



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
Women's & Gender Studies™

**40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ALL-UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2024**

*Keynote Address:*

*"Are Women People?"*



*Kimberly Hamlin*

*Professor, Miami University of Ohio*

**STUDENT UNION BUILDING**

**Canyon Room  
Bell Tower Room  
Matador Room  
Caprock Room  
Masked Rider Room  
Ballroom**

9:00– 9:20 AM

Ballroom

## Welcome & Introductions

*Provost Ron Hendrick*

9:30– 10:20

Canyon

### Gender & Rhetoric

*Historical Feminism: The Importance of the Public and Private Spheres*

**Jaeden Carter, Texas Tech University**

*Excavating Gloria Anzaldúa's Overlooked Proto-Queer Rhetoric*

**Ipek Sahinler, University of Texas at Austin**

*Negotiating Gendered Colourism in Indian Cinema: Locating the Agency of Cultural Producers*

**Phebyn Joseph, Macquarie University (Australia)**

Moderator: **Zara Amdur**, Texas Tech University

Caprock

### Gender, (In)Tolerance, & Difference

Themes of Toxic Masculinity in Mass Shooter Manifestos: A Content Analysis

**Rachel Black, Texas Tech University**

Community College Student Discrimination

**Adam Buro, Texas Tech University**

Symbolic Interactionism Theory Principles: A Conceptual Lens on Voluntary Singlehood

**Jacki Fitzpatrick, Texas Tech University**

Moderator: **LeeAnn Bowman**, Texas Tech University

Ballroom

### Fly in Power (Documentary)

Screening & Q&A with Producer Xen Nha

*Fly in Power* follows the community of Asian and migrant massage parlour workers, sex workers and allies in Red Canary Song – highlighting their practices of care, survival, and community amidst their fight against the incarceration and trafficking systems.

Moderator: **Miglana Sternadori**, Texas Tech University

Bell Tower

### State & The Public Sphere

*Mexican Feminisms Repression and Intimidation: The Political Contradictions of an Anti-Imperialist Anti-Colonial Government*

**Melissa Santillana, Texas Tech University**

*Approaches to the State in Feminist Climate Activism*

**Stina Soderling, Texas Woman's University**

*Examination of Banners: The Hate March Against LGBTQ+ Individuals Called "Big Family Reunion" in Turkiye*

**Sumeyya Akdilek, Texas Tech University**

Moderator: **Jocelyn Saucedo**, Texas Tech University

Matador

### Invoking the Wisdom of Ancestors, Predecessors, Forebears, and Warrior Activists

*Rose Chumba, R. Patrice Dunn, Melissa Galica, Shih-Han Huang, Stephanie Johnson, Sean Jones, Mary Ann Lawson, Susie Marquez, Troy Scarborough, George Stern, Sophia Stice, Charlotte Dunham, aretha marbley*

This presentation will create a discursive space for us as marginalized and minoritized. In the spirit of Indigenous traditions of ancestral and forebear spirits, in a ceremony, presenters from different cultural and artistic backgrounds will share gifts, stories, and gratitude for the wisdom and strength from the past to help them along their activist journeys in the public sphere.

Throughout the session, the presenters will recreate and perform powerful and soul-searching examples of the restorative wisdom they have received that they, in turn, used to help others discover the gifts, abilities, and wisdom within. The audience members will be invited to identify their cultural wisdom and learn how to utilize it.

Moderator: **Kristin Alder**, Texas Tech University

**10:30 AM - 11:20 PM**

Canyon

**Women's & Gender Studies Courses and  
Minor: An Overview**

*Aimee Cameron, Texas Tech University*

This session is for Texas Tech's academic advisors. Attendees will hear about the WGS undergraduate courses that can fulfill various requirements, along with the benefits of pursuing the WGS minor for students considering employment in social-facing settings such as health, law, and education.

Matador

**Embracing Wisdom, Redefining roles:  
Third-Aged Women & Community Activism**

*aretha marbley, Charlotte Dunham, Melodía Gutiérrez,  
Mary Ann Lawson*

It is a mistake to assume that women retire to their rocking chairs when they reach a certain age. In fact, without women in their third age, a lot of community work would not be possible. Third-aged women who are healthy, able, and free of work and childrearing responsibilities can use their energies to be continuously engage in their communities.

