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## Message From the Director



Dear Alumni, Supporters, and Friends of the School of Cultural and Critical Studies,

Happy New Year! As you will read in the following pages, Fall Semester 2024 was another active one for American Culture Studies (ACS), Ethnic Studies (ETHN), Popular Culture (POPC), and Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies (WGSS) programs, faculty, and graduate students. I hope that you will find our activities interesting and engaging.

I am happy to say that we had a new faculty member join us for this academic year only,

Ms. Becky Risner Jenkins! She joined the school as an Assistant Teaching Professor. Ms. Risner Jenkins earned a Master of Arts degree in American Culture Studies and a Graduate Certificate in Public History both from Bowling Green State University in 2015. She is currently an American Culture Studies doctoral candidate (ABD) completing her dissertation and is teaching introductory courses for the school in American Culture Studies, Ethnic Studies, and Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies.

For our graduate programs, Dr. Sheila Roberts, an Associate Professor in the School of Earth, Environment, and Society (SEES), stepped in this academic year to serve as the interim Graduate Program Coordinator for the school. Dr. Roberts served for seven years as the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences, so we are tapping into her experience with graduate education at the college level but also in her over 10 years of experience as SEES graduate coordinator. She has been a tremendous help to us!

After much thought and discussion, the SCCS faculty have approved going forward with a single SCCS BA degree. This means that instead of students earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in American Culture Studies, Ethnic Studies, Popular Culture, and Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies, soon they will be able to declare a BA in Cultural and Critical Studies with a specialization in either ACS, ETHN, POPC, WOMS.

Professors Tom Edge, Sarah Rainey-Smithback, and Rob Sloane composed a summer 2024 working group that developed the proposal that faculty reviewed in early September 2024. Led by the SCCS Curriculum Committee this semester that includes Professors Edge, Sloane, Oppo Zongo, and Jeff Brown, we are in the final stages of creating the materials needed for the university's curriculum approval process. Keeping student success, strong enrollments, and recommendations from the College of Arts and Sciences under consideration, we felt that this was the best thing to do. I will keep you updated on our progress but also invite your feedback about this important change.

Finally, I'm excited to report that the School of Cultural and Critical Studies is now in one location — Shatzel Hall! Until August 2024, American Culture Studies program students, staff, and faculty were in East Hall. We have wonderful new "meeting room-scapes" that our Budget Coordinator Amy Davidson and Graduate/School Secretary Beka Patterson created. We are using these comfortable and inviting spaces to learn, connect, and collaborate.

Thank you for supporting and cheering us on as we fulfill our vision to educate scholars of the future through engaged teaching that emphasizes high impact practices, critical research, and service to the broader BGSU community. If you would like to meet with me to discuss your questions about any aspect of the school, please contact me at [anelson@bgsu.edu](mailto:anelson@bgsu.edu) or 419-372-0284 to set up a meeting.

With sincere appreciation,

Angela Nelson

Associate Professor of Popular Culture & Director, School of Cultural and Critical Studies

## Highlights and Announcements



*Among those nominated for the College of Arts and Sciences Staff Awards were Amy Davidson and DeeDee Wentland.*

Each year the College of Arts and Sciences Staff Awards celebrate individual employees that demonstrate commitment to BGSU through their positions. This year two members of the School of Cultural and Critical Studies were recognized.

Amy Davidson, along with eight other staff members, was nominated for "The Best of Arts and Sciences Award".

DeeDee Wentland was nominated for and won the "Mentorship Award".

Congratulations to our SCCS staff members,  
Amy Davidson and DeeDee Wentland!

## DeeDee Wentland's Retirement



As you might have noticed from DeeDee's t-shirt, she officially retired from her position with the School of Cultural and Critical Studies this Fall. DeeDee has been part of the BGSU community since 1975 when her mother took a faculty position. She earned a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Business and French from BGSU in 1988. After a brief venture into the outside world, DeeDee returned to BGSU in 1993 first as a food service worker, then in various office and administrative capacities including Financial Aid, Student Employment, Admissions, the Dean's Office in the College of Business Administration, the History Department, Biological Sciences, and finally the School of Cultural and Critical Studies for the last nine years. Thank you, DeeDee, for all your hard work and dedication to our programs and students!



