

Northeast Popular Culture Association

Annual Conference October 12-14, 2023

Last Updated 10/08/2023

All times are Eastern Daylight Time

Schedule at a Glance

[Schedule at a Glance](#)

Thursday, October 12

Session #1: 3:00 p.m.-4:15 p.m. EDT

[Comics and Graphic Novels 1: Unlikely Heroes: Challenging \(and Affirming\) Moral Norms](#)

[Crime and Scandal in Fact and Fiction 1: Crime: A Basis For Cultural Commentary](#)

[Fan, Fandoms, and Celebrity Studies 1: Strike, Camera, Legal Action](#)

[Film and History 1](#)

[Genders, Sex, and Sexualities 1: Documenting Women's Experiences](#)

[Literature and Popular Culture 1: Adapting Epics with Pop Culture](#)

[Performance Studies 1](#)

[Science and Technology 1: Posthumanist Bodies and Apocalyptic Worlds](#)

Session #2: 4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. EDT

[Animals and Culture 1: Soldiers, Patients, and Pets: Reinterpreting Dog Breeds in Modern Britain and the United States](#)

[Classrooms, Libraries, and the Academy 1: Centering the Student Experience](#)

[Disney Studies 1: Disney Parenting](#)

[Film and History 2](#)

[Genders, Sex, and Sexualities 2: "I'm a man with no power, does that make me a woman?": Popular Feminism, Fragile Masculinity, and Intersectionality in Barbie \(2023\)](#)

[Literature and Popular Culture 2: Dystopias, the Gothic, and Necropolitics in Literary Pop Culture](#)

[Performance Studies 2](#)

[Science and Technology 2: Applied Sciences: Algorithms, Affordances, and Remediations](#)

Session #3: 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. EDT

[Monsters and the Monstrous 1: Taking Another Look at the Monsters](#)

[Fan, Fandoms, and Celebrity Studies 2: Fandom as Resistance](#)

[Genders, Sex, and Sexualities 3: Those "Other" Bodies: Gender-Based Mutation, Transformation, and Torture in Horror](#)

[Film and History 3](#)

[History and Popular Uses of the Past 1: Natural and Historical Carnivals](#)
[Politics, Civic Life and Popular Culture 1: Identity and Culture in 21st Century Media](#)
[Race and Ethnicity 1: Medieval, Modern, and Postmodern Scholarship on Racisms in Tolkien's Legendarium](#)
[Sports 1](#)

[Session #4: 7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. EDT](#)

[Digital Media and Gaming Culture 1: Life, Death, and the Divine in Games](#)
[Disney Studies 2: Films and Entertainment](#)
[Film and History 4](#)
[History and Popular Uses of the Past 2](#)
[Literature and Popular Culture 3: Rewriting/Reusing the Past](#)
[Race and Ethnicity 2](#)
[Sports 2: Sports Storytelling](#)
[Storytelling and Narrative 1](#)

[Friday - October 13](#)

[Session #1: 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. EDT](#)

[The Body, Fashion, and Popular Culture 1: Awakenings](#)
[Fan, Fandoms, and Celebrity Studies 3: Fandom as Resistance](#)
[Comics and Graphic Novels 2: Persuasive Panels: the Political and Pedagogical Use of Comics](#)
[Genders, Sex, and Sexualities 4: Revisiting Classic Horror](#)
[Literature and Popular Culture 4: Meaning Through Literary Forms and Terminology](#)
[Monsters and the Monstrous 2: Re-Envisioning Monsters and the Monstrous](#)
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[Interdisciplinary Panels: Where Past Meets Present](#)

[Session #2: 2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. EDT](#)

[Animals and Culture 2: The Colonized Animal](#)
[Film and History 5](#)
[History and Popular Uses of the Past 3](#)
[Genders, Sex, and Sexualities 5: Sexuality and Eroticism](#)
[Literature and Popular Culture 5: Music, Literature, and Pop Culture](#)
[Monsters and the Monstrous 3: Villainous Science I](#)
[Storytelling and Narrative 2](#)
[Television 1: Challenging Representations I](#)

[Session #3: 4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. EDT](#)

[Animals and Culture 3: Animal and Human Relationality](#)
[Crime and Scandal in Fact and Fiction 2: Navigating Boundaries](#)
[Disney Studies 3: Theme Park Narrative and Experience](#)
[Fantasy and Science Fiction 1: Perspectives on Posthumanism](#)

[Race and Ethnicity 4](#)

[Storytelling and Narrative 3](#)

[Television 2: Challenging Representations II](#)

[Keynote and Awards: 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. EDT](#)

[Saturday – October 14](#)

[Session #1: 9:00am - 10:15am EDT](#)

[Animals and Culture 4: Reading the Animal in the Arts and Nature](#)

[The Body, Fashion, and Popular Culture 2: Realizing](#)

[Digital Media and Gaming Culture 2: Games as Presentations of Real-World Knowledge](#)

[Disney Studies 4: Retelling Literature and Fairy Tale](#)

[Genders, Sex and Sexualities 6: Pop Culture in India](#)

[Monsters and the Monstrous 4: Villainous Science II](#)

[Race and Ethnicity 5: The Problem of the "Evil Other": Tolkien's Goblins, Orcs, and Swarthy Men](#)

[Television 3: Motherhood](#)

[Session #2: 10:30am - 11:45am EDT](#)

[Animals and Culture 5: Representing Animals](#)

[The Body, Fashion, and Popular Culture 2: Reconsidering](#)

[Fantasy and Science Fiction 2: Gender, Sexuality, and Identity in SF/E](#)

[Folklore, Belief, and Religion 1: Religious Themes in Popular Media and Literature](#)

[Genders, Sex, and Sexualities 7: Gender Non-Conformity](#)

[Monsters and the Monstrous 5: New Perspectives on Monsters and the Monstrous](#)

[Race and Ethnicity 6](#)

[Television 4: Political Economy, Marketing, Production](#)

[Session #3: 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. EDT](#)

[The Body, Fashion, and Popular Culture 3: Let's Begin Again](#)

[Disney Studies 5: Art and Community](#)

[Fantasy and Science Fiction 3: Utopias, Dystopias, and Everything in Between](#)

[Genders, Sex and Sexualities 8: Depicting Men in Entertainment Media](#)

[Health, Disease and Popular Culture 1: Tropes and Hopes: Health Across Contexts](#)

[Philosophy and Popular Culture 1: Philosophy in Recent Blockbuster Movies](#)

[Romance and Popular Romance Fiction 1](#)

[Television 5: Politics and Ideologies on TV](#)

