

Contents

- CCS Spring Wrap Up..... 1
- WGSS Symposium and WHM
Keynote Event..... 2
- WGSS B.A. to MPA 4
- LATINO/A/X Issues Conference
(LIC) 4
- 6
- Book Publication – Dr. Kristen
Rudisill..... 7
- Congratulations to Nancy Down
– 34 Years of Service!..... 9
- Graduating Student Profiles -
Undergrad 10
- Graduating Student Profiles –
MA/PhD/Certificates..... 11
- Accolades and
Accomplishments..... 13
- Faculty Accomplishments.. 13
- Student Accomplishments 17
- Scholarships and Awards 21
- Upcoming Events 22
- Conference on Class
Consciousness & Popular
Culture - April 14-15 22
- Spiderman in Popular Culture
Conference – September 29-
30..... 22

CCS Spring Wrap Up



The spring semester for CCS has been busy and exciting! We hosted several events, including the WGSS research symposium celebrating Women’s History Month, the Latino/a/x conference, and several Culture Club talks and get-togethers, as well as the CCS Grad Student Coffee Talks about grant writing, creating cover letters, and introducing faculty to students looking for thesis or dissertation committee members. We are grateful to everyone who took part in these events and made them each a success.

Looking ahead, we are excited for the Class Conference taking place on April 14 & 15 (with a Ray Browne Popular Culture track!), as well as the Spiderman conference to be held September 29 & 30. We look forward to meeting our new ACS and POPC Grad Program cohorts this fall and anticipate the interesting scholarship they will bring with them to these programs.

The School of Cultural and Critical Studies is a vibrant community with many opportunities to become involved. We are thankful for everyone who makes up this academic family!



WGSS Symposium and WHM Keynote Event

Art and Essay Contest - The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program @BGSU hosted the Annual Undergraduate and Graduate Research and Creative Virtual Symposium March 13-16, 2023 in honor of Women's History Month. Students were encouraged to submit a personal or scholarly essay or art/creative project that speaks to the diverse experiences of all women and nonbinary people. Submissions represented topics related to the field of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies in any literary and artistic form; personal essays, photo essays, collage, and/or academic work. Student projects were judged by a panel of faculty for cash prizes and their submitted video summaries were viewed and voted on by the public for The People's Choice Public Scholarship Award. Winners were announced during the Keynote event on March 16th.

Congratulations to the 2023 Winners!

Undergraduate People's Choice Public Scholarship

Award: Kayleigh Travis "Martial Status and Sex Differences in Anxiety during the COVID-19 Pandemic"

Graduate People's Choice Public Scholarship

Award: Jeevani Sammeta for "The Doll"

Undergraduate Research Winners:

- 1st Place Kayleigh Travis
- 2nd Place Tegan Ruttencutter
- 3rd Place Erica Ernst

Graduate Creative Winners:

- 1st Place Haley Shipley
- 2nd Place Jeevani Sammeta
- 3rd Place Victoria Main

Graduate Research Winners:

- 1st Place Jinx Mylo
- 2nd Place Loni Stouffer
- 3rd Place Debpreeta Rahut

Undergraduate Creative Winners

- 1st Place Evelyn Gyamfi
- 2nd Place Liv Rutherford

[VIEW VIDEO SUBMISSIONS](#)



WGSS Symposium finalists Olivia Rutherford, Loni Stouffer, and Tegan Ruttencutter.



Jeevani Sammeta, Winner of the Graduate People's Choice Public Scholarship Award, and Dr. Sarah Rainey-Smithback (photo by Hannah McFarland).

Keynote Event: History and the Long Arc of Reproductive Freedom

Professor Michele Bratcher Goodwin delivered the Keynote for the WGSS Symposium and Women's History Month this year. Goodwin is a Chancellor's Professor at the University of California, Irvine, and founding director of the Center for Biotechnology and Global Health Policy. She is the author of *Policing The Womb: Invisible Women and The Criminalization of Motherhood*. She is also host of the popular podcast *On The Issues* at Ms. Magazine. Her talk discussing the historical arc of discrimination against women and the continued empowerment of women's rights received excellent feedback from BGSU faculty and students in attendance, as well from members of the community.

WHM Keynote speaker Professor Goodwin talking with Dr. Kim Stanley.
(photo by Hannah McFarland)



Professor Michele Bratcher Goodwin delivering the keynote for the WGSS symposium and Women's History Month (photo by Hannah McFarland).



Professor Michele Bratcher Goodwin delivering the keynote for the WGSS symposium and Women's History Month
(photo by Hannah McFarland).



Loni Stouffer listening to the keynote speaker (photo by Hannah McFarland).

WGSS B.A. to MPA

Come for a Bachelors, leave with a Masters!

The Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Program is thrilled to announce our BA to accelerated Master's in Public Administration program in collaboration with the Department of Political Science. Undergraduate students who apply to and have been accepted into an Accelerated Bachelor's to Master's program may take up to nine (9) credit hours of graduate credit that can count toward both the undergraduate and graduate degrees! This basically shortens your time in school by a semester! This accelerated program is a wonderful choice for students looking to go into nonprofit work or work in government-related offices.

[Visit our program page for more information!](#)

LATINO/A/X Issues Conference (LIC)

By Judy Clemens-Smucker

We Are Multitudes." The Latino/a/x Studies Student Research Conference Expands Ideas About What it Means to Be Latino in NW Ohio.