*Beka, DeeDee, and Amy*

## SCCS Summer Move to Shatzel Hall

By Amy Davidson and Caitlin Evans

Finally, the move we've wanted to happen for so long to bring our units together happened over the summer! Discussion of American Culture Studies moving to Shatzel Hall began in late Fall 2023, and by February 2024 Rebecca Patterson and Amy Davidson were tasked by the College office with being the point people to organize the move. Not only was this going to be a huge move, but they were also asked to help Dr. Michael Weber of Philosophy reorganize his department's space since he didn't have a secretary at the time. The School was granted the Philosophy offices down the corridor where a few SCCS offices were already located.



*The new and improved  
Multipurpose Room (228)*

A lot of planning and meetings were scheduled before any work could begin. The first priority was clearing out 34 offices/rooms between SCCS and Philosophy. Not only were approximately 25+ large bins of recycled paper and 12+ large bins of trash removed during the move, but furniture was sent to the warehouse (over 150 chairs, old desks, and 20+ file cabinets), plus many items sent to ReStore. It took the movers almost two days to move out what was not needed. And that doesn't count the time Beka, Amy and their crew worked to move and pack to get ready for them. Phones and computers (20+) were removed from



*The Mailroom*



each office to get ready to send to ITS. Paint colors and carpet were chosen, so that Lakeside could come in to paint and carpet the third floor offices and the corridors for Philosophy and for SCCS.

Once the painting and carpet was completed, the boxes and other items from East Hall, plus the items selected from the warehouse, could be brought in. Like before, it took almost two days to complete this move. The television and computer were mounted in the new conference room, replacement computers were brought in, rooms were arranged and rearranged and sometimes rearranged again, shelving was put up, furniture was moved from one room to another. Finding enough office chairs and matching chairs for shared spaces was a challenge!



*The kitchenette in the Multipurpose Room*

Lots of time, planning, and physical hard work went into this project. A huge thank you to Jenna Sule, Will Walton-Case, Alex Lane and Andrea Freimuth. Without their help we still wouldn't be done with getting our areas ready for use! They were in the middle of all the messes we made, or were trying to clean up.

We hope everyone is enjoying the new arrangement in the Multipurpose Room (228) and the Mailroom! There are still a few things that need to be completed but that will come in time.



**Shatzel Room 330**

*Before the Update*



*After the Update*



## The Ray Browne Association Conference 2024

The Ray Browne Association (RBA) hosted the Ray Browne Conference on Class and Culture on Saturday, November 2 in the Pallister Room of the Jerome Library. It was an opportunity for BGSU graduate students and upper level undergraduates to present their research on popular culture, based in the principles established by Ray B. Browne, founder of the Popular Culture department at BGSU. Students presented on diverse topics from Taylor Swift to Iron Man to TikTok to merchandising of Black characters. More than 20 students presented their original research completed for course seminars, dissertation chapters, or other projects.



*Taylor Swift presenters: L to R Davis Ritenour, Grace Heerdt, Katie Cline*



*Black Pop Culture Panel: Christopher Covington and Lauren Bates*



*Sarah Urbank's presentation*



*Dr. Wallach's keynote presentation*

Dr. Jeremy Wallach gave the keynote presentation entitled "Class Struggle, Cultural Theory, and Popular Culture: The Case of Heavy Metal."

The RBA also presented Bill Schurk, music librarian and archivist, with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his work over 50 years building and maintaining the audio collection at the Jerome Library and supporting the work of students and faculty in popular culture at BGSU.

The professional development of students in the School of Cultural and Critical Studies. Co-Presidents John King and Haley Shipley head the organization with Sarah Urbank, treasurer; William Case-Walton, Secretary; and Trisha Bonham, officer-at-large.

The RBA hosts monthly meetings open to all interested students on the first Thursday of the month at 5:30 PM in Shatzel 228. They will also host Class Con III Conference on March 14-15, 2025.

