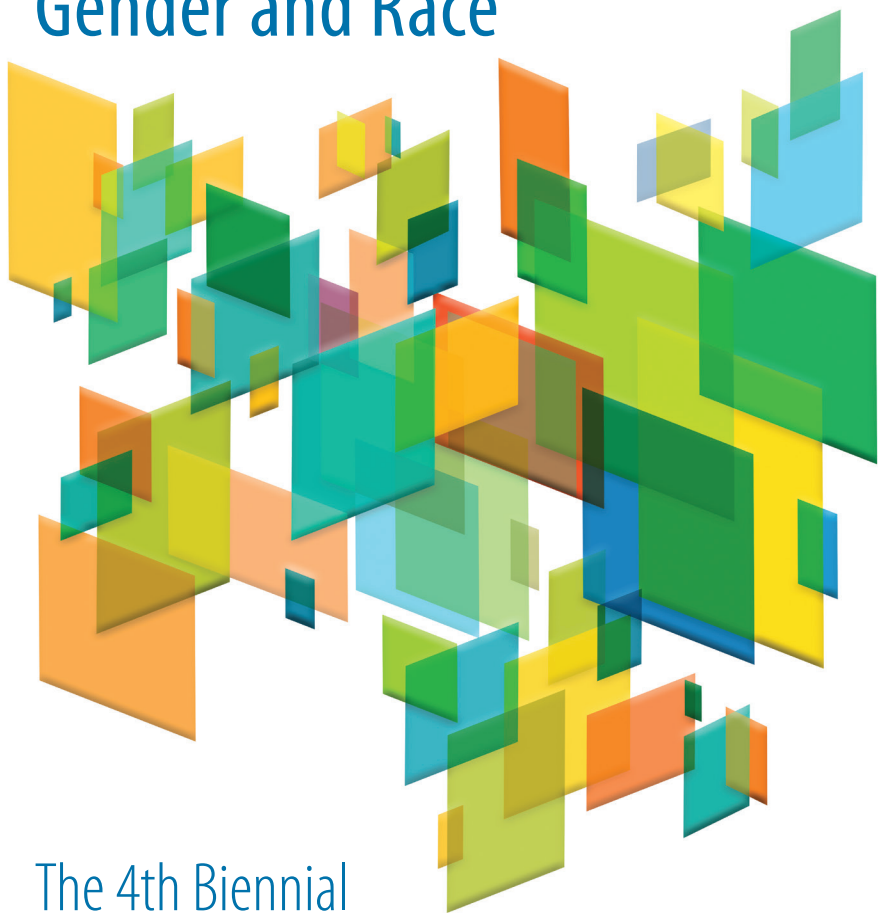


# Intersectional Inquiries and Collaborative Action: Gender and Race



The 4th Biennial  
International Gender Studies  
Program Conference

March 2–4, 2017

Notre Dame Conference Center,  
McKenna Hall





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## The University of Notre Dame Gender Studies Program's biennial international conferences

aim to bring to campus cutting-edge scholars, artists, and activists for critical conversations on important topics within our field. Intersectionality was a clear choice for this year's conference theme given the rising significance of that concept within our field and across the academy. Indeed, intersectionality has become a key mode of framing how identities and sites of contestation around identity are multiple and complex. Furthermore, critics and activists from myriad sociopolitical milieus have underscored the importance of intersectional approaches in struggles for social justice and in the making of inclusive public spaces. From feminist scholarship to human rights policy to commentary via Twitter memes, intersectionality as a theoretical concept, method of analysis, and mode of collaborative action circulates in both grassroots and intellectual discourse.

