

# THE **POPULAR** CULTURE STUDIES **JOURNAL**

**VOLUME 6**

**NUMBERS 2 & 3**

**2018**

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**BIANCA BATTI** is a PhD candidate in Literary Studies in the department of English at Purdue University. Her current research engages in discussions of feminist methodologies for feminist games studies as well as feminist analyses of representations of gendered labor and family structures in video game narratives. Her work has been published in *Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy*, and also in *Haywire Magazine*, *Not Your Mama's Gamer*, and edited anthologies.

The Popular Culture Studies Journal, Vol. 6, No. 2 & 3  
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**CALEB GREEN** is a Ph.D. student of Communication Studies at the University of Denver. His research examines performances of mental health, disability, and the sociocultural factors structuring both at various intersections. He is an avid fan of professional wrestling and horror.

**ROBERT GUTIERREZ-PEREZ**, Ph.D., is a queer of color scholar, activist, and performance artist from San José, CA who currently resides as an Assistant Professor of Culture and Communication at the University of Nevada, Reno. His research and life revolves around the goal of empowering, remembering, and advocating for queer people of color with a particular focus on the LGBTQ Chicanx and Latinx community. Research interests include critical intercultural communication, performance studies, critical communication pedagogy, and queer of color critique.

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**CATHRYN LADD** is a PhD candidate in the School of Architecture at the University of Sheffield in the UK. Her current research is looking at architectural identity in Tokyo through sensory ethnography and feminist art practice. Other areas of scholarly interest include locating and constructing queer microcosms in urban space, decolonizing place-making, and considering cybernetic and monstrous approaches to our urban futures.

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**MICHAEL LECHUGA** is an Assistant Professor at the University of Minnesota, where he teaches Rhetoric, Migration, Latina/o/x Studies, and Affect Studies. His current research focuses on the role that technology plays in border security mechanisms and the ways alienhood is mapped onto migrant bodies. In addition, Michael is interested in Latina/o/x Futurism, Surveillance Studies, Affect Studies, and Film. Together, Avant-Mier and Lechuga are co-authors of the book *Cine-Mexicans: An Introduction to Chicano Cinema*, Kendall Hunt Publishing (2018).

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**DAWN MARIE D. MCINTOSH** is an independent scholar. She would like to thank Dr. Bernadette Calafell for her labor in our field and putting together this timely special issue.

**EMILY MIDKIFF** holds a PhD in children's literature and literacy from the University of Minnesota and a MA in English literature from Kansas State University. Her research interests include speculative fiction, mythology, picturebooks, comic books, and graphic novels. She ranges across research methodologies from cultural studies to empirical research designs, depending up on the topic at hand. Uniting several of these interests, her next large research project focuses on young children's science fiction literature.

**SHANE AARON MILLER** is a professor in the Communication department at the College of St. Benedict and St. John's University. This paper emerged out of a larger project based on a NEH Enduring Questions grant that examined the question: What is a Monster? (And was subsequently presented as an object of ridicule on the Senate floor by the honorable Jeffrey Beauregard Sessions.) This piece was made possible by the support of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia.

**MARYLOU R. NAUMOFF** earned her PhD in Communication at Wayne State University. Her areas of specialization include Rhetoric, Critical Cultural Theory, Race, Gender, and American identity. Dr. Naumoff is an assistant professor of Communication in the School of Communication and Media at Montclair State University where she also serves as the Coordinator of the Fundamentals of Speech Program.

**MIRANDA OLZMAN** is a PhD student at the University of Denver. She is a/an scholar/artist/activist invested in using her body, voice, and privilege to form lasting impacts within and beyond the academy. Her research blends autoethnographic, performance, and critical scholarship in a fusion of critical inquiry around body type—with an emphasis on fat bodies, body image, and mediated representations as well how those entities inform the way we insert ourselves and our bodies in various spaces.

**KATHERINE ALANIS RAMÍREZ** is a Master's student (M.A. candidate) and Graduate Teaching Assistant in Communication at The University of Texas at El Paso with research interests in zombies and other monsters in popular culture.

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**T. MAY STONE** is gleefully watching the rise of Zombie Studies. Since her Master's degree in American and British literature at Florida Atlantic University, alongside FAU's fantasy literature program, Tracy has been interested in the fantastic, particularly the horror and science fiction genres, through her Ph.D. from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Currently, Tracy teaches fantastic literature as an Assistant Professor of English at the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, New Mexico.

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