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Message From the Director



Greetings everyone!

Spring Semester 2024 was a busy time for the School of Cultural and Critical Studies. We instructed **2372** undergraduate (2313) and graduate students (98) across the School's American Culture Studies, Ethnic Studies, Popular Culture, and Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies programs, organized and attended scholarly conferences, published research, and served the school, college, university, profession, and community in many ways.

As the semester ended, we saw some leadership changes across the School as well. With a new administrative structure of the School going into effect Fall 2024, **Dr. Rebecca Kinney** (ACS) and **Dr. Susana Peña** (ETHN) will no longer serve as the leaders of their respective programs. Please join me in thanking them for their service. This was also the time of year when we saw one of our colleagues retire ahead of the fall term. Please join me in thanking **Dr. Sridevi Menon** for her many years of service and significant contributions to the Ethnic Studies Department, the School of Cultural and Critical Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, and Bowling Green State University.

In addition, two faculty members, **Dr. Tiffany Knoell** (POPC) and **Dr. Kristen Rudisill** (POPC), will be away on faculty improvement leaves for the 2024-2025 academic year. Join me in wishing them well. Finally, with the news that the University was going to repurpose the first floor of East Hall, our staff **Amy Davidson** (Budget Coordinator) and **Beka Patterson** (Graduate Program Secretary) began coordinating efforts to move the American Culture Studies program over to Shatzel Hall. We anticipate that this move will be complete in early August 2024 before fall classes begin. I hope that you are having a splendid summer and I look forward to seeing you in August!

With sincere appreciation,
Angela Nelson

Highlights and Announcements

Rebekah Patterson, our Graduate Program Secretary for the School of Cultural and Critical Studies, received the Bowling Green State University Classified Staff Outstanding Service Award (CSOSA) on May 21, 2024. This award recognizes and applauds classified employees whose efforts benefit students, faculty and staff, and others within and outside the University community. Students, faculty, classified and administrative staff may nominate any permanent part-time or full-time classified employee. We have all benefited from Beka's hard work and organization. Her picture will be displayed on the second floor of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union. She also won the Spirit of BG Award. Congratulations, Beka!



Rebekah Patterson wins Classified Staff Outstanding Service Award 2023-2024.

During this time of transition, the graduate students of the School of Cultural and Critical Studies would like to thank the faculty and staff for their leadership and organization. Especially we thank those who have been leaders before the restructuring: Rebecca Kinney, Director and Graduate Coordinator American Culture Studies; Susan Pena, Chair and Graduate Coordinator of Ethnic Studies; Sarah Rainey Smithback, Director and Graduate Coordinator of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies; and Jeffrey Brown, Director and Graduate Coordinate of Popular Culture, as well as Rebeka Patterson, Amy Davidson, and DeeDee Wentland.

The Ray-Browne Association Conference

By William Walton

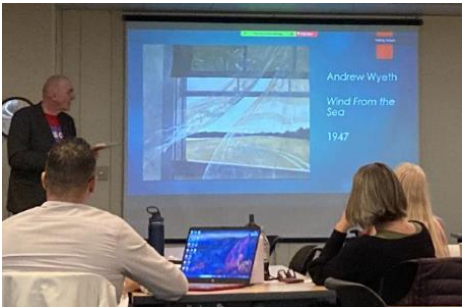
The Ray Browne Association (formerly PCSA) held its second Class Con on March 15 and 16. The conference, which saw 100 attendees over its two days focuses on the study of class issues in American culture. Presenters traveled from institutions both across the United States and internationally to share their research. The conference was organized by three CCS graduate students: John King, Haley Shipley, and William Walton all ACS doctoral students as well as Ahmed Bilal and Sarah Urbank, graduate students in the English Department.



Keynote Speaker Gary Roth giving a talk on "The Educated Underclass."

The RBA will be holding two conferences in the 2024-2025 academic year. The Ray Browne Conference will be held on Saturday, Nov. 2 in the Jerome Library Pallister Room. The Ray Browne Conference is a graduate student conference designed to serve as a professional development opportunity for beginner researchers in the School of Cultural and Critical Studies and is also open to all humanities graduate students at BGSU. Class Con will also be returning in the Spring of 2025.

