



UNIVERSITY of  
**SOUTH FLORIDA**  
Humanities Institute



# GRADUATE **2025** **Humanities** SYMPOSIUM

**Friday, February 21**

 **Marshall Student Center**

# Welcome from the USF Humanities Institute

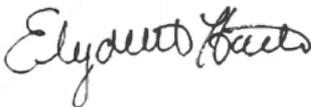
Welcome to the Spring 2025 Graduate Humanities Symposium, hosted by the Humanities Institute at USF. Due to Hurricane Milton, we had to regroup and reschedule the original plan to host the symposium in October 2024. Thank you to all the students and moderators for sticking with us through the postponement.

Our hope is that this is the first step towards an annual series that highlights the incredible original research and creative works being produced by USF graduate students. We have 40 students from 11 departments within the College of Arts and Sciences who will present their work today. This is a testament to the continued relevance and urgency of humanities research within our university.

To our student scholars, I hope that this is a day of connection, education, and growth—a day dedicated to discussing new ideas as well as developing your professional skills. To our faculty, I hope you enjoy watching those you instruct and mentor stand in front of a room of peers and share the results of countless hours of study.

A huge thank you to the team of people behind today's symposium! Also, my sincere thanks to the many faculty members who have promoted the symposium, encouraged students to apply, and volunteered to moderate panels.

Enjoy the symposium and go Bulls!



Elizabeth Kicak, M.F.A.  
*Director, USF Humanities Institute*

## USF Humanities Institute

**Liz Kicak**  
*Director*

**Jennifer Knight**  
*Assistant Director*

**Jade von Werder**  
*Academic Services Administrator*

**Lulu Downing**  
*Graduate Student Assistant*

# Schedule Overview

## Friday, February 21:

8:00am - 8:45am	<b>Presenter Check-In and Breakfast</b>	MSC 3705
8:45am - 9:45am	<b>Session I</b> Exploring Identities Through Latine Literature Memory, Landscape, and Growth	MSC 3705 MSC 3709
10:00am - 11:00am	<b>Session II</b> Language and Identity Utopia, Dystopia, and Outsiders	MSC 3705 MSC 3711
11:15am - 12:15pm	<b>Session III</b> Screening Narratives: Media, Identity, and Cultural Representation  Class and Power in the Premodern World	MSC 3711  MSC 3709
12:15pm - 1:00pm	<b>Lunch</b> <i>(provided for presenters and moderators)</i>	MSC 3705
1:00pm - 2:00pm	<b>Session IV</b> Narratives Through New Media Gender and Other Tensions in Horror Genre Film Human Rights, Empathy, and Communication	MSC 3705 MSC 3709 MSC 3711
2:15pm - 3:15pm	<b>Session V</b> Not at the Dinner Table: Religion, Politics, and Scholarship Out of Bounds: Morality and Gender Nonconformity Nonconformity: Living Outside the Boundaries	MSC 3705 MSC 3709 MSC 3711
3:30pm - 4:30pm	<b>Session VI</b> Not Just Setting: The Role of Place in Creative Writing	MSC 3711

# SESSION I

8:45am - 9:45am

3705	<b>Exploring Identities Through Latine Literature</b>	<p><i>Moderator: Olivia Cosentino (Humanities &amp; Cultural Studies)</i></p> <p><b>Andrea Figueroa-Irizarry</b>          Diálogo in Fiction: Examining the Representation of Spanglish in Latine Fiction and What It Teaches About the Craft of Dialogue</p> <p><b>Camilo Loaiza Bonilla</b>  <i>Real Men</i>: Exploring Trans &amp; Latine Digital Poetics</p> <p><b>Alyssa Sotelo</b>          Me and All My Sisters Are Gay: The Queer, Feminine Identity in Latine Culture</p>
3709	<b>Memory, Landscape, and Growth</b>	<p><i>Moderator: Ratna Dougherty II (School of Public Affairs)</i></p> <p><b>Sofia Almedia</b>          Re-Membering the Dead: Historical Societies and Landscapes of Memory</p> <p><b>Stephen Eric Johnson</b>          Changing the Rhetoric of Climate Change: The Intersection of Climate Change Denial with Publics, Counterpublics, and Parasitic Publics Theories</p> <p><b>Dennis Pierson</b>          The Filling of a Tampa Bay Estuary: The Enduring Consequences of Phosphate Mining and Processing on One of its Tributary Rivers</p>