The Ray Browne Association, formerly known as the Popular Culture Scholars' Association, was reorganized in 2024 to better serve



*Bill Schurk, Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, and John King, co-President of RBA*

## James Baldwin Centennial

August 2, 2024 marked one hundred years since the birth of James Baldwin, American writer and Civil Rights activist. Baldwin connected with BGSU several times in his life. He was a writer-in-residence in 1978 and served as a Distinguished Visiting Professor in 1979 when he delivered a lecture entitled “Passage to America”(available for viewing at <https://digitalgallery.bgsu.edu/exhibits/show/james-baldwin-at-bgsu/passagetoamerica>). His visit helped to positively influence and build the stature and the development of the Ethnic Studies Department. Our SCCS Shatzel Hall 242 Conference room is named the “James Baldwin Conference Room” in honor of his contribution. His time on campus allowed students to connect with one of the most well-known American authors of the twentieth century and grapple with his work on the consequences of racism.

Universities and cultural centers across the country are commemorating the Baldwin Centennial with special academic events and course inclusions throughout the 2024-2025 academic year. Because of Bowling Green State University’s past connections to Baldwin himself, there have been and will continue to be special programming. In October, guest lecturer Dr. Earnest Gibson of Auburn University presented a talk called “Salvific Manhood” which analyzed masculinity in Baldwin’s novels. He suggested new ways to look at Baldwin and his work through a critical approach to gender and Baldwin’s own sexuality. Gibson was also interviewed for the Institute for the Study of Culture and Society’s BG Ideas podcast.

Special events for the Spring semester are in progress as joint ventures between the English and Ethnic Studies Departments. Currently Dr. Thomas Edge is spearheading these plans. Possible events include: a week long public reading of Baldwin’s works at the library where community members can stop in to savor his writing, a featuring of documents from Baldwin’s personal papers from his time at BGSU that are housed in the Jerome Library Special Collections, a viewing of the documentary “I Heard it Through the Grapevine” that shows Baldwin in the 1980s, and special talks or panels at the Black Issues Conference on February 25, 2025. Watch for further announcements concerning these special offerings to remember Baldwin’s work and his lasting impact on BGSU and America at large.

## Finding Your Voice in Social Justice Library Exhibit

By Caitlin Evans



*The Social Justice Learning Community in NYC*

On October 15, 2024, the [Finding Your Voice in Social Justice Learning Community](#) celebrated the opening of their photography exhibit in Jerome Library. The SCCS learning community facilitates undergraduate students learning about activating social change from university and community leaders and organizers.



It introduces students to campus resources and helps them foster connections with other students, faculty, BGSU leaders, and community activists.

The exhibit highlights the Learning Community's 2023 trip to New York City. Featuring photographs by Trinidad Linares, library associate for the Music Library & Bill Schurk Sound Archives, the exhibit examines the intersection of social justice with a variety of issues, including the LGBTQ+ rights, housing, and the criminal justice system. The display also features QR codes which visitors can scan to hear current members of the learning community talk about the work they are also doing on campus.

This exhibit was created in conjunction with the University Libraries Exhibits Committee and with financial support from the School of Cultural and Critical Studies. It will be up for approximately a year in the library for you to visit.

BGSU undergraduate students who are interested in joining a Learning Community can contact Tom Edge [tjedge@bgsu.edu](mailto:tjedge@bgsu.edu) to learn more about the Finding Your Voice in Social Justice Learning Community and how to get involved.

If anyone is interested in doing a future display project at the library, please contact Trinidad Linares: [tlinare@bgsu.edu](mailto:tlinare@bgsu.edu).