Yet, despite the broad influence of intersectionality since the 1980s, we see a great need for further intersectional analysis during this time of considerable sociopolitical contestation. In particular, the ongoing legacies and current manifestations of racism and sexism continue to demand intellectual analysis, institutional recognition, and collective intervention. The Intersectional Inquiries conference aims to provide a platform for scholars, activists, and artists from various fields to interrogate the intersections of race and gender—as manifested materially and discursively—from a broad range of historical, global, and contemporary contexts. Participants will attend rigorously to the ways that race structures gender, sexualities, class, and dis/ability and the dominating matrices of biopolitical violence and imperialism, as well as trace how racialized subjectivities and non-normative embodiments challenge and radically fracture hierarchy. With this conference, our hope is to inspire impactful intellectual dialogue and assist in building ties that might lead to scholarly and social justice collaborations.

## The Conference Organizing Committee Welcomes You to Notre Dame

We are excited to bring so much cutting-edge work to this campus, and we look forward to seeing how the scholarly, artistic, and activist presentations shared and discussed at this conference will help shape critical conversations and action on intersectionality for years to come.

For our three days together we have assembled an invigorating array of papers, roundtables, and creative presentations, as well as a keynote address and two plenary sessions. Our keynote speaker is Patricia Hill Collins, who will address how scholars and activists might meet the challenges that face intersectionality as a form of critical inquiry and praxis. Taking up global demands for racial justice and the necropolitics of statecraft, each of the plenary sessions brings together an interdisciplinary group of scholars to reflect on how gender and race serve as sites of struggle in the academy and at the nexus of many intellectual, political, and geographic borders that mark our everyday lives. Like the conference's presented papers and creative works, we expect that these talks will spark lively public conversations about how we might best utilize intersectional perspectives to shape the work we are compelled to do in the coming years.

### *Organizing Committee*

Marjorie Housley

Z'étoile Imma

Christine Venter

Tara Hudson

Mary Celeste Kearney

## Conference Schedule

*Unless otherwise noted, all events will be in Notre Dame's Conference Center at McKenna Hall.*

## Ongoing

## Art Installation

Atrium

## The Principle of Cumulative Advantage: Re(d)acting The American Dilemma

Chantal Gibson, Simon Fraser University

John Gutoskey, A2 Print Studio

All attendees are encouraged to participate in the creation of this site-specific art installation and exhibit. A discussion with the artists is scheduled for H4.

Descriptions of creative works can be found on pages 21–22.

## Thursday, March 2

11 a.m.–

## Registration

Atrium

12–1:45 p.m.

## Session A

## A1. Intersectionality and Struggles for Solidarity

Room 112–114

Chair: Fernando Tormos, Purdue University

*Sisters of the Global South: Black and South Asian-American Women in Solidarity*

Leila Zainab, Simmons College

Jaleelah Jackson, Simmons College

### *Intersectional Solidarity*

Fernando Tormos, Purdue University

## A2. Challenging Institutionalized Racism and Sexism in the Academy

Room 202

Chair: Wenjing Liu, Michigan Technological University

*"There's No Struggle Like a Black Girl Struggle": Black College Women and Their Experiences with Gendered Racial Microaggressions at a Predominantly White University*

D'Janna Hamilton, University of Delaware

*Discrimination and Isolation: An Exploratory Study of First-Year International Chinese Female Graduate Teaching Instructors' Experiences in STEM*  
Wenjing Liu, Michigan Technological University

*Marginalizing the Marginalized: Besiegement Theory and Women's and Gender Departments*  
Abigail Jorgensen, University of Notre Dame

**A3. Latinx Lives at the Intersections and Borderlands** Room 100–104  
Chair: TBD

*Exploring the Identities of South Americans from an Intersectional Assimilation Framework*  
Dana Chalupa, Misericordia University

*Ideological Violence in the Political Borderlands: Historicizing Latinx Controlling Images*  
Rocío R. García, University of California, Los Angeles

**A4. Reclaiming Intersectional Identities and Histories of Black Women Movement Makers** Room 210–214  
Chair: Cyraina Johnson-Roullier, University of Notre Dame

*Law, Blackness, and Anna Julia Cooper's "Conflict of Colors"*  
Cyraina Johnson-Roullier, University of Notre Dame

*Historical Intersectionality: The Role of Transnational Feminisms and Ethiopian Nationalism in the 1930s*  
Caroline Merithew, University of Dayton

*"That Ladies Be Empowered": The Intersectionalities of Residual Patriarchy and Race Politics in Toronto's UNIA, 1919–1939*  
Melissa N. Shaw, Queen's University, Canada

*Intersections and Professions: Black Women Librarians and the Development of African American History*  
Melanie Chambliss, Northwestern University

1:45–2:15 p.m.

