



Graduate Degrees in Southern Studies
2020-2021 Handbook
MA in Southern Studies
MFA in Documentary Expression

Center for the Study of Southern Culture
The University of Mississippi
<http://www.southernstudies.olemiss.edu>

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Graduate Programs in Southern Studies

The Center for the Study of Southern Culture offers two graduate degrees: the Master of Arts (MA) in Southern Studies and the Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Documentary Expression. The MA program began in 1986, and the MFA program celebrated its inaugural class in 2017. Both programs bring together scholars, professors, and students from various backgrounds whose common interests involve the study of the U.S. South. Even with a combined average of 25-30 students, the programs are close-knit and interwoven. Students and professors work together in a relaxed but intellectually stimulating atmosphere.

The MA Curriculum

The Southern Studies curriculum incorporates numerous regional studies courses from various disciplines and departments, including African American Studies, Anthropology, Art History, Economics, English, Gender Studies, History, Journalism, Music, Political Science, Religion, and Sociology. Many of the classes offered by these departments are cross-listed for Southern Studies and are open to our students. All students must select courses from at least three academic disciplines (Southern Studies may be one), with a maximum of 12 hours in any single discipline, excluding Southern Studies.

There are three ways to earn the MA in Southern Studies: the thesis track, the documentary track, and the internship track.

Thesis Track

The thesis track requires 30 hours of coursework (including SST 601 and 602, and a minimum of six hours of the thesis course, SST 697). These thesis hours can be divided among multiple semesters or completed in one. Coursework must incorporate at least three disciplines (one may be Southern Studies) and may include two (and no more) Independent Studies (SST 605). A thesis must be a presentation of original scholarship in the form of a written work (80–120 pages). The thesis student must pass a final oral defense. Students should think about the thesis early in their program: using seminar papers to formulate a thesis project helps facilitate research and can contribute to timely completion of the master's degree.

Internship Track

This option requires a minimum of 36 hours, which includes SST 601, 602, and 30 hours of additional coursework. The internship itself is at least six credit hours (SST 603). A student interested in pursuing this track should make arrangements with a suitable institution to set up the internship. Faculty members may participate in this process, but it is ultimately the student's responsibility to secure the position. Internships may not be completed as part of a student's regular employment. An on-campus faculty member will advise the student and generally oversee the project. A representative of the sponsoring institution will supervise the intern on site. Internship students will hold the internship for the duration of an entire semester, working approximately 20 hours a week. At the end of the internship, students will make an oral presentation about their work and write a 40-50 page essay that both recounts their experience and pursues, using academic resources, some research question that grows out of it. Students on the internship track assemble a three-member committee just as students on the other two tracks do.

Documentary Track

The documentary track for the Master of Arts degree requires 30 hours of coursework—including 601, 602, 533 (Fieldwork & Oral History), either 534 (Documentary Photography) or 537 (Introduction to Documentary Film-Making), and 6 hours of thesis. (Note: SST 533 is a prerequisite for both SST 534 and 537.) The thesis hours can be divided across multiple semesters or completed in one. As with the other two tracks, these courses must incorporate at least three disciplines (one may be Southern Studies) and may include two (and no more) Independent Study classes (SST 605). A final documentary project—using audio, still photography, film, or a combination thereof—must be presented, along with a self-reflective essay (40-60 pages) that chronicles the evolution of the student’s thinking regarding the documentary process and the development of his/her final project. Students on this track assemble a committee to oversee their work, just as students on the thesis and internship track do.

The MFA Curriculum

The MFA in Documentary Expression requires 30 hours of coursework: 21 hours of content-based classes and 9 hours of thesis credit. MFA students must complete SST 601 (Graduate Seminar I), SST 533 (Fieldwork & Oral History), SST 610 (MFA Seminar), and SST 633 (MFA Fieldwork). They must also complete at least two of the following: SST 534 (Documentary Photography), SST 544 (Advanced Documentary Photography), SST 537 (Documenting the South in Film), or SST 538 (Advanced Documentary Film), plus three credit hours of SST 699 (MFA Workshop). Students who enter the program with an MA in Southern Studies from UM may apply 6 hours of that degree for SST 533, 534, 537, 538, or 601 but they may not repeat classes taken for credit while earning the MA.

Students may begin taking thesis hours upon arrival, provided that the Admissions Committee finds their project idea to be sufficiently developed. MFA students complete a written prospectus (12-15 pages, plus bibliography) and have it approved by their three-person supervisory committee by the end of their second semester in the program. Final projects may take the form of still photography, film, oral history, audio recordings, or some combination thereof, plus a written component, approximately 50-75 pages in length, that both addresses the writer’s process and situates their project within relevant scholarly discourse. As with the MA, students pass an oral defense in order to complete the degree.

MFA Workshop – 3 Credits Required

MFA students are required to attend Documentary Workshop and will receive one credit hour per semester. All students must present their original work at least once per semester. Students will provide feedback to their peers on presented work. Documentary Workshop also provides critical information including news and updates about the program and thesis requirements.

End of First Semester Showcase and Screening

All MFA students will present a completed new work (or work in progress) with artist’s talk at the end of the first semester. The event will be open to the public and include Q&A with each producer.

Thesis Prospectus and Defense

By May 1, first-year MFA students must successfully defend a written project prospectus (8-10 pages, including bibliography) with their supervisory committee. The prospectus should consider both written and documentary project components of the final thesis including intended medium, structure, and public presentation options for the documentary project. Successful prospectus defense must be on file with the graduate director to be eligible for summer funding.

Documentary Project and Written Thesis

Final projects may take the form of photography, oral history, film or audio documentary, or some combination thereof. While students may continue work begun prior to enrollment the bulk of the thesis production must be within the MFA program. The written component, approximately 50-75 pages in length, addresses 1) the writer's process; 2) their artistic intention; and 3) situates the project within relevant scholarly discourse. MFA students must pass an oral defense of their documentary project and written thesis in order to complete the degree. All materials must be provided to the committee at least two weeks prior to defense.