After a brief introduction, this panel will engage in a discussion about the life experiences of third-age Lubbock women and their community work. The presenters will discuss third-aged women's many paths toward community engagement, such as: 1) as a lifelong pattern of engagement that continues in later life; 2) in response to particular issues of concern that moves a woman to action, such as climate change or, as the case of Maggie Kuhn, as a reaction to ageism; and 3) as a means of engagement and finding meaning in life.

Moderator: **Christine Self**, Texas Tech University

Bell Tower

**Gearing Up for Graduate School**

*Jayme Mowery, Texas Tech University*

Thinking about graduate school?

Attend this session to learn more about admissions, programs, and outcomes!

Open to anyone interested in graduate school.

Caprock

**Gender & Intersectionality**

*(Default) Gender Performativity: Racialized Identities  
in the American Public Sphere*

**Alisha Grech, University of Toronto**

*American Manhood for African Americans and Latinos  
in the Cold War Era*

**Jennifer Jenkins, University of Texas at Arlington**

*Mind Games and Power Suits: Analyzing the  
Intersectionality of Gender, Class, and Race in  
"The Mentalist" and "Suits"*

**Ridhima Narayan,  
Chaudhary Charan Singh University, India**

Moderator: **Rachel Bloodworth**, Texas Tech University

**11:30 – 1:00 PM**

Ballroom

**Lunch**

Keynote: *Are Women People?*  
**Kimberly Hamlin, Professor, Miami University of Ohio**

**1:00 – 1:30 PM**

Ballroom

**BREAK, Auction, and Poster Session**

*\*auction will close at 1:30*

*Consensually Non-Monogamous Families: Doing Family in a Non-Traditional Family Structure*  
**Randi Black, Texas Tech University**

*Sexual Objectification Theory: How #Fashion Portrays Women's Body Image on Instagram*  
**Marta Mensa Torras, Lindsay Thompson & Tony Deng, University of North Texas**

**1:30 – 2:20 PM**

Caprock

**Women's Work: Labor, Struggle, Opportunities**

*Leaning Out: On Labor, Balance, and Burnout*  
**Mary Trecek, Independent Scholar**

*The Women's Movement in the American Midwest*  
**Matthew Pehl, Texas Tech University**

*Analyzing the Current Roles of Female Sitar Players*  
**Antara Bhattacharya, Kent State University**

Moderator: **Esther De-Leon**, Texas Tech University

Matador

**Identity, Narratives, & Self-Concept**

*Dancing Through Cathexis: Exploring the Mother-Daughter Dynamics in Meg Howrey's "They're Going to Love You"*

**Chioma Iwunze-Ibiam, Cornell University**

*Caught Between Nations: Examining Narratives of Perceived Assimilation and Meek Surrender in Bharti Mukherjee's "Jasmine" and Jhumpa Lahiri's "Hell-Heaven"*

**Abhipriya Priyadarshi, University of Texas at Dallas**

Bell Tower

**Women's Place in Public Spaces**

*Building Gender: Julia Domna's Architectural Patronage and the Performance of Roman Womanhood*  
**Sofia Penny, University of Texas at Dallas**

*The falda-pantalón (Pant-Dress/Pant-Skirt) Scandal in Madrid, Spain, 1908-1911*  
**Nancy Membrez, University of Texas at San Antonio**

Moderator: **Jacob Bell**, Texas Tech University

*Wilde, Swift, and the Failure of Mass Media*  
**Eric Meljac, West Texas A&M University**

Moderator: **LeeAnn Bowman**, Texas Tech University

Canyon  
**Queer Narratives of Collaborative Feminist Mentorship:  
Exploring the Dynamics of Guidance in Academia**

*Heriberto Palacio III, Andres Peralta, Kai  
Ventura, Kristin Alder, Texas Tech University*

