

*12th Annual Red River Women's Studies Conference
Brought to you by MSUM Women's and Gender Studies Program*



MSUM Red River Women's Studies Conference

Feminism in Action: Perspectives on Gender and Technology

Conference Program

Friday, October 26, 2012

Minnesota State University Moorhead

Comstock Memorial Union



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MOORHEAD.

Quick Glance Schedule

Friday, October 26, 2012

Participants are also encouraged to consider attending the Facing Race Conversations Sponsored by MSUM TOCAR, participation in full session is expected.

8:45 am – 12:15 pm New Conversations about Race and Racism, CMU 101
1:30 – 3:30 pm New Conversations about White Privilege, CMU 101

8:30 – 9:00 am Registration, CMU Main Lobby

9:00 – 9:20 am Welcome Address, CMU Ballroom

9:30 – 10:45 am **Concurrent Sessions**
Session 1 – *Feminist Technologies: Cyborgs, Cyber-Stalking, & Cyberart*, CMU 203
Session 2 – Family Social Roles: Understanding Motherhood and Kinship and Filmic Representations of Femininity, CMU 227
Session 3 – The Spreading Waters: Feminist Perspectives on the Flooding Red River of the North, CMU 205

11:00 am – 12:15 pm **Concurrent Sessions**
Session 4 – Genderings: Perspectives on Masculinity, Femininity, and Beyond the Binary through Contemporary Online Magazines, Literature in the Middle Ages, and Pedagogy, CMU 203
Session 5 – Feminism in the Public Sphere: Women in Law, Prisons, and Health, CMU 227
Session 6 – Student Activism Roundtable (Informal Discussion), CMU 205

12:15 – 12:45 pm Lunch, CMU Ballroom

12:45 – 2:15 pm Film Screening and Q&A “Teen Writes: The Group that Opened the Box,”
CMU Ballroom

2:30 – 3:45 pm **Concurrent Sessions**
Session 7 – Interdisciplinary Creative Arts, Feminist Action, and Intentional Intergenerational Community Development in North Dakota, CMU 205
Session 8 – Student Posters/Multimedia Presentation Exhibits, CMU Balcony

4:00 – 5:30 pm **Keynote Address:** Andrea Quijada
“Girl Tech: Intersections of Media and Reproductive Justice,”
CMU Ballroom

5:30 – 6:00 pm Closing Reception, CMU Ballroom

Detailed Conference Schedule

- 8:30 – 9:00a Registration, CMU Main Floor Lobby
- 9:00 – 9:20a Welcome, CMU Ballroom
- Sherry Short, Director Women's and Gender Studies, MSUM
Dr. Tim Borchers, Dean of Arts and Humanities, MSUM
- 9:30 – 10:45a Concurrent Sessions

Session 1, CMU 203

Feminist Technologies: Cyborgs, Cyber-stalking, & Cyberart

Moderator: Jennifer Knecht, MSUM WGS and Sociology Major

- **Johnson, Audrey D. University of North Dakota. "Fan Vidding: Manifestos for and by Feminist Cyborgs."**
Fan viding of live action media, the practice by media fans of re-editing television or film footage into music videos, is a mode of fannish engagement that was invented and is practiced largely by female media fans. While as Francesca Coppa notes, viding relies on skills which have traditionally been associated with women in the film industry—those of editing—vidding also calls into question traditional ideas about women's relationship to technology and to media sources (3). Vidding subverts the traditional hierarchy of producer/creator to consumer and by doing so, challenges the notion of audience as the feminized passive. Drawing on Donna Haraway's "A Manifesto for Cyborgs," I argue that vidders become feminist cyborgs, merging with technology in order to enact feminist critiques of mass media. In this presentation, I will examine two vids – "Women's Work by" by Sisabet and Luminosity, focusing on the female characters of *Supernatural*, and "In the Bullpen" by Genusshrike, focusing on Natash Romanoff, or Black Widow, from the film *The Avengers* – to demonstrate the ways in which vids use mass media source material to create an alternate feminist discourse.
- **Hume, Wendelin & Hume, Sherina. University of North Dakota. "Theorizing Gendered Usage of Technology: The Use of Technology to Stalk and Harass – Ideas for Awareness and Prevention."**
While technology can be a wonderful tool to gather information and stay in touch with those we care about, it can also be used to victimize others. To date there is no nationally representative study that explores the use of technologies being used in intimate partner stalking. However, a 2009 report from the Department of Justice found that one-quarter of the 3.4 million stalking victims in the U.S. reported cyberstalking, and GPS technology and other forms of electronic monitoring were used to stalk one in 13 victims. In our presentation we will share some information about these harmful and sometimes gendered usages of technology to increase awareness and we will provide some immediate concrete suggestions for how to minimize your exposure to technological stalking, victimization, and harassment.
- **Rarick, Jennifer. American InterContinental University. "Un-gendering the Artist."**
How does feminist art work become classified through online galleries when the artist's physical body cannot be determined and used to classify work? Does the classification rely completely upon the artist's statement and/or the curator's discretion and assumptions? What does it mean for artists to be able to submit their work without any gender inclusion/exclusion to online galleries? Are women better able to compete with the commonly practiced patriarchal show curations?

