2022 DDVS Schedule

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

9 a.m. CST
Concurrent Sessions

Room 1
Papers on Media Platforms
Moderator: TBD

Author: Kaley N. Martin, Dr. Shaheen Kanthawala

“Neurodivergence and the Rise of the TikTok community”
Author: Misha Viehouser, Dr. Hannah George

“Black-on-Black Reporting in the Post-George Floyd Era: Television Network Approaches in Contrast”
Author: Dr. George L Daniels

“Making Them See: A Look at the Novels that Impacted the Civil Rights Movement, 1940-1965”
Author: Brittany Holmes

Room 2
Panel: Alabama Forensics Council (The Digital Dilemma)
Moderator: Tionna Taite

The Alabama Forensic Council (the University's official Speech and Debate team) utilizes performance activism to make statements about pertinent issues using artistic outlets such as dramatic performances, impromptu speaking, and a unique form of oratory. The panelists will be performing self-written speech and poetry to address misogyny, sexism, and racism in media and in day-to-day lives.

Panelists: Bhavana Ravala, Braden Hopkins, JaQuacy Minter

10 a.m. CST
Room 1
Panel: Communication and Culture: Graduate Student Works in Progress
Moderator: Mary Meares

In this panel, the graduate students from the College of Communication and Information Sciences at the University of Alabama will present their current research in progress in the area of communication and culture. Their work ranges from media and interpersonal communication to library management, including work focusing on nonprofits, professional settings, and pedagogical issues.
Panelists: Mutaz Barnawi, Alexus Cumbie, Chloe Gooden, Sarah Miesse, Ashley Olive, Jake Paul, Laura Pitts, Gourav Rath, and Stephen Shol

Room 2
Panel: Stories Beneath our Feet: Communicating Campus Memory at PWI and HBCU Institutions
Moderator: Dr. Meredith M. Bagley

In this panel, students will share reflections and initial analysis of the ways historically white/segregated campuses like The University of Alabama present their history via campus landscapes.

Panelists: Meredith Marsh, Caran Kennedy, Morgan Yglesias, Laura Stewart, Samantha Burke

11 a.m – 11:30 CST
BREAK

11:30 a.m. CST
Dean’s Welcome and Keynote Presentation
(The Dean’s Welcome and Keynote will be a hybrid presentation delivered in person in the Yellowhammer Room, Gorgas Hall, and live streamed on the DDVS conference platform)

Mark Nelson, Dean, College of Communication and Information Sciences

André Brock, Georgia Institute of Technology
Moderator, Kristen Warner, University of Alabama

André Brock, the author of the groundbreaking book “Distributed blackness: African American cybercultures” is an Associate Professor in the School of Literature, Media & Communication at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Brock is one of the preeminent scholars of Black Cyberculture with an interdisciplinary background of M.A. in English and Rhetoric from Carnegie Mellon University and a Ph.D. in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His work bridges Science and Technology Studies and Critical Discourse Analysis, showing how the communicative affordances of online media align with those of Black communication practices. His scholarship includes published articles on racial representations in videogames, black women and weblogs, whiteness, blackness, and digital technoculture, as well as groundbreaking research on Black Twitter. Dr. Brock's article, “From the Blackhand Side: Twitter as a Cultural Conversation,” challenged social science and communication research to confront the ways in which the field preserved “a color-blind perspective on online endeavors by normalizing Whiteness and othering everyone else” and sparked a conversation that continues, as Twitter, in particular, continues to evolve.
Keynote: On Race and Technoculture

Where does Blackness manifest in Western technoculture? Technoculture is our modern ideology; our world structured through our relationships with technology and culture. Once enslaved, historically disenfranchised, and never deemed literate, Blackness is understood as the object of Western technical and civilizational practices. This presentation is a critical intervention for internet research and science and technology studies (STS), reorienting Western technoculture’s practices of “race-as-technology” to visualize Blackness as technological subjects rather than as “things”. Hence, Black technoculture. Utilizing critical technocultural discourse analysis, Afro-optimism, and libidinal economic theory, this presentation employs Black Twitter as an exemplar of Black cyberculture: digital practice and artifacts informed by a Black aesthetic.

