



2024

Newsletter

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Welcome from the Chair

Dear WGSS Community,

Welcome to the 2024-5 academic year! I am thrilled to be starting my fourth year as chair of the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies and grateful to be part of our growing community of faculty, affiliate faculty, students and alumni who stand committed to the intersections of our intellectual and social justice missions.

Last academic year, our department was awarded a \$100,000 Mellon grant, "Affirming Multivocal Humanities," to support our programming efforts in laying foundations for more just and equitable futures. The funding has supported our DC Queer Studies and Tubman Day events, as well as our WGSS speaker series that brought in emerging and established scholars in our field throughout the academic year. Professors Zenzele Isoke and Will Mosley did a brilliant job of reviving DC Queer Studies in Fall 2023 after a multi-year hiatus. "The Queer Limit of Black Memory" centered the important work of Professor Matt Richardson in grappling with the ongoing attacks on Black queer and trans bodies using intersectional feminist methods. In Spring 2024, Professor Michelle V. Rowley organized our annual March 10th Tubman Day commemoration, under the theme "Harmonies of Liberty." The event drew on Black musical traditions in order to come together to improvise the solutions we need and find new ways of imagining ourselves.

The Mellon grant will continue to support our programming through 2026. This year, we have an exciting slate of speakers for our WGSS speaker series. Please mark your calendars for Tubman Day (March 10) and DC Queer Studies (April 3-4) organized by Professors Sayan Bhattacharya and our esteemed affiliate, American Studies Professor Christina Hanhardt. This spring semester, our PhD students are organizing a graduate student Interventions conference on February 5th, 2025. I hope to see many of you throughout the year.

Dr. Shelbi Nahwilet Meissner and the Indigenous Futures Lab have been a truly transformative and energizing addition to our home on the fourth floor of Susquehanna. Professor Nahwilet Meissner hosted a variety of unique events for our students, faculty, and campus community members. You can read about the Lab's programming, including upcoming events and opportunities to participate here. This fall, at our annual retreat, Professor Nahwilet Meissner guided our department through a Medicine Action Plan. We came together as a faculty to engage in this process "designed to gather insight, co-create programming, and address and transform the unit's relationships with Indigenous communities, Indigenous knowledge systems, and Indigenous curricular content... to help articulate specific goals related to educational, material, spiritual, and relational dimensions" within our department. As our department is part of a large land-grant university, the process helped us to start to think about how our intellectual and curricular mission can help to support Indigenous futures without the land acknowledgement as an end point.

As we look to a new academic year, I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Sydney Lewis who received a promotion to the rank of Senior Lecturer! Dr. Lewis has mentored and inspired so many of our undergraduate students over the years, and I am thrilled that this promotion marks her many accomplishments that have helped shape WGSS.

Finally, our fall gathering will take place on December 4. This event is a wonderful way for our new affiliates to meet the wider WGSS community and for longtime WGSS supporters to reconnect with longtime friends. Please stay tuned for details.

I look forward to an exciting year ahead!



Neda Atanasoski
Professor and Chair
Harriet Tubman Dept. Women, Gender, and
Sexuality Studies

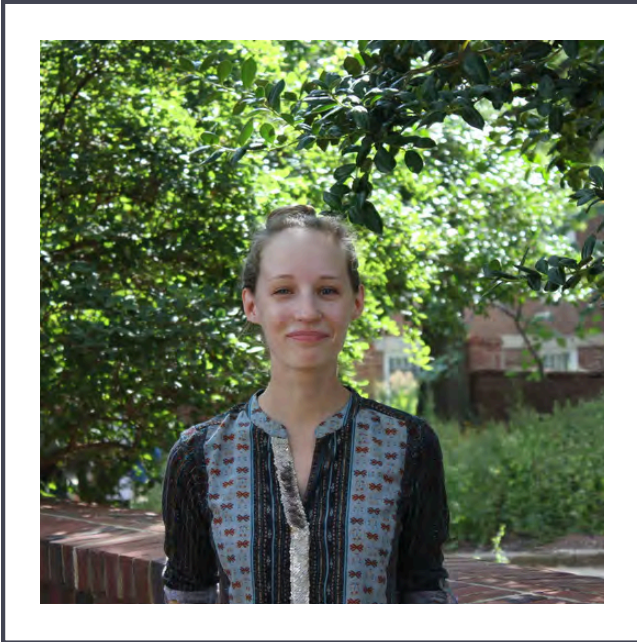
From the Desk of Director of Undergraduate Studies

Dear WGSS Community,

We in the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies look forward to another rich year of courses and events for undergraduate students! This fall, in addition to offering our foundational courses for the WGSS major, the LGBTQ minor, and the Black Women's Studies minor, we are pleased to offer a variety of undergraduate courses on topics including Rebel Media, Disability Justice, Transgender Studies, and Caribbean Women. Undergraduates also will have an opportunity to enroll in a unique January study abroad program on gender in Morocco run by the School of Languages, Literature, and Culture. In the spring semester, we are offering several exciting new courses including Black Queer Studies, Reproductive Justice, Gender, Race, and Computing, Gender and Science in Film, and Introduction to Fat Studies. We will also be hosting a series of speakers focusing on disability justice in October and our annual Harriet Tubman Day and DC Queer Studies programming in the spring, so please keep an eye on the [department events calendar](#). As always, we welcome students to come visit us on the third floor of Susquehanna Hall, to follow us on Instagram, and to join our [email list](#) for the latest news and events. We wish all of you a great start to the new academic year!

Neel Ahuja
Professor and Director of Undergraduate Studies
Harriet Tubman Dept. Women, Gender, and Sexuality
Studies

Jocelyn Coates



Jocelyn Coates is a doctoral student and Lecturer in the Harriet Tubman Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies.

Jocelyn's research explores the ways that black/white interraciality often serves as spectacle in public space. More specifically, she is working to examine black/white interraciality in ways that push back against surveillant, biopolitical logics, and to consider what interraciality means beyond dominant, over-simplified narratives of progress and/or disaster.

