Reflections on the 2016 Elections from the APC/GSWS Community

Now, More Than Ever

GSWS Graduate Student Advisory Board

This election has revealed why now, more than ever, we need the critical tools and perspectives that the fields of gender, sexuality, queer, and women's studies give us. This election was a victory for white supremacy and has legitimized misogyny, sexual assault, xenophobia, racism, Islamophobia, ableism, and anti-Semitism. Our field and its allied disciplines make transparent the violence and hatred that brought us to this moment while paradoxically revealing why the outcome of this election is not at all surprising: it reflects in a spectacular way realities many marginalized persons have come to know and learn intimately throughout history and in the present. We stand with all those who are now unsafe, or more unsafe, in this country. We recognize that many members of our Penn community and their loved ones are experiencing all too real and all too violent repercussions of this election in their day to day lives. We see you and we are here for you. All students--queer, trans, undocumented, Muslim, black, brown, Latinx, indigenous, working class, disabled, neuroatypical, allies, and everyone beyond and between--are welcome in our classrooms and offices. As scholars and teachers, we are committed to building and sustaining spaces in and out of our classrooms that empower students to see how gender, sexuality, race, class, ability, and a host of other identity categories operate in and structure our lives. We believe in the power of feminist and queer theory to critique and transform the world around us. This is the work that we have done and will continue to do.