Session 2, CMU 227

Family Social Roles: Understanding Motherhood and Kinship and Filmic Representations of Femininity

Moderator: Anna Mueller, MSUM WGS and Sociology Major

- **Jackson, Heather. University of North Dakota. "A Case Study on the Impacts of Disordered Eating and Childhood Sexual Abuse on Mother's Parenting Skills."**
Motherhood may present challenges for many women, such as transitional issues, postpartum

depression, balance of work and family life, new responsibilities, identity challenges, and economic challenges. Mothers who struggle with disordered eating may face more or unique challenges related to motherhood. A history of childhood sexual abuse also has psychological impacts on mothering. This case study interviews two mothers who are survivors of childhood sexual abuse, had disordered eating behaviors at one time in their lives, and have at least one daughter. Using an instrumental case study approach, the interviews explored the impacts of the mother's disordered eating and childhood sexual abuse on their parenting skills such as teaching and modeling healthy eating behaviors, sexual boundaries and sexual health, and self-esteem. The results indicated that the mothers worked on normalizing eating behaviors and attitudes and healthy eating choices with their children while concerned about their own eating behaviors and attitudes, worry regarding the impact of how the childhood sexual abuse impacted teaching physical boundaries with their children, and preoccupation of not involving the children in the disordered eating behaviors and attitudes.

► **Whitman, Madisson. University of North Dakota. "Will you be my derby wife?": Gender and Kinship in Women's Roller Derby."**

Roller derby, a competitive sport played on roller skates, has enjoyed something of a revival since the early 2000s. In North Dakota, women's leagues that have developed in the last several years attract skaters from an extensive variety of backgrounds who collaborate to form teams and support leagues that are skater-driven. One such league in the region offered a prime setting for ethnographic research. This Paper interrogates issues of femininity and kinship in roller derby and examines several unique aspects of the sport, which include the practice of skaters taking "derby wives." Because roller derby is a site of reconstruction, concepts of kinship and marriage are subject to the pervasive camp element of derby and are reformed in ways that trouble traditional notions of heteronormative kinship patterns and systems of marriage.

► **Perez, Laurel. University of North Dakota. "More Than a Chick Flick Suicide: How Coppola's *Marie Antoinette* and *The Virgin Suicides* Subvert the Title and Gain Entry into Theoretical Discourse."**

Previous film critics have viewed Sofia Coppola's work with comments against her interpretation of literature. These critics have merely focused on how these women look, appear, and their surroundings. This paper calls into question Coppola's portrayal of young women in *The Virgin Suicides* & *Marie Antoinette*. I first look at the discursive practices of conversation amongst women within the two films. I argue that how they speak to one another, or the lack of dialogue is precisely calculated to produce certain expected results. I will discuss the desires of these young women, asking if these desires are a result of the strict observations of their mothers and society, which lead to the downfall and demise of Marie Antoinette and the Lisbon girls. The exigence of this paper to not only film studies, but also feminist film studies lay in asking audiences to view these films through new lenses. These films have not yet been looked at for the discursive conversation between women, nor how this affected them. This paper attempts to tie these pieces together to prove the legitimacy of Coppola as a director portraying women in film. Further asserting that these films are more than chick flicks, films that say something interesting about young women, their discourse, and how they desire and live under strict observation.

