

Pippi to Ripley 7: Gender and Sexuality in Popular Culture



April 18, 2025

Ithaca College

Celebrating Firebrand Books

April 19

Textor Lecture Halls



**Firebrand
Books**

Ithaca, New York

2025 Pippi to Ripley 7: Gender and Sexuality in Pop Culture

Pippi to Ripley began in 2011 as an act of Guerilla Academe created by Katharine Kittredge with students Adam Ellerson, Ryan Ende, and Giovanni Colantonio. Pippi to Ripley is a biennial Pop Culture conference that seeks to include people inside and outside of academe. We welcome Independent Scholars and strive to include people at every stage of their academic career: undergraduates, graduate students, and professors. **This year the conference expands to include a celebration of Firebrand Books, Ithaca's iconic Lesbian Feminist Press.**

Conference Coordinators

Katharine Kittredge
Meaghan Burke

Assistant Coordinators

Isabelle Ackerman	Emma Buckley
Mary Collier	Aurora Gould
Molly Hurley	Jordan Mackey
Cathy Plizga	Riley Rhoder
Miles Swiatek	Anna Werts
Lennon Zych	

The 2025 Conference is sponsored by:

The School of Humanities and Sciences, Ithaca College
Department of Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies
The Janet Kalinowski Student Development Fund

Special Thanks to:

Professor Jen Spitzer

Brenda Marston, Curator of the Human Sexuality Collection at Cornell

This Conference is dedicated to the Achievements of Nancy K. Bereano

Friday, April 18:

Friday's events will be held in the Campus Center. For events during the day, please park in the visitor's lot beside the main entrance. After 5pm you may park for free anywhere on campus.

8:15-9:00 Greetings + Continental Breakfast (Clark Lounge)

Session 1 (9:00-10:00)

Fantasy & Comics (Taughannock Falls)

- Mary Collier and Molly Hurley, "Red Flags Disguised as Red Roses: The Glamorization of Toxic Relationships in Teen Dramas"
- Julie Still, "Dueling Duologies: A New Force in Fantasy Literature"
- Anna Werts, "Supertrauma: Gender Differences in Superhero Grief and *Supergirl: Woman of Tomorrow*"

A Range of Representation (Ithaca Falls)

- Jessica Licker, "Transcendence Before Climax, Fulfilment Without Romance: Intentional Literary Representations of A-spec Identity in Context"
- Alexa Salvato, "Celebrating Queer Fat Counternarratives in YA Literature"
- Cathy Plizga, "The Two Different Languages of Talking about Transgender Athletes"

Session 2 (10:15-11:15)

Blood & Monsters (Taughannock Falls)

- Ellory Taylor Mellwood, "A Shot of the Apocalypse: Pandemic, Adolescence, and the Age of Extinction"
- Meghan Burke, "She Ate: Cooking the Patriarchy"
- Doug Anderson, "'You be the Monster, Mama': Celeste Ng's *Our Missing Hearts* and the Fairytale of the Domesticated Mother"

Smoking First Ladies (Ithaca Falls)

- Gretchen Hohmeyer, "Best of (White) Wives and Best of (White Women): What Female Representation in Children's Biographies about Early Presidents Says About Their Representations of Race"
- Julie Fromer, "'Hugh Stanbury Smokes His Pipe': Smoking and Pondering Domesticity"
- Kerri Stuart, "Darcy: The Perfect Man We Can't Stop Looking For (But Can Never Seem to Find)"

11:30-1pm Lunch Break in the Clark Lounge

Session 3 (1pm-2pm)

Gender and Television (Taughannock Falls)

- Lennon Zych, "Gendering *Rick and Morty*"

- Jordan Mackey, "Pre-History Repeats Itself: Connections between Jim Henson Company's *Dinosaurs* and George Puttenham's *The Arte of English Poesie*"

Gender in Video Games and Comics (Ithaca Falls)

- Mary Lindroth, "But She Is a Girl!": The Monster Mash of Gender Identity in the Graphic Narrative *My Favorite Thing is Monsters* by Emil Ferris"
- Giovanni Colantonio, "The Radical Joy of Infinity Nikki: Creating a Game for the Female Gaze"

Session 4 (2:15- 3:15)

Gendering Violence (Taughannock Falls)

- Matthew Hornyak, "Gender Exploration in *Ghost in the Shell*"
- Riley Rhoder, "Cowboys and Combat: The Secret Traumatic Military Pasts of Cowboy Heartthrobs"
- Chloe Harris, "Give the Girl a Gun: Women Weapons and Wardrobe in *Arcane*"

Many Imaginings (Ithaca Falls)

- Sanchita Sahoo, "The Good Wife": How Do Housewives in Bollywood Resist a Patriarchy Which Glorifies Them?"
- Miles Swiatek, "A Modern Persephone: Realities of 21st-Century Girlhood in *Lore Olympus*"
- Adwoa Tiwaah Ofori Atakorah, "Outsiders at the Center: Allan, Weird Barbie, and the Fragile Utopia of *Barbie*"

Session 5 (3:30-4:30)

Female Fan Power! (Taughannock Falls)

- Emma Buckley, "The Angel and the Devil on the Fangirl's Shoulders"
- Rory Gould, "The Death of Mr. Darcy: Roland Barthes & Saussure in Conversation with *Pride & Prejudice* Film Adaptations"
- Alayna Vander Veer, "The Other World's of Isekai: Fandom, Fantasy, and Freedom"