Twenty-eight years ago, multiple BGSU student groups, the Latin Student Union, faculty, and staff came together to form the Latin American & Latino/a/x Studies Student Research Conference. Beginning in 1972 the university began an effort to hire Latinx faculty and hold various conferences, but it wasn't until 1995 that the pieces came together to formalize the conference as an entity. The conference was created to highlight the Latinx community in Wood County, on the campus of BGSU, and in NW Ohio.

Dr. Luis Moreno, Associate Teaching Professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies, says one of the most important parts of the conference is to highlight the work of Latino undergrad students and to bring Latino scholars, filmmakers, and other creators to campus, so those who might not have access otherwise can be a part of this scholarship. Rene Ayala, an ACS graduate student who works for the LIC, adds that aside from thinking about the university and Latino community, the conference adds a space for thinking about Latinx studies generally, as well.

This conference, Moreno says, is significant because it opens up this kind of broader thinking to people not only on campus, but outside our walls. The ultimate goal of the LIC is to bring the outside community onto campus and build those relationships, create that bridge. It is important to highlight the work of student groups as well as the excellent work of community groups.



**LATINO/A/X
ISSUES
CONFERENCE**

The conference also has a great impact on how the university sees Latinos as contributors, as people who might become future donors or students, and to advocate for more faculty and staff. It is important for non-Latinos to see LIC presenters as people who are top-notch scholars. The conference exists for one part of the school, but it opens up dialogue with everyone on campus. The hope is that when people leave the conference they will have knowledge they didn't have before.

Moreno says it is important for students and other Latinos in the community to see that we are a multi-layered demographic and shouldn't buy into our own ideas of who we are, that we only have one path available to us. People should see that "I am not stuck in a stereotype." The Latino community has doctors, educators, lawyers, etc. We don't have to be stuck in a box of what the world – or we ourselves – think we are.

2023 Theme: We Are Multitudes

This year's conference took place on March 14 and 15, fully in-person after cancellation in 2020 and Covid protocols in 2021. The theme addressed how representations of Latinx populations in popular culture and scholarly literature have often focused on the largest national origins groups, reproduced narrow stereotypes, and implied that all Latinxs share particular traits such as skin color and language. This year the LIC wanted to expand beyond these limited representations by showcasing that Latinx populations are not homogenous – we are multitudes.



LIC Keynote speaker Michèle Stephenson (photo by Hannah McFarland)

Coming up with this year's theme was a collected effort and grew out of conversations with students who thought it important to highlight differences of our cultural beliefs. Moreno says many people have a conception that all brown people come from the same background, so this year they wanted to address this. How are Latinos different from each other, but also how are they the same?

How do we work together to move forward? People both outside the Latino community and within find it hard to see differences. We are not all Mexican, Moreno says, and we do not all speak Spanish. Some people are bilingual, some speak just English or Spanish or another indigenous language. People within the community should not be saying another is “Not Latino enough because he doesn’t speak Spanish,” but be ready to see and embrace differences.

Ayala says they wanted to also address racial hierarchies within Latino communities, including those involving gender and sexuality, by addressing expanding non-Latino specific ideas, differences that don’t get addressed as much in discussion or scholarship. It is important to consider representation of Latino populations in POPC and the way Latino studies tends to focus on particular natural/racial/ethnic groups. It is important to see our broader sense of layers as viewed by the outside world, but also the internal layers within the community.

The LIC is a unique conference, Moreno says, because beyond research and presentation there is the effort to have students and staff interact with keynote speaker, this year filmmaker Michèle Stephenson. The conference was extended in comparison to past years, with 1 ½ days of events, including a screening of the Stephenson’s film *Stateless/Apátrida* which deals with politics of immigration in Dominican Republic and the removal of Haitians, followed by a reception. Stephenson then spoke at the luncheon to all conference attendees. Students are the future scholars, Moreno says, so this interaction will hopefully spark someone to become a Latino studies major.

The conference is always free for students as a token of the LIC’s commitment to young and upcoming scholars.



Lunch and Keynote event at the LIC (photo by Hannah McFarland).

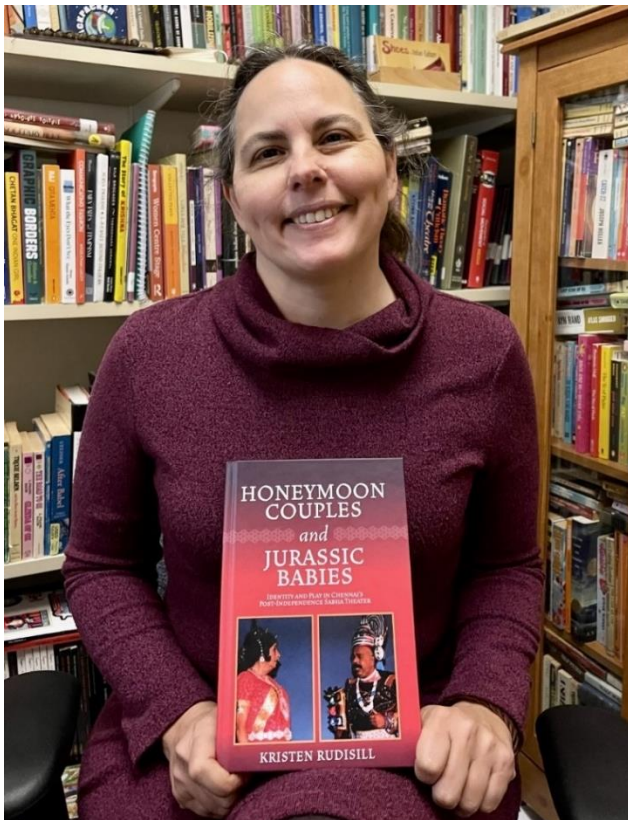
Book Publication – Dr. Kristen Rudisill

By Judy Clemens-Smucker

Honeymoon Couples and Jurassic Babies: Identity and Play in Chennai's Post-Independence Sabha Theater, by Dr. Kristen Rudisill (October 2022), SUNY Press.