The RBA is also looking to expand its roster in the coming year. The organization holds monthly meetings, and will be organizing an array of academic, social, and professional development activities for CCS graduate students throughout the Fall semester. Anyone interested in more information about the RBA and/or participating in can contact William Walton, the RBA Secretary, at wwalton@bgsu.edu.



BGSU Associate Dean Phil Dickinson speaking about the "midwestern Eerie".



Class Con organizers Haley Shipley and William Walton



Assistant Professor Zulfqar Hyder from the University College of the North in Northern Manitoba.

Latino/a/x Conference 2024

By Davis Ritenour

For one day only, March 27th, 2024, the Latino/a/x Issues Conference commenced for another successful conference. In a special nod to this year's keynote speaker, Carlos Andrés Gómez, the opening session included readings of poetry, by Prof. Francisco Cabanillas and Imani Price-Rodriguez. Tears, smiles, and a sense of community were palpable as concurrent sessions began. As mentioned above, Carlos Andrés Gómez is the 2024 keynote speaker for the Latino/a/x Issues Conference. Gómez is a Colombian American poet, keynote speaker, and inclusion strategist from New York City. He performed four original works, "For His Abuela," "For Mya," "Where Are You Really From," and "Communion of Miracles." Gómez embodies all the qualities of an exceptional keynote speaker: kindness, approachability, and an engaging presence.



Latino/a/x Conference keynote speaker Carlos Andrés Gómez.

For the first time ever, the Latino/a/x Issues Conference held a new session called, the Translation Games. The Translation Games is a live-action translation competition for teams. Competing teams translate a text from Spanish to English, aiming to capture the meaning and style of the source text. Winners of the first BGSU Translation Games were announced at the Latino/a/x Issues Conference. The conference also included a panel of BGSU professors and students discussing their experiences using translation in co-taught classes.

A special thank you to the 2024 Latino/a/x Issues Conference sponsors. Thank you to the Major Sponsors who contributed \$1000 or more: Department of Ethnic Studies; Division of Diversity and Belonging; Division of Student Engagement and Success; Ethnic Cultural Arts Program in College of Arts & Sciences; Office of Dean of Students; Office of Multicultural Affairs; School of Cultural and Critical Studies; University Libraries. A full list of all sponsors can be found on the LIC website at, www.bgsu.edu/latinoissues.



Winners of the BGSU Translation Games.



Imani Price-Rodriguez reading her poetry at the Latino/a/x Issues Conference.

The Latino/a/x Issues Conference is organized by a committee, led by co-chairs Dr. Luis Moreno and Dr. Susana Peña. This conference could not have been put on without the organizing members: Ana C. Brown; Dr. Michael Cangemi; Rachel De La Cruz; Hali Renee Kivari; Lucia Virginia Meyers; Amanda Anastasia Paniagua; Imani Price-Rodriguez; Grace Katherine Ranft-Garcia; Davis Ritenour; Dr. Michaela Walsh.



The Latino/a/x Issues Conference Awards table

Emily Edwards Book Talk

By Katie Cline

On March 21, 2024, SCCS welcomed Dr. Emily Lynell Edwards (ACS Ph.D. '21) back to give a book talk on her first monograph *Digital Islamophobia: Tracking A Far-Right Crisis* (De Gruyter, 2023). Inspired by her dissertation work with Drs. Radhika Gajjala, Timothy Messer-Kruse, and Yanqin Lu, Edwards' book explores far-right, anti-Muslim networks on Twitter and how these communities grow, develop, and circulate hate-speech in both the United States and internationally. After a Q&A session, during which Edwards and her committee lamented that a project of this scale would be impossible since the purchase of Twitter (now X) by Elon Musk, guests were invited to attend a dinner held in East Hall 101.



