Perspectives on America from across the Disciplines
A Kennesaw State University Graduate Research Symposium

Thursday, February 9, 2017, 5pm
in the KSU Student Center Leadership Room

Keynote
“Of Zombies, Pets and the Wild”
Dr. Jack Halberstam

Jack Halberstam is Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity, Gender Studies and Comparative Literature at the University of Southern California.

Halberstam is the author of five books including Skin Shows: Gothic Horror and the Technology of Monsters, Female Masculinity, In A Queer Time and Place, The Queer Art of Failure and Gaga Feminism: Sex, Gender, and the End of Normal and has written articles that have appeared in numerous journals, magazines and collections. Halberstam is currently working on several projects including a book on Fascism and (homo)sexuality.

Halberstam has co-edited a number of anthologies including Posthuman Bodies with Ira Livingston (Indiana University Press, 1995) and a special issue of Social Text with Jose Munoz and David Eng titled “What’s Queer About Queer Studies Now?” Jack is a popular speaker and gives lectures around the country and internationally every year. Lecture topics include: queer failure, sex and media, subcultures, visual culture, gender variance, popular film, animation.

AMST 7460
Telling Stories in America
MW 6:30-9:15pm
Dr. Charles Parrott
Summer 2017

This course is a performative exploration of storytelling and solo-performance in America in the 20th century and present day. Students will study the history and theoretical motives of storytelling and engage in performance to present their research.

Contact Charles Parrot for more information at cparrot5@kennesaw.edu
Congratulations Graduates!

**Paola Garcia** graduated from the Master of Arts in American Studies program with honors and earned the Global Engagement Certificate with distinction for her outstanding global learning endeavors. In the summer of 2015, Paola conducted an internship in Montevideo, Uruguay, at the Museo del Carnaval collecting oral histories from neighborhood committee members about their experiences with carnival and the local tablados. The tablado is an open stage constructed and decorated by members of a neighborhood for carnival performances that last 40 days in the summer. This ethnographic project fed her capstone work, a thesis, *Decolonial Interstice in Carnaval Montevideano: Murga as Hegemonic Dissent at the Tablado de Barrio*, in which she analyzed a type of satirical performance, murga, as a form of customary rebellion. After graduation, Paola plans to put her degree to work immediately, hoping to work with a NGO that addresses sociopolitical topics in Latin America. She also plans to begin writing a memoir about her experience as a member of the Uruguayan diaspora in Atlanta.

**Gabriel Greaves** continues to work on many of the projects he started while a student in the American Studies program, including working with the National Council of Elders, mentoring middle-school students, and researching Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s theological work and its impact on the public sphere, a project that shaped his thesis work, *Hidden Connections of Black and Brown: Understanding the Intersection of thoughts between Martin Luther King and Justo Gonzalez as a microcosm Illustrating Coalitions between Latinos and Blacks in the Civil Rights Era*. Gabriel regularly works with Atlanta activists on issues related to racial and economic injustice. Eventually, Gabriel will obtain his PhD and hopes to work as a professor and teach issues pertaining to the political impact of Latino/Latina and Black Liberation Movements and the social impact of religious worldviews, especially political movements within Christianity in the Americas.

**Heather Harris** has spent the last two summers collecting interviews from America’s nomadic vanwelling community for both academic and personal interest. Her thesis is a documentary film, *The Road is My Home: Reflections on Vandwelling Culture in the United States*. The vanwellers she encounters are often suburban deserters, people who have deliberately eschewed the traditional American way of life. Despite her life on the road, Heather graduated from the Master of Arts in American Studies program with honors. She plans to continue travelling and collecting interviews to add to her film.

**Aajay Murphy** plans to continue working as Kennesaw State University’s Digital Commons Managing Editor after graduation. He plans to obtain a Graduate Certificate in Digital and Social Media from the School of Communication and Media and then a Master’s of Library Science from Valdosta State University. Aajay plans to continue his research on the coffee industry and try to publish parts of his thesis, *Tracing Coffee, Culture, and Coloniality Between a Core (US) and Periphery (El Salvador) Through the Lens of Third Wave Ideations*.

**Vanessa Schill** is a Technical Writer, writing accounting software documentation for Yardi Systems, Inc. Vanessa works in the Affordable Housing united in the Atlanta office, where she also serves as a Certified Occupancy Specialist (COS) for affordable housing programs. She also regularly teaches “Gender, Race, and Media,” for the School of Communication and Media. After graduation, Vanessa plans to build and teach an American Studies course, “Media Literacy: A Cultural Approach,” built from her thesis: *The Importance of Teaching Media Literacy: A Cultural Approach to Navigating Media Landscapes*. Vanessa plans to earn her PhD in the future, but now she is excited to dedicate her talents fully as a writer and teacher, and spend more time with her family.

**Naznin Sultana** plans to put her degree to work right away and hopes to find a job teaching at the college level. Her American Studies thesis, *Unmasked Gospels: Islam, Islamophobia, and Ideologies of Bangladeshi-Muslims in Atlanta*, examined the political and personal ideologies of Bangladeshi- Americans of varying degrees of faith and national identity. Naznin also holds a Master of Arts in Literature and eventually plans to pursue her PhD.