

Discourse in the Age of Political Upheaval and Artificial Intelligence.

May 7-8, 2026.

Bunche 10383

Grad Student Mixer

Keynote

Presentations

Reception

May 7th, 4PM - 5:30 PM

May 7th, 6PM - 7:30PM

May 8th, 10AM - 5:30PM

May 8th, 7PM - 10PM

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Julia Alekseyeva

Towards an Antifacist Reading of the Present



Dr. Julia Alekseyeva is an Assistant Professor of English and Cinema & Media Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. She researches interactions between global media and radical politics, with a particular focus on Japan, France, and the USSR. Her first academic book, "Antifascism and the Avant-Garde: Radical Documentary in the 1960s" (UC Press), was published in February 2025. Prof. Alekseyeva is also author-illustrator of the award-winning graphic memoir "Soviet Daughter" (Microcosm, 2017). Alongside publishing articles on film, art, and politics, she is also the guest editor of three forthcoming issues for Arts, JCMS, and The Journal of Japanese and Korean Cinema.



UCLA College | Humanities
European Languages & Transcultural Studies

UCLA College | Social Sciences
Political Science

UCLA
Alan D. Leve Center for Jewish Studies



Discourse in the Age of Political Upheaval and Artificial Intelligence.



May 7th

4 PM - 5:30 PM

Grad student mixer (Bunche 10383)
with Dr. Julia Alekseyeva

6:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Keynote (Bunche 10383)
Dr. Julia Alekseyeva (Assistant Professor of Cinema & Media Studies, University of Pennsylvania)
"Towards an Antifacist Reading of the Present"

May 8th

9 AM - 10 AM

Registration

10 AM - 11:45 AM

Gendered Discourse from Print Media to Now (Bunche 10383)
Bradford Nordeen (PhD in Film & Digital Media, UC Santa Cruz)
"Cookie Mueller Plays Us: Advice, Gossip, Lore"

Jiayi Yan (MA in Cinema & Media Studies, USC)
"The Return of funfu: Cyberfeminism and Gender Politics in Post-Socialist China"

Freddy Larsen (PhD in Comp Lit, UCLA)
"Creating Worthless Humans: A Foucauldian Analysis of the

12 PM - 1 PM

Lunch

1 PM - 2:45 PM

AI, Aesthetics, and Algorithmic Resistance (Bunche 10383)
Moying Wang (PhD in Film, Hong Kong Baptist University)
"Mimicry as Malfunction: Mockumentary and the Subversion of Post-Truth Discursive Authority"

Joia Duskic (PhD in ELTS, UCLA)
"The Procession Does Not Proceed, It Gets Prompted from the Sidelines"

Sophia Toubian (PhD in Information Studies, UCLA)
"Vibecrunching: Defining Vibe as an Epistemic Signal in Algorithmically Mediated Discourse"

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May 8th

3 PM - 4:45 PM

**Contemporary Images of Settler Colonialism
(Bunche 10383)**

Josh Vieth (PhD in Interdisciplinary Arts, Ohio University)
"Image in Flux: AI Mythologies and Live-Streamed Genocide"

Momo Djebli (PhD in American Studies, University of Minnesota)

"Weapons of Militarism: Queer and Trans Inclusion in American Neoliberal Governance and Settler Colonial Empire"

Dana Ekhtiar (PhD in Media & Communication Studies, UCSD)
"Come Visit Gaza": AI, Settler-Colonialism, and the Production of Geopolitical Imaginaries"

7 PM - 10 PM

Conference Reception

Barney's Beanery, 1037 Broxton Ave