Dr. Emily Edwards (center) poses with her book, Digital Islamophobia with Drs. Rebecca Kinney (left) and Radhika Gajjala (right).

SCCS Alumni Workshop

Edwards' book talk was part of a series of events sponsored by SCCS that focused on publishing and professional development which also included a "Pathways to Publishing" workshop hosted by Edwards and ACS alumna Dr. Robin Hershkowitz ('23) and the "Navigating the Job Market" panel featuring Edwards, Hershkowitz, and Dr. Jacqueline Hudson (ACS Ph.D. '21). Hershkowitz graciously appeared via Zoom, allowing SCCS students to attend the Alumni Workshop in person or on Zoom themselves. Topics included academic vs. popular publishing and their benefits and complexities, practical suggestions for positioning students for their desired jobs, identifying and contextualizing tangible skills for job acquisition, and much more. Congratulations to our SCCS alumni on all their post-graduation accomplishments, and a huge thank you for sharing your time, advice, and encouragement with current grad students!



Jacqueline Hudson Tedx Talk

Dr. Jacqueline Hudson returned to campus on March 22, 2024 to present at the TEDxBGSU 2024 "For the Public Good" and join in the Alumni Workshop. She was one of twenty members of the larger BGSU community chosen to provide presentations

aligning with the design-thinking mindsets: "Be Curious, Collaboration, Reframe, Take Action, and Share Your Story." Hudson presented a talk entitled "My Country 'Tis of Thee: Black History (and Culture) is American History (and Culture)" centering Black individuals, their history, and cultural production at the heart of America despite the controversy surrounding that idea in some circles today.

Accolades and Accomplishments

Faculty Accomplishments

Angela Nelson

Popular Culture Studies Faculty; Director, CCS

Dr. Nelson has published several articles including “Defending the Call to Preach in Shirley Caesar’s Gospel Autobiography” in *Religions* and “‘Good Times’: 50 Years Ago, Norman Lear Changed TV with a Show about a Working-Class Black Family’s Struggles and Joys” in *Conversation*. She also presented two papers: “Deconstructing Reviews of *The Beulah Show*: Black Women Domestic Workers and Early TV Sitcoms” at the International Conference on Humanities, Social and Educational Sciences in Spring 2023 and “Marital Power in the Pilot Episode of *Good Times* 1972-1974” at the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association Conference in Spring 2024.

Matthew Donahue

Popular Culture Studies Faculty

Dr. Donahue released a documentary entitled “Skip ‘Little Axe’ McDonald: *One Man-One Night... One Life in Music*.” It was a nominee at the Royal Chance Film Festival and was selected as the Lift-Off Filmmaker Session there. It was also featured at BGSU’s Black Issues Conference and BGSU’s ArtsX. Dr. Donahue also presented “Just Cos You Got the Power... Motorhead... Eat the Rich” at BGSU’s ClassCon Conference in 2024 and “The Music of the British Invasion” at BGSU’s Firelands Elder College Program.



Timothy Messer-Kruse

Ethnic Studies Faculty

Dr. Messer-Kruse recently published a book entitled *Patriots’ Dilemma: White Abolitionism and Black Banishment in the Making of the United States of America* with Pluto Press. He has a second book set to be released November 20 entitled *Slavery’s Fugitives and the Making of the United States Constitution* with Louisiana State University Press. He was selected for the Association of Ethnic Studies Outstanding Advocacy in Race and Ethnic Communities Award for 2023. He was also awarded an Ohio Open Educational Resources Creation Grant to write a civics textbook entitled *Keys to America: The Six Founding Documents that Reveal the Real USA*.

Radhika Gajjala

American Culture Studies / Media & Communication Faculty

Dr. Gajjala was awarded the Francine-Merritt Award for advancing the cause of women and minorities in the field of communication through mentoring, service, advocacy, teaching, and scholarship from the National Communication Association Women's Caucus for 2023. She also has two forthcoming cowritten journal articles: with S Özkula and J.O. Jocelli "Researching visual protest and politics with 'extra-hard' data" and with O Faniyi, D Rahut, E Edwards and S Ford, "Get the Hammer OUT! Breaking Computational Tools for Feminist, Intersectional "small data" Research" both in the *Journal of Digital Social Research*.

