

2021 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED



JOSÉ ALANIZ



KRIS KNISELY

The organizing committee of the 2021 Cultural Constructions Conference at The University of Texas at Arlington has announced José Alaniz, professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures at The University of Washington, and Kris Knisely, assistant professor of French and Intercultural Competence at The University of Arizona, as keynote speakers for the biennial event.

Cynthia Laborde, chair of the conference committee and assistant professor of French at The University of Texas at Arlington, said each speaker will contribute uniquely to this year's theme of "Resilience and reinvention."

Jose Alaniz's research interests include Death and Dying, Disability Studies, Film Studies, Critical Animal Studies, Latinx Studies, and Comics Studies. His articles and reviews have appeared in the *International Journal of Comic Art*, *The Comics Journal*, *Ulbandus*, *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema*, *The Slavic and East European Journal*, *Comics Forum*, *The Journal of Modern Jewish Studies*, and *KinoKultura*, among many others. The title of his keynote speech is "Elephants and DJs: Disability in Post-Soviet Russian Comics."

"Dr. Alaniz is a well-known specialist in the study of the representation of disability in comics and cinema, particularly in Slavic contexts," Laborde said. "His presentation will focus on the resilience of individuals and their portrayal in different art

forms. It may also challenge many to renew their own views on disabled people, and consider how to be more inclusive.”

Kris Knisely’s research broadly considers gender and sexuality in language teaching and learning and, in its most specific form, focuses on the linguistics and cultural practices of trans and non-binary speakers of French, particularly as they can inform the articulation of trans-affirming L2 pedagogies. His talk is titled “Resisting normativities, reinventing possibilities: Toward trans-affirming L2 pedagogies.”

“Dr. Knisely is a leading expert on trans applied linguistics and is one of, if not the only, scholar who specializes in French in this burgeoning field,” said Laborde. “His groundbreaking work is not only paving the way for more inclusive language classrooms, but also re-shaping how we think about trans topics in the field of language teaching and learning at large.”

The Cultural Constructions Conference will be held virtually March 4-5, 2021 and feature panelists from across the globe with expertise in art, literature, pedagogy, linguistics, translation, interpreting, and more. Admission is free and open to the public. For more information, visit culturalconstructions.uta.edu.

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About Linsey

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