Session 3, CMU 205

The Spreading Waters – Feminist Perspectives on the Flooding Red River of the North (Panel)

The flooding of the Red River has been a major community concern over the last few decades with increasing threats over the past five years. The current cost projections for a local diversion are in the range of \$1.7 billion dollars. As taxpayers and/or future taxpayers it is important that students develop their voices in this discussion.

► **Murphy, Claudia. Minnesota State University Moorhead. "Teaching a Contextualized STEM Module on Local Flooding"**

The module focus on flooding in the Red River Valley in a course on Gender, Justice, and the Environment. It challenges students to consider the causes and solutions through a lens of the intersections of gender, race and class. Students study the science of water and ecology of wetlands, and examine social and economic impacts of flood prevention. Upon completion of the module, students will recognize how scientific knowledge is important in current local policy decisions.

- ▶ **Kottenbrock, Kathryn. Minnesota State University Moorhead. “Invisible Women and the Flood of 2009”**
Research focuses on how the flood of 2009 affected homeless women in Moorhead, MN. A survey will provide data from women about the challenges and successes during the flood. Since much current literature focuses on the plight of middle-class people, the new data will provide information for work that needs to be done to protect vulnerable populations in the Red River Valley.
- ▶ **Zilka, Tiffany. Minnesota State University Moorhead. “Students and the Flood of 2009”**
Research will provide information about the situations of college students during the flood of 2009. What are the consequences to students for providing free labor? Where did students go when classes were cancelled, and their dorms and houses were evacuated? What happened to international students? The survey will provide data about the situations in which students found themselves and how they coped.

11:00a – 12:15p Concurrent Sessions

Session 4, CMU 203

Genderings: Perspectives on Masculinity, Femininity and Beyond the Binary through Contemporary Online Magazines, Literature in the Middle Ages, and Pedagogy
Moderator: Michelle Roadfeldt, MSUM WGS & Film Studies Major

- ▶ **Rea, Raymond. Minnesota State University Moorhead. “Online Boi’s Magazines: Autoeroticism and Homophile Trans Publishing in Recent Years.”**
This presentation/paper will examine the recent up-cropping of online magazines that focus on Female to male Transsexual, Transgender, and Genderqueer existence. This magazines simultaneously serve as informational guides for people anywhere on the FTM spectrum and offer a decidedly homoerotic and autoerotic view of other people on the FTM spectrum. I will take a close look at two such online magazines, Original Plumbing (U.S.) and Dude (Australia). Reading these magazines, we are immediately confronted with questions of spectatorship. Who are they intended for? What readership? Given the advice columns and insider book reviews, we surmise the spectator is FTM himself. Given this, what role does eroticism play in these magazines? Homoeroticism is one clear answer, FTMs are at times directly oriented toward other FTMs, but I think this is only one explanation. The second type of eroticism inherent in FTM mags is autoeroticism, the desire for what we could ourselves be or that we ourselves already are.
- ▶ **Sauer, Michelle M. University of North Dakota. “Material Constructions of Space, Gaze, and Gender in the Medieval English Anchorhold.”**
In the Middle Ages, there were a number of Christian individuals—anchorites—who spent their life in prayer and contemplation in a small cell. These individuals took no formal vows, were not under direct abbatial authority, and did not follow a consistent Rule, but did agree to “stability of abode.” Their cell, the anchorhold, was usually attached to a church and employed windows for necessities. The most significant of these was the squint, a window in the wall between the church and the anchorhold designed so the occupant could see Mass. In this tradition, I will address how mutual interaction between architecture and gender constructs the space within the anchorhold. In particular, I will focus on the squint and the sense of sight. Throughout my exploration, I will incorporate contemporary medieval sources, including religious texts (especially Ancrene Wisse and Aelred’s Rule for a Recluse), treatises on sight (especially Plutarch and Heliodorus), and works about ocular communion and ocular chastity, as well as architectural I suggest that female-occupied cells required modification of sight due to the polluting quality of the female gaze, especially since sight is often connected to sexuality and lust. I believe in order to mitigate these problems, anchoritic cells constructed specifically for women relied upon various architectural constructs as the primary methods of purifying the female gaze. Thus, the material construction of the cell related directly to the spiritual conduct and consequences of the female anchoresses.
- ▶ **Lund, Kirby. University of North Dakota. “The Masculine Garden in Chaucer’s Troilus and Criseyde.”**
Geoffrey Chaucer’s Troilus and Criseyde fields arguments of gender at every turn, one in which deals with the gender of spaces. Previous scholars have interpreted the medieval garden space as feminine, yet this is actually a masculine space when Henri Lefebvre’s spatial triad theory is applied to the text. Lefebvre’s spatial practice examines the characters’ actions inside a space, and Criseyde performs masculinity through rational thinking, authority, and leadership. Because of Criseyde’s masculine
12th Annual Red River Women’s Studies Conference | MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY MOORHEAD