## SESSION II

10:00am - 11:00am		
3705	<b>Language and Identity</b>	<p><i>Moderator: Liz Ricketts-Jones (English)</i></p> <p><b>Jeevitha Kannan</b> Micros: A Timeless Form</p> <p><b>Francesca Marino</b> Beyond Colonial Binaries: Linguistic Revitalization and Indigenous Queer Identity</p> <p><b>María José Torres Centurion</b> “I’m not supposed to be here because I don’t understand anything:” Moral Stance of Latinx Students’ Narratives</p>
3711	<b>Utopia, Dystopia, and Outsiders</b>	<p><i>Moderator: Emily Jones (English)</i></p> <p><b>Charlie Butt</b> The Sublime Dystopia: <i>Blade Runner 2049</i> and Environments of (Dis)pleasure</p> <p><b>Faelyn Cowan</b> Swandive, Constellations, and the Applications of A Queer Utopian Method</p> <p><b>Kalysta Fowler</b> “Something Queer About That Gentleman:” Crip Theory in <i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i></p>

## SESSION III

**11:15am - 12:15pm**

3711	<p><b>Screening Narratives: Media, Identity, and Cultural Representation</b></p>	<p><i>Moderator: Diana Leon-Boys (Communication)</i></p> <p><b>Amber Nico</b> The Performance of Latinx: Pierce the Veil’s Cultural Representation in “Bulls in the Bronx”</p> <p><b>Bethany Jowers</b> Stones, Scorpions, and Stolen Girls: The Girl’s Bildungsroman in <i>Noche de Fuego</i></p> <p><b>Kailin Regutti</b> Thawing Perceptions: Frozen Narratives of Mental Health in Disney’s <i>Frozen II</i></p> <p><b>Camille Ruiz Mangual</b> “De eso no se habla”: The Complexities of Representation in <i>Love, Victor</i></p>
3709	<p><b>Class and Power in the Premodern World</b></p>	<p><i>Moderator: Matthew King (History)</i></p> <p><b>Ysabella Maria Dace</b> Characterizing Suor Plautilla Nelli (1524-1588), the Painter-Prioress of Renaissance Florence, in Sixteenth and Twenty-First Century Scholarship</p> <p><b>Lulu Downing</b> Holy Saints, Relics, and Power: An Analysis of The Relationship Between Relics and Monastic Communities in Early Medieval Ireland</p> <p><b>Glorya Blair Senart</b> “Does not the sun rise in the east?” The Rise of the Samurai</p>



*Tell us your*  
**FEEDBACK**  
**& SUGGESTIONS**  
*to help improve*  
*future symposiums*

3 QUESTION SURVEY:



## SESSION IV

**1:00pm - 2:00pm**

3705	<b>Narratives Through New Media</b>	<p><i>Moderator: Miyoung Chong (Journalism &amp; Digital Communication)</i></p> <p><b>Melike Akay &amp; Kübra Çekmegeli</b>  “bro united the world through a meme.” An Intercultural Pragmatic Analysis of a Viral Olympic Silver Medalist’s Global Appeal</p> <p><b>Jihye Kim</b>  An Analysis of YouTube Comments on Eating Disorder Documentary</p> <p><b>John Tuskey</b>  The Illusion of Directed Production: A Possible Risk of Enhancing Humans with AI</p>
3709	<b>Gender and Other Tensions in Horror Genre Film</b>	<p><i>Moderator: Jessica Cook (English)</i></p> <p><b>Jared Lamanati</b>  Grief Realized Through the Paranormal</p> <p><b>Hilda Sheridan-Hewlett</b>  The Absorbing Nature of Female Friendship in <i>Jennifer’s Body</i> (2009)</p>
3711	<b>Human Rights, Empathy, and Communication</b>	<p><i>Moderator: Alejandro Márquez (Sociology)</i></p> <p><b>Thi Ngan Ha Le</b>  Promoting Teacher Empathy: From English as a Foreign Language Pre-Service Teachers’ Perception</p> <p><b>Ummul Muhseneen</b>  Oral History of Mass Crimes: Witness Testimonies Reclaiming the Memory of a Bangladeshi Killing Field</p> <p><b>Olajide Omojarabi</b>  Illegal Migration across the Mediterranean: Addressing a Complex Exodus through Creative Writing</p> <p><b>Anabela Cibebe Villach Vaquer</b>  Multilevel Cooperation: Awareness of the Local</p>

