



# Red River Graduate Student Conference

## **Blurred Boundaries:**

Composition, Culture, and Literary  
Studies in the Visual-Digital Age

Thursday, May 16 and Friday, May 17, 2024

North Dakota State University  
Fargo, North Dakota 58102

# Table of Contents

1. Sponsors & Conference Committee.....	2
2. Memorial Union Maps.....	3
3. North Dakota State University Map.....	5
4. Nearby Restaurants.....	7
5. Theme & Keynote.....	8
6. Conference Schedule & Wifi.....	9
7. Panel Sessions.....	10
8. Exemplary Paper Award Details.....	16

**Sponsors:**

North Dakota State University English Department  
North Dakota State University Graduate School  
North Dakota State University College of the Arts and Sciences  
North Dakota State University Congress of Student Organizations  
North Dakota State University Student Government

**Red River Graduate Student Conference Committee:**

S.J. Williamson & Mafruha Shifat, Conference Co-Chairs  
Alexandra Rowe, Scheduler  
Dr. Sean Burt, Stephen Disrud, & Sarah Beck, Exemplary Paper Prize Judges  
Ben Melby, AI Workshop Coordinator  
Dr. Alison Graham-Bertolini, Advisor

**English Graduate Organization Leadership:**

S.J. Williamson, PhD President & Treasurer  
Mafruha Shifat, MA President  
Alexandra Rowe, PhD Vice-President  
Kehinde Soetan, MA Vice-President  
Dr. Alison Graham-Bertolini, Advisor