- ▶ **Kottenbrock, Kathryn. Minnesota State University Moorhead. “Invisible Women and the Flood of 2009”**
Research focuses on how the flood of 2009 affected homeless women in Moorhead, MN. A survey will provide data from women about the challenges and successes during the flood. Since much current literature focuses on the plight of middle-class people, the new data will provide information for work that needs to be done to protect vulnerable populations in the Red River Valley.
- ▶ **Zilka, Tiffany. Minnesota State University Moorhead. “Students and the Flood of 2009”**
Research will provide information about the situations of college students during the flood of 2009. What are the consequences to students for providing free labor? Where did students go when classes were cancelled, and their dorms and houses were evacuated? What happened to international students? The survey will provide data about the situations in which students found themselves and how they coped.

11:00a – 12:15p Concurrent Sessions

Session 4, CMU 203

Genderings: Perspectives on Masculinity, Femininity and Beyond the Binary through Contemporary Online Magazines, Literature in the Middle Ages, and Pedagogy

Moderator: Michelle Roadfeldt, MSUM WGS & Film Studies Major

- ▶ **Rea, Raymond. Minnesota State University Moorhead. “Online Boi’s Magazines: Autoeroticism and Homophile Trans Publishing in Recent Years.”**
This presentation/paper will examine the recent up-cropping of online magazines that focus on Female to male Transsexual, Transgender, and Genderqueer existence. These magazines simultaneously serve as informational guides for people anywhere on the FTM spectrum and offer a decidedly homoerotic and autoerotic view of other people on the FTM spectrum. I will take a close look at two such online magazines, *Original Plumbing* (U.S.) and *Dude* (Australia). Reading these magazines, we are immediately confronted with questions of spectatorship. Who are they intended for? What readership? Given the advice columns and insider book reviews, we surmise the spectator is FTM himself. Given this, what role does eroticism play in these magazines? Homoeroticism is one clear answer, FTMs are at times directly oriented toward other FTMs, but I think this is only one explanation. The second type of eroticism inherent in FTM mags is autoeroticism, the desire for what we could ourselves be or that we ourselves already are.
- ▶ **Sauer, Michelle M. University of North Dakota. “Material Constructions of Space, Gaze, and Gender in the Medieval English Anchorhold.”**
In the Middle Ages, there were a number of Christian individuals—anchorites—who spent their life in prayer and contemplation in a small cell. These individuals took no formal vows, were not under direct abbatial authority, and did not follow a consistent Rule, but did agree to “stability of abode.” Their cell, the anchorhold, was usually attached to a church and employed windows for necessities. The most significant of these was the squint, a window in the wall between the church and the anchorhold designed so the occupant could see Mass. In this tradition, I will address how mutual interaction between architecture and gender constructs the space within the anchorhold. In particular, I will focus on the squint and the sense of sight. Throughout my exploration, I will incorporate contemporary medieval sources, including religious texts (especially *Ancrene Wisse* and *Aelred’s Rule for a Recluse*), treatises on sight (especially *Plutarch* and *Heliodorus*), and works about ocular communion and ocular chastity, as well as architectural I suggest that female-occupied cells required modification of sight due to the polluting quality of the female gaze, especially since sight is often connected to sexuality and lust. I believe in order to mitigate these problems, anchoritic cells constructed specifically for women relied upon various architectural constructs as the primary methods of purifying the female gaze. Thus, the material construction of the cell related directly to the spiritual conduct and consequences of the female anchoresses.
- ▶ **Lund, Kirby. University of North Dakota. “The Masculine Garden in Chaucer’s *Troilus and Criseyde*.”**
Geoffrey Chaucer’s *Troilus and Criseyde* fields arguments of gender at every turn, one in which deals with the gender of spaces. Previous scholars have interpreted the medieval garden space as feminine, yet this is actually a masculine space when Henri Lefebvre’s spatial triad theory is applied to the text. Lefebvre’s spatial practice examines the characters’ actions inside a space, and *Criseyde* performs masculinity through rational thinking, authority, and leadership. Because of *Criseyde*’s masculine

spatial practices, the garden space is also gendered masculine. Representations of space explore the imagery of the garden. The greater implication of this masculine-gendered garden is that there is no escape for women in the Middle Ages from the influence of men or patriarchy, even in spaces appropriated for women's use.