2:15pm - 3:15pm		SESSION V
3705	<b>Not at the Dinner Table: Religion, Politics, and Scholarship</b>	<p><i>Moderator: Tori Lockler (Religious Studies)</i></p> <p><b>Zachary Kuntz</b> Weaponizing the War of Ideas: US Cold War policy in Ecuador, 1947-1990</p> <p><b>Olivia Lavin</b> Relational Turbulence Theory, Christian Nationalism, and Patterns of Political Talk in Parent-Young Adult Child Relationships</p> <p><b>Weston Wright</b> Magic in the Academy</p>
3709	<b>Out of Bounds: Morality and Gender Nonconformity</b>	<p><i>Moderator: Brian Connolly (History)</i></p> <p><b>Rachael Ermacora</b> Who's Afraid of Kinky Sex?</p> <p><b>Hannah Thieryung</b> I Am My Own Wife: A Curated Perspective</p> <p><b>Charles Suor</b> Developing Resistance in a Neoliberal State: A Case Study on <i>Repo Man</i></p>
3711	<b>Nonconformity: Living Outside the Boundaries</b>	<p><i>Moderator: Ángel Maldonado (English)</i></p> <p><b>Meg Hanna</b> Narratives of the Abject: Ghosts and Fragmented Identity in Kingston's <i>The Woman Warrior</i></p> <p><b>Jacqueline Merveille</b> Queering the Weeki Wachee Mermaid</p> <p><b>Alexa Will</b> Femme's 19th Century Etymological Arc, Envisioned through Lyric Essay</p>

3:30pm - 4:30pm		SESSION VI
3711	<b>Not Just Setting: The Role of Place in Creative Writing</b>	<p><i>Moderator: Liz Kicak (English)</i></p> <p><b>Obe-ochuwe Ejue</b> The Role of Geographical Setting in Nigerian Literature</p> <p><b>Mary Shaver</b> More Than Just Setting: Florida's Role in Fiction</p> <p><b>Benjamin Spurduto</b> The Speculative City as Place of Identity, Power, and Conflict</p>

## SCHOLAR BIOGRAPHIES

### **Melike Akay**

Melike completed her bachelor's degree in Foreign Language Education at Boğaziçi University (Istanbul, Turkiye), and master's degree in English Language Education. She is now pursuing her PhD in Linguistics and Applied Language Studies at USF. Her research focuses on internet pragmatics, digital discourse, intercultural communication, and CALL. After graduation, Melike wishes to land in a position as a tenured faculty member and start her own entrepreneurship club. Melike helps localization of a Ukrainian IT training content for the Turkish market.

### **Sofia Almeida**

Sofia completed a dual bachelor's degree in Anthropology and History at the University of South Florida. She also completed her master's degree in History at USF writing a thesis focusing on digital applications in cemetery recovery work. She is now pursuing her PhD in History at USF. Her research focuses on Early America, cemeteries, and memory. She has participated in excavations in Virginia and has worked as a researcher for the National Park Service.

### **Glorya Blair Senart**

Glorya completed her bachelor's degree in History at Liberty University, and is currently pursuing her master's degree in Ancient History at USF. Her research focuses on women's roles in ancient societies and how cultural biases may have misrepresented or purposefully hidden their contributions. She hopes to bridge the gap between Eastern and Western studies to offer a different perspective on the shared histories of women across cultures and regions. After graduation, Glorya aims to pursue a PhD and teach upper-level academia. Glorya is an avid reader who aspires to merge her love for history with her enthusiasm for books.