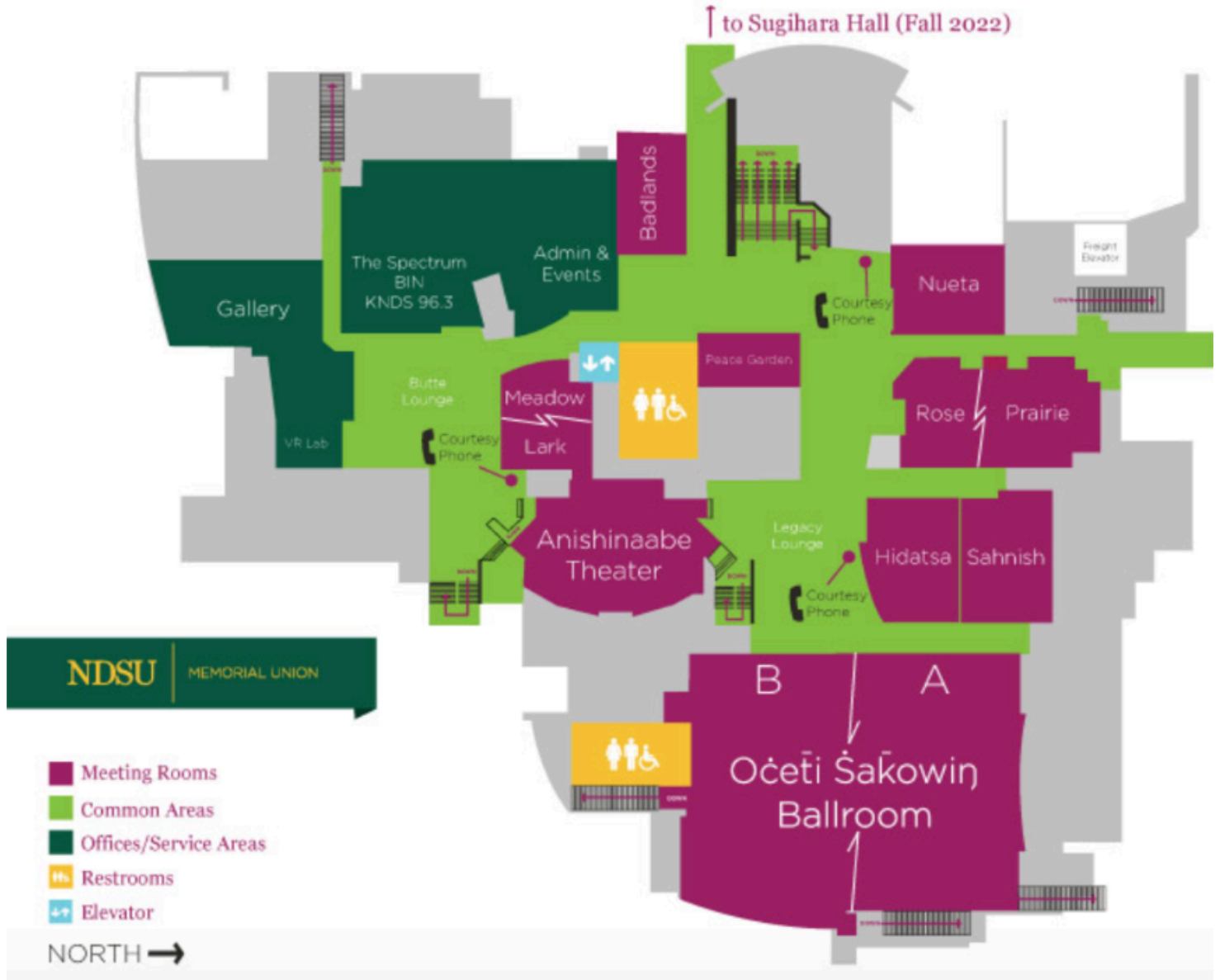
**Panel Moderators:**

Dr. Daniel Kenzie  
Dr. Lisa Arnold  
Dr. Matthew Warner  
Dr. Shiva Mainaly  
Cassandra Coghill  
Mafruha Shifat  
S.J. Williamson

