Research Spotlight

Welcome to the new WH@GI intro series, Research Spotlight! Every week in the newsletter, we will be highlighting one of the research groups at the GI. Research groups are open to all GI members interested in expanding their knowledge base, so don’t hesitate to contact any of the group leaders to join!

Today's (first!) spotlight: Feminist Think Tank

The Feminist Think Tank is hosted by research directors of the qCollaborative and based at the Games Institute. The purpose of the Think Tank is to advance research thinking towards intersectional feminist design by creating space for interdisciplinary crossovers and idea sharing. Dr. Shana MacDonald (Communication Arts) and, the then-PhD researcher at York University and now a Postdoctoral Fellow at UW, Dr. Brianna Wiens established the Think Tank after touring the Games Institute and observing the success of the other affiliated research groups. Recognizing the potential to bring a similar interdisciplinary approach to their intersectional feminist design research, they worked with the Games Institute’s administrative team to develop an engagement strategy for the Think Tank.

The Feminist Think Tank has provided students with opportunities to advance their knowledge through participating in critical reading groups, brainstorming sessions, research review, and research creation opportunities. For example, in 2019, the Think Tank hosted a research creation workshop to develop artifacts that articulate embodied feminisms. Games Institute graduate researchers have learned to integrate complex seminal theories from disciplines such as film studies, gender studies, psychology, rhetorical theory, and critical race studies.

Join the Feminist Think Tank meetings take place every first Wednesday of the month! If interested, join the slack channel #lobby-feministthinktank or reach out to Sid Heeg (syheeg@uwaterloo.ca, PhD student in Environment) for more information.

Follow them on Instagram to stay up to date on their events: @aesthetic.resistance
[ANNOUNCEMENTS](#):

1. [W22 Town Hall recording](#) is now available, and will be deleted one week from now on March 1st, 2022.

The PS5 is back at the GI, and we have acquired the new Xbox Series X! Swing by the GI to give them a go (contact [games.institute@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:games.institute@uwaterloo.ca) for the booking form)! 🍻🎮

**Ujima Black History Month** is a time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada a culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous country. We encourage you all to go through the resources listed below, as well as take time to experience art, literature, movies, and other forms of media by Black creators. Education is an ongoing process.

**Events:**

- [Anansi and Di Snowstorm: Caribbean storytelling and performance](#), February 26th @10:00am
- [Waterloo Public Library](#)

**Resources:**

- [Black History in Canada: UWaterloo Library Selections 2022](#)
- [Confronting Anti-Black Racism e-Learning Course Registration](#)
- [UWaterloo Anti-Racism Resources](#)
- [Ontario Black History Society](#)

**Games Related Resources:**
• **Twitch: Celebrate Black Brilliance**
• **Xbox: Ambassadors Share Their Stories**
• **Minecraft: Lessons in Good Trouble**
• **Age of Empires: Inspiring Black Figures from American History**
• **Boards Games from Black Creators** (spotlights a board game for every day of Black History Month!)

![February Things of Note](image)

**Day:**
- February 23rd: Pink Shirt Day 💖
  - For more information, visit [CKNW Kids' Fund](#)

**Week:**
- February 21st-25th: Reading Week 📚

**Month:**
- Ujima Black History Month ❤️❤️

![GI Resources](image)

**List of GI Resources:**
- [GI Equipment/Room Booking Form](#)
- [Events at the GI Form](#)
- [GI Entry Schedule Form](#)
- GI Wi-Fi
  - Network Name: GI-Research
  - Password: GIUwaterloo2021!
- Prayer mat in Agata's office for those who need it
- You can check the availability of the GI Labs, Collaboration Space and the Presentation Room via shared Outlook calendars. See list below.

- a. Games Institute EC1-1237 – Presentation Room
- b. Games Institute EC1-1249 – Living Room Lab
- c. Games Institute EC1-1303 – Haptic Experience Lab
- d. Games Institute EC1-1307 – VR Story Lab
- e. Games Institute EC1-1318 – Immersion Room Lab
- f. Games Institute EC1-1323 – Collaboration Space
To add these calendars to your Outlook app:

1. Open your calendar in the Outlook Desktop App.
2. Right-click beside "My Calendar".
3. Hover over "Add Calendar" and select "From Room List" to view availability.

**[ANNOUNCEMENTS](#):**

1. [W22 Town Hall recording](#) is now available, and will be deleted two weeks from now on March 1st, 2022.
2. The University of Toronto geometry processing research group is looking for technical art students to join their internship/artist-residency from June 6, 2022 to August 26, 2022; with a $7,750 stipend. Experience needed in visual design and storytelling. Submissions due on **February 28, 2022**.
3. Initial abstract submissions for the special issue of the Journal of Electronic Gaming and Esports about Diversity and Sustainability in Electronic Gaming and Esports are due on **March 1st, 2022**. Send your abstracts via email to jege.si.das@gmail.com. Email Emma Vossen (evossen@uwaterloo.ca) if you have any questions.
4. Proposal submissions for the International Conference on Games and Narrative are due on **March 1st, 2022** via email (icgan.submissions@uwaterloo.ca).