- ▶ **Allan, Jonathan. Brandon University. "Teaching Introduction to Feminist Theory, or the Fear of 'Mansplaining'."**

In a column in the LA Times, Rebecca Solnit writes: "Men explain things to me, and to other women, whether or not they know what they're talking about. Some men. Every woman knows what I mean." "Mansplaining" has subsequently become a phenomenon which feminists – scholars and activists alike – have become aware. The man who dismissively, perhaps even pugnaciously, explains something regardless of his knowledge of the subject. This paper, is a metacritical, self-reflective paper on the act of teaching, particularly when arguments of identity and exclusion are involved as a man teaching "Introduction to Women's Studies: Issues in Feminism". Additionally, and particularly important, is the intrinsic anxiety of "mansplaining" feminist theory to a group of students. Is this 'anxiety' a negative pedagogy? This paper, therefore, draws on Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick's writing on paranoid and reparative reading, and Jane Gallop's work on "anecdotal theory," to theorize the act of teaching women's studies and the fear of "mansplaining."

Session 5, CMU 227

Feminism in the Public Sphere: Women in Law, Prisons, and Health

Christine LaCoursiere, MSUM American Multicultural Studies and Publishing Major

- ▶ **Stanley, Cody. University of North Dakota. "Beryl Levine: North Dakota's First Female State Supreme Court Justice's Perspective on Marriage and Divorce Law."**

North Dakota's first female State Supreme Court Justice, Beryl Levine's opinions concerning divorce, with a focus on child custody and spousal support, will have Patricia Hill Collins' Standpoint theory applied to them to properly articulate Justice Levine's unique perspective. From this analysis, Justice Levine's new perspective's utility will be illustrated.

- ▶ **Hendrix-Sloan, Geraldine. Minnesota State University Moorhead. "The Fargo-Moorhead Reentry Guide for Women: Service Learning and Community Activism."**

This presentation discusses the necessity of community-based resources for successful reentry of female offenders and describes the completion of a Minnesota State University Moorhead Faculty Grant project, which culminated in the creation of a Fargo-Moorhead reentry resource guide. This project began as part of a service learning project assigned to students enrolled in CJ 400, a senior seminar course titled *Women and Crime*. This course is designed to utilize feminist scholarship to inform students' understanding of female criminality. Students were assigned as teams to gather information regarding local and regional services available to post-incarcerated women, because a need for local services was identified. This guide provides female offenders with knowledge of local opportunities for educational, employment, counseling, legal and housing assistance. The final draft of the reentry resource guide was printed and distributed to female correctional facilities in North Dakota and Minnesota, and various other local venues. In particular, this presentation discusses: (1) the difficult process of reentry, (2) the need for local services for female offenders, and (3) suggestions for how feminist scholars can incorporate service to the community in their pedagogy.

- ▶ **Magel, Rhonda. North Dakota State University. "Examining the Relationship Between Faculty Women's Health, Work Environment, Other Factors."**

A study is conducted at a research university which examines the relationship between self-reported health scores of faculty members and other factors including the university work environment, adequate gender ratio, department climate for women, leadership opportunities for women, and whether or not the faculty member is in a STEM discipline. Comparisons of the results are made between male and female faculty. The study finds that the factor having the strongest relationship with health scores is the university work environment. No significant differences in responses are found between STEM and Non-STEM female faculty in the self-reported health scores and in the overall university work environment. Significant differences between STEM and Non-STEM female faculty are found only in adequate gender ratio scores.

Session 6, CMU 205

Student Activism Roundtable Informal Discussion

Two community activists Andrea Quijada, Executive Director of Media Literacy Project (Keynote Speaker) and Jamie Holding Eagle, Native American Girl Scout Troop Leader and Tutor for Fargo Public School's Indian Education Program will share about their activist work and facilitate a discussion with undergraduate students on best practices for feminist activism in your community.

