



The 15th Annual Harry Potter Academic Conference
Friday, October 23, 2026 at Chestnut Hill College

All times are in Eastern Time (UTC-4) and U.S. (12-hour) clock times.

Both rooms will livestream from 8:50 AM to 5 PM, excluding breaks and lunches.

8:15–8:50 AM

Conference Registration (Rotunda)

8:50–9:00 AM

Conference Welcome (East Parlor)

Conference Section 1 (Concurrent Sessions)

Session 1a (East Parlor)	Session 1b (Redmond Room)
9:00–9:20 AM, Eisenhardt , Dark Times Ahead: Color Grading in the <i>Harry Potter</i> Films (And Another Way the HBO Series is Already Messing Up)	9:00–9:20 AM, Wech & Dolowitz , Care, Knowledge, and Power: Rethinking Leadership in <i>Harry Potter</i>
9:30–9:50 AM, Ostrum , <i>Harry Potter</i> and Chiasmus/Chiasmus and <i>Harry Potter</i>	9:30–9:50 AM, McDaniel , The Triwizard Maze and the Forest of Dean: Getting Lost in <i>Harry Potter</i>
10:00–10:20 AM, Parks , Emptying the Trunk: Reviewing the Series in List Form	10:00–10:20 AM, Sheppard & Wright , The Wand Chooses the Wizard: Unpacking the Agency of Wands in the <i>Harry Potter</i> Book Series
10:30–10:50 AM, McLaughlin , “Nitwit! Blubber! Oddment! Tweak!”: On the Power of Words in <i>Harry Potter</i>	10:30–10:50 AM, Martin , Understanding Blood Status as a Reflection of the British System of Hereditary Aristocracy

11:20–11:50 AM

Webster & Weisberg, Why Fantasy Matters: The Psychological Appeal of Harry Potter - *Invited Speakers*

11:50 AM–12:50 PM

Lunch Break

12:50–1:50 PM

Plenary Lecture by **Jeff Bachman**, Understanding Genocide in the World of *Harry Potter* to Better Understand Genocide in Our World

1:50–2:10 PM

Break

Conference Session 2 (Concurrent Sessions)

Session 2a (East Parlor)	Session 2b (Redmond Room)
2:10–2:30 PM, Beckoff , To Dwell on Dreams: Unconscious and Waking Visions in <i>Harry Potter</i> and Arthurian Literature	2:10–2:30 PM, Hardman & Amuso , Experiential Learning and Agency at Hogwarts: Why Wizards Should Never Teach with AI
2:40–3:00 PM, Crofoot , Mastering the Hallows: Morality and Destiny for Harry Potter	2:40–3:00 PM, Amin , From Hogwarts to Ilvermorny: Faculty Development, Institutional Culture, and Teaching in the Wizarding World
3:10–3:30 PM, Strand , J.K. Rowling and P.D. James: Mysterious Connections	3:10–3:30 PM, Dauksys , Potter Proclivity: The Human Condition in the Wizarding World
3:40–4:00 PM, Keiter , Binky – Lavender Brown's Dead Rabbit or Death's Flying Horse? An Intertextual Reading of the <i>Harry Potter</i> Series and Terry Pratchett's <i>Mort</i>	3:40–4:00 PM, Stigter-Hayden , Navigating Hogwarts: The First-Gen Experience

4:10–4:25 PM

Break

4:30–5:00 PM

Cox, *Puffs*: Ten Years Later (A Look Back at the Journey of the Hit Off-Broadway Play) - *Invited Speaker*

5:30–7:00 PM

Pizza and Puffs



Saturday, October 24, 2026 at Chestnut Hill College



8:00–8:50 AM Conference Registration (Rotunda) & Breakfast Potluck (East Parlor)
 8:50–9:00 AM Conference Welcome (East Parlor)
 9:00–9:15 AM **Brent Satterly** (Recorded Presentation in East Parlor)

Conference Section 3

Session 3 (East Parlor): Special Section on Diversity, Inclusion & Current Events

9:20–9:40 AM, **Lewis**, S.P.E.W: A Case Study in the Positives, Pitfalls and Perils of Protest Acts
 9:50–10:10 AM, **King**, The Author Isn't Dead and She Has a Knife: How the Hermeneutics of Suspicion Can Free the *Harry Potter* Fandom
 10:20–10:40 AM, **Leshko**, Recasting the Dark Arts: Critical Race Theory, Fan Resistance, and the Racial Politics of Severus Snape

10:50–11:00 AM *Break*

Conference Section 4 (Concurrent Sessions)

Session 4a (East Parlor)

11:00–11:20 AM, **Candido-Beecher**, The Hanged Man, the Devil, and the Tower: A Tarot-Centric Exploration of Tom Marvolo Riddle
 (Grace Candido-Beecher will be available afterward to sign copies of her book)

Session 4b (Redmond Room)

(Potterversity set up)
 11:20 AM–12:05 PM, **Potterversity Live!** with Katy McDaniel, Emily Strand, Laurie Beckoff

12:05–1:00 PM *Lunch Break* featuring **David Martin** (Twelve Fail-Safe Ways to Charm Witches: Lessons from Ron's Success with Hermione)
 1:00–1:30 PM **Julian Wamble**, Wands, Identity, and State-Sanctioned Belonging in *Harry Potter* - *Invited Speaker*
 1:30–1:50 PM *Break*

Conference Section 5 (Concurrent Sessions)

Session 5a (East Parlor)

1:50–2:10 PM, **Aaron**, Remus (Lupin) The Dire Wolf: Fantasy, Reality, and Why We Prefer the Fantasy
 2:20–2:40 PM, **Kim**, Quilt Art as Textual Argument: *Expelliarmus* and the Billionaire Author
 2:50–3:00 PM, *Short Break*
 3:00–3:20 PM, **Taggart**, Severus Snape and the Postmodern Tragic Hero
 3:30–3:50 PM, **Nicolas**, "Too Big To Be Allowed": What Hagrid's Size Tells Us About J.K. Rowling and Disability

Session 5b (Redmond Room)

1:50–2:10 PM, **Kliapets**, Accuracy and Accessibility in Communicating Natural Sciences: Depiction of Astronomy in the *Harry Potter* Series
 2:20–2:40 PM, **Bright**, Written in the (Neutron) Stars: Alchemy and the Astrophysical Origins of Gold
 2:50–3:00 PM, *Short Break*
 3:00–3:20 PM, **Lore**, A Midlife Letter for The Girl Who Lived: An Autoethnographic Coming-of-Age at 40
 3:30–3:50 PM, **Daneshgar**, What Wood Really Makes the Best Wand?

4:05–4:35 PM **Freeman**, Sorting Way, Way, Way Too Soon? A Social and Statistical Look at the 9 ¾-Month Sorting Ceremony, a Social Media Trend Among Potterhead Parents (East Parlor)
 4:35–4:45 PM Conference Closing Remarks