

COMPARATIVE STUDIES CONFERENCE 2018

When

I

Was

Am

Will

Be:

Interru

Empire

RABIA AAMIR
MAILYN ABREU
ANA-CHRISTINA ACOSTA GASPAR DE ALBA
MITCHEL BACCINELLI
KATHRYN PEWENOFKIT BRINER
CORA BRESCIANO
TYLER BUNZY
BETSAIDA CASANOVA
RACHEL COPLEY
JORDANA CORDOVI
CAITLYN DAVIDHEISER
EMILY DONOVAN
CARMEN DUARTE
HUSSEIN EL-ALI
STEPHANIE FLINT
CINDY FRALEE
ASHLEY GEORGE
IVY GILBERT
CHARLIE GLEEK
DANIEL GRAVES
MATT HAWKINS
NAYKISHIA HEAD
SHANE LYNCH
CASSANDRA JEAN
JAMIE MARTIN
STEPHEN MCGEARY
BROOK MILLER
JASON O'CONNOR
SHARIFA PATEL
DENISE PINNARO
MATT PRATER
ABBY REINHARD
GABLE ROUBIDEAUX-DAVIS
MELISSA SANTIAGO
SUZANNE SINK
ALI TAL-MASON
RENAE TUCKER
ANDI WEBER
CYNTHIA WEDDING
EMILY WHITE
GABRIELLA WILSON
LUKE WILSON

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY
CULTURE & SOCIETY BUILDING
19 - 20 OCTOBER

Welcome to the Ph.D. in Comparative Studies!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our annual Comparative Studies Conference. Florida Atlantic University offers a Ph.D. in Comparative Studies, with tracks in Cultures, Languages and Literatures (Humanities) and Culture, Society and Politics (Social Sciences). These are designed as interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary courses of study that enable doctoral students to develop expertise within traditional disciplines and across disciplinary and cultural boundaries. At the heart of our program is our strong belief that human societies, cultures, languages, and literatures are most fruitfully understood through comparative modes of analysis that include an ever-changing landscape of theory and methodologies. The objectives of the CLL and the CSP programs are to produce scholars who will teach at the university/college level in more than one academic discipline and in interdisciplinary programs, and who will be able to conduct research that crosses over traditional boundaries in an effort to develop new insights. While most graduates of the program will prepare for the challenges of the academy in an increasingly globalized society, others will prepare for a variety of nonacademic positions in public and private organizations.

Primary areas of strength for the CLL program include studies of literature and migration, rhetoric and composition, U.S. multiethnic literatures, early modern literatures, gender, sexuality and embodiment in literature, modernity and postmodernity in literature, space and place in literature, and postcolonial literature and culture. Primary areas of strength for the CSP program include studies of sociocultural and medical anthropology; bioarchaeology, ethnoarchaeology, zooarchaeology and primatology (anthropology); gender, agriculture, adulthood, adolescence, childhood, race, social class and economics (sociology); comparative politics, American politics, international relations, public policy and law, post-conflict resolution, democracy and democratization, political behavior and quantitative methods (political science). The curriculum in both programs also draws from many disciplines in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters and across the broader university. With accomplished faculty and eminent scholars, our program is proud to offer an innovative, rigorous, transdisciplinary course of study. Each year we offer to the most qualified candidates excellent teaching and research fellowships. Our faculty, students and staff collaborate in constructing an energetic, productive and pleasurable learning community.

I encourage you to speak with the students and faculty here at the conference to learn about our exciting program in more detail. Thank you for joining us here at Florida Atlantic University.

Sincerely,

Adam Bradford, Ph.D.
Director of Comparative Studies

COMPARATIVE STUDIES PROGRAM

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY



DR. ASHVIN R. KINI

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

FRIDAY 19 OCTOBER | 16.15 – 17.00 | CU 301

Ashvin R. Kini received his PhD in Literature (Cultural Studies) from UC San Diego in 2016. His research examines diasporic Black and South Asian literature and cinema to explore queer and feminist models of affiliation and coalition attentive to nonequivalent histories of colonialism and gendered racialization. His work has appeared in South Asian Review and The Journal of Intercultural Studies.

COMPARATIVE STUDIES STUDENT ASSOCIATION

The Comparative Studies Program is an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in the College of Arts and Letters at Florida Atlantic University. Formed in 2006, the Comparative Studies Student Association (CSSA) is a student-run, official campus organization working to provide an organizational forum that fosters camaraderie and research collaboration among students in all tracks of the Ph.D. in Comparative Studies Program. The CSSA organizes both an annual fall conference, and occasional spring symposium, as well as social and scholarly events throughout the academic year.

On behalf of all of our colleagues in the Comparative Studies Ph.D. Program, we welcome you to this year's conference. Our conference themes are an outgrowth of thinking and practice in our classroom spaces, scholarly research, and professional practice over the past year. Our conversations as a leadership group, as well as in consultation with students and faculty our program, resulted in the following focus of this year's conference:

While scholars and students often view imperial projects as historical, rather than contemporary conjunctures, the reality is that these projects, their effects, and their justifications remain a part of current affairs. The continued vilification, rejection and exclusion of voices which express their oppression to and resistance against colonizing powers in a supposed post-colonial age is one of the grand contributors to sustaining the idea of empire as past, but not as a present, continuing condition. This conference looks to amplify voices of dissent as a call to action, interrupting imperial projects through dialogue, learning, and collaboration.

The Comparative Studies Student Association would like to thank the following individuals for their work in supporting this conference: Stacey Balkan, Eric Berlatsky, Adam Bradford, Polly Burkes, Carla Calarge, Melissa Garcia Criscuolo, Jose de la Garza Valenzuela, Gabby Denier, Taylor Hagood, Michael Horswell, Shelby Johnson, Hendrick Joseph, Ash Kini, William Leap, Stacy Lettman, Kris Lindbeck, Ian MacDonald, and Nancy Poulson. While our conference is run by Ph.D. students, on behalf of our graduate student colleagues and in service of wider intellectual and cultural communities here at Florida Atlantic University, our work would be impossible without the collaboration, encouragement, and support of our faculty and administrative allies.

IN SOLIDARITY,

CHARLIE GLEEK | MITCHELL BACCINELLI | ANA-CHRISTINA ACOSTA
GASPAR DE ALBA | KATHRYN PEWENOFKIT-BRINER