

**C  
E  
N  
T  
E  
R**  
FOR  
**THEORY**

**Fall 2023, Colloquium**

**November 6, 2023 Noon**

**UH 432**

*(Re)Fashioning Identities: Fashion, Dress, and the Modes of Feminist Critique in Women's Writing*



**Dr. Lauren Sperandio Phelps**

English Lecturer

University of Texas at Arlington

Dr. Lauren Sperandio Phelps examines how women writers during the modernist period used fashion as a mode of critiquing gender, race, and class oppression in their fiction. She will discuss how the extensive use of fashion imagery gave writers a tangible means of expressing their beliefs about women's place in turn-of-the-century American society. Both fashion and women's political positions were changing rapidly then, just as they are now. In our present moment of hyper consumerism, fast-fashion influencers, and social media politics, the fraught link between fashion and feminism is as relevant as ever. She argues that combining the two in fiction allowed women writers of the 1920s to critique issues of identity and agency for women in modern culture in ways still highly relevant to the 2020s.