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**POLI / AMST / ENGL 248**  
**Intersectionality and Social Justice**  
**Results from our March 8, 2017 discussion of International Women's Day**  
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**March 22, 2017**

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On March 8, we broke into groups by gender and each group recorded its responses to a series of questions. Here are the responses. For each question, this document simply states the question, then gives, verbatim, all the responses by any of the groups, first for the female student groups, then for the males. Please review the responses and think about the implications of such radically different experiences.

Also, note that here we focused on gender-specific differences, but certainly such an exercise could be expanded to other forms of identity. I leave that to you. But take this as a chance to think about empathy and the difference in how we all go through what might seem to many of us as simple tasks. It turns out they are not equally simple for all of us.

**Question 1. Explain the steps you routinely take to keep yourself safe when you get out of your car or go to find your car in a parking lot.**

**FEMALES:**

- Survey the area.
- Have phone, keys and mace in hand
- Only click the unlock button once because hitting it twice will unlock all of the doors
- Always have keys out, hold keys by pepper spray
- Avoid parking in certain areas and double check that car is locked
- Check the backseat before sitting down
- Get into car right away and lock doors
- Cognizant of cars (vans) parked on roadside
- Text people when walking alone at night
- Lock door – get in car
- Being aware – no headphones
- Hold pepper spray
- Talk to friend
- Tell someone where you are
- Well lit
- People around you?
- Keys in between fingers
- Plan escape route
- Go in group
- Look all around
- Be aware of surroundings
- Check car mirrors
- Put key in between knuckles

- Pretend you're on the phone
- Park next to another car or next to a light
- Check surrounding
- Keys and phone in hand
- Flashlight on if dark
- No headphones
- Look for someone to walk with
- Park in a well lit and not isolated area
- Walk quickly
- Lock car door once in it
- Carry keys in hand
- Carry pocket knife
- More aware of surrounding people
- Keys in between fingers like wolverine
- Check back seat
- Walk quickly
- Use flashlight
- Constantly look over shoulder
- Don't make eye contact
- Might call someone on the way to the car
- Parking underneath a light
- Only unlock 1 door
- Be aware of surrounding
- Walk faster (at night)
- Hold keys in hand
- Park in well light area
- Lock doors at gas stations
- Don't stay in car for a long time
- GPS ready before you get in the car
- Look around
- Carry keys
- Only unlock front door
- Talk on phone sometimes
- Sometimes wait in car/store if it looks unsafe
- Park under a light
- Have your key out
- Be with one other person
- Don't park alone (i.e., in open areas)
- Phone is charged
- Pretend to talk on the phone
- Lock car doors once you're in
- Check backseat
- Scope out
- Hold your phone so you can use it in the case of an emergency
- Hold your keys/pepper spray
- Being purposeful (not looking lost)
- Check you backseat
- Call someone
- Walk fast
- Get out keys between fingers
- Pepper spray
- Super observant
- Check car/backseat/underneath
- Sprint
- Carry pepper spray
- Check backseat
- Phone
- Stay on phone with someone
- Lock doors immediately
- Keys ready
- Phone flashlight when dark
- Walk fast and check surroundings
- Depends on time of day – sometimes call someone, look around to check surroundings
- Take my keys out and hold
- If late might call my mom or friend
- Look around me a bunch to know if anyone is near me
- Keys in hand
- Flashlight (on phone)
- Look around

