



UNIVERSITY of
SOUTH FLORIDA
Humanities Institute



GRADUATE **05**
Humanities
SYMPOSIUM

Friday, February 21

📍 Marshall Student Center

Welcome from the USF Humanities Institute

Welcome to the Spring 2025 Graduate Humanities Symposium, hosted



Elizabeth Kicak, M.F.A.

Director, USF Humanities Institute

Schedule Overview

Friday, February 21:

8:00am - 8:45am	Presenter Check-In and Breakfast	MSC 3705
8:45am - 9:45am	Session I Exploring Identities Through Latine Literature Memory, Landscape, and Growth	MSC 3705 MSC 3709
10:00am - 11:00am	Session II Language and Identity Utopia, Dystopia, and Outsiders	MSC 3705 MSC 3711
11:15am - 12:15pm	Session III Screening Narratives: Media, Identity, and Cultural Representation Class and Power in the Premodern World	MSC 3711 MSC 3709
12:15pm - 1:00pm	Lunch (i a r a)	MSC 3705
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Session IV Narratives Through New Media Gender and Other Tensions in Horror Genre Film Human Rights, Empathy, and Communication	MSC 3705 MSC 3709 MSC 3711
2:15pm - 3:15pm	Session V Not at the Dinner Table: Religion, Politics, and Scholarship Out of Bounds: Morality and Gender Nonconformity Nonconformity: Living Outside the Boundaries	MSC 3705

SESSION I

8:45am - 9:45am

3705	Exploring Identities Through Latine Literature	<p><i>M a a : O i a C (H r a i & C a S i)</i></p> <p>Andrea Figueroa-Irizarry Diálogo in Fiction: Examining the Representation of Spanglish in Latine Fiction and What It Teaches About the Craft of Dialogue</p> <p>Camilo Loaiza Bonilla <i>R a M</i> : Exploring Trans & Latine Digital Poetics</p> <p>Alyssa Sotelo Me and All My Sisters Are Gay: The Queer, Feminine Identity in Latine Culture</p>
3709	Memory, Landscape, and Growth	<p><i>M a a : R a a D (S e - P b i a a i)</i></p> <p>Sofia Almedia Re-Membering the Dead: Historical Societies and Landscapes of Memory</p>

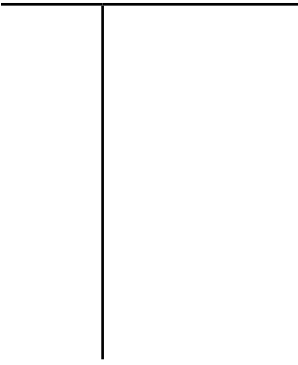
SESSION

SESSION III

11:15am - 12:15pm

3711	<p>Screening Narratives: Media, Identity, and Cultural Representation</p>	<p><i>M a a : Dia a L -B (C r v r i a a)</i></p> <p>Amber Nico The Performance of Latinx: Pierce the Veil’s Cultural Representation in “Bulls in the Bronx”</p> <p>Bethany Jowers Stones, Scorpions, and Stolen Girls: The Girl’s Bildungsroman in <i>N e F</i></p> <p>Kailin Regutti Thawing Perceptions: Frozen Narratives of Mental Health in Disney’s <i>F //</i></p> <p>Camille Ruiz Mangual “De eso no se habla”: The Complexities of Representation in <i>L , V i a</i></p>
3709	<p>Class and Power in the Premodern World</p>	<p><i>M a a : M a a K i (H i a)</i></p> <p>Ysabella Maria Dace Characterizing Suor Plautilla Nelli (1524-1588), the Painter-Prioress of Renaissance Florence, in Sixteenth and Twenty-First Century Scholarship</p> <p>Lulu Downing Holy Saints, Relics, and Power: An Analysis of The Relationship Between Relics and Monastic Communities in Early Medieval Ireland</p> <p>Glorya Blair Senart “Does not the sun rise in the east?” The Rise of the Samurai</p>

FEEDBACK
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SCHOLAR BIOGRAPHIES

Melike Akay

Melike completed her bachelor's degree in Foreign Language Education at Bo aziçi University (Istanbul, Turkiye), and master's degree in English Language Education. She is now pursuing her PhD. She is now pursu

Kübra Çekmegeli

Kübra Çekmegeli is a second-year PhD student in Linguistics and Applied Language Studies (LALS) at the University of South Florida. She earned her master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from Teachers College, Columbia University. Kübra's research focuses on digital discourse analysis, data-driven learning in second language writing, classroom discourse, conversation analysis, and language teacher education. After graduating, she hopes to secure a position as a tenured faculty member and begin educating future English language teachers and researchers. Kübra also leads a student-run club in the Linguistics program that supports the bridge between research and teaching.