Refreshment Break

Atrium

## **B1. Family Formations at the Intersections**

Room 112–114

Chair: Alex Chavez, University of Notre Dame

*Intimacy at Stake: Gender, Migration, and the Separation of the Family*

Alex Chavez, University of Notre Dame

*Navigating Family, Labor, and Spirituality at the Intersection of Trans and LatinX*

Jacqueline Caraves, University of California, Los Angeles

## **B2. Race, Gender, and the Problem of Diversity in Popular Culture**

Room 100–104

Chair: April Lidinsky, Indiana University South Bend

*"I Am Who I Am": Serena Williams' Voice and Intersectional Body*

Scarlett Hester, University of Memphis

*Black Women in Capes: The Diversity Problem in Comic Book Screen Adaptations*

Chamara Moore, University of Notre Dame

*Django and the Basterds "Go Apache": Intersections and Intersectionality in Tarantino's Unfinished Revenge Trilogy*

Tracey Owens Patton, University of Wyoming

Valerie Weinstein, University of Cincinnati

*China Girl: Intersections of Technicolor, Orientalism, and Spectacle in The Toll of the Sea*

Jillian Vasko, Concordia University

## **B3. Beyond Survival: Black Women and Politics of Wellness**

Room 202

Chair: Tamara Beauboeuf-Lafontant, DePauw University

*Exploring the Intersection of Race, Gender, and Intellectual Disability in African American Women's Sibling Relationships*

Shaquinta Richardson, University of Georgia

*Girlhood Interrupted: Struggle, Survival, and the Costs of Strong Black Womanhood*

Tamara Beauboeuf-Lafontant, DePauw University

Carolette Norwood, University of Cincinnati

*Seeking, Acquiring, and Explaining: Refugee Women and Barriers to Accessing Mental Health Care*

Lauren Morisseau, University of Notre Dame

Alice Gatebuke, Independent Scholar & Activist

**B4. Reading Difference and (Trans) Nationality through Women's Literature**

Room 200

Chair: Alison Rice, University of Notre Dame

*Parisian Intersections: Worldwide Women Writers and the French Literary Landscape*

Alison Rice, University of Notre Dame

*Stereograph-cum-Stereotype: Maugham's and Kingston's Chinas*

Sheng-mei Ma, Michigan State University

4–4:15 p.m.	Refreshment Break	Atrium
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4:15–4:30 p.m.	Welcome/Introductions	Auditorium
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4:30–6 p.m.	Keynote Address	Auditorium
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*"Sharpening Intersectionality's Critical Edge"*

Patricia Hill Collins, University of Maryland–College Park

6–7:30 p.m.	Opening Reception	Dining Room
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7:30–10 p.m.	Performance	Annenberg Auditorium, Snite Museum
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*Show Some Skin* (optional event)

Descriptions of creative works can be found on pages 21–22.



## C1. Thick Intersections: Queer African Lives, Theories, and Archives

Room 112–114

Chair: Z'étoile Imma, University of Notre Dame

*"Queer (Un)like Me": Contesting Sameness, Exploring "Thick Intersectionality" in Community Engagement Projects with Queer Individuals in Ghana*

Godfried Asante, University of New Mexico

*Your Loving Simon: Reading Simon Nkoli's Epistolarity in the Making of a Queer African Archive*

Z'étoile Imma, University of Notre Dame

*Black Queers Must Play: Gay Township Pageantry and the "Double Rainbow" in South Africa*

