

APRIL 19, 2024

SCHOLARLY PAPERS  
ON FILM & MEDIA

# EGSA CONFERENCE 2024

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GRADUATE  
STUDENT  
CONFERENCE

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NEDDERMAN HALL 100  
416 YATES ST.  
ARLINGTON, TX. 76010

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CONFERENCE CHAIRS:  
COADY SPAETH  
JERED MABAQUIAO  
JOHN ROSE

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## WELCOME

Dear 2024 EGSA Conference Participants,

On behalf of the English Graduate Student Association (EGSA) at the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), it is our pleasure to welcome you to the 12th Annual EGSA Conference. Our organization is dedicated to fostering an encouraging and curious community for UTA's English graduate students to provide a platform for convergence, professional development, and intellectual exchange.

Since its inception in 2013, the EGSA Conference has been a cornerstone event, showcasing the diverse research and scholarly endeavors of our graduate students across various areas of the English discipline. This conference embodies our commitment to nurturing a strong and exciting academic community where ideas flourish, collaborations thrive, and interdisciplinary dialogues enrich our understanding of literature, language, and culture.

Each academic year, EGSA organizes a range of activities, including writing groups, graduate student social events, and informative sessions on completing degree milestones, conference presentations, and navigating the graduate program. These initiatives are designed to empower our students and equip them with the skills and knowledge necessary for success in their academic and professional journeys.

As we gather for this year's conference, we invite you to engage in lively discussions, share your insights, and forge connections with fellow scholars. Your participation not only enriches this event but also contributes to the vibrant scholarly community that defines EGSA and UTA's English graduate program and department.

We extend our deepest gratitude to all presenters, attendees, sponsors, and organizers for making this conference a reality. We are looking forward to celebrating the spirit of intellectual curiosity, integrative cooperation, and academic excellence.

Welcome to the 2024 EGSA Conference!

You're doing great!

Coady Spaeth, Jered Mabaquiao, and John Rose  
EGSA Conference Chairs

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

### ***Subs, Soldiers and Scripts: How the Government-Entertainment Complex Works***



**Tricia Jenkins, Ph.D.**, is a Professor of Film, Television and Digital Media at Texas Christian University, where she teaches classes in media theory, television and film genres, world cinema, social identity, propaganda and the history of broadcasting.

As a researcher, Tricia earned her Ph.D. in American Studies from Michigan State University and now specializes in the US government's influence on film and television production. She is the author of three books and more than twenty scholarly articles. Her books include *The CIA and Hollywood: How the Agency Shapes Film and Television* (U of Texas P, 2012, 2016) and *Superheroes, Movies and the States: How the US Government Shapes Cinematic Universes* (UP of Kansas, 2022). Her writing has also appeared in or been cited in the LA Times, National Public Radio, the BBC World Service, The Washington Post, FOX and others. Mostly recently, she was featured in episodes 7 and 8 of the 2024 hit podcast, *Witnessed: Fade to Black*, by Sony Entertainment Media.

In addition to her scholarly pursuits, she serves as the chair of the board of the Fort Worth Film Commission and as a board member of the Lone Star Film Society. She is also the creator of her own award-winning podcast, *Worldwide: The Unchosen Church*, which explores life inside of the doomsday cult, The Worldwide Church of God.

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

### **Welcome**

*8:55 am – 9:00 am, Nedderman Hall 100*

### **Panel 1: Environments & Apocalypse**

*9:00 am – 10:15 am, Nedderman Hall 100*

Moderator: Dr. Tim Richardson

De Nosotros Pa' Nosotros: Analyzing Discursive Sites of Gentrification

Luis Macias Barrientos, University of Texas at Arlington

The Silent River

Vanessa Delgado, University of Texas at Arlington

Redeeming the Raven

John Adam Tomes, University of Texas at Arlington

Contagion Containment and Government Information Control in "The Man Who Killed Hitler and then the Bigfoot"

Sean Woodard, University of Texas at Arlington

### **Break**

*10:15 am – 10:25 am*

### **Panel 2: Whiteness & Postracial**

*10:25 am – 11:25 am, Nedderman Hall 100*

Moderator: Dr. Penelope Ingram

S.W.A.T: A Successful Site for Post Postracial Discourse in Trump-Era America

Sydney Gillentine, University of Texas at Arlington

Ending Televisual Erasure: MMIW, Indigenous Representation, and Dismantling the Focus on Whiteness

