

“I am honored to have received the Tolman scholarship and to be recognized as a feminist academic. Feminism continuously evolves for me. It informs my worldview and expectations for how we create and redefine our culture to empower, enrich, and liberate us. I love feminism because it constantly reminds me that I am worth being alive, being here, and being a part of change, and that my presence is a source of power and guidance.”



“My research focuses on sexual violence within law and policy in San Francisco. I am looking at how aspects of race, class, gender, and sexuality are conveyed in courtroom language, how this language is used to define “proper” victims and offenders, and how it perpetuates rape culture. I hope to continue doing legal and policy research and working in victims’ rights advocacy.”

Tolman Scholar 2013-2014:

Melinda Cordasco

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- BA, Anthropology, SF State, 2006
- MA, Sexuality Studies, SF State, expected 2015
- Melinda Cordasco is currently assisting Jessica Fields as she co-edit a special issue of *Sex Education*. She serves as lead teaching assistant to Gilbert Herdt in Sexuality in Society and Cross-Cultural Aspects of Sex and Gender. As an undergraduate Melinda published “Consequences of Sexual Violence: Rape as a form of Genocide” in the SF State anthropology journal, *Treganza* (Spring 2009).