



# Cultural Studies

## Newsletter

Fall 2022/Spring 2023

### Director's Message

A note from Rebekah Sheldon:

It was a wonderful year for the Cultural Studies Program! Following the successful changes instituted by outgoing Director Raiford Guins, the Program now hosts a lecture series, Culture Nights, in addition to our continuing support for the guest lecturers, conferences, and other events put on by Cultural Studies faculty across campus. We are proud to showcase these events in this newsletter along with our award winners and course offerings.

For those members of the community who have not attended a meeting of Culture Nights, I'd like to take this opportunity to describe the experience. Culture Nights: Ten Lectures on a Theme takes place one Wednesday per month at 5:30 inside The Bishop Bar in downtown Bloomington. For each of the three years of my Directorship, Culture Nights will have a new topic. Last year our topic was Occult Natures, this year's theme is Queer Methods, and AY 24-25 will be on Planetary Futures. Each of these themes will bring lecturers from around the country to Bloomington as well as feature two Cultural Studies-affiliated IU faculty.

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### Inside the Newsletter



Originally, we chose to host Culture Nights off campus because of our strong commitment to public accessibility. We discovered along the way that the location invited people from many different disciplines within the university *and* from many different communities in Bloomington to participate. This opened up the tone and tenor of the conversation.

We quickly realized that the best way to encourage free-flowing exchange was to move away from the familiar "Q&A" format. In its place, we run a discussion circle after each talk in which the audience (including the speaker) can discuss their ideas in the way that feels most exciting to the group. The format and of the enthusiasm of the audience makes Culture Nights feel more like a book club

or salon than an academic talk series—an atmosphere we try to support with free snacks, plenty of time before and after the event to mingle, and a table from Morgenstern's Books for book signings with the author.

We are so grateful to everyone who participated in making this year great, but I want especially to thank Program Admin Tess Given, whose effort and creativity have made this year run smoothly and with immense verve, and the crucial behind-the-scenes efforts of Robin Nokes and Lisa LaPlante. We could not do it without them.

I hope to see you around!

Rebekah Sheldon

Director, Cultural Studies Program

THE  
CULTURAL  
STUDIES  
PROGRAM

Ballantine Hall 440  
cstudies@iu.edu  
cstudies.indiana.edu

PROGRAM  
MANAGER Tess Given  
tjgiven@iu.edu

DIRECTOR Rebekah Sheldon  
rsheldon@iu.edu

# Cultural Studies: A Year in Pictures

The Cultural Studies Program is proud to host and support events happening across and beyond campus. In addition to our Culture Nights lecture series and collaboration with Morgenstern's bookstore, we're proud to support conferences, guest speakers, and graduate student work throughout the year.





# Culture Nights Presents: Occult Natures

Ten Lectures on a Theme

For more info and  
upcoming events  
visit our website:  
[cstudies.indiana.edu](http://cstudies.indiana.edu)

## Fall 2022



**AJ Lewis**  
Williams College  
*"The Turning Dark: Goddess,  
Apophysis, Occult, 1968 - 1982."*

September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022



**David Bering-Porter**  
The New School  
*"'Grown Used to It:' Time and  
Black Horror"*

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022



**Nathan Snaza**  
University of Richmond  
*"Man's Ruin: Hearing Divide and  
Dissolve"*

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022



**Solimar Otero**  
Indiana University-Bloomington  
*"Archives of Conjure:  
Co-creation and Performing  
with the Dead"*

November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022



**Sophie Lewis**  
Writer and Para-Academic  
*"Diane di Prima and Acid  
Communism"*

December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Spring 2023



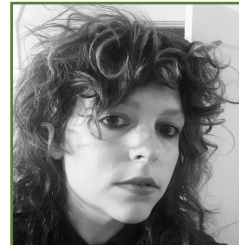
**Sean Grattan**  
University of Arizona  
*"Queer Goblins: As if There's  
Any Other Kind"*

January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023



**Philip Longo**  
University of California- Santa Cruz  
*"Circles of Sex: The Occult Roots  
of Gay Liberation"*

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023



**Hannah Zeavin**  
Indiana University- Bloomington  
*"The Cult and Occult of  
Psychoanalysis"*

March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023



**Tithi Bhattacharya**  
Purdue University  
*"Deadly Spaces: Ghosts, Histo-  
ries and Colonial Anxieties in 19  
Century Bengal"*

April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023

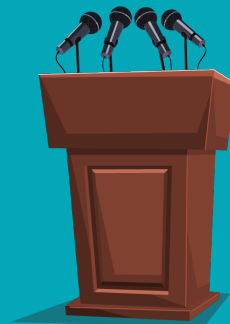


**Kirin Wachter-Grene**  
School of the Art Institute of  
Chicago  
*"Dirty Meditations on Coil's Sex  
Magick"*

May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

# Guest Speakers and Co-Sponsored Events

This year the Cultural Studies Program helped different departments and centers around campus to fund guest speakers and events.