## Shanklin AI Innovation Award Grant

The Shanklin AI Innovation Award provides grants to BGSU faculty doing innovative teaching and learning projects that use AI tools for student success. One such grant was awarded to a project entitled "A Practice-Led Feminist Pedagogy: Working with Students to Help Them Make Meaning and Find Their Voice Through Generative AI". This project was sponsored by Radhika Gajjala of the School of Media and Communications and Sarah Rainey-Smithback of the School of Cultural and Critical Studies along with then PhD Candidates Taufiq Makmun of the School of Cultural and Critical Studies and Debipreeta Rahut of the School of Media and Communication. This project seeks to bridge the gap between research and pedagogy by exploring how students make sense of and engage with their digitally mediated environment through a format originally conceptualized by Rahut. Both Dr. Gajjala and Dr. Rainey-Smithback implemented assignments in their Summer and Fall coursework that encourage students to interact with AI generated materials, particularly images, but also to analyze their responses to the authenticity and cultural history embedded in those images. It looks at not only student reception but also questions of labor, ethics, nuance, digital literacy, and the impact of data centers. Students in the courses selected signed IRB releases for their assigned journals, classroom discussions, and other



*The Social Justice Learning Community*

analysis. This study is carried out with a feminist pedagogical lens and a critical cultural framework to assess what AI tools do for the classroom and what it means to teach effectively in an AI environment. This spring that data will be compiled into a report for presentation at a forthcoming symposium on the topic as well as the School of Media and Communication Colloquium October of 2025.

## Dia De Los Muertos & Remembrance

Students in the ETHN 3000/POPC 3250 Topics Class “Dia de los Muertos & Remembrance” along with students in the World Languages and Cultures department created ofrendas in Shatzel Hall in honor of deceased loved ones.



## Accolades and Accomplishments

### Faculty

#### **Angela Nelson**

Popular Culture Studies Faculty; Director, CCS

Dr. Nelson has presented four papers on the 1970s Black-oriented television situation comedy, *Good Times* (CBS, 1974-1979). The first paper, “Marital Power in the Pilot Episode of *Good Times*, 1972-1974,” was presented at the annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association (Spring 2024). The second paper was presented at the International Conference on Humanities, Social and Education Sciences Conference (“*Good Times* as Seventies Television Milestone”). Another paper, “*Good Times* as Progressive Representation of the Black Family,” was presented at the Summer Virtual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Popular Culture Association (Summer 2024). The fourth paper, “*Good Times: Black Again* and the Legacy of Blackface Minstrelsy,” was presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Popular Culture Association (Fall 2024). All papers are part of a larger project interpreting *Good Times* as a seventies television milestone.



## Charles Coletta

Popular Culture Studies Faculty

Dr. Coletta has presented four public lectures on the History of The Twilight Zone & Rod Serling as this year marks the 100th anniversary of his birth. He spoke at BGSU's Elder College (Firelands), the Norwalk Public Library, the Fremont Public Library, and the Hancock County Historical Museum. Along with Matt Donahue he will lead the "Soap Operas & Popular Culture" conference to be held in October 2025. Finally, BGSU's most famous alum EVA MARIE SAINT celebrated her 100th birthday on July 4, 2024. Turner Classic Movies channel named her "Star of the Month" and showcased many of her classic films.

## Matthew Donahue

Popular Culture Studies Faculty



Dr. Donahue published the article "Madonna Studies: The Queen of Pop (Culture) Marks Another Milestone" in *Pollstar* (Madonna Issue). He was invited to present talks on "The History of Rock and Roll" at the Clyde Museum and "The Music of the British Invasion" at the Norwalk Public Library. He exhibited his "Red, White and Blue Jackson Pollocktik" art car at the King Wamba Parade/Exhibition, part of Toledo's Old West End Festival and exhibited part of his commercial archeology photography project titled The Tokyo Sign Project at

the Undisclosed Exhibition at the Porter Gallery at the Toledo School for the Arts and the NOWOH Exhibition at the BGSU Galleries. Dr. Donahue presented and exhibited work from his commercial archeology project titled "The Tokyo Sign Project" at BGSU's ArtsX Saturday, December 7, 2024.



## Radhika Gajjala

American Culture Studies / Media & Communication Faculty

Dr. Gajjala is the incoming editor for *Women's Studies in Communication Journal*. She will start her term as editor in 2025.

## Michelle Stokely

Ethnic Studies Faculty

Dr. Stokely presented a paper entitled "We Don't Name Ourselves: Naisha Apache Names and Naming Practices" at the American Society for Ethnohistory 2024 Conference in September.