Faelyn Cowan

Faelyn Cowan graduated from USF with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and is now in their second year as an MA student in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program. Their research focuses on LGBTQ+ mental health, queering care, and queer utopian studies. After graduation they plan to pursue a second master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, with plans to pursue a PhD in Clinical Psychology in the future. Outside academia, Faelyn enjoys good movies, great books, and terrible reality TV.

Ysabella Maria Dace

Ysabella completed her Bachelor's degree in History at USF in May of 2022, and she is currently pursuing her Master's at USF. Ysabella's research focuses on early modern Europe, a seminal period of European history from about 1300 to 1789. Specifically, she examines how and the extent to which gender, sexuality, social interactions, religion, and culture shaped and impacted the lives and experiences of women, namely Italian women, in the period dubbed the Renaissance. She has written about Renaissance women who were humanists, 'protofeminists,' self-proclaimed prophets, and nun-artists. After graduation, Ysabella plans to earn her teaching certifications to begin teaching while exploring PhD programs that cater to her research interests.

Lulu Downing

Lulu is a current graduate student at USF pursuing a degree in History with a concentration in public history/digital humanities. Her research focuses on medieval Irish history and religious communities. After her graduation this Spring semester, Lulu plans to continue her studies and pursue a PhD in medieval studies.

Obe-ochuwe Ejue

Obe-ochuwe completed her bachelor's degree in Law at Baze University, Abuja, Nigeria and is now pursuing her Masters of Fine Art in Creative Writing with a concentration in Fiction at USF. Her writing currently focuses on attachment to places and the feelings of displacement people experience when moving away from familiar places. Obe-ochuwe hopes that a traditional publishing house falls in love with her short story collection after graduation. She spends her time reading and painting.

Rachael Ermacora

Rachael completed her B.A. in Political Science at the University of South Florida and is now pursuing her M.A. in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality studies at USF. Her research focuses on non-normative sexual identities among LGBT individuals as a reaction to sexual repression. Rachael hopes to undertake a career in education. In her free time, Rachael can be found reading with her pet cat, and gardening.

Andrea Figueroa-Irizarry

Andrea completed her bachelor's degree in English (Editing, Writing, and Media) and Psychology at Florida State University and is now in her second year of her MFA in Creative Writing degree at USF. She writes young adult and contemporary fiction. Her research focuses on Latine representation in literature and modern retellings of historical and classical works. She is currently working on a young adult novel entitled *Sy Tai* and hopes to obtain a tenured creative writing faculty position upon graduation.

Kalysta Fowler

Kalysta completed her bachelor's and master's degrees at Florida Gulf Coast University and is now pursuing their PhD in English literature at USF. Her research focuses on "crip theory" (a combination of queer and disability studies) pertaining to 19th century Gothic literature. After graduation, Kalysta hopes to get a position as a tenured faculty member, whether it be as a professor or in an administrative role for education. In their free time, she is reading and playing video games to decompress.

Meg Hanna

Meg is a first-year PhD student Literature PhD program at USF. They completed their undergraduate degrees in English (BA) and Musical Theatre (BFA) at William Peace University and her Master's degree in English at NC State University. Their research interests lie in 20th and 21st-American Literature with a focus on gothic texts and film. After graduation, Meg hopes to continue teaching and working in Higher Ed. and start her own theatre company.

Stephen Johnson

A second-year PhD. graduate student in the Rhetoric & Composition program at the University of South Florida, Stephen Eric Johnson earned his MA from Southern Illinois University with a thesis analyzing the effectiveness of portfolios in English Composition at the university level, one of the first of such studies conducted at the time. Presently he is teaching First Year Composition at USF and pursuing academic studies into the intersection between horse training and the education of FYC students, especially with an interest into the role of empathy and teacher/student cooperation as aspects of effective teaching.

Bethany Jowers

Bethany is an M.A. candidate in Applied Anthropology on the Medical Anthropology track at the University of South Florida. She is a USF alumna, having completed a B.A. in World Languages and Cultures and a B.S. in Biomedical Sciences in 2024. Her research centers on the sociocultural dimensions of medicine in the Americas, including gender and spoken language. After earning her Masters, she hopes to pursue an MD-PhD and become a physician-anthropologist.

Jeevitha Kannan

Jeevitha Kannan is a writer from Tamil Nadu, India. She taught English at different middle schools in Vellore before she came to pursue an MFA in Creative Writing at the University of South Florida, where she now teaches poetry. She is working on a memoir titled *Saavari*, about the loss of her mother and the immigrant experience in America.

