

# IPEC MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

THE INSTITUTE FOR POLICY, ETHICS, AND  
CULTURE'S MONTHLY UPDATES



## EVENTS AT A GLANCE

IPEC BROWN BAG  
**MARK LOUNIBOS**  
"GREAT LAKES ROMANTICISM"  
JANUARY 31, 2025 12PM

IPEC SUPPORTED EVENT  
**JASON ARCHER AND MARY  
CYR "THREADING EMPATHY"**  
FEBRUARY 13-15, 2025

IPEC SUPPORTED EVENT  
**LISA BLANKENSHIP AND  
ERIC LEAKE "CONFLICTED  
FEELINGS"**  
MARCH 4, 2025

VISIT IPEC'S [WEBSITE](#)

IPEC IS HOSTING SEVERAL IMPORTANT CONVERSATIONS  
THIS SPRING 2025 SEMESTER. HOPE THAT YOU CAN JOIN US!

**MARK LOUNIBOS**  
**"GREAT LAKES ROMANTICISM"**

JANUARY 31 | 12PM | WALKER BUILDING  
3RD FLOOR PETERSEN LIBRARY

This emerging project aims to link the historical and cultural period of British Romanticism (1789-1832) to the Great Lakes region of North America, using digital mapping methods to identify locations, actors and events in the Great Lakes area which have influenced British Romantic culture. In particular, the project's goal is to emphasize and perhaps also recover the influence of Indigenous culture and thought on British Romanticism. Although much work has been done on Transatlantic Romanticism, and some important contributions focus explicitly on indigeneity in this context, few have focused primarily on the Great Lakes region. This waterway was a critical trade/exploration route, and therefore one of the most significant channels for contact with indigenous tribes in the interior of North America. The long-term goals of this project include the production of a digital resource for both scholars and the public, and the development of a Digital Humanities course.

**MARY CYR AND JASON ARCHER**  
***“THREADING EMPATHY: EXPLORING THE  
INTERSECTION OF TECHNO-FASHION AND EMPATHY”***

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2025 | 7:30PM | MCARDLE THEATER

Join us for the second Fashion Show produced by the Michigan Tech Theater Division. This year we are collaborating with IPEC and several other groups across campus.

From smart fabrics and 3D-printed garments to wearable tech and sustainable innovations, every piece created has the possibility to represent the cutting edge of creativity in the digital age. This is fashion redefined—where technology amplifies artistry, artistry amplifies technology, and the possibilities are as limitless as your imagination. The event features a dynamic runway show with gallery space.

Interested in being a part of the show?

The Fashion Show invites fashion enthusiasts of all ages to showcase their creativity on the runway! Participation is open to the public, Michigan Tech faculty, staff, and students, this exciting event is your chance to shine. Participants will compete for first, second, or third place and receive cash prizes.

[Click here to participate in the fashion show](#) to learn more.

**LISA BLANKENSHIP AND ERIC LEAKE**  
***“CONFLICTED FEELINGS: A WORKSHOP ON EMPATHY  
AND COMMUNICATION IN CHALLENGING TIMES”***

MARCH 4, 2024 | 5:30PM | EAST READING ROOM | J. ROBERT  
VAN PELT AND JOHN AND RUANNE OPIE LIBRARY

Concerns about empathy are at the center of many of the present moment's most pressing challenges. For example, empathy (or its absence) is regularly heralded as a major factor shaping social disparities, political divisions, societal alienation, and popular distrust—with implications for education, industry, healthcare, social media, and AI, among other domains. What would it mean for us to adopt a more meaningful and nuanced approach to empathy in the present? What kind of empathy is worth working toward in the future? Engaging with questions like these, this workshop offers participants a space to reconsider and reconceptualize the role of empathy in personal, public, and professional life. Leading this workshop are two influential scholars of empathy: Lisa Blankenship (Baruch College, author of *Changing the Subject: A Theory of Rhetorical Empathy*) and Eric Leake (Texas State, author of *Difficult Empathy and Rhetorical Encounters*). Join these scholars for a discussion of the possibilities and perils of empathy.

# RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES

## **HANOVER RESEARCH RESOURCES**

Michigan Tech has partnered with Hanover Research in developing capacity for research proposal support. The recorded webinar session is available [here](#). Digital resources from Hanover Research can be accessed using [this site](#). You will need to select "Create an Account" and use "Blizzard" as the Referral Code.

## **DATA AND SOCIETY CFP WHAT IS WORK WORTH?**

On May 8 and 9, *Data and Society* is hosting an online workshop to discuss how we investigate, think about, resist, and shape the emerging uses of generative AI technologies across a broad range of work contexts. Recognizing the urgent need to understand the uneven effects of AI technologies across industries and on different kinds of workers, the workshop will create a space for differing perspectives on what it means to labor as technology companies seek to replicate workers' practice, knowledge, and expertise. Together, they hope to expand our collective thinking and engage a cohort of researchers and practitioners debating similar questions. [Learn more and apply by February 7.](#)

Plus: [Generative AI and Labor: Power, Hype, and Value at Work](#), a primer by Labor Futures Program Director Aiha Nguyen and Researcher Alexandra Mateescu, shows that understanding how AI will affect work requires examining how work is organized, how industries are structured, and whose and what work is valued.

## **CFP FOR A SPECIAL ISSUE OF FEMINIST MEDIA HISTORIES ON "CRAFTWORK WITHIN THE DIGITAL" CO-EDITED BY WHITNEY TRETTIEN AND CHRISTINA CORFIELD**

This special issue is designed to stage a conversation between crafters, artists, digital media scholars, designers, and historians and scholars of craftwork. We want to ask: What is the place of craft's feminist legacies, its emphasis on handwork and physical making, in an era when so much creative artifice takes place on screens, with data held on very distant servers? What might digital crafting look or feel like (and what is the difference between looking and feeling through craft)? Also, what is the role or use of crafting in the digital "smart" era in which "smart" does not indicate critical thinking but rather the networked intelligence of contemporary technologies of surveillance? How might a focus on craftwork decenter industrial-capitalist and western, Eurocentric genealogies of the digital? Learn more [here](#).

Interested contributors should contact guest editors Christina Corfield and Whitney Trettien directly, sending a 500-word proposal and a short bio no later than February 15, 2025 to [ccorfiel@buffalo.edu](mailto:ccorfiel@buffalo.edu) and [trettien@english.upenn.edu](mailto:trettien@english.upenn.edu). Contributors will be notified by March 21, 2025; article drafts will be due by Sept 5, 2025.