**Students starting the MFA after obtaining an MA in Southern Studies will form committees and defend their prospectus during their first semester of MFA study.*

End of Program Public Talk and Thesis Exhibition

MFA graduates will schedule and organize a public event showcasing their final MFA project including a talk with Q&A prior to thesis defense. It is recommended that the event take place off-campus at a location that will be determined by the project type. MFA faculty and staff will help provide suggestions and assistance.

Visiting Documentarian Meetings & Lectures

Throughout the program several working documentarians will be invited to campus to show and discuss their work in public screenings and/or lectures. These visitors have agreed to open their schedules for one-on-one meetings with MFA students to view their works and discuss ideas pertaining to their portfolio, works in progress, or their thesis project. All MFA students are strongly encouraged to attend these events and to sign-up for meetings with our visitors. Priority will be given via a first-come-first-served online sign-up.

Equipment and Facilities

All MFA students have access to equipment available in the SouthDocs equipment room in Kinard Hall (2nd Floor, Wing D) via [Cheqroom](#), an online equipment reservation system. Any questions about reserving equipment should be addressed to Karen Tuttle (ktuttle@olemiss.edu). A temporary 15-minute parking space has been designated behind Kinard Hall for equipment loading and unloading. SouthDocs provides 24/7 access to their audio recording booth, multimedia editing suite, and classroom lab. A reservation system may be implemented for these resources during times of heavy use. There is also a computer with Adobe in the Barnard Observatory Grad work room, 2nd floor.

Assembling a Committee

By **April 1** first-year MA or MFA students should choose a committee chair to direct their MA or MFA project and at least two other faculty members to serve as their supervisory committee. You will work most closely with the director, but you need to consult periodically with the other members of the committee as well. Committee members may be from departments other than Southern Studies. Students should notify the graduate director once the committee is in place and complete the [GS2-Graduate Advisory Committee Form](#).

Additional Guidelines, MA and MFA

INDEPENDENT STUDIES: students can only take two Independent Study courses (SST 605) per degree. We do not encourage first-semester students to take SST 605, in part because they need to familiarize themselves with graduate seminars and in part because faculty members, whom students typically will not know yet, must agree to supervise the independent study. Designing an independent study is the task of the student, and a written syllabus, with clear expectations for final outcomes, should accompany the class.

SPECIAL TOPICS COURSES: students can repeat both SST 598 and SST 599 twice per degree.

INTERNSHIPS: students on the thesis or the documentary track may also register for 3 or 6 hour internships at any point during their coursework. For three hours of credit, the student must work at least 10 hours per week for the duration of the semester and keep a weekly journal about his or her activities. For six hours of credit, the student must submit a research paper of 12–15 pages on a topic pertaining to the internship and work 12–15 hours per week per semester.

INTERDISCIPLINARITY: students may not take more than 12 hours in any single discipline, excluding Southern Studies. The MA requires that the final transcript show hours taken in at least three different disciplines, one of which may be Southern Studies.

ADVISING: after the first semester, students enroll themselves using MyOleMiss during the regular registration windows. The Graduate Director serves as the adviser for each student in the program until he or she begins working more closely with a thesis supervisor.

On-Campus and Digital Resources

Center for the Study of Southern Culture Institutes and Publications

The Southern Documentary Project (SouthDocs)

SouthDocs produces works of documentary storytelling from the perspective of studying the American South.

The Southern Foodways Alliance

The SFA documents, studies, and explores the diverse food cultures of the changing American South.

Living Blues Magazine

America's first blues publication, was acquired by the University of Mississippi in 1983.

The Southern Register

The Center's quarterly newsletter provides readers with Center-related news and updates.

Study the South

Study the South is a peer-reviewed, multimedia, online journal published and managed by the Center.

J.D. Williams Library

*The **Archives and Special Collections** department in the **John D. Williams Library** was established in 1975 to collect and to house rare books, manuscripts, maps, noteworthy editions, and ephemera. The Archive contains several units with distinctive collecting and service responsibilities. The **Mississippi Collection** is one of the largest collections of books concerning Mississippi. The collection includes holdings of early works on Mississippi as well as comprehensive author collections of Mississippi writers Larry Brown, William Faulkner, Willie Morris, Eudora Welty, Tennessee Williams, Richard Wright, and others. The **Faulkner Collection** now ranks as one of the strongest research collections on Faulkner in the world. In addition the collection contains materials related to Mississippi's history and culture and the **African Americana Collection** of books, journals, and sheet music relating to African American culture and history. The Archive also maintains an extensive collection related to civil rights.

***The Blues Archive** contains recordings, books, journals, and memorabilia of blues music as well as the Goldstein Collection of written material on folklore. In addition, B. B. King donated his collection of blues, gospel, and jazz recordings by various artists.

***The Southern Media Archive** opened in 1994 as a division of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. In August of 2000 the Southern Media Archive became a part of the Archives and Special Collections department in the John D. Williams Library. The Archive houses some movies and independent film collections plus numerous audio field recordings. The mission of the Archive is to identify, collect, preserve, and make accessible the cultural expression of the U.S. South through various forms of documentary media.

***The Mississippi Home Movies Collection** provides a visual record of life in the state prior to World War II. From the earliest 8mm film shot in 1938 to Super-8 footage shot in 1990, family movies chronicle rural and town life throughout Mississippi.

*The Cofield Studio operated in Oxford from the 1920s to the 1980s. The **Cofield Collection** contains many formal portraits of William Faulkner as well as informal pictures of the writer, his family and friends, the town, and Lafayette County. The collection is both a documentary reflection of Oxford and the surrounding area and of Faulkner's fictitious Yoknapatawpha.

*Between 1961 and 1962, professional photographer and Faulkner enthusiast Martin J. Dain came to Oxford to document town and rural life in the hill county of North Mississippi. Dain made intimate portraits of daily life in the African American and white communities of Lafayette County. The **Dain Collection** is composed of 8,734 35mm black-and-white negatives, including over 100 photographs of William Faulkner at his home, Rowan Oak.