Dr. Kristen Rudisill, professor of popular culture and director of the Asian studies program at BGSU, recently published a book many years in the making. The book examines a genre of popular theater that started in 1950s India and peaked in 1965-85, although it is still a part of Indian culture. The genre, which Rudisill calls Sabha theater, began as a Brahmin response to the anti-Brahmin political movements, plays, and films in Tamil Nadu. These non-musical plays are mostly comedies, a sitcom-style family show portraying relationships between parents and children, spouses, and in-laws. One could say it is an exaggerated representation of Tamil Brahmin culture, representing intersections between caste, class, and aesthetics in theater.

The book is divided into two sections. The first sets up the genre describing its context, look, and influence, and shows how it relates to theater, film, television, politics, and religion. Sabha theater distinguishes itself, in the shadow of Bollywood, as more upper class, without music. The genre borrows more from British drawing room comedies than Indian contemporaries, playing for narrative content rather than pandering to the masses. The theater was comprised of amateurs who were bankers, lawyers, or other professionals who participated in productions after work.



Kristen Rudisill and her newest book, *Honeymoon Couples and Jurassic Babies*

Sabha, from which Rudisill gets the genre's name, is a voluntary cultural organization, including classical music, plays, and other kinds of performance art. It is different from traditional theater in that the performers move from space to space while the audiences stay with the theater. Sabha plays tear down and set up for each performance, so they must practice minimalism – they can't be too elaborate with sets, lighting, or mics. Because of this, the stage presents as more amateurish than other kinds of theater. The plays must be appealing to audiences, however, because older people mostly make up the Sabha; patrons who enjoy upper class entertainment, such as classical music and dance. The Sabha circuit used to guarantee 70 performances for a

play, but today, with more kinds of entertainment available, 10 performances a year is the goal for troupes. To satisfy their audiences they are turning to more religious content, picking up stories such as mythological and historical plays or biopics of saints – creating a more devotional experience than entertainment and comedy. Because of this, they are having a hard time bringing younger people into the fold.

In the second section of the book, Rudisill performs close readings of specific plays, examining the genre and its relationship to different aspects of society. Her first reading is of *Marriage in Washington*, which examines caste by following the narrative of an American woman who decides she needs to conduct a Tamil Brahmin wedding in DC. The play speaks to the preservation of traditions, displacing the need for continuation onto characters and the past so modern Tamils don't have to do it all.

In *Honeymoon Couple* and *Jurassic Baby* Rudisill looks at aesthetics and humor by first examining the expectations of marriage, romance, and a long-awaited honeymoon, and then the trials of infertility that result in an adult baby which results from the interference of a witch doctor. The humor of the plays comes from seeing marriage through the lens of couples who want to do regular things, but in the wrong order.

Rudisill then looks at the concept of class by examining plays from the 1950s and early 1990s where husbands masquerade as servants, and the wife interacts with him from her higher societal position. The plays investigate what is appropriate in class interactions, and how they are supposed to look. What does it mean to have servants and live within that kind of pretention?

Finally, Rudisill looks at the canon of Sabha theater and how it relates to modern Indian theater. These Tamil plays do not fit in the same spaces and are not included in modern Indian theater volumes. Rudisill speculates about the differences; why Sabha theater has not made it into a greater national and international platform, and why it should.

The process of writing this book took place over the past two decades. Rudisill lived in India several different times, including once on a year-long Fulbright scholarship. She was present for the 50th anniversary of Sabha theater and able to participate in golden jubilees in 2003/04. She watched a lot of plays and interviewed those involved, including actors, writers, directors, and lighting designers, and also completed an audience survey and talked to people in the audience about why they attended these plays.

People involved in Sabha theater are excited about having someone documenting their work, because they had previously been ignored by the academy. Many people think Sabha theater is just jokes, and not worth studying, but Rudisill argues that the plays examine important cultural issues. She also recently translated and published *The Shastras Don't Say So*, a play by Cho Ramasamy, which tells another story about caste.

Rudisill will be returning to India this summer and looks forward to seeing what is going on today with Sabha theater. **Congratulations, Dr. Rudisill!**

Congratulations to Nancy Down – 34 Years of Service!

CCS extends a hearty congratulations and “Happy Retirement” to Dr. Nancy Down, who has worked with us so closely over her 34 years of work and service at BGSU. She retires as Associate Professor and the Head Librarian of the BGSU Ray Browne Popular Culture Library. We wish you all the best as you head into the next chapter of your life, Dr. Down!



Photo Gallery of Dr. Nancy Down.



Nancy Down, head librarian of the Library for Popular Culture Studies at BGSU. Image courtesy of Brad Phalin/Bowling Green State University via American Libraries Magazine.



Nancy Down cuts the Batman-themed cake at the 50th celebration of the Browne Popular Culture Library at BGSU in March 2019



Head Librarian Nancy Down displays an original piece by artist Frank Kalan entitled “Always Christmas”, part of the Pop Culture collection located in the Jerome Library, BGSU

Graduating Student Profiles - Undergrad

Lucia Virginia Myers, ETHN BA



What is your favorite BGSU memory?