1 p.m. – 2 p.m. CST

Break
Discussion bubble sponsored by Plank Center

2 p.m.

Room 1
Papers on Representation and Inclusion
Moderator: TBD

“Cowboy Candidates: Re-appropriation of western mythos in the racial identities of black political figures”
Author: Rebecca Oliver

“Courting Social Justice: The NBA Post-George Floyd, the Media and the Protest Paradigm”
Author: Mr. William C. Singleton III

“The Rhetoric and Role of Stadium Spaces and Statues in Commemorating Racial Integration in College Football”
Author: Dr. George L. Daniels, Edwin Lee

“Indexing Queer Archives: Finding the Queer Archives of North America”
Author: Indiana Dow

“Library Collection Diversity Audits: Comparing Vendor and Do-It-Yourself Diversity Audit Results”
Author: Ms. Hillary D. Russell

Room 2
Panel: Looking for Meaningful Representations in Film
Moderator: Kristen Warner

In this panel, the students will present video essays to address meaningful representation in film. Their presentation through a critical lens will focus on how meaningful
representation appears in movies and tv series such as Bull, The Paperboy, and Jackie Brown.

Panelists: Erin Cody, Keyanna Dixon, Andrew Rutledge

3 p.m.

Room 1
Papers on Identity and Experience
Moderator: TBD

“If Prison Walls Could Speak: A Narrative Inquiry into the Life of a Death Row Prisoner”
Author: Ms. Stefanie Binion

“How Do African Student Victims of Domestic Violence Describe Their Experiences to American Counselors?”
Author: Ms. Bisola Mariam Obinyan

“Body Esteem of LGBTQ+ Individuals in Non-Affirming Spaces: The Implications of Religion on Sense of Self”
Author: Misha Viehouser

“Sexual Minorities Sexting Practices: Understanding Sexual Communication, Expectations, and Desires”
Author: Dr. Leah Elina LeFebvre, Dr. Kathryn D. Coduto

“How Queer is Too Queer?: Trans Identity, Surveillance, and Domestic Genocide in 21st Century America”
Author: Mr. Jeffrey Jones

Room 2
Panel: Developing Student “Voices” of Women of Color in Social Justice and Inclusion Advocacy: Challenges and Opportunities
Moderator: Bharat Mehra

This panel includes women students of color who share glimpses of their experiences, perspectives, course projects, and career paths as they navigate the problematic oppressions and circumstances that the world imposes on them in their educational, professional, and personal lives. Panelists will specifically discuss how they have navigated these complexities towards positive directions of growth and development in the communication and information profession.

Panelists: Claudia Bawole, Shalonda Capers, Caran Kennedy, Bisola-Mariam Obinyan, Reba Williams

4 p.m.

Room 1
Panel: New Wisdom, New Books on Teaching Race and Gender in Communication  
Moderator: Semaj Robinson

This panel features three Alabama authors from three different higher education institutions who recently released books that offer new insight and perspectives on topics of race and gender. All working in units where communication is a central focus of teaching, the three authors have documented their ideas in scholarly works that can be a resource for faculty around the nation and the world. In addition to giving brief overviews of their book projects and how they’re facilitating learning in the classroom, the three authors will participate in a Question-and-Answer session moderated by a veteran communication professor, who is now also a Ph.D. student himself.

Panelists: Niya Pickett Miller; Michelle Walton, George L. Daniels

Room 2  
Panel: Graduate Students Creating Meaningful Diversity Impacts via Social Justice and Inclusion Advocacy  
Moderator: Bharat Mehra

Panelists: Anita Delp, Court Kleftis, Sarah E. Miesse, Jake Paul, Laura Pitts