*The **Howard Collection**, containing approximately 160,000 black-and-white negatives from the studio of Vic Howard, documents everyday life in Harlan County, Kentucky, from the 1940s through the 1970s. Howard's images of African American and white Appalachians, coal miners, local musicians, and the patterns of everyday life provide one of the most comprehensive indigenous photographic collections of the Appalachian region in existence.

***The Modern Political Archive** contains the papers of Mississippi politicians, judges, lawyers, and political organizations. Congressional collections that are currently open to researchers include the files of John Sharp Williams, Pat Harrison, Thomas G. Abernethy, William M. Whittington, and James O. Eastland. Although they represent the public service careers of single individuals, these collections also document the efforts of Mississippi residents who wrote their congressmen to express opinions on a wide array of topics and for assistance negotiating the red tape of the federal bureaucracy.

If you have questions about using library resources, your first point of contact should be Alex Watson, Research & Instruction Librarian and Professor (apwatson@olemiss.edu). He works particularly with graduate students in the humanities.

Computers

The Weir Hall computer labs have general use computers. The labs consist of a number of PCs and Macs as well as printers and scanners. The Center has a computer available for student use throughout the day in room 207 as well as scanners and a printer. The printer, along with other office machines including fax and copier, are not for *personal use*, however. Students are on their honor not to abuse printer privileges. For computer and related help, call the I.T. Help Desk at 915-5222.

Funding for Research Travel from Southern Studies

Southern Studies is able to offer up to \$500 for our graduate students who need to travel for research. Please see the guidelines at the end of the handbook for more information about how to apply.

****Please note travel stipends are not available during the pandemic. ****

Southern Studies Core Faculty and Staff

*** denotes MFA Core Faculty and Staff**

Core Faculty

Simone Delerme

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Dr. Simone Pierre Delerme joined the University of Mississippi's Department of Sociology and Anthropology and Center for the Study of Southern Culture in the fall of 2013. She specializes in Latino migration to the U.S. South, with interests in race relations, language ideologies, social class inequalities and suburbanization.

Delerme holds a bachelor's in political science and a master's in liberal arts from the University of Delaware, as well as master's and doctorate degrees in anthropology from Rutgers University. The research featured in her new book, *Latino Orlando: Suburban Transformation and Racial Conflict*, focuses on Latino migration to Orlando, Florida and the social class distinctions and racialization processes that create divergent experiences in Southern spaces and places. Delerme is working on a new ethnographic research project, which examines Latino migration to Memphis, TN, and North Mississippi. Delerme's work has been featured in several academic publications, including *Southern Spaces*, *Southern Cultures*, *Centro Journal*, and *Anthropology News*.

W. Ralph Eubanks

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Ralph Eubanks is the author of *The House at the End of the Road: The Story of Three Generations of an Interracial Family in the American South*, *Ever Is a Long Time: A Journey into Mississippi's Dark Past*, and *A Place Like Mississippi: A Journey Through a Real and Imagined Literary Landscape*, which will be released in 2021. He has contributed articles to the *Washington Post* Outlook and Style sections, the *Wall Street Journal*, *WIRED*, the *New Yorker*, and *Vanity Fair*. He is a recipient of a 2007 Guggenheim Fellowship from the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation and has been a fellow at the

New America Foundation. He is the former editor of the *Virginia Quarterly Review* at the University of Virginia and served as director of publishing at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., from 1995 to 2013.

Brian Foster

Assistant Professor of Southern Studies and Assistant Professor of Sociology
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Dr. Brian Foster is a writer and storyteller from Mississippi. Currently, he has a joint appointment in Sociology and Southern Studies.

Brian earned his Bachelor's Degree in African American Studies from the University of Mississippi in 2011, and both his Master's Degree (2013) and Ph.D. (2017) in Sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His research and writing, which focus on race, culture, and inequality in the post-soul (i.e., post-1960's) American South, have been supported by the National Science Foundation and the American Sociological Association, among others.

Brian's teaching focuses on race, place, qualitative methods, and storytelling. Some of his most popular classes include, "The Southern Protest Mixtape"; "Sipp"; "The Race Maps"; and "Mississippi Jukebox."

Brian's book *I Don't Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black Life* (University of North Carolina Press) chronicles life, opportunity, and the blues in the Mississippi Delta town of Clarksdale.

Darren E. Grem

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Darren E. Grem earned his B.A. from Furman University and M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He held postdoctoral fellowships at Yale University and Emory University before joining the faculty at the University of Mississippi.

Darren is the author of *The Blessings of Business: How Corporations Shaped Conservative Christianity* (Oxford University Press, 2016), a book that details how conservative evangelicals strategically used business leaders, organizations, methods, and money to advance their cultural and political aspirations in twentieth-century America. With John Corrigan and Amanda Porterfield, Darren is co-editor of *The Business Turn in American Religious History* (Oxford University Press, 2017), a collection of essays that reconsiders the role of business in American religious culture and politics. Also, with Ted Ownby and James Thomas, Jr., he is co-editor of *Southern Religion, Southern Culture: Essays Honoring Charles Reagan Wilson* (University Press of Mississippi, 2018).

His second long-term project, *Hard Times, USA: The Great Depression in American Memory*, is an expansive study of how Americans after World War II remembered and used the Great Depression in popular culture (memorial sites, music, literature, art, film) and in political activism for and against the New Deal state.

Darren teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in twentieth-century U.S. history, southern history and southern studies, and modern politics and culture.

Adam Gussow

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Adam Gussow has a joint appointment in English and Southern Studies. Recent themes in his seminars have included "Southern Musicians' Autobiographies," "Freedom Summer 1964: Mississippi's Civil Rights Watershed," and "Robert Johnson, the Devil's Music, and the Blues." His research and teaching interests include blues music, literature, culture, and tourism; southern music (especially country, bluegrass, and jazz); African American literature and cultural politics; the persistence of the pastoral South idea and other southern mythologies; and the long arc from slavery and segregation through the Civil Rights movement and contemporary struggles for racial justice.