### **Charles Butt**

Charles Butt earned his bachelor's degree at USF in English with a minor in Film and New Media Studies. After a gap year teaching middle school, he is now completing his second year of the Liberal Arts master's program at USF, conducting interdisciplinary research to explore the literary and formal aesthetics of dystopian cinema. After graduation, Charles aims to pursue a PhD to discover how sci-fi cinema overlaps with other forms of American/British media. Outside of his studies, he is the current editor-in-chief of a student-led journal called "The Close-up," and he enjoys decorously resort-hopping at Walt Disney World.

## **Kübra Çekmegeli**

Kübra Çekmegeli is a second-year PhD student in Linguistics and Applied Language Studies (LALS) at the University of South Florida. She earned her master's degree in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from Teachers College, Columbia University. Kübra's research focuses on digital discourse analysis, data-driven learning in second language writing, classroom discourse, conversation analysis, and language teacher education. After graduating, she hopes to secure a position as a tenured faculty member and begin educating future English language teachers and researchers. Kübra also leads a student-run club in the Linguistics program that supports the bridge between research and teaching.

## **Faelyn Cowan**

Faelyn Cowan graduated from USF with a bachelor's degree in Psychology and is now in their second year as an MA student in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program. Their research focuses on LGBTQ+ mental health, queering care, and queer utopian studies. After graduation they plan to pursue a second master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, with plans to pursue a PhD in Clinical Psychology in the future. Outside academia, Faelyn enjoys good movies, great books, and terrible reality TV.

## **Ysabella Maria Dace**

Ysabella completed her Bachelor's degree in History at USF in May of 2022, and she is currently pursuing her Master's at USF. Ysabella's research focuses on early modern Europe, a seminal period of European history from about 1300 to 1789. Specifically, she examines how and the extent to which gender, sexuality, social interactions, religion, and culture shaped and impacted the lives and experiences of women, namely Italian women, in the period dubbed the Renaissance. She has written about Renaissance women who were humanists, 'protofeminists,' self-proclaimed prophets, and nun-artists. After graduation, Ysabella plans to earn her teaching certifications to begin teaching while exploring PhD programs that cater to her research interests.

## **Lulu Downing**

Lulu is a current graduate student at USF pursuing a degree in History with a concentration in public history/digital humanities. Her research focuses on medieval Irish history and religious communities. After her graduation this Spring semester, Lulu plans to continue her studies and pursue a PhD in medieval studies.

## **Obe-ochuwe Ejue**

Obe-ochuwe completed her bachelor's degree in Law at Baze University, Abuja, Nigeria and is now pursuing her Masters of Fine Art in Creative Writing with a concentration in Fiction at USF. Her writing currently focuses on attachment to places and the feelings of displacement people experience when moving away from familiar places. Obe-ochuwe hopes that a traditional publishing house falls in love with her short story collection after graduation. She spends her time reading and painting.

## **Rachael Ermacora**

Rachael completed her B.A. in Political Science at the University of South Florida and is now pursuing her M.A. in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality studies at USF. Her research focuses on non-normative sexual identities among LGBT individuals as a reaction to sexual repression. Rachael hopes to undertake a career in education. In her free time, Rachael can be found reading with her pet cat, and gardening.

## **Andrea Figueroa-Irizarry**

Andrea completed her bachelor's degree in English (Editing, Writing, and Media) and Psychology at Florida State University and is now in her second year of her MFA in Creative Writing degree at USF. She writes young adult and contemporary fiction. Her research focuses on Latine representation in literature and modern retellings of historical and classical works. She is currently working on a young adult novel entitled *Smoke Trails* and hopes to obtain a tenured creative writing faculty position upon graduation.

## **Kalysta Fowler**

Kalysta completed her bachelor's and master's degrees at Florida Gulf Coast University and is now pursuing their PhD in English literature at USF. Her research focuses on "crip theory" (a combination of queer and disability studies) pertaining to 19th century Gothic literature. After graduation, Kalysta hopes to get a position as a tenured faculty member, whether it be as a professor or in an administrative role for education. In their free time, she is reading and playing video games to decompress.

