

**Special Thanks:**

Bowling Green State University

The American Culture Studies Program of  
Bowling Green State University

Dr. Donald McQuarie

Gloria Enriquez Pizana

The Bowen Thompson Student Union

All the Participants, Presenters, and Panel  
Discussants

Culture Club: The Cultural Studies Scholars'  
Association

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On behalf of the Graduate Conference  
Planning Committee, thank you.

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY  
**AMERICAN CULTURE STUDIES**  
GRADUATE CONFERENCE



MARCH 31ST AND APRIL 1, 2006 **BATTLEGROUND STATES**

**Event Program**

Table of Contents:

3 Welcome to the Conference

4 Keynote Address by  
Dr. Ann Larabee

5 Keynote Panel by  
Dr. Sherry Linkon &  
Dr. John B. Russo

6 "Girls' Room"

7 Films

8 Friday Panels

9-10 Saturday Session I

10-11 Saturday Session II

12-13 Saturday Session III

14 Friday Schedule

15 Saturday Schedule

16 Acknowledgements

Saturday Schedule:

8:00 AM Registration begins  
3rd floor of Student Union

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Lounge  
coffee and snacks  
Room 309

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM Girls' Room  
Room 308  
(see page 6)

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Session One  
(see pages 9-10)

12:00 AM - 1:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM *Children of the Decree*  
Room 308  
(see page 7)

1:15 PM - 2:45 PM Session Two  
(see page 10-11)

3:00 PM - 4:30 PM Session Three  
(see page 12-13)

3:00 PM - 7:00 PM Refreshments  
Outside Room 206

5:00 PM - 7:00 PM Keynote Address  
Dr. Ann Larabee  
Room 206  
(see page 4)

## Friday Schedule:

12:00 PM                   Registration begins  
3rd floor of Student Union

12:30 PM - 4:00 PM       Lounge  
coffee and snacks  
Room 309

12:30 PM - 2:00 PM       Panel 1  
(see page 8)

2:15 PM - 3:45 PM       Panel 2  
(see page 8)

2:15 PM - 3:45 PM       Panel 3  
(see page 8)

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM       *Howard Zinn: You Can't Be  
Neutral on a Moving Train*  
(see page 7)

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM       Social Mixer  
refreshments will be served  
Room 228

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM       Keynote Panel  
Dr. Sherry Linkon  
Dr. John Russo  
Room 228  
(see page 5)

8:00 PM - 10:00 PM      Discussion  
Room 228

## Welcome:

On behalf of Bowling Green, the University, the American Culture Studies Department, the conference committee, and myself, I would like to welcome all of you to the Battleground States Conference. The idea for this conference was conceived when a group of graduate students in the American Culture Studies Program came together and decided they wanted to bring together other graduate students from the campus, the region, the country, and possibly even the world. Less than a year later, the idea conceived by those students is now a reality. As we come together for a weekend of panels, speeches, films, and vibrant academic discourse, it is our hope that we can all help nurture what is inside each of us that drives our quest for academic satisfaction.

This conference is the first from our program in a decade, and even before it begins, all of us on the committee know that it will certainly not be the last. What you will be a part of here this weekend is the start of, we hope, an annual event. The blood and sweat that was poured forth from those who worked so hard to put this conference together is the same blood and sweat that you as presenters put forth in your academic work. We worked hard to bring us all here so that we can share our knowledge, thoughts, and ideas. In doing so, we can show that the academic world has no physical boundaries, that we as scholars can come together from all over the world and do what we do best. It is my hope and the hope of my colleagues that in being a part of this conference you not only have a good time, but that you are also engaged and stimulated intellectually. If you walk away from this conference having been stimulated in any way at all, then we have achieved our goal, to create more scholarly thought. On behalf of the committee, I welcome you all to the Battleground States Conference.