Adam has a Ph.D. and B.A. in English from Princeton University and an M.A. in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University. Between graduate degrees, Gussow spent a decade as a blues harmonica instructor and performer, part of a Harlem-based duo that was recently profiled in a Netflix documentary, "Satan & Adam," and he continues to record albums and play gigs here in Oxford when time permits. His books include *Mister Satan's Apprentice: A Blues Memoir* (1998), *Seems Like Murder Here: Southern Violence and the Blues Tradition* (2000), and *Beyond the Crossroads: The Devil and the Blues Tradition* (2017), which won a *Living Blues* Award as "Best Blues Book of 2017." His newest book, *Whose Blues? Facing Up to Race and the Future of the Music*, will be published by UNC Press in the fall of 2020.

Andy Harper*

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Andy Harper is the director of the Southern Documentary Project (SouthDocs), which produces documentary film and radio features as well as oral history projects. Dr. Harper holds a bachelor's degree in English from Millsaps College, a master's degree in history from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a PhD in history from Northern Arizona University. His specialties include environmental history, Mississippi history, and documentary studies.

Katie McKee*

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 Professor of English and McMullan Professor of Southern Studies
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Katie McKee has a joint appointment in English and Southern Studies. She teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses, including SST 101, 102, 401, 402, 601, and 602. Recent topics in her graduate seminars have included "The Literature of the Civil War and Reconstruction," "The New Southern Studies," "Literary Regionalism," "Nineteenth-Century Women Writers," and "Nineteenth Century American Travel Writing."

Katie has a BA from Centre College in Danville, Kentucky, and an MA and PhD in American literature from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She joined the Southern Studies faculty in 1997. She is coeditor with Deborah Barker of *American Cinema and the Southern Imaginary* (2011) and author of *Reading Reconstruction: Sherwood Bonner and the Literature of the Post Civil War South* (2019). Her research interests include 19th-century Southern literature, Global South studies, humor studies, the South in film, and Southern women writers.

Ted Ownby

William Winter Professor of History and Southern Studies
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Ted Ownby has had a joint appointment in Southern Studies and History since 1988. In History, he teaches courses in Southern History since 1900, Southern Religious History, Mississippi History and graduate courses in a range of topics. In Southern Studies, he has taught undergraduate survey and seminar courses, graduate courses, and special topics courses such as “Southern Autobiography” and “Peace in Southern Culture.” He is scheduled to teach on a Fulbright Fellowship in Denmark in Spring 2021.

As a scholar, Ted has written three books, *Subduing Satan: Religion, Recreation, and Manhood in the Rural South, 1865–1920*, *American Dreams in Mississippi: Consumers, Poverty, and Culture, 1830–1998*, and *Hurtin’ Words: Debating Family Problems in the Twentieth Century South* and edited several others. With Nancy Bercaw, he coedited the Gender volume of the *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* and with Charles Reagan Wilson, he coedited the *Mississippi Encyclopedia*. With John T. Edge and Elizabeth Engelhardt, he coedited *The Larder*. With Becca Walton, he coedited *Clothing and Fashion in Southern History*. His specialties include gender, religion, family life, consumers, and the twentieth-century South.

Catarina Passidomo*

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Southern Foodways Alliance Associate Professor Southern Studies and Anthropology
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Catarina has a joint appointment in Anthropology and Southern Studies, serves as the Center’s Graduate Director, and works closely with the Southern Foodways Alliance. Catarina joined the faculty of the University of Mississippi in 2014. She is interested primarily in studying food systems to better understand and contest broader social systems and phenomena. Through work with her students and the Southern Foodways Alliance, she investigates the connections between the food system and: migration between the Global South and the U.S. South; structural racism; economic inequality; and demographic and culinary changes in the American South. Catarina has published articles in *Food, Culture, and Society*; *Urban Studies*; *Geoforum*; *Agriculture and Human Values*; *The Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems and Community Development*; *Oxford Bibliographies in Geography*; and *ACME*, and has contributed chapters to two edited volumes on Food Sovereignty and the food-immigration nexus. She teaches Geography 101, Southern Foodways (SST 555), and other courses in Anthropology and Southern Studies.

Catarina has a B.A. in Sociology from Washington and Lee University, an M.A. in Environmental Anthropology from the University of Georgia, and a Ph.D. in Human Geography, also from the University of Georgia. Her dissertation examined racial and territorial tensions surrounding food justice projects in post-Katrina New Orleans.

John Rash*

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John Rash is a documentary storyteller who is interested in lens-based representations of outsider identities, counterculture communities, and lifestyles that confound the expectations of mainstream cultural traditions. He earned his MFA in Experimental and Documentary Art from Duke University in 2014 and has worked as an educator in moving image, photography, and audio storytelling for more than 15 years in the United States and China. John works as a faculty mentor for the MFA in Documentary Expression program and teaches SST 533, the course that introduces southern studies students to the methods and practices of documentary fieldwork and production. As producer/director at Southern Documentary Project he has published several films and was the recipient of the Soul of Southern Film award from the Indie Memphis Film Festival in 2018.

Jodi Skipper

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Jodi Skipper has a joint appointment in Anthropology and Southern Studies. Her current research explores how African Americans are historically represented through material culture and how that interacts with the production of heritage in tourism spaces. She teaches courses on heritage tourism in the US South and on the African diaspora.

David Wharton*

Director of Documentary Projects and Assistant Professor of Southern Studies
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David Wharton serves as Director of Documentary Studies at the Center. He has taught both graduate and undergraduate courses, including SST 101, 401, 601, 533 (a fieldwork course), and 534 (a photography course). Students in the latter two courses explore various aspects of life in North Mississippi through photography, recorded interviews, participant observation, and informed common sense.

David has a BA from Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, an MFA in photography from the University of Texas at Austin, and a PhD in American Studies, also from UT-Austin. He joined the SST faculty in 1999 after teaching American Studies courses at the University of Texas at San Antonio. He is the author of *The Soul of a Small Texas Town: Photographs, Memories, and History from McDade* (2000), *Small Town South* (2012), and *The Power of Belief: Spiritual Landscapes from*

the Rural South (2016). A fourth book of photographs from rural southern roadsides will be published in 2021. David's photographs have been exhibited throughout the United States and in group exhibitions in Europe and Latin America. His research interests include the rural and small-town South (especially the social and cultural landscapes of such places), the region's spiritual landscapes, and tourism in the South. A selection of his photographs can be seen at www.davidwharton-southernphotographs.com.

