When I Was Am Will Be: Interrupt Empire

Florida Atlantic University
Culture & Society Building
19 - 20 October
Welcome to the Ph.D. in Comparative Studies!

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our annual Comparative Studies Conference. Florida Atlantic University offers a Ph.D. in Comparative Studies, with tracks in cultures, languages, and literatures (humanities) and culture, society, and politics (social sciences). These are designed as interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary courses of study that enable doctoral students to develop expertise within traditional disciplines and across disciplinary and cultural boundaries. At the heart of our program is our strong belief that human societies, cultures, languages, and literatures are most fully understood through comparative modes of analysis that include an ever-changing landscape of theory and methodologies. The objectives of the CLL and the CSP programs are to produce scholars who will teach at the university/college level in more than one academic discipline and in interdisciplinary programs, and who will be able to conduct research that crosses traditional boundaries in an effort to develop new insights. While most graduates are the program will prepare for the challenges of the academy, many will make contributions to advancing the shape of society. Others will prepare for a variety of nonacademic positions in public and private organizations.

Primary areas of strength for the CLL program include studies of literature and migration, rhetoric and composition, U.S. multicultural literature, early modern literature, gender, sexuality and gender and race in literature, modernity and postmodernity in literature, space and place in literature, and postcolonial literature and culture. Primary areas of strength for the CSP program include studies of sociocultural and medical anthropology, biocultural anthropology, ethnobiology, cultural ecology, and historical anthropology, gender, agriculture, adulthood, adolescence, childhood, race, social class, and economics (sociology), comparative politics, American politics, international relations, political theory, and theories of post-colonialism. The curriculum in both programs also draws from many disciplines in the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters and across the broader university. With accomplished faculty and Eminent Scholars, our program is proud to offer an innovative, rigorous, transdisciplinary course of study. Each week we offer to the most qualified candidates excellent teaching and research fellowships. Our faculty, students, and staff collaborate in constructing an energetic, productive, and pleasurable learning community.

I encourage you to speak with the students and faculty here at the conference to learn about our exciting program in more detail. Thank you for joining us here at Florida Atlantic University.

Sincerely,

Adam Bradford, Ph.D.
Director of Comparative Studies

Comparative Studies Program
Florida Atlantic University

Dr. Ashvin R. Kini
Keynote Address
Friday 19 October | 16.15 – 17.00 | CU 301

Ashvin R. Kini received his PhD in Literature (Cultural Studies) from UC San Diego in 2016. His research examines diasporic Black and South Asian literature and cinema to explore queer and feminist models of affiliation and coalition attentive to nonequivalent histories of colonialism and gendered racialization. His work has appeared in South Asian Review and The Journal of Intercultural Studies.

On behalf of all of our colleagues in the Comparative Studies Ph.D. program, we welcome you to this year’s conference. Our conference themes are an outgrowth of thinking and practice in our classroom spaces, scholarly research, and professional practice over the past year. Our conversations as a leadership group, as well as in consultation with students and faculty, our program, resulted in the following focus of this year’s conference:

While scholars and students often view imperial projects as historical, rather than contemporary conjunctures, the reality is that these projects, their effects, and their justifications remain a part of current affairs. The continued vilification, rejection and exclusion of voices which express their oppression to and resistance against colonizing powers in a supposed post-colonial age is one of the grand contributors to sustaining an imperial essence past, but not as a present, continuing condition. This conference looks to amplify voices of dissent as a call to action, interrupting imperial projects through dialogue, learning, and collaboration.

The Comparative Studies Student Association would like to thank the following individuals for their work in supporting this conference: Stacy Paulin, Eric Berclzy, Aliya Blanchard, Polly Kuenzi, Caria Galbee, Melissa Garcia Crusciol, José de la Garza Valenzuela, James Denier, Taylor Hagood, Michael Horswell, Anthony Ioannides, and the University Student Union. Special thanks to the Faculty, Students, and Staff, whose work on our conference is run by Ph.D. students. On behalf of our graduate student colleagues and in service of wider intellectual and cultural communities here at Florida Atlantic University, our work would be impossible without the collaboration, encouragement, and support of our faculty and administrative allies.

In solidarity,
Charlie Gleen | Mitchell Baccinelli | Ana-Christina Acosta
Gaspar de Alba | Kathryn Pewenofkit-Briner