**Adam Franklin**  
**Conference Coordinator**

**Keynote Address:**



**Dr. Ann Larabee**

Associate Chair  
American Studies  
Michigan State University

Dr. Larabee will deliver the Conference's Keynote Address Saturday evening. Dr. Larabee's interests include disaster studies, cultural impacts of technology, cultural theory, Feminism and technology, history of terrorism. Her publications include *Decade of Disaster* (Illinois University Press, 2000) which focuses on disasters of the 1980s, including the Exxon Valdez oil spill, the Chernobyl meltdown, the Challenger space shuttle explosion, the Bhopal chemical plant release, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. *Decade of Disaster* examines how culture is reconstructed after disaster through victims' stories, media coverage, and official efforts to restore faith in technology.

Dr. Larabee also received her BA from Bowling Green State University and is a former resident of Bowling Green, Ohio. We are excited to welcome her "home."

**Saturday  
5PM - 7PM  
Room 206**

**Saturday Panel Session III: (cont.)**

3PM - 4:30PM

**Room 318 "Disciplining Diversity: The death of experimental programs in higher education at public universities"**

**Stuart Henry**, Wayne State University ("Disciplining Interdisciplinarity: The Expropriation of Creative Approaches to Higher Education")

**Caroline Maun**, Wayne State University ("Cloned Students: Square Peg/Round Hole Theory of Regularization in the University")

**Jose Cuello**, Wayne State University ("Liberating the American Student From the Intellectual Assembly Line of Higher Education")

**Andre Furtado**, Wayne State University ("Counted Out: The Mismatch of University Math Instruction for Nontraditional and Adult Students")

Moderator: **Dr. Stuart Henry**, Wayne State University

**Room 307 "Future Voices of Academia"  
Undergraduate Panel**

**Christopher Goudos**, BGSU ("")

**Hannah Arthur**, BGSU ("Samurais and Latin Lovers: Examining Homosexuality from a Multinational Perspective")

**Todd D. Hefflinger**, BGSU ("Life, Liberty and Equality\*... \*stipulations do apply")

**Latasha Walker**, BGSU ("I'll Take Categorizing People for... 200 Pts.: A Response to George Fredrickson's Models of American Ethnic Relations")

Moderator: **Mike Lupro**, BGSU

**Saturday Panel Session III:**

3PM - 4:30PM

**Room 314 "Phallic Power & the Body"**

**Sarah Bear**, BGSU ("What Phallus?: A Contemporary Feminist Reading of Chopin")

**Eric Anderson**, BGSU ("Rebuilding America's Phallus: Gender, the Body and Pop Psychology")

**Anthony McCosham**, BGSU ("The Phallic is the New Lack: The Critique of Traditional Masculine Power in Give Me Liberty")

**Elizabeth Fleitz**, BGSU ("(Mis)Speaking Gender: Bodily Speech Acts and the Subverting Power of Language")

Moderator: **Dr. Ellen Berry**, BGSU

**Room 315 "Scientific Discourse & Cultural Studies"**

**Michael Martrich**, Temple University ("Autonomy in America's Other-Directed Society")

**Kelly Lang**, BGSU ("Time, Technology & Culture: The Impact of Marketing Normativity")

**Vassiliki Leontis**, BGSU ("The Penetration of Scientific Theories by Social Values: a Feminist Perspective")

**Meghan Kahn**, BGSU ("fMRI Technology: Uses, Potential Abuses, and Views on the Interaction Between Scientists and Society")

Moderator: **Dr. Radhika Gajjala**, BGSU

**Room 316 "Negotiating the Glocal"**

**Dustin Tahmahkera**, BGSU ("Pow Wows in Ohio?: Fry Bread and Other Indigenous Topics")

**Rick Claypool**, BGSU ("Automobile Malfunction Narratives: Crisis and Critique in Everyday Life")

**Sheila Jones**, BGSU ("Sexual Harassment in Mexico's Maquiladoras: An Analysis of Work and Sexuality at the U.S.-Mexico Border")

