

**Midwest Popular Culture Association
and
Midwest American Culture Association**
Annual Conference

Friday, October 3 – Sunday, October 5, 2025

MPCA/ACA Website: [#mpca25](https://www.mpcaaca.org)

Conference Coordinator: Paul Booth, DePaul University, pbooth81@gmail.com

Program Book Editors: program@mpcaaca.org

Shanna Gilkeson, Eastern Michigan University, sgilkeso@emich.edu

Scott Owen Chappuis, Trine University, chappuiss@trine.edu

J. Scott Jordan, Illinois State University, jsjorda@ilstu.edu

REGISTRATION

Registration will need to be completed online for each conference attendee and presenter.

Once you've registered for the conference, you will receive email confirmations.

All times listed in the program are listed in Central Standard Time.

SPECIAL EVENTS TBD

The Popular Culture Studies Journal

The Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (MPCA/ACA) is the home of a journal in the field of popular culture studies.

Aims and scope:

Popular culture is at the heart of democratic citizenship. It serves as an engine driving technology, innovation, and information, as well as a methodological lens employed by the many fields that examine culture, often from an interdisciplinary perspective. Managed by The Midwest Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association (MPCA/ACA), The Popular Culture Studies Journal is an academic, refereed journal for scholars, academics, and students from the many disciplines that study America and American culture. The journal serves its membership and scholars globally who recognize and support its mission based on expanding the way we view popular culture as a fundamental component within the contemporary world.

Topics covered:

Analysis of the proceedings of the Midwest PCA/ACA and the national organization reveals that most popular culture scholars are interested in American-based:

- Film
- Music
- Television
- Sports
- Celebrity Culture
- Technology
- Literature
- Comics/Cartoons/Graphic Novels

However, many scholars approach these topics from an interdisciplinary perspective, which adds significant value over single-issue or more focused/specialized journals.

Editor: Michael J. Blouin, pcsj@mpcaaca.org

MPCA/ACA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President: Julia Largent Kuttler, McPherson College, president@mpcaaca.org

Vice President and President-Elect: Cory Barker, Penn State University,
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At-Large Member: Allen Babiarz-Lira

At-Large Member: Barry Cole, University of Alabama

Conference Coordinator: Paul Booth, DePaul University, pbooth81@gmail.com

Editor, The Popular Culture Studies Journal: Michael J. Blouin,
pcsj@mpcaaca.org

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

MPCA/ACA gratefully acknowledges the help of Professor Melissa Tully, University of Iowa Director of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication and Professor Brian Ekdale, University of Iowa, School of Journalism and Mass Communication. This conference could not have run without their assistance.

In addition, we would like to thank the following people, without whom we would not have been able to hold a conference this year:

Liz Cecil, University of Iowa, School of Journalism and Mass Communication

John Cory, University of Iowa, Event Services

Carry Don, DePaul University, College of Communication

Lea Palmeno, DePaul University, College of Communication

Laurel Shimasaki, DePaul University, College of Communication

Land Recognition Statement

We acknowledge that we are meeting on traditional Native lands that are today home to representatives of well over one hundred different tribal nations. We extend our respect to all of them, including the Ojibwe/Anishinaabe (Chippewa), Báxoje (Iowa), Kikapú (Kickapoo), Omāēqnomenēwak (Menominee), Myaamiaki (Miami), Nutachi (Missouri), Umo^{ho} (Omaha), Wahzhazhe (Osage), Jiwere (Otoe), Odawaa (Ottawa), Páⁿka (Ponca), Bodéwadmi/Neshnabé (Potawatomi), Meskwaki/Nemahahaki/Sakiwaki (Sac and Fox), Dakota/Lakota/Nakoda, Sahnish/Nuxbaaga/Nuweta (Three Affiliated Tribes) and Ho-Chunk (Winnebago) Nations.

The following tribal nations, Umo^{ho} (Omaha Tribe of Nebraska and Iowa), Páⁿka (Ponca Tribe of Nebraska), Meskwaki (Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa), and Ho-Chunk (Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska) Nations continue to thrive in the State of Iowa and we continue to acknowledge them.

We acknowledge that these sacred homelands were ruptured by the European invasion of the Americas. In 1493, Pope Alexander VI promulgated the Doctrine of Discovery, which seized Native lands and resources with impunity. This doctrine has been used by countries throughout the Americas, including the U.S., to legitimize colonial policies of displacement and genocide toward Native peoples and to justify colonial legacies of white superiority and global capitalism.

As MPCA is an organization that studies culture and how it impacts those around us, we reaffirm our commitment, both as an organization and as individuals, to help make our community and our society a more equitable, welcoming, and just place for all.

Adapted from the University of Iowa's Land Recognition Statement found here:
<https://uicbr.uiowa.edu/sites/uicbr.uiowa.edu/files/imports/NAC-Land-Acknowledgment-2.pdf>

Keynote Speaker Information Coming Soon!

Draft #1

Featured Speaker Information Coming Soon!

