

# The Department of Critical Culture Gender & Race Studies



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WSU Common Readings Program

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## “Who Tells Whose Story, and Who Decides Whether It’s True?”

Why does it matter that a privileged white woman wrote “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks”? In an ideal world, it would not. But for most of American history the stories of women, people of color, and the poor have been told by privileged whites. This panel examines the dangers of those unequal narrative relationships, dangers that persist even today, in a media whose owners are almost all white, in a politics whose old white men dictate the fates of masses of incarcerated young black and brown men, in universities where students of color are recruited but not retained, and in a culture whose clever white storytellers bend truths and realities at the expense of historically marginalized peoples.

### Panelists:

T.V. Reed, moderator: Lewis E. and Stella G. Buchanan Distinguished Professor of English and American Studies.

T.V. Reed’s numerous publications on social movements and cultural theory include “The Art of Protest” and the forthcoming “Digitized Lives: Culture, Power, and Social Change in the Internet Era”. He has created popular Web sites on cultural theory and American Studies, such as <culturalpolitics.net>. He has also written extensively on the sometimes thin line separating fiction and non-fiction, including essays on the form known as the “non-fiction novel.”

Natali Magaña, undergraduate, major in Spanish.

Natali Magaña is a first generation immigrant and college student. She is studying Spanish with hopes of going into immigration law. Her research ambitions include service to undocumented youth and their right to a public education.

John Streamas, associate professor of Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies.

John Streamas is the first in his family to complete high school. Half of his childhood was spent on welfare, in a household headed by his immigrant Japanese mother, the other half on a small farm with his white grandparents. He writes and teaches literature, cultural theory, and social justice, and is currently researching the politics of time and space.

David Warner, new PhD in American Studies, instructor in Critical Culture, Gender, and Race Studies.

In late August David Warner successfully defended his dissertation “Indigepedia: Digital Decolonization—Living Histories of Native American Peoples Indigenizing K-12 Curriculum in Washington State”. He teaches introductory courses in Comparative Ethnic Studies and Native American Studies as well as courses in indigenous film.

EXPLORING THE THEMES OF

THE IMMORTAL LIFE  
OF HENRIETTA LACKS

TUESDAY, OCT 16 • 7:00 PM • TODD 130 • WSU