**Lisa Baird**, Purdue University ("The Local Citizen in the Global Village")

Moderator: **Dr. Azfar Hussain**, BGSU

**Keynote Panel:**



**Dr. Sherry Linkon**

**Professor, English  
Coordinator, American Studies  
Youngstown State University**



**Dr. John B. Russo**

**Coordinator, Labor Studies  
Program  
Director, Center for Working-  
Class Studies  
Youngstown State University**

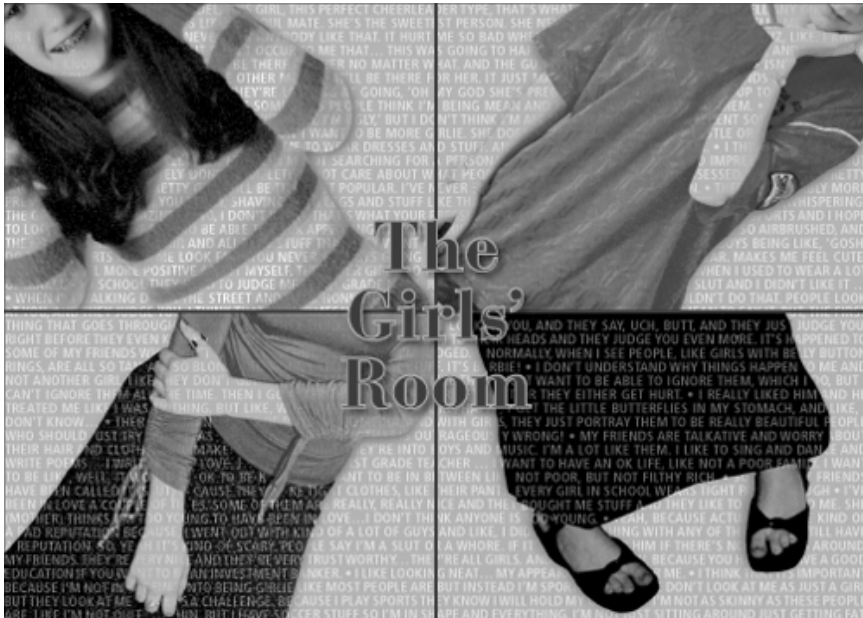
Doctors Linkon and Russo will present the Conference's Keynote Panel Discussion on Friday evening. Dr. Linkon's areas of interest include working-class studies, scholarship of teaching & learning, teaching & learning with technology, and Nineteenth-Century American literature & Culture. Dr. Russo's interests include labor and social issues, labor unions; representations of the working-class in popular culture, and automobile assembly plants in Mexico and the US. The two most recently collaborated in the production of *Steeltown USA: Work and Memory in Youngstown* (University of Kansas Press, 2003) and the anthology *New Working-Class Studies* (ILR Press, 2005).

**Friday  
6PM - 8PM  
Room 228**

Girls' Room:

Saturday Session II: (cont.)

1:15PM - 2:45PM



Lisa Richman's "The Girls' Room" is a photo journal of untold stories about adolescent girls. Sixteen girls between 11 and 15 years old, of diverse backgrounds in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, were interviewed in their bedrooms, on the presumption that every girl has her own story about her experiences as a girl, both positive and negative. Altogether it is a story rarely told. A girl's bedroom is a place where secrets are often shared, but where the outside world rarely goes. The result is a jarring set of portraits and interview excerpts that are meant to provide the girls with a voice, and also spur conversation.

**Saturday**  
**10AM - 5PM**  
**Room 308**

**Q and A with Lisa Richman, 11AM - 12PM**

Room 315 "Bodies in Transition"

**Jennifer Brown**, BGSU ("Extreme Body Modification: A Theoretical Examination and Explanation")  
**Michael Lecker**, BGSU ("I Didn't Ask to be a Mutant: A Queer Reading of the X-Men")  
**Jenn Brandt**, BGSU ("A Million Little Lies: The Crisis of Identity and Memoir in a Society of Spectacle")  
Moderator: **Dr. Jeannie Ludlow**, BGSU

Room 316 "Controlling the Scene & Obscene"