Draft #1

MEETINGS OF THE MIDWEST POPULAR CULTURE ASSOCIATION AND AMERICAN CULTURE ASSOCIATION

1973: Duluth, Minnesota	2000: No Meeting
1974: Chicago, Illinois	2001: No Meeting
1975: Kalamazoo, Michigan	2002: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1976: Bowling Green, Ohio	2003: Minneapolis, Minnesota
1977: Normal, Illinois	2004: Cleveland, Ohio
1978: East Lansing, Michigan	2005: St. Louis, Missouri
1979: Bowling Green, Ohio	2006: Indianapolis, Indiana
1980: Kalamazoo, Michigan	2007: Kansas City, Missouri
1981: Columbus, Ohio	2008: Cincinnati, Ohio
1982: Terre Haute, Indiana	2009: Detroit, Michigan
1983: Bowling Green, Ohio	2010: Bloomington, Minnesota
1984: Bloomington, Indiana	2011: Milwaukee, Wisconsin
1985: Chicago, Illinois	2012: Columbus, Ohio
1986: Kalamazoo, Michigan	2013: St. Louis, Missouri
1987: Kirkwood, Missouri	2014: Indianapolis, Indiana
1988: Bowling Green, Ohio	2015: Cincinnati, Ohio
1989: Lansing, Michigan	2016: Chicago, Illinois
1990: Toledo, Ohio	2017: St. Louis, Missouri
1991: Cleveland, Ohio	2018: Indianapolis, Indiana
1992: Indianapolis, Indiana	2019: Cincinnati, Ohio
1993: East Lansing, Michigan	2020: Virtual Conference
1994: Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	2021: Minneapolis, Minnesota
1995: Indianapolis, Indiana	2022: Chicago, Illinois
1996: Bowling Green, Ohio	2023: Chicago, Illinois
1997: Traverse City, Michigan	2024: Chicago, Illinois
1998: No Meeting	2025: Iowa City, Iowa
1999: No Meeting	2026: Muncie, Indiana

Upcoming Conferences

PCA/ACA 2026 – Atlanta, Georgia (April 8-11, 2026)

Popular Culture Association and American Culture Association National Conference

<https://www.pcaaca.org>

Submission Deadline: TBD

DePaul Pop Culture Conference – Chicago, Illinois (May 2, 2026)

<https://www.popcultureconference.com>

Submission Deadline: Jan 31, 2026

MPCA/ACA 2026 – Muncie, Indiana (October 9-11, 2026)

Midwest Popular Culture Association and American Culture Association National Conference

<https://mpcaaca.org/>

Submission Deadline: May 15, 2026

List of Vendors

uipress.uiowa.edu

Scholar's Choice

Representative: Mary Lynn
Howe

www.scholarschoice.com

Anaphora Literary Press

Representative: Anna
Faktorovich

anaphoraliterary.com

McFarland Publishing

Representative: Layla Milholen
mcfarlandbooks.com

University of Iowa Hevelin
Fanzines Collection

Representative: Peter Balestrieri

<https://digital.lib.uiowa.edu/hevelin>

University of Iowa Press

Representative: Meredith
Wadkins-Stabel

PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

Friday, October 3

Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Registration

3rd Floor Lobby

Exhibits

Big Ten Lobby

Friday 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

1101

Friday 9:00-10:30

Room 335 (Zoom Panel)

PopPourri 1

“To Whom It May Not Concern: AI as a New Space for Self-Disclosure,” Jake Manning, Marshall University, Manning50@marshall.edu

“A Cordial Invitation to *Murderbot*,” Hannah Ellsworth, California State University Fresno, hannahme01@mail.fresnostate.edu

“Flying with Power: A Pop Culture Analysis,” Andee Lyons, University of Utah, u1406745@utah.edu

Panel Chair:

1102

Friday 9:00-10:30

Room 337

The Environment in Popular Culture

“A Day at Dickson Mounds: Imagining Indigenous Futures in a State of Indigenous Absence,” Tom Bowers, Northern Kentucky University, bowerst1@nku.edu

“The Eco-Societies of Kim Stanley Robinson,” William Scarborough, University of Akron, wjs48@uakron.edu

“Eco-transformation and Player-Avatar Complicity in Environmental Destruction with *Final Fantasy XVI*,” Indira Neill Hoch, University of the Pacific, ineill@pacific.edu

“Vital Necroscenes: Internet Memes as Visual Tools a Call for Environmentalism,” Samantha Stein-Brevitz, Michigan Technological University, sbstein@mtu.edu

Panel Chair:

1103

Friday 9:00-10:30

Room 343

African-American Popular Culture

“Black Comics and Graphic Novels - Creative Lecturing Approaches to a 21st Century HBCU Population,” Elizabeth Johnson, Tennessee State University, ejohn106@tnstate.edu; Aaron Khan, Tennessee State University, akhan8@tnstate.edu; Stephanie Rodriguez, Tennessee State University, srodri17@tnstate.edu

Panel Chair:

1104

Friday 9:00-10:30

Room 345

Television 1

“America: Made in *The Sopranos*’: Internal and External Threats in George W. Bush's and Tony Soprano's America(s),” Akash Shetye, Ohio State, shetye.4@buckeyemail.osu.edu

“*Mayor of Kingstown* and the Permeable Prison Boundary,” Amy Phillips, Grand Valley State University, philamy@mail.gvsu.edu

“Heal Thyself in a War for All Seasons: Gender, Sexuality, and Korean Representation in Seasons 8 & 9 of *M*A*S*H*,” Britt Rhuart, University of New Mexico - Gallup, brhuart@bgsu.edu;
Liz Seung-A Lee, affiliation needed, email needed

“The State of the Procedural and the Procedural of the State,” Will Hella, University of Iowa, will-hella@uiowa.edu

Panel Chair:

