

Spring 2010 IRW Learning Community Scholars

Gendered Agency

The Institute for Research on Women (IRW) invites undergraduates to join us in creating a learning community (LC) that builds on the IRW's 2009-10 theme—Gendered Agency—to create opportunities for Rutgers juniors and seniors to develop related ideas and projects. The IRW LC is a group of female and male student scholars from different backgrounds drawn together by shared goals and common intellectual interests to participate in the intellectual life of the IRW.

IRW Learning Community Scholars will explore how gender can complicate women's and men's ability to make and implement choices, thus challenging contemporary understandings, uses and expressions of agency. We will consider whether there are explicitly gendered forms of agency, and, if so, how these are constituted, expressed, and experienced at different times, in different places, and through different media. By thinking about the relationship of gender and agency through a comparative, interdisciplinary lens, Learning Community participants will investigate: What does agency mean? How is it constituted and expressed? Where is it located? How does agency shape and become shaped by structures of power like colonialism, capitalism, religion, and the media? How do women and men respond in ways that are gendered, creative, complicit, resistant, effective, or self-destructive (perhaps all at the same time)?

Through group discussion, participation in the IRW Distinguished Lecture Series, faculty mentoring, and special events, undergraduate scholars will create an intellectual space where they will develop research skills and theoretical understandings in preparation for independent or collaborative scholarship. Members of the Learning Community will have the chance to build networks with scholars, activists and professionals as they develop plans for graduate or professional education and careers.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Meet from 4:30-6:00pm on Thursdays during the Spring 2010 semester at the IRW on Douglass Campus. These times include attendance at three IRW Distinguished Lectures. During other Thursday meetings, IRW LC Fellows will meet to plan related student projects and discuss assigned readings.
- Participate in moderated discussions on a Sakai site dedicated to the IRW Learning Community.
- Produce a group final project for public presentation.

Application Requirements:

- Applicants must be in their junior or senior years during the 2009-10 academic year
- Applicants must have a G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher

Return application by Tuesday, Nov 2nd, 2009, 4:30 p.m. to:
(it's okay to send faculty recommendation separately!)

Institute for Research on Women
Rutgers University
160 Ryders Lane
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Attn: Alex Warner

awarner@rci.rutgers.edu

fax to

or

Attach application and other materials to email. In the subject line please type "IRW LC" and your name.

or

(732) 932-0861

Attn: Alex Warner

**Confirmation of receipt will be sent via email as applications are received;
Decisions will be sent via email on Nov 6th, 2009**

The IRW Learning Community is generously supported by
the Office of the Vice President for Undergraduate Education.

For more on the IRW Learning Community, see <http://irw.rutgers.edu/LC.html>

Application

IRW Learning Community Scholars: *Gendered Agency*

The application consists of four parts:

1. This page
2. Essay (see instructions below)
3. Faculty Statement of Support (two pages; to be submitted by faculty member)
4. Resume

1. Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Expected Semester and Year of Graduation _____ GPA _____

Major _____ Minor _____

The following information is optional but requested for demographic purposes:

Race/Ethnicity _____ Sex _____

How did you hear about the IRW Learning Community? (Please check all that apply)

- Targum Ad Attended LC Info Session Announcement in class
 Faculty referral Email Other: _____

2. Application Essay

Please describe your interest in the IRW LC theme (including how the IRW LC theme connects to your larger personal/academic/professional goals) in a 500-word, typed, double-spaced essay.

3. Faculty Statement of Support

Fill in the information below identifying the faculty member who has agreed to complete the attached Statement of Support. This individual will assess your skills, style, and character relative to your application for the IRW LC. Please fill out the Applicant section of the attached Faculty Statement of Support and give it to the faculty member to complete and return to the IRW. This letter can and should be sent by the Recommender, so please feel free to submit the remainder of your application without it.

Faculty Name _____

Department _____ Email _____

4. Resume

Attach a brief resume of your academic, employment, and volunteer experiences.

Completed Applications DUE Tuesday, November 3rd, 2009:

IRW
Rutgers University
160 Ryders Lane
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Attn: Alex Warner

awarner@rci.rutgers.edu
or Please attach application materials
and type "IRW LC" and your name in
subject line. **or**

fax to
(732) 932-0861
Attn: Alex Warner

Faculty Statement of Support

IRW Learning Community Scholars: Gendered Agency

APPLICANT: Under terms of the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, applicants have the right to review evaluations. Please indicate if you wish to waive these rights.

My signature below indicates that I wish to waive my right to review this reference.

Applicant's Name _____

Applicant's Signature _____ Date _____

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The purpose of the IRW Learning Community is to introduce Learning Community members to the work of visiting scholars and distinguished lecturers, promote dialogues between participating undergraduates and the faculty and graduate student participants in the annual IRW Seminar, and stimulate participants to put the resulting insights into action and share the results of their inquiries with a larger audience.

The 2009-2010 IRW theme is *Gendered Agency* and our selected scholars will attend and discuss IRW lectures, meet with IRW seminar fellows, and present research briefings related to this theme. Students from all disciplines and backgrounds are encouraged to apply. More information is available at <http://irw.rutgers.edu/LC.html>

Faculty Member's Name: _____

Title: _____ Department: _____

Email: _____

Please rate the applicant in each category:

	Excellent	Above Average	Average	Below Average	Unacceptable	No basis for Evaluation
Communication skills	5	4	3	2	1	NB
Flexibility	5	4	3	2	1	NB
Reliability, punctuality	5	4	3	2	1	NB
Maturity	5	4	3	2	1	NB
Self-confidence, assertiveness	5	4	3	2	1	NB
Organizational skills	5	4	3	2	1	NB
Common sense	5	4	3	2	1	NB

Please answer the following questions about the applicant:

1. What do you know about the applicant's interest in gender as an analytical tool?

2. What intellectual/personal characteristics would the applicant bring to the IRW Learning Community program?

3. What potential do you see for the applicant in this Learning Community?

4. Please offer any additional evaluative observations that would help the selection committee better know this candidate. _____

Faculty Signature _____ Date _____

Please submit this form by Tuesday, November 3rd, 2009:

IRW
Rutgers University
160 Ryders Lane
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Attn: Alex Warner

or Please attach application materials
and type "IRW LC" and your name in
subject line. **or**

awarner@rci.rutgers.edu

fax to
(732) 932-0861
Attn: Alex Warner