

The College of Arts & Letters

Everything human beings do and produce has material reality and a technical dimension and also articulates, expresses and creates, human *meaning*, and (in various senses of the word) *value*. The arts and humanities work with meaning and value—their production, interpretation, critical understanding. Visual, performing and language arts and philosophical analysis and reflection—articulating with the technical in many ways—are integral to rich human life, to intellect, culture, self-definition and self-expression, and pleasure.

The arts and humanities programs educate students in the independent, analytical, and creative thinking and linguistic effectiveness necessary to success in all fields, and are essential to the preparation of the next generation of college and university teachers.



Graduate Conference in
The College of Arts & Letters

Michigan State University
February 19, 2010
9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

MSU Union
Gold Room A & Parlor A



GOLD ROOM A

MORNING SESSIONS

NOTES

 9:00-10:30

“Learning Academic Writing: Lessons Not Taught in the Classroom”

Scott Chiu. Second Language Studies
Writing Centers provide a potential environment and new learning experiences for ESL learners to acquire academic literacies in US universities. This study examines this phenomenon and investigates how writing center pedagogy impacts L2 learners’ beliefs, contributes to developmental changes in writing, and better prepares ESL writers for academic success.

“But That’s Not How I Write”

Elena Adkins Garcia. Rhetoric & Writing
This presentation questions and pushes against existing teaching writing methods that claim to be authentic but may not actually demonstrate the actions of experienced writers. By considering the concept of mentoring and by examining an “accurate” representation of a writing process, the presenter will encourage contemplation for expanding current teaching writing practices.

“A Sound Change of Brotherhood”

Chia-Hsin Yeh. Linguistics
A recent sound change of kinship terms, such as brother and sister, was found to change meanings of the kinship terms in Taiwan Mandarin. For example, the word brother becomes homosexuality, and the word sister becomes hot chick. The paper will demonstrate patterns of the sound change and correlation between the sound change and the meanings.

Session Chair:

Lorelei Blackburn. Rhetoric and Writing

PARLOR A AFTERNOON SESSIONS CONT.

 4:30 – 5:30

“Love! Empower! Educate!”

LaFarra Hemphill. African American Studies

Dominick Quinney. African American and African Studies

This presentation seeks to explore ways to empower and uplift African American adolescent males during their educational experiences. In addition, aspects of Social Work and outreach will assist in addressing prevalent and pressing issues Black male youth face both in and out of academic settings.

Session Chair:

Kimi Nakatsukasa. Second Language Studies

GOLD ROOM A MORNING SESSIONS CONT.

 10:30–12:00

“Incarcerated Love”

Bryan Prillwitz. Studio Art

My discussion concerns human conflict, internal angst, and the tortures and mysteries of sex. “Little girl lost, little boy found” to me describes those secrets of this desolate post Apocalyptic world. There seems to be a “pin up sickened warrior” within us.

“Martial Law & Marlowe’s *Tamburlaine*”

Lisa Barksdale-Shaw. English

Although several acts of violence encourage the view of *Tamburlaine* as lawless, the play seems to struggle between illustrating an identifiable code of justice which the warrior follows and justifies his military actions and abandoning all notions of peace and justice, thereby condemning his warfare as villainous?

“Comparing Native and Non-Native L2 Teachers’ Beliefs”

Xiaoqing Chen. Second Language Studies

This study examines the differences of native-speaking and non-native-speaking L2 teachers in their beliefs about grammar teaching and error correction. Analysis of questionnaire data from 244 teachers showed that native-speaking and non-native-speaking teachers differ in perceiving the importance of grammar teaching and learners’ attitudes towards grammar teaching and error correction.

Session Chair:

Chia-Hsin Yeh. Linguistics

PARLOR A MORNING SESSIONS

 9:00-10:30

“African American Studies at Michigan State”

Robert Munro. African American and African Studies

Kyle Mays. African American and African Studies

Dr. Austin Jackson. African American and African Studies

This panel will present on the past, current, and future state of African American studies programs Michigan State. The aim of the panel is to show need for programs/centers/departments of this field at a research university. Its intrinsic multi-disciplinary focus allows for both collaboration and knowledge forming within almost every discipline throughout the university.

Session Chair:

Shawn David Young. American Studies

 10:30-12:00

“GDR Culture: Gender and Beyond”

Daniel Kline. German Studies

Oya Uraz. German Studies

Theresa Schenker. German Studies

Hanna O'Neill. German Studies

This panel explores representations of gender and trauma in cultural products of the German Democratic Republic. The presentations discuss the artistic crisis masculinity, women's roles in the GDR and Turkey, trauma and the loss of personal utopia, and the effects the lesbian rights movement had on the political sphere in (former) East Germany.

