



2026 Annual Graduate Student Conference

MULTILITERACIES

MULTIMODALITY

GENRE

April 25th 9am-4:30pm | Patterson Hall

UMEGO x DEB TALBOT ROUNDTABLE

The University of Memphis 2026 Annual Graduate Student Conference

Multiliteracies, Multimodality, and Genre

April 23 and 25, 2026

The University of Memphis

Memphis, TN

Special Thanks to the Deb Talbot Roundtable and the University of Memphis Student
Government Association

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Welcome to the 3rd Annual UMEGO Graduate Student Conference!

UMEGO Executive Board:

President – Korbyn Peebles | PhD Student, Writing, Rhetoric, & Technical Communication

Vice President – Ifeoluwa Priscilla Awopetu | PhD Student, Applied Linguistics

Treasurer – Ashton Alexander | PhD Student, Writing, Rhetoric, & Technical Communication

Secretary – Heather Eudy | MFA Student

Media Coordinator – Emily Gillo, PhD | Assistant Professor of Teaching

Faculty Advisor – Sarah Ellis | English Graduate Office Coordinator

Additional Support and Partnerships:

Conference Advisor & Roundtable Organizer: Dr. J. Elliott Casal, PhD | Assistant Professor of Applied Linguistics, Director of Online Programs

Volunteers: Cate VanNostrand | MA Student, Writing, Rhetoric, & Technical Communication; Huda Sultan Saleem | PhD Student, Applied Linguistics

Patrons: University of Memphis Student Government Association; The Deb Talbot Foundation.

Conference Overview: Letter From the President of UMEGO

The University of Memphis English Graduate Organization (UMEGO) welcomes you to the 2026 Annual Grad Student Conference. I would like to especially thank both all graduate students who are presenting and those graduate students who attend the conference as audience members. Your participation is what makes this event meaningful for ourselves and for our community.


This year's theme, first proposed by Dr. J. Elliott Casal, "*Multiliteracies, Multimodality and Genre*" has now attracted a diverse range of topics from scholars across almost every different concentration offered by the Department of English. I am honored to provide a platform for emerging, contemporary, and novel study from our graduate students to be shared among our department and with our academic neighbors. Those in attendance will attest to the rich selection of research and readings.

This year's presenters more specifically speak on themes related to digital literacy and education, HBCUs and other Black representations of history, international cultural studies, studies on professional documentation related to employment, healthcare, and family planning, close readings of historical literature, music, and television broadcasts, and close readings of newer genres of knowledge-production including fanfiction, reddit forums, memes, and video games. The variety among this year's presentations attests to the exciting diversity among our student population. To have these thinkers in conversation with one another on this day is a reason to gather and celebrate! Thank you again for joining me in this celebration of our student scholarship.

After the conference, our presenters will be given the opportunity to add an artifact from their presentation to the UMEGO Grad Student Conference Archive, a digital archive managed and hosted on the University of Memphis English webpage. Anyone may view this artifact and reference it once it is developed and published by simply searching for the UMEGO Grad Student Conference Archive in Google or any other online search engine.

You may contact me, Korbyn Peebles or Dr. J. Elliott Casal for any questions, comments, or concerns related to this year's Grad Student Conference. I am confident you will enjoy the work put into this conference by everyone involved.

Let's celebrate!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Korbyn Peebles', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Deb Talbot Roundtable Event Details Poster

TALBOT ROUNDTABLE

MULTILITERACIES, MULTIMODALITIES, AND GENRE



Scan for more info

April 23rd | 5pm
Reception | 4:30pm
UC River Room (300)

The Department of English welcomes Dr. Suresh Canagarajah and Dr. Matt Kessler for the Deb Talbot Roundtable 2026 as a featured event for the **Conference on Multiliteracies, Multimodality and Genre**. Dr. Canagarajah's talk is titled "**Story of a Biochemistry Journal Article: Writing Practices in Search of a Theory**," and Dr. Kessler's talk is titled "**Multimodal Practices and Literacy in Higher Education: Key Issues and Questions**". Following a reception at 4:30pm, both talks will be held on Thursday, April 23rd at 5pm in the UC River Room (300).

