

NIPISSING

U N I V E R S I T Y

North Bay

www.nipissingu.ca

Gender Equality and Social Justice



Program Description

Do you want to make the world a more just and better place? Are you passionate about issues like human rights violations, sexism, racism, homophobia, and poverty? Would you like to understand these issues better? Then the Gender Equality and Social Justice (GESJ) program is for you.

GESJ is an interdisciplinary program with courses in the areas of Culture and Criticism, Power and Inequality, and Human Rights and Social Justice. We ask how race, class, colonialism, ability, sex, and gender intersect in everyday acts of power, oppression, activism, and resistance.

This program will provide you with highly transferrable skills in critical thinking, research, writing, argumentation, analysis, and communication.

As one of few programs of its kind in Canada, the GESJ program will teach you to think critically about who has the power in the world, and why, as well as how to resist, shape, and change power for social justice. This program is highly interdisciplinary with close links to Social Welfare and Social Development, Religions and Cultures, Political Science, and Philosophy, and is designed for those with interests in critical studies of popular culture; the politics of resisting inequality through the law; globalization and human rights; violent conflict and international justice; transnational organizing for social justice; histories of colonization; feminist philosophies; postmodernism; theories of justice; and the intersections of race, class, ability, sex and gender.

Students of the GESJ Department will receive a broad liberal education in Humanities and Social Sciences. Through a range of interdisciplinary perspectives, you will examine the social and cultural constructions of gender, sexuality, race and class, and how these social categories relate to our knowledge, experience, relationships and the quality of our lives.

Every year the Department of Gender Equality and Social Justice organizes

a series of events to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8. We've actually found that we need more than a day to celebrate, so we call it International Women's Week (IWW). Past themes include "Justice Across Boundaries," "Fifty Shades of No: Cultures of Sexual Violence," "Decolonization," "Re-teaching Gender and Sexuality," "Food Security," and "Gendered and Sexual Labour Mobility." Past keynote speakers have included Monia Mazigh, Elizabeth May, Sherene Razack, Martin Cannon, Megan Rivers-Moore, Amy Hasinoff and Brenda Cossman.

We encourage all students to attend IWW events (sometimes we even cancel classes so you can attend). In addition to the keynote address, IWW events in the past include workshops, vigils, making t-shirts or zines, coffee collectives, and even road trips! Come out and join the fun!

Our Teaching Approach

Our program has its roots in what used to be called Women's Studies, but we were the first school in the country to change our name to Gender Equality and Social Justice Studies, to reflect the growing scope of the subject. And that's not the only way we are innovative. We've also started working with other departments to offer a special series of interdisciplinary courses (featuring guest lecturers from a variety of disciplines discussing the theme from their academic perspective). One of these courses was called DIRT, which explored dirty people, dirty politics, dirty water, and dirty cities from different perspectives like Biology, English, Geography, and Political Science. We think that cultivating interdisciplinary learning is crucial for navigating today's quickly changing world.

Our broader focus and interdisciplinary approach reflects the fact that equality issues are diverse and complex. Unlike other schools that may divide gender studies and social justice studies, we bring them together in one department. Through core courses and courses cross-listed with other disciplines, you will have the opportunity to study topics in relation to areas

Third-year GESJ class Team Teach-Ins in "Madness & Medicine"





such as law, literature, media and representation, religion, art history, social welfare, international justice, globalization, persecution, and human rights.

In GESJ, you will learn skills that are important for your career, but also for being a good citizen: critical thinking, responsibility, and the ability to make informed and ethical decisions. You will also learn how to think on your feet and work across disciplines, which are crucial abilities in our fast-changing world. You will gain the wide view you need in order to analyze issues, which is important no matter what your career is. The world needs people who think equitably and who make ethical decisions, and this program will help you to become that person.

