

On the Voice: Identity, Difference, Expression

The 24rd Annual Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies
International Graduate Conference

Featuring Keynote Speaker:

Tavia Nyong'o

**Professor of African American Studies,
American Studies, and Theater Studies at Yale University**

**Friday, March 31, 2017
University of Rochester
Rochester, NY**

What is voice and in what ways does it shape our identity? How do we understand the voice in various disciplines? Often the voice is considered in terms of its complex relationship to presence and absence, as a marker of identity in social space, and as a play between a material body and its discursive function. Understanding the capacity of the voice to call bodies to action while also functioning as a limit, horizon, and/or border, this conference examines the role of voice in relation to issues of gender, sexuality, race, and disability.

- Narration of identity (oral accounts, autobiography, self-inscription, testimony)
- The voice being “lost” by interpretation or translation
- Giving power and agency to the voiceless
- Individual vs. communal voice(s)
- Materiality and non-signifying registers of the voice
- Voice and visual media
- Voice in queer, gender, and/or critical race theory
- Noise vs. silence
- The breakdown of the voice (entropy, disintegration, chaos)
- Disrupting, distancing, escaping the voice
- Decolonizing the voice/voice and violence
- The artificial, hybrid, or cyborg voice
- Media archaeology and the voice
- The body as a threshold for the voice; the voice as the threshold of the body
- Listening and reception theory

Each year, a diverse group of participants gather in Rochester, NY for a graduate conference held by the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies. This conference aims to foster an environment of interdisciplinary communication, knowledge exchange, and collaboration. We invite graduate students from all disciplines in the humanities, social sciences, sciences, and the arts to submit research on questions related to the conference theme and especially in response to the keynote speaker's research. In addition to scholarly papers, we encourage creative interpretations of this year's theme; performances, collaborative presentations, and visual and sound works will also be welcomed.

Submission Details: Please submit a 300-word abstract to the graduate organizing committee by following the instructions at <http://www.rochester.edu/college/gsw/grad/conf2017.html>. Presentations will be 20 minutes. Have any questions or comments, please email sbaiconf2017@gmail.com.

Submissions are due no later than December 31, 2016. You will receive the committee's decision by late January.