

SOLIDARITY!

A JOINT CONFERENCE OF THE
FEMINIST INTER/MODERNIST ASSOCIATION &
THE SPACE BETWEEN SOCIETY



UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO
MAY 26 - 29, 2026

Solidarity!

A joint conference of The Space Between Society
and the Feminist inter/Modernist Association
University of North Carolina, Greensboro
May 26–29, 2026

Welcome!

Welcome to the University of North Carolina, Greensboro and to Solidarity!, the joint conference of the Space Between Society and the Feminist inter/Modernist Association. The need for solidarity is particularly urgent at the moment. Political, racial, and gender divisions have become increasingly visible across the Global North over the past decade, shaping everyday life as well as elections. Numerous writers, intellectuals, and commentators have compared the current moment to the early twentieth-century, with its wars, economic crises, inequalities, mass movements, and authoritarian leaders. In this context, there is a need to explore the complexities of a widely misunderstood period, which, if we look carefully, provides examples of idealism as well as injustice, cooperation as well as division. Literary and cultural analysis reveal solidarities that recognize and celebrate difference, despite the pressures to conform, and provide a foundation for ideas and practices capable of challenging current polarization. Whilst there is a need to retain what Stuart Hall called the "necessary modesty" of intellectual work, scholarship contributes to the collective project of establishing new forms of community as well as recognizing those which operated in the past.

There can be few better places to undertake this work than Greensboro, with its complex, contested history of collective action as well as division, resistance as well as injustice. This diverse former women's college, with its long-standing commitment to social mobility, provides a space in which to debate, discuss, and collaborate, a site from which new relations and solidarities will, one hopes, emerge.

Lastly, much behind the scenes work goes into planning a conference, and a special thanks to Gabrielle Livingstone, Monica Ramos, and Beth Carlin, who have helped with the local organization. I'd also like to acknowledge the generosity of the "Class of 1952 Excellence Professorship," which has provided financial support.

The other members of the planning committee and I sincerely hope you strengthen longstanding connections and find new solidarities this week as we share ideas and inspire each other.

–Dr. Ben Clarke, UNCG Host

Conference At-A-Glance

Dates: May 26–29, 2026

Location: University of North Carolina, Greensboro

Registration: Main lobby, Tuesday 2–5pm; Wednesday–Friday 9am–5pm

Welcome Reception: Tuesday, 5:15–7:00pm — Old Town Draft House, 1205 Spring Garden St, Greensboro, NC 27403

Business Lunch: Wednesday, 12:15–1:30pm

Thursday Reception: 5:30–7:30pm — Weatherspoon Art Museum, 1005 Spring Garden St, Greensboro, NC 27412

Post-Conference Recommendations

We encourage you to explore Greensboro. A few highlights:

- Greensboro History Museum — greensborohistory.org
- International Civil Rights Center & Museum — sitinmovement.org
- Scuppernong Books — a local, independent bookstore celebrating freedom to read, opposition to censorship, and support for marginalized communities.

Tuesday — May 26, 2026

12:00pm – 1:45pm

Space Between Board Lunch

MHRA 3501 Function Room

2:00pm – 5:00pm

Registration open

2:00 – 3:30pm

Workshop 1: Publishing Edited Collections as Scholarly Solidarity: A Theoretical and Practical Discussion

MHRA 1215

This workshop will look at publishing edited collections, offering not only practical advice but also a discussion of how they can be a form of scholarly solidarity and mutual aid. Not only do they often involve collaboration between editors who can be at different stages in their careers, but those editors' choices can also bring together under-represented scholars. Participants will have the opportunity to receive practical advice on such things as how the division of labour between editors can function and how to put together proposals to publishers.

Facilitators:

Luke Seaber, University College London
Megan Faragher, Wright State University
Michael McCluskey, Northeastern University
Melissa Dinsman, York College-CUNY

3:45 – 5:15pm

Queering Feminist Solidarity: A Roundtable

MHRA 1215

Liz Blake, Clark University

"Hosting/Crashing: Queer Feminist Party Praxis"

Catherine Hollis, University of California, Berkeley-Extension

"Building Solidarity through Feminist Modernist Communication Networks"

Jen Mitchell, Union College

"We Interrupt Your Doomscrolling to Bring you Queer and Feminist Intimacy"

Lauren Rosenblum, Adelphi University

"What's so Queer and Feminist about Neurodiversity"

Chair: Sarah Cornish

5:15 – 7:00pm

Welcome Meet-up Old Town Draft House — 1205 Spring Garden St, Greensboro, NC 27403

Wednesday — May 27, 2026

Registration: 9am – 5pm

9:00 – 10:30am — Session 1

1A: Troubled Solidarities

MHRA 1215

Andrea Zemgulys, University of Michigan

“Coalescing Degradation across Feminist Woolf and Anti-colonial Rhys”

Geneviève Brassard, University of Portland, Oregon

“‘The good intentions of strange women’: The limits of wartime cross-class solidarity in Barbara Noble’s Doreen (1946)”

Elysia Balavage, Slippery Rock University

“Meridel Le Sueur on Hunger and Poverty”

Chair: Catherine Hollis

1B: Beyond Human Connections

MHRA 2209

Julia Houser & Nora Pehrson, Johns Hopkins University

“Serious Connections: Character, Freedom, and Feminist Solidarity in Lawrence’s ‘Tickets, Please!’”