**Dr. Cáel M. Keegan** is a cultural theorist of transgender/queer media and literature. He is primarily interested in the aesthetic forms transgender and queer people have created and how those forms shape our popular lifeworlds. Keegan is the 2021-22 Fulbright Distinguished Research Chair of Arts and Social Sciences at Carleton University and Associate Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Grand Valley State University. He is author of *Lana and Lilly Wachowski: Sensing Transgender* (University of Illinois Press, 2018) and co-editor of *Somatechnics 8.1* on trans cinematic bodies. His writing has also appeared in *Genders*, *Queer Studies in Media and Popular Culture*, *Transgender Studies Quarterly*, *Mediekultur*, *The Journal of Homosexuality*, *The Journal of Cinema and Media Studies*, and *FLOW*. Currently, he serves as Special Editor for Arts and Culture at *Transgender Studies Quarterly*.



**Dr. Quiray Tagle** is a transdisciplinary scholar of visual studies, feminist & queer studies, and critical ethnic studies. She earned her PhD in Ethnic Studies from the University of California, San Diego, and holds a BA in Political Science and Human Rights Studies from Barnard College, Columbia University. She was the Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Associate in Asian American Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign from 2015-2016. Thea has previously held full-time faculty appointments in American and Ethnic Studies, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Interdisciplinary Arts programs at the University of Massachusetts Boston and the University of Washington Bothell. Her research has been published in academic journals including *American Quarterly*, *Critical Ethnic Studies*, *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies*, *Ethnic Studies Review*, and *Verge: Studies in Global Asias*.







### **Diffraction World-Making: Theatre & Science Beyond the Capitalocene**

starts from the smallest possible constellation: one playwright, one philosopher. Berlin-based playwright Kevin Rittberger meets feminist and philosopher of science Karen Barad. On the basis of Barad's book *Meeting the Universe Halfway: Quantum Physics and the Entanglement of Matter and Meaning* and subsequent works, Rittberger explores the potential of a 'diffractive theatre' for our technoscientific age. At the same time, Barad explores our 'troubled time/s' and offers a queer, postcolonial critique that gives the impulse for our discussions on aesthetics and ethics. The initial encounter provides an opening through which to engage with concepts like response-ability and multi-species aesthetics, as well as with issues like colonialism, shrinking population, reproductive justice, and a critical theory for a damaged planet. The conference itself takes up Barad's method of diffraction and expands to an exceptional international cast of leading critics, artists, and theorists that think-with and nearby Barad and Rittberger, including McKenzie Wark, Rebecca Schneider, Tavia Nyong'o, Karin Harrasser, Ulf Otto, Bini Adamczak, Alison Calhoun, Penda Diouf, Luiza Prado, and Tzveta Kassabova. Our aim is not just to shed light on the entanglement of the sciences and aesthetics, but to demonstrate how productive it can be to read them through each other. In so doing, we can investigate their potential to radically rework established Western concepts and categories of causality, time, and space, and contribute to rethinking the troubled times in which we live.

**English Graduate Student Association Conference:** In 1937, the Indiana General Assembly officially selected the phrase "Crossroads of America" as the state motto. Almost 80 years later, the Netflix show *Stranger Things* features the fictional town Hawkins, Indiana as a portal that leads us into the "Upside Down," where all those "stranger" things come from, those Others desiring to annihilate us all. And the kids fight back—the familiar mixture of superpower, blood-spatter, and initiation rite. But we ask: what if we can put the war in abeyance, and cohabitate with that mirroring Otherworld and all the creatures flooding from it? What if we can replace the two-way portal with a crossroads, and (re)imagine other ways—both figuratively and literally—of defining our shared worlds? Indeed, are they really that stranger? We in the humanities have always dealt with things that are strange around us, and we enjoy and yes, have fun imagining strange, alternative worlds and different temporalities, spatialities, identities, and subjectivities that come with them. In 2023, we will make Bloomington such a crossroads, a space where not only people but animals, cyborgs, aliens, indeed, "things" come and go. Out of sync with the normative time and space, we will "make it strange."