Meet our
New
Faculty



Meet our New Graduate Students



Saja Abd El Hai

Saja holds a BA in Teaching English as a Foreign Language from Beit Berl College in Israel and an MA in Women's and Gender Studies from the University of Northern Iowa. Her research centers the intersecting impacts of gender, sexuality, and power upon Palestinian women in Israel, with a focus on media, rhetoric, and visual culture. Her proposed doctoral project will build upon her Master's thesis on the rhetorical function of murals depicting murdered Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh. Saja also comes to us with experience in reproductive rights organizing and sexual assault survivor advocacy.



Basanth Babu

Basanth grew up in the magical land of Kerala in South India, where he learned to enjoy literature, history, nature and rituals. He earned his BA in English Language and Literature from CMS College, Kottayam and went on to complete a Master's in English Literary Studies at the University of Exeter. He is interested in Dalit Feminism, Transnational Feminisms, Ritual and Ecology, femme fatales, Indigenous knowledge systems, female monsters and female myths. His proposed research examines Neeli narratives (a form of narratives that deal with a fierce or monstrous woman) from the south Indian state of Kerala as Dalit women's critiques of caste patriarchy and political ecology.

Meet our New Graduate Students



Lidia Garcia Berelleza

Lidia is a scholar-activist, proud Immigrant and Midwestern. She graduated from Ohio State University with a joint BA in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and Public Management, Leadership, and Policy and a Minor in Latino/a/x Studies.

With research interests in critical race studies, transnational feminism, state and legal violence, and feminist epistemologies and methodologies, her work centers on undocumented peoples' experiences in the US. Her doctoral work will examine the complexities and nuances of state-sanctioned violence against illegalized populations in the United States.



Estella (Manzhu) Jiang

Estella (Manzhu) Jiang holds a BA in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Philosophy from Pennsylvania State University. Her research interests lie at the intersection of race, gender, sexuality, and decoloniality under transnational contexts, which she plans to pursue through cultural and archival studies, critical legal studies, and science and technology studies. Her proposed doctoral work will examine gendered migration and international marriage, exploring entanglements of nationalities, visa statuses, and government surveillance with regard to Asian migrant women's experiences in the United States.

Meet our New Graduate Students



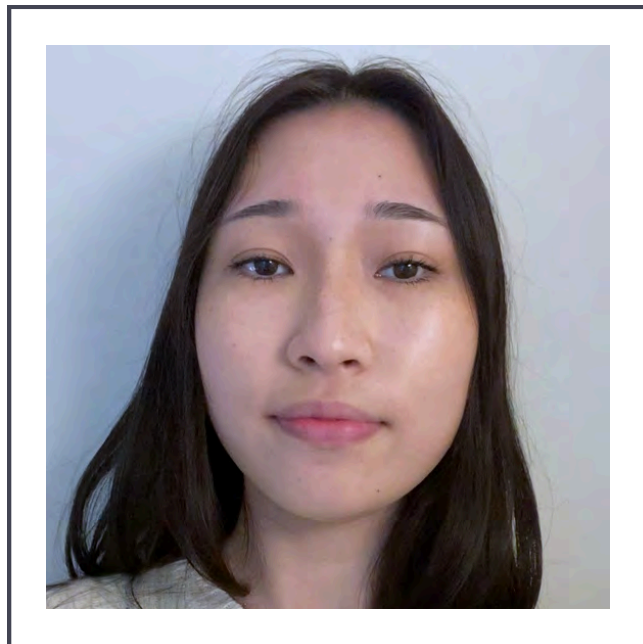
Travis Haigler

Travis holds a BA in American Sign Language and Psychology from Northeastern University, where they also minored in Spanish and Film. His proposed research emphasizes racial and gender justice through the lens of cultural studies in order to take up the perspective of multiply marginalized people – in particular Black trans Deaf, DeafBlind, and neurodivergent populations – whose needs and experiences are considered beyond the pale even within institutional contexts that assert their affirmation of diversity. They also have an extensive background in media production and performance, with ASL promo video material, video editing, and performance interpreting including professional interpreting for stage musicals with American Repertory Theater.

Meet our
New
Staff

*WGSS Student Office
Assistant*

Aidana Aibek Kyzy



Hello! My name is Aidana and I am a third-year student studying computer science. On campus, I am involved in the App Development Club as their Creative Director. In my free time, I love to read and listen to music. My family came to America when I was 9 and we are originally from Kyrgyzstan. Fun fact about me: I am a native Russian speaker and I used to live in Germany and Hawaii when I was younger! After graduation, I'd love to go into the AI and machine learning sphere. Happy to be the Student Office Assistant here at WGSS!



Indigenous Futures Lab

CELEBRATING OUR FIRST YEAR: ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES

As we have completed our first year of work at the Indigenous Futures Lab, we are filled with gratitude and pride for the significant milestones we have achieved with support from the community. The Lab's journey began ambitiously, with the launch of several programs and initiatives designed to build and support relationships and research at UMD. The Bead, Weave, and Read initiative, under the leadership of Ia Bull and Britney Bibeault, provided a creative and scholarly platform where students engaged deeply with traditional crafts and literature, fostering a rich environment of learning and cultural exchange. In addition to hosting many workshops, community art events, and classroom visits, the Indigenous Futures Lab welcomed speakers to our Indigenous Knowledge Speaker Series (IKSS), Danielle Lucero and Eva Jewell, who gave phenomenal talks.

The Decolonizing Death Cafe, co-founded by the exceptional Rye Purvis, established itself as a critical forum for discussions around Indigenous perspectives on death and dying, enhancing our academic and communal discourse on this profound topic. These sessions have not only provided space for reflection and conversation but have also been instrumental in integrating Indigenous practices into broader discussions about mortality and bereavement. The Decolonizing Death Cafe has become a vital space for Indigenous care workers and allies thereof to connect with one another, and this May, several members traveled to Bodø, Norway, to present on a panel at the North American Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA), sharing their experiences and insights on Indigenous death care.

The PINE Project, or the Philosophy of Indigenous Education Project, also launched this year, bringing together philosophy professors who are descendants of Indigenous boarding school survivors. This collective works on oral history projects, aiming to preserve and highlight the narratives that have shaped their communities and educational philosophies.

Another highlight of our year was the launch of the Black and Indigenous Climate Futures Faculty Fellowship. This innovative program welcomed its first cohort of fellows—Bayley Marquez, Chad Infante, Jayson Porter, and Kayle Krieg—who are exploring the intersections of climate justice and Black and Indigenous land-based coalition building on the East Coast and co-creating a community syllabus.

