“Objects themselves may assist or resist subjects; some practically enlist subjects, it seems, to carry out their plans. It is almost as if objects have their objects.”
— John Allan Mitchell, *Becoming Human*, 18

To study materiality is, often, to study what is overlooked. For example, it is to study the messy production of paper, the sorting of specimens into boxes and files, or the slaughtering of sheep to make medieval codices. It is to shift attention from the content of the paper or the boxes or the codices and place new focus on their physical underpinnings. Who made them? What were they made from? What social consequences were generated by their manufacture? Who cared about them as objects? How were they interacted with? Taking this step back and centering the text allows for disruptive considerations of media and considerations of disruptive materialities. New Materialist readings foreground the agentic nature of traditionally powerless objects (Herrmann) and offer opportunities to move a variety of things and beings from the margins of experience (or even the margins of the text themselves) to the centre of scholarly attention.

This graduate student conference will examine the complex entanglements between human and non-human, subject and object or even object and object, from a variety of perspectives. It will bring together early career literary and cultural studies researchers from a multitude of theoretical backgrounds who are engaged with research concerning materialities. We welcome proposals from graduate students across UBC.

**Possible topics include:**
- Book history and marginalia
- Mineralogy and geology in cultural studies
- Material production
- Scientific instruments
- Cultural techniques of research: Collecting, archiving and curating
- Ephemerality and translation
- Sexuality and queerness
- Materials of Architecture / Infrastructure
- Virtual materialities / Digital materialities
- Human / Non-Human / Dehumanization / Post-Human / Object-oriented Ontologies
- Bodies as material / Body on paper / Biopolitics / Necropolitics
- Animal Studies
- Intertextuality and intermediality
- Ecocriticism and environmental subjects
- Labour and the book
- Decolonization and postcolonialism
- Organic and inorganic materialities

Please send an abstract (no more than 250 words) to patricia.milewski@ubc.ca no later than Dec. 15th, 2019.

We acknowledge that our event will take place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded Indigenous territories of the ʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and sélílwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) First Nations.