



Dana M. Olwan '01, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor
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Dr. Dana M. Olwan '01 is assistant professor of women's and gender studies at Syracuse University.

A recipient of the Pacem In Terris scholarship, Dr. Olwan graduated from La Roche with a bachelor's degree in English literature. She received her master's in English literature from Georgetown University in 2003, and her Ph.D. from Queen's University in 2009.

Dr. Olwan said her goal in the classroom is to introduce her students to the field of gender studies, and to help them build an intersectional understanding of oppression at the local and global levels. She aims, as an educator, to help her students engage in dedicated careers that focus on social justice and social change.

"There is nothing more fulfilling than knowing that my students are finding their voices and their paths in happy and fulfilling careers—and knowing that I had a small part in that," she said.

In addition to her work in mentoring, supervising, and teaching undergraduate and graduate students at Syracuse University, she has published a number of scholarly works that focus on confronting gendered and sexual violence, and feminist and transnational forms of solidarity between Native people and Palestinians. Dr. Olwan also has been actively involved in justice for Palestine struggles, having served as chair of Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights in Canada.

Dr. Olwan said she credits La Roche professors and the campus community in helping her lead a successful and fulfilling career. Through their commitment, mentorship and care for their students, she said the professors of La Roche inspired her to be who she is as an educator and a community member.

"Many people impacted how I viewed the world and thought about issues of oppression and injustice," she said, "but it was my professors and mentors at La Roche who also modeled for me ways of being a good teacher, a caring educator and a compassionate listener. These are qualities that have made me a successful and committed teacher."

Dr. Olwan received the Meredith Teaching Recognition from Syracuse University for teaching excellence.