This summer also marked the inception of the Kinship Means Conflict Collective (KMCC), a critical social work reading group co-founded and co-facilitated by Kat Ackerman. The KMCC aims to explore and discuss critical theories and practices within social work, focusing on the dynamics of kinship and conflict in anti-colonial and anti-carceral contexts.



Indigenous Futures Lab

SUPPORT AND SUCCESSES: FUELING FUTURE GROWTH

As we transition into our second year, the Lab is poised for more fun and relationship-building, thanks to the new sources of generous support we have received. We were fortunate to secure several crucial grants that will provide substantial backing for our ongoing and future projects. The Arts for All initiative and support from the Fredrick Douglass Center are set to significantly enhance our artistic and cultural programming. Additionally, a transformative \$3.3 million grant from the Mellon Foundation, in partnership with Diana Marsh and the iSchool, will propel our efforts in archival sovereignty. This funding will support a collaborative project aimed at promoting archival access and sovereignty, with Diana Marsh, la Bull, and the iSchool team leading the charge on this pivotal work. Generous internal grants from UMD have also been secured to support the Decolonizing Death Café, the PINE Project, and the newly established KMCC, ensuring these initiatives continue to develop and impact our community positively. These funds will help us deepen our exploration of Indigenous death care practices, Indigenizing philosophy of education, and critical social work, expanding our educational offerings in these areas.

LOOKING AHEAD: EXPANDING OUR IMPACT

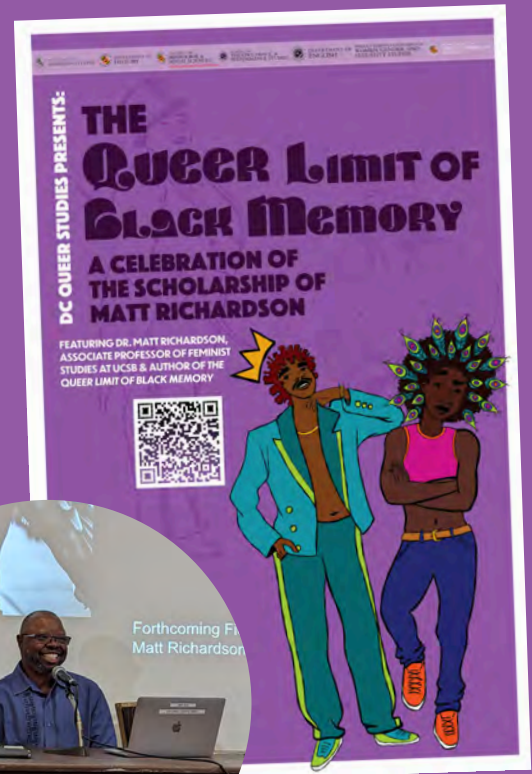
As we look to the future, we are excited about the expansion of our existing programs and the launch of new initiatives. The Bead, Weave, and Read series will continue to offer new learning experiences, with plans to introduce basketweaving (Fall 2024) and sewing (Spring 2025), supported by the Arts for All initiative. This will provide our students with hands-on opportunities to connect with traditional crafts and Indigenous research methods. The Decolonizing Death Cafe is set to expand with the introduction of a book club and a writers club, in response to the community's growing interest in exploring these themes more deeply. These new formats will complement our regular bi-weekly meetings, offering broader avenues for engagement and discussion. Furthermore, we are delighted to welcome Wren Massey as our new administrative and creative assistant. Wren's addition to our team is expected to bring fresh energy and ideas, helping to streamline our operations and enhance our creative output. With these plans in place and the continued support of our community and funders, the Indigenous Futures Lab is set to have another remarkable year. We are committed to advancing Indigenous scholarship and community engagement, driving forward our mission to foster an inclusive and dynamic academic environment. Here's to another year of growth, learning, and community at the Indigenous Futures Lab!



The Queer Limit of Black Memory: A Celebration of the Scholarship of Matt Richardson

The 2023 DC Queer Studies Symposium celebrated the work of Dr. Matt Richardson. The Queer Limit of Black Memory: A Celebration of the Scholarship of Matt Richardson invited scholars and performers to share the ways in which their work intersects with and has been influenced by Matt’s work and engage in discussion with Matt himself.

Panels at the event featured Lamonda Horton-Stallings, Jennifer D. Williams, Briona Jones, LaVelle Ridley, K Marshall Green, and King Molasses. Artwork for the poster was designed by Yusuf Al-Ajeeb.



2024 Harriet Tubman Day Commemoration

HARMONIES OF LIBERTY

To sing no further is to be schooled in a lesson on the importance of joy, community, and care, in the meantime and in-between time—joy as a catalyst for and companion to freedom. To call us together under the idea of “harmonies of liberty” is not an invocation to think the same thing or sing the same note. Time taken to commemorate Harriet Tubman is time spent re-envisioning communities and pathways to justice.

We metaphorically draw on Black musical traditions that come alive on the downbeat, subvert the expected meter, and deliberately improvise in order to learn and teach each other how to walk out of time with the world (hostilities) around us. We come together to improvise the solutions we need and find new ways of imagining ourselves.

This year’s program featured a keynote talk from Brooklyn-based artist Tatyana Fazlalizadeh with remarks from Ernestine “Tina” Wyatt. Artwork for the poster and marketing materials was designed by student artists Elijah Doster and Leo Osei.