Center Staff and Institutional Affiliates

Brett Bonner

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Brett Bonner is the editor of *Living Blues* magazine. He holds a bachelor's degree in psychology, sociology, and philosophy from the University of Mississippi, as well as a master's degree in sociology. He has worked at *Living Blues* for over 30 years and has written extensively about the blues. As the editor he handles all story, review, and photography assignments and also decides the theme and scope of each issue.

Rebecca Lauck Cleary

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Rebecca is originally from Lafayette, Louisiana and earned her B.A. in journalism and M.A. in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi. She writes news and feature articles for the website and the Southern Register about all of the exciting programs and student projects happening in Barnard, as well as publicizes the Center's various events. She also registers students for classes each semester. Additionally, she teaches a section of EDHE 105 in the fall to help freshmen navigate the unfamiliar territory of college life. She helps with the Oxford Conference for the Book and is on the Board of Directors of the Literacy Council. If you have an idea for an article or are working on an interesting project, let her know!

Margaret M M Gaffney

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Margaret is part of the Center's full-time staff. She returned to Oxford in 2015, where she spent some of her childhood. She received her BA from Bowdoin College in German, Theater and Dance. She spent the previous fourteen years making films. Margaret schedules the various rooms in Barnard and helps make sure everything is in running order.

Rex Jones*

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Rex Jones is a documentary filmmaker who joined the Southern Documentary Project in 2011. Rex is a native of Hickory, Mississippi, and an MFA graduate in Science and Natural History Filmmaking from Montana State University. His films have been broadcast nationally on PBS, won awards from

various organizations, and been chosen as official selections of film festivals nationwide.

Andrea Morales*

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Andrea Morales is a producer with the Southern Documentary Project. Peruvian-born, Miami-bred and Memphis-based: after years of existing in spaces heavy with the constructs of socioeconomic binaries, her work moves with the hope of observing the things in between. She holds a B.S. in journalism from the University of Florida and a M.A. in visual communication from Ohio University. As an independent photographer in the Delta South, her focus on themes of identity and memory are told through a journalistic and documentary lens.

Bert Neal

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Bert Neal is the Center's Administrative Coordinator. One of her many duties is managing the financial affairs for the Center. This encompasses monitoring budgets, processing accounts payable and accounts receivable, payroll, purchases, travel requests, requests for payment, personnel forms, and the preparation and maintenance of grant applications. She was raised in a small Delta town, and moved to Cleveland, Mississippi in 1985. She relocated to Oxford in December 2019.

Nikki Neely

Executive Director of Development for the College of Liberal Arts
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Nikki is the Director of Development for the Center and for the College of Liberal Arts. Before working at UM, she was associate director of foundation and corporate relations at Emory University in Atlanta. She earned a bachelor of arts in studio art in 2004 and a master of arts in journalism in 2007 from the University of Mississippi.

Afton Thomas*

Associate Director for Programs
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Afton Thomas holds a bachelor's degree in theatre from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a master's degree in theatre with an emphasis on children's theatre education from Sacramento State University. In 2014 she began work at the Center as project coordinator with the Southern Foodways Alliance and served in this position for 4.5 years. Afton's professional experience includes theatre education, hospitality management, human resources, and project management. In her current role as associate director for programs, Afton supports faculty and the Center's institutes with the planning and execution of conferences, workshops, and special events. She is also fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the Center's documentary expression MFA students on logistics and execution of their artist events.

Afton is committed to the LOU community and is very involved. She has served on the steering committee for Excel by 5 (2013-2016), the Visit Oxford Tourism Board (2015-2018) and she is currently a member of the Move On Up Mississippi board, Lafayette Oxford Foundation for Tomorrow

(LOFT) board, and a steering committee member with Leadership Lafayette (2017 graduate of the program). In addition to her community involvement, Afton is active at the university and prides herself on staying connected and attending as many functions as she can. She is co-chair of the Critical Race Studies Group, a member of the United Campus Workers, and a liaison for many departments on campus in hopes to share events and communications with her peers and students at the Center.

James G. Thomas, Jr.

East Turret, Barnard Observatory
jgthomas@olemiss.edu

James G. Thomas, Jr. began work at the Center for the Study of Southern Culture as managing editor of the twenty-four-volume *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* in 2003, and he has been the Center's Associate Director for Publications since 2011. He is editor of *Conversations with Barry Hannah*, co-editor of the Faulkner and Yoknapatawpha Series (with Jay Watson), associate editor of *The Mississippi Encyclopedia*, and co-editor of the online *Mississippi Encyclopedia*. He holds a BA in philosophy and English, an MA in Southern Studies, and an MFA in Documentary Expression, each from the University of Mississippi.

Thomas is also the director of the Center's annual Oxford Conference for the Book and the editor of *Study the South*, the Center's online journal, and the *Southern Register*, the Center's newsmagazine. Before joining the Center staff, Thomas worked as an editor for publications in New York and Oxford, Mississippi.

Karen Tuttle*

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 x1236

Karen is the Administrative Coordinator for the Southern Documentary Project. A 1991 Ole Miss graduate with a BS degree in Education, Karen has been with the department since. She manages the day-to-day operations of the Documentary Project office, and also videotapes and edits various University functions and events. Karen was born in Memphis but is a longtime resident of the Oxford area. She is a devoted dog lover with numerous rescues to her credit.

Melanie Young

South Oxford Campus
melanie@livingblues.com
 x5129

Melanie Young first began working with *Living Blues* in 2009 as the circulation manager. At the same time, she had an editorial internship with the publication. Since then, she's been a contributing writer for *Living Blues* and even wrote her Southern Studies master's thesis on the magazine in 2012. In 2008, Young earned her bachelor's degree in English Literature at the University of Southern Mississippi. As publication manager, Young's duties include managing the day-to-day tasks necessary to the upkeep of the magazine, which consists of subscription services, publishing, distribution, marketing and accounting. In addition, Young also trains and supervises graduate assistants and student workers.