**[EVENTS](#):**

**UW Events**

**International Women's Day Event**

*Tuesday, March 8 @9:00am*

- Keynote and panel discussion hosted by Sandra Banks exploring opportunities to engage women and racialized communities in our post-pandemic economy, examine the values that help us flourish, and investigate how work and health systems respond to our changing environments
  
  - [Register here!](#)

**Recurring Events**

**Feminist Think Tank**

- Happens every first Wednesday of the month! If you would like to join please join the slack channel #lobby-feministthinktank or reach out to Sid Heeg. (syheeg@uwaterloo.ca).

**Other Virtual Events**

**Conversations with Living Legends**

*Thursday, February 24 @4:00pm*

- Join Shirley Malcolm and Evelynn Hammonds for a conversation on science, social justice, and their long-term mentoring relationship.
  
  - [Register here!](#)

**Black Writers & Thinkers Series**

The School of English and Theatre Studies from the University of Guelph have brought
together a series of speaker events focusing on Black voices and ideas.

- Join here: Zoom link (same for all events)
- More information here

**Thursday, February 24 @2:30pm**
- Ronald Cummings and Nalini Mohabir will be discussing their work *The Fire That Time: Transnational Black Radicalism & the Sir George Williams Occupation*

**Wednesday, March 2 @2:30pm**
- Canisia Lubrin will be discussing her forthcoming book *Code Noir*

**Tuesday, March 15 @2:30pm**
- Kaie Kellough will be discussing their book *Dominoes at the Crossroad*

**Life in Pixels**

- Series of transdisciplinary conversations about making sense of, and living with, our computational social condition today.
- Register here!

**Who Cares? Sustaining Relationships of Health Beyond the Time of Crisis**

**Opening Dialogue: On care, beauty, and Where Things Touch**

- Monday, February 28 @10:30pm
  - Join Bahar Orang, author of *Where Things Touch*, on staying attuned to the fragile intimacies of care beyond the stifling demands of institutional environments. The presentation will ask questions about care that move it beyond the carceral logics of hospital settings, particularly in psychiatry
  - Register here!

**From Data Criminalization to Prison Abolition**

- Tuesday, March 1 @7:00pm
  - Hosted by Haymarket Books, join abolitionist thinkers and organizers connecting the dots between surveillance capitalism, imperialism, and neoliberal prison reform. Explore how we can organize resistance against the growing number of ways data is used to reinforce and expand criminalization
  - Register here!

**Book Launch: Big Data - A New Medium?**

- Thursday, March 3 @8:00am
  - Join editor Natasha Lushetich and authors Btihaj Ajana, Franco Beradi, Abelardo Gil-Fournier, and Warren Neidich as they discuss their book *Big Data: A New Medium?* and their view of the big data phenomenon
  - Register here!
Updated: February 03, 2020

For questions about lab access, return to research, study spaces, how members without pods can use the space, and other general health and safety at the GI reach out to Pam (pmschmid@uwaterloo.ca or DM).

For questions about equipment and room bookings reach out to Sophie (games.institute@uwaterloo.ca or DM).

General:

1. To enter the GI, you must sign the Operational Safety Plan. If you have not done so already or are unsure, please reach out to Sophie (games.institute@uwaterloo.ca).

2. All UW facilities, which include the GI, are open from 8AM to 6PM from Monday-Friday. Staff are only on site from 8:30AM to 5PM.
   a. After hours or weekend access requires additional GI approvals. Please contact Pam (pmschmid@uwaterloo.ca or DM) with a cc to your supervisor if you would like to request after hours access.

3. Screen yourself for Covid-19 symptoms before arriving to campus. If you have any cold and flu symptoms, regardless of how mild, please stay at home.

4. Every time you come to campus, you must sign in with the Campus Check-in screening feature (once connected to eduroam, you will automatically receive an email). If you do not receive the email, you can check-in here.
   a. For those bringing guests, please ensure the guests also complete Campus Check-in manually.
   b. They must all manually sign-in at the Operations Coordinator desk for Contact Tracing.

5. According to guidance from the Government of Ontario, face coverings are required in workplaces (such as the GI), even those that are not open to the public however, you do NOT need to wear a face covering when you are working in an area that is NOT accessible to the public and allows you to maintain a distance of at least 2 metres from anyone else while you are indoors.

The GI must follow UW Policies on health and safety; for more information please note UW’s Safety Office resources.

Masking

Vaccination Requirements

Return to Campus

Return to Research

Sign Up Safety Office’s E-Newsletter

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE COVID

COVID-19 Resources:

- A 5-minute game to protect you against COVID-19 misinformation
- Q and A with the experts: COVID variants
- Check out the University's health and safety guide’s flow chart to see if you might have been exposed, and let the University know if you have been.

Vaccine appointments available at Health Services

Three doses of a COVID-19 vaccine provide more protection from getting/transmitting Omicron than two doses. All Ontarians over 18 are eligible for a booster dose 84 days after their second dose.

Book your booster at Health Services, or through online resources such as Vaccine Ontario and Vaccine Hunters.

If you are an international student with questions about vaccines, please email ise@uwaterloo.ca.
If you have any accessibility concerns or accommodations, please reach out to GI Staff immediately.