

Welcome

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In February 2017, the Gender, Sex, and Sexuality conference held its third annual conference at the State University of New York Potsdam. This issue of *Theory in Action* highlights the variety of voices, themes, and scholarship presented in response to the conference theme of *(Dis)Enfranchisement*.

In order to understand the nature of the annual GSS conference as it stands now, it is important to recount the history of the conference and its early development. The GSS conference began in 2013 spearheaded by the Gender and Sexuality Studies Caucus at Clarkson University. Faculty of the four Associated Colleges of St. Lawrence County (SUNY Canton, SUNY Potsdam, Clarkson University, and St. Lawrence University) convened at the conference to share their work, develop relationships, and pool resources. While the first conference was a success, not all of the individuals involved were able to continue working to develop the scale and scope of the conference. After a one year hiatus, the conference was spurred to life again in 2015 when Emily Hamilton-Honey took over as gender studies coordinator at SUNY Canton. A dozen faculty from the four schools gathered over the summer to brainstorm and re-imagine an annual GSS conference. In the fall of 2015 the conference organizing committee (Emily Hamilton Honey and Melissa Lee from SUNY Canton, Annegret Staiger from Clarkson University, Jennifer Thomas from St. Lawrence University, and Christine Doran from SUNY Potsdam) began working on the second conference.

From its inception, an important working agreement amongst the planning committee was the conference would be hosted by each of the colleges in rotation, which would allow the weight of the planning to shift each year as well as create easier access for students. The first

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