Zukolwenkosi Zikalala, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

## C2. Biopolitics: Racializing and Gendering the Body in Science

Room 202

Chair: Shelleen Greene, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

*Sara Baartman's Body through White Gaze: Race and Gender as Constructs for Biopolitical Violence*

Catherine Hauer, University of Texas at San Antonio

*Herpetetic Violence: Hyper-surveillance in the Epidemiology of Genital Herpes*

Mairead Sullivan, Loyola Marymount University

*Embodiment, Disembodiment, and Gendered Subjectivity: The Robotic Afterlife of the Female Body*

Shelleen Greene, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

**C3. Reading Intersectional Resistance through the Decades: Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter**

Room 100–104

Chair: Michelle Kelsey Kearl, Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne

*Presumed Innocent? Race, Childhood, and Police Brutality from the MOVE Disaster to Black Lives Matter*

Melissa Stein, University of Kentucky

*On Trajectories and Intersections: Understanding the Rhetoric of the Civil Rights Movement as Both Potential and Constraint in Contemporary Social Protest*

Michelle Kelsey Kearl, Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne

**C4. Race, Gender, and Politics in Comparative Perspective**

Room 200

Chair: Dianne Pinderhughes, University of Notre Dame

*A Portrait of Elected Officials of Color*

Dianne Pinderhughes, University of Notre Dame

*Afro-Brazilian Women, Colorism, and Politics*

Andrea Peña-Vasquez, University of Notre Dame

*Feminism and African American Women*

Jillian Rogers, University of Notre Dame

**C5. Roundtable—Beyond the Binary: Teaching and Thinking Transgender**

Room 210–214

Chair: Pamela Butler, University of Notre Dame

Jacqueline Caraves, University of California, Los Angeles

Tammy Matthews, University of Colorado Boulder

Matthew Thomann, Kalamazoo College

**10:30–11 a.m. Refreshment Break**

Atrium

**11 a.m.–12:45 p.m. Session D****D1. Racializing Welfare and the Politics of Gendered Labor**

Room 200

Chair: Angela Logan, University of Notre Dame

*Facing the Impact of Structural Discrimination: Exploring the Effect of Welfare Reform 20 Years Later*

Lauren Broussard, Columbia University

*Engendering Intersecting Inequality in Politics: What Happened to Women's Work and Why It Matters for Welfare*

Patrick Levine, Independent Scholar

*The Dilemmas of Bringing Your Culture with You: The Career Advancement Challenges of African American Women Foundation Executives*

Angela Logan, University of Notre Dame

*Beyond Deviance: Intersectionalities in the Lives of African American Male Sex Workers*

Libby Trudeau, University of Notre Dame

**D2. A Cross-cultural Examination of Intersectional Race, Gender, and Sexuality Normativities in Online Spaces** Room 112–114

Chair: Nell Haynes, Northwestern University

*Race, Sexual Stereotypes, and Attraction among Men who Meet Male Sexual Partners in Online and Offline Venues*

Patrick A. Wilson, Columbia University

*Belaboring Masculinity with Social Media Memes: The Copper-mining Region of Northern Chile*

Nell Haynes, Northwestern University

*"Yes, I am Trans": Normalizing Trans\* Identity through Social Media in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire*

Matthew Thomann, Kalamazoo College

**D3. Political Violence and the Making of Biopolitical Bodies in Mexico** Room 202

Chair: Susana Martinez, DePaul University

*"They Wanted to Bury Us but They Didn't Know We Are Seeds": Political Violence, Race, and Gender in the Case of the 43 Missing Ayotzinapa Students*

Susana Martinez, DePaul University

*The Racialization of Class Inequalities within the Transnational Humanized Birth Movement*

Rosalynn Vega, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

## D4. Whiteness, Gender, and the Uses of Visibility

Room 210–214

Chair: Judy Isaksen, High Point University

### *“White Feminism”: The Digitized Version of Intersectionality*

Judy Isaksen, High Point University

### *Cuck: Meninists, Aardvarks, and Other Peculiarities in 21st-Century Anti-Feminist Discourse*

Scott St. Pierre, Bucknell University

### *The Problematic Romanticizing of Caitlyn Jenner*

Tammy Matthews, University of Colorado Boulder

12:45–1:45 p.m.

