

**POP CULTURE IN/AS
SPECULATIVE RESISTANCE
2018 CONFERENCE**



PRESENTED BY KINO CLUB 313

**CO-HOSTED BY THE VIDEO GAME SCHOLARLY INTEREST GROUP
AND**

THE WAYNE STATE COMICS COLLECTIVE

**WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
DETROIT, MI**

FEBRUARY 16-18, 2018

GENERAL INFORMATION

Location

All conference events will be held in the Wayne State University Student Center, located at 5221 Gullen Mall, Detroit Michigan, 48202 unless otherwise specified in the conference program. For more information about Student Center hours, services, and amenities (including ATMs, food court, lost & found, etc.) please visit studentcenter.wayne.edu.

Registration Table

The Registration Table will be located in the hallway outside Hilberry AB (Student Center, 2nd Floor). Registration Table hours will be:

Friday, Feb. 16: 1-5 PM

Saturday, Feb. 17: 10 AM – 4 PM

Sunday, Feb 18: 11 AM – 2 PM

The registration table will provide participants with their welcome packet, will manage the sign-in sheet for attendees, and will be available to answer any questions. Please make it your first stop; we're looking forward to seeing you!

Donations

This event is free and open to the public. There is no registration fee required to attend or participate in this conference or any related events. If you would like to make a donation to support future Kino Club 313 events, you can do so in the following ways:

- 1) Donations can be made at www.gofundme.com/KinoClub313
- 2) You can purchase our custom multifandom tote bag at www.etsy.com/shop/KinoClub313 - all proceeds will go to support future Kino Club 313 programming (availability is limited).

Parking

Visitor parking is available both on and off campus for this event, and should not exceed \$12 per day. We suggest parking in Parking Structure 6 at the corner of Putnam and Cass on Friday and Saturday. As this lot is closed on Sundays, we suggest either street parking (Cass Avenue, Putnam Avenue, and Anthony Wayne Drive all have on-street parking), or Parking Structure 1 (by the Law School), which is open 24/7 including Sundays. Please consult the interactive parking map for more details:

<http://maps.wayne.edu/#parking>

Technology

Each room being used for this conference will be equipped with VGA and HDMI inputs as well as screens for presenters with audiovisual materials. WiFi internet will also be available throughout the student center (please choose the WSU Public network, which does not require a password for access).

Live Tweeting

We encourage you to live-tweet during the conference using #PopCultureResistance2018. This can be a great tool for interacting and continuing the conversation. Live-Tweeting Etiquette: As this event is free and open to the public, please feel free to take pictures of the event and tweet them with our event hashtag—#PopCultureResistance2018.

**ALL PAPER SYNOPSES AND PARTICIPANT BIOS ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
WWW.KINOCUB313.COM/2018-CONFERENCE.**

Friday, February 16th

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Registration Table Open: Next to Hilberry AB (Student Center, 2nd Floor)

2:00 pm - 3:15 pm

Workshop: Navigating Fandom

Hilberry A

Shelby Cadwell (Wayne State University), Moderator

Chera Kee (Wayne State University), Facilitator

Synopsis: Are you interested in dipping your toe into a new fandom, but you're not sure where or how to start? Do you want to start studying fans and fandoms, but you aren't sure how to go about it? Whether you are a new fan looking for other like-minded people or a researcher interested in studying fandom, navigating online fan spaces for the first time can be tricky. In this workshop, we will explore likely spaces to find and study fans and fandom, translate common fandom terms and tags, and discuss the ethics of studying fans and fandom online. During the workshop, facilitator Prof. Chera Kee will take participants through some of the most popular sites for fan communities, alongside spaces that will help you learn how to "speak" fandom. We will also learn about popular sites for collecting fandom statistics and doing research, as well as spaces where fandom is made explicitly political.

Panel: Stranger Things in Early Modern England: Popular Culture and Resistance Hilberry B

Jaime Goodrich (Wayne State University), moderator

Michael Shumway (Wayne State University), Stranger Fiction: Rethinking Foreignness in Early Modern Pop Culture

Sean Levenson (Wayne State University), The Speculative Erotic Economy in *Love's Labour's Lost*

Sean Renkert (Wayne State University), "There is a cliff": Object, Terrain, and Vitalism in Shakespeare's *King Lear*

*This panel organized on behalf of the Wayne State Group for Early Modern Studies (GEMS)

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Pizza Reception + Drop-In Gaming

Hilberry AB

Hosted by the Video Game Scholarly Interest Group

Steven Proudfoot (Wayne State University), VGSIG President

Chera Kee (Wayne State University), VGSIG Faculty Adviser

Stop in to enjoy some pizza and play retro video games!

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Film Screening and Roundtable Discussion

Room 285

Get Out (Peele, 2017). This screening is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Synopsis: This roundtable discussion will be centered around the question of how to teach *Get Out* in the college classroom. Wayne State professors from multiple disciplines will offer insights on how *Get Out* could be used to teach issues of identity, racial politics, policing, gender, and much more. The audience is encouraged to come prepared with their own questions and insights on *Get Out* as a pedagogical tool.