Thursday, October 12
Session #1: 3:00 p.m.-4:15 p.m. EDT

Comics and Graphic Novels 1: Unlikely Heroes: Challenging (and Affirming) Moral Norms

Panel Chair: Charles Henebry, Boston University

- Mabuse: Motives of a Villainous Hero. Lynn Kutch, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania
- Poetical Science: Text and Metatext in *The Thrilling Adventures of Lovelace and Babbage*. Spencer Chalifour, Georgia Institute of Technology
- DP 7: A Reflection of, and Reflected in, Modern Comic Book Sensibilities. Jason Kahler, Independent Scholar

Crime and Scandal in Fact and Fiction 1: Crime: A Basis For Cultural Commentary

Panel Chair: Joe Baumstarck, Ivy Tech Community College Of Indiana

- Structural Gaslighting in *Breaking Bad*. Anna Marie Banker, New York University
- #MeToo and the Nordic Noir Crime Short Story: Antti Tuomainen's "The Script." Charlotte Beyer, University of Gloucestershire

Fan, Fandoms, and Celebrity Studies 1: Strike, Camera, Legal Action

Panel Chair: Shelly Jones, State University of New York Delhi

- We May Be Trash, But These Are Our Treasures: Danmei Cyberliterature Fandom and Diaspora Labour. Jamie Cin Yee Leung, The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
- Dark Fandom as Play: Fan Studies and the Celebrity Serial Killer. Judith Fathallah, Lancaster University
- Hollywood On Strike: What are Social Media Influencers Supposed to Do? Lisabeth Matyash, University of Illinois
- Who Owns Goncharov (1973): Authorship in a Collaborative Meme. Stacey Lantagne, Western New England University School of Law

Film and History 1

Panel Chair: K C Clemens, Lees-McRae College

- "A Tiny Drop of Poison": Espionage and the Lavender Scare on American Television. Michael LoSasso, Independent Scholar
- Political Campaigns in 1950s Hollywood Cinema. James Burton, Salisbury University
- The Funny Philosophy of *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*. Zsofia Anna Toth, University of Szeged

Genders, Sex, and Sexualities 1: Documenting Women's Experiences

Panel Chair: Emma Bálint, University of Szeged

- "Just An Appendage": Representations of Women's Labour in "Ain't Your Mama" and "Labour." Julie Thompson, Burman University
- What it Means to be Human: A Feminist Rhetorical Analysis of Two Memoirs: *Golem Girl: A Memoir* (2020), by Riva Lehrer, and *Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activists* (2021), by Judith Heumann. Amalie Kwassman, Iowa State University

- Punk Sexualities: Challenges to the Male Heteronormative Conventions of Rock Music in the 1970s. David Valone, Quinnipiac University

Literature and Popular Culture 1: Adapting Epics with Pop Culture

Panel Chair: Susan Gorman, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University

- Dante's *Inferno* in Pop Culture. Simon Prah, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität
- It Ain't Easy Being Good and Green: Examining Duty, Family, and Friendship in *Franklin and the Green Knight*. Sam Lehman, Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador
- *Gilgamesh's* Legacy: Adaptations of *Gilgamesh* in Film and Young Adult Literature. Susan Gorman, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University
- Uncle Scrooge's *Kalevala*: How Don Rosa Reshaped Finland's National Epic. Valentina Rovere, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Performance Studies 1

Panel Chair: Kimberly Johnson, Independent Scholar

- Breathing Life into the Black and White: Performing Sandra Bland. Brittney Harris, Old Dominion University
- The Living Newspaper 2.0: The Right Tool to Address Urgent Socio-Political Issues. Julie Labagnara, University of Hawai'i
- D&Disability: Exploring Crip RPGs Experiences. Theyen Kile, Towson University
- Emotional Tofu: Dancing Post-Malone and Sad Boy Tragicomedy. Tristan Koepke, Bates College

Science and Technology 1: Posthumanist Bodies and Apocalyptic Worlds

Panel Chair: Sara Santos, Stony Brook University

- Climate Gothic: End of the World Narratives in Film and Television as Climate Disaster Thought Experiments. Caitlin Wilson, University of Oxford
- Plastic People and the Art of Recycling in *Crimes of the Future*. Sara Santos, Stony Brook University

Session #2: 4:30 p.m. - 5:45 p.m. EDT

Animals and Culture 1: Soldiers, Patients, and Pets: Reinterpreting Dog Breeds in Modern Britain and the United States

Panel Chair: Donna Varga, Mount Saint Vincent University

- That Doggone Draft: Dogs for Defense, Purebreds, and the Dog Draft. Hannah Palsa, Kansas State University
- Bad Blood: Strategies for Managing Hereditary Ailments and Issues in the Postwar Period. Wendie Schneider, Iowa State University
- A Dog for Every Era: Evolving Fashion and Breed Desirability in Victorian Britain. Neil Humphrey, Ohio State University

Classrooms, Libraries, and the Academy 1: Centering the Student Experience

Panel Chair: Sthitirupa Mukherjee, Jadavpur University

- The Precarisation of LGBTI+ Students in Turkey: The Case of Eskisehir. Kazım Tolga Gürel, Independent Scholar
- Diversity, Representation and Identity: Ideas and Practices in the Classroom. Amy Neeman and Saiyeda Khatun, Johnson and Wales University
- Student Academic Freedom and Fiction Writing Workshops: An Uneasy Alliance. Daniel Perrone, John Jay College of Criminal Justice

Disney Studies 1: Disney Parenting

Panel Chair: Priscilla Hobbs, Southern New Hampshire University

- "Sometimes Mums Just Need 20 Minutes": Parental Struggles in *Bluey*. Marcie Rován, Wilmington College
- Disney Animated Films: Impressions of Parenting on Identity. Kimberly Johnson, Independent Scholar
- "Cuddle Close, Scooch In": *Frozen II* and the Ideological Evolution of the Disney Lullaby. Jennessa Hester, Texas Tech University
- Healing from Transgenerational Trauma in Disney and Pixar: *Coco* (2017), *Encanto* (2021), and *Turning Red* (2022). Kellie Deys, Nichols College

Film and History 2

Panel Chair: James Burton, Salisbury University

- "Ali Hatami, Popular Historian. Shahbaz Khayambashi, Independent Scholar
- Dialogism, Genre, and Adaptation in the Coen Brothers' *True Grit*. David Mongor-Lizarrabengoa, Wor-Wic Community College
- Performing the Ordinary: Christopher Nolan's *The Prestige* and the Spectacle of Science. Patrick Joseph Caoile, Hamilton College
- Coherence and Borges' "The Garden of Forking Paths." Michael Modarelli, Walsh University