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Suresh Canagarajah
Penn State University



Matt Kessler
University of South Florida



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS

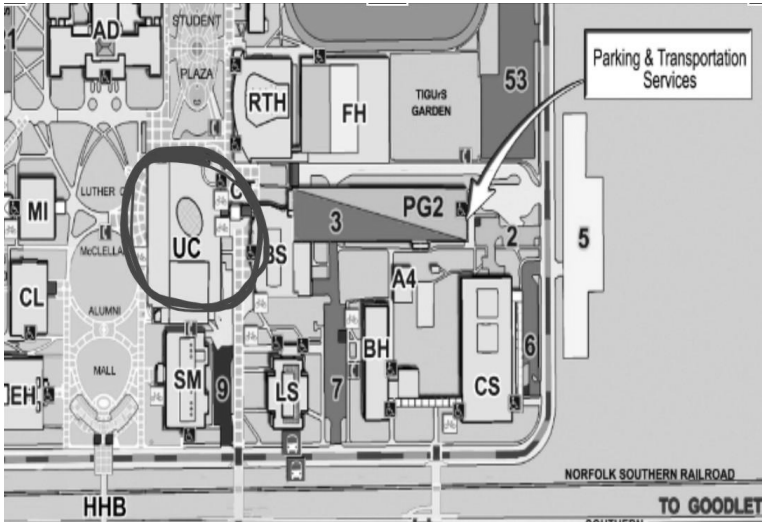
Department of English

Campus Maps and Floor Plans

An interactive map of the University of Memphis can be accessed online here:

<https://umwa.memphis.edu/campusmap/index.php>

Deb Talbot Roundtable Event (April 23rd, 4:30pm)

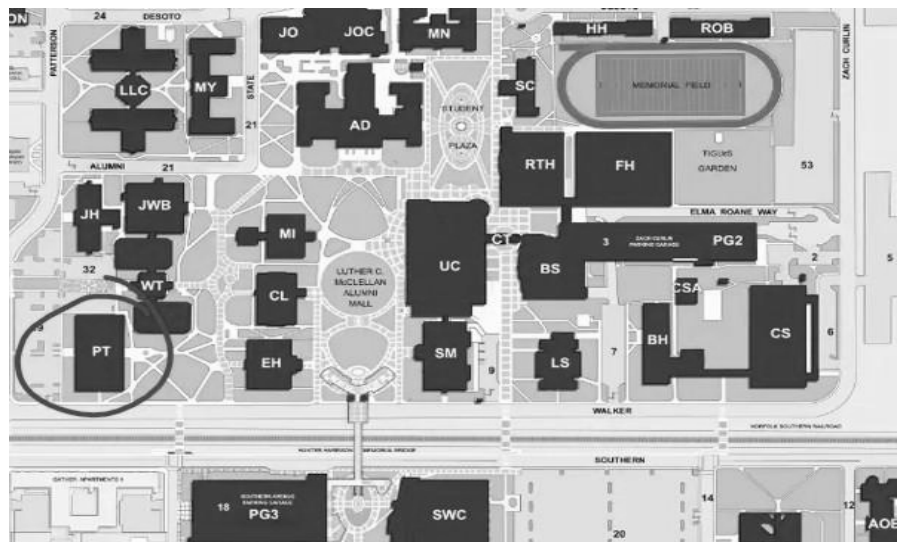


The 2026 UMEGO Conference Roundtable and Keynote Address will be held in the University Center River Room. *The UC Theatre's address is 499 University Street Memphis, TN 38152. The River Room is on the 3rd floor, in room 300.*

Parking for the University Center can be found in the Zach Curlin Garage at 463 Zach H. Curlin St. Memphis, TN 38152.

Graduate Student Conference (April 25th, 9:00am -4:00pm)

The 2025 Graduate Student Conference will be held on the 2nd floor of Patterson Hall. Patterson Hall's address is 530 Patterson Street Memphis, TN 38152. Panels will be held throughout the building, room numbers can be found in the program summary section.