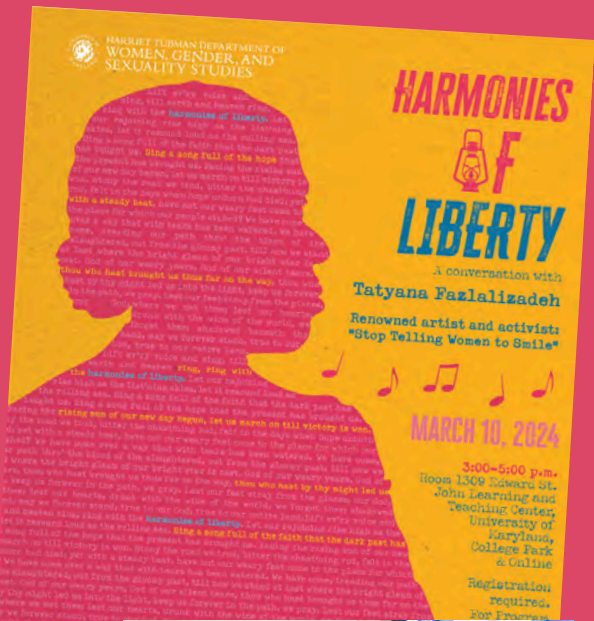


Photo by Sam Cohen/The Diamondback

Colloquium Book Talks



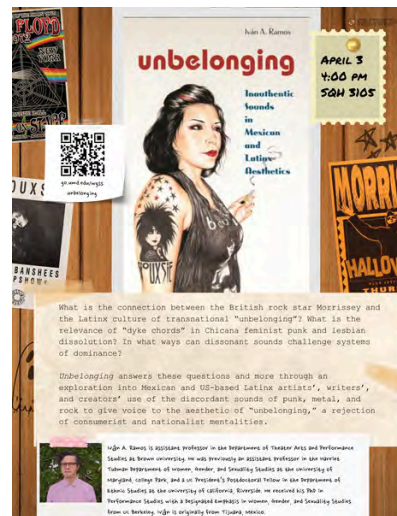
Unsettled Borders: The Militarized Science of Surveillance on Sacred Indigenous Land
Felicity Amaya Schaeffer
University of California Santa Cruz



Indifference: On the Praxis of Interspecies Being
Naisargi N. Davé
University of Toronto



The Two Revolutions: A History of the Transgender Internet
Avery Dame-Griff
Gonzaga University



Unbelonging: Inauthentic Sounds in Mexican and Latinx Aesthetics
Iván A. Ramos
Brown University

Colloquium Guest Speakers

UNIVERSITY OF ALBANY DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY STUDIES

HARRIET TUBMAN, NATIONAL MEMORY, & the making of a BLACK FEMINIST ICON



Join Dr. Janell Hobson as she examines popular representations of Harriet Tubman and how she has come to shape our national conversations about American history, including the ways in which she fits into Black feminist iconicity. From militant reclamations to militaristic and patriotic commemorations, who gets to claim Harriet Tubman's legacy, and why?

Wednesday, March 13th, 2024 @ 4:00 pm
SQH 3105 & Online
RSVP: go.umd.edu/wgsshobson



Janell Hobson is Professor of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at the University at Albany, SUNY. She is the author of three books, most recently *When God Lost Her Tongue: Historical Consciousness and the Black Feminist Imagination* (Routledge, 2021). Hobson also guest-edited a special project with Ms. Magazine called the Harriet Tubman Bicentennial Project in 2022 and is currently working on a new project about the Black feminist icon. She's a regular writer and editor for Ms. Magazine and engages research topics relating to Black women, feminisms, and media studies.

Dr. Janell Hobson

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MARYLAND

2024 Colloquium Guest Speaker

Dr. Ryan Shanahan



April 16 | 4 pm | SQH 3105

Ryan Shanahan ('13) is the Director of Restoring Promise at the Vera Institute of Justice. Restoring Promise is transforming the US prison system. Restoring Promise partners with correctional leaders to realign their corrections policies and practices to reflect a commitment to human dignity and create housing units grounded in human dignity for young adults. Restoring Promise is a team of ambitious advocates, formerly incarcerated leaders, and researchers fighting for dignity, racial equity, and respect for incarcerated people. Ryan transitioned to Vera in 2009 from a Vera spin-off, Family Justice. Their work at Family Justice to help incarcerated people stay connected to their families and communities became one of the four core values of Restoring Promise. Ryan's family's experience with the legal system motivated them to start in this field. Ryan's commitment to the work is a reflection of their father, Kevin, who instilled in them from a young age a commitment to justice and generosity. Ryan holds a BA from the University of Connecticut and a PhD in women's studies from the University of Maryland.

Ryan Shanahan

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INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SPEAKER SERIES

This year, the Indigenous Futures Lab hosted its inaugural Indigenous Knowledge Speaker Series inviting two guests to speak with students and the WGSS community about their work in the field of Indigenous Studies.

INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SPEAKER SERIES

Dating, Marriage, and the Legacy of Spanish Colonialism in the Pueblos of New Mexico



THURSDAY, MARCH 14
4:00 - 6:00 PM
SQH 3105

ZINE-MAKING COMMUNITY CRAFTING
6:00 - 7:30 PM
INDIGENOUS FUTURES LAB (4105)

Reproductive politics in settler nations like the US and Canada are based on gendered, sexualized, and racialized acts of oppression. In Indigenous communities, women are the foundation and the future. This presentation asserts that it is necessary to understand blood quantum and other forms of tribal enrollment practices as reproductive justice issues.



go.umd.edu/ikss24lucero

DANIELLE LUCERO

Danielle D. Lucero earned her PhD in Justice and Social Inquiry from Arizona State University. She holds an Ed.M from Harvard University's Graduate School of Education in Learning and Teaching and a BA in Anthropology and Ethnic Studies from Columbia University. Danielle is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Isleta located in central New Mexico as well as Hispano with connections to the northeastern New Mexican town of Santa Rosa. Danielle's research seeks to investigate the relationships between tribal enrollment, Pueblo women's experiences with reproductive and social labor and exploring the connections between identity, belonging, place, and tribal membership. Her research is prompted by questions like, "I wonder how many babies are born because of blood quantum rather than love?" and "I want an enrolled child so I can't leave him." Her research utilizes critical Indigenous research methodologies, ethnography, and spatial analysis.



INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SPEAKER SERIES

Indigenous Reclamation and Social Re-creation



THURSDAY, APRIL 18
4:00 - 6:00 PM
SQH 3105

BASKETRY COMMUNITY CRAFTING
6:00 - 7:30 PM
INDIGENOUS FUTURES LAB (4105)

For Indigenous peoples, reclaiming our social and political structures necessitates a re-centering of our unique care practices and attending worldviews. This lecture explores an example of Anishinaabe community-based reclamation and decolonial praxis with considerations from the field of feminist care ethics.



go.umd.edu/ikss24jewell

EVA JEWELL

Dr. Eva Jewell is Anishinaabekwe from Deshkan Zibiing (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation) in southwestern Ontario, with paternal lineage from Oneida Nation of the Thames.