**Eric Anderson**, BGSU ("Copyright, Ownership, Authorship, Foucault")  
**Chadwick Roberts**, BGSU ("Obscenity and the New Frenzy of the Visible: Sexualized Violence, Normative Sexuality, and the Extreme Associates")  
**Larissa D'Angelo**, Youngstown State University ("Censorship in Children's and Young Adult Literature: Book-burning in the Twenty-first Century")  
Moderator: **Dr. Khani Begum**, BGSU

Room 318 "Writing 9/11"

**Elizabeth Fleitz**, BGSU ("Art Spiegelman's Disruptive Humor: Comics in Response to 9/11")  
**Emily Neilsen**, BGSU ("Discourses of Terror and Religious Extremism: The Implications of Race, Nation, and Religion")  
**Michael Lupro**, BGSU ("Funny About the Truth: A Comparative Analysis of 9/11 Coverage in Newsweek and The Onion")  
**Melissa Hussain**, BGSU ("Academics Under Attack: Postcolonial Studies, Post 9/11")  
Moderator: **Dr. Gary Heba**, BGSU

Room 307 "Poems Against Bayonets, Bullets, and Bombs"  
**Dr. Azfar Hussain** poetry reading

**Saturday Session I: (cont.)**

10:30AM - 12PM

**Room 318 "Textualities of Race & Ethnicity"**

**Alieah White**, BGSU ("The Power of the White Gaze in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*")

**Greg Helms**, BGSU ("Using Sexual Stigma to Create Racial Animosity: The Bible as Master Race Theory")

**Carissa Massey**, Ohio University ("Politically-Correct (?): Stereotyping Appalachians in American Visual Culture")

**Matthew Diebler**, BGSU ("I'm Not One of Them Anymore: Marvel's *X-Men* and the Loss of Minority Identity")

Moderator: **Dr. Scott Martin**, BGSU

**Room 307 ACS SNOOK Awards Panel**

**Dustin Tahmahkera**, BGSU

**Nathan Titman**, BGSU

**Christina Gerkin**, BGSU ("What Are Immigrants Worth? The Neoliberal Logic of Welfare Reform")

Moderator: **Dr. Donald McQuaire**, BGSU

**Saturday Session II:**

1:15PM - 2:45PM

**Room 314 "TVs on TV: Gender Subversion and Reinscription in Popular Culture"**

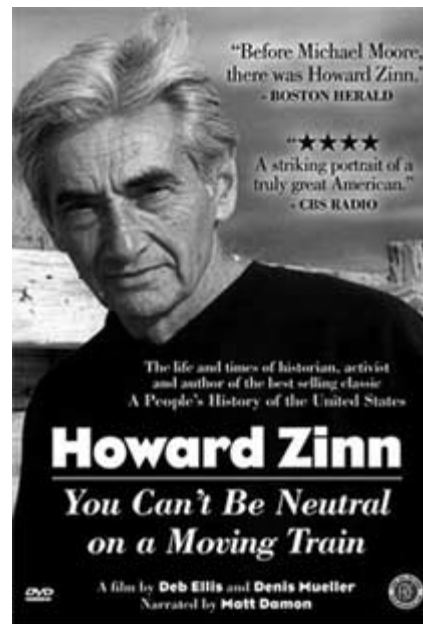
**Marnie Pratt**, BGSU ("This is the Way We Live...and Love!: Feeding on and Hungering for Representation in *The L Word*")