## **Did You Know?**

Cultural Studies supports speakers and events across the IU campus. If you are planning to host an event or bring a speaker to campus the Cultural Studies Program may be able to help. Email [cstudies@indiana.edu](mailto:cstudies@indiana.edu) for more information.

# Cultural Studies Celebrates Our Award Winners

This year's Brantlinger-Naremore Prize for the Best Essay Written for a Cultural Studies course was awarded to Mallika Khanna for her essay "When Trauma is Too Much and Too Little: Analyzing the Limitations of Digital Diasporic Poetry under a Neoliberal Affective Regime." Written for Susan Lepselter's Spring '22 seminar, "The Social Life of Affect," this essay considers "the emerging affective genre of digital diasporic trauma performance." Concentrating on the genre's "affective, social, and political meanings," Khanna's analysis is remarkable for the way it celebrates the work of young poets of color, locates them in a lineage of women's confessional poetry, and recognizes the importance of their public vulnerability for other young women, all while criticizing the narrative of wounding and healing that structures the genre. Such a narrative, she argues, is complicit with the neoliberal values of self-reliance and innovation (and the racial politics of those values) that share responsibility for the poets' traumas. The committee commended the essay for its nuance as well as its beautiful prose and fascinating archive. Congratulations, Mallika!



We would also like to give an honorary mention to second place winner Kelsey Alexander for her essay "'Quiet Quitting': The Circulation of Anti-Work Discourse" written for Freya Thimsen's Fall '22 seminar in rhetoric and cultural studies. This essay explores important and timely questions about the state of work in C21 and the digital circulation of political opinions and feelings. The committee recognizes in particular the paper's synthesis of a broad range of ideas from rhetoric, critical digital studies, and cultural studies in analyzing a still-emerging cultural discourse.

## The Brantlinger-Naremore Prize for Best Graduate Essay in Cultural Studies

This prize recognizes an essay written by a graduate student that offers a serious engagement with issues in the field of Cultural Studies either at the theoretical level or by modeling analyses of cultural artifacts and processes. Essays that have been written for joint-listed cultural studies graduate classes are eligible for submission.

First prize consists of a \$1000 award, and a second prize consists of a \$500 award (to be paid to students' bursar account).

Submissions are accepted online at any time between November 15th and February 15th by sending the essay, a cover letter, and a brief letter of support from the faculty member to [cstudies@iu.edu](mailto:cstudies@iu.edu). Students are encouraged to self-nominate, and should talk directly to the faculty member to solicit a letter of support.



## Travel Awards:

We're proud to support the following minors in Cultural Studies in their excellent work:

**Brianna Best** presented work at the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment

**Yuma Morooka** presented work at the International Association for the Study of Popular Music



## Graduate Student Travel Awards

Cultural Studies at IU supports CS-minors traveling to present at a professional conference or to conduct research or field work. Awards are capped at \$1,000 and 6 such awards will be distributed over the course of the academic year, with 3 given each semester. The deadline is rolling throughout the academic year until funds have been fully distributed.

To apply, please submit a 1-page cover letter explaining the request, outlining its relevance to the student's research, and explaining expected costs; a current CV; a copy of the minor declaration form, and a brief letter of support from a faculty member. Application materials should be submitted via email to [cstudies@iu.edu](mailto:cstudies@iu.edu).

All current students minoring in Cultural Studies are eligible for this award. Please note that total awards for any student will be capped at \$1000 per year. Please also note that awards cannot be given retroactively. All awards are subject to university restrictions and regulations.

## Interested?

The Cultural Studies Program is committed to supporting work from our graduate students. If you want to learn more about funding opportunities, our inbox is always open or check out our website.

# The Cultural Studies Minor

How does Cultural Studies work into your graduate studies?

## Why Cultural Studies?

Cultural Studies is a multidisciplinary minor for students pursuing a graduate degree at Indiana University Bloomington. Drawing upon recent developments in cultural, social, and literary theory, this program emphasizes the investigation of cultural production and the social construction of values, ideas, and belief systems. Focusing on both contemporary and historical phenomena, courses in this area pay particular attention to the relationship between cultural forms and power relations in society. Issues of class, race, and gender receive prominent critical attention, as do conventional divisions between "high culture" and more "popular" forms of expression. Students in this program are encouraged to fashion a course of study which meets their particular interests and needs. Cultural Studies is especially useful for those seeking to complement studies in an area of disciplinary specialization with a more interdisciplinary minor.