Her research is in areas of Anishinaabe cultural/political reclamation, Indigenous experiences of work and care, and accountability in reconciliation. Dr. Jewell is an assistant professor in the sociology department at Toronto Metropolitan University and research director at Yellowhead Institute.

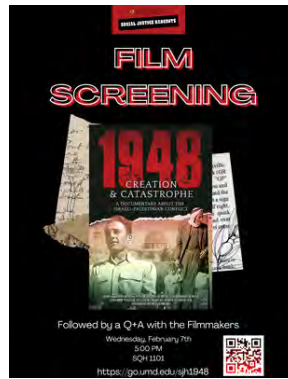


This year's series welcomed Dr. Danielle Lucero (Pueblo Isleta) to discuss reproductive politics in the Pueblos in New Mexico and Eva Jewell (Anishinaabekwe from Deshkan Zibiing; Chippewa of the Thames First Nation) to discuss Anishinaabe community based reclamation and decolonial praxis. Both sessions were followed by community crafting hours that fostered conversation and discussion through engagement with Indigenous craft traditions

Undergraduate and Community Events



Social Justice Hangout: Debt Activism



Social Justice Hangout Film Screening: 1948



Social Justice Hangout Mutual Aid



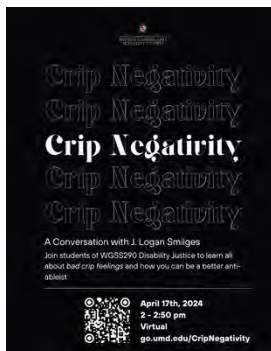
Brown Girl Begins Film Screening



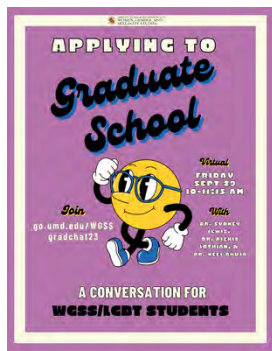
Palestinian Liberation and the Black Radical Tradition



Undergraduate Research Day



Crip Negativity: A Conversation with J. Logan Smilges



Applying to Graduate School



Imagining Sex Between White Men



Streaming Horror and the Black Femme

THE GOOD ROBOT

WHY TECHNOLOGY NEEDS
FEMINISM
A CONVERSATION
WITH
ELEANOR DRAGE AND KERRY
MCINERNEY

Can feminism 'fix' the internet?
Can AI be feminist? Who's
ultimately responsible for AI?

Scholars from across the country gathered at Georgetown University to celebrate the release of *The Good Robot: Why Technology Needs Feminism* with editors Dr. Kerry McInerney and Dr. Eleanor Drage.

Drage and McInerney, both researchers at the [Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence](#) and co-hosts of [The Good Robot Podcast](#) discussed crucial AI questions with a panel of experts including WGSS's very own Dr. Atanasoski in this exciting collaboration with the Georgetown University [CULP](#) program and the GU [Gender+ Justice Initiative](#)

The poster and publicity materials for the event features cover artwork created for *The Good Robot* by Welsh-Chinese illustrator [Sinjin Li](#).



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



SFS

Science, Technology
and International Affairs



Gender+ Justice Initiative
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



HARRIET TUBMAN DEPARTMENT OF
WOMEN, GENDER, AND
SEXUALITY STUDIES

Class of 2024

Bachelor of Arts

Margaret Rose Crawford
Sydney Kathryn Dailer
Jestina Emilia Ricci
Bryanna Monique Robinson

Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Undergraduate Certificate

Meenakshi Pradeep Adiyodi
Sophia Elizabeth Kelly
Hrabinski
Rhea Jajodia
Jordyn Rae Loring

Lena Han Mastracci
Lindsay Elizabeth Moynihan
Sydney Michaela Neal
Erin Marie Smearman
Naomi Marie Smith

LGBTQ Studies Minor

Sarah Ying-Hua Liu
Momoko Oishi
Nathaniel Stuart Pearl
Ian Huxley Roberts
Theodore Michael Spear

Jay Lee Capitelli
Heather J Cragg
Evan Kobayashi Cranmer
Taylor Curtis
Austin Tyler Light

Class of 2024

Black Women's Studies Minor

Taylor Blanche Edwards
Katrina Marie Marinelli
Joyce Lokanga Milandu
Mya Marie Smith

**Graduate Certificate in Women, Gender and
Sexuality Studies**

Prisma Liset Herrera
Ari Perez Montes
Dinfin Koyonjo Mulupi



Undergraduate Departmental Honors Thesis



Jestina Ricci

**"Forever and Indefinitely My Baby:
#MedicalMoms, Social Media Influencing,
and the Denial of Disability Identity
Formation**

*Recipient of Winston Family Honors
Award for Outstanding Honors Thesis*

Defense Committee: Neel Ahuja, Jessica
Mathiason, Shelbi Nahwilet Meissner

Throughout the United States, individual states are passing legislation to entitle compensation to the children of family vloggers. However, disabled children are excluded from these pieces of legislation due to their subject positions as both disabled and children. As the subjects of content posted by a community of non-disabled mothers under the #MedicalMom hashtag, disabled children are mobilized for sympathy and online views from non-disabled audiences. When #MedicalMoms are criticized, it is for their irresponsible reproduction and sexuality instead of the denial of their children's identity formation online. Both content posted by #MedicalMoms and reactions to said content rely on positioning disability as a specter. As the disabled children of influencers age into adulthood, centering their perspectives will be crucial to transforming discourse on care and dependence, as well as addressing any limitations in forthcoming state legislations.

Featured Faculty Research: Ruth Enid Zambrana

In 2024, Professor Zambrana, director of the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity was awarded a \$500,000 grant to support a two year study entitled "Transmitting the Wisdom of Historically Underrepresented Senior Leaders to the new general of URM aspirational leaders."

The purpose of the study is to explore how URM leaders engage in and implement ideas and initiatives that embrace equity, inclusion and justice. A critical intersectional mixed methods approach is used to fill a gap in the science of leadership by documenting fair and equitable practices employed by senior leaders to create "healthy" work environments. Two questions guide the study: What are the characteristics of URM leaders, and what strategies do they employ to secure institutional change or healthy "institutional transformations? Secondly, what are the experiences of aspirational mid-career leaders and what do they need senior leaders to know about resources to prepare for senior leadership? This study will employ these data to develop a curriculum template to increase leadership preparation, growth and success among aspirational URMs.