Discussants:

Kevin Ball, Ph.D candidate, Film & Media Studies

Ronald E. Brown, Associate Professor of Political Science

Jonathan Flatley, Associate Professor of English

Lisa Ze Winters, Associate Professor of African American Studies & English

Moderator:

Shelby Cadwell (Wayne State University)

Saturday, February 17th

10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Registration Table Open: Next to Hilberry AB (Student Center, 2nd Floor)

10:30 am – 11:45 am

Workshop: Queer Inclusivity meets Tabletop RPGs

Hilberry A

Vytautas Malesh (Wayne State University), Moderator

Lauren Corneliussen (Oakland University), Facilitator

Synopsis: Historically, hetero- and cisnormative representations in tabletop gaming have often excluded LGBTQ+ people. Even under the best circumstances, unlearning normative practices can be a difficult process. Breaking down barriers and experimenting helps facilitate the creation and acceptance of more queer characters and relationships in fantasy and science fiction roleplaying games. This creative workshop aims to provide a welcoming and thoughtful atmosphere to promote inclusivity so that all communities can grow and collaborate together. In order to achieve these goals, the workshop will focus around several concepts: sexuality and gender theory, inclusive table etiquette, existing queer paradigms, and creation of new characters. There will be a brief introduction of sexuality and gender theory, as well as a review of the best practices to keep gaming tables an inclusive space for everyone. Chosen systems, characters, and storylines will be reviewed as a group and discussed in an open format. Expanding upon this new knowledge and group feedback, participants will brainstorm new queer ideas as a group, create new queer characters, and transforming previous characters and storylines. This workshop will primarily focus on fantasy and science fiction settings because of their potential for the development of new conceptual sexualities and genders, but the ideas expressed will be applicable to any cooperative storytelling system.

Objectives:

- Basic understanding of different sexualities
- Basic understanding of gender theory
- Best practices for keep an inclusive gaming group
- Brainstorm new queer characters ideas
- Feedback from peers on character design

Panel: "Who the hell do you think we are?": Expressing Resistance with K-Pop and Anime
Hilberry B

Steven Proudfoot (Wayne State University), moderator

Erick Raven (University of Texas), K-Pop as a Voice for the Oppressed

Nina Teal (Wayne State University), Fantasy or Fetishism: Fan-Fiction Trends among International K-Pop Fans

Sean Hill (Lewis & Clark Community College), "Reject Common Sense to Make the Impossible Possible": *Gurren Lagann* as Resistance to Structural Oppression and a Rejection of Accepted Boundaries of Science

11:45 am – 12:45 pm

Lunch Break (not provided)

12:45 pm – 2:00 pm

Workshop: Feminist Making: Techne and Episteme examined through Hand-spinning

Hilberry A

Stine Eckert (Wayne State University), moderator

Radhika Gajjala (Bowling Green State University), facilitator

Synopsis: Exploring the relationship between Techne and Episteme through the hand spinning of wool, this workshop considers issues at the intersection of technology and the body, including such topics as gender, politics of aesthetics, domestic labor, global north and global south, and digitality, among others. From a practice-based and feminist perspective we will contemplate how the body merges with old and new technology in the production of material artifacts.

Participants will be asked to discuss and journal about their experiences in connection with the key conceptual frames that the workshop leader suggests. No familiarity with hand-spinning is necessary to participate, and those with prior experience are encouraged to come with spindle in hand.

Steve Latawiec (Oakland University), moderator

Amy Latawiec (Wayne State University), Wrestling is real – but not for the reason you (might) think

Brian Jansen (University of Calgary/Red Deer College), Piledrivers and Performativity: Resistance and the 'Real' in Professional Wrestling

2:15 pm – 3:30 pm

Diana Rosenberger (Wayne State University), moderator

Diana De Pasquale (Bowling Green State University), The Politics of Piracy

Mary Karcher (Wayne State University), Power, Participatory Culture and Social Media: What Happens When Fans Fight Back

Kelly Polasek (Wayne State University), The Political Power of the Speculative in *American War* by Omar el Akkad

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Keynote: The Power of Speculative Fiction

Room 285

Matt Linton (Wayne State University), moderator

Sheena Howard (Rider University), keynote speaker

Synopsis: Dr. Sheena C. Howard, award winning writer, producer and scholar, will comment on the power of storytelling and how speculative fiction has been used to script identities in popular culture as it relates to both dominant and non-dominant groups. Howard will close the talk addressing the future of the comics industry and the multi-cultural renaissance moment that comics has been experiencing over the last several years.