- Call someone/be on the phone
- Park near lights or the entrance if possible
- Unlock only driver's door
- Keep phone out/on potentially call someone else while alone
- Hold pepper spray
- Keep keys on hand
- Immediately lock doors
- Have phone out
- Keys ready
- Hold keys securely and between fingers
- Call a friend
- Look in backseat
- Put key in hand and always know where they are before going to car
- Always have phone in hand and head on a swivel
- Lock car once you get in
- Fake a call
- No headphones
- Not in dark
- Keys ready
- Phone dialed
- Walk faster
- Park closer intentionally
- I wouldn't go somewhere if I knew I would have to walk alone
- Be on phone with someone
- Look both ways
- Have your keys out
- Mental note of where your car is at
- Not texting/head in phone
- Headphones out
- Lock car always/unlock it when you are really close
- Make sure no one is in the car
- Time of day
- Surroundings
- Stand up straight
- Pepper spray
- Hold keys in between fingers
- Never smile
- Lock car when sitting in it
- Play music out loud not headphones
- Have mace
- Hold keys in hand
- Keep head up
- Try and park in a lit area
- Be aware of surroundings
- Don't unlock car until you approach it
- Hold keys so one sticks out
- Look around when getting out of the car
- Always have phone charged
- Lock door multiple times
- Check backseat
- Park near other cars/close to exit
- Look under car
- Constantly looking around
- Phone out – try to be on the phone with someone
- Key between hand/finger
- Look around
- Keep phone in hand/call people when walking alone
- Have pepper spray
- Let people know where you are
- Text/call people when you drive
- Hold keys in between fingers
- Walk quickly
- Park next to light
- Lock car door immediately at night (get in/get out quickly when dark outside)

- Remembering where I park and park closer to minimize walk at night
- Always have keys out when walking home/to car
- Hold key between fingers
- Keep pepper spray
- Only unlock your door
- Pay attention to who you park near
- Keep keys in hand between fingers so there is a key sticking out
- Pepper spray
- Being vigilant/hyper-aware of surroundings
- Park in lighted area
- Walk purposefully
- Keep hand on phone in case of emergency

**Males:**

- Park somewhere not super sketchy
- Don't unlock doors too far away
- Lock doors once in car if feeling unsafe
- Relock my car, hold key like knife
- Stay vigilant, keys in hand
- Park under a light, only to make sure car doesn't get broken into
- Look over my shoulder once or twice
- Walk in an area with lights
- Check your parameters
- nothing

**Question 2: Considering your time here at UNC, have you ever...Not taken a class or a particular discussion section because of safety-related concern about its time or location?**

**Females:**

- I have never not taken a class for safety related concerns
- Yes – try not to take classes after 5P because we don't want to walk home when it's dark
- It's harder to stay out when living off campus
- Skip club meetings if you know you have to stay out after 5P
- Sort of, some of us try to avoid late or far labs or drive not walk
- No
- No
- F- yes; NB – no
- Night time class and had to walk home, office hours were too far away at night, not going to creepy TA/Professor classes office hours
- No
- Yes, not taking late classes if it's dark
- No, we're cautious walking alone after dark but it doesn't stop us from going
- Not at UNC, but during a study abroad program
- Not prevented but definitely thought about and planned around – be sure we have rides home, someone else to walk with
- Avoid late night classes so we don't have to walk back in the dark
- Not able to take class at night b/c of safety
- Nope
- Feel uncomfortable but still take the class
- No
- Don't go to class, study session, library late at night
- Not on campus
- No later lab had to take 4-6 v. 6-8
- Yes
- No
- Yes – 9:00 PM at B school
- No, haven't not taken the class because of safety issues but have been nervous about walking home at night
- Nope
- Yes
- No, but
- No, but practice specific precautions if leaving night class

**Males:**

- No
- No
- No
- One guy said he tore his ACL and scheduled class so he didn't have to walk
- No
- No, but there are programs that allow safety-related concerns, i.e., safewalk
- No

**Question 3. Considering your time here at UNC, have you ever... Considered studying abroad and concerns of safety affected your choice of program?**

