Congratulations to Shayna Davidson, winner of the Western Association of Graduate School (WAGS) and ProQuest Distinguished Master's Thesis Award!

LCL is proud to announce to announce that Shayna Davidson, M.A. in French Studies with Distinction (May 2022), has been selected as the recipient of the Western Association of Graduate School (WAGS) and ProQuest Award for Distinguished Master's Thesis in Humanities, Social Sciences, Education, and Business Discipline, for her work, "Pushing at the Seams: French Zines and Bricolage as a Liberatory Act".

Shayna's research focused on *zines*; informal, independently published texts that combine visual graphics and verbal narratives, which are circulated within a small community of readers, and which position themselves as counter-cultural artefacts. Situating their aesthetic and political valence in the forms of writing and visual representation that emerged from and during the May '68 revolution in France, Shayna thesis examined the modes of anonymous authorship, subjectivities, and collective resistance enabled by *zines*. Relating the aesthetic materiality of the form (length, page/leaflet disposition, the arrangement of visual and verbal elements on a surface, graphic and narrative density) to its political valence and visibility, Shayna demonstrated how they "problematize the linking of individualization to capitalist State powers and position themselves as active members in resistance". Of particular note is her attention to the dialogue between recent zine production and new media formations, and the inscription of modes of futurity that contest the very ephemereality attributed to these textual productions.

In his letter to Shayna, Jesse Alemán, Interim Dean of Graduate Studies at UNM, wrote: "Yours is truly a distinguished thesis. It stood out as our highly ranked nominee for this competition, and obviously, it also stood out among the MA theses that competed for this award across the western states." Shayna's prize breaks a recent dry spell in winners of this particular award from UNM.

Shayna will attend the 65th Annual WAGS Conference in Portland, Oregon, where she will both present her work, and be recognised at their Awards Ceremony.