



**Mentoring for the Future**  
*of Global Literary, Linguistic, and Cultural Studies*

**Workshop Program**  
Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025<sup>1</sup>

Zoom Link (All Sessions):

<https://psu.zoom.us/j/99822711291?pwd=l0m6a2gmdRsZjioDEo5jLaR4D2P1XQ.1>

**Day 1: Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**

8:45-9:00 a.m.	<b>Open Zoom Room</b>
9:00-9:45 a.m.	<b>Welcome &amp; Icebreaker Activity (45 min)</b>
9:45-9:50 a.m.	<b>Transition Time</b>
9:50-11:05 a.m.	<b>Session 1: Is Grad School for Me? (1 hr 15 min)</b> Why pursue a graduate program? What kind of careers might an MA or PhD degree prepare me for? What makes grad school worth the investment of time and energy?
11:05-11:15 a.m.	<b>Transition Time</b>
11:15 -12:45 p.m.	<b>Session 2: Field and Disciplines (1 hr 30 min)</b> What questions do linguists ask? What questions do scholars in literary and cultural studies ask? How do I develop a research project? How do I find a suitable advisor?
12:45-1:30 p.m.	<b>Lunch Break</b>
1:30-2:30 p.m.	<b>Session 3: Field? Department? Area? Money! An Overview of University Structures (60 min)</b> What should I know about the administrative structure of a university? What is a Department Head responsible for? What is a Director of Graduate Studies responsible for?
2:30-2:35 p.m.	<b>Transition Time</b>
2:35-4:00 p.m.	<b>Session 4: Global Programs (1 hr 25 min)</b> What is the international graduate student experience like in the US? What are some of the campus resources and support services? What are the basic steps for getting a student visa to the US?

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that the listed sessions are scheduled according to **Eastern Daylight Time (New York)**. You can use the following website to convert EDT to your local Time Zone: <https://time.is/compare>.



**Day 2: Friday, May 16th**

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| 8:45-9:00 a.m.   | <b>Open Room</b>  |
| 9:00-9:30 a.m.   | <b>Session 5: Social Half Hour (30 min)</b><br>The Social Hour will to allow you to socialize with other mentees in a more relaxed setting. We'll have games and icebreakers; come join us!   |
| 9:30- 9:40 a.m.  | <b>Transition Time</b>  |
| 9:40-10:50 a.m.  | <b>Session 6: Reflections, Fears and Motivations (1 hr 10 mins)</b><br>This section focuses on any fears associated with graduate school application process. How can I overcome my fears? What makes me stand out? What experiences brought me to this crossroad? Am I really motivated to get through a graduate program? |
| 10:50-11:00 a.m. | <b>Transition Time</b>  |
| 11:00-12:10 p.m. | <b>Session 7: Overview of the Application Process (1 hr 10 mins)</b><br>What are the components of a grad school application? What is the timeline for applying? Where do I find the information that I need to apply to each program? How can I stay organized with my applications?                                       |
| 12:10-12:55 p.m. | <b>Lunch Break (45 mins)</b>  |
| 12:55-2:15 pm.   | <b>Session 8: Overview of Statement of Purpose (1 hr 20 mins)</b><br>What is a Statement of Purpose? What makes a strong Statement of Purpose? How can I use this document to leverage prior experience to demonstrate that I can thrive in a graduate program?   |
| 2:15-2:25 p.m.   | <b>Transition Time</b>  |
| 2:25-2:55 p.m.   | <b>Wrap-Up Session (30 mins)</b><br>What is a Statement of Purpose? What makes a strong Statement of Purpose? How can I use this document to leverage prior experience to demonstrate that I can thrive in a graduate program?  |
| 2:55-3:05 p.m.   | <b>Transition Time</b>  |
| 3:05- 4:00 pm    | <b>Session 9: Mentoring Meet and Greet (55 mins)</b><br>Spend time in breakout rooms with your faculty and graduate student mentors and discuss what you aim to get out of a meaningful mentoring relationship, along with the logistics of future mentoring meetings.  |