Chris Hall, University of the Ozarks

“Identity Is Other People: Solidarity as Uncoupling”

Tirna Chandra, University of Notre Dame

“Imagining Non-Human Communities of Resistance: Rebecca West, Virginia Woolf and the Literary Aesthetics of Human/Object Intimacy”

Chair: Melissa Dinsman

10:45am – 12:15pm — Session 2

2A: Queering Solidarity

MHRA 1215

Eden Rea-Hedrick, Yale University

“Disability, Sexuality, and Overcoming the Body in Hollywood Biopics of Cole Porter”

Galen David Bunting, Georgia Institute of Technology

“Imperfect Solidarity: The Buried Harlem Renaissance in Radclyffe Hall’s Fiction”

Rebecca Cameron, DePaul University

“At the ‘Centre of the World’: C. B. Cochran’s International Revues of the 1920s”

Chair: Pamela L. Caughie

2B: Workshop 2: Navigating Solidarity in our Institutions

MHRA 2209

In the current climate of higher education, academic institutions of all types face a variety of threats, which call for solidarity of many kinds: among faculty, among staff, among administration, and between these groups. We consider the question “How can we foster the solidarity that is necessary to help faculty thrive, and create, with management, conditions that ensure the future of our

institutions?” Workshop participants will have an opportunity to examine their own roles within their institutions and, through guided discussion and breakout groups, discover ways to forge high impact collaborations across institutional hierarchies.

Facilitators:

Heather Robinson, York College-CUNY
 Sarah Cornish, University of Northern Colorado
 Megan Faragher, Wright State University

12:15 – 1:30pm

Business Lunch All attendees are invited, and lunch is included in your registration.

MHRA 3501 Function Room

1:45 – 3:15pm — Session 3

3A: Collectivity in the Pages of Periodicals

MHRA 1215

Barbara Green, University of Notre Dame
“Feminist Periodical Communities and the Space Between”

Jenna Marco, University of South Carolina
“Wartime Solidarity and Community-Building in the British Journal Light”

Aimee Wilson, University of Kansas
“False Solidarity: The 1919 ‘Negro Issue’ of the Birth Control Review”

Chair: Laura Hartmann-Villalta

3B: Solidarity in Spirit: H.D.

MHRA 2209

Amy Hume, Haskell Indian Nations University
“Flame in the Skull”: Astral Projection and Spiritual Solidarity in H.D.’s Within the Walls”

Amadeo De La Pava, Fordham University
“Mystical-material Solidarity in H.D.’s Trilogy”

Chair: Andrea Zengulys

3:30 – 5:00pm — Session 4

4A: Assimilation and Resistance

MHRA 1215

Joshua Calandrella, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
“Circumcision, Seed, and Solidarity between Thomas Mann’s Joseph and His Brothers and Dinah, the Canaanite Woman”

Sarah Carter, University of Northern Colorado
“Sui Sin Far’s Mrs. Spring Fragrance as Heterotopia: The Effects of Narrative Plentitude in the Short Story Collection”

Claire Buck, Wheaton College
“Linguistic Pluralism in Sol T. Plaatje’s Anti-Colonialist Writing”

Chair: Elysia Balavage

4B: Communities of Solidarity

MHRA 2209

Zanë Hadri, University of Leuven, Belgium

“Solidarity: the Colour Red and Solidarity as Public Affect in Kurt Schwitters’ ‘An Anna Blume’ (1919)”

Elizabeth Sheehan, The Ohio State University

“Rumored Connections: The Whisper Network and the Challenges of Solidarity”

Pamela L. Caughie, Loyola University Chicago

“Location and Memory: Munich under National Socialism”

Chair: Luke Seaber

5:30 – 7:00pm

Special Event Poetry Reading with Stuart Dischell

Introduction by Ben Clarke

MHRA 3501 Function Room

7:00 – 8:00pm

Reception

MHRA 3501 Function Room

Thursday — May 28, 2026

Registration: 9am – 5pm

9:00 – 10:30am — Session 5

5A: Shaping Solidarity Through Public Opinion

MHRA 2207

Austin Riede, University of North Georgia

“Solidarity and Gender Trouble in Eva Gore-Booth’s Great War Writings”

