The 16th Annual
Red River Women’s Studies Conference

Bodies, Spaces, and Powers

Thursday, October 27 - Friday, October 28, 2016

Keynote Speakers:
Dr. Danya Qato
Assistant Professor, University of Maryland-Baltimore,
Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services
“At the Margins: Women’s Health Under Occupation”

Dr. Ladelle McWhorter
Stephanie Bennett Smith Chair in
Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, University of Richmond
“In Perpetual Disintegration: A Foucault-Inflected Look at How Machine-Bodies Became Normalized Bodies”

Special Thanks To:

Thursday, October 27 (Gorecki Alumni Center)
(Gransberg Room)
3:30 – 4:00 Registration
4:00 – 4:10 Welcome and Introduction
Dr. Cindy Juntunen, Associate Dean of Research and
Graduate Education, College of Education and Human
Development
4:10 – 4:15 Introduction of Dr. Danya Qato
Dr. Rebecca Rozelle-Stone, Director of Women and
Gender Studies
4:15 – 5:15 Keynote lecture: Dr. Danya Qato
“At the Margins: Women’s Health Under Occupation”
5:15 – 6:00 Reception hosted by College of Arts and Sciences

Friday, October 28 (2nd Floor of Memorial Union)
8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Registration
(Fireside Lounge) Coffee and pastries served

9:00 – 9:50 a.m. sessions

Session 1.A Feminism in Orphan Black
(Medora) Chair: Audrey D. Johnson, Lecturer WGS/English
Speaker: “Orphan Black: Reimagining Sisterhood,”
Yvette Koepke, Associate Professor of English, UND
Speaker: “You Don’t Own Me: The Body, Agency, and
Power in Orphan Black,” Lauren Riccelli Zwicky,
Professor of Literature and Language; Gender Studies,
Metropolitan State University

Session 1.B Women and Politics
(Memorial) Chair: Kate Schaab, Instructor of Integrated Studies
Speaker: “An Analysis of Media Coverage of Democratic
Women Running for the US House of Representatives,”
Paige Blanchard, Undergraduate (Communications), UND
Speaker: “Female Progressive Organizations in North
Dakota, 1960-1980,” Sandra Kruse, Undergraduate
(English and Women and Gender Studies), UND
Session 1.C  Cultural Negotiations of Female Embodiment  
Chair: Gary Suchor, UND Alumnus (B.A., Philosophy and English)  
Speaker: “Feeding,” Michele R. Willman, PhD student (English), UND  

Session 1.D  Reading Between (Gendered) Lines in Literature  
Chair: Kjerstine A. Trooien, MA student (English), UND  
Speaker: “Catherine Morland and the Female Imagination,” Meghan Heitkamp, Undergraduate (English and Communications), University of St. Thomas  
Speaker: “My Big Fat Young Adult Literature: Common Obesity Tropes in Young Adult Literature,” Aimee A. Rogers, Assistant Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning, UND

10:00 – 10:50 a.m. sessions

Session 2.A  Postcolonialism, Trauma, and Torture  
Chair: Michelle M. Sauer, Professor of English, UND  
Speaker: “Elegies to Dead Children And Murdered Indigenes: Guilt and The ‘Lost’ Child in 19th Century Anglophone Settler Stories,” Rebecca Weaver-Hightower, Professor of English, UND  
Speaker: “Writing the Literature of Torture: The Subaltern Speaks in Beauvoir and Gisèle Halimi’s Djamila Bouacha,” Sarah Mosher, Associate Professor of French, UND

Session 2.B  Luce Irigaray and Embodied Discourse  
Chair: Lucian Stone, Associate Professor of Philosophy, UND

(Session 2.B 10:00-10:50 a.m. continued)

Speaker: “Luce Irigaray Reads Antigone,” Janessa Joy, Undergraduate (Classics and Philosophy), UND  
Speaker: “Exploring the Feminine Discourse with Luce Irigaray,” Ekram Kofiah, Undergraduate (Philosophy), UND

Session 2.C  Gender and the Military  
Chair: Kjerstine A. Trooien, MA student (English), UND  
Speaker: “The Minnesota Army National Guard: Infantry Expectations of Male and Female Soldiers,” Corbin D. Routier, MA student, Sociology, UND  

