

# LIMINALITIES

transitions, borders, in-betweens

October 29-30

17th Graduate Conference  
in Comparative Literature  
The University of Texas at Austin

## PROGRAM

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29TH

**9:30am** Registration opens (WCP 3.114).  
Breakfast tacos, fresh fruit, coffee, tea and  
water will be available while supplies last.

#### 10:15 – 11:45

##### **Panel 1. At the Limits of Existence: Erasure and Spectrality in Contemporary Literature and Film** (3.112)

*Panel moderator: Dr. Héctor Domínguez Ruvalcaba*

1. Tomi Drucker, *U of Michigan*  
"A Whore with a Camera: The Erasure and the Marking of the Femina Sacra's Body in the Documentary A Whore Like Me"
2. Ashley N. García, *UT Austin*  
"Ni vivo, ni muerto, ni vivo ni muerto": An Analysis of Disappearances, Sequelae, and Victimhood in Irma Sabina Sepúlveda's Short Story "El quebradero".
3. Luisana Cortez, *UT Austin*  
"The Mexican Narco State as Depicted in Contemporary Poetry: An Examination of the Poetics of Horror, Grief, and Resistance".

\*Virtual presenter

##### **Panel 2. Between Time: Trauma, Memory, Historical Revisionism** (3.116)

*Panel moderator: Dr. John Moran González*

1. Shukri Bana, *UT Austin*  
"Things Went Horribly Wrong": The Space and Shape of Apology in South Africa
  2. Kevin Gibbs, *UT Austin*  
"I Remembered I Forgot to Remember"
  3. Paula Lezama, *UT Austin*  
"Ancestrality and Femininity: A Demonic Ontology from the Black Pacific. Las Mujeres de Ríos Unidos"
  4. Amber Taylor, *UT Austin*  
"Tracing Rustbelt Mythologies"
- 11:45am – 12:30pm Break for Lunch

#### 12:30 – 2:00 pm

##### **Panel 3. Cities, Utopias, Worldlings: Configurations of Spatial Liminality** (3.112)

*Panel moderator: Dr. Naomi Lindstrom*

1. Tamara Morgan, *U of South Carolina*  
"Metros, Tunnels, Elevators, and Hallways: Passageways and Inframundos in the Works of Samanta Schwebelin"
2. Sardar Hussain, *UT Austin*  
"Sounding as Worldling"
3. Hanne Janssens, *Ghent University*  
"A Literary Journey Through an Ecological Disrupted World: The Configuration of an Interconnected Humanity in W.G. Sebald's "The Rings of Saturn"
4. Andrea Toomey, *UT Austin*  
"Risking Utopia": Community Building, and Creative Potential for Queer Muslims in Liminal Spaces"

\*Virtual presenters

##### **Panel 4. Queerness, Horror, Performance: Politics in Popular Culture and Media** (3.116)

*Panel moderator: Dr. Paola Bonifazio*

1. Nicole Larrondo and Vicente Didier, *UT Austin, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile*  
"Otaku no Revolution: An Analysis of the Political Saliency of Shonen Anime in Chile's Social Outburst"
2. Silvana Scott, *UT Austin*  
"Rainbow Sponsored Excess and Inconsummerable Melancholia in Vida"
3. Weston Richey, *UT Austin*  
"Carrie White eats shit": The Iconic, the Intimate, and Body Horror in Stephen King's Carrie and Its Adaptations"

#### 2:15pm – 3:45pm

##### **Panel 5. Rethinking Liminality in Classical and Early Modern Narratives** (3.116)

*Panel moderator: Dr. Hannah C. Wojciehowski*

1. Raffi Kureghian, *UT Austin*  
"Borders, Liminality, and the Reader in Paradise Lost"
2. Alex Thomas, *UT Austin*  
"Between Stage and Page, or How to Write a Play in Sixteenth-Century Spain"
3. Ethan G. Warren, *UT Austin*  
"Vir-Non-Vir: Coming of Age and the Societal Implications of the Narrator in Ovid's Amores"
4. Liz Gobbo, *UC Berkeley*  
"Unveiling the Invaluable: Female Voices, Affective Labor, and Play in Rekhti Poetry."

### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30TH

**10:00am** Registration opens (WCP 3.114)  
Breakfast tacos, fresh fruit, coffee, tea and  
water will be available while supplies last.