Meeting and learning with my fellow Capstone classmates as we created our projects.

What was your favorite class for your major?

ETHN 1010: Introduction to Ethnic Studies.

Who is your favorite professor?

That is a tricky question to answer. I would choose them all. However, if I had to choose one, it would be Dr. Michaela Walsh. Puro respeto y admiración por Dr. Walsh.

What are you planning to do after graduation?

I plan to continue my education by attending graduate school here at BGSU.

Katherine Pool, ETHN BA

What is your favorite BGSU memory?

My favorite BGSU memory was volunteering for La Conexión with my CCS 3710 classmates.

What was your favorite class for your major?

Ethnic Studies 1200: Introduction to African American Studies with Dr. Edge.

Who is your favorite professor?

Dr. Rebecca Kinney

What are you planning to do after graduation?

I plan to find a job in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DE&I).



Also graduating in Spring 2023:

POPC BA – Jordan Swartz and Alexandra Haynes; ETHN BA – Surah Marks-Trammell

Graduating Student Profiles – MA/PhD/Certificates



Ololade Faniyi, ACS MA

Thesis title – “A Herstory of #EndSars: Nuances of Intersectionality in Nigeria’s Movement Against Police Brutality”

Incoming Fall ‘23 PhD student in the Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies program at Emory University



Zariyah Baynard, POPC MA

Zariyah’s area of research is popular culture, specifically media representation of gender and race. The title of her thesis is "Body Positivity: Hypersexualization of Black Female Artists in the Hip-Hop Industry" .

As of right now everything is up in the air for her, but she is hoping to pursue her modeling career and a job in the entertainment industry. She is looking at positions focusing on sports, specifically the NBA and NFL.



Jason Mecchi, POPC MA

My primary areas of study are film and television studies, queer studies and history, and the body in film and television.

My thesis title is "The Roads Ahead: Anthropomorphized Cars in Film."

I do not know what's next for me, but I'm mostly looking for work in the university, library, and museum sectors.



Tina Nandi, ACS MA

Nandi’s research areas include subaltern studies, postcolonial studies, Marxist feminism, and US imperialism studies. She is also interested in World Literature and Film Studies.

Her master’s culminated in passing the ACS comprehensive exams.



Judy Clemens-Smucker, ACS PhD

Area of Research – ACS PhD: Film, Media, and Culture.

Title of dissertation – “The Urban/Rural Divide: Social Identities on Schitt’s Creek”

Future plans are to continue teaching and publishing – just not sure where yet!



Robin Hershkowitz, ACS PhD

Area of Research- ACS PhD, Film, Media, and Culture

Title of dissertation: “The Comedy Roast as American Ritual: Performing Race and Gender”

What I am doing next: Running a book coaching business for nonfiction authors

<https://robinhershkowitz.blog/>



Riddhima Sharma, ACS PhD

Area of Research -- Broadly my research is focused on Indian digital feminist movements, creator and influencer cultures, and public pedagogies

What I am doing next: I took up a postdoc position at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, on a very exciting project at the intersections of gender, mobility, safety, and technology.



Jinx Mylo, WGSS Graduate Certificate

WGSS graduate certificate capstone was “Everything's Gonna Be Kinda Queer: Autistic Gender and Sexuality in Everything's Gonna Be Okay.” Overall area of research is how tv characters representing an intersection of neurodivergence, gender, and sexuality impact attitudes toward autistic people in real life.

In the immediate future, Mylo will be working on data collection and analysis for her dissertation experiment, reviewing submissions focused on popular culture for *Ought: The Journal of Autistic Culture*, and growing a lot of heirloom tomatoes.



Val Erwin, WGSS Graduate Certificate

Area of Research – “Disabled Sexual Assault Survivors on College Campuses”

What I am doing next: finishing my PhD in Higher Education at BGSU

Also graduating in Spring 2023: POPC MA – Jenn Sule, Taylor Bowles; ACS MA – Shelby Kuney, Andrew Gordon; ACS PhD – Steven Stendebach, Logan Johnson, Sarah Ford; ETHN Cert – Steven Stendebach, Kangsen Mpaco Masango, Paul Viafranco; WGSS Cert – Bryan Bove, Taylor Bowles, Madison Pollino, Jesse Reese, Angela Schwartz.

Accolades and Accomplishments

Faculty Accomplishments



Jeffrey Brown

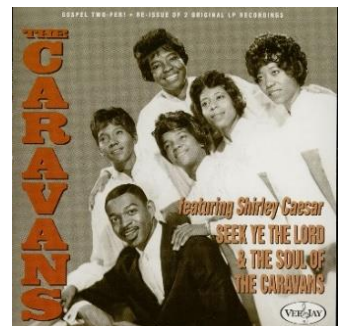
Popular Culture Studies Faculty; Chair, POPC

Dr. Brown published “The Continental Exotic Sex Symbol – Gal Gadot,” in the *Celebrity Studies* journal, Spring 2023. He also served as an NEH Grant Reviewer and was a panelist for the San Diego State University colloquium on Social Justice research in comics.

Angela Nelson

Popular Culture Studies Faculty; Director, CCS

Dr. Nelson was busy publishing and presenting, including the publication of “Shirley Caesar and the Politics of Validating Sexual Agency” in *Religions* 13.6 (June 2022): <https://doi.org/10.3390/rel13060568>. Presentations included “Whiteness and White Characters in *Good Times*” at the International Conference on Humanities, Social and Education Sciences, Spring 2022; “*Good Times*, Esther Rolle, and the Politics of the Referent” at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference, Spring 2022; “Florida Evans, *Good Times*, and the Egalitarian Portrayal of Black Women” at the Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Annual Conference, Fall 2022; and “White-Cast Family Sitcoms and the Dominance of Black Women in *The Beulah Show*” at the Mid-Atlantic Popular and American Culture Association Conference, Fall 2022.



