

Lynn Stephen, Anthropology

I am Lynn Stephen, Phillip H. Knight Chair, Professor in the Department of Anthropology, and Graduate Faculty in the Department of Indigenous, Race, and Ethnic Studies. I am also an affiliated faculty member in Latinx Studies, Latin American Studies, and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. My research has centered on gender, race, and ethnicity for the past three decades and most recently on Indigenous women's access to justice for gendered violence in specialized courts in Guatemala and as asylum seekers in U.S. immigration courts. I recently finished a term as president of the Latin American Studies Association (LASA, with over 10,000 members in up to 80 countries). While president I led the organization in creating its first ever anti-harassment policy and procedures for addressing violations of that policy. We also conducted a survey on different forms of harassment, discrimination, and bullying and their intersection with race, gender, sexuality, age, nationality, ability, language and more. The results are sobering. I am also a survivor of sexual assault and sexual harassment. The University of Oregon has made significant strides in addressing sexual and gender-based violence in the two decades I have been here. I feel that the current moment is crucial in moving us forward to look at how racism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, and sexism come together in different forms of overt and covert violence. Because we have just passed a year of COVID shutdowns of all kinds, gendered and sexual violence has increased and become less visible. We are not interacting directly with one another, with our students and we need to come up with new strategies for how to combat intersectional forms of violence and harassment that is not only face to face, but also in our remote learning platforms, social media, and in other virtual and actual spaces. The world has changed in the past year. I hope to be elected to this committee to take the lessons I have learned about intersectional forms of violence to address sexual and gendered violence in the UO community and beyond. Thank you for participating in the UO Senate and Committees elections.