



Image credit to Hunter Ramey

MEDIATING THE MOMENT

A(n Interdisciplinary) Conversation

Communication, Media and Film
Graduate Conference

University of Calgary
May 1st and 2nd, 2025

20
25



**UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY**



Land Acknowledgement

The University of Calgary, located in the heart of Southern Alberta, both acknowledges and pays tribute to the traditional territories of the peoples of Treaty 7, which include the Blackfoot Confederacy (comprised of the Siksika, the Piikani, and the Kainai First Nations), the Tsuut'ina First Nation, and the Stoney Nakoda (including Chiniki, Bearspaw, and Goodstoney First Nations). The City of Calgary is also home to the Métis Nation of Alberta (Districts 5 and 6).

The University of Calgary is situated on land Northwest of where the Bow River meets the Elbow River, a site traditionally known as Moh'kins'tsis to the Blackfoot, Wîchîspa to the Stoney Nakoda, and Guts'ists'i to the Tsuut'ina. On this land and in this place we strive to learn together, walk together, and grow together "in a good way."

Funding Sponsors

The 2025 Communication, Media and Film Graduate Conference is incredibly thankful for our contributing sponsors. This conference would not be possible without additional support from the Canadian Communication Association and the Graduate Student Association's Quality Money program.

University of Calgary funding distributed by Department of Communication, Media and Film (CMF) and the department's graduate program. Additional funding contributed by the CMF Departmental Graduate Association.

A Welcome Message from the Co-Chairs

We feel incredibly grateful and excited to welcome you to our conference. From the start we wanted this to be an un-conference—a gathering of developing intellectuals sharing their research on the broadest topics related to media, in as many different ways as possible. We wanted to provide a fun environment for knowledge sharing and networking. In our work together as a committee, we valued non-hierarchical decision making, shared responsibilities, recognition of the other's challenges that come from being a graduate student, recognition of the different skills and attributes people bring to the table, and creative thinking. We offer these thoughts in the spirit that they guide you through this two-day gathering. We hope you have a great time with us!

Rebecca Wissink & Aimee Koristka
Co-Chairs

Keynote Address

Dr. Brooks DeCillia spent more than 20 years reporting and producing news at CBC. These days, he's an assistant professor with Mount Royal University's School of Communication Studies.



Brooks read political communication at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) as a Chevening Scholar, obtaining a Masters of Science. In December 2017, Brooks completed his PhD at the LSE. His research findings about the media coverage of Canada's military mission in Afghanistan were published in the Canadian Journal of Political Science.

Brooks' keynote address will be held on May 1st from 13:30–14:30 in the Taylor Institute, Room 148.

Getting Ready

Registration

Upon your arrival to the University of Calgary campus, you may go to the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning (140), where you will get your name tag and be checked in.

Please note the UCalgary map has a discrepancy in labelling marking the institute as TI on the map but as ITL in the legend. Additional information for navigating campus is located on the UCalgary website.



What to expect the day of your panel

Please arrive at your assigned room at least 10-15 minutes in advance of your panel time. All rooms are equipped with computers and a screen, but to be safe, please bring your laptop and various adaptors (HDMI, etc). Please also have your presentation saved on a USB drive.

Sessions last 90 minutes. Each session will begin with a brief introduction from the panel chair, followed by presentations, which should be approximately 15 minutes. This should leave approximately 30 minutes for discussion and Q&A.

Program

THURSDAY, MAY 1
Room 140

09:00	Registration
09:45	Coffee Break
10:00	Closed Undergraduate Roundtable with Ph.D. Mentors
11:00	<p>Visual Research Gallery with Artists Available</p> <p>Photography, Memory & Migration: Self-Authored Visual Narratives of Migrant Women Photographers <i>Amanda Zanco (University of Calgary)</i></p> <p>Literacy in Waiting <i>Brandi Weston (University of Calgary)</i></p> <p>#PCN / Project Compassion Now! <i>Shafira Vidyamaharani (Simon Fraser University)</i></p> <p>Visualizing Social and Environmental Justice Through Cartoons <i>Maryam Mahdavian (University of Calgary)</i></p> <p>Forgotten Shepherds <i>Blair Maddock-Ferrie (Carleton University) (not in attendance)</i></p> <p>Anthro-Journo Collage: Overlap and similarities of two sister disciplines <i>Emily Kennedy (Centre for Anthropology and Journalism)</i> <i>(not in attendance)</i></p> <p>Promise You'll Listen? <i>Mia Portelance (Emily Carr University of Art and Design)</i> <i>(not in attendance)</i></p>

