



MASTER OF ARTS AMERICAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Fall 2024

**Congratulations to our
Spring 2024 Graduates!**



L-R: Dr. Rudy Aguilar, Malika David, Dr. Kate Schaab, Lauryn Jennings, Serena Smith, Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



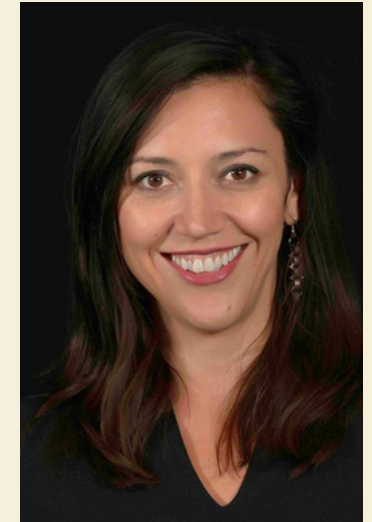
Dr. Rudy Aguilar will become the new Latin American and Latinx Studies coordinator this fall. He was also invited to participate at the Latinx Sound Studies institute at the University of California, Santa Barbara between June 10-11, 2024. A group of scholars convened during this encounter to present their research and discuss the state of the field.



Congratulations to Dr. Kate Schaab, whose chapter entitled “Interdisciplinary Curriculum” will be published in *The Edward Elgar Handbook of Interdisciplinary Teaching and Administration* this upcoming September!



Dr. Daniel Farr, our new Gender and Women’s Studies Coordinator, won the 2024 Distinguished Honors Capstone Mentor Award with student Hannah Walden’s project on “Transgender Legislation: How Politics is Shaped by Social Discourse” --- this project also was presented at Southern Sociological Society (paper presentation) and Honors Symposium this spring.



Dr. Nathalia Jaramillo’s proposed book series with J. Funez-Flores and A. Beltran, *Decolonial Entanglements*, has been accepted by Routledge along with their co-edited volume, *Decolonial Theories and Pedagogies of Liberation: Resistance and Re-Existence*, which will appear as the first publication of the series.

Zuckerman Museum Exhibits



Through December 7, the Zuckerman Museum of Art at Kennesaw State University's School of Art and Design will display Mississippi Choctaw and Cherokee artist Jeffrey Gibson's exhibit, *They Teach Love*, From the Collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation—a multimedia exhibition that “delve[s] into Gibson's exploration of radical transformation, both in objects and people.” His talk will be held on Thursday, October 17th at 7:30pm.



Canadian artist Catherine Blackburn's work grounds itself in the Indigenous feminine. Join us on Friday, November 15th at 1:30pm for an artist talk in which she reflects on her wearable art practice and its intersection between Indigenous dress, collaboration, and community. She will also host a Native American beading workshop on Saturday, November 16th from 12-4pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SASA 2025 Conference

The Southeastern American Studies Association Conference, entitled “Timely Reflections,” will be held in New Orleans from March 6-8, 2025. The deadline for papers, panels, and presentation submissions is October 4, 2024 at 11:59pm. Contact SASA President Dr. Rebecca Hill for more information.

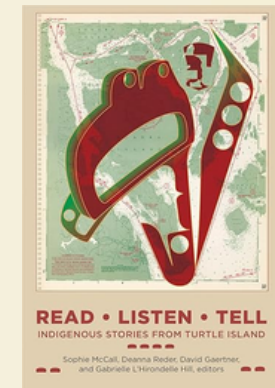
ISD Halloween Mixer: Themes in Horror

Please join the Interdisciplinary Studies Department for our spookiest event of the season! “Themes in Horror” will feature different aspects embedded in our programs' cultures. This event will be held on Wednesday, October 30th from 10am-2pm in the Kennesaw campus Student Center.

Author & Editor Talks



Blake Hausman, Cherokee science fiction author of *Riding the Trail of Tears*, will join KSU for a virtual visit with Associate Professor of English and American Studies Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers and Senior Lecturer of English Dr. Rochelle Harris Cox on Wednesday, October 23rd at 3pm.



KSU's "Topics in Native American Literature" course will host three editors of the book "Read, Listen, Tell." Hosted by Associate Professor of English and American Studies Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers and Senior Lecturer of English Dr. Rochelle Harris Cox on Friday, September 27th at 2pm.

SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED



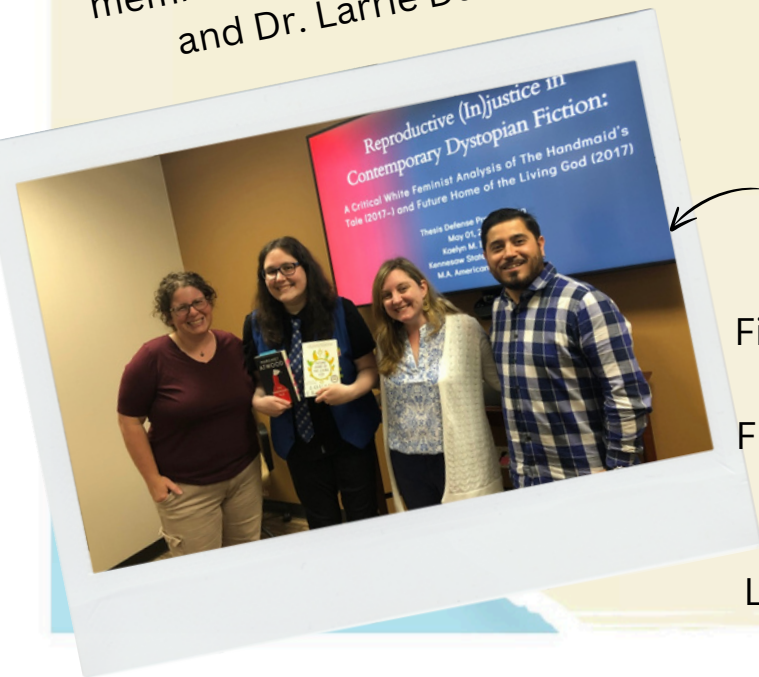
Lauryn Jennings successfully defended her capstone project, "See Me Show Me: Black Women's Representation in Television Sitcoms," in May 2024. Her thesis committee members were Dr. Lauren Thompson and Dr. Larrie Dudenhoffer.

Isaiah Rogers successfully defended his capstone project, "Shut Up and Dribble: The Political Contradictions of Black Masculinity in Sports," in May, 2024. His thesis committee members were Dr. Rudy Aguilar and Dr. Catherine Lewis.

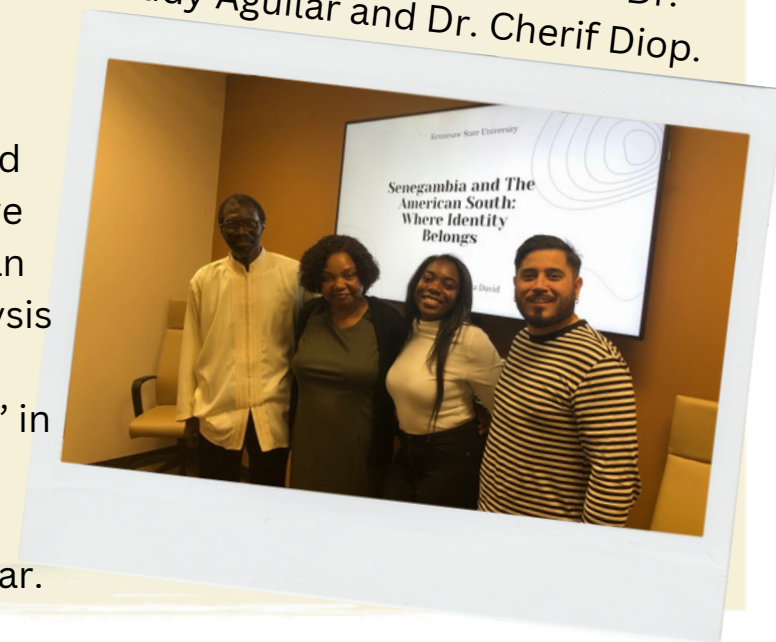


Serena Smith successfully defended her capstone project, "Back to Black: Analyzing the Presence of White Control Over Black Representations in Media and the Responses of Black Creators" in May 2024. Her thesis advisor was Dr. Kate Schaab.

Malika David successfully defended her capstone project, "Senegambia and The American South: Where Identity Belongs," in May 2024. Her thesis committee members were Dr. Rudy Aguilar and Dr. Cherif Diop.



Kaelyn Ireland successfully defended their capstone project, "Reproductive (In)justice in Contemporary Dystopian Fiction: A Critical White Feminist Analysis of The Handmaid's Tale (2017-) and Future Home of the Living God (2017)," in May 2024. Their thesis committee members were Dr. Kate Schaab, Dr. Lauren Thompson, and Dr. Rudy Aguilar.



SPRING 25 SNEAK PEEK

AMST 6401: Literature and Culture of the Americas
Dr. Griselda Thomas

AMST 7100: American Studies Methods
Dr. Rudy Aguilar

AMST 7230: Public History and Culture
Dr. Rebecca Hill

AMST 7330: Identities and Social Groups
Dr. Seneca Vaught

AMST 7901: Literature Review and Proposal
Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers

AMST 7902: Capstone Experience
Dr. Miriam Brown Spiers

NEW STUDENT ALERT

Andrea Higgins is a wife, mother to two teenage boys and currently a human resources/ office manager at a boutique family law firm. She obtained a Bachelor's from Howard University in Journalism and now is eager to explore capitalism and American political history in the MAST program.

Ronald Grisson works at KSU in the Admissions Department (6 years). He is a movie and baseball nerd. His research interests are in historic preservation.

These are just a few of the students joining MAST this year. Check out the next newsletter to meet more of our new students!

Want to learn more about the program?



Contact us for any questions about joining the American Studies program at KSU:

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