



**THE TWELFTH ANNUAL OPEN BOOKS – OPEN MINDS  
STUDENT CONFERENCE**  
April 19, 2023

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**PASSINGS AND PERFORMANCES**  
**Inspired by Brit Bennett's *The Vanishing Half***

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Check-in: 9:15 – 9:45  
Welcome: 9:45 – 9:55

**SESSION 1: 10:00 – 10:50**     *Theme: Performing Identity*

Presenters:

Victoria Williams, “The Many Different Performances in *The Vanishing Half* and Why They’re Important”  
Maariah Alabiad, “Internal Conflicts: Performed identity, Race, Passing, and Independence in *The Vanishing Half*”  
Hayley Goncalo, “*The Vanishing Half* Performers: Be Yourself”  
Enobong Umoren, [The Social Politics of Black Hair]

Facilitator: Dr. Janice Okoomian

**BREAK: 10:50 – 11:00**

**SESSION 2: 11:00 – 11:50**      *Theme: Effects of classism/racism/sexism/cissexism*

Presenters:

Horacy Cabral, “Nature v.s. Nurture: The Effects of Class and Race on Identity in *The Vanishing Half*”

Leo Castaneda-Pineda, [need title]

Alexis Roccanti, “Why are you, you?: The Influence of Outside Forces in Brit Bennett’s *The Vanishing Half*”

Karitza Dasilva, “*The Vanishing Half*: Protests, Lies, and Nightmares” (artwork)

Facilitator: Dr. Brandon Hawk

**LUNCH: 12 – 12:45**

**SESSION 3: 12:45 – 1:45**      *Plenary – Scene Performances*

Performers:

Facilitator: Dr. Casey Seymour Kim

**BREAK: 1:45-2:00**

**SESSION 4: 2:00-3:15**      *Theme: Selfhood/Identity*

Presenters:

Craig Cordis, “I Dreamed a Dream of the World” (poem)

Daniela Nunez Aquino, “Two Halves Make a Whole: Representation of Separation In *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett” (artwork)

Max Watson [need title]

Matheus [on self-hatred and self-love?]

Rebecca Tomao and Autumn Blakely, “*The Vanishing Half*: Jude’s Story” (video)

Facilitator: Dr. Anita Duneer

**CONCLUSION: 3:15-3:30**