Historically underrepresented groups defined as intergenerational African Americans, Mexican-origin, Puerto Rican and Native Americans are highly underrepresented in higher education with regards to their proportion in the population. Anecdotal and observational data suggest that in some institutions, URM leaders have contributed to substantial equity and inclusion initiatives, while other university leaders have had resistance to contributing to meaningful diversity, equity and inclusion efforts.

To date, the PI has completed 37 senior leader interviews; 8 non-URM comparative leader interviews and 7 focus groups with 57 aspirational leaders.. Preliminary data suggest that historically underrepresented senior administrators endorse strong community values, an understanding of equity as an opportunity, and strategies that include listening, self-care, team work and social networks. The data from mid-career leaders suggest that their leadership experiences have dampened their enthusiasm.



Neda Atanasoski

- Named Associate Director of Education for the Artificial Intelligence Interdisciplinary Institute of Maryland (AIM).
- Mercator Visiting Professor of Humanities and AI at the Center for Science and Thought at the University of Bonn (June - July 2024, taking part in a collaborative project on rethinking AI for just and sustainable futures)



Zenzele Isoke

- Awarded \$10,000 Research Grant in the Breaking the M.O.L.D initiative funded by the Mellon Summer Research
- Served as Facilitator for The Spiritual Wisdom in Black Feminist Poetry Workshop
- Became Faculty Coordinator for Black Feminist Studies Reading Group and Black Women's Wednesday Online Writing Group with Dr. Cecile Accilien



Sydney Lewis

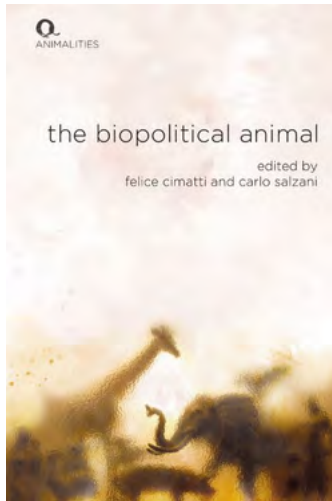
- Promoted to Senior Lecturer in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies



Ruth Enid Zambrana

- Presented “Examining the interrelated systems of education, employment and health care on the health and well-being of the Latino populations” Panel at National Academy of Medicine, Society for Research in Child Development in Panama City in May 2024

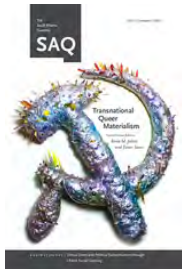
Faculty Publications



Locating Race and Animality
amidst the Politics of
Interspecies Life

In *The Biopolitical
Animal*, edited by Felice
Cimatti, Carlo Salzani,
expected Nov 2024

Neel Ahuja



Reproducing Racial
Capitalism: Sexual Slavery
and Islam and the Edges of
Queer of Color Critique

with Rana M. Jaleel in *South
Atlantic Quarterly* Vol. 123
No. 1
Duke University Press, 2024



Postsocialist Politics and
the Ends of Revolution

Co-edited with Kalindi Vora
Routledge, 2023

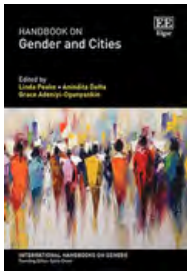


Good Technology is a
Portal to Other Worlds

with Felicity Amaya
Schaeffer in *The Good
Robot: Why Technology
Needs Feminism* edited by
Eleanor Drage and Kerry
McInerney
Bloomsbury, 2024

Neda Atanasoski

Faculty Publications



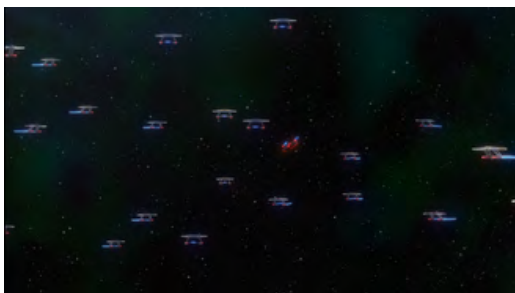
Urban Ethnography and Everyday Life

in *Elgar Handbook on Gender & Cities* edited by Linda Peak, Anindita Datta, and Grace Adeniyi-Agunyankin
Edward Elgar Publishing, 2024



Remembering Sakia Gunn, Remembering Ourselves
in *Queer Newark: Stories of Resistance, Love, and Community* edited by Whitney Strub
Rutgers University Press, 2024

Zenzele Isoke



Star Trek's Californias
In imaginary papers #18, *Science Fiction Frames*,
<https://mailchi.mp/asu.edu/imaginarypapers18-may2024>
Arizona Center for Science and the Imagination, May 2024

Alexis Lothian

Faculty Publications



“World” - Traveling in Tule Canoes: Indigenous Philosophies of Language and an Ethic of Incommensurability

in *Hypatia* Vol 38, Issue 4, 2023



Indigenous Feminist Evaluation Methods: A Case Study in “My Two Aunties”

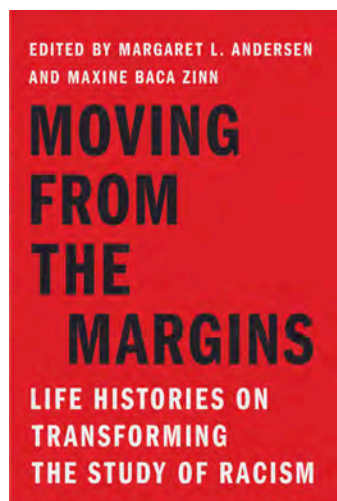
with Jeremy Braithwaite, Karan Thorne, Art Martinez, and Elizabeth Lycett in the *Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation*



Climate Crisis as Relational Crisis: Centering Indigenous Feminist Conceptions of Responsibility in

Environmental Discourse with Andrew Frederick Smith for *Feminist Philosophy Quarterly*, Vol 19 No. 1/2: Revolutionizing Responsibility, 2024