Lunch

Dining Room

1:45–3:30 p.m.

## Session E

### E1. Theorizing Intersectionalities, Historicizing Feminisms

Room 200

Chair: Angel Daniel Matos, Bowdoin College

### *Black w/Holes and Outer Space: On Mapping Blackness*

Cornel Grey, University of Toronto

### *A Matter of Resistance: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Philosophies of New Materialism*

Ellen Cox, Transylvania University

### E2. Black Women Writers and the Literary Legacies of Intersectionality

Room 112–114

Chair: Michele Ren, Radford University

### *Cataloguing Power: Reclaiming Museum Rhetoric as Art in Robin Coste Lewis’ “Voyage of the Sable Venus”*

Brianne Dayley, University of Texas at San Antonio

### *Intersectional Resistance in Anne Spencer’s “Letter to My Sister” and the Letters to Ourselves*

Brenda Martinez, Lehigh University

***Anticipating Intersectionality: The Activist Work of Tar Baby, The Color Purple, and Zami***

Michele Ren, Radford University

Caitlyn Parker, Radford University

Moirá P. Baker, Radford University

**E3. Sexual Justice and the Power of Intersectional Organizing**

Room 100–104

Chair: Carolette Norwood, University of Cincinnati

***Stuck at an Intersection: Race, Ethnicity, and Inclusivity in the SlutWalk Movement***

Briyana Clarel, University of Texas at Austin

***Navigating Gender, Race, Sexuality, and Space: Assessing the Impact of Gendered Violence on Black Women's Sexual Health in Jim Crow Cincinnati Neighborhoods***

Carolette Norwood, University of Cincinnati

***Black Lives Matter as Reproductive Justice: Frame Negotiation by Mainstream Reproductive Rights Organizations***

Anna Chatillon, University of California, Santa Barbara

***Black Feminists Revolt to End Rape Culture in South African Universities and Digital Activism***

Simamkelele Dlakavu, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

**E4. Intersectional Pedagogies in Education**

Room 210–214

Chair: Marjorie Housley, University of Notre Dame

***An Intersectional Framework to Teaching about Racial Trauma***

Stephanie Jones, Grinnell College

***Exploring Identity and Desire among 1.5- and Second-Generation Afghan American Students***

Saugher Nojan, University of California, Santa Cruz

***Kindergarten Is Too Late: Intersectional Identities, Institutionalized Racism, and Culturally Systemic Sexism in Early Childhood Settings***

Rebecca Howard, Miami University

## E5. Past and Present Strategies and Struggles in Intersectional Activism

Room 202

Chair: Tara Hudson, University of Notre Dame

### *Intersectional Consciousness-raising, Assertiveness Training, and the National Alliance of Black Feminists*

Voichita Nachescu, Independent Scholar

### *Fat, Black, and Invisible: Navigating Race, Fatness, and Desirability within Social Justice Movements*

Brienne Colston, Independent Scholar

### *"What Business Has the World with the Color of My Wife?": Marriage and Intersectionality among Feminist-Abolitionists Before and After the Civil War*

Hélène Quanquin, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3

3:30–4 p.m.

Refreshment Break

Atrium

4–5:30 p.m.

Plenary 1

Auditorium

### *Intersectionality or Diversity? Transforming the Neoliberal Academy in the Era of Black Lives Matter*

Kanisha D. Bond, University of Maryland-College Park

Roderick Ferguson, University of Illinois at Chicago

Zethu Matebeni, University of Cape Town

5:30–7 p.m.

Dinner

Dining Room

7:30–10 p.m.

Performance

Annenberg Auditorium, Snite Museum

### *Show Some Skin* (optional event)

Descriptions of creative works can be found on pages 21–22.

# Saturday, March 4

8:30 a.m.— Registration and Refreshments Atrium

9–10:45 a.m.

