

The Global Humanities Institute, the Communication Studies Program,  
and the NEH-sponsored *Many Voices, One College* Fellowship  
present a guest lecture open to the public:

**“Black and Nerdy: Fandom, Online Community, and Race”**  
by Dr. Maria I. Velazquez



Dr. Velazquez’s publications include “Reblog If You Feel Me: Love, Blackness, and Digital Wellness” in *Yoga, the Body, and Embodied Social Change*, “The Occasional Ethnicities of Lavender Brown: Race as a Boundary Object in Harry Potter” in *Critical Insights: Contemporary Speculative Fiction*, and “‘Come Fly With Us!’: Playing with Girlhood in the World of Pixie Hollow” in *Cases on Digital Game-Based Learning*. Her dissertation, “*Reclaiming Black Beledi*,” focuses on belly dance and its use as embodied political rhetoric post-9/11, and is under review at the University of Illinois Press as part of the National Women's Studies Association First Book Prize competition. She received her doctorate in American Studies from the University of Maryland, College-Park, and her M.A. degree in Gender/Cultural Studies from Simmons College. Dr. Velazquez recently served as a Postdoctoral Researcher with the Transnational Black Citizenship Discovery Project at The Ohio State University, and she served as a Postdoctoral Fellow in Africana Studies at Bucknell University. She teaches Social Studies at a public school where she shares her passion for all things black, nerdy, and historical with teenagers.

**Monday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2019**

**1:30pm-3:30pm**

**Science Center 152, Rockville Campus**

***Certificates of attendance will be available at the event***

Please contact Dr. Andrée Betancourt for more information about this event, our grant project, or our final *Many Voices, One College* Faculty Fellowship Showcase 1:30pm-3:30pm on Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 in Science West (SW), room 301.

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