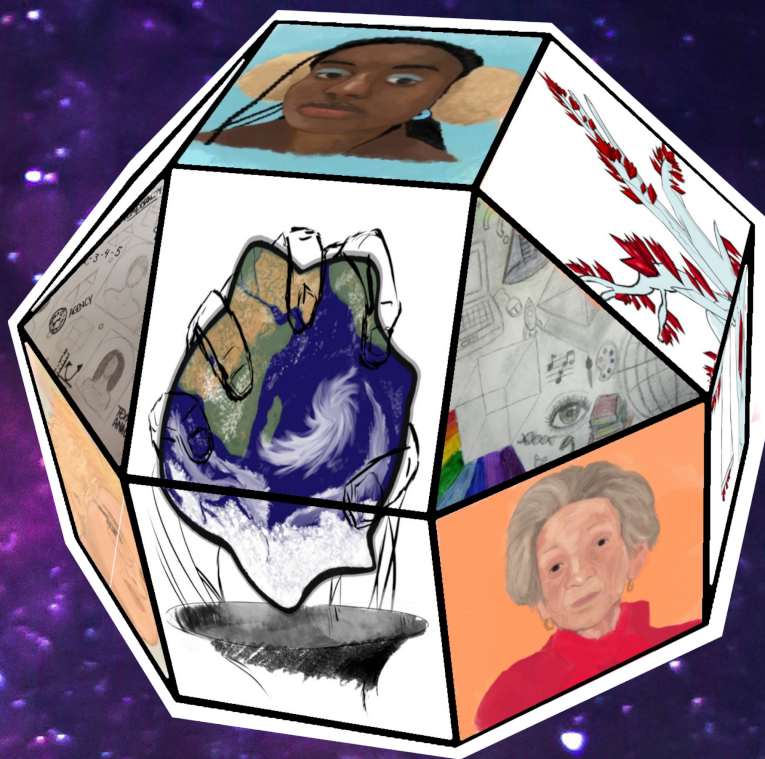


Planetary Prisms

**Solidarities, Transformations,
and Resistances**



14th UCF ENGLISH SYMPOSIUM 2025

Welcome to Planetary Prisms

In this age of multiple precarities, this symposium creates a space to map global and local narratives of connection such as allyship, intersectionalities, multimodal resistances, as well as examines disconnections amidst war, political conflicts, pedagogical or canonical hierarchies, and debates surrounding technological advancements. This symposium is thus keenly interested in the planetary transformations within the Anthropocene, shifts in the postcolonial and decolonial contexts, artificial intelligence, and pandemics that impact the ‘human condition’ in which our responsive interactions, relationships, and identities have been profoundly shaped. We encourage participants from all interdisciplinary fields and levels to contribute to a meaningful conversation about how literature, digital practices, and rhetorical approaches are reshaping and refracting socio-cultural landscapes. This symposium has diverse panels that bring together faculty and students from undergraduate, master's and PhD programs, allowing for a dynamic exchange of ideas.

This conference and its themes were developed by the Fall 2024 Capstone course in the UCF Department of English's Literary, Cultural and Textual Studies MA Program. We would like to thank the College of Arts and Humanities, India Center, and Center for Humanities and Digital Research.

Conference Organizers

McKenzie Carpenter, Natalie Donis, Cristine Faiello, Madeline Grohowski, Natalie Herman, Paige Mulac, Asiah Noel, Kalijah Rahming, Jonatan Ramos, Glenn S. Ritchey III, and Theo Tolliver.

