



14th Annual
**DISCERNING
DIVERSE VOICES**
SYMPOSIUM ON DIVERSITY

MARCH 1, 2023
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Welcome to the Discerning Diverse Voices Symposium (DDVS) sponsored by the College of Communication and Information Sciences at The University of Alabama. Now in its 14th year, the DDVS is one of our college's signature events that has helped to position C&IS as a leader in diversity, equity, and inclusion at The University of Alabama and among our peers.

Our theme this year, *Under Observation: The Conditions of "Being Seen,"* examines the politics, mechanisms, and modalities of visibility/invisibility as they relate to diversity in the modern information, communication, and media landscapes. We have created opportunities for sharing research and sparking dialog about diversity and inclusion for more than a decade. We are fortunate that the hybrid presentation of this symposium has allowed us to include more voices than before, and I look forward to engaging in renewed conversations with you in person and online.

All of us in C&IS recognize the important role Discerning Diverse Voices plays in providing a platform for students, faculty, and staff to showcase the new knowledge being created in this all-important area of study. Several books, book chapters, and journal articles now in print were originally presented at this symposium. Clearly, we have created a very effective vehicle for showcasing and advancing the good work of scholars in our college and across the nation.

We are deeply indebted to Dr. Miriam Sweeney and Dr. Alyxandra Vesey for providing leadership to the organizing committee for this year's event. Additionally, a special thanks to Dr. Suzanne Horsley for shepherding the event, to Al Cassada for all of their hard work organizing and planning, and to Alexandra Abernathy for making it all happen. The symposium couldn't happen without this team of excellent people and we thank them for their hard work and dedication to this effort.

Thank you for being a part of the activities, and best wishes for an excellent symposium!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Butler".

Brian S. Butler, Ph.D.
DEAN & PROFESSOR
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION SCIENCES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2023

9:00 CST

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ROOM 3104

PAPERS ON EXPOSING HIDDEN STRUCTURES

MODERATOR: DR. SHAHEEN KANTHAWALA

“Hidden Histories: Supporting ‘Aged Out’ Foster Students in Academic Libraries”

AMANDA DECKER

“Censorship Laws and Policy”

MRS. LYDIA KING

“A Logic Model Using Theory of Change Applied in Grant Development of Civic Engagement for Racial Justice in Public Libraries”

DR. BHARAT MEHRA

ROOM 3700

PANEL: BREAKING BARRIERS: GENDERED AND RACIALIZED SPACES WITHIN AND BEYOND UA

MODERATOR: MR. KEVIN THOMPSON

PANELISTS: MR. KEVIN THOMPSON, MS. LAURA STEWART, EDWIN LEE, MRS. REBECCA OLIVER

This panel considers the role of speech, artifacts, and presentation in perpetuating anti-Black, anti-Asian, and anti-Afghan ideas and actions in both the University of Alabama and the United States as a whole. Speakers will focus on the “Breaking Barriers” exhibit at the Paul W. Bryant Museum, a small blue bead at the Gorgas House Museum, the life and career of Asian American NBA player Jeremy Lin, and speeches from current and former U.S. Presidents to expose racist policy on both a local and national scale.

10:00 CST

ROOM 3300

POSTER SESSION

“Burnout: The Unseen Struggle of the Librarian”

MISS KATIE BALLINGER

“Stuck in the Middle: Invisible disABILITIES and Societal Perception”

MRS. ANDREA DOBYNES-WAGNER

“Navigating Neurodiverse Identity through Media Representation”

CASSIDY DUNCAN

“Alabama Public Libraries and Unhoused Patrons”

CECILIA DUPEPE

“Talk After the Fight: An Analysis of Digital Comments After a Dominant Group Fighter Beats a Nondominant Group Fighter”

MR. JACOB HUMPHRIES

“Women Refugees from the Middle East and North Africa Region: From Surviving to Thriving”

MS. BAHEYA JABER

“No Brown Crayons Needed: Racial Representation in Collegiate Recovery Data”

TONYA JENKINS

10:00 CST
cont.