1105

Friday 9:00-10:30

Room 347

Video Games

“Cheating and Integrity in Video Games,” Charles Joshua Horn, University of Wisconsin Stevens Point, jhorn@uwsp.edu

“‘You’re a Sick Man, Arthur Morgan’: To Die as a Man in *Red Dead Redemption 2*,” Brennan Moline, University of Birmingham, BrittaMoline@gmail.com

“The Ghosts of Sumeru: A Hauntology Look at *Genshin Impact*,” Paul A. Thomas, University of Kansas, paulthomas@ku.edu

“In the Name of Care and Empowerment: Playing Female-Oriented Video Games as Postfeminism Practices Within the Chinese Speaking Community,” Wenxiang Zeng, University of Iowa, zengwenxiang9@gmail.com

Panel Chair:

Friday 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

1201

Friday 10:45-12:15

Room 335 (Zoom Panel)

Adaptations

“Serializing Latinas in USA’s *The Purge*,” Ahmad Hayat, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, ahayat@utk.edu

“Comparative Nostalgia and Pastiche in Contemporary Hollywood: *The Lion King* Dangers and *Spider-Verse* Reinventions,” Matthew Huh, Columbia University/Independent Scholar, mmh2269@columbia.edu

“Right in the F*cked Middle: Fixing the Fix of *Fixing Troilus & Cressida*,” Cason Murphy, Iowa State University, cwmurphy@iastate.edu

“Selective Vows: Dissecting The Book of Common Prayer on Screen in *Bridgerton*,” Christine D. Myers, Independent Scholar, cdmyers@mail.com

Panel Chair:

1202

Friday 10:45-12:15

Room 337

Lights, Camera, Pedagogy, and Puppets: Student Engagement and the Arts at a Small, Midwest College

“From the Page to the Stage: How to Transform a Campus into a Movie Set,” Max Leonida, William Penn University, max.leonida@wmpenn.edu

“Reel Connections: Fostering Student Engagement Through Film Production,” Wilton S. Wright, William Penn University, Wilton.Wright@wmpenn.edu

“Big Puppets, Small Towns: Creating Community Through Giant Spectacle,” Brant Bollman, William Penn University, brant.bollman@wmpenn.edu

“Creative Leadership: Supporting Creativity Through University Administration,” Sam Allen Wright, William Penn University, samantha.allen@wmpenn.edu; Kaitlin Ardolino, William Penn University, kaitlinardolino@wmpenn.edu

Panel Chair:

1203

Friday 10:45-12:15

Room 343

Celebrity and Stardom 1

“I Bet You Think This Paper’s About You: Easter Eggs and Plausible Deniability in Carly Simon,”
Christina Irmén, Indiana University, Bloomington, cirmen@iu.edu

“The Tyrant: *Cowboy Carter* and the Country Music Genre,” Emile Imanov, Indiana University of
Pennsylvania, dscfc@iup.edu

“‘Emily – Evermore!’: The Post-Pandemic, Swift-ification, and Pop Culture Resurgence of Emily
Dickinson,” Marci Heatherly, Pittsburg State University, mheatherly@gus.pittstate.edu

Panel Chair:

1204

Friday 10:45-12:15

Room 345

New Media 1

“From Talk to Takedown: The Role of Podcasts in the Far-Right Assault on European Democracy,”
David Dowling, University of Iowa, david-dowling@uiowa.edu; Md. Sazzad Hossain
Hossain, Affiliation needed, Email needed

“When Law Goes Pop: Examining Lawfluencers on YouTube During the First 100 Days of Trump's
Second Term,” Sang Jung Kim, University of Iowa, sangjung-kim@uiowa.edu; Brett
Johnson, Affiliation needed, Email needed

“‘How to Assure Women in Public That You’re Not a Threat’: Performative Solidarity of the Digital
Manosphere Through TikTok Trends Among Young Men,” Kelly Notine, Rutgers University
- Newark, kn535@scarletmail.rutgers.edu

“Social Media Campaign Strategies: A Case Study of Political Issue Framing by 2024 Presidential
Candidates in Ghana,” Alexander Tawiah, University of Iowa, alexandertawiah7@gmail.com

Panel Chair:

1205

Friday 10:45-12:15

Room 347

PopPourri 2

“Analyzing Beauty Cream Advertisements: Comparison between Bangladesh and US,” Iftila Jannat Mow, University of South Dakota, iftilajannat.mow@coyotes.usd.edu

“Mass Culture and Mass Murder: *In Cold Blood*, *Helter Skelter*, and the Aesthetic Ideology of *True Crime*,” Pinar Tasdemir, University of Wisconsin-Madison, tasdemir@wisc.edu

“Royal Pains: A Crisis of Trust for the Royal Family,” Morgan McFadden, DePaul University, morganmcfadden24@gmail.com

“Griots and Bloodsuckers: An Exploration of the Movie *Sinners*,” Ayanna Gaines, Woodbury University, ayanna.gaines@woodbury.edu

Panel Chair:

Friday 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

1301

Friday 12:30-2:00

Room 335 (Hybrid Panel)

Disney Studies

“The Sound of ‘Race’: Disney’s *Dumbo* and the Roosevelt White House in and about 1941,” Danielle Glassmeyer, Bradley University, dglassmeyer@bradley.edu

“From Rags to Rhinestones: *Cinderella* Through a Drag Lens,” Viviane Martini, martini.viviane@gmail.com, martini.viviane@gmail.com