Shelbi Nahwilet Meissner

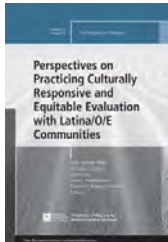


The Sandbox, Sisterhood, and a Sociological Journey

in *Moving from the Margins: Life Histories on Transforming the Study of Racism* edited by Margaret L. Andersen and Maxine Baca Zinn *Stanford University Press*, 2024

Bonnie Thornton Dill

Faculty Publications



**Evaluation dilemmas:
Lessons learned in
improving intervention
oucomes and
sustainability in Latin
American communities**
with Kristina Lovato and
Nilsa Burgos in *New
Directions for Evaluation Vol
2024 Issue 181, 2024*



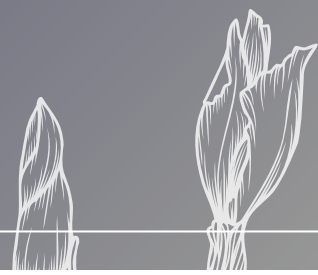
**Depression disparities
among sexual minority
faculty of color in the
United States**
with John P. Salerno, in
*Psychiatry Research Vol
339 , 2024*



**Critical analyses of Latina
mortality: disentangling the
heterogeneity of ethnic
origin, place, nativity, race,
and socioeconomic status**
with Vanessa L. Errisuriz
and Deborah Parra-
Medina in *BMC Public
Health Vol 24*

Ruth Enid Zambrana

Graduate Student Highlights



Montia Daniels

- Will present "Daughtering Queerly: Challenging Black familial narratives through irresolute storytelling in eastern North Carolina" (upcoming: November 16, 2024) at 2024 ASA conference
- Presented "Queering the Lineages: Black Women's Intergenerational Teachings on Relationship and Sexuality (2023) at the 2023 NWSA Annual Meeting
- Presented "The Spiritual Community of Southern Black Queer Women and Non-binary Folks:" at Inaugural bell hooks Symposium at Berea College



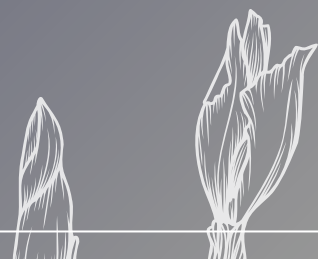
Rahma Haji

- Awarded 2024-2025 AAUW American Dissertation Fellowship



Jordan Keesler

- Received 2023 Barbara Brown Outstanding Student Doctoral Paper Award from the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport for "Phenomenological Understandings of Transness: Queering Sporting Experiences"



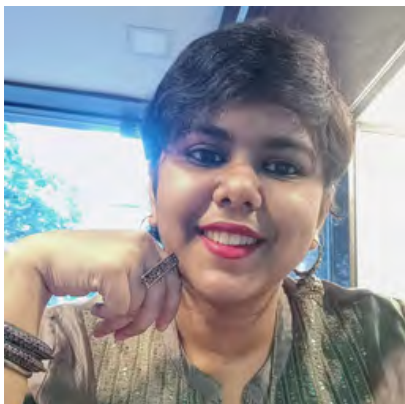
Lenora Knowles

- Awarded Friends of the 2024-2025 Smith College Libraries Fellowship Award
 - Will present “Third World Women’s November 2024 Insurgencies: Notes on Black Women’s and Latina Coalitional Relationalities, 1960s-1980s” at the 2024 NWSA Annual Meeting
 - Will serve as Panelist for “Building a Movement: Grounded Engagement in House and Land Justice in Baltimore” Roundtable at ASA Annual Meeting
-



Danielle LaPlace

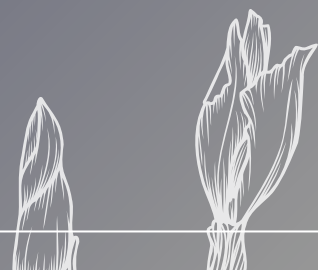
- Awarded 2024-2025 American Dissertation Fellowship from the American Association of University Women
 - Awarded Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center Pop-Up Research Grant 2024-2025
-



Tapaswinee Mitra

- Awarded 2024 UMD Graduate School Summer Research Fellowship

Graduate Student Highlights



Rebekah Simcha Otto

- Joined Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture as an independent contractor for the Social Justice Conversations Oral History Project



Sarah Scriven

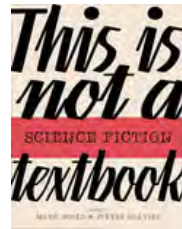
- Recipient of 2024-2025 Wylie Fellowship
- Recipient of Inaugural Frederick Douglass Center Graduate Student Summer Grant
- Served as archival research assistant for [Small Antidotes: Mapping Memory in Black Literary DC](#), an online story mapping project that provides a digital exploration of Black literary spaces from 1980 to 2010

Graduate Publications



Jordan Keesler
Equality Unfulfilled: How
Title IX's Design Undermines
Changes to College Sports

Review of *Equality Unfulfilled*
by James Druckman and
Elizabeth Sharrow in *Sociology
of Sport Journal*
Human Kinetics Journal, 2024



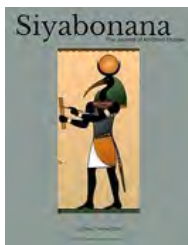
Aisha Matthews
"Afrofuturism" & "The Fifth
Season"

chapters in *This is Not A
Science Fiction Textbook*
edited by Mark Bould and
Steven Shaviro
Goldsmiths Press, 2024.