## **Meg Hanna**

Meg is a first-year PhD student Literature PhD program at USF. They completed their undergraduate degrees in English (BA) and Musical Theatre (BFA) at William Peace University and her Master's degree in English at NC State University. Their research interests lie in 20th and 21st-American Literature with a focus on gothic texts and film. After graduation, Meg hopes to continue teaching and working in Higher Ed. and start her own theatre company.

## **Stephen Johnson**

A second-year PhD. graduate student in the Rhetoric & Composition program at the University of South Florida, Stephen Eric Johnson earned his MA from Southern Illinois University with a thesis analyzing the effectiveness of portfolios in English Composition at the university level, one of the first of such studies conducted at the time. Presently he is teaching First Year Composition at USF and pursuing academic studies into the intersection between horse training and the education of FYC students, especially with an interest into the role of empathy and teacher/student cooperation as aspects of effective teaching.

## **Bethany Jowers**

Bethany is an M.A. candidate in Applied Anthropology on the Medical Anthropology track at the University of South Florida. She is a USF alumna, having completed a B.A. in World Languages and Cultures and a B.S. in Biomedical Sciences in 2024. Her research centers on the sociocultural dimensions of medicine in the Americas, including gender and spoken language. After earning her Masters, she hopes to pursue an MD-PhD and become a physician-anthropologist.

## **Jeevitha Kannan**

Jeevitha Kannan is a writer from Tamil Nadu, India. She taught English at different middle schools in Vellore before she came to pursue an MFA in Creative Writing at the University of South Florida, where she now teaches poetry. She is working on a memoir titled *Saamanthi*, about the loss of her mother and the immigrant experience in America.

## **Jihye Kim**

Jihye completed her bachelor's and master's degrees at Hannam University in South Korea and is currently pursuing a PhD in the LALS (Linguistics and Applied Language Studies) program at the University of South Florida. Her research interests include Mobile-Assisted Language Learning (MALL), (teacher and ITA) identity, food discourse, and digital discourse. Recently, Jihye has shifted her focus towards exploring career opportunities outside of academia after graduation.

## **Zachary Kuntz**

Zachary is a disabled student (Deaf) who completed his MA in History at the University of South Florida and is now pursuing his PH. D in History within the field of US and the World at USF. His research focuses on the role of US foreign policy during the Cold War in Ecuador and its effect on the economic, social, and political institutions within the country. Once he graduates, Zachary seeks to work in the government as state

department analyst before running for public office. Zachary is currently the GAU Grievance Chair, member of UFF contract enforcement team, member of the Student Disability Task Force, and volunteers for the Center For Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention through PAVE (Peer Anti-Violence Educators). In 2024, Zachary was the recipient for the Accessibull Award that is given out each year to one student who advocates for the inclusion and promotion of disability equality and accessibility on behalf of all disabled students within the USF community.

### **Jared Lamanati**

Jared Lamanati is a graduate student in the Humanities and Cultural Studies department, with a concentration in Film Studies. His undergraduate degree is in English, with a concentration on Literary Studies, from USF. He is currently exploring ideas for his thesis but is interested in the various theoretical movements surrounding film studies.

### **Olivia Lavin**

Olivia Lavin graduated with her bachelor's degree in Communication Studies at Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota. She went on to get her Master's degree from Texas Christian University and is working towards her PhD in Communication Studies here at USF. Her research is primarily focused on family and conflict communication. After graduation, Olivia plans to return to Minnesota and hopes to get a position as a professor at her alma mater, Bethel University. Olivia adores her dog, Jackie Moon, and cannot wait to go on her next road trip!

### **Thi Ngan Ha Le**

Ha completed her bachelor's degree in English Language Teacher Education at Vietnam National University and is now pursuing her master's degree in Linguistics: ESL at USF. Her research interests include English language teaching, ESL/EFL teacher education and teacher wellbeing. After graduation, she hopes to get a position as a lecturer at a university in Vietnam.

