

Contents

Message From the Director 1

BGSU and SCCS Represented at NWSA 2

CLASS CON 2023 3

Spider-Man in Popular Culture Conference..... 4

..... 6

Japan Study Abroad Experience 7

Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)..... 11

ACS Community Gathering ... 11

..... 12

In Memory of Esther 13

Graduating Student Profile – POPC MA..... 13

Alumni Spotlight..... 14

Accolades and Accomplishments..... 17

 Faculty Accomplishments.. 17

 Student Accomplishments 19

Upcoming Events 21

Message From the Director



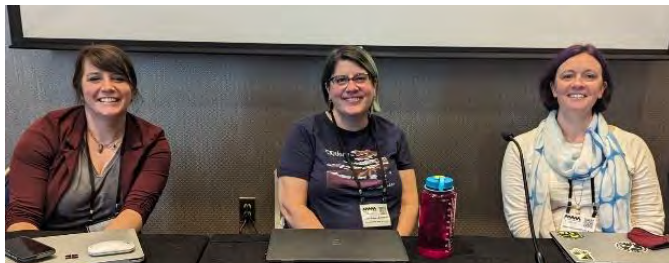
Greetings everyone! Recently undergraduate and graduate students enrolled in courses for Spring Semester 2024. Although this mundane (but important) event occurs three times a year, I’m choosing to use it as a point of reference to the core mission of the School of Cultural and Critical Studies which is to educate “scholars of the future through engaged teaching that emphasizes high impact practices, critical research, and service to the broader BGSU community.” Our entire curricula in American Culture Studies, Ethnic Studies,

Popular Culture, and Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies highlights, supports, and fosters attention to critical thinking. In its VALUE Rubric (Valid Assessment of Learning in Undergraduate Education) on critical thinking, the American Association of Colleges and Universities defines critical thinking as a “habit of mind characterized by the comprehensive exploration of issues, ideas, artifacts, and events before accepting or formulating an opinion or conclusion.” Critical thinking is one of the “superpowers” (pun intended!) of the School of Cultural and Critical Studies. Through the enthusiastic and engaged instruction of our faculty and graduate teaching associates, students have the opportunity to gain a skill that will do them well in both their personal and professional lives. I hope that you know that you perform an important work for our school, college, university, profession, and community.

With sincere appreciation,
 Angela Nelson
 Associate Professor & Director, School of Cultural and Critical Studies

BGSU and SCCS Represented at NWSA

BGSU was well represented at the [National Women's Studies Association](#) this year in Baltimore! Just look at the impressive contributions from BGSU Women's Studies and American Culture Studies!



Dr. Rachel Dean-Ruzicka (right) Dr. Sarah Rainey-Smithback (middle) and Rachel Gardull, LISW (left)

Dr. Rachel Dean-Ruzicka (ACS Phd, WGSS Grad Certificate alum) presented [“Stay Sexy and Don’t Get Murdered:” An Unexpected Rallying Cry for Feminist Fans of True Crime](#). Dr. Sidra Lawrence (BGSU Ethnomusicology professor, WGSS affiliated faculty) presented [“Expansive Ethnographic Engagements: Embodied Performance as African Feminist Praxis”](#). Dr. Jeannie Ludlow (ACS PhD, former Director of WGSS at

BGSU) presented [“The Clinic Stays Open!” \(for now\): Violence and Resistance, post-Dobbs](#). Dr. Mary Maxfield (ACS M.A. alum, and former WGSS TA) presented [“Out of Place: Lesbian and Queer Community Formation in St. Louis”](#). Dr. Maxfield is currently a post-doc in Women’s and Gender Studies at Saint Louis University. Dr. Sarah Rainey-Smithback (WGSS Director at BGSU) presented [“Watching Rape and Disability”](#). Dr. Stevie Scheurich (ACS PhD, WGSS Grad Certificate alum) is currently a Women’s Studies professor at Purdue University, and they presented [“Resistance is a Sacred Act: Queer Feminist Activist Religions in the Fight Against Christian Nationalism”](#). Dr. Kimberly Stanley (BGSU Ethnic Studies professor, WGSS affiliated faculty) presented [“Teaching and Transgressing in Flux”](#). Dr. Kelly Watson (BGSU ACS Phd, WGSS Grad Certificate alum), currently a Women’s and Gender Studies professor at West Virginia University, presented [“Prions and Predators: D. Carleton Gajdusek, Medical Colonialism and the Exploitation of Pacific Islander Children”](#). Dr. Radhika Gajjala (BGSU Media and Communication professor, WGSS affiliated faculty), Ololade Faniyi (ACS M.A. alum, currently PhD student in Women’s Studies at Emory), Dr. Sarah Ford (ACS PhD alum), and Dr. Emily Edwards (ACS PhD alum, currently at professor St. Francis College) presented [“They don’t know who we are but they inspired us nonetheless”](#). Dr. Angela Clark-Taylor (former Director of BGSU Center for Women’s and Gender Equity) presented [“Survey Says...: Revisiting, Reclaiming & Re-Imagining the State of WGSS in the U.S.”](#)



