

Spring 2018 LBC Speaker Series:

Power Lines: Electricity in American Life and Letters, 1882-1952

Jennifer L. Lieberman

Friday, March 16

12:00pm

**Spartan Room in
Holmes Hall**

Meal tickets will be provided

**Open to LBC students, faculty &
staff, alumni and the public**



Jennifer L. Lieberman is Assistant Professor of English at the University of North Florida. An interdisciplinary scholar, she has held fellowships from the National Science Foundation, the Smithsonian Institution, the Bakken Library and Museum, and the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.

Electrification has touched nearly every aspect of American life. Between 1882 and 1952, it changed daily routines, inspired new art forms, revolutionized the fields of chemistry, biology, and physics—it even changed landscapes and ecosystems. The corporate and scientific dimensions of this history have been told; Dr. Jennifer Lieberman tells the narrative and cultural history. Discussing her book, *Power Lines: Electricity in American Life and Letters, 1882-1952* (MIT Press, 2017), Lieberman will chronicle how electricity became a metaphor for modern American life in the late nineteenth century. Drawing on Science, Technology, and Society, American Studies, and literary studies, this talk—like the book—demonstrates the importance of studying technology and the humanities together. It will touch on such questions as: **What does Jack London have to teach us about electrification—and how might his example help us understand the power outages in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria? How did writers and technologists reconcile fantasies about American individualism with a new emphasis on systems? How is this history usable—what can we learn from it today?**

For more information, visit: lbc.msu.edu/SpeakerSeries