Southern Foodways Alliance Staff

www.southernfoodways.com

sfa@olemiss.edu

Barnard Observatory, Big Tower

The Southern Foodways Alliance is an institute of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture. The SFA documents and celebrates the diverse food cultures of the American South. We set a common table where black and white, rich and poor—all who gather—may consider our history and our future in a spirit of reconciliation.

Annemarie Nichols Anderson

annemarie@southernfoodways.org

Annemarie is SFA's oral historian. She received a master's degree in oral history from the University of Florida in 2017, as the first graduate of that program. She also earned her bachelor's degrees in English and history from UF.

John T. Edge

johnt@southernfoodways.org

John T. is the SFA's founding director. He holds an M.A. in Southern Studies from the University of Mississippi and an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from Goucher College. The author or editor of a dozen books, including the foodways volume of the *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, he most recently wrote *The Potlikker Papers*, a food history of the American South, now in paperback from The Penguin Press. He has won three James Beard Foundation awards, including the MFK Fisher Distinguished Writing Award, and is the writer and host for TrueSouth, a narrative series about Southern food culture, which debuts on ESPN/ SEC Network in September.

Melissa Booth Hall

melissa@southernfoodways.org

Melissa Booth Hall is the SFA's managing director. She holds a J.D. from Northern Kentucky University and a B.A. in English from Centre College. In 2003 she volunteered at the SFA's Fall Symposium...13 1/2 gallons of pimento cheese and 1000 deviled eggs later, she was hooked. Since joining the SFA's staff, Melissa has led field trips and Summer Symposia, organized countless Potlikker Film Festivals across the region (and beyond), and served as operations manager for Fall Symposiums. These days, her focus is overseeing SFA staff, outreach, donor relations, and long-range planning.

Mary Beth Lasseter

marybeth@southernfoodways.org

Mary Beth Lasseter is the SFA's Associate Director. She is from South Georgia—Valdosta, to be exact. She found her way to a Southern Studies MA after graduating from the University of Notre Dame and spending a year with AmeriCorps in Tuskegee, Alabama. She wrote her master's thesis on Elvis Presley as a catalyst for white Southern feminism. Post-Elvis study for an MBA was less enjoyable, but has proven useful in her role as associate director of the Southern Foodways Alliance. She and her husband, Ned Mitchell, stay busy with their four small children.

Sara Camp Milamsaracamp@southernfoodways.org

Sara Camp Milam is the SFA's managing editor. Her projects include *Gravy*, SFA's quarterly foodways journal. She has a B.A. in Spanish from Princeton University and an M.A. in folklore from UNC-Chapel Hill.

Claire Mossclaire@southernfoodways.org

Claire Moss is SFA's development officer and is charged with annual giving campaigns and individual gifts. Claire holds a BS in social work from the University of Mississippi and a master's in social work from Louisiana State University. Prior to joining SFA's world headquarters, she spent the majority of her career in the nonprofit sector in both executive and development roles. She moved to Oxford with her family in the summer of 2017.

Course Listings

Course listings change frequently. Please visit individual department websites for lists of their classes and the MyOleMiss portion of the University's website for the most accurate offerings by semester. In advance of each registration period, we will publish a list of classes that we can accept for graduate credit during the upcoming term. We encourage students to locate additional possibilities on their own, but also to consult with the graduate director before registering.

SOUTHERN STUDIES (SST)

533. Studies in Documentary Fieldwork: Training in basic field research techniques of oral history and documentary photography. Students will record interviews and make documentary photographs that explore a pre-assigned topic in southern culture. Prerequisite for SST 534 and SST 537.

534. Studies in Documentary Photography: Prerequisite is SST 533.

535. Anthropological Film

536. The Southern Environment.

537. Documenting the South in Film. Prerequisite is SST 533.

538. Advanced Documentary Film in the South.

555. Foodways and Southern Culture.

560. Oral History of Southern Social Movements.

598, 599. Special Topics: Interdisciplinary study of specialized topics in Southern culture. May be repeated (twice) for credit.

601. Graduate Seminar I: Multidisciplinary reading and research seminar in Southern Studies. Students will read and discuss a common core of readings while pursuing research in their individual areas of interest.

602. Graduate Seminar II.

603. Internship: Supervised research and work at an on or off-campus cultural institution. Interns are required to maintain a journal of their fieldwork experiences. Students receiving nine hours of credit must submit a final research paper of approximately 40 pages and devote 20 hours per week to the internship; students receiving six hours of credit must devote 12-15 hours per week to the internship and write a 12-15 page research paper; students receiving three hours of credit work 10 hours a week and prepare a weekly journal.

605. Advanced Individual Study: Students develop their own course of study in consultation with a supervising professor.

610. MFA Seminar: Required for incoming MFA students.

611. Regionalism

612. Globalization and the U.S. South

633. MFA Fieldwork: This class exposes students to multiple forms of fieldwork (video, audio, and printed photography) and to practitioners of various kinds of documentary work, encouraging them to produce by semester's end a project that utilizes skills in at least one of the approaches to which they have been exposed.

697. Thesis

699. MFA Workshop: This class functions as a workshop in which students share documentary works in progress and receive feedback from their cohort and from faculty. Students present ongoing project at multiple points in the semester and reflect on both the content of their work and the process involved in its production.

Theses and Internships

Most Southern Studies student theses are available through the University library. You can access a complete list from our website: www.southernstudies.olemiss.edu. Topic headings include these: History & Civil Rights, People & Places, Literature & Film, Art & Architecture, Music & Entertainment, Religion, Sports & Recreation, Politics, and Foodways. A list of the locations at which people have completed internships also appears on the website.

