

4th Annual Cultural Studies & Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Symposium September 10-11, 2020

CLST & GSWS Graduate Student Organization

CGGSO @Pitt.edu

Program & Schedule



Cultural Studies & Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Graduate Student Organization

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Cultural Studies & Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Graduate Student Organization

Graduate Student Organization Sponsors

- **Dr. Nancy Glazener** is a professor of English and the Director of the Gender, Sexuality, & Women's Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh
- **Dr. Ron Zboray** is a professor and the Director of Graduate Studies in the Communication & Rhetoric Department and the Director of the Cultural Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh

Cultural Studies & Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Graduate Student Organization

The purpose of the Cultural Studies & Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Graduate Student Organization Symposium is to offer students in Pittsburgh the opportunity to showcase their work in these fields. By showcasing the work of these students we hope to cultivate a relationship with cultural studies and gender, sexuality and women's studies students throughout the Pittsburgh area. Sharing our ideas and research will help us all become better scholars.

We look forward to hearing about your research and learning from one another. Welcome to the 4th Annual CLST/GSWS GSO Symposium! CGGSO@Pitt.edu

You're invited to our next meeting!

The next Cultural Studies & Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies Graduate Student Organization meeting will be held at **2:30 p.m. on October 12, 2020 (Monday)**.

Anyone who is interested in joining the GSO or would like more information should email CGGSO@Pitt.edu or provide your email in the symposium chat. We will send you a Zoom link and agenda prior to the meeting. We look forward to working with you!

Schedule of Events

Thursday, September 10, 2020

1:00-2:15- Intersections in Culture & Gender/Sexuality

2:15-2:30- Break

2:30-4:15- Aesthetics & Pedagogy in Culture

4:15-4:30- Closing remarks by the director of the Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies program, Dr. Nancy Glazener

Schedule of Events

Friday, September 11, 2020

2:30-4:15- The Social Dimension of Creativity

4:15-4:30- Closing remarks by Director of the Cultural Studies program and Director of Graduate Studies in the Communication and Rhetoric department,
Dr. Ron Zboray

Intersections in Culture & Gender/Sexuality Panel

Thursday 1:00- 2:15 p.m.

Jazz Aesthetics: A Sonic Metaphor for Ontological Ambiguity

- Lee Caplan, University of Pittsburgh, Music Department, Lee.Caplan@Pitt.edu

This paper argues three things: 1) categorical/marketing issues in jazz originate from a state of racialized ontological precariousness and liminality; 2) facticity/transcendence readily map onto binaries in jazz discourse, and 3) amongst patriarchal structures and teleology, ontological ambiguities led to female instrumentalist's erasure in jazz historiography. After investigating philosophical issues voiced by thinkers in critical phenomenology and the Black radical tradition—such as mind/body duality's relationship to Blackness, the Hegelian dialectic in the context of jazz discourse, and issues regarding historical agency—the paper turns to a case study on pianist/composer/singer Nina Simone.

Intersections in Culture & Gender/Sexuality Panel

Thursday 1:00- 2:15 p.m.

Mashers and Street Harassment in Progressive Era Pittsburgh, 1880s to 1930s

- Lauren M. Churilla, Carnegie Mellon University, History Department, lchurill@andrew.cmu.edu

This paper engages with fundamental issues regarding how the physical organization of Pittsburgh from the 1880s to 1930s impact street harassment experiences and interactions within the urban environment. My study explores how men and women's changing use of space renegotiates gender divisions and alters relations between the sexes in public space, leading to gender and class-based anxiety and conflict. As the built environment evolved, men and women began to use space in different ways.

Intersections in Culture & Gender/Sexuality Panel Thursday 1:00- 2:15 p.m.

Parents, Trans Children, and Agency: The Constitution of Trans Identities in Childhood

- Alexandra Gilbert, Arizona State University, AGILBER8@ASU.edu & Sean Nonnenmacher (presenting on behalf of both authors), University of Pittsburgh, Linguistics Department SEN40@Pitt.edu

In this project, we use sociolinguistic methods to examine the role of parents in discursive constructions of trans childhoods. Using data sets that include interactive parent-child talk from three documentaries about trans children in the U.S., we argue that traditional and dominant discourses of transness (i.e. “being born in the wrong body”) are used to normalize trans children’s gender identities and allow parents to accept their child’s transition without altering their understanding of cis-heteronormative gender.

Aesthetics & Pedagogy in Culture Panel

Thursday 2:30-3:45

Dolls to Duchesses: The Doll's Influence on Victoria's Monarchy

- Bethany Kaser, Duquesne University, English Department, Biesingerb@Duq.edu

In 1893, Frances Low published a text recording Queen Victoria's Dutch peg doll collection. *Queen Victoria's Dolls* relates the myriad of dolls the monarch created, named, and played with. This project focuses on dolls as a lens through which to view and analyze Victorian society—particularly the role of women and girls—and the ultimate Victorian woman, Victoria herself. It ultimately argues that Victoria's doll play trains her for and predicts her monarchy.

