

Contributors

Olga Tarapata specializes in North American literature with an emphasis on contemporary fiction. Her research and teaching interests include disability studies, literary theory, cultural constructivism, and new materialism. Her dissertation *Extraordinary Bodies in the Work of William Gibson* examines literary representations of the human body and disability in William Gibson's fiction from the late 1970s until today. Olga presented at *The International Conference on Educational, Cultural, and Disability Studies 2017* at Liverpool Hope University and her latest essay is published in *The Matter of Disability: Biopolitics, Materiality, Crip Affect*, a selected volume by David Mitchell, Susan Antebi, and Sharon Snyder.

Jessica Benham is currently working on her Ph.D. in the Department of Communication at University of Pittsburgh, as well as pursuing an MA in Bioethics. She received her Master of Arts in Communication Studies from Minnesota State University, Mankato and her Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies and Political Science from Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Her primary research interests lie in investigating the rhetorical constructions of gender and disability in media and in social movements.

Graduating from Mount Holyoke College with a bachelor's degree in psychology and gender studies with a certificate in queer and sexuality studies, Emerson (they/them/theirs) has presented at the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS) Annual Meeting, the 52nd Annual Comparative World Literature Conference, and the 5th Annual Dean Hopper New Scholar Conference. In addition, Emerson has an extensive career working within the psycho-medical institution at both Boston Children's Hospital and Youth Villages- Germaine Lawrence. Currently a graduate student at both Simmons College (M.A. Gender/Cultural Studies) and Widener University (M.S.W./M.Ed. – Sex Therapy Track) Emerson's research interests include intersectional analyses of the effects of the psychiatric industrial complex's discourses on trans identity with regards to disability and race and they hope to expand upon this to examine psychiatry's "de-transition" phobia.

Nikila Lakshmanan recently received her undergraduate degree at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. She double majored in Philosophy and the Study of Women and Gender. Nikila's main research interest is in feminist philosophy. Nikila currently works as a paralegal in Washington, D.C.