Lori Salazar, Texas Christian University

Revisiting Paul Haggis's Crash: Internalized Racism in the Post-liminal Era

June Yoon, Georgetown University

### **Break**

*11:25 am – 11:30 am*

*(5-minute Break)*

**Keynote Speaker**

*11:30 am – 12:30 pm, Nedderman Hall 100*

**Subs, Soldiers and Scripts: How the Government-Entertainment Complex Works**

**Tricia Jenkins** is a Professor of Film, Television and Digital Media at Texas Christian University, where she teaches classes in media theory, television and film genres, world cinema, social identity, propaganda and the history of broadcasting. As a researcher, Tricia earned her Ph.D. in American Studies from Michigan State University and now specializes in the US government's influence on film and television production. She is the author of three books and more than twenty scholarly articles. Her books include *The CIA and Hollywood: How the Agency Shapes Film and Television* (U of Texas P, 2012, 2016) and *Superheroes, Movies and the States: How the US Government Shapes Cinematic Universes* (UP of Kansas, 2022).

**Lunch**

*12:30 pm – 1:20 pm, Nedderman Atrium (107)*

**Panel 3: Nations & Narrations**

*1:20 pm – 2:20 pm, Nedderman Hall 100*

Moderator: Dr. Nathanael O'Reilly

Assimilation Through Inter-Generational Conflict in Disney Movies

Ahlam Atallah, Southern Methodist University

The Universe is Full of Doors: Orientalism in Denis Villeneuve's *Dune*

Katherine Brizendine, University of Texas at Arlington

Cross of Bouquets

Da-Shiva D. Francois, University of Texas at Arlington

**Break**

*2:20 pm – 2:30 pm*

**Panel 4: Stages, Music, & Adaptations**

*2:30 pm – 3:45 pm, Nedderman Hall 100*

Moderator: Dr. Michael Brittain

Imagine a Dream within a Revolution: The Changes in Popular Music during the Vietnam War Era

Ashlei Jones, University of Texas at Arlington

Are You My Mother?: The effects of plot change in the adaptation of *Fingersmith* to *The Handmaiden*

Rachel Sullivan, University of North Texas

Keep it Relevant: Exploring Classical Texts with Musical Theater

Lindsey Surratt, University of Texas at Arlington

Blurring Boundaries of Caste in the South-Indian Music Culture

Gayathri Suseel, Southern Methodist University

**Break**

*3:45 pm – 3:55 pm*

2024 English Graduate Student Association Conference

**Panel 5: Gender & Sexuality Representation**

*3:55 pm – 4:55 pm, Nedderman Hall 100*

Moderator: Dr. Rachel Mariboho

The “Not-like-Other-Girls” and “Pick-Me Girl” Tropes in Jane Austen’s Novels

James Taylor Hoekstra, University of Texas at Arlington

The New Age of Burying Your Gays

Najeeba Shahim, Southern Methodist University

The Projection of Hegemonic Masculinity in Nepali Films: A Case Study of Saino

Amar Bahadur Sherma, University of Texas at Arlington

**Break**

*4:55 pm – 5:00 pm*

*(5-minute Break)*

**Panel 6: Criticism, Urbanization & Racialization**

*5:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Nedderman Hall 100*

Moderator: Dr. Jacqueline Fay

Street Cred, Surreality, and Transracialism on the Streets of "Atlanta"

Sam McElroy, University of Texas at Arlington

Always The Struggle: Regressive Representations of Black Women in Contemporary Media

Jennifer Molton, Georgia State University

Elemental Realms: Unveiling Asian Cultural and Ableist Representation in Disney's  
Animated Narrative

Madison Lynae Ochoa, University of Texas at Arlington

**Closing Remarks and Awards**

*6:00 pm – 6:15 pm, Nedderman Hall 100*

## PRESENTER INFORMATION

**Ahlam Atallah** is a first year PhD student at Southern Methodist University with an interest in narratology and comparative literature, with a focus on the development of narratives of oppression in folk songs in Indigenous, African American and Palestinian communities. ([aatallah@mail.smu.edu](mailto:aatallah@mail.smu.edu))

**Katherine Brizendine** is pursuing a PhD in English at the University of Texas at Arlington. She specializes in Literature Studies, focusing on the intersections of Gender, Women, and Sexuality Theory. In addition to her graduate studies, she serves as English faculty at Dallas College, where she teaches American Literature, Composition and Rhetoric I and II, and Developmental English. She has published scholarly and creative work in the Harbinger Journal, Visual Poetry IV: Trans-Fusion Art Collective, and the Texas Tech University Center for Research Journal. ([kxb6255@mavs.uta.edu](mailto:kxb6255@mavs.uta.edu))