Kristen Rudisill

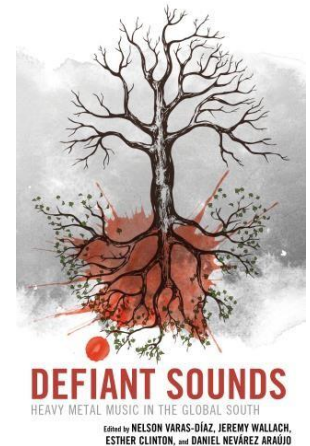
Popular Culture Studies Faculty

In addition to the publication of her book *Honeymoon Couples and Jurassic Babies: Identity and Play in Chennai's Post-Independence Sabha Theater* with SUNY Press (see article and photo on page 7), Dr. Rudisill published a special issue of the *Indian Theatre Journal* with Amanda Weidman called "Reality Television in South Asia: Performance, Negotiation, Imagination." The issue included their co-written introduction plus Rudisill's article titled "Subversion and Reinforcement of Gender Norms in the Tamil Reality Dance Competition Show Maanada Mayilada" An abridged version of her English translation (with an introduction) of Cho Ramasamy's Tamil-language play *Cattiram Connatillai (The Shastras Don't Say So)* was published across two issues of the journal *Ecumenica*

Jeremy Wallach

Popular Culture Studies Faculty

Dr. Jeremy Wallach, Professor in the Department of Popular Culture, announces the publication of a volume he co-edited with three other scholars, including his late wife Dr. Esther Clinton: Varas-Díaz, Nelson, Jeremy Wallach, Esther Clinton, and Daniel Nevárez-Araújo, eds. *Defiant Sounds: Heavy Metal Music in the Global South*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2023. In addition, Dr. Wallach gave a paper in Malaysia for the first time this year called "Sustainability Strategies in Indonesian Popular Music," and presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music—Southeast Asia, Penang, Malaysia; March 2023.



Matthew Donahue

Popular Culture Studies Faculty



Dr. Matthew Donahue was recognized by BGSU Office of Student-Athlete Services for his continued service and contributions to the student athletes at BGSU. This recognition is tied to BGSU's Department of Athletics and allowed him to serve as a "Guest Coach" at the 2-5-2023 BGSU hockey game against Ferris State University. Additionally, he appears on two published works with prestigious record label On-U Sound Records on their Pay It

All Back Volume 8 compilation. One in which he worked with super-group Tackhead consisting of Doug Wimbish (Living Colour), Bernard Fowler (Rolling Stones), Adrian Sherwood (On-U Sound Records) Skip McDonald (Little Axe) and Keith LeBlanc (Solo Artist-Producer). Dr. Donahue was invited to speak on Blues Music and the Ohio's own Hines Farm Blues Club at the Tiffin-Seneca Public Library. He also served as a judge for the National Academy of Television and Arts and Sciences Student Emmy Awards.

Montana Miller

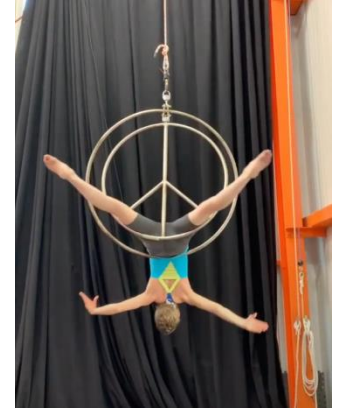
Popular Culture Studies Faculty

Featured at BGSU's ArtsX annual showcase in December 2022: Dr. Montana Miller's "Peace Lyra" project benefiting Ukrainian circus students.

<https://www.bgsu.edu/the-arts/artsx/galleries/peace-lyra-project.html>

Dr. Miller conceived of, organized, directed and created a fundraising project for Ukrainian circus students, which incorporated the skills of circus performers and students in the US in a video that Montana shot and edited and then distributed/promoted online starting in April 2022.

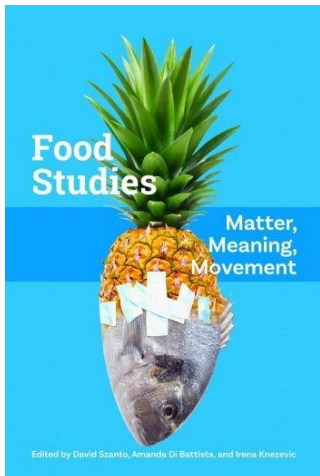
The "peace lira" was invented/designed by Montana as a creative/performing artist and researcher of circus arts. This fundraiser benefited approximately 1000 displaced Ukrainian circus students and staff from the Kyiv Municipal School of Variety Acts and Circus who have fled the war. The students, many of them under 18 and without their parents, are being housed at various circus schools and companies across Europe. Funds from the Peace Lira project contributed to help house, feed and clothe them as they seek refuge and strive to pursue the circus arts in the midst of tragedy.