## Session F

### F1. Theorizing Intersectionalities and Feminist Methodologies

Room 100

Chair: Layla Brown, North Carolina State University

*Seen' It for Wearin' It: Black Feminist Anthropological Methodologies*

Layla Brown, North Carolina State University

*Reading the Narratives of Intersectionality*

Kaisa Ilmonen, University of Turku, Finland

*Intersectionality Structuring the Politics of a Feminist Party*

Leena-Maija Rossi, University of Helsinki

*Political Breathing: Somatics of Feminist Coalition*

Jean-Thomas Tremblay, University of Chicago

### F2. Decolonizing Intersectional Resistance to Settler Colonialisms

Room 200

Chair: Victoria Grieves, University of Sydney

*Children Born of War in Australia, 1941–1945: A Slice History of Race, Gender, and Class in the Interplay of Two Settler Colonial Regimes, the USA and Australia*

Victoria Grieves, University of Sydney

Jennifer Germon, University of Sydney

*Counter Hegemonic Resistances of African Canadian Women: The Decolonial Subject*

Thashika Pillay, University of Alberta

### F3. Undergraduate Research: Intersectional Vulnerabilities, Voices, and Visibilities

Room 202

Chair: Mary Celeste Kearney, University of Notre Dame

*The Veil en Vogue: The Fashion Industry's Re-Veiling Movement*

Ciera Horton, Wheaton College

SATURDAY

*Sexual Assault in the Undergrad Sphere*

Pete Freeman, University of Notre Dame

*Eroticizing Representation: Queer Digital Archival Methods and LGBTQ of Color Ballroom Culture in Los Angeles*

Promise Li, Occidental College

*Maternal Identity and Healthcare in Chiapas, Mexico*

Moir Horn, University of Notre Dame

**F4. Roundtable: Intersectional Feminist Teaching and Learning in Secondary Schools**

Room 112–114

Chair: Bridget Crawford, Pace Law School

Janet L. Badia, Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne

Elana Merritt, Indiana University–Purdue University Fort Wayne

Aurora Grutman, Horace Mann School

Kristen Kelly, Sacred Heart Preparatory — Sacred Heart Schools

Serene Williams, Sacred Heart Preparatory — Sacred Heart Schools

**F5. Intersectional Challenges to Policy and Discourses of Human Rights**

Room 210–214

Chair: Christine Venter, Notre Dame Law School

*Globalized Imaginaries of Love and Hate: The Internationalization and Militarization of LGBT(I) Rights*

Leifa Mayers, Grand Valley State University

*France's Burkini Ban and Gendered Legislation as a Response to Immigration*

Rachael Beattie, University of Notre Dame

*Moving from Equality to Justice: The "Justice Gap" and the Role of Applied Intersectionality*

Puja Kapai, University of Hong Kong

*Male Victims of Sexual Violence: The Silent Survivors of the Syrian Conflict*

Aysar Hamoudeh, University of Notre Dame



11:15 a.m.–  
12:45 p.m.**Plenary 2**

Auditorium

*Biopolitics and Borders: Intersectional Bodies and the Globalizing of Nation*

Nicole M. Guidotti-Hernández, University of Texas at Austin

Atalia Omer, University of Notre Dame

Gina Athena Ulysse, Wesleyan University

12:45–1:45 p.m. Lunch

Dining Room

1:45–3:30 p.m.

