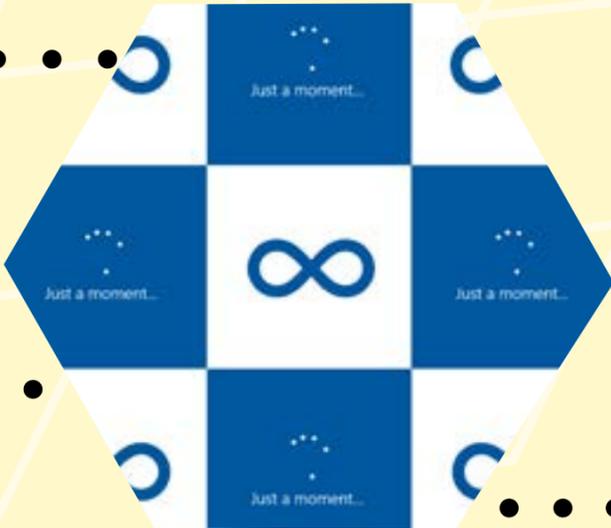


The Humanities Institute presents Graduate Student Summer Resident Talks

Tuesday, September 27, 11:00 a.m. –noon EDT
register on Zoom: bit.ly/3AYLRfc



Robert Nguyen Department of English

This project explores literature, television, and film depictions of the tech industry between the Global Financial Crisis and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. These works frequently portray imagined versions of technologies that had been created or envisioned years prior, and in doing so, they nostalgically reference political arrangements and material circumstances that such technologies enabled or required. These repetitions help to recirculate in culture the decades-old foundational ideologies of the technology industry, in ways that are at times so compelling that they inspire their adoption and endorsement even after periods of catastrophic failure.

Emily Sterk Department of Spanish, Italian, and Portuguese

This talk offers an analysis of sex work and its function as a metaphor for Puerto Rican identity in three different works of fiction: Rosario Ferré's short story "Cuando las mujeres quieren a los hombres" (1976), Manuel Ramos Otero's short story "La última plena que bailó Luberza" (1979), and Mayra Santos Febres's novel Nuestra señora de la noche (2008). Each of these three texts offer fictional retellings of brothel owner Isabel Luberza Oppenheimer (1901-1974), who was better known as "Isabel la Negra." Luberza Oppenheimer holds an important role in Puerto Rican myth-making, and contemporary literature and film continue to (re)tell and (re)invent her story. Therefore, in this talk I examine the ways in which the legacy of Isabel la Negra and her brothel contributed to the foundation and future understandings of Puerto Rican national (colonial) identity.



Elizabeth Schoppelrei Department of Comparative Literature; Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; German

Which words and texts spur on community formation? And which hinder it? In this talk, Liz Schoppelrei delves into poetry, comics, novels, and science fiction from the United States and Western Europe to analyze the complexities of queer and trans community formation across varied historical contexts.