“Bringing Disney to the Classroom: Entertainment Education and the Conglomeration,” Allen Babiarz-Lira, Vol State Community College, allen.babiarz-lira@volstate.edu

Panel Chair:

1302

Friday 12:30-2:00

Room 337

Rhetorical Studies

“Take the Pudding and Leave the Writing Alone: A Rhetorical Analysis as a Vehicle to Talk about Students’ Use of AI,” Blake R. Westerlund, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, westerbr@uwec.edu

“Material Girls: Gendered Identity in Clothing, Shopping, and the Retail Environment,” Audrey Hogan, Loyola University Chicago, ahogan7@luc.edu

“Becoming Visible: Masculinity, Play, and the Democratic Habitus in Contemporary Romanian Documentary,” Alina Haliliuc, Denison University, haliliuca@denison.edu

“‘Impotence Is Beautiful, Baby!’ The Rhetoric of White Male Anxiety and Recuperation in American Films of 1970,” William Sewell, Dakota State University, william.sewell@dsu.edu

Panel Chair:

1303

Friday 12:30-2:00

Room 343

TIPS

“TBA,” Julia Largent Kuttler, McPherson College, largentj@mcpherson.edu

Panel Chair:

1304

Friday 12:30-2:00

Room 345

Music 1

“Ears to See, Eyes to Hear: Punk Music and Rhetorical Listening in the Classroom,” Lyndsey Lepovitz, Independent Scholar, lepovitzlyndsey@gmail.com

“Anthems of a Seventeen Year-Old Girl: Shimmering Sounds, ‘Sad-Girl Lesbian Music’ and Trans Coming-of-Age Horror in Jane Schoenbrun’s *I Saw the TV Glow* (2024),” Lara Hrycaj, Governors State University, lara.hrycaj@gmail.com

“Dead Kennedys and the Awakening of Social Consciousness as Social,” Christopher Innes, Boise State University, cinnes@boisestate.edu

“Singing Power: Music as Political Critique in Nigeria, 1999-2024,” Abubakar Ibrahim, University of Iowa, abubakar-ibrahim@uiowa.edu

Panel Chair:

1305

Friday 12:30-2:00

Room 347

Killers, The Dead, and Dystopia

“Serial Killer as Icon,” Anastasia Rose Hyden, Bowling Green State University, ahyden@bgsu.edu

“*Dexter* Then and Now: Exemplifying The U.S. Political Unconscious and the Exploration of Moral Ideals,” Ashley M. Donnelly, Ball State University, amdonnelly@bsu.edu

“‘Evil Is Not a Cultural Phenomenon’: Necrotic Phenomenology, Scopophilia, and Pop Culture’s Fascination with Dead Women,” Dany Prince, Howard University, pastellegeek@gmail.com

“‘Every dystopia contains a utopia’: Crushing Violence and Hints of Liberation in George Romero’s *Dawn of the Dead*, *Day of The Dead*, and *Land of the Dead*,” Ralph Beliveau, University of Oklahoma, beliveau@ou.edu

Panel Chair:

Friday 2:15 – 3:45 p.m.

1401

Friday 2:15-3:45

Room 335 (Zoom Panel)

PopPourri 3

“Unsettling the Model Youth: Tales of Failures in Post-Socialist Chinese Literature and Culture,”
Shan He, University of Arizona, shanhe@arizona.edu

“The Mississippi Delta: Field Workers and Their ‘Blue Devils’,” Patrice Paul Larroque, Université
Toulouse-Jean Jaurès, France, larroque.patrice53@gmail.com

“Tombs as Wombs: Patriarchal Appropriation of Reproduction in *Frankenstein* and *The Twilight Saga*,”
Alexa Keough, University of New Hampshire, alexa.keough@unh.edu

“From HAL9000 to Ava: Ethical Imaginaries of Artificial Intelligence in Popular Culture,” Lars R.
Vadjina, University of Tübingen, lars.vadjina@student.uni-tuebingen.de

Panel Chair:

1402

Friday 2:15-3:45

Room 337

Politics

“Infinite Absolute Negativity: Elon Musk, Unstable Irony, and the Weaponization of Ambiguity in
Contemporary Political Discourse,” Luke Brekhus, University of Nevada, Las Vegas,
Brekhus@unlv.nevada.edu

“Be Proud or Be Feared?: A Qualitative Content Analysis of Alternative News Media Depictions of
the LGBTQIA+ Community During Trump’s Second Term,” Scott Owen Chappuis, Trine
University, chappuiss@trine.edu

“Radiophonic Feminisms: Latina Voices in the Digital Age of Broadcasting,” Esther Diaz Martin,
University of Illinois Chicago, edmarti@uic.edu

“‘I’m Just a Girl’: How Celebrity News & Trad-Wife Content is Steering Gen-Z Women to the
Right,” Camila Flores, Syracuse University, cflore01@syr.edu

Panel Chair:

1403

Friday 2:15-3:45

Room 343

Pedagogy

“Popularizing Pedagogy: Incorporating Popular Media in Classroom Practice,” Alina Thurman, University of North Georgia, AlinaSFitzner@gmail.com

“The Teachers are Not Okay... Except for Maybe in this Facebook Group?: An Analysis of an Online Community of High School English Teachers,” Melissa Ames, Eastern Illinois University, mames@eiu.edu

“‘Honey, Life Is Just a Classroom’: Using Music and Popular Culture to Teach Rhetorical Analysis in First-Year Composition,” Makayla Malachowski, Missouri State University, Makayla413@live.missouristate.edu