Keynote Bio: Eisner Award winner, comic book writer, producer/writer/director of *Remixing Colorblind*, scholar Sheena C. Howard, is Associate Professor of Communication at Rider University. Howard is an award-winning author, including a 2014 Eisner Award winner for her first book, *Black Comics: Politics of Race and Representation* (2013). She is also the author of *Black Queer Identity Matrix* (2014), *Critical Articulations of Race, Gender and Sexual Orientation* (2014) and *Encyclopedia of Black Comics* (2017). In 2016, Howard wrote, produced and directed her first film, *Remixing Colorblind* which examines how higher education shapes our perceptions of race. Howard has appeared on NPR (National Public Radio), *The Washington Post*, ABC, *The New York Times* and PBS as well as other networks and documentaries as an expert on popular culture, race, politics and sexual identity negotiation. She also has bylines in *The Huffington Post*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer* and *Curve*.

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Reception

Ballroom AB

Join us for complimentary light refreshments, board games, and a selfie booth!

Sunday, February 18th

11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Coffee + Comics Reception

Hilberry D

Hosted by the Wayne State University Comics Collective

Matt Linton (Wayne State University), WSUCC President

Chera Kee (Wayne State University), WSUCC Faculty Advisor

Join us for coffee, pastries, and comics talk! We'll be chatting about *Black Bolt* (Saladin Ahmed/Christian James Ward), *Abbott* (Saladin Ahmed/Sami Kivelä), *Bitch Planet* (Kelly Sue DeConnick/Valentine De Landro), *Black Panther* (Ta-Nehisi Coates/Brian Stelfreeze), and *America* (Gabby Rivera/Joe Quinones), but feel free to stop by even if you haven't read these titles!

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm

Workshop: Revamp your ENG 101! How to Generate Critical Thinking Through Speculative Texts

Hilberry A

Matt Linton (Wayne State University), moderator

Rachelle Cruz (Orange Coast College/UC Riverside), facilitator

Ching-In Chen (Sam Houston State University), facilitator

Synopsis: Are you looking for ways to re-energize your English curriculum? Tired of the same readings on your syllabus? Interested in how to incorporate speculative texts into your course, while still meeting core departmental requirements? This workshop will offer participants strategies to hook students into the course (especially those who aren't too keen on speculative and science fiction); techniques for close reading, analysis and class discussion; tools for connecting literary theories, such as Queer Theory, Feminism, Critical Race Theory, etc., to classroom texts; and a variety of reading/viewing recommendations that are adaptable for any English-level classroom. Workshop facilitator and English instructor, Rachelle Cruz, has used *Binti*, a series of novellas by Nnedi Okorafor to discuss race, Afrofuturism, colonialism, otherness and home; *Private Eye* (a webcomic) by Brian K. Vaughn to unpack issues of privacy, futurity and identity; the Netflix series, *Black Mirror*, to analyze privacy, labor and gender; and more. Poet, hybrid writer and English professor Ching-In Chen has used Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower* and micha cárdenas' online, interactive game, *Redshift & Portalmetal*, in conjunction with a world-building project where students collectively imagine a speculative future world and critically engage in class discussions around class, gender, race, religion and environment through individual and collaborative writing.

Hillary Weiss (Wayne State University), moderator

Courtney Bliss (Bowling Green State University), *Bitch, Please!: Flipping (Off) Tradition (and Patriarchy)*

Sarah Urdiales (University of Houston), *Red Lips, Big Hair, Downtown Flair: The Development of America Chavez and Sexualization of Latinx Superheroes*

Hector Kilgoe (University of Pennsylvania), *Race Beyond the Stars: Time Travel and Prophetic Preaching in Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*

2:00 pm – 3:15 pm

Roundtable Discussion: Diversifying Comics

Room 285

Synopsis: This discussion will look at the past, present, and future of the comics medium as it relates to diversity and inclusion. Drawing from a range of experience in the industry including mainstream, independent, and self-published production, organizing fandom, and comics scholarship, our participants will share their perspectives on the broadening of physical and digital spaces in comics.

Discussants:

Saladin Ahmed, author, *Marvel's Black Bolt, Abbott*; Nebula and Locus award winning author of *Throne of the Crescent Moon*

Andre Batts, independent creator, *Dreadlocks*; owner/operator, Motor City Black Age of Comics Convention

Dan Merritt, owner/operator, Green Brain Comics, Dearborn

Chelsea Liddy, owner/operator, ComiqueCon

Matt Yockey, Associate Professor of Film, University of Toledo; editor of *Make Ours Marvel: Media Convergence and a Comics Universe*

Moderator:

Matt Linton (Wayne State University)

4:30 PM (Run Time: 2 hr. 14 min.)

Optional Post-Conference Film Screening AMC John R 15, Madison Heights

Join the conference organizers for a screening of *Black Panther* at the AMC John R 15 movie theater in Madison Heights (about a 15-minute drive north of WSU's campus). Parking at this theater is free, and it is easy to access via I-75. Tickets are available for pre-order now (\$11.50/adult + \$1.75 convenience fee per ticket) [at this link](#). If you are interested in joining us at this screening, we strongly encourage you to preorder your tickets well in advance, as this showing is sure to sell out!

Conference Organizers: Shelby Cadwell, Matt Linton, Connor Newton, Steven Proudfoot.
With special thanks to Kevin Ball and Chera Kee.