Genders, Sex, and Sexualities 2: "I'm a man with no power, does that make me a woman?": Popular Feminism, Fragile Masculinity, and Intersectionality in *Barbie* (2023)

Panel Chair: Sienna Medina, Drexel University

- If You Have a Fragile Masculinity [...], You Are Just Going to Hate It": *Barbie* (2023), Post-Feminist Masculinity, and the Anti-Men Audience Backlash. Dacia Pajé, Drexel University
- "Barbie is All These Women, and All These Women are Barbie": An Introduction to Intersectionality and *Barbie* (2023). Maggie Reigel, Drexel University
- "Men Hate Women, and Women Hate Women": Feminism(s), Patriarchy, and Contradiction in *Barbie* (2023). Sienna Medina, Drexel University, and Brittney Williams, Independent Scholar

Literature and Popular Culture 2: Dystopias, the Gothic, and Necropolitics in Literary Pop Culture

Panel Chair: Susan Gorman, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University

- “Surreal play in signification, recognition, memory and wonder”: The Techne of the Occult Object, Individuation, and the Cinematic Medium as the Self-Reflexive Wondrous in Vitezslav Nezval’s Novella *Valerie and Her Week of Wonders*. Arnab Chakraborty, Jadavpur University
- Systems, Mirrors, and Self-Solution in Jonathan Lethem’s *Gun, With Occasional Music*. David Downey, Wentworth Institute of Technology
- Secluded Corpses: William Faulkner and *American Horror Story: Cult*. Eva Gourdeaux, Université Toulouse Jean Jaurès
- Patriarchal Necropolitics and Ethics of Love in Roald Dahl’s Children’s Novels. Matt Grinder, University of Southern Maine

Performance Studies 2

Panel Chair: Debalina Mondal, Jadavpur University

- George Antheil’s War Symphony. Aaron Keebaugh, North Shore Community College
- The Scholarship of Rock Music: Knowledge Mapping through Bibliography. Monica Berger, New York City College of Technology
- Happy 50th Birthday Hip Hop: Celebrating Kendrick Lamar and the 2018 Pulitzer. Nikki Anderson, Nichols College

Science and Technology 2: Applied Sciences: Algorithms, Affordances, and Remediations

Panel Chair: Jon Heggstad, Davidson College

- Editing Ghosts: Fanvids, Cognition, and Compression. Jessica Hautsch, New York Institute of Technology
- Gay By (User) Design: Sexuality and Algorithmic Culture. Jon Heggstad, Davidson College
- Virtual Reality’s Multimodal Promise: Escaping *The Matrix* and Corporate Capitalism. Zita Hüsing, Georgia Institute for Technology

Session #3: 6:00 p.m. - 7:15 p.m. EDT

Monsters and the Monstrous 1: Taking Another Look at the Monsters

Panel Chair: Derya Agis, Independent Scholar

- Louisville’s Pope Lick Monster: A Legendary Monster That Kills For Real. Joseph Baumstarck, Ivy Tech Community College Of Indiana
- Monstrous Identities: Queer Relationships and Bodies in Poppy Z. Brite’s Southern Gothic Horror. Kasturi Ghosh, University of Waterloo
- “A Deadly Threat to Its Very Existence”: Queer Monsters and American AIDS Anxieties in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Courtney Welu, University of Texas

Fan, Fandoms, and Celebrity Studies 2: Fandom as Resistance

Panel Chair: Shelly Jones, State University of New York Delhi

- Themes and Evolution of BTS Lyrics: A Corpus-based Approach. Courtney Lazore, Independent Scholar
- Russian Politicians Fanfiction in the Light of Symbolic Resistance Theories: Dictatorship and the War. Larisa Peigina and Boris Peigin, University of Texas
- Celebrities, Media Discourses, and Discrimination: Can We Trust a Fight Against Racist Prejudices Reinforcing Racial Stereotypes? Laura Torre, University of New Mexico

Genders, Sex, and Sexualities 3: Those "Other" Bodies: Gender-Based Mutation, Transformation, and Torture in Horror

Panel Chair: Jacqueline Morrill, Clark University

- Exploring the Boundaries of the Flesh: Body Horror and Identity. Kathryn Healey, Clark University
- "Sex Puts Me in the Mood To Make You Die": Gender and Violent Sexuality in Post-9/11 Torture Porn. Mallory Trainor, University of Pennsylvania
- "Here Piggy, Pig!": My Fat Body in Horror. Jacqueline Morrill, Clark University

Film and History 3

Panel Chair: Sruthi V S, Plaksha University

- "Avowedly British Propaganda": The Roosevelts, Isolationism, and Pastor Hall. Angela Beauchamp, University of New Mexico
- Popular Music and English Cinema: Henry Hall, "Music Hath Charms," and the Rise of the BBC Dance Orchestra (1936). Brian Peterson, Shasta College
- The Ecological Turn in Popular Media: Representations of the More-Than-Human in Recent Bollywood Cinema. Pratiksha Pradhan and Vijayalekshmi Ramachandran, Sri Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning

History and Popular Uses of the Past 1: Natural and Historical Carnivals

Panel Chair: K C Clemens, Lees-McRae College

- Nature's Carnival: Early Modern Frost Fairs and the Little Ice Age. Christopher Gilson, Northwestern State University
- When the Carnavalesque Goes Too Far: Mesmerism in 19th-Century Popular Literature. Katie Magaña, Texas Tech University
- Carnival, History, and Race in Lyle Saxon's "Have a Good Time While You Can." Lisa Abney, Northwestern State University

Politics, Civic Life and Popular Culture 1: Identity and Culture in 21st Century Media

Panel Chair: Dana Gavin, Dutchess Community College

- "Stick to Making Beer": The 2023 Bud Light Backlash. Andi McClanahan, East Stroudsburg University

- The European Union is a Joke? – European Identity in the TV Show *Parlement*. Jennifer Ostojski, Colgate University
- *Daria's Sick Sad World* and American Ideological Values. Marta Sánchez-Martín and Silvia Rusiñol-Romero, Universidad de Sevilla
- The Utility of Evil: Combatting Modern Terrorists in Popular Culture. Michael Neagle, Nichols College

Race and Ethnicity 1: Medieval, Modern, and Postmodern Scholarship on Racisms in Tolkien's Legendarium

Panel Chair: Robin Anne Reid, Independent Scholar

- The Sundering of the Elves and Tolkien's Spiritual Construction of Race in the First Age. Clare Moore, Independent Scholar
- British Far-Right Uses of Tolkien, c. 1980-2000. Helen Young, Deakin University
- The Perennial Problem of Racisms in Tolkien Studies: A Bibliographic and Lexicographical Rant. Robin Anne Reid, Independent Scholar