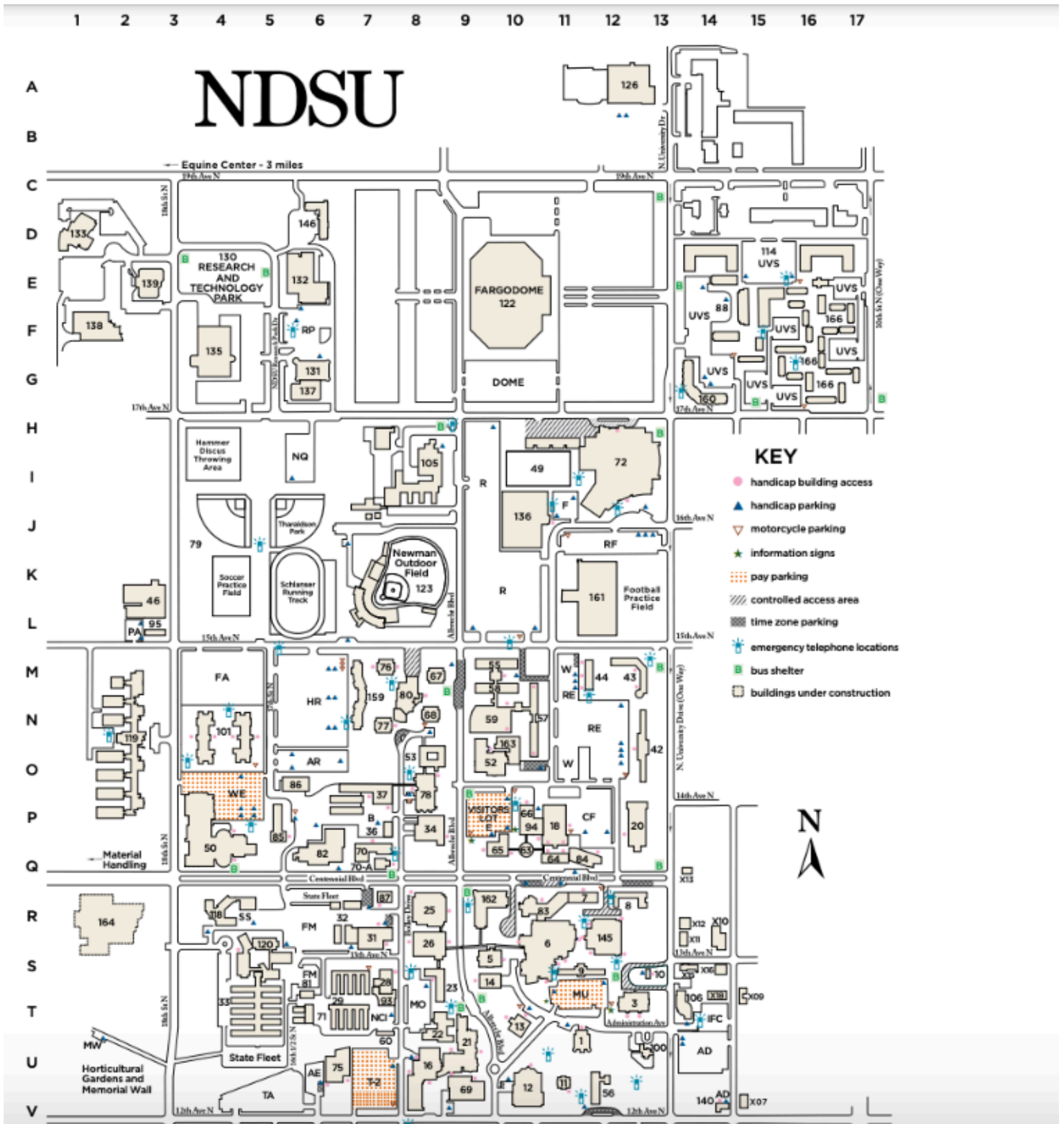


Map of North Dakota State University Memorial Union (main floor)  
[https://www.ndsu.edu/mu/about\\_the\\_mu/mu\\_floorplans/](https://www.ndsu.edu/mu/about_the_mu/mu_floorplans/)

# UPPER LEVEL



Campus Map: [North Dakota State University](http://www.ndsu.edu)