“How are Higher Ed. Faculty and Staff of Color Navigating Current Challenges? Interviews and Personal Narratives,” Jim Sernoe, Midwestern State University, jim.sernoe@msutexas.edu

Panel Chair:

1404

Friday 2:15-3:45

Room 345

Race and Ethnicity

“Equity in *Star Trek*,” Jason A. Kaufman, Minnesota State University, Mankato, jason.kaufman@mnsu.edu; Aaron M. Peterson, Converse University, aaron.peterson@converse.edu

“Screams, Tears and Blood: The Childbirth Spectacle in Nigerian Indigenous,” Ganiyat Tijani-Adenle, Lagos State University, Nigeria, ganiyat.adenle@lasu.edu.ng

“From the Monster to the Victim? Blackfishing and White Woman Tears,” Julie Snyder-Yuly, Marshall University, University of Wyoming, snyderyuly@marshall.edu; Tracey Owens Patton, University of Wyoming, **Email needed**

“An Exploration of Older Black Adults’ Information and Communication Technology Experiences,” David Stamps, Bentley University, dstamps@bentley.edu

Panel Chair:

1405

Friday 2:15-3:45

Room 347

Becoming Iconic: Jim Morrison's Youthful Persona and Building TV Personality

“Origins of an L.A. Superstar: Jim Morrison’s Cold War Military Upbringing,” Jason R. Kirby,
Francis Marion University, jason.kirby@fmarion.edu

“Localizing Stories: Communicating History in Mass Media across Diverse Urban Cultures,” Raffi
Andonian, Harris-Stowe State University, raffi@raffiandonian.com

Panel Chair:

Friday 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

1501

Friday 4:00-5:30

Room 335 (Zoom Panel)

LGBTQ+ in Popular Culture

“The Miseducation of Netflix’s *Sex Education*: An Argument for Better LGBTQIA+
Representation,” Eden Bailey, Purdue University Fort Wayne, sedwkj01@pfw.edu

“Glee Now & Then: Perpetuating & Deconstructing Gendered Fantasies,” Amberlin Smith, Stony
Brook University, amberlin.smith@stonybrook.edu

“‘As Ugly a Name As Need Be’: Abject Bodies and Detected Skin in Wilkie Collins’s *The Moonstone*,”
Sarah Licht, University of Wisconsin-Madison, sarahlicht@bellsouth.net

“‘Same Time Next Week’: An Analysis of Queer Time in Tabletop Roleplaying,” Delenn Jazdia
Ganyo, Independent Scholar, delenn@ganyo.com

“Paranoid Readings and Contemporary Horror: A Look at *Midnight Mass*,” e oropez, Independent
Scholar, eaoropez@uwaterloo.ca

Panel Chair:

1502

Friday 4:00-5:30

Room 337

Horror

“Who’s Afraid of the Dallas Police? Stephen King’s *The Tommyknockers* and Capitalist Ideological Preservation,” Elias Long, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, eliasmlong@gmail.com

“Horror Goes Underground, Literally: How Abandoned Mines Became a Common Horror Trope,” Brian Leech, Augustana College, brianleech@augustana.edu

“‘Fresh’ Takes on Love: Zambrano, Laura Kahn and Women’s Contemporary Romantic Landscape,” Sumor Sheppard, Prairie View A & M University, susheppard@pvamu.edu

“Metafictional Mind Games in *Black Mirror*’s ‘Bête Noire’,” Lori Newcomb, Wayne State College, LoNewco1@wsc.edu

Panel Chair:

1503

Friday 4:00-5:30

Room 345

Roundtable: The Black Superwoman & Mental Health: Power & Pain

Panelists: Venise Berry, University of Iowa, venise-berry@uiowa.edu; Janette Taylor, University of Iowa, janette-taylor@uiowa.edu; Katrina Harden Williams, Drake University, [Email address needed](#); JoAnne Banks, University of Missouri, [Email address needed](#); Tianna Newell, The Purpose Place Church, info@purposeplaceia.org; Vergarie Sanford, T. Zion Refuge Center, [Email address needed](#)

Panel Chair:

1504

Friday 4:00-5:30

Room 345

Docudrama

“South Korean Radio Docudramas and Post-War Healing,” Jina E. Kim, University of Oregon,
jinak@uoregon.edu

“Docudrama Strategies in US Television Dramas of the 1970s,” Kathleen Battles, Oakland
University, battles@oakland.edu

“LGBT Representation in US Television Docudramas of the 1980s and 1990s,” Wendy
Hilton-Morrow, Augustana College, WendyHilton-Morrow@augustana.edu

Panel Chair:

1505

Friday 4:00-5:30

Room 347

Tabletop and Board Games

“Tracking Exclusion: The Culture of Allusion in American Chess,” Zackary Davis, Saint Louis
University, zackary.davis@slu.edu

“Tragedy plus Time Equals ... Board Games? Exploring Tabletop Representations of the Titanic
Disaster,” Brendan Rile, Columbia College Chicago, briley@colum.edu

“Playing with Race: How *Dungeons and Dragons* Reinforces and Challenges Bioessentialism,” Griffin
Joseph Polley, University of Iowa, gpolley53102@gmail.com

“The Mall has Always Been a Game,” Saul Kutnicki, North Central College, sdkutnicki@noctrl.edu

Panel Chair:

Friday 5:45 – 7:00 p.m.