## Adam Cohen

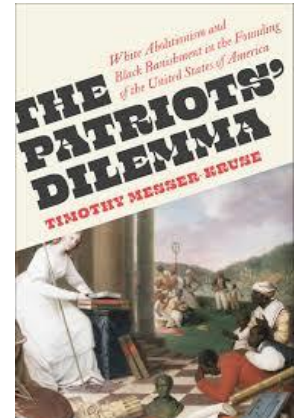
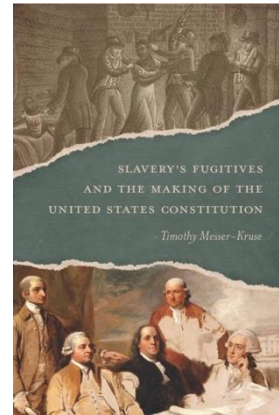
American Culture Studies and Ethnic Studies Adjunct Lecturer

Dr. Cohen recently published an article entitled “Audience Performance and Sports Fandom Rhetorics during 2020 Presidential Election Debate Watch Parties” in *Transformative Works and Cultures*, no. 43.

## Timothy Messer-Kruse

American Culture Studies Faculty

Dr. Messer-Kruse published two books recently. The first is [\*Patriots’ Dilemma: White Abolitionism and Black Banishment in the Founding of the United States of America\*](#) with Pluto Press. The second is *Slavery’s Fugitives and the Making of the United States Constitution* with Louisiana State University Press. Both interrogate the relationship of America’s founding and slavery.



## Jeremy Wallach

Popular Culture Faculty

Dr. Wallach presented several invited lectures this term including: “Class Struggle, Cultural Theory, and Popular Culture: The Case of Heavy Metal” a Keynote Presentation at the Ray Browne Conference in November, “Popular Music, Tourism, and Education” which was co-presented with Kurt Baer of the Division of Music Education from Chiang Mai Rajabhat University in Chiang Mai, Thailand in August, and “Voice of Baceprot and Global Feminism” at the Annual Meeting of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music—Southeast Asia in Bangkok, Thailand in July 2024.



## Student

### **Katie Cline**

American Culture Studies, 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD, ABD

In May, Katie presented "Some 'bunny' Closed the Door: Changing Attitudes About Childhood in Clement Hurd's 1972 Revised *Runaway Bunny* Illustrations" at the 50th Annual Children's Literature Association conference in Madison, WI. In June 2024, she presented her paper "'I can do it with a broken heart': Death (of Our Expectations) and Rebirth (of the Author)" as part of



the "Five Stages of Grief" panel in Southwest PCA's Taylor Swift area of their virtual Summer Salon. In Summer 2024, Katie taught BGSU's first Taylor Swift class, ACS 3000: "Fandom in the U.S.: Taylor Swift" and has since been interviewed by several news outlets about it, including the *BG News* student newspaper, the *BG Independent News*, Canada's *The Globe and Mail*, and Tappedia, an online news site devoted to Taylor Swift.

### **Marianne Vanderbeke**

Women's Studies Graduate Certificate Student and Media and Communications Ph.D. Student

Marianne presented her Thesis, *My Mom Gave Me a Book: A Critical Review of Evangelical Christian Literature about Puberty, Sexuality, and Gender Roles and their Role in Conversations about Sex Education* at the National Communication Association Convention in November.

### **John King**

American Culture Studies, 4<sup>th</sup> year PhD, ABD

John has been a guest speaker at widely varied functions over the last term. He was a guest on BG Ideas Podcast Episode: The Role of Graduate Student Unions in Higher Education Class Struggles, as well as on the Melungeon Voices Podcast (by the Melungeon Heritage Association) speaking about current issues facing the Appalachian community. He was a contributing author to *Soulful Sounds of Derbytown*, a history of Black entertainers in Louisville Kentucky published by Butler Books. John also serves as co-president of the Ray Browne Association.