Index of Conference Presenters

All those listed in this index have been accepted and will be presenting at the conference. Additional information or contact information for each individual is given at the discretion of the presenter. Unless otherwise stated, each presenter is a graduate student at the University of Memphis.

Ifeoluwa Awopetu | Applied Linguistics
Internet Memes as Multimodal Ideological Texts

Monique Bain | Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm
Constructing Paradise for U.S. Audiences: Bahamian Tourism Advertising in Multimodal Perspective

AW Calzia Jr. | Creative Writing
Educated White: Ferality and the Master's House

Tek Bahadur Chhetry | Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm
Rhetorical Resistance of Gen Z Movement in Nepal: From Indignity to Agency

Ava Chuppe | Literary & Cultural Studies
Ian Watt, Pamela, and Evelina: The Problem of Selfhood in the Early Novel

David Justin Cole | Applied Linguistics
Discursive Strategies, Digital Platforms, and the Navigation of Political Disagreement on Reddit

Abigail Cordwell | Literary & Cultural Studies
Virginia Woolf's Orlando: A Biography and its (Post)Modernist Understandings

Julia Crenson | Literary & Cultural Studies
The Blues Woman and the Conjure Woman: Folkloric Horror and the Black Ratchet Imaginary in Megan Thee Stallion's "Cobra"

Sarah Dietrich, Ed.D | Associate Professor of English (South Missouri State University)
Multiliteracies, language, and intercultural exchange: Leveraging guest speakers in a synchronous online language course

Sheronda Gipson-Marion | Literary & Cultural Studies
HBCUs as Dynamic Archives: Multiliteracies, Multimodality, and Genre in Safeguarding Black Cultural Knowledge

Sage Graham, PhD | Professor of English (University of Memphis)

Mediated ethics: How multimodality and technology influence ethical responsibility

Etariemi Koboju | Applied Linguistics

Framing Nigeria: A Corpus-Based Analysis of American News Discourse

Mary Lothrop | Literary & Cultural Studies

Empathy with a 19th Century Memphis Murderer: Identification & the Convergence of Literary & Historical Reading Styles

Ghadi Matouq | Applied Linguistics

Understanding Consultant Reports: A Corpus-Based Genre Analysis of Rhetorical Moves and Linguistic Features

Yuki Matsuda, PhD | Professor of World Languages and Literature (University of Memphis)

How Writing Performs Suspense: Multimodal Design and Orthographic Infiltration in a Game-Derived Japanese Short Story

Alexsandra Murphy | Applied Linguistics

Maternal care resources for multilingual families

Oluwatomisin Ayoola Oshamo | Applied Linguistics

Bilingual practices and heritage language maintenance in the framing of Television game show, Family Feud Nigeria.

Korbyn Peebles | Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm

Finding Mates: Plans Strategies and Everyday Problems

Shahadur Rahman | Applied Linguistics

Bilingual practices and heritage language maintenance in the framing of Television game show, Family Feud Nigeria.

David Rosenberg | Literary & Cultural Studies

Digitizing the Little Witch: A Look Into the Lurid Parlor of Orchard House

Huda Saleem | Applied Linguistics

ESL Teachers' Perceptions and Ideologies Regarding AI-Assisted Corrective Feedback in Writing Instruction

KM Jubair Uddin | Applied Linguistics

Rethinking L2 Writing Instruction: A Genre-Based Multiliteracies Framework for ESL Teachers

Cate VanNostrand | Writing Rhetoric & Tech Comm

Much Ado About Fanfiction: How Fanfiction Teaches Genre Knowledge in the Digital Writing Community

Modes of Meaning Showcase

The Modes of Meaning Showcase is a small collection of self-guided exhibits on various topics in academic research. Each exhibit can be viewed at any time during the conference in the Main Lobby of Patterson Hall. Throughout the day the author may be present at the exhibit to answer questions or provide a brief summary of the exhibits key artifacts. Please visit the Showcase to find specific times and more details.