### **Camilo Loaiza Bonilla**

Camilo Loaiza Bonilla (he/him) is a Latine writer working to unwind generational silence and trauma as a queer, trans, first-generation immigrant. A Macondista, he is currently pursuing his MFA at the University of South Florida, where he explores the intersection of visual art, poetry, and creative nonfiction. He is currently working on a poetry collection and his words are in the *Los Angeles Review*, *So to Speak*, and *The Acentos Review*.

## **Francesca Marino**

Francesca is a doctoral candidate in the Linguistics and Applied Language Studies (LALS) program at the USF, where she also serves as a graduate teaching assistant for the Department of World Languages and as a coordinator and tutor for the Multilingual Writing Center. Prior to joining the LALS program, Francesca received her M.A. in Languages and Intercultural Communication in the Euro-Mediterranean Area in 2018 from the University of Naples L'Orientale, Italy. Her research interests revolve around multimodality and digital media from both a pedagogical and discursive perspective. From a discursive standpoint, she focuses on discursive identity construction in online environments.

## **Jacqueline Merveille**

Jacqueline has already completed her Master's degree in Humanities and Cultural Studies at the University of South Florida. She is now pursuing a Master's in French at USF. Her research focused on complicating the representation of the female body through the analysis of the mermaid performance in one of the oldest Florida roadside attractions, the Weeki Wachee Mermaid Show. Jacqueline is currently teaching an Intro to Humanities course at USF and plans on pursuing her career as an instructor.

## **Ummul Muhseneen**

Ummul is a PhD candidate in the Department of History at USF. Her research focus is the memory and memorialization of mass atrocity crimes with a special focus on the 1971 Bangladesh Genocide. Originally from Bangladesh, she has previously worked at a genocide study center and a museum. She holds an MA in History.

## **Amber Nico**

Amber is a 2nd year MA student in the Department of Communication at USF. Her research focuses on representation of identities in both the workplace and mediated spaces. After obtaining her MA, Amber would like to pursue her PhD in Communication.

## **Olajide Omojarabi**

Olajide is a third year candidate in the creative writing program in the English department at USF. His essays and short stories have appeared in *Guernica*, *adda*, *Off Assignment*, *Barren Magazine*. He was a finalist for the 2024 Commonwealth Short Story prize.

## **Dennis Pierson**

Dennis completed his bachelor's and master's degrees in Anthropology at USF and is now pursuing his PhD in Anthropology with an Archaeology track at USF. His dissertation research will focus on macro-botanical paleoethnobotany, the study of

which plants ancient peoples used. Dennis hopes to start his own archaeology-related business after graduation. Dennis is a member of the Florida Native Plant Society and sometimes drives his 1963 Ford Falcon to USF to attend classes.

### **Kailin Regutti**

Kailin is pursuing her PhD in Communication at USF. Her research focuses on the production and representation of mental health in entertainment media at the intersection of gender, race, and class in the contemporary milieu. After finishing her degree, Kailin aspires to get a position as a tenured faculty member.

### **Camille Ruiz Mangual**

Camille is pursuing her PhD in Communication at USF. Her research is situated at the intersection of Feminist Media Studies, Critical Cultural Studies, and Latino/a/x/e Studies. Her research focuses on representations of Latino/a/x/es in popular culture media specifically attending to the intersections of race/ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and belonging. Her research also investigates how individuals in the U.S. who identify as Latino/a/x/e feel about representation of their communities in popular culture media. After completing her degree, Camille aspires to continue advocating for greater, more nuanced representation for Latino/a/x/es whether that is through a faculty position or working directly in/with media industries.

### **Mary Shaver**

Mary Shaver is graduated from Vanderbilt University in 2023 and is now pursuing her MFA in creative writing at the University of South Florida. Often, her stories focus on themes of grief or regret, though she is particularly drawn to coming-of-age themes and the notion of cycles. Her work has been published in *The Vanderbilt Review* and *Writing Queensland*. After graduation, Mary hopes to pursue her PhD in creative writing.