Sports 1

Panel Chair: Lucien Darjeun Meadows, University of Denver

- The Typical (or Mythical) German: Turkish-German Integration and Football. Iraboty Kazi, University Of Western Ontario
- Tennis Frontiers and the Midwest Tornado: Sports and Environmental Imaginaries in David Foster Wallace's "Tennis, Trigonometry, Tornadoes" (1991). Majda Atieh, Sultan Qaboos University
- "What Turn Four?" Pocono Raceway's Fight to Survive. Mark Howell, Northwestern Michigan College
- We Like to Have Fun: An Ethnographic Investigation of Modern Competitive Junior Golf Culture. Ryan King-White, Kyche Curtis, Olive Muller, Towson University, Matt Hawzen, Fairleigh Dickinson University

Session #4: 7:30 p.m. - 8:45 p.m. EDT

Digital Media and Gaming Culture 1: Life, Death, and the Divine in Games

Panel Chair: Adam Crowley, Husson University

- Game Over: Video Games in American Obituaries. Adam Crowley, Husson University
- Occult Texts and Redacted Realizations: Agency in *Mice and Murder*. Shelly Jones, State University of New York Delhi
- The Pantheon of *Exandria*: A Divine Intervention. Chelsea Criez, San Jose State University

Disney Studies 2: Films and Entertainment

Panel Chair: Priscilla Hobbs, Southern New Hampshire University

- "Welcome, Foolish Mortals": The Grounding of *The Haunted Mansion* Films in a Real American South. Antares Leask, Northern Virginia Community College

- Streaming with the Mouse: Disney's Entrance into Direct-to-Consumer Streaming and Implications for the Future of Entertainment. Cody Havard, The University of Memphis
- Re-Locating the Disney Renaissance. Peter Bryan, Clemson University

Film and History 4

Panel Chair: Jennessa Hester, Texas Tech University

- 21st-Century Neo-Giallo (?): *Last Night In Soho* And *Malignant*. Debalina Mondal, Jadavpur University
- All That Remains Is Madness: An Examination of the Tragic Outcome for Women in A24 Films. Erica Dymond, East Stroudsburg University
- *Asteroid City*: Close Encounter of the Wes Kind. Oscar De Los Santos and Kelly L. Goodridge, Western Connecticut State University
- Normalizing the State of Exception: Post-Apocalyptic Politics in *John Wick* and *The Last of Us*. Steffen Hantke, Sogang University

History and Popular Uses of the Past 2

Panel Chair: Terry Hamblin, State University of New York Delhi

- The 1966 Induction of Ted Williams into the Baseball Hall of Fame. Philip Grant, Pace University
- Advertising Military Innovation and Recruiting at the Museum. Jessica Ghilani, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg
- History as Popular Culture: The History Channel as Case Study. Julia Sloan, Curry College
- Monumental Empire: Remembrance, William Penn, and Artistic Practice in Philadelphia. Morgan Ridgway, Harvard University

Literature and Popular Culture 3: Rewriting/Reusing the Past

Panel Chair: Susan Gorman, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University

- Looking Back, Hopping Ahead: Julius Lester's Brer Rabbit Retellings (for Black Children). Amber Weinstock, Simmons University
- The Revival of the 70's in the 21st Century through *Daisy Jones and The Six*. Heather-Anne Jaeger, California State University
- "As the Prophets Say": Allusion, Culture, and Queer Temporalities in El-Mohtar and Gladstone's *This is How You Lose the Time War* and *tombenough_and_continent's* "I'll wager my youth against tomorrow." Sarah Regier, Independent Scholar

Race and Ethnicity 2

Panel Chair: Juie Gune, Jawaharlal Nehru University

- Distinguishing Between Cultural Appropriation and Appreciation: A Case Study of International Korean Pop Culture Fans. Min Joo Lee, Occidental College
- Pretendians and Princesses: A Study of Cherokee Identity Appropriation. Lucien Darjeun Meadows, University of Denver

- Japanese Acrobats on the Victorian Stage: Athletes or Popular Entertainments? Alexandra Kadis, University of Maryland
- To Create an “African Husband”: The Shaping of Masculinities in Sino-African Romantic Relationships on Social Media Platforms. Yiqiu Huang, Hong Kong University

Sports 2: Sports Storytelling

Panel Chair: Keaton Gregg, Cleveland State University

- Talking Baseball: The Changing Role of Oral Traditions in America's Pastime. Daniel Compora, University of Toledo
- Hockey Violence: The 1969 Green-Maki Incident and the Future of Fighting in the NHL. Kevin Hogg, Mount Baker Secondary School
- Baseball Across the Genres: America’s Pastime in Poetry, Prose, and Drama. Rich Miller, Suffolk University

Storytelling and Narrative 1

Panel Chair: Dacia Pajé, Drexel University

- Decoding Silence: An Exploration of Wordless Comics in Children's Literature. Artemis Papailia, Democritus University of Thrace
- Framing Reproductive Justice: The Power of Language in *Red Clocks*: Words Matter Now More Than Ever. Brenda Boudreau, McKendree University
- Deepening the Conversation on Reproductive Justice Online and Offline. Lesley Ann Foster, Queen’s University
- “I Didn’t Want to Go to England, Mam”: Abortion Travel in Irish Literature. Kelli Maloy, University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg

Friday - October 13
Session #1: 1:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m. EDT

The Body, Fashion, and Popular Culture 1: Awakenings

Panel Chair: Angela Whyland, Independent Scholar

- Fashioning the Posthuman Subject: Human-Animal Entanglements in Alexander McQueen's *The Horn Of Plenty*. Samuel Egea-Castañeda, University of Santiago de Compostela
- The Body in Drag: An Archive. Lea Pešec, University of Graz
- Queer Capital: How LGBTIQ Creatives Navigate the Ambivalent Opportunities of Pride Collections. Veronica Gargallo Llamas, King's College London
- Best Foot Forward: Shoes, Gender, and Wealth in J. D. Robb's "In Death" Novels. Kecia Ali, Boston University

Fan, Fandoms, and Celebrity Studies 3: Fandom as Resistance

Panel Chair: Shelly Jones, State University of New York Delhi

- Engaging with the Self-Insert RPF: Empathy for the Other in Fan Spaces vs. Commercial Publishing. Amanda M. Boyce, University of Trier
- On the "Auteur-ification" of Taylor Swift: The Case of *All Too Well: The Short Film*. James Carl Osorio, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Fandom, Cosplay, and (Para) Sociability in a Post-Pandemic Environment. Terri Toles-Patkin, Eastern Connecticut State University