- ▶ **Andrea Quijada.** Executive Director, Media Literacy Project.
- ▶ **Jamie Holding Eagle.** MSUM Alumnus, Moorhead Community Member, School Gardening.

12:15 – 12:45p Lunch, CMU Ballroom

12:45 – 2:15p Film Screening and Q&A to follow, CMU Ballroom

“Teen Writes: The Group that Opened the Box”

In the heart of North Dakota, outspoken teens question public silence about...everything. Teen Writes: The Group that Opened the Box is a documentary following a clinical psychologist, a professional writer, and a group of teens who collectively form a creative writing and performance troupe. They call themselves The Group that Opened the box. The Group explores issues facing teens, like sexuality, desire, body image, LGBT identity, abuse and more, against the backdrop of their hometown in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Director: Kyja K-Nelson, Minnesota State University Moorhead.

Co-Producer: Dr. Kathy Blohm, Chambers & Blohm Psychological Services

Co-Producer: Karen Van Fossan, Creative Arts Therapy

2:30 – 3:45p

Concurrent Sessions

Session 7, CMU 205

Interdisciplinary Creative Arts, Feminist Action, and Intentional Intergenerational Community Development in North Dakota (Panel)

The filmmakers of “Teen Writes: The Group that Opened the Box” will hold an informal panel discussion about using creative arts (writing, performance, film, etc.) as an interdisciplinary and intergenerational approach to feminist action, mental health, and community development.

- ▶ **K-Nelson, Kyja.** Minnesota State University Moorhead.
- ▶ **Blohm, Kathy.** Chambers & Blohm Psychological Services.
- ▶ **Van Fossan, Karen.** Creative Arts Therapy.

Session 8, CMU Balcony

Student Posters/Multimedia Presentations

This year's conference features a special session devoted to student poster and multimedia presentations in the form of this undergraduate student summit. Projects will be on display throughout the entire conference while students specifically field questions and present their research during this session. All conference attendees are invited to check out the student research throughout the conference. This session is juried for the “best presentation” and the top two student project prizes will be announced during the closing session of the conference.

Kottenbrock, Katie. Minnesota State University Moorhead. "Our Bodies Through Medical Technology: A Story to Depict the Cultural and Medical Control of Women's Bodies."

Lenzmeir, Breann. Minnesota State University Moorhead. "Women in the Workplace: An Audio Documentary on ND Women Workers."

Rodriguez, Maite Angelie. Minnesota State University Moorhead. "The Many Dimensions of Gender Identity."

Roe, Riah. Concordia College. "She's So Vain – Plugging Into Gender, Race, and Queerness."

Scott, Rebecca. Minnesota State University Moorhead. "Understanding Feminism By Imagery."

Siewert, Alex. Minnesota State University Moorhead. "Women as the 'Second Sex': Simone de Beauvoir's Relevance on Femininity Today."

Singh, Avantika. Minnesota State University Moorhead. "Women 'Hidden from History'."



About the Jurors



Rebecca Bahlmann (professional name: Rebecca Hackemann) is an Assistant Professor of Photography in the Department of Art & Design at Minnesota State University Moorhead. Bahlmann holds an MFA from Stanford University, CA (1996) and received her BFA (Hons) from the University of Westminster, London, UK (1994). In 2000/2001 she was a Whitney Museum of American Art ISP Program studio fellow in New York. Bahlmann has exhibited in New York, NY, San Francisco, CA, London, England, and Philadelphia, PA.



Gretchen L. Mullendore is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of North Dakota. She received her B.S in Geophysics from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1998, and her Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Washington in 2003. Her research interests include global climate change education, regional climatology, discrete propagation of convection, and troposphere-stratosphere exchange. She has been the recipient of the UND Outstanding Professor award for four consecutive years and is the co-founder and advisor of the UND student organization, Women in Science.