Gender in YA Fiction (Ithaca Falls)

- Teri Doerkson, "From Laura Ingalls to Nnedi Okorafor: Politics, Identity, and Gender in the YA Classroom"
- Kayla Wheeland, "The Role You Were Born to Play: Class and Masculinity in *Gate to Women's Country*, *The Outsiders*, and *Citizen of the Galaxy*"
- Onyx McMillan, "Music Heals the Soul: *Dragonsong* and *Dragonsinger* Lift Up Voices of the Unheard; and Other Genres of Expression"

4:30-4:45 pm Cookies and Caffeine in the Clark Lounge

5pm-6pm Grad Student Panel (Taughannock Falls)

- Sanchita Sahoo (West Virginia University) MFA in Creative Writing
- Adwoa Tiwaah Ofori Atakorah (West Virginia University) MA in English Literature
- Taylor Marie Doherty (University of Arizona) PhD in Women's and Gender Studies + Certificate in Archival Studies

- Jessica Licker (Ohio University) MA Literary History + Certificate in Museum Studies
- Gretchen Hohmeyer (University of Massachusetts) PhD in Language, Literacy, and Culture, College of Education
- Alexa Salvato (UNC Chapel Hill) Masters of Library Science
- Lauren Suna (University of Toronto) Masters of Information: Culture & Technology

6-7 Reception in the Clark Lounge

7pm Firebrand Books Poetry Reading (Clark Lounge)

Scholars will read poetry drawn from books published by Firebrand Books. Authors will include Audrey Lorde, Dorothy Allison, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Cheryl Clarke, Pat Parker, and others.

Saturday, April 19: A Celebration of Firebrand Books



Saturday events will be held in the Textor Lecture Halls. Parking is free on-campus on the weekends. Please stop by the registration table outside of Textor 102 to pick up an up-dated schedule.

History of Firebrand Books

From 1984 to 2000 editor Nancy Bereano working out of a tiny office in Ithaca, New York published 104 books, including some of the most influential LGBTQIA+ titles ever produced. This one-day conference celebrates the achievements and enduring legacy of Firebrand Books.

8:30-9:00am CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST (Hallway of Textor Lecture Halls)

9-10:45 GRAB-BAG OF GREAT FIREBRAND BOOKS

9-9:45

Textor 101: Firebrand Bipoc Voices:

The Sun is Not Merciful (Gwenalyn Abrams, Gabriel Biennas);

The Land of Look Behind (Jade Moore, Chloe Segar, Nome Goodwin)

Textor 103: Firebrand Stories of Lesbian Life:

The Gilda Stories (Austyn Johnson, Ari Klawans, Marisol McDowell);

Artemis in Echo Park (Ari Clark, Sam Nejberger, Lynn Connolly, Owen Froelich)

10-10:45

Textor 101: Firebrand Historical Cross-dressing:

The Wolf-Ticket (Anna Giese, Delaney Jacobson, Logan Johnson);

Moll Cut-Purse (Angel Tannini, Liz Wiley, Jayda Miller)

Textor 103: Firebrand Imagining Islands:

The Other Sappho (Bee Beckman, Kayleigh Pierce, Rachel Showalter);

The Fires of Bride (Mel Dean, Sofia Sterbenk, Ari Klein)

11-11:45 CELEBRATING FIREBRAND AUTHORS

Textor 101: Alison Bechdel Session

Dykes to Watch Out For (Lily Lipka, Jess Williams, Em Taber, Selkie Racela);

“Icarian Games: Bechdel’s Exploration of Self through Intertextuality” (Hailey Howgate)

Textor 103: Leslie Feinberg and Dorothy Allison Session

Dorothy Allison’s *Trash* (Andrea Lizbeth Chavez, Caroline Brenckle, Cassandra Raineault)

“The Cultural Impact and Significance of *Stone Butch Blues*” (Piper Sullivan, Maple Webster - Ben David, Eve McDougall)

11:45-1pm LUNCH BREAK

1-1:45 DELVING INTO THE FIREBRAND ARCHIVE

Textor 102: Isabelle Ackerman (IC) and Brenda Marston (Cornell University)

2-2:45 CELEBRATING FIREBRAND AUTHORS

Textor 101: Dorothy Allison and Leslie Feinberg Session

“Feinberg’s Life and Activism” (Grant Crowson, Riley Israel, and Maggie Schneider)

More on Dorothy Allison’s *Trash* (Alice Morgenstern, Eden Ost, Max Campion)

Textor 103: Minnie Bruce Pratt Session

S/He (Riley Rhoder, Isabelle Ackerman, Chloe Harris)

“Teaching and Thinking with Minnie Bruce Pratt in Urgent Times” (Taylor Marie Doherty)

3-3:45 IC INTERNS: WHAT WE LEARNED AT FIREBRAND BOOKS

Textor 102: Mary Stafford, Tracey Calhoun, Ursula Ferreira

4-4:30 Closing Keynote Speaker

“IN THE PAGES OF RESISTANCE: Queer and Trans Stories Are Our Superpower”

Textor 102: Luca Maurer, Executive Director for Student Equity, Inclusion and Belonging