Featured Speaker: TBD

Black Box Theater (Room 360)

Awards and Reception Immediately Following

Saturday, October 4

Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Registration

3rd Floor Lobby

Exhibits

Big Ten Lobby

Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

2101

Saturday 9:00-10:30

Room 335 (Hybrid Panel)

Sports Culture

“Dominant, Residual, Emergent? Tracing Cricket’s Cultural Trajectory in America,” Glenn Houlihan, University of Iowa, glenn-houlihan@uiowa.edu

“Fit to Influence: Body Image, Exercise, and the Politics of Fitness Culture on Instagram,” Valerie Gruet, Northwestern University, valgruet@u.northwestern.edu

“Hometown Hawkeyes: Remediating Midwest Sporting Cultures,” Jennifer Sterling, University of Iowa, jennifer-sterling@uiowa.edu

“Sportainment in the Streaming Age: Unrivaled and the New Sports Economy of Women’s Professional Basketball,” Chloe Kwiatkowski, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, kwiatk52@uwm.edu

Panel Chair:

2103

Saturday 9:00-10:30

Room 343

Celebrity and Stardom 2

“Auntie-boss Feminism: Liu Xiaoqing and Alternative Aging Femininity in 2020s Chinese Society,”
Shu Wan, University at Buffalo, shuwan@buffalo.edu

“Adidas Says BYE,” Valeria Ruiz, DePaul University, vruiz@depaul.edu; Marina Rutter, DePaul
University, [Email address needed](#); Jarriae Anderson, DePaul University, [Email address
needed](#); Mareen Fagan, DePaul University, [Email address needed](#)

“‘A Diamond in a Rhinestone World’: The Performance and Politics of Dolly Parton,” William
Bonfiglio, Saint Louis University, william.bonfiglio@slu.edu

Panel Chair:

2104

Saturday 9:00-10:30

Room 345

DocuDrama 2

“The Problems and Possibilities of an Impure Genre,” Joy Elizabeth Hayes, University of Iowa,
joy-hayes@uiowa.edu

“The Sports Docudrama in the Age of Authorized Sports Documentaries,” Travis Vogan, University
of Iowa, tvogan@uiowa.edu

“Podcasting Audio Docudramas,” Amanda Keeler, Marquette University,
amanda.keeler@marquette.edu

Panel Chair:

2105

Saturday 9:00-10:30

Room 347

PopPourri 4

“Schedules, Senses, and Sex: Negotiating Spontaneity in Autistic Sexual Encounters,” Sam Kizer, Ohio University, samkizer@ohio.edu

“Contemporary Representations of Disabled Sexuality and the Able-Bodied Gaze,” Zoe Parris, DePaul University, zparris@depaul.edu

“‘If You’re in on the Joke’: The Rhetoric of Violence in *Death Proof*,” Ned Gidley, University of Kansas, egidley@ku.edu

“2020s Racial Discomfort in *Killers of the Flower Moon*, *Armageddon Time*, and American Higher Education,” Paul D. Peters, Baldwin Wallace University, pauldonaldpeters@gmail.com

Panel Chair:

Saturday 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

2201

Saturday 10:45-12:15

Room 335 (Hybrid Panel)

Music 1

“Gesamtkunst-what? The Total (Pop-)Artwork After World War II,” Jesse Schlotterbeck, Denison University, schlotterbec@denison.edu

“Yesterday's Gone: Appreciating the Pathos of Christine McVie,” John Chappell, Webster University, chappejo@webster.edu

“Broadcasting Change: Local Radio, Local Culture, and Health Communication in West Pokot, Kenya,” David Lomoywara, The University of Iowa, david-lomoywara@uiowa.edu

“*Sesame Street* and Chromatic Jazz Scales: An Exploration of Pinball and Civilizations,” Kate Morgan, Multilingual Society of the US, vocalizedmorphemes@gmail.com

Panel Chair:

2203

Saturday 10:45-12:15

Room 343

Fan Studies 1

“Why *NCIS* is a Long-running Show: A Comparison with *Star Trek* (original series), and *House, MD*,” Paul Shiller, Independent Scholar, themoviechemist@gmail.com

“‘Keep Us Connected’: *Strange New Worlds* and *Star Trek*’s Musical Legacy,” Carey Millsap-Spears, Moraine Valley Community College, millsap-spears@morainevalley.edu

“You Can’t Kill Off Captain Nash: Illustrating the Parasocial Continuum with *9-1-1*,” Beth Shiller, Georgia Southwestern State University, elizabeth.shiller@gsw.edu

“‘I Know My Own Name’: Chosen Identity and the Politics of Naming in *Star Trek*,” Azariah Journey, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, arjourney@uncg.edu

Panel Chair:

2204

Saturday 10:45-12:15

Room 345

Horror & Science Fiction

“The Construction of Womanhood and *The Stepford Wives*,” Amanda Duvall, Colorado State University, amandaduvall32@gmail.com

“Framing Fear: Diegetic Camera Horror Content and Communities on YouTube,” Delaney Gobel, DePaul University, delaneygobel@gmail.com

“Bilingual Dracula: Parallels of Language, Narrative, and Historical Fiction in *Y Llegaron de Noche*, the story of the 1931 Spanish Dracula,” Karina Diaz, Northern Illinois University, Z1915177@students.niu.edu

“Black Magic, White Hero: Constructions of Racialized Gender in *Occupation*,” Grace Files, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill, gfiles@uwm.edu

Panel Chair:

2205

Saturday 10:45-12:15

Room 347

What, There's a Disability Narrative?! Uncovering Disability Knowledge in Media

"Speculative Disability Knowledge, Survival, and Queer Crip Hope in *Wilder Girls*," Sam Weiss, University of Illinois, Chicago, sweiss8@uic.edu

"Utopic Disruption: *Star Trek*, Disability, Eugenics & Memory," Bri Noonan, University of Illinois, Chicago, bnoona4@uic.edu

"Disability, Parenthood, and the CODISA Experience in *Next to Normal*," Amelia-Marie Altstadt, University of Illinois, Chicago, aaltst2@uic.edu

Panel Chair:

Saturday 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

Richey Ballroom (Room 374): Luncheon/Membership Meeting

Saturday 2:15 – 3:45 p.m.