**Session G****G1. Roundtable—Intersectionality and Sexual Violence across a Continuum of Institutional Systems**

Room 112–114

Chair: Hannah Brenner, California Western School of Law

Kathleen Darcy, University of Chicago

Gina Fedock, University of Chicago

Yanilda Gonzalez, University of Chicago

**G2. #BlackGirlMagic: The Joy of an Intersectional Identity**

Room 210–214

Chair: Victoria E. Thomas, University of Washington

*“Excellence That Knows No Boundaries. . .”: Laverne Cox is Flawless*

Victoria E. Thomas, University of Washington

*“Good Girls Get Down on the Flo”: For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Twerking When Respectability Is Not Enough*

Kiara Hill, University of Massachusetts Amherst

**G3. Gendering and Queering African Cultural Production** Room 200

Chair: Danai Mupotsa, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

*"Deliver Yourself Alone, in His Absence": Exceptionalism and Invisibilization in Lauretta Ngcobo's And They Didn't Die*

Jessica Kim, University of Notre Dame

*Uncle, Daddy, Me*

Danai Mupotsa, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

*Troubling Achebe's Africa: On Madness and Mythology as the Queer in Post-Colonial Literatures*

Thato Magano, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

**G4. Gender and Race in Religious Representation and Secular Lives**

Room 202

Chair: Michael Hebbeler, University of Notre Dame

*Life on the Margins: A Qualitative Approach to Identity Formation among Secular Black Women*

Keila Taylor, University of Texas at San Antonio

*Catechesis in Conflict: Race and Gender in 1960s American Catholic Media*

Billy Korinko, University of Kentucky

*Painting Penance: Representing Black Male Bodies in Contemporary Religious Art*

Michael Hebbeler, University of Notre Dame

**G5. Workshop and Presentation: Black Women Staging Resistance**

Room 100–104

Chair: Siiri Scott, University of Notre Dame

*"Looking for an African American Female": An Analysis of the Position of Black Women in Theatrical Arts*

Zuri Eshun, Culture Collective

*Living in the Legacy of Black Feminism: Stories of Black Women from Show Some Skin, 2011–2016*

Deandra Cadet, Stage for Change

4–5:45 p.m.

## Session H

**H1. Hashtag Heroines: Women of Color's Digital Activism**

Room 112–114

Chair: Engy Abdelkader, Georgetown University

*Muslim Canadian Women Speak Out! Canada's Attempted "Niqab Ban" and Muslim Canadian Women's Voices in Social and Traditional Media*

Nicolette Little, York University

*#CanYouHearUsNow: Muslim Women Responses to Islamophobia*

Engy Abdelkader, Georgetown University

*Stop Blaming "Culture"! Intersectional Discourses on Domestic Violence, Gender, Race, and Immigration in an Ethno-cultural Minority Blogosphere*

Ishani Mukherjee, University of Illinois at Chicago

**H2. "OK Ladies, Now Let's Get in Formation": Reading Beyoncé's Feminism**

Room 210–214

Chair: Colleen Mitchell, University of Notre Dame

*Cause All This Conversation*

Colleen Mitchell, University of Notre Dame

*Beyoncé's "Lemonade" as a Redistribution of Cultural Capital*

Sidney Simpson, University of Notre Dame

*The Best Revenge is Your Paper: Beyoncé, Feminism, and Financial Independence*

Andrea Peña-Vasquez, University of Notre Dame

*Black Female Empowerment and the Superhuman*

Chamara Moore, University of Notre Dame

### H3. Performance and Discussion

Room 202

#### *Sucking It In: A Performed Lecture*

Jeannie Yoon, University of Notre Dame

Descriptions of creative works can be found on pages 21–22.

### H4. Art Installation and Exhibit Discussion

Room 100–104

#### *The Principle of Cumulative Advantage:*

#### *Re(d)acting The American Dilemma*

Chantal Gibson, Simon Fraser University

John Gutoskey, A2 Print Studio

Descriptions of creative works can be found on pages 21–22.



## Descriptions of Creative Works

### *Ouvrir la voix (Speak Up/Make Your Way)*

Amandine Gay, Université du Québec à Montréal

*Ouvrir la voix (Speak Up/Make Your Way)* is a film about francophone European black women from the diaspora. The film focuses on our common experience of discriminations related to those two indistinct dimensions of our identities: “woman” and “black.” It also presents francophone European black women in their diversity and complexity. Made up of interviews and artistic performances, *Ouvrir la voix* intends to address blackness and womanhood in all its expressions. Ultimately, this guerilla film is a document about the necessity to reclaim the narrative about ourselves in francophone Europe.