Comics and Graphic Novels 2: Persuasive Panels: the Political and Pedagogical Use of Comics

Panel Chair: Charles Henebry, Boston University

- Individual or Communal Struggle? The Tale of the Oppressed in *Bhimayana* and *Amar Chitra Katha*. Priyodarshini Ghosh, Presidency University
- Whispers of the Wind: Unearthing Environmental Resilience in the Post-Apocalyptic World of *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*. Swarnava Chaudhuri, Independent Scholar
- Solitary Explorations: Challenges in Defining "American." KC Clemens, Lees-McRae College
- Magic as a Metaphor for (Queer) Otherness in Walker and Xu's *Mooncakes*. Carolin Sloykowski, University of Trier

Genders, Sex, and Sexualities 4: Revisiting Classic Horror

Panel Chair: Hayley McCullough, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

- What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Furrer: A History of the Queer Werewolf Within the Catholic Context. Emily D'Antonio, Independent Scholar
- "Society Must Be Protected": A Textual Analysis of Camp in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Erica Schoenberg, Boston University
- Every Household in America: Queer Futurity and the Child in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Joshua

Goodstein, The New School

- A Rhetorical Examination of Gender in *Resident Evil 7: Biohazard*. Hayley McCullough, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Literature and Popular Culture 4: Meaning Through Literary Forms and Terminology

Panel Chair: Susan Gorman, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University

- Exploring Form Through the Popular Narratives (or Folktales) of the Konkomba People of Ghana. Emmanuel Tasun Tidorchibe, Heinrich Heine University
- Gender, Race, and History in Bildungsroman Novels. Gina Extavour, University Of Southern California
- "shut your mouf": Sounding Black Rebellion in Civil War Literature. Rebeccah Bechtold, Wichita State University

Monsters and the Monstrous 2: Re-Envisioning Monsters and the Monstrous

Panel Chair: Kasturi Ghosh, University of Waterloo

- Re-Constructing Monstrosity: Frankenstein in the TV Show *Supernatural*. Tatiana Konrad, University of Vienna
- Reclaiming Lovecraft from Lovecraft: The Evolution of the Genre of Cosmic Horror. Christopher DeRosa, St. Thomas Aquinas College
- Societal Trauma and the Serial Killer Genre. Katelyn Tener, University of West Florida
- *Resident Evil* Re-emerging: Revisiting Survival Horror Video Games after Film Adaptations. Francine Sutton, University of Central Florida

Race and Ethnicity 3

Panel Chair: Kylie Petrovich, Middle Tennessee State University

- "I see the world as a place that must be endured": Sad and Savage (Brown) Girlhood in *Wednesday* (2022). Dani Nouriazad, Independent Scholar
- In the Heights: Recapitulating Capital in Nuyorican Narratives on Stage and on Film. Kevin Anzzolin, Christopher Newport University
- Lovecraft Country, Metamorphosis, and The Mythos of Black Auteurship. Shewit Mikael, Pennsylvania State University
- "You just a baby boy": John Singleton's Representations of Failed Black Parenting from the LA Uprising to the George Floyd Protests. Indya Jackson, Ramapo College of New Jersey

Interdisciplinary Panels: Where Past Meets Present

Panel Chair: Kiiza Smith, Shoolini University

- The Americanist: The Philosophical Coordination Behind the "American Accent" of the Interwar Period. Elizabeth Newkirk, University of Houston
- Dan Baum vs. Swampytad: The Politics of Travel Writing in Post-Katrina New Orleans. Russ Pottle, Worcester State University
- The Impact of Oil. Kiiza Smith and Renu pal al Sood, Shoolini University

- Bigger than Mary Pickford – The Eclectic and Brief Career of Beatriz Michelena and Her “Voice.” Shawn Driscoll, University of Massachusetts-Lowell

Session #2: 2:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. EDT

Animals and Culture 2: The Colonized Animal

Panel Chair: Sven Gins, University of Groningen

- Neoliberal Precarity in Contemporary Indian Cinema. Anupama Arora, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth and Megha Anwer, Purdue University
- Marius the Giraffe and Other Horror Stories of Human Stewardship. Shubh Mathur, Independent Scholar
- To the Zoo with You! Colonialist Animal Commodification Through Stories and Toys. Donna Varga, Mount Saint Vincent University

Film and History 5

Panel Chair: Shawn Driscoll, University of Massachusetts-Lowell

- Letters and Retribution in: *Address Unknown* and *The 13th Letter*. Gail Sheehan, Salem State University
- We Are Our Brains: Disembodied Brain Films in 1950s America. David Pierson, University of Southern Maine
- Reversing the Wheels: Using *Back to the Future*, *Marty McFly*, and Popular Culture to Explore Racism in America. Phil Askander, University of Massachusetts
- Aspirational Commensality in Romantic Winter Holiday Movies (2018-2022). Laura Kitchings, Independent Scholar

History and Popular Uses of the Past 3

Panel Chair: Iraboty Kazi, University of Western Ontario

- Alternate Histories, Alternate Archives: Finding Riddance. Callie Ingram, University at Buffalo
- Mother Russia as Radical Reformer in *The Great*. Geraldine Wagner, Johnson and Wales University
- Days of Future Passed: (Mis)Predicting What Will Be. Robert Weir, Independent Scholar

Genders, Sex, and Sexualities 5: Sexuality and Eroticism

Panel Chair: Jo Ann Oravec, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater

- An Exploration of *Kinky*: Duhamel’s Ideology of Gender Roles in Sexual Pleasure. Abigail Zajac, Independent Scholar
- From Eroticism to Gender Politics: The “Cleaned” ABO Trope in China. Ye Jiang, Leiden University
- Artificial Matrimony: Civil and Religious Ratifications and Rejections of Human-Robot Sexual Relations and Marriage. Jo Ann Oravec, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater
- “Deeper than friendship”: The Eroticism of *1984*. Réka Törzsök, University of Debrecen

Literature and Popular Culture 5: Music, Literature, and Pop Culture

Panel Chair: Susan Gorman, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University

- Sister Souljah's *The Coldest Winter Ever*: The Culture Within. Eva Bohler, California State University, Long Beach
- The Queer Recursivity of the Literary in the Broadway Musical Adaptation of *Fun Home*. Stephen Reaugh, Washington University in St. Louis
- Bollywood Ballads: Literary Narratives in Popular Hindi Songs. Subhashree Pattnaik, Maharaja Sriram Chandra Bhanja Deo University