Dr. Stevie Scheurich (left) with Dr. Rainey-Smithback



Dr. Kelly Watson



Dr. Jeannie Ludlow (right) with Dr. Rainey-Smithback

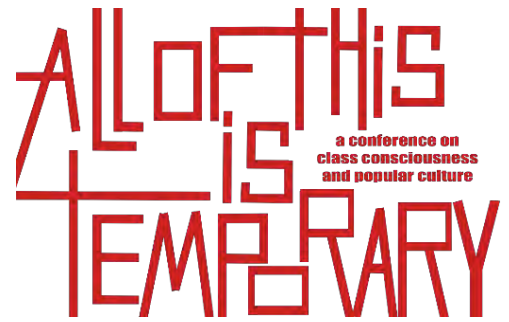


Dr. Kimberly Stanley

CLASS CON 2023

By Andrea Freimuth

In April 2023 the Ray Browne Conference on Pop Culture centered on issues of class with the theme “All of This is Temporary.” It was deemed CLASS CON 2023, focusing on class consciousness and the position of class studies within academia. The conference, sponsored by the Popular Culture Scholars’ Association, the BGSU University Libraries, and the School of Cultural and Critical Studies, was held on April 14 and 15 in the Pallister Conference Room at Jerome Library. The Keynote Address titled “Merit Raises and the Consciousness of the Professoriate” was given by Walter Benn Michaels of the University of Illinois’s English Department. The conference featured over thirty speakers with several roundtable discussions and workshops on a variety of topics including class and academia, collective bargaining, tenants’ rights, socialism, and class representations in popular culture. Additionally, attendees were invited to contribute creatively to a conference Zine.



CLASS CON 2023 was organized by the Pop Culture Scholars Association, under the direction of John King and Haley Shipley, with Jeff Brown advisor, and the gracious assistance of other BGSU faculty members. CLASS CON was available free in person as well as on Zoom, hosting over a hundred unique attendees over the two days, two-thirds of whom participated in person. One attendee said they stayed longer than planned because “everything felt important and engrossing.” CLASS CON organizers strove to make the conference affordable and approachable for all audiences as pop culture and class studies effect everyone. The conference is supported in part by the Stoddard and O’Neill School of Critical and Cultural Studies Fund to keep it free for speakers and attendees.



Members of the Bowling Green Socialists after a presentation by ACS PhD student Ben Thomason at CLASS CON 2023.

Twenty twenty-four is the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Popular Culture Department at Bowling Green State University by Ray Brown. The conference theme is “Approaching Academia” and seeks to highlight the junction of academia, pedagogy, popular culture, and class studies. It will be held March 15-16 at the Jerome Library. The keynote speaker is Gary Roth, author of *The Educated Underclass*, from Rutgers University. Those interested in speaking at the conference should see the Call for Papers and return their proposal to classcon@bgsu.edu by the extended deadline of January 1.



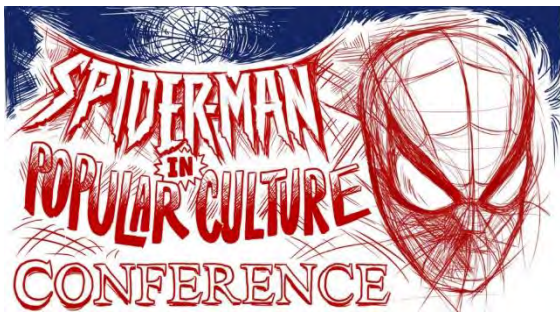
Associate Dean Phil Dickinson presenting on theorist Mark Fisher.