2401

Saturday 2:15-3:45

Room 335 (Hybrid Panel)

Television 2

"I Am The Night, Many Many Monkeys, and The Impact of Believing Misinformation in *The Twilight Zone*," Elizabeth Zak, Carthage College, ezak@carthage.edu

"Examining Parasocial Relationships and Breakups on Instagram: How Bachelor Nation Reacts to Political Posts," Katy Biddle, University of Southern Mississippi, kathryn.l.biddle@gmail.com

"Documentary and Parody - The Aesthetics of Mockumentary," Troy Tice, Augustana University, ttice@augie.edu

"*The Traitors*: Reality TV and Streaming Narratives," Leigh H. Edwards, Florida State University, ledwards@fsu.edu

Panel Chair:

2403

Saturday 2:15-3:45

Room 343

Fan Studies 2

“Embracing the Void: Understanding How Lord Huron's Media Enhances the Spirituality of Fans,”
Chris Weber, Governors State University, cweber2@govst.edu

“The Storyteller and His Audience: An Examination of *Springsteen on Broadway*,” Anthony Esposito,
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, aesposito@pennwest.edu

“Engaging with the Excessively Active Audience of *The Real Housewives*,” Kathleen (Katie)
McCollough, Augustana University, kmccollough@augie.edu

“American Glory, Faded Before Me: The Illusion of Prestige and the Crisis of,” Kyle Stanley,
University of Nevada, kylestanley.ks@gmail.com; Chris DeFelice, University of Florida,
Email address needed

Panel Chair:

2404

Saturday 2:15-3:45

Room 347

PopPourri 5

“The New Children of the Corn in American Politics: Religious Distortion in the Pursuit of Power,”
Barry Cole, University of Alabama, bmcole@ua.edu

“Rural Cinema as Anti-Anthropogenic: The Study of *Kantara* as a Revisionist Mythological
Eco-Cinema,” Shavaree Sawant, Michigan Technological University, ssawant@mtu.edu

“Manufacturing Innocence: Gender, Image Control, and Visual Myth in NewJeans' K-pop
Aesthetic,” Joy Chen, University of Kansas, huanbird@ku.edu

“Crocheting a Mompreneurial Identity: Commodifying Gender Online,” Giuliana Piccione, Saint
Louis University, giuliana.piccione@slu.edu

Panel Chair:

2405

Saturday 2:15-3:45

Room 347

Philosophy

“Wild Meaning: Are *Bridgerton*, *The Expanse*, and *Princess Mononoke* Living Systems?” Jerome Scott Jordan, Illinois State University, jsjorda@ilstu.edu

“Erudite Strategies for Speculative Idea Development,” Anna Faktorovich, Dickinson State University, director@anaphoraliterary.com

“Overwhelming Sentimentality: The Coal Mining Song in Contemporary Country Music and the Further Burdens of Climate Advocacy,” Tom Duncanson, Green Citizen Diplomacy Project, tom@tomduncanson.com

Panel Chair:

Saturday 4:00 – 5:15 p.m.

2501

Saturday 4:00-5:30

Room 335 (Hybrid Panel)

Television 3

“Narrative Depictions of Animated Characters in *Bluey* as Equipment for Living,” Megan Westhoff, Pittsburg State University, mcwesthoff@pittstate.edu

“You Can Never Go Back: The Nostalgic Rhetoric of *Twin Peaks*,” Quinn Gienapp, University of South Dakota, quinngienapp@gmail.com

“Sincerity in the Absurd: Nathan Fielder’s Quest for Connection in *The Rehearsal*,” Jose Aparicio, Reynolds Community College, Japaricio52@gmail.com

“Arranging for the Holidays: Lawrence Welk, *The Christmas Song*, and Insights into the ‘Champagne Style’ within American Popular Music, 1957- 1989,” Brian Peterson, Shasta College, bpeterson@shastacollege.edu

Panel Chair:

2503

Saturday 4:00-5:30

Room 343

Presentation

“Iowa Archives of the Avant-Garde,” Peter Balestrieri, University of Iowa Libraries

Panel Chair:

2504

Saturday 4:00-5:30

Room 345

Roundtable: “To Boldly Hope: *Star Trek* in the Face of Trump 2.0,”

Panelists: Shanna R. Gilkeson, Eastern Michigan University, sgilkeso@emich.edu; Jason A. Kaufman, Minnesota State University, Mankato, jason.kaufman@mnsu.edu; Aaron M. Peterson, Converse University, aaron.peterson@converse.edu; Bri Noonan, University of Illinois Chicago, bnoona4@uic.edu; Azariah Journey, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, arjourney@uncg.edu; Paul Shiller, Independent Scholar, themoviechemist@gmail.com; Carey Millsap-Spears, Moraine Valley Community College, Millsap-Spears@morainevalley.edu

Panel Chair:

Saturday 5:45 – 7:00 p.m.