Jihye Kim

Jihye completed her bachelor's and master's degrees at Hannam University in South Korea and is currently pursuing a PhD in the LALS (Linguistics and Applied Language Studies) program at the University of South Florida. Her research interests include Mobile-Assisted Language Learning (MALL), (teacher and ITA) identity, food discourse, and digital discourse. Recently, Jihye has shifted her focus towards exploring career opportunities outside of academia after graduation.

Zachary Kuntz

Zachary is a disabled student (Deaf) who completed his MA in History at the University of South Florida and is now pursuing his Ph.D in History within the field of US and the World at USF. His research focuses on the role of US foreign policy during the Cold War in Ecuador and its effect on the economic, social, and political institutions within the country. Once he graduates, Zachary seeks to work in the government as state

department analyst before running for public office. Zachary is currently the GAU Grievance Chair, member of UFF contract enforcement team, member of the Student Disability Task Force, and volunteers for the Center For Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention through PAVE (Peer Anti-Violence Educators). In 2024, Zachary was the recipient for the Accessibull Award that is given out each year to one student who advocates for the inclusion and promotion of disability equality and accessibility on behalf of all disabled students within the USF community.

Jared Lamanati

Jared Lamanati is a graduate student in the Humanities and Cultural Studies department, with a concentration in Film Studies. His undergraduate degree is in English, with a concentration on Literary Studies, from USF. He is currently exploring ideas for his thesis but is interested in the various theoretical movements surrounding film studies.

Olivia Lavin

Olivia Lavin graduated with her bachelor's degree in Communication Studies at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota. She went on to get her Master's degree from Texas Christian University and is working towards her PhD in Communication Studies here at USF. Her research is primarily focused on family and conflict communication. After graduation, Olivia plans to return to Minnesota and hopes to get a position as a professor at her alma mater, Bethel University. Olivia adores her dog, Jackie Moon, and cannot wait to go on her next road trip!

Thi Ngan Ha Le

Ha completed her bachelor's degree in English Language Teacher Education at Vietnam National University and is now pursuing her master's degree in Linguistics: ESL at USF. Her research interests include English language teaching, ESL/EFL teacher education and teacher wellbeing. After graduation, she hopes to get a position as a lecturer at a university in Vietnam.

Camilo Loaiza Bonilla

Camilo Loaiza Bonilla (he/him) is a Latine writer working to unwind generational silence and trauma as a queer, trans, first-generation immigrant. A Macondista, he is currently pursuing his MFA at the University of South Florida, where he explores the intersection of visual art, poetry, and creative nonfiction. He is currently working on a poetry collection and his words are in the *L A - R i*, *S a*, and *T A - R i*.

which plants ancient peoples used. Dennis hopes to start his own archaeology-related business after graduation. Dennis is a member of the Florida Native Plant Society and sometimes drives his 1963 Ford Falcon to USF to attend classes.

Kailin Regutti

Kailin is pursuing her PhD in Communication at USF. Her research focuses on the production and representation of mental health in entertainment media at the intersection of gender, race, and class in the contemporary milieu. After finishing her degree, Kailin aspires to get a position as a tenured faculty member.

Camille Ruiz Mangual

Camille is pursuing her PhD in Communication at USF. Her research is situated at the intersection of Feminist Media Studies, Critical Cultural Studies, and Latino/a/x/e Studies. Her research focuses on representations of Latino/a/x/es in popular culture media specifically attending to the intersections of race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and belonging. Her research also investigates how individuals in the U.S. who identify as Latino/a/x/e feel about representation of their communities in popular culture media. After completing her degree, Camille aspires to continue advocating for greater, more nuanced representation for Latino/a/x/es whether that is through a faculty position or working directly in/with media industries.

Mary Shaver

Mary Shaver is graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2023 and is now pursuing her MFA in creative writing at the University of South Florida. Often, her stories focus on themes of grief or regret, though she is particularly drawn to coming-of-age themes and the notion of cycles. Her work has been published in *T Va bi R i* and *W Q a*. After graduation, Mary hopes to pursue her PhD in creative writing.

Hilda Sheridan-Hewlett

Hilda Sheridan-Hewlett was originally an exchange student from the University of Exeter, after completing two years of undergrad in the UK in English Literature and Film Studies. She then transferred to USF and finished with a bachelor degree in English with a concentration in Literary Studies, now she is pursuing her masters degree in Film studies and is a teaching assistant for the Humanities department at USF. Hilda's interests lie in queer and feminist theory which she will be applying in her thesis.

John Tuskey

John Tuskey has been a student of philosophy for most of his academic career. He received a B.S. in philosophy at Portland State University and his M.A. in philosophy

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MSC Third Floor

Conference
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Text for the Panel



3713

3712

Panel Room

3702

3704

Panel Room

3709

Check In
Breakfast

3708