Session 2.D  Sexual Identity in Art and Literature  
Chair: Sarah Heitkamp, MFA candidate (Visual Arts), UND  
Speaker: “Becoming Sotiria Bellou: Her Singing Body in 20th Century Greece” Kathleen Dixon, Professor of English, UND  
Speaker: “What the Night Numbered: Writing the Stories of Gay Liberation,” Bradford Tice, Associate Professor of English, Nebraska Wesleyan University

11:00 – 11:50 a.m. sessions

Session 3.A  Interrogating Gendered Symbols and Monuments in History  
Chair: Joseph Glatt, Alumnus (Psychology), UND  
Speaker: “Removing, Relocating, and Reinterpreting Monumental Sculpture,” Cynthia Culver Prescott, Associate Professor of History, UND  
Speaker: “Considering Nobility in the Medieval Reclusive Vocations: Vowesses & Anchoresses” Michelle M. Sauer, Professor of English, UND
Session 3.B Postmodernity and Feminism
(Memorial) Chair: Lucian Stone, Associate Professor of Philosophy
Speaker: “Why I Shouldn't Like Postmodernism ...So Bordo Says,” Caleb Faul, Undergraduate (Philosophy), UND

Session 3.C Women in Fantasy and Science Fiction
(Medora) Chair: Marcus Weaver-Hightower, Professor & Chair of Educational Foundations and Research
Speaker: “Abjection and Loss: the Incoherent and Uncanny in Buffy the Vampire Slayer’s ‘The Body,’” Erin Meagan Schwartz, Undergraduate (Women and Gender Studies Honors), University of Winnipeg
Speaker: “A Fandom of Their Own: The Correspondence of Gertrude M. Carr and Marion Zimmer Bradley, 1951-1960,” Audrey D. Johnson, Lecturer in Women and Gender Studies and English, UND

Session 3.D Work, Gender, and Parenting
(Presidents) Chair: Krista Lynn Minnotte
Speaker: “Outcomes of Discrimination Against Parents in the U.S. Workforce,” Krista Lynn Minnotte, Professor of Sociology, UND
Speaker: “Job Insecurity and Coworker Support among U.S. Workers: Are There Gender Differences?” Tailer Varud, Undergraduate (Psychology and Nonprofit Leadership), UND [collaboration with Krista Lynn Minnotte]

11:50 am-12:50 pm Lunch break
Dining options are located on the first floor of Memorial Union, as well as across University Avenue at Archives Coffee House, and in the Museum Café (located in the basement of the North Dakota Museum of Art) on Campus Road.

12:00-12:50 pm Red Sand Project collective participation
(East side of the quad, in front of O’Kelly Hall)
Led by Dr. Nikki Berg Burin, Assistant Professor of History and Women and Gender Studies

Attendees are invited to meet near the “Persistence” sculpture on east side of quad on Centennial Drive to participate in releasing red sand in the sidewalk cracks. The Red Sand Project raises awareness about victims of human trafficking.

1:00-2:00 p.m. FRIDAY KEYNOTE LECTURE
(Lecture Bowl)
Introduction of Dr. Ladelle McWhorter
Dr. Rebecca Rozelle-Stone, Director of Women and Gender Studies

Dr. Ladelle McWhorter, Stephanie Bennett Smith Chair in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Professor of Philosophy and Environmental Studies, University of Richmond
“In Perpetual Disintegration: A Foucault-Inflected Look at How Machine-Bodies Became Normalized Bodies”

2:00-2:30 p.m. Keynote Reception: Fireside Lounge
Hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences, UND
2:30-3:45 p.m. sessions

Session 4.A  Roundtable: Combatting Commercial Sexual Exploitation in North Dakota: Lessons from the Past and Present
Chair: Paige Blanchard, Undergraduate (Communications), UND
Speaker: “Lessons from the ‘New Abolitionists’ of the Late 19th Century,” Nikki Berg Burin, Assistant Professor of History and Women and Gender Studies, UND
Speaker: “Lessons from Today’s Abolitionists,” Flint Devine, Undergraduate (Women and Gender Studies), UND