Program

THURSDAY, MAY 1
Room 140

12:30	Lunch
14:30	Water Break
14:45	Closed Undergraduate Roundtable with Ph.D. Mentor
15:30	Open Visual Gallery

Program

THURSDAY, MAY 1
Room 148

09:15	Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Talks <i>Given by Dr. Tamara Shepherd, Dr. Gregory Taylor, and Rebecca Wissink and Aimee Koristka</i>
09:45	Coffee Break
10:00	Utilization of Myth Across Mediums and Texts <i>Moderator: Kristina Hanley (University of Calgary)</i> The Masculine Problem with <i>Barbie</i> (2023) as a Feminine Text: Its Narrative Structure Universalizes Gender <i>Rebecca Wissink (University of Calgary)</i> Choose Your Own Aristeia: Simulations of Homeric God-Mortal Relations in Contemporary Tabletop Gaming <i>Nina Houle (Simon Fraser University)</i> Out of Bounds: national myths, global relations and the Toronto Raptors <i>Amy Parks (Queens University)</i> The Body Keeps the Score: Institutional Surveillance and Monstrosity in <i>The Magnus Archives</i> <i>Emilie Charette (University of Calgary)</i>
12:30	Lunch

Program

THURSDAY, MAY 1
Room 148

- 13:30 Keynote
Given by Dr. Brooks DeCillia (Mount Royal University)
- 14:30 Water Break
- 14:45 Health and the Body, Mediated
Moderator: Shehrin Shiny (University of Calgary)
- Performing Cancer: An autoethnographic exploration of public and
 private illness narratives in online spaces
 Kellie Chouinard (University of Waterloo)
- Medicine and Kin: The Representation of More-than-Human Community
 Ethics in Tasha Hubbard's *Singing Back the Buffalo* (2024)
 Alex Ventimilla (University of Alberta)
- Edutainment or Miseducation? A Critical Analysis of PCOS Coverage in
 Women's Health Magazines
 Jessica Avery (McMaster University)
- Prestige TV and The Ideal Female Body
 Erika Livingstone (University of Calgary)

Program

FRIDAY, MAY 2
Room 140

*The visual gallery and friendship bracelet station will be available from
09:00 - 15:30, with the exception of when roundtables are running*

09:00	Open Roundtable How to Create a Departmental Podcast <i>Afrida Faiza (University of Calgary)</i>
10:30	Coffee Break
10:45	Open Roundtable Ahoon Daryay: A Symbol of Feminist Resistance in Iran <i>Nahid Pouzesh (University of Lethbridge)</i>
12:15	Lunch
14:30	Water Break
14:30	Book Table Available

Program

FRIDAY, MAY 2
Room 148

09:00

Art and Science, Mediated

Moderator: Brandi Weston (University of Calgary)

Accessing Academic Research and Writing

Nathan Lamarche (University of Alberta)

A Feminist Subcultural Study of r/Cottagecore

Hunter Ramey (University of Calgary)

The Sacrificing of Science and Research for the Clicks

Kristina Hanley (University of Calgary)

Building Blocks: Blockchain and Cultural Production in the Arts

Kyle Wyndham-West (McMaster University)

10:30

Coffee Break

10:45

Institutional Power, Mediated

Moderator: Kellie Chouinard (University of Waterloo)

Field Theory and Boundary Work in Small-Town Newspapers: The Case
for a Rural Journalism Subfield

Tyler Nagel (University of Groningen)

Law in Conflict: Evaluating Depictions of International Law in Media
Coverage on War

Brian Cox (Carleton University)

Kenyan Journalism as Client Media: State Power, Imperial Influence, and
the Marginalization of Muslim Minorities (1963–2023)

Osman Osman (New York University)

Media and Minority Languages: Navigating Identity and Linguistic
Representation

Sajedah Sadat Hosseini (University of Calgary)

Program

FRIDAY, MAY 2
Room 148

12:15	Lunch
13:15	<p>Human Connection, Digitally Mediated <i>Moderator: Nikki Reimer (University of Calgary)</i></p> <p>Fatal Attachment? A Case Study on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence Companions on Teenagers and the Transformation of Relationship Dynamics in the 21st Century <i>Maria Carla O'Connor (University of Alberta)</i></p> <p>The Soulmate Equation: The Commodified Connection of Dating Apps <i>Luna Quail (McMaster University)</i></p> <p>The Social Obligation Paradox: #BlockOut and Celebrity Silence on Instagram and TikTok <i>Hannah Blundon (Mount Saint Vincent University)</i></p> <p>Currycels and the Digital Manosphere: Mapping South-Asian Masculinity in Incel Communities <i>Serene Varghese (University of Calgary)</i></p>
14:45	Water Break