## Andrea Freimuth

American Culture Studies, 3<sup>rd</sup> year PhD, ABD

During a summer internship with Adams National Historical Park Andrea worked on a set of three waysides to orient visitors to the site of John and John Quincy Adams' birthplaces. Those waysides are currently being fabricated and should be placed on site this summer. She published a book review of Angela S. Beauchamp's *Eleanor Roosevelt on Screen: The First Lady's Appearances in Film and Television, 1932-1962* in the *Journal of Film and Video*. She presented "Patriotism and/or Protest: The Musical *1776* and the Nixon Administration," at the Midwest Popular Culture Association Conference in October and won their Gary Burns Graduate Student Travel Grant.



## Debipreeta Rahut

Women's Studies Graduate Certificate Student and Media and Communications, 4<sup>th</sup> year PhD, ABD



Debipreeta Rahut's teaching activity, "*Teaching Gender and Labor*," has been competitively selected for the prestigious Top Papers Session at the Great Ideas for Teaching Students (GIFT) Session as well as her work, "*Household Labor within the 'Locked-Down' Home: Tales from COVID-19 Lockdowns in India*," for the prestigious Top Student Performances Session by the Performance Studies Division during the National Communication Association's (NCA) 110th Annual Convention in New Orleans. This performance is drawn from her ongoing dissertation research, which examines people's lived experiences during the COVID-19 lockdowns in India. She is the recipient of the Distinguished Graduate Teaching Assistant Award from the Ohio Communication Association. She was nominated for this highly competitive and prestigious award by her course supervisor and mentor, Dr. Lisa Hanasono.

## Christopher Covington

American Culture Studies, 2<sup>nd</sup> year PhD

Summer 2024, Christopher taught three classes for the BGSU TRiO Program (Pop Culture, American History and World History). He also taught the Summer Impact Internship in Detroit, MI. He taught 8 high school students with disabilities who created their own comic book world and characters with the assistance of AI. He moderated the Black Pop Culture Panel at the Ray

Brown Conference, and also presented on the Merchandising of Black Characters. Finally as president of the Black Pop Culture Collective he is pleased to announce the Black Pop Culture Virtual Symposium.

## Fall Graduates

### Graduate Students

Carmen Alvarez, American Culture Studies Ph.D.

*Becoming Latina in the Northwest Ohio Borderland*

Committee: Vibha Balla (chair), Michaela Domiano, Valeria Grinberg Pla, Sheri Horner (GFR)

## Upcoming Events

- **Ray Browne Association Meetings**  
February 6 & April 3, 2025 5:30 PM | Shatzel 228  
Contact: John King, [joking@bgsu.edu](mailto:joking@bgsu.edu) or [raybrowne@bgsu.edu](mailto:raybrowne@bgsu.edu)
- **The Black Pop Culture Virtual Symposium**  
February 22, 2025 | The Black Pop Culture Collective  
Contact: Christopher Covington, [bpcc@bgsu.edu](mailto:bpcc@bgsu.edu)
- **Class Con III**  
March 14-15, 2025 | Pallister Conference Room, Jerome Library  
Contact: John King, [joking@bgsu.edu](mailto:joking@bgsu.edu)
- **Latino/a/x Issues Conference**  
March 26, 2025  
<https://www.bgsu.edu/arts-and-sciences/cultural-and-critical-studies/news-events/latino-issues-conference.html>
- **Funk Music in Popular Culture Conference**  
April 25-26, 2025 | BTSU  
Contact: Matthew Donahue, [mattddon@bgsu.edu](mailto:mattddon@bgsu.edu) or Angela Nelson  
[funkmusic@bgsu.edu](mailto:funkmusic@bgsu.edu)



- **SCCS Faculty and Staff Recognition Event**  
April 25, 2025 4:30 PM | BTSU 207
- **Soap Operas in Popular Culture Conference**  
October 31-November 1, 2025 | BTSU 201  
Contact: Matthew Donahue, [mattdon@bgsu.edu](mailto:mattdon@bgsu.edu) or Charles Coletta, [ccolett@bgsu.edu](mailto:ccolett@bgsu.edu)

