

The 23rd Annual Michicagoan Conference

**(DIS)ENGAGEMENT**

May 6-7, 2022

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

With a keynote address by

**Michel DeGraff**

*Professor of Linguistics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

*and*

*Director of the MIT-Haiti Initiative*

The annual *Michicagoan Graduate Student Conference in Linguistic Anthropology* focuses on the social and cultural analysis of linguistic and semiotic forms. The conference provides graduate students with an attentive forum in which to present their work and discuss it with faculty and other students. We welcome work from students at all stages, and we encourage participants to submit formal conference papers or to discuss dissertation proposals or research reports. Commentators for each panel are drawn from participating faculty.

This year we explore *(Dis)Engagement*, attuning to questions about what our scholarly work *does* and *for whom*. What are the practical and political stakes of linguistic anthropology and related disciplines as a means of interpreting and commenting on the world? What constitutes *impactful scholarship* or *meaningful work*? What does it mean to study communication *anthropologically*, and what forms of (dis)engagement with different communities have we experienced and/or (re)created throughout the processes of research and writing?

In this historical moment, when shifting claims and confusions about “engagement” have been thrown into relief, *(Dis)Engagement* invites participants to reflect on the different roles, responsibilities, and impacts they have in the academy, in society, and in the communities where they work. We invite reflections on what it means to be engaged or disengaged, to include or exclude. We ask: What do we assume is – or is not – political in our practice, and how does this impact the choices we make over time? Can there truly be a lack of engagement, or is disengagement merely another form of engagement, taken (*by whom?*) to be done in an undesirable way? Who is included or excluded when we engage with different kinds of communities, be they research participants, fellow researchers,

and/or wider audiences? In what ways is our work (dis)engaged with our own lives and social contexts? What other levels or scales of engagement can we discuss, and what would be the relationships among them?

Students will have 15 minutes to present research papers or project proposals at the conference. If you are interested in presenting, please send the following information to [michicagoan2022@gmail.com](mailto:michicagoan2022@gmail.com):

1. Title of presentation
2. University and department affiliation(s)
3. Abstract of 250 words or less
4. Whether you plan to attend virtually or in person
5. Proof of COVID vaccination status (for potential in-person attendees)

**The deadline for abstract submissions is 11:59 pm EST on Friday, February 25th, 2022.**

If your abstract is accepted, **completed papers will be due by April 15th.**

There is no registration fee for the conference.

Our goal is for the 2022 Michicagoan to be an in-person conference that accommodates virtual participants who are not able to physically attend for health related reasons. We are continuing to monitor the conditions of the pandemic and will be in touch before the end of April if there are any changes. **All participants attending the conference in person are required to be vaccinated. Masks will also be required.**

Transportation expenses for in-person Chicago student presenters will be covered. Meals will be covered for all in-person attendees.

All other inquiries can be directed to the Michicagoan Planning Committee at [michicagoan2022@gmail.com](mailto:michicagoan2022@gmail.com).