

PROJECT TITLE:

H.O.M.E.L.E.S.S. - HISTORIANS OF MEDIA, EDUCATING, LEARNING, AND EVEN SOCIALIZING SOMETIMES

PROJECT TAGLINE/CAPTION (160 characters):

Overthinking Pop Culture since 2018.

IMAGE:



Primary Contact: John Crum and James Myers

Primary Contact Email: john.m.crum@rice.edu, kjm5@rice.edu

Primary Contact Department: History

Name of Group/Organization: Historians of Media, Educating, Learning, and Even Socializing Sometimes

PROJECT DETAILS

H.O.M.E.L.E.S.S. is a colloquium that gives graduate students at Rice the opportunity to give short original talks that turn their critical skills loose on the bewildering world of popular culture circa 2018. Gathering in the same classrooms where they spend the most of the rest of their waking lives, these rising scholars have the opportunity to both further refine their presentation skills and share their love of subjects that speak to the interests of other graduate students regardless of their discipline.



In a lighthearted, informal setting, which includes free pizza, they are able to spend quality time with other people who also love scrutinizing popular culture's deeper meanings. Past gatherings have featured a study of Star Trek's doctors as practitioners of frontier medicine, an exploration of gender in the X-Men universe, and a meditation on the emergence of political themes in the music of the Kinks, among many other fascinating topics.

Timeline: *If the project will take place at a specific time and place, please give details. Is it a one-time event or a series?*

We plan to re-introduce H.O.M.E.L.E.S.S. with three sessions during the fall semester of 2018. The sessions are provisionally scheduled for the evenings of Friday, September 7th at 7pm, Friday, October 12th at 7pm, and a third session is scheduled for Friday, November 9th at 7pm. We intend to host the talks in the Humanities Building, room 227.

The next semester's sessions would be scheduled based on fall attendance and in accordance with the spring academic calendar.

Audience: Who is your target audience? (e.g. program-specific, interdisciplinary, or university-wide? Will undergraduates, faculty, staff, or postdocs be involved? Any off campus participants?)

Our primary aim is to attract both contributors and attendees from across the whole of the graduate student body. Also, we anticipate strong representation from the Humanities, in particular; the series has a history of involvement from Humanities students and several members of the current HGSA Executive Board have expressed strong interest in the project.

How many people do you anticipate will participate?

We anticipate between 15 and 20 attendees at our initial event.

Marketing Plan: *How do you plan to publicize the project?*

Building upon the preexisting familiarity with H.O.M.E.L.E.S.S. among the History Department, we hope to revive the series by "relaunching" the organization in a more formal way. We will establish an institutional structure that can sustain it for years to come. This would begin with an announcement via departmental distribution lists, followed by concerted publicity campaign using flyers, social media, and word of mouth throughout the fall semester. We intend to take advantage of the GSA's announcement emails, and we will be working closely with the HGSA to popularize the series. Moreover, by opening the program to all to all graduate students, we hope to build attendance and enthusiasm significantly and to encourage interdepartmental camaraderie. This broader base of participation and support also means that the professional development aspects of the series would take on a larger scale.

ADVANCEMENT

What are the goals of the project?



1. To provide an friendly, informal environment in which graduate students from all departments can improve the presentation skills that are essential to thrive in either academia or industry.
2. To create a regular, welcoming space in which graduate Students from all departments can socialize and pursue shared interests.
3. To establish a broader sense of community within the Rice Graduate Community by speaking to common interests that transcend institutional and professional boundaries.

Briefly explain the need for the project and how it will promote excellence in scholarship, training, and/or development?

Consumed with the rigorous demands of graduate education at Rice, it can be difficult for students to find a space to socialize with one another, especially across disciplinary boundaries. H.O.M.E.L.E.S.S. provides a space for community, camaraderie, and intellectual exchange. It also offers an invaluable opportunity to practice and perfect the presentation skills essential for success in academic settings. Finally, the project is a means for scholars to develop their ability to communicate original research to broader audiences in a way that is concise, persuasive, engrossing, and accessible; the presentations are exercises in the self-marketing that is essential in all walks of life.

If this is an existing project/event or a similar one exists, describe how the project/event is being expanded or enhanced.

H.O.M.E.L.E.S.S. has existed for several years as an informal gathering of History Graduate students that has gradually developed a loose institutional structure (a name, logo, standard order of business, &c.). We plan to formalize this structure, and to open the program to all graduate students, encouraging interdepartmental camaraderie and socialization, building a larger audience, and increasing the number of proposals for talks. This formalization and expansion will enrich each H.O.M.E.L.E.S.S. gathering, and create an infrastructure that will sustain it for years to come.

If your proposal is for a pilot project, suggest how it might develop over a three-year period.

As attendance grows consistently during the 3 colloquia we have planned for this fall, we hope to receive a steadily increasing number of proposals for H.O.M.E.L.E.S.S. talks. Ideally this would eventually become a competitive process, similar to the proposal process for any colloquia, seminar, or conference. By the Winter of 2019, we would hope to have accumulated enough projects to publish in some form, either as an edited volume, or a biennial journal, adding a written dimension to the project. Eventually, H.O.M.E.L.E.S.S. sessions could serve as a kind of open-mic night and gathering place for the community of graduate students at Rice, facilitating the development of meaningful intra- and interdepartmental relationships.

Describe how you will measure the success and impact of this project. Please, provide quantitative targets, if possible.



Attendance at each colloquial will, of course, be the primary measure of H.O.M.E.L.E.S.S.'s success. If we have a regular group of between 20 and 30 attendees by the end of the coming academic year, we will consider the initial phase of this project a success. As indicated above, a secondary measure will be the number of proposals for talks received over time. If we receive enough proposals to schedule at least two twenty-minute talks per session for the spring semester by December 2018, that will also be a sign of robust interest in this project. Our long term goal is to produce some sort of published product based on the project's scholarly output, either independently or more formally.

BUDGET

Itemized Budget

Please, provide an itemized budget. List each item, a description, and the anticipated cost.

Item	Description	Cost
Pizza	5 XL pizzas (x 3)	\$255.00
Drinks	Non-Alcoholic Beverages (x 3)	\$45.00
Cups and Plates	Disposable, Value Packs	\$15.00
Advertising	Posters/Flyers	\$60.00
Total Expenses		\$375.00

Specific amount requested from GradStarter: \$375.00

Funds from other sources

Please, provide any information on funds from other sources that you have secured or potential funds that you plan to apply for.

Source	Status	Cost

GRAD starter

Total Amount	\$
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If the project/event has been offered in the past, how was it supported?

Previously, support came from the individuals who participated in the series directly. As such, the resources invested in the project were quite low.