**Females:**

- Yes, have a considered studying abroad and concerns of safety. There are many countries where I do not feel safe traveling because of anti-black racism in that country like France, Spain, Russia, Italy, Eastern Europe. I did not feel safe traveling there as a black woman
- Yes – concerns about race, specifically, thinking of political and social differences, didn't go out at night most nights
- Yes
- Yes, but also when went to India had to be in fully covered clothing and very careful
- Yes, traveling in general has different implications for women, especially when traveling alone
- Yes, never thought of it in regards to study abroad, no – studied abroad – was very aware of being “outsider” because of being a black female and language barrier – led to scary'ish encounter – lost on way home taxi drive
- Traveling fears due to the way people treat women in other countries
- Yes, depending on the country. Wanted to study in West Africa but had serious safety concerns and parents were unwilling to let her go
- Haven't considered studying abroad in less safe countries
- Yes
- Yes, feeling comfortable on public transportation, parental concern, being out at night, dressing conservatively
- Didn't change place but definitely a factor, especially once abroad and seeing different gender dynamics
- Parents say no to going because of safety
- Haven't studied abroad but would definitely consider safety, might also be because of political tension
- Yes, London. Safety by myself in a large city, family concerns.
- Yes, parents no allowing you to go to different countries. More about traveling alone than being in a study abroad group
- Definitely a consideration and worry but has not actually prevented going abroad. Definitely a factor in the decision process
- Yes
- Yes, Brazil (Zika). Yes, Spain (girl alone)
- No. Exchange student felt unsafe coming here because of Trump
- Yes
- Family concerns. Our parents are more worried than us
- Yes
- It's definitely a consideration and something we're conscious of when choosing. Don't want to go

somewhere where we don't know the language

- Dress conservatively. More concerns about women traveling than men. Have to be more aware of your surroundings when you're a woman in another country

- Picked Netherlands because it's safer and know someone. Parental restrictions on Middle East. Concerns from Father about safety
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes. India/Mexico

**Males:**

- Yes, concerns with intersectionality with LGBTQ and race
- No
- No
- Yes, but more regarding country stability (we all have studied abroad)
- No concerns (safety, not a main factor)
- Yes, petty crimes
- Yes, if given the choice between 2 study abroad programs we would go with the one perceived as safer

**Question 4. Considering your time here at UNC, did your choice of major have anything to do with concerns about safety? Fitting in? Comfort?**

**Females:**

- Yes, I'm a black woman and an Econ major and that major is mostly white and predominately male. I was always on guard in those classes because people tend to make racially insensitive statements in those classes, and I felt like I would need to either defend people of color from stereotypes or remain silent
- Conditioned to want to do certain things in school/career. Gender (and race) made us want to persist in spite of disparities. Changing major was difficult because didn't want to be yet another statistic
- No – maybe for STEM majors or B School etc., for an AAAB? Major, she's comfortable being around people with shared experience. Safety due to race not gender
- No
- There are certain majors that are more heavily dominated by males – business, biomedical engineering, STEM majors – where we see how it can be intimidating for women
- F (yes) my major is predominately female anyway (family development, education).
- NB (no) didn't have a choice, same core and required classes are only taught late at night (6-9P).
- Queer Asian – American – VERY unwelcome in Asian/Asian-American groups, worsened because I'm considered "white-passing." I have NEVER FELT welcome into ANY Asian/Asian-American group on campus
- From a young age you're told what a male dominated space is and how you don't fit there. Enrolling in classes with more women, feeling like you don't know what you're talking about
- Women gender study, more guys than girls, peace core defense, economics, more guys than girls, not about safety, fitting in or comfort just noticing the disparity.
- No, but know people in business school who feel uncomfortable in predominately male settings
- Fitting, in maybe. But otherwise no.
- Not us personally, but we have friends who have done this/have negative experiences from being in majors that are male-dominant spaces (math, STEM)
- PWAD – "tough" girls and guys. Hard to fit in if you don't fall into that. Expectation surrounding majors and what you should be 60-40 female to male ratio reflected in class high education programs may be more gendered (MA, PHD)
- Some no. Some in the b school fear safety with mainly guys. Feel the



need to major in math to include the amount of women in the major.