Modes of Meaning Showcase: 9:00am - 4:30pm

Patterson Hall; 2nd Floor Main Lobby

Ifeoluwa Awopetu

“Internet Memes as Multimodal Ideological Texts”

Oluwatomisin Ayoola Oshamo

“Bilingual practices and heritage language maintenance in the framing of Television game show, Family Feud Nigeria”

Cate VanNostrand

“Much Ado About Fanfiction: How Fanfiction Teaches Genre Knowledge in the Digital Writing Community”

Conference Schedule

The day of the conference is broken up into three 1 hour 30 minute sessions, two in the morning, a break for lunch at 1:00pm, and then one more session after lunch. Each session will have two panels to choose from each with three presentations. The Modes of Meaning Showcase will be open to visit at any time throughout the conference. There will also be two featured presentations everyone will be able to attend if they so choose: one before lunch and one at the end of the conference.

Reception & Check-in: 8:00am - 9:00am

Check-in, refreshments, and seating located in main lobby of Patterson Hall

Session 1: 9:00am - 10:30am

Patterson Hall; Room 217

9:05am - 9:30am | Aleksandra Murphy

Maternal Care Resources for multilingual families

9:35am - 10:00am | Etariemi Koboju

Framing Nigeria: A Corpus-Based Analysis of American News Discourse

10:05am - 10:30am | AW Calzia Jr.

Educated White: Ferality and the Master's House

Patterson Hall; Room 215

9:05am - 9:30am | David Justin Cole

Discursive Strategies, Digital Platforms, and the Navigation of Political Disagreement on Reddit

9:35am - 10:00am | Korbyn Peebles

Finding Mates: Plans Strategies and Everyday Problems

10:05am - 10:30am | Yuki Matsuda

How Writing Performs Suspense

continue to next page

Conference Schedule cont.

Session 2: 10:30am - 12:00pm

Patterson Hall; Room 217

10:35am -11:00am | David Rosenberg

Digitizing the Little Witch

11:05am - 11:30am | Sheronda Gipson-Marion

HBCUs as Dynamic Archives

11:35am- 12:00pm | Julia Creson

The Blues Woman and the Conjure Woman

Patterson Hall; Room 215

10:35am -11:00am | Tek Bahadur Chhetry

Rhetorical Resistance of Gen Z Movement in Nepal

11:05am - 11:30am | Shahadur Rahman

From Clinical Terminology to Everyday Talk

11:35am- 12:00pm | Monique Bain

Constructing Paradise for U.S. Audiences

Special Session | Invited Presentation: 12:10pm - 1:00pm

Patterson Hall; Room 456 (4th Floor)

12:10pm-1:00pm | Dr. Sarah Deitrich

Multiteracies, language, and intercultural exchange: Leveraging guest speakers in a synchronous online language course

Lunch 1:00pm - 2:00pm

Panera Bread catered in main lobby of Patterson Hall

continue to next page

Conference Schedule cont.

Session 3: 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Patterson Hall; Room 217

2:05pm-2:30pm | K M Jubair Uddin

Rethinking L2 Writing Instruction: A Genre-Based Multiliteracies Framework for ESL Teacher

2:35pm- 3:00pm | Huda Saleem

ESL Teachers' Perceptions and Ideologies Regarding AI-Assisted Corrective Feedback in Writing Instruction

3:05pm- 3:30pm | Ghadi Matouq

Understanding Consultant Reports: A Corpus-Based Genre Analysis of Rhetorical Moves and Linguistic Features

Patterson Hall; Room 215

2:05pm-2:30pm | Ava Chuppe

Ian Watt, Pamela, and Evelina: The Problem of Selfhood in the Early Novel

2:35pm- 3:00pm | Abigail Cordwell

Virginia Woolf's Orlando: A Biography and its (Post)Modernist Understandings

3:05pm- 3:30pm | Mary Lothrop

Empathy with a 19th Century Memphis Murderer

Special Session | Invited Presentation: 3:35pm - 4:25pm

Patterson Hall; Room 456 (4th Floor)

3:40pm-4:25pm | Dr. Sage Graham

Mediated ethics: How multimodality and technology influence ethical responsibility

Closing Words from UMEGO President & End of Conference 4:25pm - 4:30pm

end of scheduled events

Accessibility/Access Guidelines

The University of Memphis English Graduate Organization is committed to accommodate any reasonable requests to allow all members to participate fully in the conference. Requests for accommodations should be sent via email to Korbyn Peebles (kpeebles@memphis.edu). All session facilitators, chairs, and presenters are asked to review the following guidelines to ensure their sessions are accessible to all attendees and are expected to contact conference staff if accommodations cannot be made.

