

5th Annual "Cultural Carolina" Graduate Student Conference
Languages, Literatures and Cultures' Graduate Student Association (LLCGSA)
Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

"OTHERWISE HUMAN" (February 29th, 2020)
Call for Papers – Deadline: December 20, 2020

"Nothing is more human than the wish to deny one's humanity [...]." (Stanley Cavell, CR 109)

What is a human being? Who are we? And who asks the question *who*? The question of the human is always the question of the non-human – who is "we"? It demarcates the line between oneself and the other. What and whom do we count as human? Why, why not? What does it mean to deny one's own or someone else's humanity?

If the wish to deny one's humanity is, as Cavell claims, naturally human, then what constitutes this wish? Is it a disappointment with the human condition or a longing for what exists beyond (or below) the human, or both? How has literature called upon the relation between humans and the nonhuman, subhuman, inhuman and posthuman? How does the imaginary of the *other* (from animals, beasts and monsters to ghosts and spirits, from aliens, to cyborgs, machines and A.I.) shape our very definition of the human being? How does the concept of being human change over time from antiquity to modernity?

This conference encourages participants to think about these questions from the greatest range of perspectives possible and across disciplines such as literature, linguistics, languages, history, music, women's & gender studies, cultural studies, sociology, biology, psychology, philosophy, etc.

Papers might consider:

- How has literature and philosophy addressed the relation between humans and animals?
- Human representations in sci-fi, horror, dystopian novels and movies in relation to other species
- The role of sex, gender, race, class, religion, disability, ethnicity, nationality, culture, etc. in the attempts of defining the human. And how are these attempts questioned and criticized?
- The challenges of human enhancement and technology's influence on the concept of the human. Literature's, film's etc. response to these challenges (e.g. in the idea of cyborg).
- Literature's, philosophy's attempts to think the human in the Anthropocene. How are humanistic concepts questioned and critically assessed?

Please send a 250-word abstract (as a PDF or Word document attached) by December 20, 2019 to culturalcarolina.uofsc@gmail.com. For panels, please submit a 250-word abstract for the panel and an abstract for each paper in the panel. Papers will be accepted in English only. In the body of your email, please include the following:

- Full name, academic title, affiliation, email, and keywords