Charles Coletta

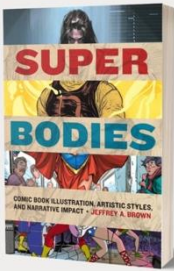
Popular Culture Studies Faculty

Dr. Coletta has made several conference presentations this year. In March 2024 he presented "Hard Travelin' Heroes: Green Lantern & Green Arrow Cross the Class Divide" at the BGSU Social Class Conference as well as "Exploring Racial and Gender Stereotypes in Nickel Weeklies: A Media Analysis" to the Popular Culture Association National Conference. He also presented for the BGSU Elder College Program at the Firelands Campus "Now Entering... The Twilight Zone: Revisiting a TV Classic" in April. Along with Matthew Donahue he co-chaired the "Spider-Man in Popular Culture" Conference at BGSU in the Fall.

Jeffrey A. Brown

Popular Culture Studies Faculty

Dr. Brown published a book entitled *Super Bodies: Comic Book Illustration, Artistic Styles, and Narrative Impact* (2023) with the University of Texas Press, Austin. He also has two articles in print: "About Face: Beautiful, Battered, and Bloodied Older Action Heroines" in the *Quarterly Review of Film and Television* (2024) and "The Continental Exotic—Gal Gadot" in *Celebrity Studies* (2023). He also served as keynote speaker at the European Comics Scholarship Association in Madrid, Spain in November 2023.



Thomas J. Edge

Popular Culture Studies Faculty

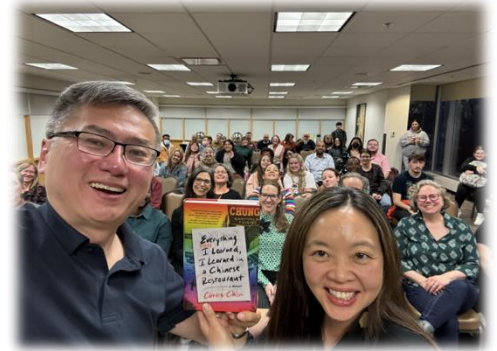
Over spring break, Dr. Edge took the "Finding Your Voice in Social Justice" learning community to New York City. He was also invited to contribute a chapter on family history and genealogy in popular culture to a forthcoming edited series from Oxford University Press. He has also completed the Faculty Success Program with the National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD).



Rebecca Jo Kinney

American Culture Studies Graduate Program Director

Dr. Kinney published “Flavors of East LA in the Heart of Seoul: Transnational Korean Adoptee Food Ways” in *Verge: Studies in Global Asia*, Volume 9, Issue 2. She served as invited panelist at Stanford University on “Korean Food Gone Global” in April 2024, and gave a Curtis Chin book talk in November 2023.



Jolie A. Sheffer

American Culture Studies/English Faculty

Dr. Sheffer published a co-written article with Mary-Jon Ludy, Lisa Hanasono, W. John Koolage, M. Elise Radina, and Jerry Schnepf entitled “Leadership Doesn’t Have to Be Lonely: Building Community Through Co-writing” in *The Department Chair*. She presented a paper called “The Obfuscations of Friendship: The Politics of Wendy Yoshimura” at the American Studies Association Annual Meeting in November 2023. She also traveled to the San Francisco Bay Area to research a current book project “Wendy Yoshimura: The Life and Times of a Japanese American Radical.”

