Brianna Robinson is an undergraduate student at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) majoring in Sociology with a minor in Feminist Studies. I will graduate in spring 2019 and plan on possibly pursuing a master’s degree in public policy or law. I have been doing pole dancing for over a year and hope that this research helps to dissipate stereotypes and presumptions of pole dancing. As a Black woman, I did this research because I had done a paper over summer on pole dancing and could only find research on Black strippers, but not Black pole dancers. This research serves to see myself and others like me represented in academic literature and expand perceptions of Black women being only strippers.
Dr. Laury Oaks is a professor, researcher, and chair of the department for Feminist Studies at UCSB. Dr. Oaks specializes in reproductive politics, health, medicine, and science. She has published several books and articles that are grounded in feminist and community based participatory research. Dr. Oaks was the faculty adviser for this research project, along with nine other student research projects over the course of the 2018-2019 academic year.