World Making: An Experimental Graduate Salon
Spring Semester 2017

Salon Theme:
Every academic discipline creates knowledge and engages in “world making”. But in order to address complex problems, we need to explore how these different disciplines and “worlds” talk to each other. Furthermore, we need to engage in acts of “translation” if we are to cross disciplinary boundaries and collaboratively and responsibly connect the different ways disciplines solve problems. This salon will provide a venue for exploring how to do this.

In addition, the future success of graduates, as team members, as researchers, and as organizational leaders, will benefit directly from developing the capacity to think, talk, and work successfully across disciplinary boundaries. This salon will provide an environment for enhancing this capacity. By engaging graduate students and faculty in the classical salon model, we will create a productive space for understanding and discussing different disciplinary cultures, and we will set the stage for the development of the translational skills required to understand how various disciplines converge on a given research problem. In doing so, we will also foreground the role applied critical thinking and ethics play in the making of worlds and the creation of responsible knowledge. In fostering these goals, we will employ a wide range of readings from various disciplines, and consider a range of visual tools and representational practices that cross disciplinary, scientific, technological, and aesthetic boundaries.

The salon should appeal to any graduate student enrolled in an RIT graduate program, from the MFA and MS to the Ph.D. level. We also hope that salon readings and interactive discussion will significantly enrich the overall graduate student experience in ways that both transcend and build upon any one discipline or program, and which will also enhance each individual discipline and program.

Interested? We are seeking a broad representation from RIT’s graduate programs by graduate students who are excited by the opportunity to engage across disciplinary boundaries. Students should advise their home department advisor of their interest and registration in this course.

Salon Structure & Details:
Registration: The course is SOIS PROF 799 Special Topics: Graduate Salon: Worldmaking for one graduate credit. The salon will meet bi-weekly during the spring semester, starting week one on Thursdays at 4:00-5:50 pm (first class January 26, 2017); All graduate students in good standing at RIT are invited to consider this course. It has no prerequisites or co-requisites.

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Graduate Salon Faculty

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