**Vanessa Delgado** is pursuing a PhD in Urban Planning and Public Policy at the University of Texas at Arlington, aiming to explore the connection between our built environment and reproductive health law. With a Master's degree in International Studies, she has extensive knowledge of human rights and social justice issues globally. In addition to being a full-time student, she works with a nonprofit consulting firm dedicated to helping connect nonprofit leaders with resources to better our community. ([vrd6033@mavs.uta.edu](mailto:vrd6033@mavs.uta.edu))

**Da-Shiva D. Francois** is a master's student planning to graduate in Spring 2024. Additionally, he is a graduate teaching assistant and editor-in-chief of the *twoOthree* Journal of the Arts at UTA. He has published work in poetry in TCU's creative magazine, *elevenfortyseven*, and a book review in *Global Insights: A Journal of Critical Human Science and Culture*. He recently presented research titled "Digi-face as the New Site for Digital Commodification of Race" at the Southwest Popular/American Culture Association (SWPACA). Da-Shiva D. Francois specializes in creative writing, post-colonialism theory, and diasporic literature. ([dashiva.francois@uta.edu](mailto:dashiva.francois@uta.edu))

**Sydney Gillentine** holds a BFA in Creative Writing from Stephen F. Austin State University and is currently pursuing an MA in English at the University of Texas at Arlington. She holds one of two Master's Graduate Teaching Assistantships at the university, where she teaches Rhetoric and Composition I. She also serves as Editor-In-Chief of *twoOthree*, UT Arlington's Creative Journal. Sydney has multiple national and international publications in creative nonfiction which include "The Grass is Greener" in *Levitate*, and "Mashed Potatoes" in *The Blue Route*. She aims to pursue a PhD in Information Sciences through archival research and African American studies. ([sydney.gillentine@uta.edu](mailto:sydney.gillentine@uta.edu))

**James Taylor Hoekstra** is pursuing his Master's in English at the University of Texas at Arlington. He aims to obtain a Ph.D. in Poetry later in his academic career and wants to use that to teach Poetry, and is currently studying independently under the guidance of Dr. O'Reilly. James works as a tutor at the Writing Center. This will be his first time presenting at an academic conference. ([cjh6164@mavs.uta.edu](mailto:cjh6164@mavs.uta.edu))

**Ashlei Jones** is pursuing a master's in history at the University of Texas at Arlington. She specializes in African American history and pop culture history, with a focus on music in America. ([anj3936@mavs.uta.edu](mailto:anj3936@mavs.uta.edu))

**Luis Macias Barrientos** is pursuing a Ph.D. in Urban Planning and Public Policy at UTA. He teaches PLAN 3301—The Metroplex and works on projects in Sand Branch, an informal community in Southeast Dallas County and the Gulf Bend region. Previously, he taught high school AP Human Geography and Mexican American Studies at Trinidad Garza Early College High School for six years. ([luis.macias@mavs.uta.edu](mailto:luis.macias@mavs.uta.edu))

**Jennifer Molton** is a master's student studying Rhetoric and Composition at Georgia State University. In addition to her studies, Jennifer works as a staff member at the Writing Studio on campus. Jennifer has research interests in feminist rhetoric, philosophy, and African-American cultural studies. ([jmolton2@student.gsu.edu](mailto:jmolton2@student.gsu.edu))

**Madison Lynae Ochoa** is pursuing a Masters in English at the University of Texas at Arlington, with an interest in disability representation in literature and media. In addition, Lynae holds a Chief Editor of Fiction position for the *TwoOThree* Journal of the Arts at UTA. ([mlo1439@mavs.uta.edu](mailto:mlo1439@mavs.uta.edu))

**Lori Salazar** is pursuing a Masters in English at Texas Christian University specializing in Literature and Film Studies. Lori is interested in a slew of film studies topics that range from Indigenous and Latinx representation in cable television, pre-code horror films, and more. Lori has also written film critique articles for the San Antonio Current. ([lori.j.salazar@tcu.edu](mailto:lori.j.salazar@tcu.edu))

**Najeeba Shahim** is a first year PhD student at Southern Methodist University with a special interest in queer theory, women writers, and decolonial theory. ([nshahim@mail.smu.edu](mailto:nshahim@mail.smu.edu))