Aesthetics & Pedagogy in Culture Panel

Thursday 2:30-3:45

Legalizing Sex Work: The Mirage of Sex Worker Autonomy in The Netherlands

- Kathryn Pataki, University of Pittsburgh, Sociology Department, KAP207@Pitt.edu

This research focuses on the lived experiences of sex workers in the Netherlands to understand how the legalization of the sex industry has effected their autonomy. Through in-depth qualitative interviews, I found that legalization put restrictions on sex workers that work effectively to stigmatize them within society.

Aesthetics & Pedagogy in Culture Panel

Thursday 2:30-3:45

“I’m Gonna Whisper in Your Ear Size Does Matter: ”Analyzing the Hypermasculine Performance in Professional Wrestling as a Mask of Homosexuality

- Brett Dipuma, Duquesne University, English Department, BDIPUMA@WJU.edu

When many people think of the greatest time period of professional wrestling, they think of the period now called "The Monday Night Wars." During this time Period WCW and WWF battled for dominance over television ratings for 4.5 years. The time (and even now today) relied on larger than life humans dressed in next to nothing who then participate in a number of exchanges that resemble erotica. In this presentation, I will argue that the companies rely on Hypermasculine characters in order not to scare off their target demographic.

Aesthetics & Pedagogy in Culture Panel

Thursday 2:30-3:45

Pedagogy, Practice, and Agricultural Development in Revolutionary Guinea-Bissau

- Nathanael Joseph, University of Pittsburgh, Department of Sociology

Drawing upon documentary analysis, this work analyzes the theory and practice of the African Party for the Independence of Guinea and Cape Verde (PAIGC) through its decades-long struggle for national liberation. The PAIGC creatively wedded the subversion of colonial knowledge and indigenous knowledge to develop a form of agrarian socialism suited to the liberation of the Bissau-Guinean people, with important implications towards the development of an anticolonial environmental sociological praxis.

The Social Dimension of Creativity

Friday 2:30-4:15

Liminal Music and Television Worlds

- Max Dosser, University of Pittsburgh, Communication and Rhetoric, MAD382@Pitt.edu

Drawing on the scholarship of Philip Tagg and Jodi M. Butcher, I ask how the liminal space of television theme songs transition audiences into the various worlds of television and how title themes can function as cultural communicators. This paper explores how the changing lengths disrupt expectations, leading to fragmentation; what role the repeated structures have in audience reception; and how streaming services impact the traditional transitional role of theme songs.

The Social Dimension of Creativity

Friday 2:30-4:15

Creating a Way Forward: Exploring Community Art and Mental Health in the Aftermath of the 2015 Earthquakes in Nepal

- Monica Merante, University of Pittsburgh

The 2015 mega earthquakes in Nepal killed over 8,700, displaced 450,000 and affected 8 million people. Out of the disastrous effects of mental health trauma and psychological distress, rose numerous community art initiatives. Past research demonstrates benefits of art therapy for disaster and violence survivors. However, little is known about the role of community art in recovering communities. This research aims to influence the design of community resilience interventions and mental health initiatives following traumatic events.

The Social Dimension of Creativity

Friday 2:30-4:15

Optical Theory and Feminine Auctoritas within Chaucer's "The Tale of Melibee"

- Madeline Fox, University of Pittsburgh, English Department, MRF68@Pitt.edu

There is a discrepancy between Chaucer's *The Tale of Melibee* and its base text, Albertanus of Brescia's *Liber consolationis et consilii: Sophie's wounds*. Chaucer doesn't include the eyes in the list of her wounds, whereas Albertanus does, unlocking an intricate layer of optical theory within the tale. With Sophie's eyes unharmed, Chaucer creates an opportunity for Prudence to own her wise voice and establish maistrye over her husband, defying the allegorical tradition of feminine personification.

The Social Dimension of Creativity

Friday 2:30-4:15

The Bones of the Patriarchy? Approaching Gender-Based Inequalities in the Human Skeletal Record from Early Complex Archaeological Societies

- Sarah A. Jolly, University of Pittsburgh, Department of Anthropology, SAJ81 @Pitt.edu

As a bioarchaeologist, I use many techniques using human skeletal remains as my primary line of evidence to be the “bodies of proof” about how gender inequalities emerged and changed over time. I consider what mortuary treatment and skeletal indicators are best suited to analyzing gender inequalities in early complex societies while incorporating theoretical understandings of what gender-based inequalities may have looked like in ancient societies.