

**BE-TWITCHING  
SCHOLARSHIP:  
POWER, ACTION, AND  
LIVE STREAMING**

**April  
27 + 28,  
2023**



**A FREE ONLINE CONFERENCE HOSTED BY  
SERIOUS PLAY AND THE CENTER FOR  
21ST CENTURY STUDIES**

# CONFERENCE INFO

Our 2023 conference Be-Twitching Scholarship: Power, Action, and Live Streaming will take place on Discord and Twitch.

Presenters will share their work through video and voice chat within the conference Discord. Serious Play will then livestream these presentations to our Twitch channel: [twitch.tv/serious\\_play](https://twitch.tv/serious_play).

Audience members can join the conference Discord by registering for the conference via Eventbrite. Attendees can also watch the presentations live on Twitch. Recordings of these presentations will remain live for two weeks on the Serious Play Twitch channel.



**Register Here!**

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS



**Dr. Samantha Blackmon**  
**Blackness Visible: Content**  
**Creation as Black Feminist Praxis**

**1pm - 2:30pm CDT**  
**Friday, April 28th**

Samantha Blackmon will present on teaching, livestreaming/content creation, and archival practices. She is an Assistant Professor of English at Purdue University. She runs her Twitch channel at [twitch.tv/saffista](https://twitch.tv/saffista) and is the co-founder and host of the Not Your Mama's Gamer blog and podcast.

# THURSDAY, APR 27

Please note: All times are in Central Daylight Time (UTC-5)

**10am-10:10am**      **Opening Remarks**  
**David Kocik**  
Managing Director of Serious Play

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**10:15am-11:30am**      **Affect, Spectatorship, and Play**  
**Riccardo Retez** - "Words at play:" The vernacular video game language as medium of fan-storytelling on Twitch  
  
**Jordon J. Jacobson** - Free From Fear: Affective mood in horror game live stream communities  
  
**Shelbey Walker** - Casual turned Competitive: Why we should study Farming Simulator and the Farming Simulator eSports League

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**11:45am-1:15pm**      **Labors of Livestreaming**  
**Tiernan J. Cahill** - Thanks, Chat: Exploring Expressions of Social Support Among Live-Streaming Viewers  
  
**alessandro franzò & Federico La Bruna** - Beyond the mirror: Broadcasters' perspectives on their professional figure on Twitch  
  
**Neils Clark** - Chat as Lens: Engagement in the Distributed Ecosystem of Play  
  
**Doua Abdulla Al-Jefairi** - "Parasocial Relationships and the Female Twitch Streamer Experience"

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**1:15pm-2pm**      **Lunch Break**

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**2pm-2:50pm**      **Gaming Hour on Discord**

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**3pm-3:50pm**      **Interactive Presentation**  
**Alistair Aitcheson**  
Crowd-Controlled Creativity

**4pm-  
5pm**

## **Humor and Performance**

**Mark R Johnson** - Humour and Power on Twitch  
(Pre-Recorded Talk)

**Nathan J Jackson** - Streaming Persona as a Toolkit for the Analysis  
of Live Streaming as Performance

**Basil Dababneh** - Hyperpop Livestreams and the Irritating  
Possibilities of Silliness

# **FRIDAY, APR 28**

Please note: All times are in Central Daylight Time (UTC-5)

**10am-  
10:10am**

## **Opening Remarks**

**David Kocik**  
Managing Director of Serious Play

**10:15am-  
11:15am**

## **Livestreaming Methodologies**

**Tom Kissock** - Indigenous Livestreaming in Brazil: A  
methodological case for reflective distant witnessing

**Claire Stricklin** - Party Mascot: Playtesting an Experimental Prop for  
Streaming Actual Plays

**Luis Rodriguez Aguayo** - Queerness and Gender Fluidity in Avatar  
Design

**11:30am-  
12:45am**

## **Communities and Care**

**Jack McLaren**- "My Existence is Political:" An Exploration of LGBTQ  
Streamers and Their Communities

**Alex Custudio** - An Island of One's Own: Belonging and Burnout in  
Animal Crossing Twitch Streaming

**Gerald Voorhees and Sarah Klein** - Care and Accountability in  
TTRPG Streaming Groups

**1pm-  
2:30pm**

## **Keynote Address**

**Dr. Samantha Blackmon**  
Blackness Visible: Content Creation as Black  
Feminist Praxis

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Although our conference will be hosted online, we still reside on and are using material resources that come from unceded lands and territories.

We acknowledge the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee resides on traditional Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk and Menominee homelands along the southwest shores of Michigami, North America's largest system of freshwater lakes, where the Milwaukee, Menominee and Kinnickinnic rivers meet and the people of Wisconsin's sovereign Anishinaabe, Ho-Chunk, Menominee, Oneida and Mohican nations remain present.

Land acknowledgments serve as a starting point for education and advocacy. Learn more about this land acknowledgement through **UWM's Electa Quinney Institute** and visit the **Indigenous Game Developers** website for more information about Indigenous scholars, activists, and game makers.

We also appreciate the generosity of the **University of Wisconsin Milwaukee English Department, Anthropology Department, and Center for 21st Century Studies** for their continued support of our work.

## CONTACT US

The logo for Serious Play, featuring the words "SERIOUS" and "PLAY" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "A" in "PLAY" is replaced by a black triangle. The logo is set against a solid yellow square background.

SERIOUS  
PLAY

**Questions about the conference or our organization? Reach out to us...**

**Email: [seriousplayuwm@gmail.com](mailto:seriousplayuwm@gmail.com)**

**Twitter: [@seriousplayuwm](https://twitter.com/seriousplayuwm)**

**Twitch: [twitch.tv/serious\\_play](https://www.twitch.tv/serious_play)**