Room Setup, Elevators, and Interpreters

All panel rooms, the registration area, and the poster session area are set up to accommodate wheelchairs. Patterson Hall is equipped with two elevators, as is the University Center. People who are d/Deaf or Hard of Hearing and who use sign language interpreters or read lips should be able to sit where they can see both the speakers and the interpreter.

Papers, Handouts, and Audiovisuals

Speakers who bring an extra copy of papers or handouts for the audience should ensure that their font is no smaller than 12-point, and are asked to bring a few extra copies in large-print format (14-16-point font size on white paper with black text). Presenters are responsible for bringing the materials they need for their presentation, or to contact conference staff to request needed materials. Speakers should indicate whether they want their materials returned. Please consider the possibility that persons in the audience may have vision impairments. Allow ample time when referring to a visual aid or handout, or when pointing out the location of materials and briefly describe the materials.

Communication and Presentation

Speak clearly and distinctly, but do not shout. Use regular speed unless asked to slow down by members of the audience, sign interpreters, or persons using real-time captioning. Practice timing your presentation to avoid having to speak too quickly. Audience members in the front of the room may be hard for the audience in the back, speakers should repeat questions or statements made by the audience. In dialogues or discussions, only one person should speak at a time, and questioners should identify themselves. We appreciate your consideration and implementation of these requests.

Conference & Session Guidelines

Membership, Fees, & Registration

No membership or fee is required to submit a proposal or to attend this conference. No registration is required to attend the conference or to participate in specific panels.

Each panelist/presenter will receive a badge once they check-in the day of the event. Check-in is located in the main lobby of Patterson Hall. Your nametag should be worn at all times while attending conference sessions and events. The facilities and services of the conference are available only to panel participants, their guests, and administrators, faculty, and students from the local host institution and local host community. The Executive Board reserves the right to deny future participation in the conference to any chair or presenter who does not follow guidelines and procedures.

Sessions, Panels, and Presentations Types of Sessions

There will be three 1-hour 30-minute sessions for this conference: two sessions in the morning, a break for lunch at 1:00pm, and our final session starts at 2:00pm. Each session will have two panels/rooms to choose from, and each panel will have three presentations.

Each individual presentation will be an average of 15-20 minutes, with 5-10 minutes reserved for questions after each presentation.

Each regular session has a Session Chair who is responsible for facilitating the panel and enforcing time limits for presentations so everyone stays on schedule. Session chairs will be assigned on an individual basis; however, a panelist may be asked to chair their panel the day of the conference in case of an emergency.

Guidelines for Session Chairs

Session Chairs are chosen by the UMEGO Executive Board; however, any presenter may also request to be a session chair by contacting conference staff. Session Chairs are responsible for keeping time for each panelist and assisting with technology as needed.

Guidelines for Presenters

One does not have to register to the conference to submit a proposal, but one must confirm their attendance via email by April 17, 2026 to appear in the program or to request any edits be made to the program.

Presenters are expected to attend the conference and to present at their scheduled time listed on the conference program.. If you must cancel, please inform your session chair and/or conference staff in a timely manner so that a replacement can be found. Papers cannot be read in absentia. If the session chair does not arrive for your session, please delegate someone as a temporary chair/moderator and continue with the session, both for the sake of the audience and for the sake of the presenters who have made efforts to travel to the conference and present their work. In such situations, senior faculty/professionals are urged to take on this responsibility, modeling professionalism to junior faculty and students who may be participating. You may also reach out to conference staff with any unexpected emergency, uncertainty, or problems.