Lucy Long

Popular Culture Studies Adjunct Faculty

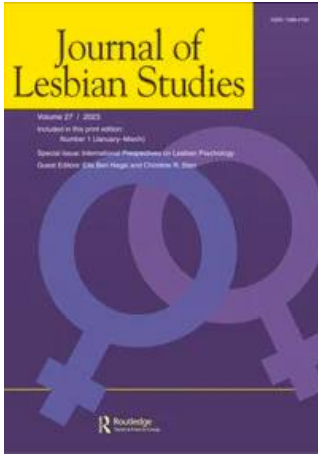
Dr. Long was elected a fellow of the American Folklore Society and edited and wrote for two special issues of scholarly journals: "Comfort and Discomfort Foodways: Folkloristic Perspectives." *Digest* (9/2 Fall 2022), and "Culinary Tourism During the Time of Covid-19: Looking at the Present and Future." *Visions* (2022). In addition, she published three book chapters:



Case Study: "Food and Folklore--Green Bean Casserole: Commercial Foods as Regional Tradition" In *Food Studies: Matter, Meaning & Movement*, edited by David Szanto, Amanda Di Battista, and Irena Knezevic. Ottawa, ON: Food Studies Press, 2022, pp. 262-270.

Culinary Tourism. [*In Oxford Handbook of the History of Tourism and Travel. eds. Eric Zuelow and Kevin James, 2022, pp.1-35.*](#)

Apples as "Objects of Memory" in the *Midwestern Imagination In Food in Memory and Imagination: Place, Space and Taste*, eds. Beth Forrest Greg de St. Maurice. Bloomsbury, 2022: 173-185.



Sarah Rainey-Smithback

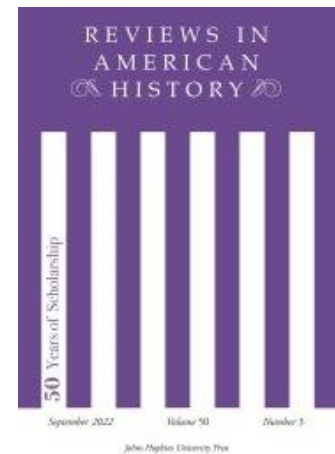
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Program Faculty; Director, WGSS and CCS Undergraduate Studies

Dr. Rainey-Smithback published the article "Performing consanguinity: Lesbian family photography practices" in the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*, (2022). DOI: [10.1080/10894160.2022.2108209](https://doi.org/10.1080/10894160.2022.2108209)

Timothy Messer-Kruse

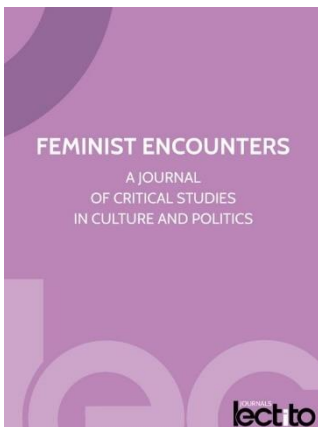
Ethnic Studies Faculty

Dr. Messerkruse published several articles, including "The Carried-Off and the Constitution" in *Law and History Review*, 40:4 (Winter 2022), "Jefferson's Secret Plan to Whiten Virginia," in *Common Place: The Journal of Early American Life* (forthcoming 2023), and "The Whiteness of the Midwest," *Reviews in American History* (March 2023).



Radhika Gajjala

American Culture Studies / Media & Communication Faculty



Dr. Gajjala co-edited one volume and published three articles. Each article had at least one BGSU grad student as co-author. These include Gajjala, R., Edwards, E. E., Rahut, D., Faniyi, O. M., Jha, B., Jain, J., Khan, A. and Farooq, S. (2023).

"Transnationalising Dadis as Feminist Political/Activist Subjects" in *Feminist Encounters: A Journal of Critical Studies in Culture and Politics* ([open access link](#))

Gajjala R, Untari R, Makmun M.T, Faniyi O and Ford, S (2022) "The persistence of the housewife ideology: Shifts in women's roles in production of Sumbanese handwoven cloth" in *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, and Radhika Gajjala, Swati Kamble, Maitrayee Basu, Vijeta Kumar & Ololade Faniyi (2022) "Gendered Indian Digital Publics Along Matrices of Domination/Oppression" in *Women's Studies in Communication*.

Jolie Sheffer

English Studies Faculty and ACS affiliated faculty



Dr. Sheffer co-wrote and published several pieces, including "[Puzzle Pieces: The importance of shared governance](#)" in *Liberal Education*, Winter 2022, pp. 21-29; "[Deltas, Not Pipelines: A More Organic Way to Develop Academic Leaders](#)" in *AAC&U Liberal Education*; and "[A Moonshot for Diversity and Accessibility](#)" in *AAC&U Liberal Education* web exclusive, July 21, 2022.

Student Accomplishments



Muhammad Taufiq Al Makmun, ACS PhD candidate

Al Makmun was the 2022 AICEF Travel Grant Recipient, in which he received a travel grant for Ph.D. field research offered by the American-Indonesian Cultural and Education Foundation ([AICEF](#)). He co-authored a piece with Gajjala, R., Faniyi, O. M., Ford, S., and Untari, R. called "The Persistence of the Housewife Ideology: Shifts in Women's Roles in Production of Sumbanese Handwoven Cloth" in the [European Journal of Cultural Studies](#). He also co-presented "Get the Hammer Out! Breaking Computational Tools for Feminist, Intersectional 'small data'" with Gajjala, R., DeGalan A., Rahut, D., Akbar, S. Z., Faniyi, O., Edwards, E., and Ford, S. At the ECREA

Pre-conference Workshop: Visual Politics & Protest – Current Methodological Challenges, The School of Media and Communication's Fall 2022 Colloquium, BGSU.