Allison Nick, Northeastern University

“Complicated Solidarities: Pearl S. Buck’s 1940s Publishing and Activism”

Melissa Dinsman, York College-CUNY

“Making ‘Fast Friends’: Lectures, Broadcasts, and Celebrity Authorship”

Chair: Rebecca Cameron

5B: Transgenerational and Transcultural Solidarities

MHRA 2209

Abigail Jones, Auburn University

“Support versus Self-Mastery: Victorian and Great War Veterans and Masculinity in Crisis in The Unpleasantness at the Bellona Club”

Bailey Moorhead, Kentucky College of Art and Design

“‘Unjust Transition’: Solidarities Among WWI Veterans in the Coal Wars”

Amardeep Singh, Lehigh University

“Transcultural Solidarities and Questions of Gender: Publications of the Gadar Movement in California, 1913–1930”

Chair: Claire Buck

10:45am – 12:15pm — Session 6

6A: Solidarity at Work and Play

MHRA 2207

John Attridge, Regent College London

“The Dis/United Left: The Working-Class Movement Library Archives and the Failure of Solidarity during the 1926 General Strike”

Mitch Losito, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“And all over the playgrounds’: Contact Zones and the Playing Fields of Modernism”

Ben Clarke, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

“All Out: Diversity, Class, and Solidarity in John Sommerfield’s May Day”

Chair: Debra Rae Cohen

6B: Workshop 3: Gender and the Archives: A Hands-on Beginner Workshop in Digital Humanities Methods

MHRA 2209

This workshop introduces basic Digital Humanities concepts and methods, with emphasis on tools and techniques for the study of gender dynamics, the representation of women in early 20th century

literature, and writers less often taught or studied. This participatory workshop will include simple tasks that participants can try on their own computers, with benefits for their own research questions and teaching wherever possible. All three workshop leaders have experience with digital collections, and there will be discussion about platforms and methods for projects participants might be interested in (including ArcGIS/Storymaps, Scalar, and Omeka) and analytic tools (like Voyant, Google Ngram viewer, HathiTrust Bookworm, and the HathiTrust Gendered Language Visualizer).

Facilitators:

Sara Woodbury, Old Dominion University
 Aimee Wilson, University of Kansas
 Amardeep Singh, Lehigh University

12:15 – 1:45pm

Lunch on your own

2:00 – 3:45pm

Emerging Voices: Graduate Student and Early Career Plenary Panel

MHRA 2207

Hyunsoo Kim, University of Notre Dame

“Staging Solidarity through Shame in Bruce Nugent’s Gentleman Jigger”

Victor Solorzano-Grigeri, University of California, Berkeley

“From ‘something wonderful’ to ‘a waste of our compassion’: Spain and Anticolonialism in Langston Hughes and Derek Walcott”

John Fleming, University of Kansas

“In the Union to Live or Die”

Regina Young, Kentucky State

“‘The land that’s mine’/The land that’s mined: Bodily and Environmental Engagement in Memoirs of Black Miners”

Co-Chairs: Catherine Hollis and Megan Faragher

4:00 – 5:30pm

Keynote Address

MHRA 1215

“The Short Life and Long Death of Impersonality”

Anthony Cuda, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

Introduction and Q&A: Elysia Balavage

5:30 – 7:30pm

Reception Weatherspoon Art Museum — 1005 Spring Garden St, Greensboro, NC 27412

Friday — May 29, 2026

9:00 – 10:30am — Session 7

7A: Mediated Solidarities

MHRA 1215

Wonbin Bae, University of Notre Dame

“The Time of War and the Time of Form: Wheels as a Periodical of Feminist Solidarity”

Martin Johnson, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“The cinema in school: how women reformers brought the movies to classrooms”

Debra Rae Cohen, University of South Carolina

“Silence and Solidarity on the BBC”

Chair: Chris Hall

——— 15-minute break ———

10:45am – 12:15pm — Session 8

8A: International Solidarities

MHRA 1215

Eleanor Rambo, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“Moscow Yankees: American Leftist Writers in the Early USSR”

Shinjini Chattopadhyay, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

“A Provincial Cosmopolitanism: Solidarity across Home and the World in E.M. Delafield’s The Provincial Lady”

Laura Hartmann-Villalta, Johns Hopkins University

“Cultivating Political Solidarity through Photography & Writing: Foreign Women & the Spanish Civil War”

Chair: Geneviève Brassard

Post-Conference Activities

We hope you will support some of Greensboro’s wonderful local attractions:

- Greensboro History Museum — greensborohistory.org
- International Civil Rights Center & Museum — sitinmovement.org
- Scuppernong Books - scuppernongbooks.com — a local, independent bookstore with a mission that celebrates the freedom to read, opposition to censorship, and supports marginalized individuals and communities.