ACS PhD student Kristine Ketel presenting.

Spider-Man in Popular Culture Conference

By Andrea Freimuth and Jenna Sule



On September 29 and 30, 2023 the School of Cultural and Critical Studies, the Department of Popular Culture, and the BGSU University Libraries jointly hosted the Spider-Man in Popular Culture Conference. The conference featured fifty-five speakers on all aspects of Spiderman in popular culture from collecting to comics to fandom. Keynote speakers included Bruce Wechtenhiser, Spider-Man collector and visual storyteller; Marc Sumerack, Marvel Comics writer; Jim Collins, collector and Toledo comic book store owner; and Rick Leonardi, comic artist. Other speakers addressed everything from Spider-Man and crime from a lawyer's perspective to the price of comic books and inflation to religious elements in the comics. Several hundred attendees gathered in the Pallister Conference Room of the Jerome Library.

The conference was organized by Dr. Matthew Donahue and Dr. Charles Coletta of the Department of Popular Culture and Tyne Lowe of the Browne Popular Culture Library. It is the most recent in a series of popular culture conferences at Bowling Green State University which in the past have included heavy metal music, the electric guitar, and Batman. The conferences follow the Ray Browne paradigm of popular culture being something that is not only connected to everyone's lives but that the content is also worthy of study by everyone from academics to fans to collectors. The conference provided a platform for all those interested in various aspects of Spider-Man to come together to share their knowledge, learn from each other, and celebrate popular culture. During the conference, time was set aside to tour the collections of the Browne Popular Culture Library. Highlighting the Popular Culture Library, the Sound Recording Library, and the Department of Popular Culture at BGSU were secondary goals of the conference.

The Spider-Man in Popular Culture Conference was offered free to attendees thanks to the financial support of the BGSU University Libraries, the School of Cultural and Critical Studies, and the Popular Culture Stoddard O'Neil Fund. All the presentations occurred in a single room to encourage community connections and support of all the speakers. Speakers and attendees came from all across the continent, even as far away as Winnipeg, Canada. Effort was made to bring together people from all walks of life interested in Spider-Man, as well as to highlight the local area.



Keynote Bruce Wechtenhiser at his conference table.



Audience members at The Spider-Man in Popular Culture Conference.



Left to right: Tyne Lowe, Dr. Matthew Donahue, Bruce Wechtenhiser, Alicia Gruver (Toledo Blade) and her husband.

Drs. Coletta and Donahue said that the conference exceeded their expectations on bringing people together around popular culture as academics, fans, and collectors. Although they have not yet chosen a conference topic for next year, they plan to use the same model. They feel strongly that this conference is one important component in promoting the Browne Popular Culture Library, the Sound Recording Library, and the Department of Popular Culture, but more could be done to highlight these resources at Bowling Green State University.



Audience members at the Spider-Man in Popular Culture Conference.



Tyne Lowe, Joshua Pchajek of The Dream Factory, and Dana Nemeth

Japan Study Abroad Experience

By Garrett Scherff

In the Summer of 2023, the School of Art and the Department of Popular Culture offered a joint study abroad trip that took students on a grand adventure across Japan. Organized by World Strides and led by Kim Waterfield and Dr. Kristen Rudisill, the program was successfully funded and saw twenty undergraduate and two graduate students travel to Japan. In late May we arrived in Kyoto, where we spent our first week exploring its mixture of modern and traditional architecture, including trips to the Inari Shrine and



Members of the Study Abroad Experience pose in front of a Japanese shrine.

other stunning Shinto and Buddhist shrines and gardens. Before heading to Tokyo for our final week, we spent a night in a traditional Japanese inn complete with an onsen and a special dinner and breakfast. The course offered a unique experience for students hoping to visit Japan and to experience its vibrant cityscapes entangling nature and architecture with its popular culture.



Dr. Kristen Rudisill with a friend of hers in Japan.