Session 4.B  Erotic Agents and Contestations of Control
Chair: Joseph Glatt, Alumnus (Psychology), UND
Speaker: “Purity Culture and Princess Culture’s Effects on the Body,” Morgan Devine, MA student in Sociology, UND
Speaker: “Taking Back Femininity and Erotic Education,” Michala Prigge, Undergraduate (English), UND
Speaker: “(Sk)Inquiring Self(ie) -Representations,” Christina Hajjar, Undergraduate (Women’s and Gender Studies and Business and Administration), University of Winnipeg

Session 4.C  The Performing Body as Subversive and Normative
Chair: Elyssa Ford, Assistant Professor of History, Northwest Missouri State University
Speaker: “The Commodification and Consumption of Femme Lesbian YouTubers,” Jamie Campbell, PhD student in Political Science, Tulane University
Speaker: “Cowboys for Sale: Advertisements and Imagery in the Gay Rodeo,” Elyssa Ford, Assistant Professor of History, Northwest Missouri State University

(Session 4.C, 2:30-3:45 p.m. continued)
Speaker: “The Normative Politics of Charlotte Cushman’s Subversive Celebrity as ‘Greatest American Actress,’” Sara Lampert, Assistant Professor of History, University of South Dakota

Session 4.D  Feminist Critique in/of the Academy
Chair: Sheila Liming, Assistant Professor of English, UND
Speaker: “Gendered Identities and Professional Academic Literacies: Cases of Early Career Women in English Studies,” Kathleen Vacek, Instructor, Teaching and Learning, UND
Speaker: “Work-Life Conflict and STEM Faculty Health: Gender Similarities and Differences,” Daphne Pedersen, Professor of Sociology, UND; Krista Lynn Minnotte, Professor of Sociology, UND
Speaker: “(Why) Should I Care? Feminist Praxis and Economies of Care in the Neoliberal University,” Rebecca Rozelle-Stone, Director of Women and Gender Studies & Associate Prof. of Philosophy, UND

3:50-5:05 p.m. sessions

Session 5.A  Intersections of Race and Gender
Chair: Sara Lampert, Assistant Professor of History, University of South Dakota
Speaker: “Aestheticizing Body Hair in the South Asian Diaspora,” Noor Bhangu, MA student (Cultural Studies), University of Winnipeg
Speaker: “Black Female Sexuality: The Effects of Colonialism, Racism, and White Supremacy in 19th and 21st Century,” Cheyne Page, Undergraduate (Women and Gender Studies), UND
Speaker: “‘Some of Us are Brave’: Embodying Comadrazgo in the Academy as a Queer Xicana Femme Professor,” Kandace Creel Falcon, Associate Professor of Women’s and Gender Studies, Minnesota State University Moorhead
Conference History

The Red River Women’s Studies Conference began in 2000 as a result of collaboration between the Women Studies programs at Moorhead State University, the University of North Dakota, and North Dakota State University. We each took a turn hosting the first three conferences at the different campuses in the order listed. The goals were many and included closer networking between the Women Studies programs in the area, a chance to share our scholarship and creativity in a collegial atmosphere, a chance to encourage student involvement and expose them to scholarship and activism in our fields, and a chance to network with the communities in the valley to raise their awareness of us and to raise our appreciation of their efforts and activism.

The conference typically draws participants from the Valley area and beyond; from the south as in South Dakota to the north as in Winnipeg, Manitoba, from the east as in Minneapolis to the west as in Bismarck and places in between. Funding and setting the theme for the conference are the responsibilities of the institution hosting the conference. We do share a set logo and title for the conference as well as an agreement to hold it in the fall semester and to honor the goals originally set for the conference.

Over the years we have had hundreds of panels, play acts, and exhibits and the conference has always been free for students and open to and supportive of members of the community. We have had numerous notable keynote speakers and playwrights including: Brenda Daly, Kathleen King, Winnona LaDuke, Dianna Hatfield, Kathleen Brokke, and others. Based on town hall meetings at the end of each conference and evaluations from conference participants and planners, the plan is to attempt to grow the conference so it can be shared with as many participants and visitors as possible and to continue it into the foreseeable future.

Submitted by Dr. Wendelin Hume, Associate Professor of Criminal Justice and past Women Studies Director, University of North Dakota.