Conference Adviser

Dr. Amrita Ghosh

March 6th, 2025

11:00a - 12:00p

Registration

TCH 208

Refreshments

TCH 325

11:15a

Welcome Address

TCH 325

12:00p - 1:15p

Panel One

TCH 325

Power, Resistance and Academic Autonomy

Chair: James Campbell

Deny, Defend, Depose: Ethics of Vigilante Action

Christian Beck

The Definition of Academic Freedom Should Not Be Discursive

Robert Cassanello

Options for Critical Work under Tyranny

Barry Mauer

1:30p - 2:45p

Panel Two

TCH 201

Cultural Production, Identity, and Migration

Chair: Glenn S. Ritchey III

Whose Memory? Moving the Centre by Twining the EPCOT World Showcase

Glenn S. Ritchey III

AI — Actually Indians: Postcolonial Anxieties about Artificial Intelligence

Justin Whittington

Migrants Moving from the Margins: Reimaging Italian Identity in Ghali's Music

Madeline Grohowski

1:30p - 2:45p

Panel Three

TCH 211

Cinema and Art from the Global South: Resistance and Nationalism

Chair: Leila Chacko

Iranian Cinema's Cinematic Defiance

Sukhada Gokhale

Dreaming in Somali: A Documentary Exploring Advocacy, Resistance & Poetry

Betsy Kalin

Construction of a Model Kashmiri and the Representation of 1971 war in *Raazi* (2018)

Amrita Ghosh

3:00p - 4:15p

Panel Four

TCH 201

The Black Experience: African American Cultural Studies

Chair: Obi Nwakanma

Examining Plot Through a Black Aesthetic: Afrocentrism and the Role of Ritual in August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*

Cristine Faiello

"So Nasty and So Rude:" An Exploration of Black Femininity in *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*

Kalijah Rahming

Shadows of the Self: The "Other" in Zadie Smith's *Swing Time*

Sarah Gilley

3:00p - 4:15p

Panel Five

TCH 211

Resistance Through Poetry, Art and Language

Chair: Bill Fogarty

Playing the 'Indoctrination' Card: The Politics of Language in the Culture Wars Over Higher Education

Tony Grajeda

Queer Light: Henri Cole's Forms of Knowledge

Bill Fogarty

Cuban Artists: Digital Resistance and Resilience

Karina Cespedes

March 7th, 2025

11:00a - 12:00p

Lunch

TCH 325

12:00p - 1:15p

Panel Six

TCH 325

The Environment We Live in: Humans, Animals, and Nature

Chair: Mark Kamrath

"In the Monethe of Maye": Medieval Dream Poetry's Cultivation of Resistance in Response to the Black Plague

Jonatan Ramos

FLORIDA IS A PLACE ON EARTH

Siew Hii

"Naked and Afraid"; or The Body as a Site for Private and Public Protest

Mark Kamrath

1:30p - 2:45p

Panel Seven

TCH 201

Trauma, Empire and Transformation

Chair: Karina Cespedes

Distorted Perceptions of Reality: The Effects of Unresolved Trauma in Bernhard Schlink's *The Reader* and Daphne Du Maurier's "Don't Look Now"

Asiah Noel

The 'Picklization' of Trauma in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*

Minah Patel

The British Invasion: Sophie Mol's Anglo-Indian Role in Arundhati Roy's *The God of Small Things*

Julia Annuziato

1:30p - 2:45p

Panel Eight

TCH 211

Culture Wars, Violence, and the Politics of Language

Chair: Christian Beck

The Violent Symbiosis of Criminals and The State: A Marxist Reading of Burgess' *A Clockwork Orange*

Kassandra Faylun

Words Were Conceptions Before They Became Weapons: A Brief Examination of Culture, Signifiers, Critical Pedagogy, and Large Language Models

Jonathan Hawks

Visualizing Resistance: Reading *Sanctuary* as a "Linguistic-Visual Narrative"

Natalie Donis

3:00p - 4:15p

Panel Nine

TCH 201

South Asian Conflict Literature: Partition and Kashmir

Chair: Amrita Ghosh

Speaking Through Silence: Tracing the Voice of Subaltern Agency in Shahnaz Bashir's *The Half Mother*

Paige Mulac

Dissecting Disability: Narrative Prosthesis & the Construction of the Ableist Nation-State in Divakaruni's *Independence*

Khushi Patel

Corruption of Hope

Theo Tolliver

3:00p - 4:15p

Panel Ten

TCH 211

Global Feminisms and Resistance in Literature

Chair: Lisa Logan

"there was a man": Heteropatriarchal Horror and Feminist Survival in E.M. Carroll's *Through the Woods*

McKenzie Carpenter

Dismantling the Silent Victim Stereotype: Postcolonial Feminist Resistance in Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis: A Story of a Childhood*

Natalie Herman

Going to Mars with Nikki Giovanni: A Transcendent Poet Continues to Speak

Nikki Fragala Barnes

3:45p

Closing Hang-Out

Notes

Notes



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