to digitize all *Annual Reviews* so that feature stories and articles written by our faculty and graduate student research fellows are now more accessible and searchable on the Web.

Serving the UO, we maintain email lists to communicate directly with our more than 200 affiliated faculty and graduate students, as well as publish a bi-weekly e-newsletter of news and events for our broader campus and local community networks.

Pictured above is the opening reception for the Ghost Forest photography exhibit, which included Bellona's sound installation Wildfire—a 48-foot-long speaker array that plays back a wave of fire sounds at speeds of actual wildfires. The exhibit was part of "Haunting Ecologies," one of CSWS's 50th anniversary events / photo by Jack Liu.

Below, 2025 Jane Grant Dissertation Fellowship recipient Malvya Chintakindi discusses her funded research in a CSWS interview. This and other videos featuring our research fellows, STEAM undergraduate fellows, RIG coordinators, and more can be found on our CSWS Initiatives and Programs playlist on YouTube.



Support Feminist Futures



CSWS needs philanthropic support to envision feminist futures for our students, affiliates, communities, and beyond. While the Harris–Grant endowment provides general operations support and funding for graduate student and faculty research grants, much of the Center’s staffing and programming is contingent upon available funds from year to year.

When you give to CSWS, you help to secure crucial research, teaching, and public programs that faculty, students, and the larger community have benefited from and relied upon for more than five decades, as well as help shape the Center for coming generations.

Opportunities for Major Gifts

Acker–Morgen Memorial Lectureship

Create an endowment for the Acker–Morgen Lectureship at \$360,000 or fund an annual lecture with a gift of \$15,000. This annual lecture series commemorates the legacies of Joan Acker and Sandra Morgen by bringing to the UO campus renowned feminist scholars who work on issues of economic justice and gender equity.

Calderwood Seminars in Public Writing

Endow a Calderwood teaching fellowship for \$360,000 or fund one seminar for \$15,000. The CSWS Calderwood Seminars are designed to teach undergraduate students how to deeply listen to conflicting points of view so they can translate complex, specialized knowledge on women and intersectional gender issues for broad audiences across ideological divides. Our seminars were launched with a large three-year grant from the Calderwood Foundation that includes specialized pedagogical training for instructors. Your gift will help us continue this much needed program on campus.

Undergraduate STEAM Summer Research Fellowship

Create an undergraduate research endowment at \$380,000 or fund a year of STEAM fellowships at \$18,000. Currently, CSWS does not have recurring, permanent funding to support undergraduate research on gender across the arts and sciences.

Below, CSWS Undergraduate STEAM Fellow Anisha Srinivasan (right) and her mentor Chanel Meyers, assistant professor of psychology, talk about the importance of CSWS research funding. Srinivasan was one of four undergraduates to receive the inaugural STEAM Fellowship in 2025. Go to the CSWS Initiatives and Programs playlist on YouTube to watch videos about their projects.



Research and Activism Conferences

Create an annual conference endowment at \$360,000 or give a gift of \$15,000 for the Center to organize and host a conference on feminist research and activism in the local community, focused on pressing social issues.

Road Scholars Program

Create a CSWS speakers bureau fund with a gift of \$400,000. An endowment would create stable funding for the Road Scholars Program,



which once served as a public lecture and outreach program for CSWS and offered audiences the opportunity to engage in conversation with UO scholars about issues critical to women and families in our region and beyond.

Women in the Northwest

Expand the Women in the Northwest endowment with a gift of \$500,000. Since 1997, the Mazie Giustina gift has helped to promote and spotlight research on women's lives in the Pacific Northwest. Enlarging the gift would create stable funding to grow new research initiatives for this essential part of our mission.

Women of Color Project

Establish an endowment for the Women of Color Project with a gift of \$1,000,000. Over time this extremely successful program has diversified CSWS leadership and established a support system for junior women of color faculty to achieve tenure and promotion at the UO. However, the program no longer has recurring institutional support and will be sunset without a stable funding source.

Feminist Futures Discretionary Fund

Establish a discretionary endowment with a gift of \$1,000,000. This would be an unrestricted fund to allow CSWS to have reliable funding to use when opportunities arise that should be acted on quickly.

Visiting Feminist Scholar

Establish a visiting feminist scholar endowment at \$1,300,000 or fund one visiting scholar with a gift of \$52,000. This program would bring leading intersectional feminist researchers from around the US and the world to campus for residences to share their research expertise and mentor UO faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates with related research interests.

Naming Gift Endowment

Permanently endow CSWS with a naming gift of \$8,000,000. A gift of this size would double the current value of the Harris–Grant endowment and allow the Center to add staffing and programs desired by faculty, students, and the public.

For more information, contact the CSWS Director at csws@uoregon.edu.

UO Art Professor Tannaz Farsi (left) gives a tour of her work during the opening reception for "Artists, Constellations, and Connections: Feminist Futures" at the Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, a CSWS 50th anniversary event / photo by Brian Davies.

"The Center for the Study of Women in Society shaped my experiences as a student and in my career as an academic and in my nonprofit role working on just transitions. It gave me intersectional and relational thinking about how people and structures impact people's experiences."

—Ryanne Pilgeram,
Regenerative Economies
Manager for The Wilderness
Society, 2009 CSWS Graduate
Research Fellow

BY THE NUMBERS: 50 Years of Impact at CSWS

Established: 1973

Current Faculty Affiliates: 220+

Harris–Grant Endowment: \$3,500,000

Grants Awarded: \$3,000,000+

Grants by Type (1983–2026)

Total Grants: 962

Faculty Research Grants:	283
Graduate Student Research Grants:	267
Faculty Travel Grants:	146
Jane Grant Dissertation Fellowships:	66
Graduate Travel Grants:	35
Teaching Support Grants:	33
Laurel Research Awards:	16
Graduate Writing Fellowships:	9
Other Grants:	107

CSWS Leadership (1973–2026)

Total Leadership: 307

CSWS/WOC Directors:	19
Executive/Advisory Board Members:	135
Special Committee Members:	86
Jane Grant Fellows:	17
Other Leadership Roles:	50

Leadership by School

CAS Humanities:	54
CAS Social Sciences:	93
CAS Natural Sciences:	16
College of Education:	12
College of Design:	11
UO Libraries:	9
School of Journalism & Communication:	6
School of Law:	6
Clark Honors College:	5
School of Music & Dance:	3





Territorial Acknowledgment

The University of Oregon is located on Kalapuya Ilihi, the traditional indigenous homeland of the Kalapuya people. Following treaties between 1851 and 1855, Kalapuya people were dispossessed of their indigenous homeland by the United States government and forcibly removed to the Coast Reservation in Western Oregon. Today, Kalapuya descendants are primarily citizens of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and they continue to make important contributions to their communities, to the University, to Oregon, and to the world.

In following the Indigenous protocol of acknowledging the original people of the land we occupy, we also extend our respect to the nine federally recognized Indigenous nations of Oregon: the Burns Paiute Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Coquille Indian Tribe, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Klamath Tribes. We express our respect to the many more tribes who have ancestral connections to this territory, as well as to all other displaced Indigenous peoples who call Oregon home. Hayu Masi.

Above: Signage provides territorial acknowledgment outside of the UO's Museum of Natural and Cultural History. Left: A rainy day at an entrance to campus. Back cover: Rhododendrons bloom in Hendricks Park, near the UO campus in Eugene, Oregon / stock photos.

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