Brandon Alva, Popular Culture MA student

Alva presented at the Conference on College Composition & Communication (CCCC) in Chicago where he was on a panel that discussed a mentoring program between English Graduate students at the University of Utah and Faculty at Salt Lake Community College to help prepare future M.A.s to become community college Composition instructors. In addition, he presented at the Community College Humanities Association's National Conference in Cleveland, where his presentation "The Slap Seen on Every Smartphone: Rupture or Spectacle?" is part of an on-going research project looking at the now-infamous Oscar slap through the critical lenses of Guy DeBord's *The Society of the Spectacle* and Richard Schickel's *Intimate Strangers*.



Conference on
College Composition
& Communication



Gwyneth Burns, ACS MA student

Burns presented "An Investigation of Policies Affecting Transgender Youth Athletes" at the Midwest Sport and Exercise Psychology Symposium at Ball State Indiana on March 17-18, 2023 and "A Critical Analysis of Policy Affecting Transgender High School Athletes" at the Social Justice through Sport and Exercise Psychology Symposium, March 23-25, 2023 at Springfield College, Springfield MA. In addition, Burns will be presenting "A Critical Analysis of High School Transgender Athlete Policy" at the Shanklin Awards Colloquium on April 5, 2023 at BGSU.



Bryan Bove, ACS PhD Candidate

Bove presented at the Comics Studies Society Conference at Michigan State University in July of 2022 and received an Honorable Mention in competition for the Hilary Chute Award for the critical comic, "It Can't All Be Sorrow: Confronting Trauma Through Television in Marvel's *WandaVision*." Bove was a guest on "Beginnings, Middles, and Endings," an episode of the *Oh Gosh, Oh Golly, Oh Wow! Podcast* (hosted by comics studies scholar and editor of *Supersex: Sexuality, Fantasy, and the Superhero*, Dr. Anna Peppard) which takes a critical look at the Marvel comic series *Excalibur* (1988-1998). In addition, Bove co-wrote two grants that received funding, including a \$5,500 grant from the Ohio Department of Higher Education for Safe Bar Network training in Bowling Green, and a \$1,318,69 grant from the Bowling Green Community Foundation for She Should Run, a project which aims to demystify politics and provide participants with concrete ways they can get involved in local or national government.

Zariyah Baynard, POPC MA student

Baynard completed her first year of teaching Intro to Popular Culture 1600 to undergraduate students, along with her first year of graduate school with a GPA of 3.875. In addition, she completed her first photo shoot with a modeling agency and hit over 50k followers on a social media platform.



Robin Hershkowitz, ACS PhD



The Archives Unleashed Project

Hershkowitz was awarded a research grant through the Internet archives to participate in the Archives Unleashed Project. She had an article published in *Post 45 Contemporaries*, and completed the Google Data Analytics Certification.



John M. King, ACS PhD student

King received the *Lois Jean Steel Stiffler Scholarship* and the *Graduate Student Employee of the Year Award* (Jerome Library). King will be presenting "Why We Need Class Studies in Academia" at Class Con on April 14, in Jerome Library, at 1pm.

Judy Clemens-Smucker, ACS PhD

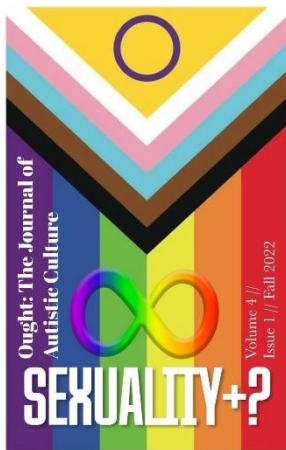
Clemens-Smucker's paper "Smiling No Matter What: Analyzing the Suppressed Rage of Jocelyn Schitt in the Sitcom *Schitt's Creek*" was chosen as a finalist for the 2023 Charles E. Shanklin Research Excellence Award. In addition, two edited volume chapters are forthcoming: "Growing up with *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*: Recruiting New Fans and Teaching *Star Trek* Ideology through YA Literature" in *Strange Novel Worlds? Star Trek Novels and Fiction Collections in Popular Culture*, edited by Caroline-Isabelle Caron and Kristin Noone (McFarland), and "Dealing with Trauma: The Feminist Progression of Suffering in *Star Trek*" in *Space: The Feminist Frontier*, edited by Jennifer Garlen and Anissa Graham (McFarland).



Val Erwin, WGSS Graduate Certificate and Higher Education PhD candidate

Erwin's first peer reviewed publication was published: Kelly, D. & Erwin, V. M. (2022) "Specific Learning Difficulty Tutors: Direct Supports to Navigate Disabilities and the University Environment" [Disability and Society. 37\(7\)](#) In addition, Erwin won the ACPA Foundation Research Grant to fund a dissertation on Disabled Sexual

Assault Survivors and took part on an Advisory Board for a project through the University of Boston to create a national online training for college counsellors about autistic sexual assault survivors.



Jinx Mylo, WGSS Graduate Certificate and Media and Communication PhD candidate

Mylo's WGSS grad certificate capstone, "Everything's Gonna Be Kinda Queer: Autistic Gender and Sexuality in *Everything's Gonna Be Okay*," was accepted for publication in the December 2022 issue of a peer-reviewed journal, *Ought: The Journal of Autistic Culture*. In addition, Mylo presented her paper, "Identity Gaps at the Intersection of Autism, Gender, and Sexuality," which was written for a class in the certificate program, at the National Communication Association's annual national convention in November 2022 and "Digging into *Douglas*: Hannah Gadsby's Autistic Comedy," which was written for a class in the certificate program, at the Popular Culture Association's annual national convention in April 2022. This paper also won the graduate research award at last year's WGSS Symposium and has been accepted as a chapter in an edited collection about neurodiversity on television that is scheduled to be published next year.