<b>R12 145</b>	A. Glenn Hill Center	<b>K8 123</b>	Newman Outdoor Field	<b>N4 101</b>	Mathew Living Learning Center
<b>S9 14</b>	Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering	<b>K12 161</b>	Nodak Insurance Football Performance Complex	<b>D15 114</b>	Niskanen Expansion
<b>S13 10</b>	Alba Bales House	<b>T7 93</b>	Northern Crops Institute	<b>E14 88</b>	Niskanen Hall
<b>N10 163</b>	Aldevron Tower	<b>S5 120</b>	Northern Crops Science Laboratory	<b>N7 77</b>	Pavek Hall
<b>T13 106</b>	Alumni Center, Harry D. McGovern	<b>U11 1</b>	Old Main	<b>M10 55</b>	Reed Hall
<b>K2 46</b>	Animal Nutrition and Physiology Center	<b>L2 95</b>	Parking Office	<b>M7 76</b>	Seim Hall
<b>E3 139</b>	Appareo - Genesis Building	<b>R2 164</b>	Peltier Complex	<b>M8 67</b>	Sevrinson Hall
<b>E3 138</b>	Appareo - Horizon Building	<b>T5 33</b>	Plant Sciences Greenhouse	<b>N13 42</b>	Stockbridge Hall
<b>V9 69</b>	Askanase Hall	<b>U6 71</b>	Potato Research-Pesticide Storage	<b>N8 68</b>	Thompson Hall
<b>142</b>	<b>Barry, Richard H., Hall (811 2nd Ave N)</b>	<b>W5 128</b>	Prairie Hall	<b>F15 166</b>	University Village
<b>P12 20</b>	Bentson/Bunker Fieldhouse	<b>U13 100</b>	President's House	<b>N10 57</b>	Weible Hall (North and South)
<b>I8 105</b>	Biosciences Research Laboratory	<b>U11 11</b>	Putnam Hall		
<b>D6 146</b>	Candlewood Suites	<b>R8 25</b>	Quentin Burdick Building		
<b>T13 3</b>	Ceres Hall	<b>127</b>	<b>Renaissance Hall (650 NP Ave)</b>		
<b>P10 66</b>	Civil and Industrial Engineering	<b>G6 131</b>	Research 1	<b>FRATERNITY AND SORORITY HOUSES</b>	
<b>P10 94</b>	Construction Management Engineering	<b>G6 137</b>	Research 1A	<b>T15 X09</b>	Alpha Gamma Delta
<b>I11 49</b>	Dacotah Field	<b>E6 132</b>	Research 2	<b>R13 X11</b>	Alpha Gamma Rho
<b>N2 119</b>	Dalrymple Research Greenhouse	<b>E4 130</b>	Research and Technology Park	<b>V15 X07</b>	Alpha Tau Omega
<b>P11 18</b>	Dolve Hall	<b>N9 59</b>	Residence Dining Center	<b>V12 X05</b>	FarmHouse
<b>R11 7</b>	E. Morrow Lebedeff Hall	<b>T7 60</b>	Residence Life Facility Services	<b>S14 X16</b>	Kappa Alpha Theta
<b>Q11 84</b>	Ehly Hall	<b>P5 85</b>	Robinson Hall	<b>S14 X15</b>	Kappa Delta
<b>Q10 65</b>	Electrical and Computer Engineering	<b>I12 72</b>	Sanford Health Athletic Complex/Scheels Center	<b>Q14 X13</b>	Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity
<b>J3 79</b>	Ellig Sports Complex	<b>O5 86</b>	Service Center, Pilot Plant	<b>W6 X02</b>	Sigma Alpha Epsilon
<b>Q11 64</b>	Engineering	<b>J10 136</b>	Shelly Ellig Indoor Track and Field Facility	<b>T14 X18</b>	Sigma Chi
<b>Q10 63</b>	Engineering Administration	<b>P8 34</b>	Shepperd Arena	<b>V15 X19</b>	Sigma Nu
	<b>Equine Center (3 miles west of campus on 19th Ave N)</b>	<b>T10 13</b>	South Engineering	<b>W11 X04</b>	Tau Kappa Epsilon
<b>E10 122</b>	Fargodome	<b>Q7 70</b>	Stevens Hall	<b>R13 X12</b>	Theta Chi
<b>Q7 70-A</b>	Gate City Bank Auditorium	<b>W14 X06</b>	St. Paul's Chapel		
<b>V14 140</b>	Graduate Center	<b>O9 52</b>	Sudro Hall		
<b>S7 28</b>	Harris Hall	<b>T6 81</b>	Sugar Beet Research		
<b>R7 87</b>	Hastings Hall	<b>R9 162</b>	Sugihara Hall		
<b>T8 22</b>	Heating Plant	<b>D1 133</b>	Technology Incubator		
<b>S8 26</b>	Hultz Hall	<b>R7 31</b>	Thorson Maintenance Center		
<b>R4 118</b>	Johansen Hall	<b>U6 75</b>	University Police and Safety		
<b>G4 135</b>	John Deere Intelligent Solutions Group	<b>Q6 82</b>	Van Es Hall		
<b>R11 83</b>	Katherine Kilbourne Burgum Family Life, 4-H Center		<b>Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (4035 19th Ave N)</b>		
<b>144</b>	<b>Klal Hall (711 2nd Ave N)</b>	<b>P7 37</b>	Waldron Hall		
<b>S9 5</b>	Ladd Hall	<b>Q4 50</b>	Wallman Wellness Center		
<b>V10 12</b>	Library	<b>O8 53</b>	Walster Hall		
<b>P8 78</b>	Loftsgard Hall		<b>West Building (3551 7th Ave N)</b>		
<b>T7 29</b>	Lord and Burnham Greenhouses	<b>M8 80</b>	West Dining Center		
<b>R14 X10</b>	Lutheran Student Center	<b>P7 36</b>	Wiidakas Laboratory		
<b>R6 32</b>	Maintenance Buildings				
<b>S11 6</b>	Memorial Union	<b>HOUSING UNITS</b>			
<b>U9 21</b>	Minard Hall	<b>G14 160</b>	Apartment 1701		
<b>S8 23</b>	Morrill Hall	<b>M12 43</b>	Bison Court (East)		
<b>U8 16</b>	Music Education Building	<b>M12 44</b>	Bison Court (West)		
<b>A12 126</b>	NDSCS Fargo	<b>V12 56</b>	Burgum Hall		
		<b>M7 159</b>	Cater Hall		
		<b>R12 8</b>	Churchill Hall		
		<b>S11 9</b>	Dinan Hall		
		<b>M10 58</b>	Johnson Hall		

# Restaurants Near North Dakota State University

Map to Downtown Fargo with food and entertainment: [Downtown Fargo](#)