Runtime: 122 minutes.

### *The Principle of Cumulative Advantage: Re(d)acting The American Dilemma*

Chantal Gibson, Simon Fraser University

Gutoskey, A2 Print Studio

*Re(d)acting* is a site-specific installation/performance that will be created over the course of the conference by its participants. Using black thread—twisted, braided, knotted, entwined—participants will redact, re-write and re-envision a first edition of Gunnar Myrdal’s *The American Dilemma: The Negro Problem and Modern Democracy* (1944). In his 1944 study of race relations in the U.S., Nobel-laureate Myrdal detailed the “principle of cumulation,” a hegemonic cycle of oppression where whites systematically oppressed Blacks and then blamed their poor performance as the reason for their oppression. Today this reinforcing feedback loop—remediated on our smart phones, social media feeds and TV screens—continues to cumulate the competitive advantage for whites. The loop can only be counteracted by the creation of new feedback loops. Video interviews of the participants sculpting the book, reflecting on the process, sharing personal narratives, and discussing the conference proceedings will be recorded and projected in an ongoing feedback loop on the common area walls. As the altered historical book sculpture grows, with the inclusion of more hands and voices, so will the length of the narrative video loop. The final altered text and the videos will evidence a new feedback loop created by participants.

### *Sucking It In: A Performed Lecture*

Jeannie Yoon, University of Notre Dame

Emphatic opening statement. Keen observation. Pithy articulation. Who is allowed to love their bodies? Where did she get that idea? A meaningful waste of space and time. A special appearance. A topical treatment. A performed lecture to do with the history of superficiality. *Sucking It In* will be: a work of memoir, commentary, movement, and audiovisual sleight. As a work in the early stages of progress, the central text of the performance script consists of an interrelated series of reflective and character monologues that deal broadly with the attendant problems of embodiment in a screen-mediated cultural landscape. Using movement, real-time screen interaction (e.g., video chat, screenshare, Photo Booth), dramatic monologue and impersonation, Yoon means to present and explore this thesis that the visibility of Asian bodies in American screen cultures is controlled by and conditioned along highly gendered and racialized lines to an image culture attendant to the specific material and imperial motives of western neoliberal patriarchal white supremacy.

## Optional event related to but unaffiliated with the conference:

### *Show Some Skin*

Thursday, March 2, and Friday, March 3, 7:30–10 p.m.

Annenberg Auditorium, Snite Museum

Tickets will be available for purchase (\$3 each) at the McKenna Hall registration desk from 11 a.m. Thursday, March 2, until 4 p.m. Friday, March 3. They also may be purchased at Annenberg Auditorium if seats are available.

*Show Some Skin* gives voice to unspoken stories about identity and difference. Actors present anonymous submissions about individuals' experiences by combining the arts of personal storytelling and performance. This year's production, *Show Some Skin: Break the Silence*, asks the question "What does silence cost us?" and challenges the Notre Dame community to speak up particularly about race, misogyny, religious discrimination, and other forms of injustice. For details, visit [ndshowssomeskin.com](http://ndshowssomeskin.com).



**BREAK  
THE**

S I L E N C E

March 2 and 3 at 7:30 pm  
March 4 at 2:00 and 7:30 pm  
Annenberg Auditorium, located in the Snite Museum  
visit [ndshowsomeskin.com](http://ndshowsomeskin.com) for more details

SHOW  
SOME  
SKIN

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Program of Liberal Studies

## Conference Organizing Committee

Marjorie Housley

Mary Celeste Kearney

Tara Hudson

Christine Venter

Z'étoile Imma

## Conference Program Committee

*Co-Chairs*

Z'étoile Imma and Christine Venter,  
University of Notre Dame

Trish Bredar, University of Notre Dame

Angelica Frausto, University of Notre Dame

Perin Gurel, University of Notre Dame

Tara Hudson, University of Notre Dame

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