Checklist, Southern Studies Master's Degree

SST 601 _____

SST 602 _____

_____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____

additional courses for internship track _____

SST 697 _____, _____ (thesis or documentary track)

OR

SST 603 _____, _____ (internship track)

Thesis Track = 18 hours of course work, including courses in at least two disciplines other than Southern Studies + SST 601 + SST 602 + at least six thesis hours (SST 697) + successful thesis defense → → 30 hours

Documentary Track = 18 hours of course work, including SST 533 and SST 534 or SST 537 + SST 601 + SST 602 + at least six thesis hours (SST 697) + successful thesis defense → → 30 hours

Internship Track = 24 hours of course work, including courses in at least two disciplines other than Southern Studies + SST 601 + SST 602 + at least six hours of SST 603 (internship) + successful public presentation → → 36 hours

*Only 12 hours may be taken in any single discipline, excluding Southern Studies.

*SST 598 and SST 599 may each be repeated twice for credit.

Checklist, MFA in Documentary Expression

SST 601 _____
 SST _____ 533
 SST 610_____
 SST 633_____
 SST 699_____,_____,_____
 SST 534 or SST 537 or SST 538 _____
 elective: _____

SST 697_____,_____, _____

MFA = 21 hours of course work (including SST 601, SST 533, SST 610, and SST 633; 3 hours of SST 699; as well as SST 534, SST 537, *or* SST 538) + 9 hours of SST 697 + successful prospectus meeting + successful thesis defense → → 30 hours and a degree

*Students with an MA in SST from UM may bring forward 6 hours of credit from their earlier degree program. Students may not repeat classes they took as part of their MA coursework, with the exception of SST 598, 599, 605, and 697.

*Students may repeat SST 598 and SST 599 twice for credit as part of their MFA coursework.

*Students may complete two sections of SST 605 (Independent Study) as part of their MFA coursework.

2020 MFA Courses and Trajectory

All SST Documentary Courses Available as of Fall 2020

- [S St 533: Fieldwork & Oral History](#)
- [S St 534: Documentary Photography](#)
- [S St 535: Anthropological Films](#)
- [S St 537: Documenting the South in Film](#)
- [S St 538: Advanced Documentary Film/South](#)
- [S St 544: Advanced Documentary Photography](#)
- [S St 560: Oral History of Southern Social Movement](#)
- [S St 601: Southern Studies Graduate Seminar I](#)
- [S St 610: MFA Seminar](#)
- [S St 633: MFA Fieldwork](#)
- [S St 699: MFA Workshop](#)

Track for 3 year MFA (Need 15 new hours beyond MA plus 9 thesis)

Semester 1 Fall	Semester 2 Spring	Semester 3 Fall	Semester 4 Spring	Summer	Semester 5 Fall	Semester 6 Spring
S St 601 (3) S St 533 (3) Elective (3)	S St 602 (3) S St 537/34 (3) Elective (3)	Elective (6) Thesis (3)	Thesis (6) *S ST 699 (1) *S St 633 (3) <i>*(need these to count toward MFA)</i>	Thesis (3-6)	S St 538/44 (3) S St 610 (3) Elective (3) S St 699 (1)	Thesis (9) S St 699 (1)

Track for 2 year MFA (Need 21 hours plus 9 thesis)

MA already completed outside of Southern Studies	Semester 1 Fall	Semester 2 Spring	Summer	Semester 3 Fall	Semester 4 Spring
	S St 601 (3) S St 610 (3) S St 533 (3) S St 699 (1)	S St 537/34 (3) S St 633 (3) Elective (3) S St 699 (1)	Thesis (3-6)	S St 538/44 (3) Elective (0-3) Thesis (3-6) S St 699 (1)	Thesis (3-9) S St 699 (1)

Fall Classes	Spring Classes
S St 533: Fieldwork & Oral History S St 538: Advanced Documentary Film/South S St 544: Advanced Documentary Photography S St 560: Oral History of Southern Social Movement S St 601: Southern Studies Graduate Seminar I S St 610: MFA Seminar S St 699: MFA Workshop	S St 534: Documentary Photography S St 535: Anthropological Films S St 537: Documenting the South in Film S St 633: MFA Fieldwork S St 699: MFA Workshop

Travel – Grad Students

When you travel for the University of Mississippi as a student, there are some things you need to know so the paperwork will go smoothly and reimbursements will be received promptly.

BEFORE YOUR TRIP:

If the Center for the Study of Southern Culture is helping pay for your trip, we generally max out at \$500 per trip. You will need the **approval of Dr. Katie McKee before any arrangements are made** and Dr. McKee will notify Bert Neal of the approval. If you are also getting assistance from other departments on campus, you will need to follow their procedure and approval process as well as ours. It is necessary to only file **one claim form per trip even if multiple departments are helping pay the costs.**

The Graduate School also has funding available, but only for presenting at a conference or receiving an award for original work. They provide up to \$300 annually, IF your home department is willing to match that amount. We are. In order to access this funding opportunity, you must complete a “Graduate Student Travel Request Form” (found on the Graduate School homepage under “Resources” and then “Forms and Manuals Library”) and submit it to the Secretary of the Graduate School at least 10 days before you travel.

Travel Authorization:

A travel authorization ***is required IF*** a conference registration fee was paid, an 80% estimated advance is requested, non-refundable conference registration or airfare** is to be reimbursed prior to the trip, or the trip involves international travel. Otherwise, all paperwork can be done after travel is completed.

Keep in mind: if a travel authorization form was submitted, a travel reimbursement claim **MUST** be submitted after the trip is completed, whether or not there were any additional travel expenses.

If you want an 80% travel advance, you must submit all paperwork at least **TWO WEEKS** prior to departure. Procurement strongly suggests that direct deposit be set up with them (which is different than direct deposit for payroll) in order to receive your funds in a timely manner. Otherwise, all checks will go to the address on file in the UM system (even if it is an out-of-state address).

You can find the travel authorization form here: <https://procurement.olemiss.edu/travel-authorization-form/>

Please complete the form, print it, and bring it to Bert’s office (room 112) so it can be reviewed together.

