

Texas Graduate Liberal Studies Symposium  
Co-Hosted by SMU and Rice University Sunday,  
July 26, 2025  
Annette Caldwell Simmons, Main SMU Campus

Check in/breakfast: 7:30-8:30am

Opening remarks: 8:30am-8:40am

First Concurrent Session: 8:45am-10:15am

Session Panels

Art, Identity, and Creative Practice

Trauma, Healing, and Expression

Presentations

*The Self-Portrait: A Journey of Self-Discovery*  
*Beyond the Degree: Celebrating Culture, Sparking Movements*  
*Beyond the Studio: How Liberal Arts Curriculum Builds Confident Collaborators in Art and Design*

*The Voice Within: Addressing Trauma with Musical Creativity and Expression-Focused Education*  
*Identity Formation Through Memory Narration in Daniel Nayeri's Everything Sad Is Untrue*  
*Breaking the Language Barrier: My Journey to Finding My Voice*

Presenters

Richard Rejino, Southern Methodist University  
Mary Margaret Carrillo, Southern Methodist University

Ying Chen, Southern Methodist University

Emmeline Miles, Southern Methodist University

Johanna Thatcher, Dallas Baptist University  
Yujing Yuan, Rice University

Break: 10:15am-10:30am

Second Concurrent Session: 10:30am-12:00pm

Session Panels

Philosophy and the Self in Society

Justice, Oppression, and Public Discourse

Presentations

*From the City to the Soul: The Call to the Individual in Plato's Republic*  
*Khudi and the Muhajir*  
*Bridging Idealism and Reality: An Intertextual Dialogue of 19th-Century American Literature*

*The Dark Side of Science: Eugenics, Anti-Fatness, and the Biopolitics of the Obesity Epidemic,*  
*Is All Speech Necessary to Protect Democratic Debate? A History of Freedom of Speech U.S. Case Law*  
*Representation of Genocide from the lens of Gazes: From Holocaust to Rohingya Genocide in the age of AI*

Presenters

Christopher Gruber, Gregorian University  
Naisha Khatani, University of Texas at Dallas

Manzar Feliz, University of Dallas

Anja Taylor, Southern Methodist University

Rodi Franco, Rice University

Maruf Rahman, University of Texas at Dallas

Lunch: 12:00pm-1:00pm

Third Concurrent Sessions: 1:00-2:30pm

Session Panels

Education and Institutional Practice

Media, Memory, and Representation

Science, Environment, and Society

Presentations

*Southern Methodist University Threat Assessment Process*  
*A Comparison Study of AI for Student Retention: Secondary Schools vs Colleges*

*Contested Sites of Memory: National Museum, War Memorial, and Early American Nationhood, 1776-1830*  
*Television News and Civil Rights: Journalistic Framing with Visual Technologies*  
*The Inclusive and Exclusive Democratic Voice of the Southern Baptist Pulpit and Pew,*

*The Occasional Mycologist*  
*Artificial Intelligence in Action: Reducing Viral Hepatitis, Liver Cancer, and Health Inequities in Vietnam,*  
*DEI in the Garden: Growing "Some" of Your Own Food as Act of Resilience and Self-Reliance*

Presenters

Malcolm McGuire, Southern Methodist University

E Jean Pemberton, Southern Methodist University

Athena Adrian Cavendish, University of Texas at Dallas

Abby Cole, University of Texas at Dallas

David Howard, University of Texas at Dallas

Linda Allison, Rice University

Diem Dao, Southern Methodist University

Rhonda Bellamy Hodge, Southern Methodist University