Session Chair:

Scott Chiu. Second Language Studies

PARLOR A AFTERNOON SESSIONS

 2:00-3:30

“Speaking Chicano Studies”

Louie Moreno. Chicano/Latino Studies

Jose G. Moreno. Chicano/Latino Studies

Antonio Vasquez. Chicano/Latino Studies

This interdisciplinary panel provides a brief overview of current Chicano student scholarship at Michigan State, focusing particularly on Chicano Studies as a discipline in relation to labor and activism, historical/contemporary challenges, and community formation in the U.S. South.

Session Chair:

Lisa Kennedy. Philosophy

 3:30-4:30

“Too Big to Fail’: Reform or Revolution?”

Steven Schoonover. Philosophy

Ivan Guajardo. Philosophy

Michael Brown. Philosophy

“Too big to fail” corporations pose a threat to democracy. We offer two perspectives on this problem. The first sees liberal progressive reform as sufficient to overcome this threat, the second calls for a revolutionary response that challenges the idea of free market capitalism itself.

Session Chairs:

Xiaoqing Chen. Second Language Studies

Baburhan Uzum. Second Language Studies

GOLD ROOM A AFTERNOON SESSIONS CONT.

 3:30-4:30

“ESL Teacher's Use of Gesture”

Kimi Nakatsukasa. Second Language Studies

Nobuhiro Kamiya. Second Language Studies

This study investigates the relationship between questions types and gestures used along with questions by ESL teachers. Teachers used deictic gestures for referential questions and metaphoric gestures for display questions. Teachers may have used deictic gestures to clarify the topic of the question. Qualitative description of gesture accompanies the analysis.

“Silence to Speech: Josephine Butler’s Rhetoric of Siege”

Erin Beard. English

Josephine Butler’s campaign to repeal the Contagious Diseases Acts motivated women, through a rhetoric of siege, to “break down the walls” of social structures which categorized them. By identifying this theme in her writing, Butler’s project can be viewed as feminist despite its reliance on feminine weakness and suffering.

Session Chair:

Chi-Jui Lu. Department of Linguistics and Languages

LUNCH HOUR & SPECIAL SESSIONS

 12:00-1:00

Lunch Break

 1:00

Words of Encouragement

Dean Karin Wurst. College of Arts and Letters

Dean Karen Klomparens. The Graduate School

 1:15-2:00

Installation Discussion / 2nd Floor Concourse

NOTE: Installations are ongoing throughout the day, with a discussion session from 1:15-2:00.

“Gender Embodied”

Clarissa Gerber. Studio Art

What does it mean to be female? What does it mean to be male? Clarissa Gerber sees most of our gender identity as learned socially instead of as a result of our biological framework. Her oil paintings challenge social gender through reversing and confusing gender roles and gender itself.

“Hair Dress”

Amber Cook. Studio Art

An art piece that examines the notions of beauty and societal norms using fashion as a medium.

LUNCH HOUR & SPECIAL SESSIONS CONT.

“Portrait Project”

Kristina Miller. Studio Art

Self-Portrait A series of photographs that explores old adage that says you can tell a great deal about a person by the company that they keep. The portraits employ a mixture of theatrical and photographic conventions, showcasing relationships, which each lend an element of personality that amplifies one central self-portrait.

“Speech Made Visible”

Michael Wojcik. Rhetoric & Writing

Speech Made Visible is an experiment in analyzing speech for prosodic features (pitch, intensity, speed) and displaying them in written text, without requiring special expertise. We'll explore theory and research, our prototype application, and the history and future of the project. Attendees will be able to try the software.

“Philosophically Irrelevant”

Mindi Torrey. Philosophy

This poster/visual display will question the aims and methods of philosophy. A central strategy in philosophy is to define concepts such as justice, oppression, and knowledge. I suggest that particular voices--those most marginalized, oppressed, and exploited--are made irrelevant due to the standardization of such universal concepts.

GOLD ROOM A AFTERNOON SESSIONS

 2:00-3:30

“Denmark Meets New York City”

Alice Bever. Theatre

This presentation/performance aims at exploring the concept of Theatre Anthropology from an actor's perspective. After a brief explanation of the essence of socially-rooted theatre, the presenter will demonstrate the techniques acquired studying with master actor Roberta Carreri of Odin Teatret (Denmark), a pioneer in the research-theatre movement.

“aha, LOL: Learning Opportunities via Linguaging”

Baburhan Uzum. Second Language Studies

This study suggests that participants in a computer chat environment share a co-constructed ground and display alignment towards each other, and to the context of interaction in the domains of fluency and speed, accuracy, lexical and grammatical choices, content agreement and negotiation of meaning. In the acquisition of a second language, alignment could serve to enhance the interaction, lessen ambiguity, and pose learning opportunities as an outcome of synchronized behavior.

“Rethinking Evolutionary Ethics”

Eric Berling. Philosophy

Attempts to empirically inform moral philosophy with evolutionary insights have led to the conclusion that ethics involves categorical imperatives ? nonnegotiable requirements independent of one's context. I believe that empirical and theoretical findings in evolutionary psychology may reveal the opposite: that ethics is based on hypothetical imperatives.

Session Chair:

Shawn David Young. American Studies