- Not drawn to things like business because more a masculine / intimidating field, also sometimes nice to have women in classes to have easier communication about social issues
- Nope
- No
- Yes, as a woman in the mathematical decision science major I have been in classes with more than 40 individuals but only 6 females. Definitely struggle with fitting in, but also being treated differently/belittled by Professors
- Yes, aware of the dominate male gender in major
- Poli-Sci major doesn't see a lot of diversity in teachers and student is black and chooses to take more classes with black teachers. Choose major/future based off of if women can fit in/be successful in industry
- Econ major. Don't talk in class because mostly white men and doesn't feel like voice is heard as much
- No, we wouldn't say so
- Not really. But with school jobs yes.
  - TDH – white males must contact lobbyist

#### **Males:**

- Comfort regarding SES, race, fitting in as LGBTQ
- No, however more males in Business/ECON. Sociology mostly female

- Campus Rec –wanting male trainers, being oversexualized in gym, how/dress when I have clients

- Not particularly
- Yes, I used to be a philosophy major and I constantly had to take a backseat to my male peers. I was talked over all the time and mansplained and dismissed so I switched to women's and gender studies. More about comfort and fitting in than safety
- At UNC, not really as many constraints because it's such a liberal school
- Choice of major is more female oriented-avoided b-school. In the b-school, don't feel like I fit in with the men. Uncomfortable in the male dominated atmosphere
- Yes, doubts about the Business School
- No
- Geography – avoided B-school/STEM major. Biology (STEM) – feeling incompetent – switch to women's studies and told that was more, “appropriate,” because she's a woman. General issues with B-school. Also avoiding computer science.

- No
- No
- No problem

- Concerns, especially sexist towards Business School, male dominated Political Science
- We feel that there are some majors that would make us uncomfortable, we might not fit in, etc but they were not majors we considered anyway

**Question 6. Considering your time here at UNC, have you ever...decided not to go to a party or a social event because of concerns about your safety?**

**Females:**

- Frat parties. Black people don't frequent white frat parties and rape culture. I would stick out like a sore thumb
- Yes. Avoid frat court (esp. if you're a POC), every weekend, friends always leave together, it's hard to get help or get out when you're in a crowded place, only to a party when you know people there or have someone going with you, weighing being able to drive vs. being able to drink, logistical decisions need to be made before going out
- Yes, some frats to avoid. If friends can't go won't feel safe going alone if you do go watch drink
- Yes
- Yes
- Don't go out (not their thing) F (yes), F (yes), NB (no). Yes (F) always go out with friends never by self
- Yes, depending on who you are going with, where are you going? Do you have a buddy? Do you have my number? Constantly checking on your friends? How will you be getting home? Will it be well lit? Leaving early when your friends want to leave? Not being able to bring male friends along because they might not be allowed in when you will
- Yes. If your friends aren't going then we are not going. Drinking less. Don't come back to your drink (throw it away), Don't walk home alone, guys bumping into you
- On an almost weekly basis. Whose party it is, who can go with you. Need to know how far it is, how you're getting back
- Yes. DKE Fraternity
- Some fraternities, especially the ones you hear rumors about, never go out alone, only with friends, uber home
- Yes. Ubering over walking, going in groups to fraternities or avoiding as a whole because we know we're going to be objectified or take advantage of, worrying about friends out so driving them instead
- ALL THE TIME!!! With a group, with guy friends in the group, someone to walk home with, fear of date rape at frat parties
- Definitely won't go to a party where you don't know anyone, depends on where it is, will not go alone, will not stay by yourself, even events that aren't parties will not go alone
- Yes
- Yes. Don't go out without friends (at least 2-3). Halloween. Always watch your cup, don't put it down
- Yes!
- Yes. Don't go if I would have to walk back alone. Don't go if I don't know anyone
- Absolutely! Frat parties
- Yes, if you're out and want to go home but can't because guy can't

walk home. If no one wants to go with won't go because alone

- 100% yes
- Yes. How much you drink, if doors are locked, go with a friend, where alcohol is coming from
- Yes. Fraternity Court! Frats in general, fear of drugging, walking home. Frat party racism, POC not accepted at parties unless they're athletes
- Yes. Won't go to a party alone, don't want to walk to a party or home alone, have to leave parties because certain people are there that we don't feel safe around, certain frats have very predatory vibes (DKE), wouldn't feel as unsafe if we were sober, things we have to

consider if we're going home with someone

- Worries about getting drugged. Avoid certain frats. ALWAYS go with friends, plan on how you get home together, don't drink at certain places, certain places off campus you don't go to, no frats, always stay coherent
- Yes
- Yes, actions at social gatherings depend on setting
- Yes, literally all the time. Never go to frat parties, avoid cocktails, many instances of drunk men attempting to force themselves into our places of residence, always go to an even with at least one SINGLE female friend, at least half of us in this group have been sexually assaulted

