



Ninth Biennial Graduate Student Conference  
Department of French, Hispanic and Italian Studies  
University of British Columbia  
DATE: 29-30 October 2021  
Vancouver, Canada

In-between normalities:  
Care, persistence and the (re)imagination of life

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Susan Antebi, University of Toronto

As we slowly go back to “normal,” this international graduate student conference invites young scholars to investigate Francophone and Hispanic literature, cinema and culture under the paradigm of care, persistence, and the (re)imagination of life. The sudden outbreak of a pandemic makes us revisit what “normal” is comprised of. We saw this recently and now “new normal” has become integral part of our conversations. In 2020, our life turned into an uneventful virtual life. Subsequently, other ways to connect came to light or, perhaps, several old habits looked different through the lenses of COVID times. No one knows what a virus can do and if on the one hand politics and its nuances failed us, on the other hand care has shown itself to be what presupposes and exceeds politics. Care, on the other hand, has shown itself to be what presupposes and exceeds politics. Life appears today not as something that resists, if it ever did, but as what persists. From this perspective, any form of what we call art or culture have become crucial to (re)imagining life. Therefore, the purpose of this conference is to generate a place of discussion aim to rethink how the arts shape the idea of care, persistence, and life both locally and globally. We welcome papers that explore the irresolvable in-between place of culture and the arts across various forms, including (but not limited to) literature, film, mass media, comics, theatre, dance, performance, and art.

Key topics, themes and issues for discussion may include, but are definitely not limited to:

- Disease, sickness and care
- Politics of care, infrapolitics, posthegemony, and the undercommons
- Crisis (of capitalism) and (climate) change
- The non-human, body and objecthood



- Affect theory
- Postcolonial thought
- Normality and everyday life
- The role of nature in (re)imagining normalities
- Ethics
- Confinement and care
- Exhaustion and burn-out

The ninth edition of the biennial Graduate Student Conference (GSC) is an international conference organized by graduate students in the Department of French, Hispanic, and Italian Studies (FHIS) at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. This year's conference will be held in a hybrid format, enabling both in-person and virtual participation. Its aim is to promote the works of young scholars and to generate ample discourse, debate, and dialogue on French and Hispanic literature, linguistics, culture, and other related fields of study. Submissions in English, French, and Spanish will be considered. Abstracts (250 words maximum in word or pdf formats), which include the paper title, your academic affiliation, and contact information, must be submitted to the FHIS GSC Organizing Committee by no later than August 20, 2021 to the following address: [fhis.gsc21@gmail.com](mailto:fhis.gsc21@gmail.com). Late submissions might be considered. Individual presentations should be no longer than 20 minutes in duration. Please note that we also encourage the submission of abstracts for panels of presentations.

#### Important dates

Submission deadline: August 20, 2021

Notification of acceptance: August 30, 2021

Conference: 29-30 October 2021

For further information, feel free to go to the official GSC website

<https://gsc2021betweennormalities.wordpress.com/> or contact the Organizing Committee

directly at [fhis.gsc21@gmail.com](mailto:fhis.gsc21@gmail.com).