The following faculty connected with the School of Cultural and Critical Studies were recognized for their years of service at Bowling Green State University:

30 years: Scott C. Martin, Angela Nelson, Alison D. Wentland

25 years: Jeffrey A. Brown

20 years: Becca Cragin, Jeremy Wallach



Student Accomplishments

Ben Thomason

American Culture Studies, PhD Candidate

Ben defended his dissertation entitled “Making Democracy Safe for Empire: A History and Political Economy of the National Endowment for Democracy, United States Agency for International Development, and Twenty-First Century media Imperialism.” His research was completed through the support of the Lezotte Graduate Student Research and Development Award, the Alma Payne Scholarship, and the Stoddard O’Neill Fund which allowed Ben to attend the Critical Theory Workshop and work at two archives. He also published the article “The Moderate Rebel Industry: Spaces of Western Public-Private Civil Society and Propaganda Warfare in the Syrian Civil War” in *Media, War and Conflict* February 2024. Ben won the Jill Carr Outstanding Graduate Student of the Year Award 2024 from the Graduate Student Senate.

Katie Cline

American Culture Studies, 2nd year PhD

Katie presented her paper “Fakers gonna’ fake, fake, fake, fake, fake: White Feminist and the Question of Authenticity in ‘Shake it Off’ and ‘Blank Space’” at the 2024 Popular Culture Association Conference as well as chairing the panel “Music VII: Exploring Contemporary Feminism through Taylor Swift.” Katie made national news with her summer course entitled “Fandom in the U.S.: Taylor Swift.” She also serves as the graduate student representative on the Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Steering Committee, including managing their social media.



Dylan Miller

American Culture Studies, 4th year PhD ABD



Dylan has a forthcoming essay entitled “The Grim Barbarity of Capitalist Designs: Class Conflict, Corporate Dystopia, and the Sacred Gaze in *Severance*” to be published in *Reintegrating Severance: The Interdisciplinary Considerations of Apple TV’s Dystopian Thriller* which they also presented at the national Popular Culture Association Conference this Spring. Dylan also helped organize the Graduate Labor Organizing Committee’s Town Hall Event to draw attention to the issues faced by graduate students at BGSU.

Muhammad Taufiq Al Makmun

American Culture Studies, PhD Candidate

Taufiq defended his dissertation entitled “Globalization and the Changing Cultural Landscape of an Indonesian City: Street Vending Cultural Practices and Spatiotemporal Politics in Solo City (1980s-Early 2020s)” on February 23, 2024, chaired by Dr. Radhika Gajjala. He extended his research into a documentary entitled “Kota Solo dan Globalisasi: Pergeseran Praktik PKL dari Masa ke Masa [Solo City and Globalization: The Shifting of Street Vending Practices Over Time].” It won second place in the Shanklin Creative Expression Contest for Visual Arts.

Andrea Freimuth

American Culture Studies, 2nd year PhD

Andrea won the Charles E Shanklin Award for Research Excellence in Arts and Humanities 2024 for a paper entitled “Don’t Just *Leave it to Abigail Adams*: How a Falsely Equitable Portrayal of Early American Gender Norms Constructs an Unstable Historical Foundation.” She presented portions of this paper for the Shanklin Abstract Panels and at the Ohio Academy of History Conference. She was awarded an Alma Payne Scholarship for research and internship work at Adams National Historical Park in Summer 2024.

Haley Shipley

American Culture Studies, 2nd year PhD

Haley’s paper “‘Things are a bit different in Smallville’: Recultivating Rurality within the American Exceptionalism of Smallville and Superman and Lois” was accepted for the edited collection *Capes and the Canon—Comic Book Superheroes and American Exceptionalism* edited by Forrest Helvie. She also presented a paper called “Is a Popular Culture Hall of Fame Possible?: Reflections on Ray Browne’s Vision for the Field” at the PCA National Conference in March 2024. She also completed the Library’s Learning Community: Teaching with Primary Sources.

Jenna Sule

American Culture Studies, 1st year PhD

Jenna presented her paper “Welcome to the Lite Side: A Look at Halo Top Advertisement and Diet Culture” at this year’s Popular Culture Association Meeting. She also has expanded her hobbies into the fiber arts and values her free time.

