



The New Jersey Women's and Gender Studies Consortium is a state-wide forum for a discussion and support of all aspects of the functioning of Women's and Gender Studies Programs.

The mission of the New Jersey Women's and Gender Studies Consortium is to ensure the continued strength, visibility and development of interdisciplinary Women's and Gender Studies at universities and colleges in New Jersey. The Consortium stands as the formal organization of Women's and Gender Studies programs, departments and initiatives across New Jersey. The Consortium serves as a network of WGS programs, departments and initiatives and provides collaborative space where WGS students, staff and faculty can share resources, knowledge and strategies for achieving our common goals of intersectional feminist education, research and practices for social justice.



Keynote Speaker: Dr. Brittney Cooper
Principal Investigator And Founding Director Of The Race And Gender Equity Lab At Rutgers University–New Brunswick

Brittney Cooper is Professor of Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Africana Studies. Her books include *Beyond Respectability: The Intellectual Thought of Race Women*, winner of the 2018 Merle Curti Prize for Best Book in U.S. Intellectual History from the Organization of American Historians; the New York Times bestseller *Eloquent Rage: A Black Feminist Discovers Her Superpower*; *Feminist AF: A Guide to Crushing Girlhood* (co-authored with Susana Morris and Chanel Craft Tanner) a Kirkus top Young Adult Book of 2021 and a nominee for the Garden State Teen Book Award from the New Jersey Library Association; *Stand Up!: 10 Mighty Women Who Made a Change*; and *The Crunk Feminist Collection* (co-edited with Susana Morris and Robin Boylorn). Cooper co-founded the Crunk Feminist Collective, a Hip Hop Generation Feminist Collective of Women of Color Activists and Scholars

Dr. Cooper has also been awarded prizes or been a named finalist for several awards related to her digital commentary. She is currently a contributor at *The Cut*/*New York Magazine* and she is a former columnist at *Salon.com*, *Cosmopolitan.com*, and a former contributor at *Time.com*. Dr. Cooper frequently appears as a commentator on MSNBC and NPR, has appeared in several documentaries on Netflix and PBS, and her commentary has been published at the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Ebony Magazine*, *Essence Magazine*, *Time Magazine*, *Marie Claire*, PBS and many other outlets.

An award-winning teacher, Professor Cooper teaches courses on race, gender, and sexuality, Hip Hop, Black Intellectual History, and Black Feminist Thought. She was the 2016 recipient of the Masters Level Teaching Award from the Northeastern Association of Graduate Schools.

First Panel Sessions 10:00 – 11:15 am

PANEL A – Meeting Room A

Moderator: Wendy Kolmar, Drew

“We Cannot Live Without Our Lives:” Gender and Global Inequalities

- *The Growing HIV Epidemic and High HIV/AIDS-related Mortality Rates for Women of Reproductive Age in Eastern Europe and Central Asia*
May Adams, Drew
- *Gender Inequities in Pandemic Responses: A Comparative Study on Women in India and Brazil*
Nargiz Abadzada, Drew
- *Analyzing Women and Society in Post-Partition Pakistan*
Samahal Waseem, Rutgers
- *Soldaderas and the Mexican Revolution: How the Mexican Government Failed These Strong Female Veterans*
Emily Fontelera, Rowan

PANEL B – Meeting Room B

Moderator: Jennifer Musial, NJCU

Centering Our Voices: The Power of First-Person Narrative

- *God Don't Like Ugly: What it Means to be Fat and Imperfect in God's Image, and How I Continue to Love and be Loved Anyway*
Joy Acheampong, Rowan
- *You'll Always Be My Daughter': An Autoethnographic Account on Being Nonbinary and Misunderstood*
JJ Van Wie, Rowan
- *Creative Writing as a Method for Woman to Establish Trust in Herself*
Kyla Hoinkis, Stockton
- *Abortion Testimony, Stigma, and Barriers of Access*
Anneliese Johnson, Rutgers

Second Panel Sessions 11:30 – 12:45 pm

PANEL C – Meeting Room A

Moderator: Cecilia Colbeth, TCNJ

Literary Genders as Haunting and Futurity

- *Bound by Expectations: A Comparative Analysis of Gender, Power, and Autonomy in Literature*
Taylor Nuzzolo, Atlantic Cape
- *The Haunting of Gender and Sexuality in Rebecca*
Joelle DuFault, TCNJ
- *Eurydice Escapes*
Klaudine Bessasparis, Rider
- *Representations of the New Woman as a Superior Third Gender*
Grace Gannon, Drew

PANEL D – Meeting Room B

Moderator: Roseanne Alvarez, Brookdale

Disrupting Knowledge: Feminist Activists Re-shape the Curriculum

- *“Is This MIC On?”*
Sophia Arena, Mairene Cisneros, Maddie Da Silva, Jocelyn Fajardo, Nidia Jimenez-Barrios, Paulina Letts, Ten (Emily Ryf), Brookdale
- *Decolonizing the Humanities: The Final Attempt to Save the World”*
Raquayya Towler, NJCU
- *Drivers of Support for Anti-LGBTQ+ Curriculum Policy in Arizona*
Cecilia E. Simon, Rider
- *The SCRAP Paper: Activism to Academics at Trenton State College*
Madison Mae Cavallo, TCNJ

Third Panel Sessions 2:00 – 3:15 pm

PANEL E – Meeting Room A

Moderator: Erica Ryan, Rider University

Race, Gender, and Media under Neoliberalism

- *A Series of Firsts: Neoliberalism and Perceptions of Queer Bodies in Disney Productions*
Stephanie Martinez, TCNJ
- *Fight Against Toxic Masculinity: Ending Portrayal in Entertainment Today*
Riley Stewart, Ramapo
- *Race, Gender, and Mental Health: Understanding Contemporary Media Representations as Participating in Decolonial Resistance*
Renelyn Sevilla, Rutgers
- *Epistemic Power vs. Gender: Celebrity Presidential Endorsements in 2024*
Sarah F. Griffin, Rider

PANEL F – Meeting Room B

Moderator: Cynthia Ninivaggi, Georgian Court

Continuities and Change in LGBTQ Activism

- *The LGBTQ+ Panic Defense: How Toxic Masculinity Culture Avoids Responsibility in Killing Gay Men and Women*
John Indjeian, Georgian Court
- *Visibility, Equity, Advocacy: Building a Safer Future for Transgender People*
Bella Marques, Ramapo
- *Hudson County LGBTQ Oral History Project*
Isaael Sanchez, NJCU

Colloquium Schedule

8:30 – 9:00 am Registration – First Floor

9:00 – 9:50 am Breakfast/Keynote – Dining Room

Welcome: Dr. Ileana Nachescu
Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Keynote: Dr. Brittney Cooper

10:00 – 11:15 am - Panel Sessions

Panel A – Meeting Room A

Panel B – Meeting Room B

11:30 – 12:45 pm - Panel Sessions

Panel C – Meeting Room A

Panel D – Meeting Room B

11:45 – 2:00 pm - Rutgers Triota Zine Exhibit

Meeting Room C

12:45 - 1:45 pm - Luncheon

2:00 – 3:15 pm - Panel Sessions

Panel E – Meeting Room A

Panel F – Meeting Room B

3:15 – 3:45 - Award Ceremony – Dining Room