### **Males:**

- No
- No
- No
- No
- Main concern – drinking and driving
- Consider practices of other people's behavior – excess of alcohol and/or drugs
- Not because of safety for most of the group but I decided to not go to a party because I worried about going with my boyfriend and worried how it would be accepted

**Question 6. Considering your time here at UNC, have you ever...not gone into a person of the opposite sex's room because of concern about your safety?**

**Females:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes</li><li>• No</li><li>• Yes</li><li>• Never encountered this situation, always in groups so it didn't happen, had previously contacted parent/friend before entering room</li><li>• Yes</li><li>• Yes</li><li>• Yes</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Yes</li><li>• Yes. Avoid getting to that point as well</li><li>• Yes</li><li>• Yes</li><li>• Yes</li><li>• Yes</li><li>• No</li><li>• Yes, "obviously"</li></ul> |
|--|--|

**Males:**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No</li><li>• No</li><li>• NO</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No</li><li>• No</li></ul> |
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**Question 7. Considering your time here at UNC, have you ever...decided not to speak in class for a reason that had to do with your gender?**

**Females:**

- I have decided to not speak up in class for a reason to do with gender and race because responding to certain things would be seen me naming things personal
- Not typically. Defy expectations. Race has more to do with talking/not talking
- No, but maybe due to classes we take. If we wanna talk it's hard when men occupy all of the speaking roles
- Yes
- When women do speak there is a tendency to be apologetic for speaking or having to justify their time speaking
- NB (no). All the time, especially on gendered issues. F (yes) not too big on the vocal participation. Otherwise it's a non-issue
- Fear of being bitchy, over assertive, discounted, judged, avoiding people mansplaining, guys dominating the conversation, don't want to be over emotional or irritated
- No. Yes, to a side comment
- Feel like people will be less receptive if you fall in gender minority. Sometime depends on if Professor is of same gender
- Yes, girls more shut down
- No
- In PWAD, yes. They will shoot you down possibly because feminist often has a neg connotation. Male Professors v female Professors
- Occasionally not talking about women's rights as to not sound like angry feminist
- Might not be overt but definitely don't speak as much probably because we are women and less confident in answers
- Yes. Phil. Class with only boys that were Phil. Major
- Not because about gender but it is hard to speak up when the majority opinions are difficult
- Yes. Professor more condescending toward women who answer math question incorrectly than men
- Yes, European Politics – there were so many white males
- Yes, more hesitant to speak, the way speak
- Before, yes
- Yes
- Poli 100 – racial undertones, thinking through more, race plays a bigger role than gender
- Yes. Professors treat students differently base on gender, discourage us from participating, if there are more male identifying ppl in a class than female we are less likely to raise our hands
- Not an issue of not speaking, it's more being talked over not heard in

group settings, ideas are ignored based on gender

- Yes
- Yes/No. Concerns about appearing, “dumb”

- Yes. Never spoke in computer science class, hard to think of specific incidents, we consistently don’t speak in class b/c of our gender, b/c of a fear of being perceived incorrectly

**Males:**

- Yes, but it is an intentional decision
- Yes, right now
- No
- Yes, my recitation for this class
- Nope
- Yeah, in context with how one grows up can create boundaries amongst gender. As male, naturally dominating conversation can be a struggle for males
- Most members talked about feeling like they could not talk if the topic goes to women’s issues or if we are talking about straight white males. I have had a class where we were being asked to make a spreadsheet trying to narrow down the number of, “potential dating partners,” on UNC’s campus, so I felt that could not talk about the real criteria for me because I would have to, “out,” myself to the class and it was such a random assignment for a biology class... I ended up dropping the class. I guess it’s not really gender though.