After the trip, I was able to interview Dr. Rudisill, who had previously been involved in student trips to India, about her takeaways from the course. Dr. Rudisill said that she found Japan to be one of the safest places for a study abroad experience with its easily accessible public transportation and wide-spread convenience stores with delicious and affordable food choices. The honesty and kindness of the people of Japan were also contributing factors to the positive experience of the trip, noting that important items and souvenirs had been recovered when lost on trains or left behind at hotels. In multiple



The study abroad group posing for a photo beneath a torii gate at the Inari Shrine.

instances, those belongings were given to authorities and returned to their owners or shipped to the next hotel by wonderful staff members.

Many of the students shared an interest in Japanese art, anime, and manga from the offset. In Kyoto, we toured the Kyoto International Manga Museum, while Tokyo was marked by visits to the Suginami Animation Museum and anime stores such as the Shonen Jump Store and the Tokyo Pokémon Center. Among the most enjoyable experiences were Tokyo's Akihabara district, which was two stops from the hotel and offered souvenirs, and the team Lab Planets Digital Art Museum, a walking tour combining digital technology with nature in immersive artistic exhibitions. Students used their free time to explore their own interests and many experiences offered by Japan, including renting kimonos, visiting animal cafes and arcades, or attending workshops such as a kintsugi teacup repair class. The trip wasn't without its challenges, however, as the two weeks are fast paced, feature a lot of walking, and

are filled to the brim with engaging events, from tea ceremonies to taiko drumming. There was also one Alice in Wonderland themed restaurant that fell flat which Dr. Rudisill said would be replaced with a ninja



The garden and flowers of a Buddhist Temple in Kyoto.



Several students enjoying the spectacle of the hanging floral gardens in the Digital Art Museum in Tokyo

themed performance restaurant for future trips. Overall, Dr. Rudisill stated that for the most part everyone was enthusiastic about doing everything offered.

Asked whether she would like to organize other study abroad opportunities in the future, Dr. Rudisill mentioned trips to Singapore or Toronto as high on her list for additional opportunities. This opportunity will be offered again next Summer, so students interested in a study abroad trip to Japan can look forward to applying. For those concerned about the cost of studying abroad, Dr. Rudisill stated that World Strides offers a scholarship to one of the students who apply that may help cover costs. BGSU also offers a travel grant for students traveling abroad.



The gardens, pond, and famous pagoda of the Toji Buddhist Temple in Kyoto



Dr. Kristen Rudisill and Kim Weller, who led the trip



The group enters the Bamboo Forest in Kyoto



The tranquil grounds of a Buddhist Temple in Kyoto



The group experiences the Samurai Museum wearing armor and wielding katana to execute one of their own



Tokyo Tower and the Tokyo City Skyline



POPC MA student Garrett Scherff leads the class in a small seminar in Tokyo

Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead)

By Michaela Walsh

Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) is a holiday celebrated throughout Mexico and among Mexican communities the United States. It's a time to offer remembrance to family members and friends who have died. This is done through the creation of altars, which incorporate different artifacts that honor/reflect attributes of the deceased, who they were, and what they loved. In



Students in the ETHN4200/POPC4700 Latino/a Cultural Studies class participated in creating the altar in Shatzel Hall.

my classes that take place during the Fall semester students create an altar in the foyer of Shatzel Hall that includes artifacts that reflect how students want to be remembered, as well as items that commemorate figures they have loved and lost, famous individuals who have passed, as well as those whose deaths don't register as grievable within an inter/national imaginary. One wonderful aspect of this project is the co-curricular collaboration. Every year, Dr. Robinson in the Department of Spanish creates altars with her students, that are also on display in Shatzel, creating a shared space of community and reverence.

ACS Community Gathering

By Jenna Sule

The American Culture Studies program hosted a coffee and community event in East Hall 101 on Halloween. In addition to the coffee and tea, a plentiful supply of Halloween-themed foods and sweets were artfully displayed, and students were encouraged to come in costume. Though the food and drinks were just a bonus, the real fun of this event came from the conversation among colleagues and friends. The gathering was filled with people, new and old to SCCS, chatting casually about our research, classes we plan to take or teach, and just getting to know each other better. Even though I had to



ACS students and faculty gather in East Hall 101.

leave early, it was nice to hear sounds of laughing and chatting filling East's ordinarily quiet halls. Dr. Kinney and Beka Patterson had even set up various activities for attendees, such as a "Name that Horror Movie" game, that allowed us to "flex" our horror movie knowledge. Overall, this coffee and conversation event was a fantastic opportunity to come together in a more casual, stress-free atmosphere to celebrate our continued efforts in ACS. Our next event will be in January and open to all grad students and faculty/affiliated faculty in SCCS. We hope to see you all there!