### **Hilda Sheridan-Hewlett**

Hilda Sheridan-Hewlett was originally an exchange student from the University of Exeter, after completing two years of undergrad in the UK in English Literature and Film Studies. She then transferred to USF and finished with a bachelor degree in English with a concentration in Literary Studies, now she is pursuing her masters degree in Film studies and is a teaching assistant for the Humanities department at USF. Hilda's interests lie in queer and feminist theory which she will be applying in her thesis.

## **Alyssa Sotelo**

Alyssa Sotelo is a hybrid poetry and nonfiction writer. She has a BA in Creative Writing from the University of Arizona and is currently attending the MFA program at University of South Florida. Her poetry and articles have been featured in *The Artisan & Creative Pinellas Arts Coast Magazine*. Her writing explores borderlands and her Latina identity. Alyssa is currently working on an essay collection about the body, the queer and feminine identity, and binaries as she explores these subjects in the borderlands where she grew up.

## **Benjamin Spurduto**

Ben earned a BA in Political Science and an MA in History from USF before returning to pursue an MFA in creative writing for fiction. His work draws upon historical elements that serve as an environment for characters seeking to navigate societies replete with overlapping sources of power, identity, and authority. He has published three novels and over twenty short stories. Following graduation, he intends to pursue an academic career teaching creative writing and continuing to publish his own work.

## **Charles Suor**

Charles “Charlie” Suor is a graduate student and assistant in the Department of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. He is also an American Culture and Society graduate certificate student in the Department of Humanities and Cultural Studies. After graduation, he intends to pursue a PhD in American Studies. His research interests include gender and popular music & film, transgender studies, and queer theory. He enjoys rock music and horror films.

## **Hannah Thieryung**

Hannah completed her bachelor’s degree in History at the University of South Florida and is now continuing at USF to pursue her Master’s in History. Her research focuses on Irish-America, theater, and public history. Hannah hopes to continue her education to earn her PhD in History and continue her work at the May Stringer Museum.

## **María José Torres Centurion**

María José is a PhD student in the Linguistics and Applied Language Studies program at the University of South Florida, where she is a Spanish Teaching Assistant. Her research interests include Raciolinguistic ideologies and discourse analysis.

## **John Tuskey**

John Tuskey has been a student of philosophy for most of his academic career. He received a B.S. in philosophy at Portland State University and his M.A. in philosophy at Northern Illinois University. Currently, he conducts research in philosophy of religion and the philosophy of technology. He is interested in the religious and spiritual consequences of living in an increasingly automated world, as well as the theological problems introduced by trans- and posthumanism. John is also a certified yoga instructor and a kava enthusiast.

## **Anabela Cibeles Villach Vaquer**

Anabela is a lawyer who completed her studies at the National University of Cuyo, Mendoza, Argentina. She teaches Constitutional Law and International Law at the National University of Cuyo and the University of Mendoza. At USF, she is enrolled in the Master in Latin American, Caribbean, and Latino Studies program and is part of the Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean (ISLAC). In addition to her legal approach, she has incorporated insights from international relations and political science into my research. During the summer, she was an intern at the Organization of American States.

## **Alexa Will**

Alexa completed their bachelor's degree in English Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Pittsburgh and is now an MFA Nonfiction candidate interested in exploring the realms of autotheory and hybridity here at USF. Alexa's work explores femme identity, polyamory, the body, phenomenology, nature, and the uncanny. Upon graduation, Alexa hopes to move abroad for a stint of time and eventually obtain their PhD in Literature.