*Participants can find additional information on student research descriptions on the balcony

4:00 – 5:30p

Keynote Address, CMU Ballroom

“Girl Tech: Intersections of Media and Reproductive Justice”

Andrea Quijada, Executive Director

Media Literacy Project



In spite of hundreds of cable channels and movies produced by the multi-billion dollar media industry each year, we are often fed the same old stories over and over. Instead of multiple options providing a multitude of voices, we are left with tired stereotypes and misinformation. Conservative values such as the centering of heterosexual families, and limiting women’s access to reproductive health services dominate media production, social debate, and policy thus marginalizing and oppressing many families, communities, and women of color specifically. We need to interrupt the dominant narrative with stories that reflect what’s really going on in our communities and the culture shifts underway. Participants will learn about the work of Media Literacy Project and its Girl Tech program—a year-long program designed for young women of color to share their own experiences and perspectives on reproductive justice through storytelling and video production. Through this interactive presentation, participants will learn how media can be used to shift culture, support campaigns, foster collaboration, and build social justice movements.

About the Keynote: Andrea Isabel Quijada is the Executive Director of Media Literacy Project. With more than a decade of experience as a media literacy trainer, and 20 years as a community organizer, Andrea has a deep passion for media justice. She presents nationally and internationally on the impact of media on culture, politics, and technology, serves on the Leadership Team of the national Media Action Grassroots Network, and is a 2010 alum of Women’s Media Center Progressive Women’s Voices. She is an advisory board member of Generation Justice, serves as an advisor to Enlace Comunitario, and is a volunteer with IMPACT Personal Safety New Mexico. She has co-founded various organizations in Albuquerque, including Young Women United, a reproductive justice organization by and for young women of color. She is particularly interested in media as a tool for self-determination and movement building. Andrea has strong cultural and community ties to the Southwest. Originally from Phoenix, Arizona, she has happily made New Mexico her home for the past 17 years. Andrea earned her M.A. in Art History from the University of New Mexico with a focus on Chicana feminist art and art of social movements.

5:30 – 6:00p

Reception and Closing Remarks

Announcement of Student Poster Prize

Anita Bender, Minnesota State University Moorhead

About the Conference

The Red River Women's Studies Conference provides the opportunity for area researchers, scholars, and activists to join in presenting research and opportunities related to Women's and Gender Studies. This regional conference is hosted by Red River area Women's and Gender Studies programs including Minnesota State University Moorhead, North Dakota State University, and University of North Dakota. The conference provides an annual discussion on interdisciplinary and intersectional issues along with discussion and networking related to Women's and Gender Studies.

About the Theme

In an ever-increasing technologically advanced society, this year's RRWSC theme focuses on *Feminism in Action: Perspectives on Gender and Technology*. We have asked presenters to address the intersection of technology and gender in order to understand how these areas of inquiry shape historical and contemporary feminist activism and theory. We are excited to host a myriad of interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches to understanding gender and technology in many contexts through panels, workshops, student posters/multimedia presentations, and roundtables.

Acknowledgements and Sponsors

Red River Women's Studies Conference Committee

Kandace Creel Falcón, Chair
Sherry Short
Anita Bender
Ginny Bachmann
Claudia Murphy
Student Intern: Karlie Hoekstra

Thank you to Abstract Reviewers:

Anna Arnar
Nandita Bezbaruah
Kandace Creel Falcón
Geri Hendrix-Sloan
Claudia Murphy

MSUM Women's & Gender Studies Program Committee

Sara Anderson, Biosciences
Anita Bender, Director Women's Center & Rainbow Dragon Center
Laurie Blunsom, Music
Tim Borchers, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities
Kandace Creel Falcón, WGS
Geri Hendrix-Sloan, Sociology
& Criminal Justice
Annette Morrow, History
Claudia Murphy, WGS & Philosophy
Raymond Rea, Digital Technologies & Cinema Arts
Sherry Short, Art & Design, and WGS

Funding for the RRWSC Provided by:

Minnesota State University Moorhead
College of Arts and Humanities

Women in Action Fund

Women's Center

Rainbow Dragon Center

Comstock Fund of Minnesota State
University Moorhead

Women's and Gender Studies Program

1104 7th Avenue South • Moorhead, Minnesota 56563

Phone: 218.477.4072 • www.mnstate.edu



MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MOORHEAD

Minnesota State University Moorhead is an equal opportunity educational employer and is a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System. This information will be made available in alternate format upon request by contacting Disability Services at 218.477.4318 (voice) or 218.477.3529 (TMR/TTY).