**Joelle Ryan**, BGSU ("The Disappearing Tranny: TV Situation Comedies and the Maintenance of Gender Transgression")

**Jamie Stuart**, BGSU ("Sex and Violence in the Ladies' Room: Negotiations of Queer Safety in *Better Than Chocolate*")

Moderator: **Dr. Meredith Guthrie**, BGSU

**Films:**



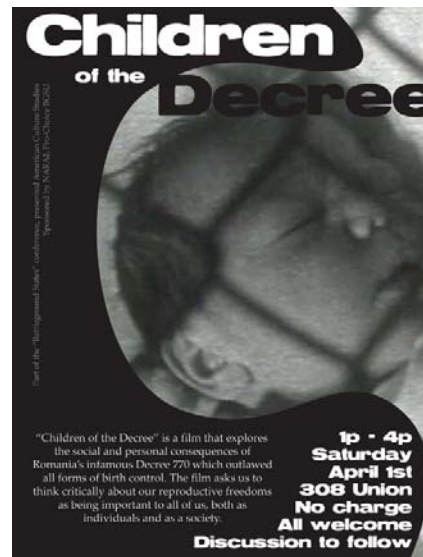
***Howard Zinn: You Can't Be Neutral on a Moving Train***

documentary film by Denis Mueller and Deb Ellis

with introduction and discussion led by ACS Grad Student Denis Mueller

**Friday, 4PM - 6PM**

**Room 306**



***Children of the Decree***

documentary film about Romania's Decree 770 which outlawed all forms of birth control

Film and discussion hosted by NARAL Pro-Choice BGSU

**Saturday, 1PM - 4PM**

**Room 308**

## Friday Panels:

12:30PM - 2PM

### Room 307 "Ideology & Pedagogy"

**Kathryn Locke**, Murdoch University ("Creativity Versus Education: The Battleground of Literacies")

**Mark Barrett**, George Washington University ("Cobb County of Education and the Ideological Assault on Science")

Moderator: **Dr. Donald McQuarie**, BGSU

2:15PM - 3:45PM

### Room 307 "Threatened Masculinity"

**James Paasche**, BGSU ("I Want to Talk with the Animals: Werner Herzog's *Grizzly Man* and the Use of Animals in Identity Construction")

**William Emerson**, BGSU ("Mechanic: The History of Grease Monkeys and Wrench Turners")

**Matt Aslaksen**, BGSU ("Emo Music: A Crisis of Middle Class Masculinity")

**Callie Clare**, BGSU ("Guts, Dissertation, and Evil Spirits: Perversity in Chuck Palahniuk's *Haunted*")

Moderator: **Dr. Bill Albertini**, BGSU

2:30PM - 4PM

### Room 306 "Barbarians at the Gate of McNation"

**Robero Prince**, BGSU

**David Moody**, BGSU

**Jason Kucsma**, Clamor Magazine

**Denis Mueller**, BGSU

Moderator: **Efrem Graham**, WTGV-TV

## Saturday Session I:

10:30AM - 12PM

### Room 314 "Sexual Politics in Pop Culture"

**Meredith Guthrie**, BGSU ("*Lolita* and Tween Sexuality")

**Jennifer Brown**, BGSU ("Identity Support, Self-Esteem, and Drug Related Behaviors Among Sexual-Minority Youths")

**Cindy Conaway**, BGSU ("Everybody Wants to Change the World: The Smart Girl's Response to Crisis on Teen Television")

**Isaac Vayo**, BGSU ("Get Up Out My House: R. Kelly and Homeland Security in *Trapped in the Closet*")

Moderator: **Dr. Erin Labbie**, BGSU

### Room 315 "Political Races & Spaces"

**BD Wortham**, University of Maryland ("Home Sweet Homestead")

**Bryson Morgan**, University of Utah ("Renewing American Values in the Spatial Distribution of Political Party Support")

**Terrence Watson & Peter Jaworski**, BGSU ("Third Parties and the Mandate Threshold: Voting isn't as Irrational as You Think, but it's Still Irrational")

Moderator: **Dr. Leigh Ann Wheeler**, BGSU

### Room 316 "Disaster, Response, & Relief"

**Shawn Kimmel**, University of Michigan ("Scholarly Preparedness After Katrina?: American Studies and Health Policy in Crisis")

**Matt Barbee**, BGSU ("Western Man's Burden: The Moral Superiority of African Debt Relief")

**Colin Helb**, BGSU ("Is it Live or is it Live 8: A Multimedia Analysis of the Broadcasted Presentation of Live Events")

Moderator: **Dr. Vivian Patraka**, BGSU