From left to right: Taufiq al Makmun, John King (background), Dr. Rebecca Kinney, Dylan Miller, Justin Kindelt, and Dr. Timothy Messer-Kruse.



Katie Cline talks to Dr. Rebecca Kinney.



Kristine Ketel (left) and John King (right).



Bill Albertini (left) and Haley Shipley (right).

In Memory of Esther

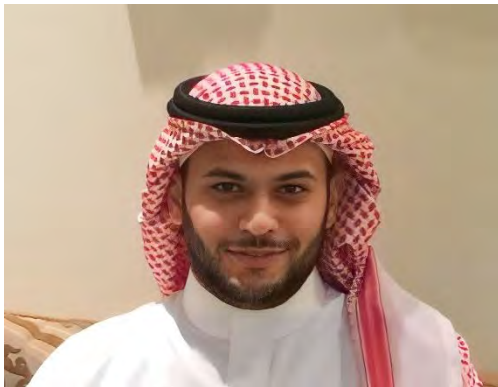
A Memorial bench for Dr. Esther Clinton was installed in July.

Dr. Esther Clinton taught in the Department of Popular Culture from 2006 until her untimely passing in July 2022. Since then, books, journal issues, and articles have been dedicated to her memory, as well as a memorial bench and two trees installed this year on the south side of Shatzel Hall. A research fund for graduate students, reflecting Dr. Clinton's ardent commitment to graduate education, is also in the works.



Graduating Student Profile – POPC MA

Abdulaziz Almansour



What is your favorite BGSU memory?

My memory is that I have three favorite moments at Bowling Green State University. The first moment was when I entered the university for the first time and attended the orientation for international students. The International Student Office members were excellent, smiling and offering to help. The second moment was when I passed the first comprehensive exam. At that moment, I knew that I would be graduating. The third moment was when my thesis was approved by the thesis defense and manuscript form by the committee.

What was your favorite class?

My favorite class was "Female Body and Film Theory." I learned things from it that had never occurred to me. The students were also very creative in their presentations. Also, Dr. Jeffrey Brown was creative in explaining.

Which professor(s) had the biggest impact on you? Why?

The professor who had a significant influence on me was Dr. Kristen Rudisill. She was very understanding and worked hard, besides being the committee chair for my thesis. I also do not forget Dr. Wallach and Dr. Clinton, as they were the first professors I met at the university, and I have memories with them that will remain stuck in my mind forever.

What are you planning to do after graduation?

I will return to my country, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and seek to join or cooperate with the Ministry of Culture.

Do you have any advice for current students?

The advice is that no matter your difficulties in your studies, you must do your work, regardless of the results. The important thing is that you do what you have to do.

What is the title of your thesis, and what is the topic?

The title of my thesis is ARAB STEREOTYPE IN AMERICAN MOVIES. This thesis reveals the causes of the stereotypical image and how Arab characters are presented in Hollywood.

Alumni Spotlight

Emily Edwards, ACS PhD

Emily Lynell Edwards is a 2021 PhD graduate of the American Culture Studies program. She currently serves as Assistant Professor of Digital Humanities and Educational Technologist at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, NY.

Can you tell us about your current position at St. Francis College and what all it entails?

Absolutely, so at SFC I wear many hats and serve in a hybrid faculty-administrative position. I am a tenure-tracked Assistant



Professor of Digital Humanities within the Department of Interdisciplinary studies where I regularly teach courses such as Introduction to Digital Humanities and also develop new courses like Introduction to Game Studies. The other part of my role is serving as the Educational Technologist for the College, so I regularly provide faculty one-on-one and departmental level support as they include digital projects or other technologies in their courses. I do syllabi consults, classroom training visits, and develop and lead programming over the course of the academic year on digital pedagogy and technically specific trainings. I am also currently serving as co-director of an NEH funded project, Digital Humanities Across the Curriculum, where I lead institutional-wide faculty training, course re-designs, and manage and direct technology purchasing. I really enjoy my work as it allows me to collaborate with students, faculty, and staff in and outside of the classroom.

