



The University of Houston
**FRIENDS OF
WOMEN'S,
GENDER &
SEXUALITY
STUDIES**

invite you to

The 28th ANNUAL
TABLE TALK

Tuesday, March 25, 2025



[View More](#)

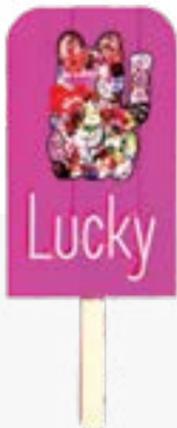
CONVERSE. SHARE. LEARN.

Table Talk is a fascinating combination of conversations, led by dynamic women of various cultures, professions and experience at each table.

Table Talk benefits the Women's, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program at the University of Houston. The WGSS Program combines theoretical and empirical studies, to give students the tools to analyze the gender dynamics of the past and present and to build a fair future.

Buy Tables/Tickets: giving.uh.edu/tabletalk





CO-CHAIRS

Sallie Alcorn & Lisa Helfman

Theme: Besties!

**HILTON AMERICAS, 1600 LAMAR,
HOUSTON 77010**

Ballroom of the Americas

11 am Reception | 12 pm–1:30 pm Conversations over Lunch

**Self-parking in the garage by the Hilton Americas entrance on Dallas,
and valet parking also available.**

Business Attire.

TRANSFORMER

H-E-B

TREND SETTER

Melanie Gray

ARCHIVISTS

MD Anderson Hospital

CenterPoint Energy

Caroline Fant, Jane Jones & Sue Payne

MaryScott Hagle & Geordie

Hrdlicka/Verde Wealth

Houston Chronicle

Chinhui Juhn

Amanda McMillian

Memorial Hermann

Beverly Robinson

Carey C. Shuart





SCHOLARS

Sallie Alcorn

Simin Banister

Danielle Bartz & Julia Ossemi-Seied

Annie Benifield & Annette Bracey

Amber Burton Alfred

Patricia Cabrera

Camillo Companies

Ruth Dreessen

Cristina Garcia Gamboa, Amber

Rangel & Angela Shippy, MD

Houston Public Media

Brigitte Kalai

Mandy Kao

GinRu Lee & MaryRoss Taylor

Sherry Merfish

Kathryn Peek, PhD & Samina Farid

Rebecca Rush

Yava Scott & Pat Gardner Young

UH Library

Wiley



BOARD MEMBERS

Danielle Bartz, *President*

Annie Benifield, Ph.D.

Vice President

Cristina Garcia Gamboa

Treasurer

Amber Burton Alfred, J.D.

Michelle Avalos

Cara Baez

Marjorie Duplantier Gonzalez

Cathryn Martinez

Elisabeth Netherton, M.D.

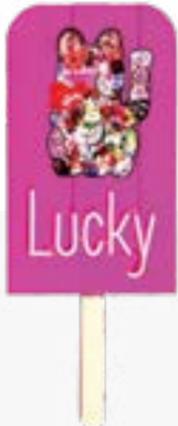
Amber Rangel

Guillermo de los Reyes, Ph.D.

Julia Ossemi-Seied

Carey C. Shuart

Leandra Zarnow, Ph.D.

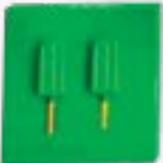


ADVISORY COUNCIL

Carmen Peña Abrego
Dina Alsowayel, Ph.D.
Annette Bracey
Lemar Brown
Patricia Cabrera
Decie Autin Coleman
Ruth Dreessen
Caroline Fant
MaryScott Hagle
Eliza Horn

Geordie Hrdlicka
Mandy Kao
Nina Andrews
Shannon Langrand
GinRu Lee
Susana Monteverde
Swati Narayan
Tanya B. Pal
Sue Payne, *Chair*
Kathryn Peek, Ph.D.

Beverly Robinson
Rebecca Rush
Yava Scott
Joy Sewing
Shreela Sharma, Ph.D.
Angela Shippy, M.D.
Carey C. Shuart
MaryRoss Taylor
Patricia Gardner Young



HOST COMMITTEE

Rhonda Arnold, Michelle Avalos, Kafah Bachari, Annette Bracey, Shannon Buggs, Libby Cheney, Cheryl Creuzot, June Deadrick, Ruth Dreessen, Melissa Edwards, Caroline Fant, Samina Farid, Jessica Farrar, Andrea Georgsson, Eleanor Gilbane, Shelley Gottschalk, Melanie Gray, MaryScott Hagle, Chinhui Juhn, Mandy Kao, Sippi Khurana, MD, Brenda Mainwaring, Sultana Mangalji, Fatima Mawji, Amanda McMillian, Sherry Merfish, Terry Morales, Leisa Holland Nelson, Sharon Michael Owens, Sue Payne, Leila Perrin, Priscilla Picasso, Beverly Robinson, Sally Russ, Yava Scott, Angela Shippy, MD, Carey C. Shuart, Sannam Warrender



CONVERSATIONALISTS

Nada Ahmed Founding Partner

Dr. Deborah Banerjee Bureau Chief

Aris Kian Brown Poet Laureate

Celeste Bedford Walker

Avery Belyeu CEO & President

Elizabeth Bille Co-Owner

Frances Castañeda President

Dyess

Victoria Chen Co-Founder &
Executive Director

Maya Durnovo Associate Vice
Chancellor

Dr. Esperanza (Hope) Galvan Director, Diabetes Service Line
and Patient Education