Nipissing prides itself on its small class sizes and collegiality. You will find yourself quickly immersed in lively debate and deep discussion in all your classes. You will get to know your professors, who are dedicated to helping you learn and succeed. In addition, we'll encourage you to participate in conferences and research, which is typically reserved for graduate students at other universities.

Program and Faculty

Bachelor of Arts

- Honours
- Honours specialization
- Major
- Minor

In first year, you will take Power, Gender and Justice, a survey class that gives you an introduction to fundamental concepts in social justice. It is paired with a Special Topics class that will be thematically based, such as Sex and Sport, Bromance or Human Trafficking.

After first year, you can choose from three streams. Culture and Criticism focuses on media—everything from television to the internet to texting—and features courses like Gender and Social Media, Art and Social Justice, and Digital Activism. The second stream is Power and Inequality, which

examines colonization, race and oppression, and institutions. The third stream is Human Rights and Social Justice, which takes an international view and includes topics like human rights, law, genocide, and Indigenous communities.

It is easy to follow your interests in GESJ, because you will be allowed to take many electives from different disciplines and programs. For example, if you choose the Culture and Criticism stream, you might also take media classes from the English and Sociology departments.

Bachelor of Education: The Schulich School of Education

If you want to earn a Bachelor of Education (BEd) degree, you can choose from the Concurrent route (available with all honours undergraduate programs except Nursing and Social Work), or the Consecutive Program (once you've completed your undergraduate degree).

The Schulich School of Education is one of the best education programs in Ontario. It will prepare you to teach in both traditional and non-traditional environments, and you will gain communication and collaborative skills that can be used in any career.

Our teacher candidates are immersed in an active professional learning environment with support and resources available through our Professional Learning Centre.

Each term a calendar of opportunities is made available, and you will be invited to participate in a series of real-world professional experiences that help you to hone skills, strategies and activities that integrate digital technology resources, enhance school community involvement, develop a personal résumé, portfolio and interview techniques, and much more.

All professional learning opportunities are designed to support and supplement course content by broadening teaching/learning skills and by building your confidence and readiness for the teaching profession.

GESJ Student Collective

The Gender Equality and Social Justice Student Collective is a group of GESJ majors and minors committed to promoting social justice at Nipissing University and in the North Bay community. They are a social, political, and educational group that holds biweekly meetings and hosts several events throughout the year. These events are often aimed at raising awareness or building relationships with other like-minded students and members of the North Bay community. The GESJ Student Collective has fun while improving our community. Together they are building lifelong friendships and relationships to aid them once they graduate from Nipissing. The Collective always welcomes new members and hopes to see you at a meeting or event soon!

Why Nipissing?

You will feel right at home the minute you step onto campus. Becoming a part of our community is just one of the many perks of attending Nipissing. You will also benefit from small class sizes where you will have a name and a voice. Should you need help, you will have access to our supportive professors, even outside of classroom hours.

Nipissing is focused on student success. So you will have access to a full range of student services that will help you succeed academically, financially, and personally.

In addition, we have some of the best residences in Canada, with a guaranteed private room for all first-year students coming directly from high school.

We encourage you to come and see for yourself why you belong at Nipissing.



Where Can I Go From Here?

GESJ is a broad, interdisciplinary program. Because of that, your career options are very broad. You may choose to pursue a career as a researcher, administrator, lawyer, clinical counsellor, or policy analyst, among other options. You may decide to continue on to graduate studies in areas like Theory and Criticism and Social and Political Thought, or continue on to professional schools like law and teaching.

Whether you're interested in creating reform, becoming an activist, or making a local or global impact, the Gender Equality and Social Justice department at Nipissing will give you the tools you need to help create positive change in the world.

To see what recent GESJ graduates are doing with their careers visit the "Our People" and "Your Future" links on the GESJ website.

Sign up for Open House, a tour, or more information:
ibelongatnipissingu.ca

For more information on the Gender Equality & Social Justice program, please visit: www.nipissingu.ca/gesj



ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

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