“How the #BlackLivesMatter Movement Revived Enrollment at HBCUs”
MS. CARAN KENNEDY

“Bodies and Fashion: How Body Types are Racialized and Represented Among Trend Culture”
EMILY KINSEY

“Privacy Concerns as They Relate to Library Use of Facial Recognition Software”
HEATHER OTIS

“Discussions of Race in Secondary Education Classrooms”
ABBY PATTERSON

“Among the Shelves, Between the Margins: Improving Library Book Access for All”
MS. LAURA PITTS

“WWE Wrestling and the Mid-2010’s ‘Women’s Revolution’”
MR. MICHAEL RANKIN

“Name, Image, Likeness and Cultural Identity: Individual Worth from Nil to Six Figures”
MARTHA GLEN SEASE

“The Cultural Benefits and Challenges of Short-Term Missionary Trips”
MR. HAYES SNODGRASS

“‘Building Forward Better’: An Assessment of UNDP’s First-Year Humanitarian Support to War-torn Ukraine”
MS. NANA AFIA TENKORAMAA

“‘Summer’s Not as Long as it Used to Be’: Music, Longing, and Queer Temporalities in Frank Ocean’s Blonde”
MX. RAIN VERSER

“Rural Community Engagement: Understanding Difference Through an Experiential Communications Course”
MR. CALEB WALTERS

“The Effects of Xenophobia on Media Consumption: An Examination of Subtitled and Dubbed Work”
JAMELIA WILLIAMS

11:00 CST

ROOM 3700

DEAN'S WELCOME AND KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR. DAMION WAYMER, SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN

College of Communication and Information Studies

DR. MELISSA VILLA-NICHOLAS

The University of Rhode Island

MODERATOR: DR. MIRIAM E. SWEENEY

MELISSA VILLA-NICHOLAS, PH.D., is Assistant Professor in the Graduate School of Library And Information Studies at the University of Rhode Island. Her work focuses on the Latinx histories and practices of information and technology, immigrant information rights, and critical approaches to information science. She is the author of *Latinas on the Line: Invisible Labor in Telecommunications* (2022), Rutgers University Press, and *Data Borders: How Silicon Valley is Building an Industry around Immigrant Data* (Forthcoming 2023), University of California Press.

KEYNOTE: DATA BORDERS: HOW SILICON VALLEY IS BUILDING AN INDUSTRY TO "KNOW" IMMIGRANTS

This lecture investigates the emerging state of borderland technology that brings all people into an intimate place of surveillance where data resides and defines inclusion and exclusion to citizenship. Detailing the new trend of biologically mapping undocumented people through biotechnologies, Villa-Nicholas shows how Latinx immigrants are the focus and driving force for surveillance and technology design by Silicon Valley's emerging industry within defense technology manufacturing. A murky network is revealed that gathers data on marginalized communities for purposes of exploitation and control that implicates law enforcement, border patrol, and ICE, but that also pulls in public workers and the public, often without their knowledge or consent. Enriched by interviews of Latinx immigrants living in the borderlands on their daily use of technology, and their caution around surveillance, this work argues that to move beyond a heavily surveilled state that dehumanizes both immigrants and citizens, we must understand how the data is being collected, aggregated, and correlated with artificial intelligence, and push for immigrant and citizen privacy information rights along the border and throughout the United States.

12:30 CST

LUNCH

(provided for all registered participants)

1:00 CST

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ROOM 3104

PAPERS ON CLAIMING IDENTITY THROUGH A POLITICS OF VISIBILITY

MODERATOR: DR. PETER JENSEN

“Baring One's Soul on ABC's Soul of a Nation? TV Reporter Positionality in Authentic Diversity Reporting”

DR. GEORGE L. DANIELS

“Keep Calm and Carry On: Postpartum Mental Health in South Asian Mothers”

SOPHIA KISER

“Seeing Sickness: Archival and Embodied Encounters with the Medical Panopticon”

MRS. ALEXANDRA PUCCIARELLI

“‘You Live in the Dark, Boy, I Cannot Pretend’: The Influence of the Pleasure/Danger Binary on Queer Self and Musical Expression”

ERIN STENDER

ROOM 3700

PANEL: BEING SEEN: IDENTITIES OF CHILDREN OF DEAF ADULTS IN A BI-CULTURAL WORLD

MODERATOR: SANDY PASCUAL

PANELISTS: MS. FELICIA A. SMITH, DR. DARRIN GRIFFIN, MR. DARRELL HARGREAVES, TABITHA VENABLE

Due to their intersectionality in hearing and Deaf communities, children of Deaf adults (CODA) have a rare perspective on communication and diversity. This panel will allow for an opportunity for CODAs who are part of our campus community to “be seen.” Faculty, students, and staff at The University of Alabama who identify as CODAs will participate in this panel, and each will provide their own unique perspectives as to their identity within higher education and Deaf communities. Additionally, a CODA from the Alabama community will share their experiences of their identity and the impact of being raised in the Deaf community and navigating the hearing world.