## Program Resources

Every year, the Cultural Studies Program distributes funding for the following:

Travel funds for graduate student research and conferences

Yearly essay prizes for outstanding work in the field

Year-long lecture series with opportunities to meet guests

Cosponsored interdisciplinary grad work across COAS

## Structure of the Minor

The Cultural Studies minor consists of 4 grad-level classes, which may be taken any time before finishing coursework. The minor structure is as follows:

**12 credit Hours  
Total**

**C601: Intro to  
Cultural  
Studies  
(4 Credits)**



**3 Special Topics Courses  
(3-4 Credits)**

If you have questions, want to join our listserv for news and events, or just want to reach out, don't hesitate to email us at [cstudies@iu.edu](mailto:cstudies@iu.edu)



# The Cultural Studies Minor: Course Offerings

Below is a list of the course offerings from our program from the past calendar year. We're excited to collaborate with departments from across campus, but if there's a course that is interesting that isn't already being offered, you can always petition the Director for it to count towards your minor requirements. See more at [cstudies.indiana.edu/courses](https://cstudies.indiana.edu/courses)

## Fall 2022

CULS-C 601: Introduction to Cultural Studies—Ranu Samantrai

CULS-C 701: Special Topics in Cultural Studies

*Introduction to Performance (ANTH-E502)* – Jane Goodman

*Introduction to American Studies (AMST-G603)* – Micol Seigel

*Anthropology of Citizenship (ANTH-E600)* – Sara Friedman

*History of Rhetoric II (ENG-R608)*— Freya Thimsen

*20th and 21st Century Lyric and Narrative Poetry in French (FRIT-F650)* – Margaret Gray

*Race, Biopolitics & Colonialism (HISP-S695)* — Olimpia Rosenthal

## Spring 2023

CULS-C 601: Introduction to Cultural Studies: Cultural Studies of Media—  
Ryan Powell

CULS-C 701: Special Topics in Cultural Studies

*History and Theory of Museums and Collections (HIST-H697)* – Eric Sandweiss

*Perspectives in American Studies (AMST-G 604)* – Paul Anderson

*Curating Museum Exhibitions: Contemporaneity (ARTH-A691)* –Faye Gleisser

*Cultural Politics of Sexuality in the Twentieth Century: Sex, Fascism, Revolution (GNDR-G704)* – Lessie Frazier

*Introduction to Media Theory (FRIT-F652)* – Vincent Bouchard

*African American Religion and Literature: Toni Morrison (REL-R532)* – J Kameron Carter

# Faculty Advisory Committee

## Thanks to...



**Joan Hawkins**  
Cinema and Media Studies  
2022-2024



**Ranu Samantrai**  
English  
2022-2024



**Teresa Kovacs**  
Germanic Studies  
2020-2024

The Faculty Advisory Committee works closely with the Director of Cultural Studies on program-related matters, helping to shape the character and direction of the program. They also manage the annual review of the Director.

Two committee members are elected by Affiliate Faculty, and one committee member is appointed by the director. All advisory committee members serve two-year terms.

This year, **Joan Hawkins** and **Ranu Samantrai** begin their two-year terms, and we are excited to continue working with **Teresa Kovacs**. Thanks to the Advisory Committee for their time and efforts!



# Affiliate Faculty List

The Cultural Studies Affiliated Faculty includes more than 75 faculty members across 25 departments at IU. We'd like to extend a special welcome to newly affiliated members!

[Hannah Airriess](#) East Asian Languages and Cultures  
[Paul Anderson](#) American Studies  
[Marco Arnaudo](#) French and Italian  
[John Arthos](#) English  
[Ishan Ashutosh](#) Geography  
[Joëlle Bahloul](#) Anthropology, Jewish Studies  
[Purnima Bose](#) English, International Studies  
[Vincent Bouchard](#) French and Italian Studies  
[Fritz Breithaupt](#) Germanic Studies  
[Maria Bucur-Deckard](#) History  
[Alison Calhoun](#) French and Italian  
[J. Kameron Carter](#) Religious Studies  
[Linda Charnes](#) English  
[Marika Cifor](#) Information and Library Sciences  
[Carlos Colmenares Gil](#) Comparative Literature  
[Nick Cullather](#) History  
[Stephanie De Boer](#) Cinema and Media Studies  
[Arlene Diaz](#) History  
[Michael Dodson](#) History  
[Patrick Dove](#) Spanish & Portuguese  
[Jonathan Elmer](#) English  
[Freda Fair](#) Gender Studies  
[Phil Ford](#) Jacobs School of Music  
[Michael Dylan Foster](#) Folklore and Ethnomusicology, East Asian Languages and Cultures  
[Lessie Jo Frazier](#) Gender Studies  
[Sara Friedman](#) Anthropology, Gender Studies  
[Faye Gleisser](#) Art History  
[Jennifer Goodlander](#) Comparative Literature  
[Jane Goodman](#) Anthropology  
[Margaret Gray](#) French and Italian