Dean Richards

American Culture Studies, 1st year PhD



Dean presented at several conferences this year including “You Wear Fine things Well: Gender/ed Queerness in *Our Flag Means Death*” at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association’s Annual Meeting in Albuquerque in February 2024, “One Flesh, One End: Heroic Grief and Sacrifice in *The Locked Tomb*” at the Classical Association of the Midwest and South’s Annual Meeting In St. Louis, and “‘There is no escape’: Cycles of Violence and Trauma in *Hades* (2018)” at the International Congress on Medieval Studies Annual Meeting.

William Walton

American Culture Studies, 1st year PhD

Will helped plan, organize, and execute BGSU’s second Class Conference with nearly 100 attendees from both international and domestic institutions.

Undergraduate Accomplishments

- Stoddard & O’Neill Undergraduate Popular Culture Scholarship—Christian Gunnoe
- Ray and Pat Browne Scholarship—Hailee Seagraves
- Peter Schwartz and Andrea Hyslop Scholarship—Gyllien Anderson
- Dr. Robert Perry Scholarship for Ethnic Studies—Amya Johnson & Isaiah Van Slyke

Spring Graduates

Graduate Students

Marlena Graves, American Culture Studies PhD

The New Culture War: Critical Race Theory, Gender Politics, K-12 School Board Meetings, Founding Myths, and the Religious Right

Committee: Timothy Messer-Kruse (chair), Vibha Balla, Andrew Schocket, Jessica Kiss (GFR)

Justin Mullis, American Culture Studies PhD

Thomas Jefferson, Cryptozoologist: The Intersection of Science and Folklore in Early America

Committee: Timothy Messer-Kruse (chair), Andrew Schocket, Jeremy Wallach, Phil Peek (GFR)

Benjamin Thomason, American Culture Studies PhD

Making Democracy Safe for Empire: A History and Political Economy of the National Endowment for Democracy, US Agency for International Development, and Twenty-First Century Media Imperialism

Committee: Cynthia Baron (chair), Olivia Boyd-Barrett, Radhika Gajjala, Alexis Ostrowski (GFR)

Undergraduate Students

Noah Fitch, Ethnic Studies and History, “The Author and Apartheid: Building Pro-Blackness at BGSU Through James Baldwin and the Anti-Apartheid Movement,” Faculty Consultant: Thomas Edge

Lily Fritsch, Popular Culture, “When Hashtag Becomes Genre: Romance Fiction on TikTok and BookTok,” Faculty Consultant: Rob Sloane

Nora Rock, Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies, “The Final Girl and Her Mother in Three Wes Craven Slasher Films and Their Remakes,” Faculty Consultant: Jeffrey A. Brown

Chloe Parks, Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies and Musical Theatre, “Post-Transnormativity? Changing Norm Expectations from Transgender TV Celebrities,” Faculty Consultant: Sarah Rainey-Smithback

Sarah Piwko, Popular Culture, “Goodbye Fabio: Analyzing Cover Designs of *Goodreads* and *Publishers Weekly’s* Top Romance Novels of 2023,” Faculty Consultant: Dana Nemeth

Marlie Unger, American Culture Studies, “Two Worlds and In Between: Becoming Goth through the Virtual Spaces of TikTok,” Faculty Consultant: Matthew Donahue

Phoebe Yoder-Tiedt, Women’s Gender and Sexuality Studies, “100% Leak Free Periods! An Analysis of Social Media Advertisements in the Era of Disposable and Reusable Menstrual Product,” Faculty Consultant: Becca Cragin



Upcoming Events

- The Ray Brown Conference
Fall 2024 | Pallister Conference Room, Jerome Library
Contact: William Walton, wwalton@bgsu.edu

- Black Popular Culture Symposium
October 12, 2024 9am-6pm
Contact: Chris Covington, bpcc@bgsu.edu



- Class Con 2025
March 14-15, 2025 | Pallister Conference Room, Jerome Library
Contact: John King, joking@bgsu.edu

- Latino/a/x Issues Conference
March 26, 2025
www.bgsu.edu/latinoissues



- Soap Opera in Popular Culture Conference
March 28-29, 2025
Contact: Chuck Coletta, ccolett@bgsu.edu or Matt Donahue, mattdon@bgsu.edu