Monsters and the Monstrous 3: Villainous Science I

Panel Chair: Michael Torregrossa, Bristol Community College

- MKUltra's Legacy and the *Shadows of Deception*. Don Vescio, Worcester State University
- Lack of Limits and the Perversion of Posthuman Possibility in *Altered Carbon* [edited MAT]. Hillary Jones, California State University, Fresno
- Cosmic Horror and *Event Horizon* (1997): A Lovecraftian View of Paul W. S. Anderson's Cult Classic. Kristine Larsen, Central Connecticut State University

Storytelling and Narrative 2

Panel Co-Chairs: Hannah Schiffner, Zeppelin University, and Samreen Rashid, Kinnaird College for Women

- Cultural and Environmental Narratives: The Rhetorical Legacy of Bonanza Farms and Agricultural Innovation. Alexandra Rowe, North Dakota State University
- Life-Writing in the Context of Carcerality: How the Online Presentation Practices of People Required to Wear Electronic Ankle Monitors Create Narratives of Resistance and Reclamation. Lauren Kilgour, University of Waterloo
- Music That Surpasses Genres: The Symbolisms and Narrative Structure of Sleep Token. Sai Shashanka Ravi, Charles University

Television 1: Challenging Representations I

Panel Chair: Amber Moore, University of British Columbia

- Examining Adolescent Atmospheres of Convenience Stores in *Euphoria*. Amber Moore, University of British Columbia
- Iridescence on Screen: Media Stereotype and Representation of LGBTQ+ in South Korean Television Dramas. Jiyoung Bae, Cambridge University
- The Kids are Alright: The Role of Children in Seth MacFarlane's Animated Series. Melissa Vosen Callens, North Dakota State University

Session #3: 4:00 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. EDT

Animals and Culture 3: Animal and Human Relationality

Panel Chair: Shubh Mathur, Independent Scholar

- From Training to Listening: Interspecies Co-Musicality in Health and Healing. Jessica Schwartz, University of California, Los Angeles
- Learned Horses. Kimberly Poppiti, St. Joseph's University
- Entering an Agreement: Relationality, Horses, and Alien Animality in Jordan Peele's *Nope*. Lizette Gerber, University of Alberta
- "In Here We Were Gods": Animals and Automata at the Medieval Wonder Park of Hesdin. Sven Gins, University of Groningen

Crime and Scandal in Fact and Fiction 2: Navigating Boundaries

Panel Chair: Joe Baumstarck, Ivy Tech Community College Of Indiana

- Crime Fighting in the 40th Millennium: Putting *Exterminatus* on Hold to Investigate Petty Theft. Matthew McEniry, Texas Tech University
- The Unintelligibility of Multilingual Digital Representations of the Mexico-U.S. Border (or Bad Border Websites). Yari Cruz Ríos, University of Puerto Rico

Disney Studies 3: Theme Park Narrative and Experience

Panel Chair: Priscilla Hobbs, Southern New Hampshire University

- Crafting "Classic Florida Fare" at Disney Springs: Foodways as Theme at Art Smith's Homecomin' Restaurant. Evan Nooe, University of South Carolina Lancaster
- Disney from Home: The Consumerist Spectacle of the Disney Episode. Lindsay Gould, Boston University

Fantasy and Science Fiction 1: Perspectives on Posthumanism

Panel Chair: Nova Seals, Phillips Exeter Academy

- Constructing Dystopias: Posthumanism in the Hollywood Movies from the 1990s to the Present. Palak Arora, Amity University
- Class and Posthumanism in the Metaverse: Examining AI Reanimation of "Cloned Consciousness" in *Black Mirror* episodes "San Junipero" and "Rachel, Jack, and Ashley Too." Peter McKenna, Gogebic Community College
- Technology as the Rein: Control Mechanism and Posthuman Contingency in Science Fiction. Zhiwen Hu, University of Georgia
- "I prefer cybernetically-augmented": Disability and *Star Trek: Discovery*. Alyson Buckman, California State University, Sacramento

Race and Ethnicity 4

Panel Chair: Jennessa Hester, Texas Tech University

- "They like using girls like me, light skin girls": Music Videos, Race, and Technology in Accra, Ghana Nii Kotei Nikoi, College of Wooster
- "Aqua Worm Hole" to Tomorrow: Drexciya in Comics. Gustavo Garcia, California State University, Northridge
- bell hooks, Meghan Thee Stallion, and the (Mis?) Representation of Black Women in Popular Culture. Kylie Petrovich, Middle Tennessee State University

- From Aunt Jemima to “Ghetto Chick”: Black Women, Food, and Representations. Marilisa Navarro, Thomas Jefferson University

Storytelling and Narrative 3

Panel Chair: Amber Weinstock, Simmons University

- Lars and the Motorcycle. Dietrik Vanderhill, Northwestern College
- The Metafictionality of Tolkien. Robinson Ensz, Independent Scholar
- Pucka! Pucka! Pucka! Leah McCormack, University of South Dakota
- Animated and Anthropomorphic: A Survey of the Golem in Children's/YA Media. Raymond Rugg, Bridgewater State University

Television 2: Challenging Representations II

Panel Chair: Caitlan Truelove, Dutchess Community College Academy of Music

- Musicalizing Mental States in the Television Musical Series. Caitlan Truelove, Dutchess Community College Academy of Music
- Authenticity According to Dr. Phil. Christian Nelson, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences University
- Beyond the Burger of the Day: Creating with Love in *Bob's Burgers*. Vikki Terrile, Queens College, City University of New York
- White's Complex “Saviors”: A Critical Examination of Race, Resistance, and Tourism in *The White Lotus*. Joel Morales, University of Puerto Rico

Keynote and Awards: 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. EDT

- Book Prize
- Graduate Prizes
- Keynote Speaker ([Bill Oakley](#))

Saturday – October 14
Session #1: 9:00am - 10:15am EDT

Animals and Culture 4: Reading the Animal in the Arts and Nature

Panel Chair: Donna Varga, Mount Saint Vincent University

- The Cultural Eel. Beth Shepherd, Independent Scholar
- Pop-Mythopoesis: The Humorous-Festive-Oracular Naturalism of Amy Leach (or: “Sometimes it avails to be a goat”). Chidsey Dickson, University of Lynchburg
- Animal Metaphors in Stories by Omer Seyfettin and Dacia Maraini: An Ecolinguistic Approach. Fazila Derya Agis, University of the People

