

[CFP: NeMLA 2023--The Power of Refusal: Creating and Identifying Spaces for Love and Care](#)

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Type:

Call for Papers

Date:

September 30, 2022

Location:

New York, United States

Subject Fields:

Art, Art History & Visual Studies, Film and Film History, Fine Arts, Literature, Theatre & Performance History / Studies

We invite seminar proposals for the **2023 NeMLA Annual Conference**, to be held in Niagara Falls, NY, March 23-26, 2023.

Literature, art, and scholarship can challenge social structures that underpin injustice and create spaces where love and care can flourish. Yet they can also spectacularize, universalize, or appropriate lived experiences.

This seminar builds on successful seminars from the past three years on the roles and limits of narrative in bearing witness to trauma and injustice. This year, we explore refusal, whether in narrative, art, or literary criticism, as a strategic tool for resistance and a foundation for love and care, even as it produces discomfort. We are particularly interested in deliberate, visible forms of refusal. Some examples include: silences that gesture towards but refuse to tell certain stories; critical refusal of dominant theoretical frameworks to fill the silences and gaps created in texts (Soraya Zarook, "Care as a Refusal of Expertise in V.V. Ganeshanathan's 'Hippocrates,'" 2022); refusal of citational practices that reinforce patriarchal and white supremacist hierarchies (as theorized by Carrie Mott and Daniel Cockayne, "Citation Matters," 2017); refusal of neoliberal pressures to produce at the expense of meaningful scholarship. Eve Tuck and K Wayne Yang ("Unbecoming Claims," 2014) argue that refusal can be "not just a no, but a generative stance": a means to oppose colonial, racist, exclusionary narratives and turn the gaze elsewhere. Building on this formulation, we ask how artistic and critical refusals can challenge unjust power relations to generate communities of care through traditional and innovative forms, genres, commitments, and relationships. What formal strategies refuse restrictive narratives and make space for love and care? Through these questions, this seminar explores the relationships between literature, art, and care, and the ethical calls made on critics and audiences

Papers on all genres, media, and geographical contexts welcome. Please submit 200-word abstract to the NeMLA submission page: <https://www.cfplist.com/nemla/Home/S/19929>

Contact Info:

Kelly Minerva (Utica University) and Lisa Propst (Clarkson University)

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Contact Email:

kaminerv@utica.edu

URL:

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