13th Annual RWS Landmark Lecture

“Whitewashing, Flattening, and the (Im)Possibility of Collectivity.”

Nearly 20 years ago Lynn Worsham identified the most “pressing task for feminism’s third wave” as forging “a collective subject capable of making mass movement—if not a sisterhood, exactly, then surely an alliance that does not protect us from our differences but finds in difference, disagreement, and even despair occasions to hear one another’s words” (1998, 329). In this session we use queer theory and our own narrative writing to explore the possibility or impossibility of creating the collective subject that Worsham envisions. We take seriously Worsham’s claim “that there is no need to eradicate difference to find solidarity” (329) by exploring such important challenges to creating collectivity as whitewashing and flattening.

Panelists:

Jonathan Alexander is Professor of English, Education, and Gender & Sexuality Studies at UC, Irvine, where he is the founding Director of the Center for Excellence in Writing and Communication. The author, co-author, or editor of nine books, Jonathan writes about sexuality, technology, and literacy — sometimes all at the same time. He is general editor of College Composition and Communication.

Jacqueline Rhodes is Professor of English at California State University, San Bernardino. She is the author of Radical Feminism, Writing, and Critical Agency: From Manifesto to Modem (SUNY, 2005) and co-author of On Multimodality: New Media in Composition Studies (NCTE, 2014). She has written and presented widely on her research into the intersections of gender, sexuality, and writing.

David Wallace is Dean of the College of Liberal Arts at the California State University, Long Beach. He is author of Compelled to Write: Alternative Rhetoric in Theory and Practice and coauthor of Mutuality in the Rhetoric and Composition Classroom. He has also written a number of articles and book chapters about issues related to diversity and the teaching of writing.

Participants are invited to bring a short piece of their own writing in which they address multiple aspects of identity or use personal narrative in the service of some scholarly agenda. Participants are also invited to read:


This event is sponsored by a College of Arts and Letters IRA Grant and a Student Success Fee Grant.