Restaurants Near Campus: [Where You Can Eat](#)

Bus transportation: [Matbus Schedule](#) (Bus 13, close to NDSU) (Buses 31-36 discontinued)

Airport: [Hector International Airport](#)

Hotels: [Accommodations Near NDSU](#)

## **Labby's Grill & Bar**

1100 19th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Bison Turf**

1211 N University Dr,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Red Pepper**

1105 18th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Herd and Horns**

1414 12th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Grand Junction Subs**

1100 19th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Papa John's Pizza**

1100 19th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Michelle's Table**

1414 12th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Applebee's**

2001 16th St N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Little Caesar's Pizza**

1020 19th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Fortune House**

1100 19th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Chipotle**

1204 19th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Taco Bell**

1599 19th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Caribou Coffee**

1207 19th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **McDonald's**

1220 19th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Subway**

1501 19th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Red Pepper**

1105 19th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Buffalo Wild Wings**

1515 19th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102

## **Jimmy John's**

1414 12th Ave N,  
Fargo, ND 58102



# Theme: Blurred Boundaries

Blurred Boundaries: Composition, Culture, and Literary Studies in the Visual-Digital Age

The English Graduate Organization at North Dakota State University (NDSU) invites participants and presenters to explore writing, rhetoric, literary theory, and culture in digital spaces because of the impact of digital technologies and the amount of research that is being generated from questions surrounding technologies such as AI. Digital culture has shown a large impact on how people communicate with each other, academia, both qualitative and quantitative research, creative writing, technology, and so much more. The broad categories of "digital technology" and "culture" often intersect, and we hope our presentations at this conference encourage participants to consider where these interactions happen, what these intersections create, and in terms of AI, who is creating them.

The conference will explore current themes of writing, rhetoric, literary theory, and culture in digital spaces, building from questions posed by our keynote speaker, Dr. Ratan Kumar Roy:

“Our exposure to the digital world has redefined the ways of seeing, thinking, and doing in everyday life. Digital visibility has appeared as a new form of visual cultures that plays a key role in defining the culture of contemporary times. How does one examine, explore, make sense, and write about culture in this new world order?”



Register and Find More Information here: <https://www.ndsu.edu/english/graduate/rrgsc/>

# Conference Schedule

## Thursday, May 16, 2024

Coffee Hour.....	9 to 10 a.m.
Panels 1 and 2.....	10 to 11:15 a.m.
Panels 3 and 4.....	11:30 to 1 p.m.
Lunch in MeadowLark.....	1 to 2 p.m.
Keynote Speaker.....	2 to 3 p.m.
Dinner.....	5 p.m.

## Friday, May 17, 2024

Coffee Hour.....	9 to 10 a.m.
Panels 5 and 6.....	10 to 11:15 a.m.
AI Workshop.....	12 to 1 p.m.
Lunch in MeadowLark.....	1 to 2 p.m.
Panels 7 and 8.....	2 to 3:15 p.m.
Concluding Activity.....	3:30 p.m.

MeadowLark Room.....Coffee hour and Refreshments (both days 9 to 4)

Wifi Password: **tjjampgsba**

### Wifi Instructions:

1. Connected to **NDSU Guest** wireless network
2. Open a web browser and go to any webpage
3. Enter your name in the "full name" field and **tjjampgsba** in the "password" field.
4. Click **submit**

### bios:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EbcXFHJZqpVDTKRtS17tzHwD-ip9Yv6DFbWCMmucwts/edit?usp=sharing>

# Panel Sessions

Thursday, May 16, 2024

## **Panel 1: Rhetorics of Health and Medicine**

**Location: Hidatsa Room, 10 to 11:15 a.m.**

**moderator: Dr. Daniel Kenzie**

Mafruha Shifat, North Dakota State University

- "Rhetorical Strategies and Technical Communication in Health Marketing: Ethical Implications"

Suman Dey, North Dakota State University

- "Postmodern Kairos in Vaccine Discourse: Ethical Reflections on Truth and Trust in Collaborative Health Spaces"