DURING YOUR TRIP:

The #1 thing to remember when traveling is KEEP YOUR ORIGINAL RECEIPTS. Scans, photos, screenshots, faxes, etc. of receipts **will NOT** be accepted (unless it’s an emailed receipt from an airline, etc.)

Food/Meals (per diem):

Contrary to what you may have heard, you WILL need to **keep all ITEMIZED AND CREDIT/DEBIT CARD food receipts you wish to claim**. Procurement does not need these receipts but does want actual receipted amounts on the claim form and the Center has to have documentation to prove the amounts entered on the claim (in case of an audit). If meals were provided or you don't wish to claim per diem, no receipts are needed. A tip of not more than 20% can be added to the bill and will generally be reimbursed. There is a general maximum allowable per diem rate of \$41/day, but that amount can change depending on location and time of year.

Note: NO ALCOHOL can appear on any receipt if you want reimbursed.

Lodging:

You will need an itemized receipt for any lodging you plan to claim. At the end of your stay, ask for an itemized, paid-in-full receipt at the front desk. The University does allow you to stay at an Airbnb, but a proper receipt will need to be obtained (Airbnb is actually really good about providing the receipt we need).

Tips totaling \$10.00 or less can be reimbursed without a receipt, but for hotel gratuities only.

Car Rental:

If you rent a car, you must turn in the final paid receipt from the rental company; a pre-trip confirmation will not be accepted. Original fuel receipts should also be kept (mileage cannot be reimbursed if you rent a vehicle).

Mileage:

If you drive your own vehicle, you may claim mileage and be reimbursed \$0.58/mile. You will need to turn in the start and end addresses and indicate if it is a roundtrip. For a trip with several locations, give the start address, each subsequent address, and the ending address. CSSC will calculate the allowable miles and reimbursement.

Public Transportation/Taxi/Lyft/Uber:

If you use a city bus, subway, taxi, Lyft, Uber, or shuttle service, an original receipt is required for reimbursement. In the case of a subway, bus, or taxi, a receipt is generally given at the time of the ride. For Uber or Lyft, you will need to forward the emailed receipt (with pictures exposed) to the Center.

Parking:

If you need to park a personal vehicle at an airport or hotel, that amount is reimbursable if an original receipt is turned in.

If you need an envelope for your receipts during your trip, please stop by the Center and pick one up.

AFTER YOUR TRIP:**Travel Reimbursement:**

Travel Reimbursement Vouchers (claims) are processed after the trip to indicate any expenses to be reimbursed and to close out any advances or pre-trip reimbursements. Original receipts are

required for reimbursement and should be turned in at one time. The Center's finance person will review the trip details and receipts with you, create the claim form, and let you know when it's ready to be signed.

IMPORTANT: If you received a pre-trip reimbursement for a conference registration or non-refundable flight, you will need to claim that expense on the travel reimbursement form just as if it was being claimed for the first time. The UM travel system knows what it has paid and will adjust remaining reimbursements accordingly.

If you have not set up direct deposit with Procurement (which is different than direct deposit with payroll), you can do that easily; the Center's admin assistant will be glad to help. Otherwise, Procurement will mail you a check at the address on file in the UM system (even if it is out of state).

If, at any time, you need help with your travel questions, please don't hesitate to contact Bert Neal (bpneal@olemiss.edu or 3364) in Barnard Observatory (room 112). We're here to help!

Travel in a Nutshell

BEFORE YOUR TRIP:

- Get trip approval by Dr. Katie McKee.
- Make sure you have paperwork from other departments if funding is shared.
- Do a travel authorization if required. Paperwork must be submitted TWO WEEKS prior to departure in order to receive an 80% advance. <https://procurement.olemiss.edu/travel-authorization-form/>
- Check with other departments for their requirements as well.

DURING YOUR TRIP: KEEP YOUR ORIGINAL RECEIPTS

Airfare:

- If not already claimed, forward email from airline to bpneal@olemiss.edu (with pictures exposed).

Conference Registration Fee:

- Turn in original paid receipt along with a travel authorization form prior to the trip.

Food:

- Turn in ITEMIZED AND CREDIT/DEBIT CARD receipts for food you want to claim.
- No more than 20% tip.
- No alcohol.

Lodging:

- Get an itemized receipt from hotel or Airbnb.
- Tips totaling \$10.00 or less can be reimbursed without a receipt for hotel gratuities only.

Car Rental:

- Turn in final paid receipt.
- Keep original fuel receipts.

Mileage:

- Turn in start/end address; CSSC will figure allowable mileage. 2019 rate is \$0.58/mile.

Public Transportation/Taxi/Lyft/Uber:

- Keep original receipts or forward emailed receipts (with pictures exposed).

Parking:

- Keep original receipt.

If you need an envelope for your receipts during your trip, please stop by the Center and pick one up.

AFTER YOUR TRIP:**Travel Reimbursement Vouchers (Claims):**

- The Center's admin will review the trip details and receipts with you, create the claim form, and let you know when it's ready to be signed.

Bert Neal

bpneal@olemiss.edu

662-915-3364

Barnard Observatory (room 112)

**** COVID-related information and resources ****

We hope that this will be the only edition of the handbook that has to contain this section. ☹☹

The University of Mississippi has developed a resource for students that compiles information related to COVID-19. You can find it at <https://olemiss.edu/keeplearning/> and at <https://coronavirus.olemiss.edu/>

The University must have accurate contact information, including cell phone numbers, to facilitate student communications and contact tracing. Students should check and update their university contact information by going to <https://olemiss.edu/mystudentprofile>.

These are stressful times. If your schoolwork is suffering because you are overstressed, anxious, or depressed, we encourage you to contact the Counseling Center at 662-915-3784. You can learn more about their services here: <https://counseling.olemiss.edu/>

If you become ill, or suspect that you may have contracted Covid-19, please let us know as soon as possible. You are also required to notify Student Health Services by calling 662-915-7274.

If you have any questions or concerns about how COVID-19 and disruptions it has caused might impact your graduate work, please don't hesitate to ask or raise them. We are here to support you!