**Amar Bahadur Sherma** a former Fulbright TEA fellow at California State University for cohort 2018, is pursuing a Ph.D. in English at the University of Texas at Arlington. His research areas include culture, gender, critical theory, rhetoric, migration and refugee, human rights, technical writing, etc. His research works have been published in peer-reviewed journals like Nepal English Language Teachers' Association, American Journal of Arts and Human Science, International Journal of Arts and Social Science, Journal of English Teaching, Praxis International Journal of Social Science and Literature, etc. He also serves as an editor, English textbook writer, and freelancer for Nepal. ([abs3672@mavs.uta.edu](mailto:abs3672@mavs.uta.edu))



**Rachel Sullivan** is a second year English PhD student at the University of North Texas where she studies speculative fiction and narratology. She teaches Composition I and II, and will be teaching a course on women's dystopian fiction entitled *Girls on Fire* in the upcoming fall semester. When she's not teaching, writing, or working on her comps reading list, Rachel enjoys spending time with her two children and pursuing old lady hobbies (gardening, knitting, and crocheting). ([rachelsullivan2@my.unt.edu](mailto:rachelsullivan2@my.unt.edu))

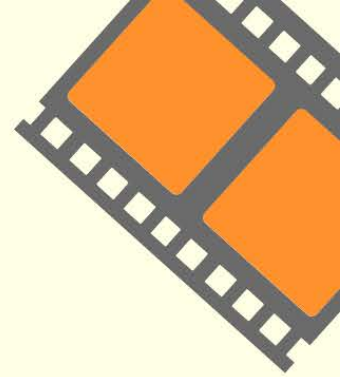
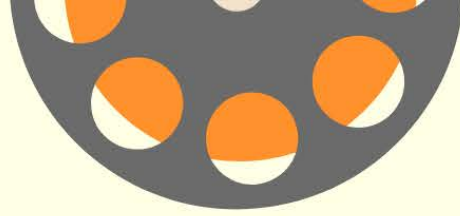
**Lindsey Surratt** is a PhD student at University of Texas Arlington, teaching Austen-centric courses and as assistant director to First-Year Writing. Her dissertation is entitled "Lost Before Austen: The Forgotten Texts of the Women Who Inspired Austen," a study on the works of Elizabeth Inchbald and Maria Edgeworth and their connection to Austen. When not moonlighting as an Austen scholar, Mrs. Surratt enjoys trips in single-engine aircraft with her pilot spouse and raising seven daughters, trying to outdo Mrs. Bennet. You can find her at [@moremartinlessbennet](https://www.linkedin.com/in/lindsey-bre-surratt/) and <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lindsey-bre-surratt/>. ([lindsey.surratt@uta.edu](mailto:lindsey.surratt@uta.edu))

**Gayathri Suseel** is a first-year PhD student at SMU. She is from Kerala, India. She has an undergraduate degree in English from the University of Mumbai and a master's degree in literature from the English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad. She's interested in post-colonialism, the Indian caste system, and minority literature, and women writers. ([gsuseel@smu.edu](mailto:gsuseel@smu.edu))

**John Adam Tomes** is a recent Master's graduate from the University of Texas at Arlington. His degree is in English with an emphasis on rhetoric. His poetry works have recently been published by Eber and Wein publishing house in their 2023 anthology of poets. He is currently teaching Rhetoric and Composition here at UTA. ([john.tomes@mavs.uta.edu](mailto:john.tomes@mavs.uta.edu))

**Sean Woodard** is an English PhD candidate at the University of Texas at Arlington. He also serves as Assistant Editor for *Global Insight: A Journal of Critical Human Science and Culture*. He has contributed (or has forthcoming) peer-reviewed chapters to scholarly edited collections and articles to academic journals. His research interests include horror cinema, the American West, psychoanalysis, creative writing pedagogy, fairy tales, and film scoring. ([sean.woodard@uta.edu](mailto:sean.woodard@uta.edu))

**June Yoon** is a first-year English MA student at Georgetown University. Her study interests include identity and class subjectivity, science fiction films and literature, and post-colonialism. As a writer and prospective scholar, her goal is to capture and illuminate marginalized voices in and through mainstream media. Currently, she is a member of the Georgetown Writing Centre and is looking forward to becoming an EGSA board member next school year. ([jhy51@georgetown.edu](mailto:jhy51@georgetown.edu))



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