Kehinde Soetan, North Dakota State University

- "From Medical Paternalism to Patient Autonomy: The Rhetoric of Ethical Persuasion in Patient-Doctor Communication in Healthcare"

## **Panel 2: Rhetorics of Science and Technology**

**Location: Sanhish Room, 10 to 11:15 a.m.**

**moderator: Dr. Matthew Warner**

Lizao Wang-Ruark, University of Notre Dame

- "How to Create Chinese Hackers -- A Tale of Internet-Human Encounter"

Susmita Davi Trisha, North Dakota State University

- "Loss of Human Connection: Negative Effects of ChatGPT in Natural Creative Writing"

**Panel 3: Alternative Pedagogical Approaches**

**Location: Hidatsa Room, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**moderator: Dr. Lisa Arnold**

S.J. Williamson, North Dakota State University

- "Spoken Annotations: Listening to Student Research Processes"

Kaitlynn Toay, University of Kansas

- "Positive Pedagogy Uses of Artificial Intelligence in the 21st Century"

**Panel 4: New Approaches to Feminism**

**Location: Sanhish Room, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

**moderator: Cassandra Coghill**

Xin Zhang, University of Toronto

- "Projection and Rejection: The Romantic Expressions and Imaginations of Women in the Digital Age"

Louisa Gambah, North Dakota State University

- "Intersections of Maternal and Environmental Activism in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* and Louise Erdrich's *Love Medicine*"

## **Keynote Presentation**

**Location: Hidatsa Room, 2 to 3 p.m.**

**Presenter: Dr. Ratan Kumar Roy**

### **From Writing Culture to Writing about Culture: Ethnography in the Age of Digital Visibility**

Ratan Kumar Roy, PhD<sup>[1]</sup>

Our exposure to the digital world has redefined the ways of seeing, thinking, and doing in everyday life. Digital visibility has appeared as a new form of visual cultures that plays a key role in defining the culture of contemporary times. How do one examine, explore, make sense, and write about culture in this new world order? The ethnographic approach can provide an interpretative understanding of cultural life and social actions. Scholars and writers can always thrive on the dual prospects of ethnography that offer one a unique way of knowing and enable one to reflect and represent the ways of knowing. It is simultaneously epistemological and ontological, theoretical and methodological, ways of researching and writing. Indeed, the landmark work on ethnography by James Clifford and George Marcus in 1986 *Writing Culture: The Poetics and Politics of Ethnography* remains relevant to date as it deals with the questions of reflexivity, partial truth, politics of representation, collaborative explorations, and literary tradition. In a typical sense, if we consider ethnography as a description of culture, then how do we approach writing about culture in this digital age? The abundance of visual-digital dissemination has redefined the concept of ethnographic fieldwork as well as writing and heavily contributed to blur the boundaries between home and distant, native and alien, local and global, literary and non-literary. Thick description would remain as a key for writing about culture in the realm of digital visibility be it simple literary practices or complex ethnographic writing. The ethnographic sensibilities may guide us in this techno-socially transformative time toward more innovative, creative, collaborative, and interdisciplinary imaginations and practices for telling social stories.

**Keywords:** *ethnography, ethnographic sensibilities, digital visibility, visual abundance, writing about culture, thick description, digital ethnography.*

---

[1] Assistant Professor, School of General Education, Brac University, Dhaka, Bangladesh;  
email: [ratan.roy@bracu.ac.bd](mailto:ratan.roy@bracu.ac.bd)

Friday, May 17, 2024

**Panel 5: Literature and Digital Storytelling**

**Location: Sanhish Room, 10 to 11:15 a.m.**

**moderator: Dr. Shiva Mainaly**

Kurtis Parsons, University of Central Missouri

- "You Provide the Prose Poems: The *Citizen Kane* Screenplay as a Literary Work"

Casey Fuller, University of North Dakota

- "Displaced Identity and the Digital World: Hauntology in Tommy Orange's *There There*"

Nasih Alam, North Dakota State University

- "From Pages to Places: Situating Kelly et al.'s *The Robot Zoo: A Mechanical Guide to the Way Animals in Work in Real-Life Context*"