2:00 CST

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ROOM 3104

PANEL: DIVERSE VOICES OF GRADUATE STUDENTS IN COMMUNITY-ENGAGED SCHOLARSHIP

MODERATOR: DR. BHARAT MEHRA

PANELISTS: GLORIA AKELLO ABURA-MEERDINK, MS. LAURA PITTS,
MS. OZIOMA OMAH, MARIO SALAZAR, LATONYA TAYLOR,
REBA WILLIAMS

This panel provides a venue for six doctoral students across disciplines at the University of Alabama to provide glimpses of their course experiences, perspectives, community projects, and career paths as they were enrolled in CIS 650 (Community-Engaged Scholarship) during fall 2022. Students will also share their reflections of “becoming seen” and navigating turbulent experiences in the academy representing “non-traditional” research and scholarship. In addition, they will highlight lived experiences “under observation” as the diverse “others” (in different ways of intersecting identity markers and social constructs) during recent traumas of racial injustices and social advocacy against police atrocities around the country in their course community scholarship and academic, professional, and personal journeys.

ROOM 3700

PANEL: CULTURE AND FILM: A TOOL FOR LEARNING

MODERATOR: DR. MARY M. MEARES

PANELISTS: MS. CASSIDY DUNCAN, NATALIE HEDBERG, MR. JACOB HUMPHRIES,
DENISE KAN, CLARE FRANCES KENNEDY,
MS. NANA AFIA TENKORAMAA, YONINA (NINA) WITMAN

Popular media is one tool for learning about different cultures, but it can also perpetuate stereotypes. On this panel, students will share their experiences analyzing recent films that feature cultural conflict, including CODA (2021), Minari (2020), The Half of It (2020), and The Sound of Metal (2019).

3:00 CST

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

ROOM 3104

PANEL: UNDER OBSERVATION: POVERTY AND FOOD INSECURITY – A 2023 CLASS INVESTIGATION

MODERATOR: DR. GEORGE L. DANIELS

PANELISTS: MS. DAKARII WILLIAMS, MR. MAURICIO GOMEZ

This semester the MC 413 Mass Communication, Service and Diversity class, a community-engaged learning class in the College of Communication and Information Sciences, is putting an emphasis on diversity of class and specifically the level of poverty within our state, around our nation and around the world. Thanks to the work of students at Brigham Young University who produced a documentary in Fall 2022 on a national hunger relief effort involving the LDS Church, students at the University of Alabama are doing additional research on the status of food insecurity in 10 communities in 2023. Additionally, they are using the Barriers to Prosperity Data Map to identify the poverty status of counties within the state of Alabama. And, during the two weeks, these students will be participating in a global virtual exchange through the “global circles” program sponsored by Soliya. This panel features four students from the MC 413 class who report on their efforts at the local, state, national, and international level.

ROOM 3700

PANEL: WORKING TO MAKE EVERY VOICE VISIBLE

MODERATOR: DR. CHANDRA CLARK

PANELISTS: DR. CHANDRA CLARK, DR. MICHAEL BRUCE, MRS. ANDI GILLEN,
MRS. JOYLYN BOGGS, JUDSON TRIMM

This panel will highlight the advocacy of the Stallings family, of University of Alabama football coach Gene Stallings, with regard to their son, John Mark, who was diagnosed with Down’s Syndrome. The Stallings family used their national platform to advocate and raise money for multiple pre-school programs, (RISE Schools), college programs (Crossing Points at UA and Clemson Life at Clemson University), and adult individual living and work programs (Tuscaloosa’s Eagles’ Wings). Building on the Stallings family’s legacy, this panel will feature a discussion about local disability advocacy work with representatives from the RISE Center at the University of Alabama.

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