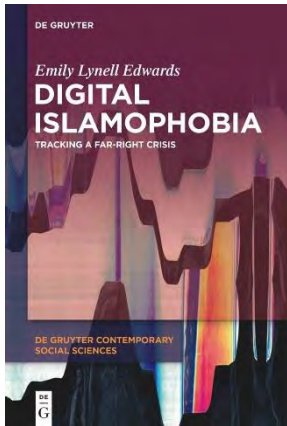
What course is your favorite to teach? What strategies do you teach your students for success?

I really enjoy teaching Introduction to Digital Humanities which explores the field and exposes students to a variety of methods and forms of project making from computational textual analysis, to data scraping, to digital archiving. This course helps students become not just data-literate but data-critical and at the end of the course each student produces a digital humanities project ranging from text-based video games to interactive digital maps. In such tech-centric courses, students come in with a variety of levels of technical acumen. I aim to teach students critical resilience when working with technology, that it's not about mastery but a form of critical engagement, that it's okay to fail or break things, rather to embrace the learning process instead of the outcome. I hope that approach empowers students in and outside of my courses.

How did your education at Bowling Green State University prepare you for your position? What steps did you take at BGSU to help set you up for success in your current position?

My experience at BGSU in the ACS program was pivotal to success in my current position. Not only did my coursework prepare me with a rigorous interdisciplinary background that has allowed me to become legible across disciplines, but my graduate appointments gave me a foundation to work in an administrative capacity. From working as the Graduate Research Assistant II with Dr. Peña on programming events, such as with the LIC, to being part of Dr. Gajjala's research collective, these experiences gave me technical and administrative skills I use everyday as part of my work as an Assistant Professor, Educational Technologist, and grant co-director. Looking out for opportunities to collaborate with Professors on research projects and events was important to me, it gave me first-hand experiences I could point to on my CV as evidence of my expertise. For me, technical training was important on my journey, whether training on Manifold, learning how to use Gephi in a methods course, etc., all of this built up my profile to become a DH-practitioner and showcase my quantifiable skills. Not everyone will have the same bundle of skills, but finding ways to cultivate your particular talents at BGSU is key.

Where does your research inspiration come from?



Fundamentally, I'm really interested in digital culture and how it intersects with other "keywords" like identity, race, gender, and politics. My book [Digital Islamophobia: Tracking a Far-Right Crisis](#) in particular came together from my experience living in Germany and doing work interviewing refugees and asylum seekers in the aftermath of the 2015 Syrian Refugee crisis. I've always been interested in how digital technology influences and affects our "offline" world and vice versa.

Your website describes your love of projects and your project management experience. Which project have you enjoyed managing the most? Why?

It's been a really exciting experience to serve as co-director of a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funded project, Digital Humanities Across the Curriculum (DHAC), which aims to train faculty in the latest digital pedagogies, invest in cutting-edge software and hardware, and expose students to re-designed digital-forward courses. This project has been big to manage in terms of its size and scope, \$150,000 over two years, but it's been incredibly gratifying to see how it has empowered students and faculty. So far, we've trained 32 faculty members, placed 361 students in digital-forward courses, and supported the development of 45+ student-created digital humanities projects.

You are currently working on a novel on artificial intelligence. How is approaching this project similar to and different from the other writing you have done?

This project started out as a fun exercise to write about some topics I regularly approach in my work (metadata, digital archiving, large language models etc.) in a more creative way. I actually do find some overlap in working on this novel and my dissertation, for both projects I embraced writing every single day, even if it was just half an hour to move it forward. I would also say that in both cases, I was really writing this for an audience of one—myself, because I was so motivated to explore a particular story or research question. I've found that having a creative project, whether this novel or doing more public-facing writing like essays I've published in Black Lipstick or Polygon has inspired me to continue moving forward with my scholarly writing.

You are coming back to BGSU for a special workshop this spring. What will it be about? Why should we all make sure we are there?

I am super excited to visit BGSU for a special workshop on publishing! It will focus on publishing strategies and experiences in both public and scholarly contexts and will feature a session between myself and Dr. Robin Hershkowitz (BGSU alum) who is a nonfiction book coach. Dr. Hershkowitz worked with me as a client to take my dissertation to a published monograph with De Gruyter, and she has a wealth of experience working with a variety of clients. While in graduate school I think there is an imperative to publish your research, and this session will give tangible strategies and knowledge about how to approach this process, whether you are hoping to publish in scholarly venues or public outlets, featuring advice from both an author and expert in the field.

