

# **16<sup>th</sup> Annual CRAFT CRITIQUE CULTURE: “Bridging Divides” Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference, April 8-9, 2016**

**Organizing Chairs: Heidi Renée Aijala, Lydia Maunz-Breese, and  
Kate Nesbit**

CRAFT CRITIQUE CULTURE is an interdisciplinary conference focusing on the intersections of critical and creative approaches to writing both within and beyond the academy. The 2016 conference welcomed a number of papers and creative projects on the theme of bridging divides, a theme that generated discussions on reciprocity and connecting the seemingly unconnected. Bridges move across fissures, topographical and ideological. Bridges do not simply appear—bridges are strategically built and require tension, support, and anchorage. Consequently, bridges beget a sense of precarity, a fear of collapse and disintegration, a risk of unsure footing. The papers that populated the 2016 conference asked a number of complex questions such as: How can scholars bridge the ostensible divide between theory and practice? Between the academy and lived experience? What interpretive possibilities stem from finding commonality in the seemingly disparate? What tensions arise when attempting to find these commonalities? Can attempting to find connection perpetuate disconnection? Can bridging divide?