



Date: 02.21.2025
Time: 12:40-4:00 PM
Location: Miller Learning Center
Contact: Dr. Cecilia Herles
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WGS 2025 STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

“FEMINIST RESEARCH ACROSS THE DISCIPLINES”

SESSION I: 12:40-1:30 PM

“Bodies as Battlegrounds”

MLC 214

**Chair: Katie
Hurlock, PhD**
Candidate in
English, WGS GTA

- “The Complexities of Performing Feminist Scholarship While Living Through Trauma: An Autoethnographic Critique”
-**Saifa Tazrin**, Graduate Student in Sociology, UGA
- “The Sticky Desirability of/for the Other in *Baby Reindeer*”
-**Swati Gilotra**, Graduate Student in Comparative Literature, UGA
- “In the Name of Life: A Feminist Analysis of the Anti-Abortion Movement”
-**Skylar Dillon**, Undergraduate Major in Biomedical Physiology, Minor in Women's and Gender Studies, UGA

“Pleasure, Panic, and Reclaiming the Self”

MLC 251

**Chair: Cecilia
Herles, Assistant
Director, WGS**

- “On Private/Public Politics, and Queer and Trans Youth”
-**Joseph Mazzola**, Undergraduate Majors in Women's and Gender Studies and Comparative Literature, UGA
- “Perspectives of Transnational Brazilian Mothers: Paths to *Conscientização* and Bilanguaging Love”
-**Rosangela Silva**, Graduate Student, Mary Frances Early College of Education
- “My Pleasure: Reclaiming Household Foodwork”
-**Zoe Rana Grant**, Undergraduate Majors in Women's and Gender Studies and Political Science

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SESSION II: 1:50-2:40 PM

MLC 269

Chair: Sophia Fleming, PhD
Candidate,
Communication Studies
and WGS GTA

“Blackness: The Ethics of Identity, Spirituality, and Mental Health”

- “The Sacred and the Feminist: A Black Feminist Analysis of Spirituality as a Resistance”
-**Bria Echols**, Undergraduate Major in History, Minor in Women’s and Gender Studies, UGA
- “The Critical Need for Intersectional Approaches in Substance Use Disorder Treatment: Implications, Framework, and a Path Forward”
-**Rayna J. Carter**, Undergraduate Majors in Psychology, Sociology, and Women’s and Gender Studies, UGA
- “A Study of Sonya Massey’s Death: The Intersection Between Black Women, Policing, and Mental Health”
-**Shreya Naik**, Undergraduate Major in Political Science, UGA

MLC 274

Chair: Swati Gilotra,
PhD Candidate in
Comparative Literature,
WGS GTA

“Male Gaze and the Pressure to Pleasure: Social Media and its Affect”

- “The Harmful Effects of Male-Centric Sexual Displays in Media”
-**Melyssa Munn**, Undergraduate Majors in Psychology and Women’s and Gender Studies, UGA
- “Choice Feminism’s Pipeline to Fostering and Emboldening Traditionalist Rhetoric”
-**Stefany Benjamin-Addy**, Undergraduate Major in Sociology, UGA
- “Conservative Women vs. Collective Action: Connections Between Kollontai and Anti-Feminism in the Age of Social Media”
-**Olivia Jade Castro**, Undergraduate Major in Human Development and Family Science, Minors in Women’s and Gender Studies and Global Health

“Manipulating Women: Religion, Patriarchy, and Reproductive Justice”

MLC 251

Chair: Jess Martinez,
PhD Candidate in
Geography, WGS GTA

- “‘Marianismo’ and the Continued Colonial Manipulation of Women in Mexico”
-**Meghan Mundy**, Undergraduate Majors in History and International Affairs, Minor in Latinx Studies, UGA
- “Contemporary Motherhood and Resistance Against Society’s Expectations”
-**Lisette Whitehead**, Graduate Student in Spanish and Hispanic Studies, UGA
- “El Muñeco Feo”
-**Ernesto Juarez**, Graduate Student in Hispanic Studies, UGA

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SESSION III: 3:00-4:00 PM

“Feminist Transformative Futures”

MLC 251

Co-Chairs: Sophie James, Undergraduate Majors in Art and Women’s and Gender Studies
Elise Robinson, PR and Program Coordinator, WGS

- “Titanium and Tourism: An Intersectional Feminist Approach to Industry in the Okefenokee Swamp”
–**Bailey Smith**, Undergraduate Major in Ecology, Minors in Wildlife Sciences; Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, UGA
- “From Collapse to Creation: *Annihilation* and the Ecofeminist Vision of Transformation”
–**Lilly Kirk**, Undergraduate Majors in Philosophy and Women’s and Gender Studies, UGA
- “Exploring New Possibilities: A Critique and Analysis of the Institute of Women and Gender Studies at the University of Georgia”
–**Rayna J. Carter**, Undergraduate Majors in Psychology, Sociology, and Women’s and Gender Studies, UGA
- “Joy as Liberation: Towards Sustainable Activism”
–**Teresa Lu**, Undergraduate Majors in International Affairs, Women and Gender Studies, and English, UGA

“Panel Discussion: Intersectional Perspectives on *Barbie*”

MLC 348

Chair: Vanessa Raditz, PhD Candidate in Mary Frances Early College of Education, WGS GTA

In the summer of 2023, Greta Gerwig and Margot Robbie smashed the box office with their hit film on the iconic Mattel doll, *Barbie* – but did they smash the patriarchy? This panel takes an intersectional look at the film through the perspectives of students in the Introduction to Multicultural Perspectives on Women course here at UGA. For the class midterm, students applied their understanding of feminist epistemology through media analysis of the film. We researched what the creators were attempting to accomplish in the production's depiction of patriarchy and also contemplated how audiences of marginalized or oppressed standpoints have critiqued the film's tokenistic representations of diversity and emphasized Mattel's profit motive for the project. During this panel, students share what they learned through this assignment, and our takeaways about Barbie's influence on feminist pop culture today.

Women’s and Gender Studies Student Research Symposium 2025 Committee:

Cecilia Herles, Elise Robinson, Blake Cravey, Sophia Flemming, Vanessa Raditz, Jess Martinez, Katie Hurlock, Swati Gilotra, Timeko McFadden, Sophie James, Zoe Rana Grant, Harini Tirumala, Riley Deyo