[Raiford Guins](#) Cinema and Media Studies  
[Ricardo Andrés Guzmán](#) Spanish and Portuguese, Latino Studies, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies  
[Vivian Halloran](#) American Studies, English  
[Joan Hawkins](#) Cinema and Media Studies  
[Eduardo Herrera](#) Folklore and Ethnomusicology  
[Karen Inouye](#) American Studies  
[Jason Baird Jackson](#) Folklore and Ethnomusicology  
[Daniel James](#) History  
[Rhi Johnson](#) Spanish and Portuguese  
[Stephanie Kane](#) International Studies  
[Marianne Kielian-Gilbert](#) Jacobs School of Music  
[DeWitt D. Kilgore](#) English  
[Ivan Kreilkamp](#) English  
[Teresa Kovacs](#) Germanic Studies  
[Rebecca Lave](#) Geography  
[Meredith Lee](#) Gender Studies  
[Susan Lepselter](#) Anthropology  
[Joshua Malitsky](#) Cinema and Media Studies  
[Noriko Manabe](#) Music Theory  
[David A. McDonald](#) Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Anthropology  
[Jason McGraw](#) American Studies, History  
[Alejandro Mejias-Lopez](#) Spanish and Portuguese  
[Walton Muyumba](#) English  
[David Nichols](#) History  
[Scott O'Bryan](#) History, East Asian Languages and Cultures  
[Solimar Otero](#) Folklore and Ethnomusicology, Gender Studies, Latino Studies

[Radhika Parameswaran](#) Journalism  
[Philip Parnell](#) International Studies  
[Rachel Plotnick](#) Cinema and Media Studies  
[Ryan Powell](#) Cinema and Media Studies  
[William Rasch](#) Germanic Studies  
[Benjamin Robinson](#) Germanic Studies  
[Michael Robinson](#) East Asian Languages and Culture  
[Judith Rodriguez](#) African American and African Diaspora Studies, Latino Studies  
[Olga Rodriguez-Ulloa](#) American Studies, Latino Studies  
[Olimpia Rosenthal](#) Spanish and Portuguese  
[Brett Rothstein](#) Art History  
[Darlene Sadlier](#) Spanish and Portuguese  
[Ranu Samantrai](#) English  
[Eric Sandweiss](#) History  
[Micol Seigel](#) American Studies, History  
[Rebekah Sheldon](#) English  
[Marvin Sterling](#) Anthropology  
[Michiko Suzuki](#) East Asian Languages and Cultures  
[Freya Thimson](#) English  
[Alberto Varon](#) English, Latino Studies  
[Sonia Velasquez](#) Religious Studies, Comparative Literature  
[Brenda Weber](#) Gender Studies  
[Ellen Wu](#) History, Asian American Studies

# Culture Nights: Queer Methods

Coming Soon to a Bar Near You! Reach out with questions, enthusiasm, and more—see you there!

**Andrew Culp (Aug. 30)**  
"Radical Politics\\  
Destruction Aesthetics\\ Experimental Inquiry"  
Film Screening to Follow

**Olga Rodríguez-Ulloa (Sept. 13)**  
"Chola Queer: Variegation as Method"

**Surviving the Future Collective (Oct. 18)**  
"Abolition Means All:  
Queer Abolitionist Theories & Practices"

**Carrie Shanafelt (Nov. 1)**  
"Jeremy Bentham's Queer Enlightenment"

**End of Semester Party (Dec. 6)**

**QUEER METHODS**  
a free public lecture series  
5:30-7:30 PM  
The Bishop Bar (21+)  
contact us: [cstudies@iu.edu](mailto:cstudies@iu.edu)

**Cultural Studies presents**

**COME OUT!**

some of your best methods are queer



For more information about the Cultural Studies Program, visit [cstudies.indiana.edu](http://cstudies.indiana.edu) or reach out to us via email at [cstudies@iu.edu](mailto:cstudies@iu.edu)