The Body, Fashion, and Popular Culture 2: Realizing

Panel Chair: Angela Whyland, Independent Scholar

- Body and Material: Fashion and Human Imagination in Films. Akishe L Jakha, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Intersections of Body and Class in Zadie Smith’s *White Teeth* and *NW*. Cenk Tan, Pamukkale University
- Fashion as Armour and Wound: Reading Women’s Mourning Fashion in Victorian Literature and Popular Culture. Carina Koh, Independent Scholar
- The Spectacular Corpse: Popular Performance and Body Politics in Nabarun Bhattacharya’s *Mausoleum*. Sandipan Bose, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Digital Media and Gaming Culture 2: Games as Presentations of Real-World Knowledge

Panel Chair: Jason Cash, State University of New York Delhi

- “The Crystals’ Blessing”: Technogaianism and Skepticism in *Final Fantasy* and *Stranger of Paradise*. Jason Cash, State University of New York Delhi
- Tracking Long-Term Changes in Player Created Narratives in *The Elder Scrolls Online* MMORPG. Erin Larucci, State University of New York Oneonta
- *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild*: A Link to Representation and Reimagined Heroism. Valerie Thomas, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

Disney Studies 4: Retelling Literature and Fairy Tale

Panel Chair: Priscilla Hobbs, Southern New Hampshire University

- Erasure of the Elderly Hatter. Bee Eldridge, University College London
- From Merrows to Disney’s *The Little Mermaid*. Emma Bálint, University of Szeged
- “Stick to Your Schooling, Boy!”: Education Is/As Magic in Walt Disney’s *The Sword in the Stone*. Brennan Thomas, Saint Francis University

Genders, Sex and Sexualities 6: Pop Culture in India

Panel Chair: Namrata Sathe, Krea University

- Made in (and for) India: Gender, Sexuality, and Identity in the ‘Indipop’ Music Video. Namrata

Sathe, Krea University

- The Search for a Queer Home Within the Webs of Criminalization and Indian Heteronormative Societal Structures: The Queering of Art by Rituparno Ghosh. Sthitirupa Mukherjee, Jadavpur University
- Women's Walk: Mapping a Feminist Consciousness of the Topological and Digital Geography on the Streets of India. Sruthi V.S., Plaksha University

Monsters and the Monstrous 4: Villainous Science II

Panel Chair: Lea Pešec, University of Graz

- Responsibility and Fear: An Examination of AI and Co-Existence. Lydia Griffiths, Pacifica Graduate Institute
- "Until the Day Humanity Falls": Mutation, Xenogenesis and Posthumanism in the Chinese Science Fiction Novel *Little Mushroom* (2020). Tungabhadra Banerjee, Independent Scholar
- Villainous Vampires? : the Posthuman Gothic in the Works of Octavia Butler. Mansi Plaha, Independent Scholar

Race and Ethnicity 5: The Problem of the "Evil Other": Tolkien's Goblins, Orcs, and Swarthy Men

Panel Chair: Robin Anne Reid, Independent Scholar

- "Great Goblins: The Representation of the Orc in *The Hobbit*. Robert Tally, Texas State University
- "Fruit of the Poison Vine": Defining and Delimiting Tolkien's Orcs. Sara Brown, Signum University
- Problematic Ethics: Orcs and Swarthy Men as the Evil Other in Tolkien's Middle-Earth Narratives. Mariana Rios Maldonado, University of Glasgow

Television 3: Motherhood

Panel Chair: Cornelia Klecker, University of Innsbruck

- 'Non-Mothers' as Non-Existent Character Trope: An Exploration of Pronatalism in 21st-Century Scripted TV Series. Cornelia Klecker, University of Innsbruck
- Confronting "New Momism" in *The Mindy Project*. Carrie Teresa Isard, Niagara University
- "Tragical Comedy": *American MOM* and Chinese Audiences. Tianyang Lu, Independent Scholar

Session #2: 10:30am - 11:45am EDT

Animals and Culture 5: Representing Animals

Panel Chair: Donna Varga, Mount Saint Vincent University

- Picture This: Photographing Companion Animals and Blurring Human-Animal Boundaries. Kathy Stolley, Virginia Wesleyan University
- Eating Your Enemies: Confronting Anthropomorphic Fish in the Middle Ages and Today.

Polina Ignatova, Linköping University

- The Bird Is the Word: Ravens Melting Into Symbols In *A Song of Ice and Fire*. Keri Stevenson, University of New Mexico-Gallup

The Body, Fashion, and Popular Culture 2: Reconsidering

Panel Chair: Angela Whyland, Independent Scholar

- The Next Generation of Marvel Superheroes: Finding Heroic Identity Through Costume. Hannah Sophie Schiffner, Zeppelin University
- Reading Adolescent Anxiety through Ephemeral Gestures and Halting Movements in *The Catcher in the Rye*, *The Outsiders*, and *Go Ask Alice*. Protichi Chatterjee, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Rewriting Masculinities Through Fashion: Interviews with Select Queer Models/Artists in India. Akash Sajikumar, National Institute of Technology
- The Body: A Medium to Express Emotions, Identity, and Rebellion. Twinkle Kumar, Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya

Fantasy and Science Fiction 2: Gender, Sexuality, and Identity in SF/F

Panel Chair: Nova Seals, Phillips Exeter Academy

- "Us Weirdos Have to Stick Together": Queering the Nuclear Family in Disney's *Owl House*. Erin Bell, University of Detroit Mercy
- "Learning to Live, Finally": Reclaiming Heritage in R.F. Kuang's *The Poppy War* (2018). Nova Seals, Phillips Exeter Academy
- Royal Swap: Gender in Kelley Armstrong's Royal Guide to Monster Slaying Series. Amie Doughty, State University of New York Oneonta

Folklore, Belief, and Religion 1: Religious Themes in Popular Media and Literature

Panel Chair: June-Ann Greeley, Sacred Heart University

- The Digital Afterlife Between Hypersecularization and Postsecularity in Contemporary TV Seriality: The Cases of *Devs* and *Upload*. Ilaria Bianco, Independent Scholar
- "The Miracle of Translation": Religious Communication and Discursive Uncertainty in Philip K. Dick. Justin Cosner, University of Iowa
- Classic Figures in Modern Settings: How the Use of Greek Mythology in Popular Literature Demonstrates Contemporary Societal Values, Matthew Noteboom, University of Toronto
- "A Reckoning": Religious Orthodoxy in *Kentucky Route Zero*. Suzanne Tabutol, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Genders, Sex, and Sexualities 7: Gender Non-Conformity

Panel Chair: Kathleen Turner Ledgerwood, Lincoln University

- Illegibly Queer: Performing Gender as/in Drag, Cross-Dressing, and (Con)fusion. Juie Gune, Jawaharlal Nehru University
- Serving "Realness": *UNHhhh* and Popular Culture's Subversion in Simulation. Muskaan Katiyar, Jawaharlal Nehru University

