



# DISRUPTING THE CANON: HIGH CULTURE, LOW BROW, & THE SPACE IN BETWEEN

Stony Brook University  
31st Annual English Graduate Conference  
**MARCH 1ST, 2019**



Keynote Speaker:  
**DR. JONATHAN W. GRAY**  
CUNY Grad Center &  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

## BLACK GIRL MAGIC?

Representations of Innocence and Innovation in Ryan Coogler's *Black Panther* and Jeremy Love's *Bayou*.

Dr. Gray's talk considers how Shuri in Ryan Coogler's 2017 film *Black Panther* and Lee Wagstaff in 2009's graphic novel *Bayou* embody feminine resilience and ingenuity. Building on the work of Nazera Sadiq Wright and Robin Bernstein, Dr. Gray argues that these fictional young women revise the Topsy stereotype that treats Black feminine inventiveness as simultaneously incompatible with black girlhood and also threatening to white supremacy. Shuri and Lee and other figures (Riri Williams and Lunella Lafayette for example) point to new representational possibilities in comics and its related media.

For full conference program or to register, please visit the Stony Brook English Graduate Conference website: [sbuenglishgradcon.hcommons.org](http://sbuenglishgradcon.hcommons.org)

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