In this panel, Fine Arts Ph.D. Candidate Heriberto Palacio, School of Art Professor Dr. Andres Peralta, B.A. University Studies Major and WGS Minor Kai Ventura, and Dr. Kristen Alder explore the intersection of queerness and collaborative feminist mentorship in academia. Drawing from their personal experiences as mentors and mentees, they will use metaphor, narrative, and scholarship to elucidate their collaborative journeys, respectively. The panelists will illustrate the dynamics of their relationships, where mentorship involves guiding, but not dictating, choices in academic disciplines, theories, and methods. Through their narratives, the panelists explore the complexities of collaborative feminist mentorship, characterized by empathy, vulnerability, and reciprocal learning. The panelists employ a blend of auto/ethnography, critical queer analysis, and storytelling to delve into the nuances of mentor-mentee relationships shaped by feminist and queer theories. The panelists have opted for a co-authored panel to represent their collaborative and egalitarian approach, as an attempt to avoid traditional hierarchal/patriarchal mentorship models.

This panel focuses on the intricacies of collaborative feminist mentorship and pedagogy, emphasizing the importance of transparency, companionship, cooperation, and a decolonized approach to scholarship. By presenting their relationships through a queer lens, the panelists hope to contribute valuable insights into mentor-mentee dynamics, fostering a more inclusive and participatory academic environment.

Moderator: **Dana Weiser**, Texas Tech University

**2:30 – 4:00 PM**

Matador

**Contesting Oppressive Queer Counterpublics**

*Kristin Alder, Trevor Wilkinson, Zayne McCall, Kai Ventura*

In the years since it was first published, Jürgen Habermas's conceptualization of the public sphere in *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*, has been criticized as highly gendered and class-defined, inflexible, and heteropatriarchal. These critiques have led to a plethora of texts postulating and theorizing about the creation, purpose, and value of counterpublics or subaltern counterpublics that parallel, conflict with, and/or seek to transform mainstream discursive publics. One of these critiques, Michael Warner's *Public and Counterpublics*, examines how queer culture shapes and is shaped by the existence of these counterpublics. Exploring and extending these arguments, this panel's focus is on how mainstream values on gender and sexuality continue to oppress queer intimacies, with the goal of stimulating dialogue about possibilities for transformation.

Comprised of four papers which engage with primary and secondary sources as well as personal experience, this panel seeks to consider this question from multiple viewpoints and histories with an aim of both shining light on the ways queer counterpublics can mimic mainstream publics' erasure of minoritized voices and contemplating the detrimental repercussions of these exclusions. One presenter considers the relationship of the kink counterpublic to queer counterpublics and, discussing the ongoing stigma associated with kink and BDSM, reflects upon the potential role of academia in deconstructing and dismantling this stigma. Another author dives into the rich and contentious history of lesbians to the larger gay rights movement, contemplating lesbians' integral role in the movement contrasted with the continual erasure of lesbian voices. Building upon this discussion, the third author explores the history of the Lesbian Avengers, founded in 1992, which sought to address the lack of visibility of lesbians not only in mainstream media, but also in queer media. Lastly, our fourth author seeks to consider how our prevailing dichotomous understandings of sexuality, even in queer communities, precludes acceptance and understanding of sexual fluidity.

Caprock  
**Barbie World**

*Mothers, Daughters, and Barbie: Standing Still or  
Passing the Torch?*

**Melissa Nivens, Midwestern State University**

*Semi-Legitimized: Barbie, Hollywood, and the Selective  
Legitimization of Critique*

**Ethan Lafond, University of Texas at Dallas**

Moderator: **Melissa Santillana**, Texas Tech University

Ballroom

***Experiment: Gay and Straight***

Screening & Q&A with producer, director, and  
show host Mark Saxenmeyer

Twenty years ago, five gay and five straight Chicago-area residents, all strangers to one another, lived together for one week. The result was a film called *Experiment: Gay and Straight*. Broadcast on Chicago television and presented at two dozen film festival screenings around the globe, the film sought to understand whether it is possible to foster understanding, counter misconceptions, and promote tolerance—if not acceptance—of the differences between gay and straight Americans. Producer, director, and host Mark Saxenmeyer has referred to this work as “reality TV with a purpose. While reality television construct was admittedly a springboard to draw viewers to the project, the film was — and arguably remains — so much more than a reality show.

Moderator: **Robert Peaslee**, Texas Tech University