- Transitions and Adaptations from Real Life to the Small Screen in *Umbrella Academy* and *Glamorous*. Kathleen Turner Ledgerwood, Lincoln University

Monsters and the Monstrous 5: New Perspectives on Monsters and the Monstrous

Panel Chair: Caitlan Truelove, Dutchess Community College Academy of Music

- Gender Vampires, Gender Revenants: The Monstrosity of Cisness. Elia Cugini, University of Manchester
- “He is more machine now than man”: *Star Wars* and the Dynamics Between Machines, Monsters, and Morality. Rupsha Banerjee, Jadavpur University
- Angel or Vampire: The Unholy Dichotomy of *Midnight Mass*. Angela Tenga, Florida Institute of Technology and Jonathan Bassett, Lander University
- NecronomiCommedia: Dante, Doré, and the Root of Lovecraftian Horror. Giacomo Calabria, Humanities New York

Race and Ethnicity 6

Panel Chair: Yingyi Chen, Independent Scholar

- Characters of Color as Depicted in Children’s Picture Books. Yingyi Chen, Independent Scholar
- Sex, Sidekicks, and the City. Erica Hilton, Methodist University
- Redefining Blackness: An In-Depth Study of African Americans' Identity Responses to Out-of-Group Actors in African American History Movies. Adelaja Oriade, Ohio University
- “Great things happen when men and mountains meet”: Remaking the Popular Mediatic Perception and Popular Memory of the *First Ascent of Mount Everest* (1953). Rai Kamalini Mukherjee, Indian Institute of Technology

Television 4: Political Economy, Marketing, Production

Panel Chair: Indroneil Bir Biswas, University of Oregon

- Streaming and Cultural Proximity: An Analysis of *Hoichoi*. Indroneil Bir Biswas, University of Oregon
- Television Comedy Formats, Star Texts, and The Golden Girls. Leigh Edwards, Florida State University
- Netflix on Location. Lisa Patti, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Session #3: 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. EDT

The Body, Fashion, and Popular Culture 3: Let's Begin Again

Panel Chair: Angela Whyland, Independent Scholar

- Persons with Limb Difference and Popular Culture. Amy Wagner, Susan Smith, Amy Crocker, University of the Incarnate Word
- Embodied Racial Capitalism: The Root of the Fight. Dewitt King, University of California, Irving.

- Orientating Imperfect Female Corporalities in *Celle que vous croyez* and *Nadia*. Muhammed Salem, Independent Scholar
- The Witch Figure in Popular Culture: Evolution, Fashion, and Cultural Intricacies in *American Horror Story: Coven*. Tasnova Sarmin, Diamond Harbour Women's University

Disney Studies 5: Art and Community

Panel Chair: Priscilla Hobbs, Southern New Hampshire University

- "Always to the Highest Types of Individuals:" Edith Wakeman Hughes, Disney-Courvoisier Dealer to America's Elite, 1939-42. Heather Holian, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
- Bulldozing the Fourth Wall: DisTok and the Construction of Community. Dori Koehler, Southern New Hampshire University
- Rewriting Disney: How Fan Communities Preserve Disney Mass Multiplayer Online Games. Alexander Pointon, University of Wolverhampton
- Leitmotif and Characterization in Disney's *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. James Bohn, Stonehill College

Fantasy and Science Fiction 3: Utopias, Dystopias, and Everything in Between

Panel Chair: Nova Seals, Phillips Exeter Academy

- Revisiting The Problem of Susan in Seanan McGuire's *Wayward Children*. Liamog Drislane, Marquette University
- *Lost on Venus* and the Limits of Progress. Robert Rich, University of Rochester
- Defending Adam Soto's Genre-Bending Debut *This Weightless World*. Bipasha Mandal, Indian Institute of Technology, Patna

Genders, Sex and Sexualities 8: Depicting Men in Entertainment Media

Panel Chair: Protichi Chatterjee, Jawaharlal Nehru University

- Revisiting the Classics: The Gay Romance Novel and Its Academic Validation in Contemporary Audiences. Keaton Gregg, Cleveland State University
- The Oversexualization of Homosexual Relationships in Erotic Romance Novels. Louise Schulmann Darsy, Auburn University
- De-Aging Masculinities. The In/visibility of Aging Masculinities in the Contemporary US-American Action and Crime Cinema. Sebastian Fitz-Klausner, Johannes Kepler University Linz
- *Blackheart*, or the Slow Corruption of One Ballister Boldheart. Mihir Seth, Presidency University

Health, Disease and Popular Culture 1: Tropes and Hopes: Health Across Contexts

Panel Chair: Julia Brown, Stony Brook University

- Autism and the Bollywood Megastar: Hindi Films with USA Connections. Abhishek Sarkar, Jadavpur University
- Rethinking the City Beautiful: Environmentalism and Health in Harrisburg, PA. Lisa Krissoff Boehm, Bridgewater State University

- Schizophrenia, not Superpowers; A Critique of Hellblade: Senua's Sacrifice. Kyle Jansen, University of Saskatchewan

Philosophy and Popular Culture 1: Philosophy in Recent Blockbuster Movies

Panel Chair: Jennifer McMahon, East Central University

- Escaping Anxiety: Leveraging Nostalgia in *Top Gun: Maverick* and *Indiana Jones: The Dial of Destiny*. Jennifer McMahon, East Central University
- Death Personification and Philosophy in Animation. Marissa Lammon, University of Colorado Boulder

Romance and Popular Romance Fiction 1

Panel Chair: Wendy Wagner, Johnson and Wales University

- From Bodice Ripper to Booktok: The Evolution of Romance Tropes. Nakeesha Seneb, New England College
- Re-Imagine Feminine Temporalities by Uncovering the Narratives of Subversion in the Popular Regency Romances. Samreen Rashid, Kinnaird College for Women
- Touch Starved: Skin Hunger and the Reverse Harem Heroine. Heather Schell, George Washington University

Television 5: Politics and Ideologies on TV

Panel Chair: Zsófia Tóth, University of Szeged

- The Pursuit of Individual Freedom as a Functionalization for Greed and Maximization of Profit in *True Detective* and *Breaking Bad*. Elena Apostolaki, University of Cologne
- Understanding A Community of Misinformation in *The Twilight Zone*. Elizabeth Zak, University of Iowa
- “We’re not going down without a fight”: Doctor Turner’s Battle to Humanize the NHS in *Call the Midwife*. Julie Taddeo, University of Maryland