Accolades and Accomplishments

Faculty Accomplishments

Angela Nelson

Popular Culture Studies Faculty; Director, CCS

Dr. Nelson presented two papers on the 1970s Black-oriented television situation comedy, *Good Times* (CBS, 1974-1979) at the annual meeting of the Midwest Popular Culture Association (Fall 2023) and at the Bowling Green State University conference, *All of This Is Temporary: A Conference on Class Consciousness and Popular Culture* (Spring 2023). The papers, “*Good Times*, The Evanses vs. The Robinsons, and Conflicts in Class Perspectives” and “*Good Times* in Dialogue with Contemporary Black Nuclear Families,” are part of a larger project interpreting *Good Times* as a seventies television milestone. She presented “Deconstructing Reviews of *The Beulah Show: Blackwomen Domestic and Early TV Sitcoms*” at the annual meeting of the International Conference on Humanities, Social and Education Sciences (Spring 2023). She has been researching and presenting papers on *The Beulah Show* (ABC, 1950-1953), about a Black female domestic employed by a white upper-middle-class nuclear family, for over 30 years. She plans to expand this conference paper into a journal article. Finally, *The Religions* journal published her article “Defending the Call to Preach in Shirley Caesar’s *Gospel Autobiography*” in June 2023. In this article, she argues that Caesar’s “defense” of her call to preach in a male-dominated religious tradition negotiated and dissented from theological narratives about the place of women in Black Holiness-Pentecostal preaching culture.

Matthew Donahue

Popular Culture Studies Faculty

Dr. Matthew Donahue was invited to speak on the history and influence of punk music and culture by BGSU’s Jerome Library in conjunction with their punk exhibit. He also brought legendary drummer and producer Keith LeBlanc to BGSU’s campus to speak about LeBlanc’s life and times in music. Dr. Donahue



exhibited his pop culture inspired artwork at the Undisclosed exhibition at the Martin Porter Gallery at the Toledo School for the Arts (a BGSU sponsored school) as well as at the



16th Annual NOWOH Exhibition at the BGSU Galleries. Additionally, he co-organized the Spider-Man in Popular Culture Conference at BGSU which featured speakers from around the United States presenting on Spider-Man’s influence on popular culture.

Sarah Rainey-Smithback

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

Dr. Sarah Rainey-Smithback presented a paper called "Watching Rape and Disability" at the National Women's Studies Association annual conference in Baltimore, Maryland in October.

Timothy Messer-Kruse

Ethnic Studies Faculty

Dr. Messer-Kruse is the recipient of an award from the Association for Ethnic Studies, the Outstanding Advocacy in Race and Ethnic Communities Award for 2023, that was conferred at their annual meeting at Howard University.



Radhika Gajjala

American Culture Studies / Media & Communication Faculty

Dr. Gajjala presented a keynote in September at the II Atlantic Conference: History, Culture and Heritage Conference on "[The Body, Technology and Time](#)" at the University of the Azores – Ponta Delgada campus. She also has a forthcoming coauthored publication called "[Women activists imaged through social media publics: The 'Fiesty Dadis of Shaheen Bagh' as political subjects](#)" in *Affective Formation Of Publics: Places, Networks, And Media* by Routledge.

Charles Coletta

Popular Culture Studies Faculty

Dr. Coletta presented a lecture called "Good Grief! Charles Schultz, Charlie Brown & the Most Successful Comic Strip" as part of the Elder College Course offerings. He was recently a guest on the [MASHcast Podcast](#), an in-depth examination of every episode of the classic TV sitcom in chronological order. Additionally, he co-organized the Spider-Man in Popular Culture Conference at BGSU.



Student Accomplishments

Kayla Minniear

Popular Culture, 2nd year MA student

Kayla presented both at PCA in San Antonio last spring and in New Orleans at PCAS this fall.

Ben Thomason

American Culture Studies, 4th year PhD ABD

Ben received the Alma Payne Scholarship to attend 3 week Critical Theory Workshop to advance his dissertation writing. He presented a chapter of his dissertation to his working group and the conference that concluded the workshop. He also received the Lezotte Award to travel to Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and research for a week at their famous Peace Collection.