Tapaswinee Mitra
Form Poetry and the
Pandemic: New Directions in
South Asian Women's
Writing

in special issue of *Humanities*,
vol 12, no. 5
MDPI, 2023



Rebekah Simcha Otto
Readings in Black Women's
History: A Discussion on the
Afterlife of Enslavement

in *Siyabonana* - Vol 2, Number 1
Journal of African Studies,
2024



Chand Sepuri
The Quest for Horizontal
Transgender Reservations
Under the Spectre of
Brahmanical Governmentality

in *Contemporary Voice of Dalit*
Sage Journals, 2023

Affiliate Highlights



Hester Baer & Michele Mason

Professor, Germanic Studies (Baer)
Associate Professor, Program Director,
Japanese (Mason), School of Languages,
Literatures and Cultures

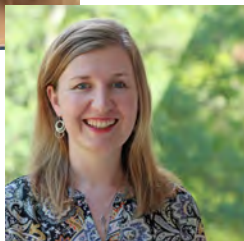
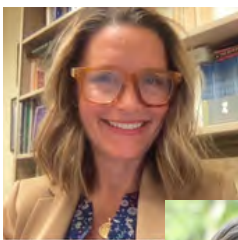
- Published Co-edited volume. Nuclear Futures in the Post-Fukushima Age: Literature, Film, and Performance from Germany and Japan (Springer, 2024)



Briana Barner

Assistant Professor, Department of
Communication

- Recipient of the Douglass Center Summer Grant
- Published "Our pain prioritized for once: Survivor-centred Black podcasts reckoning with Surviving R. Kelly" (Radio Journal, 2023)
- Guest appearance on The Academic Life podcast episode: "Get PhDone! Proven Strategies for Tackling Your Writing Roadblocks" (February 29., 2024)



Jessica Enoch & Carly S. Woods

Professor & Director of Academic Writing
Program, Department of English (Enoch)
Associate Professor, Department of
Communication (Woods)

- Co-authored chapter "What Should We Ask? Feminist Methodological Inquiries in Commemoration" accepted for forthcoming edited volume *Rhetorica Rising* (University of South Carolina Press)

Affiliate Highlights



Rebecca Jones

Collegiate Fellow, University Honors Program

- Presented "Fabular Femininity: Gynoids as Modern Mythmaking in Live-Action Science Fiction Films" at "The Menace of the Machine - Gender and AI in Speculative Fiction" research seminar series hosted by the Department of English Studies at the University of South Africa



Jordan Johnson

Collegiate Fellow, University Honors Program

- Forthcoming article "Accessing the Trail, Interpreting the Forest: Design, Ecology, and Feminist Disability Studies" (Journal of Literary and Cultural Disability Studies)



Fatemeh Keshavarz-Karamustafa

Chair & Director, Roshan Institute for Persian Studies

- Appointed Chair of the Textual Studies Book Award, American Academy of Religion
- Appointed Chair of Faculty Affairs Committee, UMD Senate
- Published co-edited volume Mystical Landscapes in Medieval Persian Literature (Edinburgh University Press, 2024) with Ahmet Karamustafa

Affiliate Highlights



Sahar Khamis

Associate Professor, Communication

- Received the 2024 "Feminist Advocacy Award" from the Commission on the Status of Women at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC).
- Elected President of the Arab-US Association for Communication Educators (AUSACE).
- Elected current Chair of the Spiritual Communication Division at the National Communication Association.



Bayley J. Marquez

Assistant Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, American Studies

- Published *Plantation Pedagogy*. (University of California Press, 2024)



Valerie Orlando

Professor and Chair, French, School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

- Received Distinguished Scholar-Teacher Award
- Recipient of National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Stipend Award
- Selected as University Honors Faculty for 2025-2027

Emeritus Affiliate Highlights



Janet Chernela

Professor Emerita, Department of Anthropology

- Published "Of Desire and the Other: Considering a Kotiria Origin Myth from the Northwest Amazon of Brazil (Lowland South American World 2024)
- Forthcoming article "Voices from the Margins: Tukanoan Women Bring Their Case Before an International Tribunal" (Anthropology Today)
- Forthcoming article, "When the Sub-Altern Speak: Indigenous WOMen's Judicial Activism and Local Organization in the Northwest Amazon of Brazil" (Community Transformation)



Lillian Doherty

Professor Emerita, Classics

- Published "Book 6", chapter in *Oxford Critical Guide to Homer's Iliad* (Oxford University Press, 2024)
- Forthcoming edited volume "Approaches to Teaching Home's Odyssey" (Modern Language Association, 2025)

Alumni Highlights



Damien Hagen

PhD, 2023

- Joined Texas Woman's University as an Assistant Professor in Multicultural Women's & Gender Studies



Amira Lundy-Harris

PhD, 2023

- Joined Pomona College as Assistant Professor of Gender and Women's Studies



Sina Lee

PhD, 2019

- Joined the University of Tulane as a Professor of Practice in Gender and Sexuality Studies



Jaime Madden

PhD, 2017

- Joined Georgetown University as Assistant Teaching Professor in Women's and Gender Studies

Upcoming Events

Academic Year 2024-2025

October 9, 2024 4:00 PM	Videogames and the Pornography of Death - Amanda Phillips
October 21, 2024 3:00 PM	Disability Studies Series - Jess Whatcott
October 28, 2024 3:00 PM	Disability Studies Series - Katie Tastrom
October 30, 2024 4:00 PM	The Professor is Ill - Mimi Khúc
November 6, 2024 4:00 PM	WGSS Speaker Series - Shana Ye
December 4, 2024 6:00 PM	Winter Gathering
February 5, 2025	Interventions: WGSS Graduate Student Conference
February 21, 2025 4:00 PM	WGSS Speaker Series - Jessica Marie Johnson

Upcoming Events

Academic Year 2024-2025

March 10, 2025 Harriet Tubman Day

April 3- 4, 2025 DC Queer Studies Symposium

May 22, 2025 AMST/WGSS Commencement

Stay up to date with WGSS



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wgss.umd.edu/events



HARRIET TUBMAN DEPARTMENT OF
WOMEN, GENDER, AND
SEXUALITY STUDIES

2024–2025

WGSS SPEAKER SERIES



SHARON HOLLAND • SEPT 4

AMANDA PHILIPS • OCT 9

MIMI KHÚC • OCT 23

SHANA YE • NOV 6

JESSICA MARIE JOHNSON • FEB 21

DISABILITY STUDIES

Speaker Series

October 21 - October 30, 2024

Celebrate Disability History Month with
book talks from emerging scholars in
Disability Studies

JESS WHATCOTT

OCTOBER 21 ✨ MENACE TO THE FUTURE

KATIE TASTROM

OCTOBER 28 ✨ A PEOPLE'S GUIDE TO ABOLITION AND
DISABILITY JUSTICE

MIMI KHÚC

OCTOBER 30 ✨ DEAR ELIA

wgss.umd.edu/events/dss24



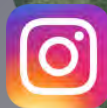
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