

2024 Women's History Month

The Feel of the Road: Anxiety, Empathy, and Community in *Thelma & Louise* and "Woman Hollering Creek"

Monday, March 25 | 11 a.m. | LA103

Presented by Dr. Diana Luu

This talk explores the paradox that anxiety, which we experience as painful and disconcerting, can be a generative emotion for breaking out of rigid gender roles for women. Applying affect theory, I examine the relationship between anxiety and empathy in Ridley Scott's film, *Thelma & Louise* (1991), and Sandra Cisneros's short story, "Woman Hollering Creek" (1991), to show how sharing anxious feelings can encourage empathy with women's intersectional struggles and prompt feminist action.