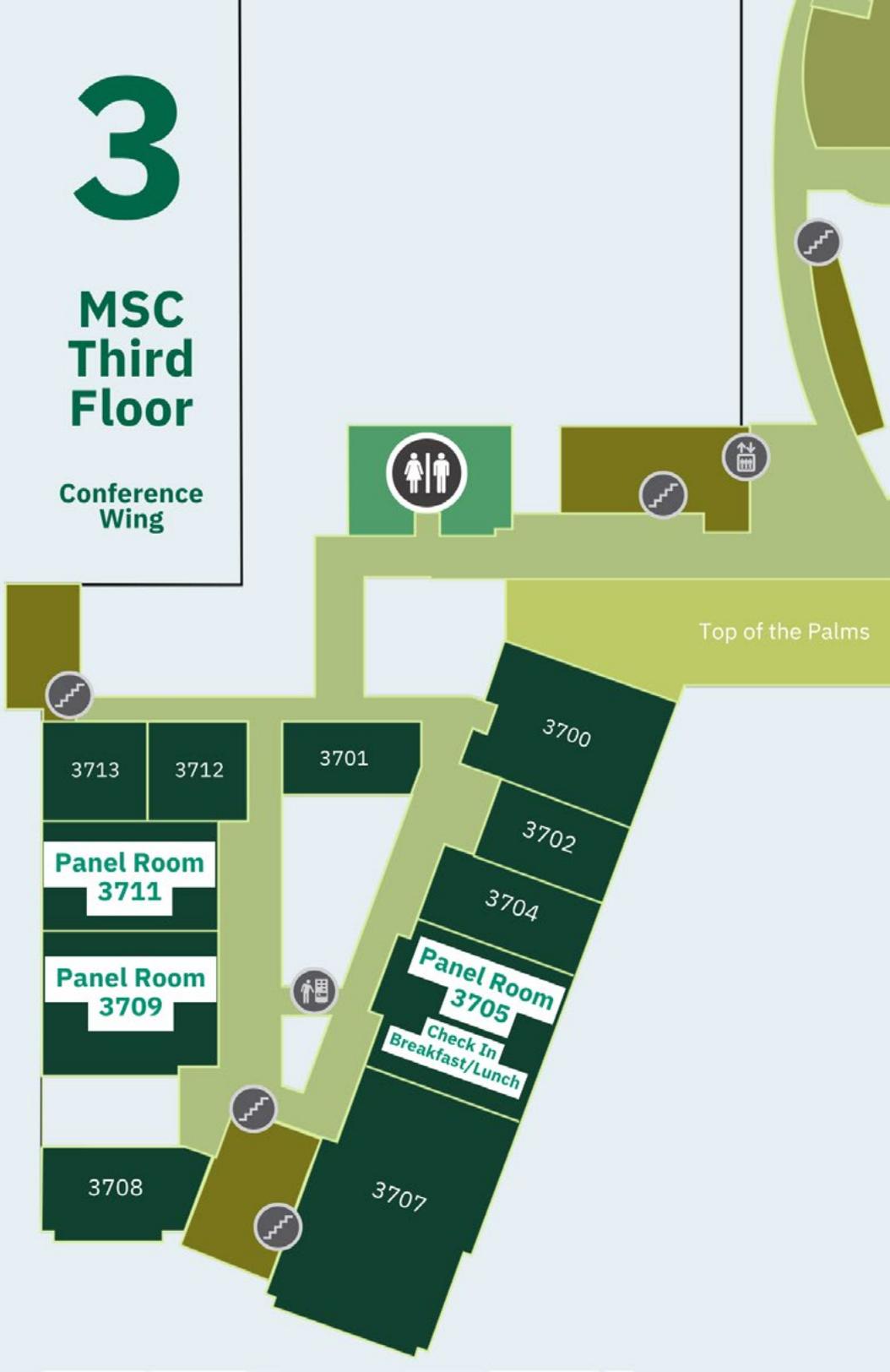
## **Weston Wright**

Weston Wright is a PhD student in the department of Communication at the University of South Florida. Weston received his BA in Religious Studies and Philosophy at USF; likewise, he also received his MA at USF in Religious Studies. His academic interests include theories of communication and modernity, mainly Niklas Luhmann's, and applying said theories to better understand the practice of magic (the occult, esoterica, magick) in our modern context. Aside from studying religion and communication, Weston also taught musical theatre for six years for children, ages 4-17, in the Palm Harbor area.

# 3

## MSC Third Floor

Conference  
Wing



Top of the Palms

3713

3712

3701

3700

3702

3704

**Panel Room**  
3711

**Panel Room**  
3709

**Panel Room**  
3705  
Check In  
Breakfast/Lunch

3708

3707