Jennifer Hadaiya Executive Director

Denise Hamilton CEO & Founder

Terri-Ann Hamm Owner

Energy Tech Nexus

City of Houston Health Department

City of Houston

Playwright

Montrose Center

Belly of the Beast

Houston East End Chamber

BridgeYear

Houston Community College

Harris Health System

Air Alliance Houston

Watch Her Work

Kindred Stories



CONVERSATIONALISTS (CONT'D)

Paula Harris	Executive Director & Senior Vice President of Community Affairs	Houston Astros Foundation
Lharissa Jacobs	Founder & Executive Director	Fit Houston
Laura Jaramillo	Executive Director	LISC Houston
Santrice Jones	Director, Early Childhood Initiatives	Harris County
Brigitte Kalai	Philanthropist	
Jennifer Kapral	Senior Director of Education & Outreach	Asia Society Texas
Susi Knight	Founder & Chairperson	50/50 Women on Boards Houston
Devika Kornbacher	Managing Partner, Houston	Clifford Chance
Cara Lambright	President & CEO	Hermann Park Conservancy
Dr. Neema Langa	Asst Professor, AAS & Sociology	University of Houston
Anastasia Lindo Anderson	Conservator	HISD
Sarah Luna	Table Talk 2025 Artist	
Rosalinda Martinez	Director of Community Strategy	AARP Texas



CONVERSATIONALISTS (CONT'D)

Marly Maskill	Executive Director	Houston Community Tool Bank
Ivette Mayo	CEO	Connecting the Dots
Ayse McCracken	Founder & Board Chair	Ignite Healthcare Network
Katie Mehnert	CEO	Ally Energy
Jasminne Mendez	Actress/Author	<i>Aniana del Mar Jumps In</i>
Mia Mends	CEO	C&W Services
Nancy Meyer	Publisher	Houston Chronicle
Asma Mirza	CEO	Steradian Technologies
Quianta Moore, MD, JD	Executive Director	Hackett Center for Mental Health
Swati Narayan	Director, AAPI Community Safety	DAYA
Carla Ortique, MD	OB/Gyn	Texas Children's Hospital
Dr. Zelma Oyarvide Tuthill	Asst Professor WGSS & Sociology	University of Houston
Hon. Annise Parker	Former Mayor	Houston
Tejal Patel	Associate Professor, Department of General Oncology	MD Anderson Hospital
Q. Olivia Rivers	CEO	The Bridge over Troubled Waters



CONVERSATIONALISTS (CONT'D)

Shavonnah Schreiber Founder & CEO

SNR Creative & Culture Club HTX

Sarah Smith Co-Founder & CEO

Speakerbox Media

Christa Stoneham CEO & President

Houston Land Bank

Kim Topps Sr. Engineer, Event Designer,
Coach, Author

Radial Solutions

Jennifer Touchet VP, Personal & Family
Philanthropy

Greater Houston Community Foundation

Carlisle Vandervoort Producer

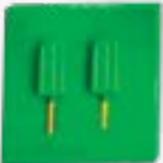
**Film, "Raise Hell: The Life and
Times of Molly Ivins"**

**Christi Vasquez
Martin** Manager, Digital Marketing

Space Center Houston

Jacinta Williams Sr. Project Manager

ExxonMobil



PROGRAM STAFF

Dr. Elizabeth Gregory—Director

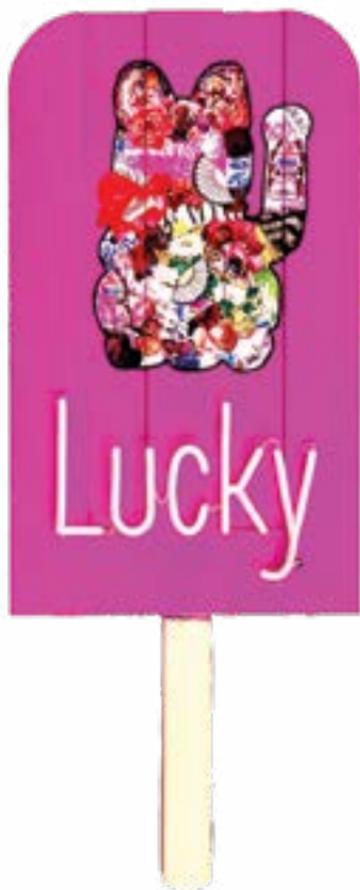
Dr. Guillermo De Los Reyes—Associate Director LGBT Studies

Dr. Rachel Afi Quinn—Associate Professor

Dr. Zelma Oyarvide Tuthill—Assistant Professor

Anneliese Bustillo—Program Director

Leanne Prendergast, M.Sc., Graduate Assistant



SPECIAL THANKS TO



Dina Alsowayel

Laura Hill

Mandy Kao

Sarah Luna



Friends of Women's,
Gender & Sexuality Studies

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

WOMEN'S, GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES

University of Houston

P 713.743.3214

Agnes Arnold Hall

F 713.743.0931

3553 Cullen Boulevard, Room 624

Houston, TX 77204-3005

www.uh.edu/class/ws/giving.uh.edu/tabletalk

FEATURED ARTIST: SARAH LUNA



Topo Floral 5, 2024
(acrylic, resin, paper on canvas)



Spicy Pop, 2024
(collaged paper, gold foil, spray paint, acrylic on wood)



Bright Purple, 2024
(clay, resin, foil)



Tiger in the Flower Garden, 2024
(acrylic, paper on wood canvas, acrylic shadowbox)



Lucky Cat, 2024
(acrylic, aerosol, paper, resin on wood)



Navy and Black Double Pop Collage, 2024
(paper, acrylic on wood)



No Looking Back, 2023
(acrylic, resin on wood)