Amanda Taylor, WGSS Graduate Certificate and Media and Communications, PhD candidate

Taylor passed the preliminary examinations and defended her prospectus on December 1, 2022! Her first (co-authored) academic journal publication came out, titled "Twitter Users' Paradigm and the Etiquette of Constructing an Apology", published in *Iowa Journal of Communication*. In addition, she completed her WGSS certificate, including a research study called "Talking about Manners: A Critical Consideration of how Parents are Posturing Daughters to Understand Social Etiquette Practices and their Goals", that was a foundational pilot study for her dissertation.



Kristine Ketel, ACS PhD student

Ketel presented her talk "Pillow Talk with Sex Robots: Exploring how Intimacy with Robots Affects Interpersonal Relations" at the 43rd annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association (SWPACA) conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico; "The Greater Good Leadership Model, *I Robot's* VIKI" at the 2022 BGSU Fall Leadership Conference; and "Poor People are Over-surveilled Compared to Other Classes: A historical and legal analysis of the class inequality within the US surveillance state", with Dr. Andrew Schocket for the Digital Humanities Project: Inequality in the US. Digital Humanities Project link: [Surveillance Inequality \(usc.edu\)](https://www.usc.edu/digital-humanities-project/inequality).



Ben Thomason, ACS PhD Candidate

Thomason's first academic peer-reviewed article was published in [The Projector](#), titled "Save the Children, Launch the Bombs: Propaganda Agents Behind *The White Helmets* Documentary and Media Imperialism in the Syrian Civil War." Thomason also received the nationally competitive Simmons Graduate Internship position at The Henry Ford Museum during the summer of 2022 as part of his public history certificate program. In addition, Thomason founded (alongside Dylan Reid Miller of ACS) the Bowling Green Socialists in fall semester 2022; a progressive student organization dedicated to advancing the consciousness and power of working-class and marginalized students and community members in the BG area. They have collaborated with other progressive organizations, hosted educational and cultural events like a gender affirming clothing closet, and campaigned to protect abortion rights in the state of Ohio.

Save the Children, Launch the Bombs: Propaganda Agents Behind *The White Helmets* (2016) Documentary and Media Imperialism in the Syrian Civil War



Left: Dilruba von Ervenstein and Joanne Whalley-Kilmer Image credit: <https://www.fox.com/story/2022/04/01/oscars/>
Right: Khalid Khalaf Image credit: <https://www.fox.com/story/2022/04/01/oscars/>

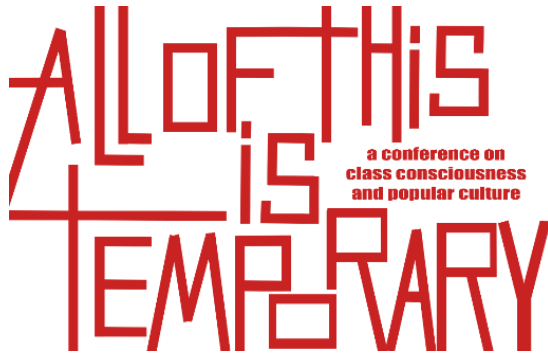
Scholarships and Awards

Congratulations to this year's awardees!

- **Stoddard & O'Neill Undergraduate Popular Culture Scholarship:** Sarah Piwko and Lily Fritsch
- **Ray and Pat Browne Scholarship:** Halle Richardson
- **Peter Schwartz & Andrea Hyslop Scholarship:** Christian Gunnoe
- **Dr. Robert Perry Scholarship for Ethnic Studies:** Clementina Ortiz and Bryson Hunley
- **Popular Culture MA Thesis Award:** Alex Ogilvie Kostrzewa – POPC MA 2022
Thesis Title: "Racial Essentialism in High Fantasy"
Committee: Dr. Jeff Brown (chair), Dr. Jeremy Wallach, and Dr. Esther Clinton

Upcoming Events

Conference on Class Consciousness & Popular Culture - April 14-15



The main areas of the conference include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Class Representations in Popular Culture
- Class Issues in Academia
- Social Outreach and Activism

[Conference Website](#)



Spiderman in Popular Culture Conference – September 29-30



In 2023, the Department of Popular Culture and the Browne Popular Culture Library at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio celebrate Spider-Man, one of the most iconic and universally recognized super-heroes of all-time with the Spider-Man in Popular Culture Conference. Spider-Man is a complex, enigmatic, and tragically appealing crime-fighter who has conquered all forms of mass media and popular culture. Join us as we celebrate, discuss and debate the cultural significance of Spider-Man and his impact upon comics, mass media, and our society at large.

We are excited to announce that our keynote speakers will be Marc Sumerak (BGSU alum) and Rick Leonardi (a longtime comic book artist).

The Spider-Man in Popular Culture conference aims to examine Spider-Man in Popular Culture in all mediums and media. It is intended to serve as a space for academics, graduate students, comic industry professionals, retailers and fans to engage in dialogue about topics related to Spider-Man in its many media forms, mediums and cultural influence in popular culture and beyond. Abstract Submissions Deadline is May 1, 2023

[Conference Website](#) | spideycon@bgsu.edu