The Bowling Green Socialists, founded by Ben Thomason organized a national speaker to present at the Class Consciousness conference in April, as well as organizing a free public class on capitalism and economics. BGSU also helped lead the movement at BGSU for reproductive rights in Ohio, gathering 300 signatures for the reproductive rights amendment on the ballot this November. The organization also campaigned against the anti-worker, anti-higher-ed and anti-diversity, equity, and inclusion Ohio Senate Bill 83, and invited a speaker from the Tampa 5, who are a group of young women that were attacked by police and charged with felonies for peacefully protesting an anti-higher-ed and anti-diversity, equity, and inclusion bill in Florida.



Katie Cline

American Culture Studies, 2nd year PhD



Katie's first publication, "I'm sick of being the afterthought, the joke': Hilda Spellman's Empowering Domesticity in Netflix's Chilling Adventures of Sabrina," was published in the collection *Netflix's Chilling Adventures of Sabrina: Hell's Under New Management*, edited by Cori Mathis, Stephanie A. Graves, and Melissa Tyndall. The chapter discusses how Aunt Hilda can be read as a strong, feminist character because of how her domestic skills--such as baking, sewing, and nurturing--are positioned as equally powerful as combat and leadership."

Dylan Miller

American Culture Studies, 4th year PhD ABD

Dylan was accepted as part of the upcoming publication *Exploring Severance: Interdisciplinary Considerations of Apple TV's Psychological Thriller*, edited by Jennifer Dawes and Nora Isacoff and set to be published by Palgrave Macmillan. Their essay is called "The Grim Barbarity of Capitalist Designs: Class Conflict, Corporate Dystopia, and the Sacred Gaze in Severance," and is about the show's focus on how visual culture produces complicity with hegemonic structures of power by manufacturing a religion with a collective history for its workers in a series of paintings in their workplace, as well as how the character with the strongest belief in the system ends up radicalized into rebellion through his relationship to these paintings. They will also be presenting this research at the national PCA conference in Chicago in 2024.

Courtney Bliss

American Culture Studies, PhD ABD

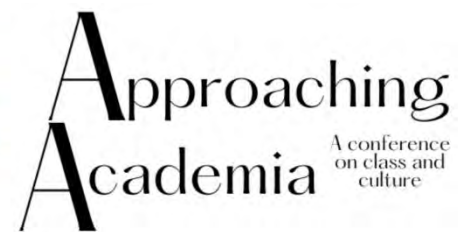
Courtney's article "'What do you think about...?': The metaculture of fandom" was published in the *Journal of Fandom Studies* Vol. 10, Issue 2-3. It examines the relationship between fandom and metaculture generally as well as in the context of *Hamilton: An American Musical*, *Glamberts*, and *Ratatouille: The Tik-Tok Musical*, discussing how reality television, musical theater, and social media all interact with metaculture differently, influencing the creation and continuing existence of fandoms. She also presented "The Metacultural Impact of the Original Cast Album: A *Hamilton* Case Study" at Original Cast Recordings: Art, Artefact, Analysis, a virtual conference organized by the Original Cast Recordings: Musical Theatre and/as Sonic Heritage Network in the UK. She worked to expand on the American Sign Language program at Marion Technical College and added Intermediate American Sign Language as a course beginning in Spring 2024. She was hired in 2022 to start an ASL program at the college and is the sole faculty member of the program.



Upcoming Events

- **CCS Welcome Back Pizza Lunch**
January 16, 2024 11:30am-1:30pm
- **CCS Grad Student SOUP-ER BOWL Party**
February 2024 – SAVE the DATE more info coming soon!

- **Approaching Academia: Class Con 2024**
March 15-16, 2024 | Pallister Conference Room,
Jerome Library
[Submit an Abstract – Deadline: January 1, 2024](#)
[Conference Website](#)



- **Latino/a/x Issues Conference**
March 27, 2024
[Submit an Abstract – Deadline: January 10, 2024](#)
[Submit Award Nomination – Deadline January 10, 2024](#)
[Conference Website](#)



- **CCS Recognition Event**
April 19, 2024 4:30-6:00pm