Program

FRIDAY, MAY 2
Room 148

15:00

The Moving Image, Mediated

Moderator: Nathan Lamarche (University of Alberta)

Anonymity and Becoming-Imperceptible on the Lower East Side:
Gender and Gentrification in *Desperately Seeking Susan*
Kyler Chittick (University of Alberta)

Mirrors, Screens, and the Imaginal Realm: A Persian-Islamic Perspective
on Cinematic Ontology
Niusha Hatefinia (Simon Fraser University)

Rotten Tomatoes: Methods of Quantifying Film Success
Aimee Koristka (University of Calgary)

Post-Conference Event

A post-conference celebration will be held at **16:45 in the Last Defence Lounge (LDL)**, located on the second floor of MacEwan Hall.



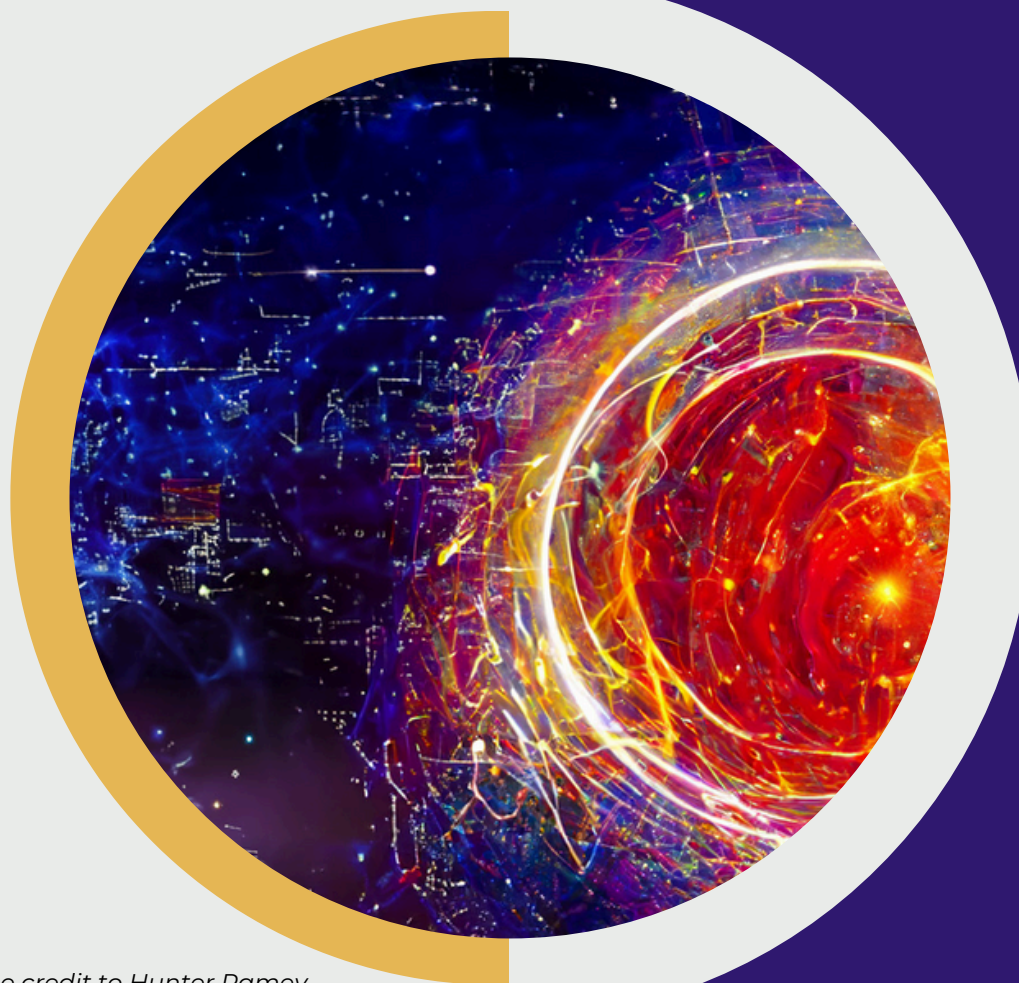


Image credit to Hunter Ramey

Conference Committee

Rebecca Wissink
Co-Chair

Aimee Koristka
Co-Chair

Hunter Ramey
Communications

Nikki Reimer
Communications

Emilie Charette
Treasurer

Giovanna Seabra
Treasurer

Blake Evernden
Programming

Dr. Gregory Taylor
Faculty Advisor



**UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY**