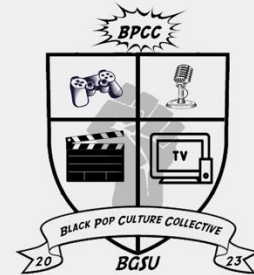


**BGSU** | School of  
**Cultural and  
Critical Studies**  
**BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY**  
American Culture Studies | Ethnic Studies | Popular Culture  
Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies



# **Black Pop Culture Collective @ BGSU Presents the Black Pop Culture Virtual Symposium**

Saturday February 22, 2025  
11 am est - 5 pm est



Topics include but are not limited to:

- \*Afrofuturism: Back to the Mothership
- \*The Miseducation of Black Pop Culture (General/Education)
- \*Boldly Go Where No One Has Gone Before (Black Pop Culture General)
- \*We Are Family! (Film, TV)
- \*Sounds of Blackness (Music)
- \*It's Not All About Wakanda (Film, Fashion, Comics)
- \*A New Challenger Has Entered! (Gaming)
- \*Follow the Drinking Gourd (History)

To Register:

<https://forms.office.com/r/vdeD2WBCbf>

For more information contact:

Christopher Covington: [cacovin@bgsu.edu](mailto:cacovin@bgsu.edu)

Black Pop Culture Collective: [bpcc@bgsu.edu](mailto:bpcc@bgsu.edu)

## **FUNK MUSIC IN POPULAR CULTURE CONFERENCE—APRIL 25 & 26, 2025**

### **CALL FOR PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

#### **Funk Music in Popular Culture Conference**

**Friday, April 25 & Saturday, April 26, 2025**

**Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, USA**

Indie Lens Pop-Up, WBGU-PBS, the Department of Popular Culture and the School of Cultural and Critical Studies at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio are proud to announce the Funk Music in Popular Culture Conference to be held on Friday, April 25 and Saturday, April 26, 2025. The Funk Music in Popular Culture Conference will serve as a celebration and screening of the Independent Lens film *We Want the Funk*. This conference will also be a space for academics, graduate students, musicians, music industry professionals, music/sound recording retailers, fans and the public to engage in dialogue about topics related to funk music and its cultural influence in popular music, popular culture and beyond. The scope of the Funk Music in Popular Culture Conference is deliberately broad, with the intention of highlighting the interdisciplinary nature and the many different avenues of research and creativity related to funk music in popular culture.

Possible topics might include but are not limited to:

- Funk Music in Popular Music and Popular Culture
- Funk Music History, History of Funk Musicians and Funk Musical Groups
- Funk Music Fans and Funk Podcasts
- Ohio's Connection to Funk Music (Dayton, Cincinnati, Toledo, Cleveland, Columbus based groups, fans, and record labels)
- Michigan's Connection to Funk Music (Detroit-based funk groups, fans, and record labels)
- Funk Music in Rap/Hip-Hop, Heavy Metal, Punk, Blues, Jazz, Folk, Country, etc...
- International Funk Music Groups
- Funk Music in Film and Television
- Funk Music in Comics, Cartoons, Art and Album Art
- Funk Music Fashion
- Funk Music and Gender, Race, and Class

We welcome individual proposals or pre-formed panels that address the themes above. As the conference aims to provide a multitude of perspectives, academic presentations and those from outside the academy are welcome. Individual presentation proposals—papers, music demonstrations or artistic displays—should include a 300-word abstract. Panel or roundtable presentation proposals should include a 300-word abstract for each presenter and a 500-word abstract for the panel or roundtable.

Submit proposals as a Microsoft Word document to [funkmusic@bgsu.edu](mailto:funkmusic@bgsu.edu) with “Funk Music in Popular Culture” in the Subject line and include the following information for each presenter:

- Author's name & Title
- Institutional Affiliation (if applicable)
- Email address
- Presentation Title
- Abstract

**Deadline for Submissions is March 2, 2025.** Proposal status notifications will be sent no later than March 9, 2025. Registration for the conference is free. Contact Dr. Matthew Donahue or Dr. Angela Nelson at [funkmusic@bgsu.edu](mailto:funkmusic@bgsu.edu) if you have questions.