Interest Group Name: Feminist & Women Studies Division
Name of person making report: Ashley Mack
Report submitter’s role in the Interest Group Leadership: Chair

Awards
Does your Interest Group give awards? ☒ Yes ☐ No
  If yes, what are the names of the awards given? Bonnie Ritter Outstanding Feminist Book Award, Scholar-Activist Award, Outstanding Article Award, Top Paper Award
  Who are the recipients of the award(s) for this year? Please specify the award, winner’s name, and title of publication, if applicable. Listed recipients will be featured on www.natcom.org/awards.

  Bonnie Ritter Book Award - Leandra Hinojosa Hernández (National University) and Sarah De Los Santos Upton (University of Texas–El Paso), Challenging Reproductive Control and Gendered Violence in the Americas: Intersectionality, Power, and Struggles for Rights (Rowman & Littlefield, 2018)

  Outstanding Article Award - Haneen Al-Ghabra (Kuwait University) and Bernadette Marie Calafell (University of Denver), “From failure and allyship to feminist solidarities: negotiating our privileges and oppressions across borders,” Text & Performance Quarterly 38, no. 1/2 (2018): 38-54.

  Scholar-Activist Award - Nina Maria Lozano (Loyola Marymount University)

  Top Paper Award - Michelle Colpean (University of Iowa), “Problematising Punjammies: Rescue Branding, Global Sisterhood, and Sexual Labor”

Communications
Publications
Did your Interest Group send out a newsletter(s) to your members this year? ☒ Yes ☐ No
  If yes, please select all that apply:
    ☒ Electronic How many: 2
    ☐ Print How many: ______

Did your Interest Group disseminate any other publications during the year? ☐ Yes ☒ No
  If yes, please describe your publications: ______
Website / Listserv
Does the Interest Group have a website? ☒ Yes ☐ No
If yes, what is the URL? It's on NCA's website, https://www.natcom.org/feminist-and-women-studies-division. We are currently working on building it.

Does your Interest Group have a listserv or similar discussion forum? ☒ Yes ☐ No
If yes, what is the address of the listserv/forum? fwsd through NCA

Fundraising
Did your Interest Group engage in any fundraising efforts? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, for what purpose? ______

Membership Recruitment/Retention
Did your Interest Group engage in any recruitment or retention efforts? ☒ Yes ☐ No
If yes, please describe your efforts: We worked with other divisions and caucuses to build programing for the year. We sought out innovative ways to connect with other divisions doing important work. Historically, the FWSD has served mostly white feminist scholars. We have worked diligently to try and change this.

Non-Convention Programming
Did your Interest Group sponsor any programs outside of the convention? ☐ Yes ☒ No
If yes, please describe your program(s): ______

Innovations
Please describe any innovative ideas, projects, or programs that your Interest Group has undertaken this past year that you would like to share with other Interest Groups, members of the Legislative Assembly, and NCA members in general.
The FWS division, like many large divisions at NCA, is a systematically exclusionary unit, both historically and presently. Addressing how the division has functioned to exclude scholars, particularly scholars of color, is a systemic concern, and it should be our primary focus to address the structural issues across the divisions activities that enable racism, homophobia, transphobia and Western-centrism. It has been our primary focus in 2018.

We are continuing to have ongoing conversations about how to address the structural issues that enable exclusion as well as work to build relationships and trust with those the division has historically excluded or overlooked. This includes us looking at the issues we focus on/promote as a division, the homogeneity of our leadership, the scholarship we value, the review process we oversee, the awards we give and the process for giving them. We are commited to discussing these issues openly in our division meetings at NCA and the will continue to be a primary topic of every EC meeting.

Beyond just talking about it, there are structural changes we have made or are considering making to address these problems:

Leadership - We are working to disrupt the homogeneity of the leadership in the division by electing feminists of color, non-Western feminists, trans feminists, and queer feminists to the executive committee.
Communication - All communications refer to their/them whenever possible.

Submissions Call - We have changed the language of our call for submissions for NCA to explicitly ask for (as a central requirement) intersectional work and work that challenges white feminisms and white/colonial epistemologies/methods. We have to continue this practice. We should value intersectional work as a primary requirement, not secondary consideration.

Division Name - The name Feminist and Women Studies does not encompass a large amount of the scholarship that is submitted to our division that addresses gender as a construct. It has been suggested that we might consider potentially changing the name of the division to be "Feminist, Gender, and Women Studies." We will discuss this proposal at our 2018 convention meeting.

Review Process - The review process institutionalizes racism, homophobia, transphobia, and Western-centrism. We have to actively resist this both culturally and structurally. We continue to reframe and assess our review criteria and the directions we provide in the process. This is primarily done by the convention planner. We also will maintain an ongoing list of reviewers who have been racist, anti-queer, and/or transphobic in their reviews for the division.

Divestment - After years of systemic exclusion, feminists of color, non-Western feminists, trans feminists, and queer feminists often do not come to our meetings, submit their feminist scholarship to our division, or volunteer for service to the division because this is seen as a hostile or exclusionary space. By partnering with other divisions/caucuses and offering our slots to cover feminist work submitted to other divisions, we will start the slow work of rebuilding these relationships. Where we have failed in the past by excluding scholars or making this environment hostile for certain bodies—we should actively work to share resources and attempt to heal those wounds, while promoting feminist work across the association. This should be an ongoing commitment.

Awards - Awards have historically been given to white feminists or Western feminists. In the development of new awards for the division and criteria for judgement, we have to assess how criterion for awards functions to reproduce white supremacy and heteronormativity by valuing and reaffirming white, Western, and patriarchal epistemologies/methodologies. Our new award criteria requires intersectional analytical approaches to gender and women's issues. We also are working with the Women's Caucus to develop an NCA level award that is named after a woman of color and explicitly honors feminist intersectional work.

These are just a few of the structural changes we are making or are thinking about making. The process is ongoing and what is listed here is not enough—the commitment has to be persistent and reflexive in perpetuity. Our hope is that persistent commitment from the leadership to addressing the structural aspects of the problem will result in long term change. We hope other divisions take on the task of assessing these issues as well.

Additional Comments about any of the topics addressed in this report
We hope that NCA continues to think about how to address systemic exclusion of marginalized voices at the institutional level.