**Panel 6: New Media and Popular Culture**

**Location: Hidatsa Room, 10 to 11:15 a.m.**

**moderator: S.J. Williamson**

Alexander Lee, independent scholar

- "Immigrant Representation in Spanish Print Media: A Study of Political Bias and Narrative Divergence in Recent Coverage of the Canary Islands Migrant Crisis"

Jomal Jose, National Institute of Science Education and Research

- "New Media's Formative Contributions to Dalit Rap: Triumphs and Challenges"

## **AI Workshop**

**Location: Hidatsa Room, 12 to 1 p.m.**

**Presenter: Ben Melby**

The Red River Valley Graduate Student Conferences invites you to participate in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) & Writing Workshop held on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 12 to 1pm in [location]. The workshop will be led by NDSU's own Ben Melby, a senior lecturer of English and the current Interim Director of the Upper-Division Writing Program.

The AI & Writing Workshop offers a chance for attendees, including researchers, graduate and undergraduate students, and anyone interested in AI to work in a collaborative space to tackle the challenges of AI. Since the theme of the conference is "Blurred Boundaries" we wanted to be able to provide the attendees with a workshop that allowed them to discuss their approaches to AI across various disciplines. We have framed the workshop as a collaborative space where the attendees can generate new lesson plans or assignments that incorporate or address AI.

As you no doubt have seen, there are plenty of discussions happening around AI with most of these talks centering on its ethical and academic integrity implications. We have designed this workshop to move past the discussion stage and to be about practical solutions to and applications of AI on writing in classrooms. We encourage those that attend the workshop to bring their own questions about AI, lesson plans, activities, or assignments that utilize, or could potentially be benefited by the use of AI to this workshop and engage in this collaborative and creative space for an hour.

## **Panel 7: Culture and AI**

**Location: Sanhish Room, 2 to 3:15 p.m.**

**Moderator: Dr. Lisa Arnold**

Mozaffor Hossain, North Dakota State University

- "Acculturation of Virtual Realities or Digitalization of Culture: Cultural Rhetoric in Virtual Spaces"

Jainab Banu, North Dakota State University

- ""My Hair Lets Me Be Me": Using Matthew A. Cherry's *Hair Love* to Promote Self-Worth in Black Children"

Fredrick Gaise, North Dakota State University

- "Exploring the Use of ChatGPT among Multilingual Students in College Composition II: A Case Study at NDSU"

## **Panel 8: Audio-Visual Rhetorics**

**Location: Hidatsa Room, 2 to 3:15 p.m.**

**moderator: Mafruha Shifat**

Bowie Kim, Stony Brook University

- "Wandering in Virtual Space: *Bientôt l'été* (2012) by Auriea Harvey"

Joe Vaske, North Dakota State University

- "The Sounds of Stories: Non-verbal Audio Signs in Jonathan Sims's The Magnus Archives."

Bee Rinaldi, North Carolina State University

- "Mutual making, shifting agencies, and theory modeling-using visualization to interject into the human-media agency tensions in Miller and Kittler's work"



## Red River Graduate Student Conference Exemplary Paper Prize, 2024

**Judges:** Stephen Disrud; Sarah Beck; Sean Burt

Each panel moderator has the option to nominate one exemplary paper from their session for judging. The names of presenters, their current degree program, and a draft of their paper will be sent to Dr. Bertolini with the email title “RRGSC Paper Prize Nominee.”

Dr. Bertolini will share anonymous papers with our esteemed judges who will select two winners based on the following criteria:

1. A clear, well-supported main point or argument
2. Interesting, fresh perspective or a novel contribution to the larger discussion
3. Clear language that is appropriate to the audience, including adequately explained technical or theoretical information.

All identifying information will be removed from the papers themselves, which will go to our judges. Submissions should be no longer than 10 pages in length for the sake and consideration of our judges. \*\*We realize that submissions are typically excerpted from longer papers or manuscripts and are often not in final-draft form. We will keep this in mind during the judging process. Awards will be announced no more than 2 weeks after submissions are received.

We will do our best to award one prize to an MA or undergraduate student and one prize to a PhD student or professional, to acknowledge participants who are at different stages of their research.

Moderators will send Dr Bertolini an email with the name of the paper-writer, their status as MA or PhD student, and an unmarked version of the paper for anonymous judging.