#### 10:30 – 12:00pm

##### **Panel 6. National Identity and Racial Borders: Transnational Meditations on Whiteness** (3.112)

*Panel moderator: Dr. Thomas Garza*

1. Michal Calo, *UT Austin*  
"Historical Excess and Liminal Beauty in "The Voyage of the Sable Venus"
2. Qiangqian Li, *UT Austin*  
"Fragile Whiteness and Liminal Identity: The Dissipation of White Authority in J.M. Coetzee's Disgrace"
3. Poorna Swami, *UT Austin*  
"Dreams of Solidarity: Black Lives in 1960's Indian literature"
4. Mariana Nagaty Yanney, *Assiut University*  
"Beyond the Thresholds of Society and Colonialism: "The Open Door" by Latifa Al Zayaat"

\*Virtual presenter

##### **Panel 7. Subconscious Dwellings: The Liminal as the Uncanny** (3.116)

*Panel moderator: Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza*

1. Rachel F. Hunter, *UT Austin*  
"The Thing Outside That's Also Me: Fear, Identity and Agency in Maupassant's "Le Horla"
2. Jeanne Verwee, *Ghent University*  
"Hungry for doubt: the uncanny as a sociological concept"
3. Zachariah Ezer, *UT Austin*  
"Afrosurreal Narratives: The Distance Between Contingent and Gratuitous Violence"

\*Virtual presenter

##### **Panel 8. Indigenous Sovereignities** (3.106)

*Panel moderator: Ipek Sahinler*

1. I.B. Hopkins, *UT Austin*  
"Still Good Precedent": Mary Kathryn's Sovereignty and the Jurisdictional Provocation of Liminal Time"
2. Jaya Stenquist, *UT Austin*  
"The Severing of Language in Layli Long Soldier's "Metamorphosis"
3. Victoria Canales, *UT Austin*  
"Art and the Elite: Who Decides What Art is Worth Celebrating in Laredo"

#### 12:00pm – 12:45pm Break for Lunch

#### 12:45pm – 2:00pm

##### **Panel 9. Across Borders: Liminal Subjectivities in Genres of Travel** (3.112)

*Panel moderator: Dr. César Salgado*

1. Alex Voisine, *UT Austin*  
"Ugly Americans and the Ethics of "World"-Travel: Liminal Subjectivities in the Mexico of Audre Lorde, William Burroughs and Willard Motley"
2. Andra Bailard, *UT Austin*  
"Mimetic Mediums: The Flâneur as Translator in Balzac's La Fille aux yeux d'or"
3. Benjamin Rangell, *UT Austin*  
"A.B. Yehoshua's A Journey to the End of the Millennium"

##### **Panel 10. Viruses, Fertility, Food: Encountering Biopolitical Liminality** (3.116)

*Panel moderator: Dr. Gabriela Polit*

1. Nishant Upadhyay, *UT Austin*  
"The Beef and the bare life: Ambedkar's Broken Man, Agamben's Homo Sacer, and the Biopolitical Cow"
2. Jean Young Kim, *UT Austin*  
"Subfertility as a Liminal State: The role of hope in subfertility"
3. Debbie Duarte, *UC Santa Cruz*  
"The Ghost, the Virus and Capitalist Crisis: Temporality, Repetition and Decolonial Imaginations in Transmigración de los cuerpos and The Rag Doll Plagues"

##### **Panel 11. Amidst the Sacred: Ritual, Mythology, Religion** (3.106)

*Panel moderator: Sergio Glajar*

1. Aja Mujinga Sherrard, *UT Austin*  
"Dendé, | Drexciya | Mandala: Rendering the Middle Passage into the Nonworld of Origin"
2. Asad Alvi, *UT Austin*  
"Religious Liminality in a Planetary Frame"
3. Marina Schneider, *UT Austin*  
"Of Ships and Fools: Death and Mirrors in La Lozana Andaluza"

#### 2:15pm – 3:45pm

##### **Panel 12. Lives in Transition: Diasporic Belonging in a Transcultural Age** (3.116)

*Panel moderator: Dr. Jennifer Wilks*

1. Georgia Soares, *Harvard University*  
"Norwegian-Brazilian Transcultural Encounters in Alfredo Andersen's Migrant Journey and Artistic Production"
  1. Sabine Waas, *UT Austin*  
"Bad Boy or Role Model? Jérôme Boateng and the Question of Belonging in Germany"
  1. Hans Frex, *UT Austin*  
"Racism Against the Immigrant Population in Chile"
  1. Bes Bajraktarevik, *Harvard University*  
"Difference and its mistreatment in the refugee experience; and the limits of the humanities"

#### 4:00pm – 6:00pm

Dinner break

#### 6:00pm – 7:15pm

Keynote Address "Resilient Matter"

(A Conversation Between Adriana Corral and Roberto Tejada, Glickman Conference Center, RLP, 1.302)

#### 7:30pm – 8:30pm

Reception Glickman Conference Center (RLP)

Direct all questions and comments to  
[gracslconference2021@gmail.com](mailto:gracslconference2021@gmail.com)



GRACLS is an annual conference produced by graduate students in the UT Comparative Literature program, and developed through the generous support of the Comparative Literature program at the University of Texas at Austin