**Question 8. Considering your time here at UNC, have you ever...had an opportunity denied to you because of your gender?**

**Females:**

- I do not know if I have ever been denied an opportunity because I'm a black woman. There are definitely times when I feel that way, though. I am more bothered when I do get chosen for something and ppl assume it was a diversity pick
- Probably, but not that we're aware of. UNC Career Services has recommendations for women regarding what they should wear to interviews but not for men
- Not that we know of. Athletics! Recruiting and foundry and scholarship
- Yes
- It could be that we don't know that we've been denied an opportunity due to gender
- NB (no) – yes, but for not “looking queer” ; F (yes) don't think so
- Honors frat – take all guys and choose the girls, not seeing as much disparity within minority groups
- Comedy
- Leadership in group work
- Yes
- Not explicitly, not sure if we would know
- Not that we know of at UNC
- No, actively seek out female inclusive groups
- Not that we are aware of
- No, if so we don't know
- Not that we know of
- Nothing that comes to mind
- Probably, it's a buildup of all of these oppressions that make us choose not to apply for things
- Not UNC but denied a valet job at the Carolina Inn as a female. No, feel like opportunities are more class based study abroad b/c of safety
- No
- Advisory committees looking to fulfill demographic goals, was told that on a committee with 2 females and 6 males, they couldn't add another female b/c it'd be female dominated, choosing not to pursue gender-based goals at all for fear/assumption of rejection

**Males:**

- No
- Don't know
- No, maybe gender quotas, being accepted not based on merit
- No
- No
- Not that any of us can think of



**Question 9. Considering your time here at UNC, explain the steps you routinely take to protect your safety when walking home during the evening or at night.**

**Females:**

- Yes
- Yes
- Yes, had a professor who had office hours deep into the law school and gave her his number and said text me when you're here

**Males:**

- None

**Question 10. Considering your time here at UNC, have you ever...felt uncomfortable about going to a professor's office hours?**

**Females:**

- Yes, not due to fear of sexual aggression but because professor was super rude/snarky. There is a general discomfort of being the only female in a room where there's a male authority figure present
- Yes
- Yes, nervous that they will think you're stupid, can't relate to old white men
- Yes, there's an added power structure of gender and position
- Yes
- Yes
- I have never felt uncomfortable about going to a professor's office hours
- Yes. In males office hours, whether they leave the door open or not, whether there is a desk between you or not
- Yes, creepy Soc. Professor with office in basement
- Not necessarily on the basis of gender
- Yes, in part to being awkward with people, particularly males or the prof. being a jack-ass about their office hours (not helping, insulting students)
- Yes, creepy men, by myself, condescending, shutting the door, hard to distinguish between nice and creepy
- Yes, it depends on the professor, different power dynamic
- Not because of gender mostly. But we are definitely aware
- When it's a professor of the opposite sex you have to consider the gender dynamics, it crosses our minds
- Yes, don't want to sound dumb, power-dynamic over what is supposed to be a normal conversation, big classes, uncomfortable alone with certain professors
- No, male professors typically take steps to make us feel comfortable such as leaving the door open and having safe zone and having trainings
- Yes, especially with male professors, always make sure the door is open
- Yes, would not go to professors office hours without a male peer
- Measures taken, leave office door open, tell someone that I am going to office hours
- Yes, not necessarily related to gender, female teachers easier to approach in office hours/less reluctant to go to female teacher office hours than male teachers
- Yes, if I have a creepy TA I would be 1 on 1 with

**Males:**

- Yes but not because of identity
- No
- No, just general awkwardness
- Yes, but not because of gender
- No
- Yes, but not because of gender, racial discrimination, ethnicity
- Yes, but not for any gender, race, sexuality reasons, more based on the personality of professors, some are more abrasive. Or worried we would feel stupid

For these questions, we ran out of time.

Question 11. Considering your time here at UNC, have you ever... felt that your voice was not heard during a meeting or in class discussion?

- No answers female or male

Question 12. Considering your time here at UNC, have you ever...felt that you were treated as an outsider or as someone who did not belong on campus or in your program?

- No answers female or male