Keynote: Information Coming Soon!

Richey Ballroom (Room 374)

Pub Quiz Immediately Following

Sunday, October 5

Sunday 8:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Registration

3rd Floor Lobby

Exhibits

Big Ten Lobby

Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

3101

Sunday 9:00-10:30

Room 335

Testing the Limits of Memory in Severance

“TBD,” Margaret Scanlan, Northern Illinois University, mscanlan1@niu.edu

“TBD,” Caitlin Gamble, Northern Illinois University, cgamble3@niu.edu

“TBD,” Katrina Diaz, Northern Illinois University, kdiaz2@niu.edu

Panel Chair:

3103

Sunday 9:00-10:30

Room 343

Animation and Anime

“Unicorns of Pop Culture in the 1980s,” Tim Allemang, Emporia State University, talleman@g.emporia.edu

“From Dice Rolls to Dark Realms: Transmedia and Participatory Storytelling in *The Legend of Vox Machina*,” Kristen Livingston, Pittsburg State University, kmlivingston@pittstate.edu

“Monstrous Possibilities: States of Racial Transmutation in *Full Metal Alchemist*,” Cole Graham, The Ohio State University, graham.1342@osu.edu

“From Domestication to Globalization: Translating Anime for Western Audiences,” Mary Boldt, York College of Pennsylvania, mboldt@ycp.edu

Panel Chair:

3104

Sunday 9:00-10:30

Room 345

RPG, Video Games, and Fandom

“You Found a Stardrop! Your mind is filled with thoughts of Fan Communities,” Olivia Sadler, University of Illinois at Chicago, osadle2@uic.edu; Abi Leveille, University of Illinois at Chicago, **NEEDS EMAIL ADDRESS.**

“Double Visions: Exploring the Relationship Between Video Game Seriality and *Genshin Impact* Fan Narratives,” Josh Mishaw, The Ohio State University, mishaw.1@osu.edu

“Uncovering “Americanness” in *The Sims*: A Cross-Cultural Audience Approach,” Sophia Restiffe Favoretto, University of Iowa, srestiffefavoretto@uiowa.edu

“Roll for Insight: Co-created Identities in *Dungeons & Dragons*,” Matthew W. Merklings, Illinois State University, mmerkli@ilstu.edu

Panel Chair:

3105

Sunday 9:00-10:30

Room 347 (Panel)

Dance and Theater

“It’s D’Limit: Cole Porter’s Mid-Career High,” Darryl Clark, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, darryl.clark@siu.edu

“*White Nights*: A Film Forgotten,” Elizabeth Cutherell, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, elizabeth.cutherell@siu.edu

“Racism through Pointe: The Exclusion of African Americans in Ballet,” Yasmin Martinez-Powell, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, yasmin.martinezpowell@siu.edu

Panel Chair:

Sunday 10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

3201

Sunday 10:45-12:15

Room 335

New Media 2

“Love in the Time of TikTok: The Romance Reading Community on BookTok,” Anna Michelson, McPherson College, michelsa@mcpherson.edu

“Netflix’s Adolescence and the Moral Panic of Online Youth Radicalization,” Brian Ekdale, University of Iowa, brian-ekdale@uiowa.edu

“Digital Access and Identity Management: Social Media in the Lives of International Students,” Oluchi Ikwuakam, Marshall University, ikwuakam@marshall.edu

“The Future Foretold: Algorithms, Alternative Spirituality, and the Rise of Digital Divination,” Sara Witmer, University of Iowa, sarah-witmer@uiowa.edu

Panel Chair:

3203

Sunday 10:45-12:15

Room 343

History

“Legacies of Jacksonian Anti-Slavery in Ohio and the Nation,” Michael Leverett Dorn, Independent Scholar, michael.dorn@my.liu.edu

“Past Futures: Appreciating Technological Horizons through Popular Culture,” Mark Sachleben, Shippensburg University, mdsachleben@ship.edu

“The Prettiest Girl in Chicago: America’s First Beauty Pageant, 1865,” Aisha Manus, Independent Historian, cinderella_aisha@hotmail.com

Panel Chair:

3204

Sunday 10:45-12:15

Room 345

Crossing the Streams of Modern Television: A Study of a Medium in 2025

“*Fallout* and the Modern Transmedia Franchise, or How Online Communities Help Make the Wasteland,” Kyle Moody, Fitchburg State University, kmoody4@fitchburgstate.edu

“TikTok TV Fandom: The Evolution of Televisual Community Engagement,” James Carviou, Missouri Western State University, jcarviou@missouriwestern.edu

Panel Chair:

3205

Sunday 10:45-12:15

Room 347

Cultural Studies

“The Role of Media in Language Shift – Marginalization vs Representation,” Ogundeyi Olanrewaju John, North-West University, Mahikeng, South Africa, larry17april@gmail.com

“Two Radio Stations for Two People – The Story of Reshet Gimmel and Galei Tzahal in the 1980s,” Roy Katz, Hebrew University Jerusalem, rokatz@runi.ac.il; Yuval Benziman

“Radiophonic Feminisms: Latina Voices in the Digital Age of Broadcasting,” Esther Diaz Martin, University of Illinois Chicago, edmarti@uic.edu

Panel Chair: