

UNDER GROUND HISTORIES



33RD ANNUAL MELUS CONFERENCE
UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
HILTON NETHERLAND PLAZA
MARCH 21 - 24, 2019

MELUS 2019

MELUS Planning Committee

Chair: Jennifer Glaser

Assistant Chair: Rebecca Thacker

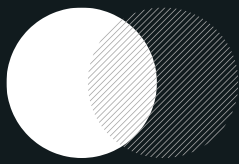
Program Designers and Volunteer Coordinators: Sally Luken and Brenna Sherrill

Website Development and Management: Kathleen Spada

Cover and Logo Design: Ian Golding

UC Conference Services: Florine Postell

Committee Members: Beth Ash, Gary Weissman, Mauricio Espinoza, Michelle Watts, Niven Herro, Furaha Norton, Cheli Reuter, Antoinette Larkin, Emily Rose Cole, Suzie Van der Vorste, Michael S. Hennessey, Caitlyn Doyle, Daniel Dale, Anita Mannur, Cathy Schlund-Vials



Welcome to MELUS 2019!

From the Conference Chair:

On behalf of the MELUS 2019 Planning Committee, I am delighted to welcome you to Cincinnati, Ohio and the historic Hilton Netherland Plaza hotel. We hope that you will enjoy your time in our city and the stimulating series of panels, readings, exhibits, and lectures we've planned for you over the coming days.

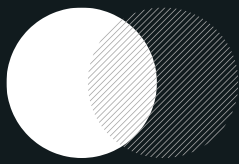
Putting together a conference on the topic of multiethnic literature of the United States during a time of fierce national debates about borders (between nations and people), immigration, racism, and white supremacy has felt like an urgent task. The theme of the 2019 MELUS conference—"Underground Histories"—begins from the premise that a subterranean history beats below every official narrative about race and ethnicity in the U.S. We hope that the diverse group of scholars from around the country and the globe who have chosen to participate in our conference might begin to revise, reexamine, and recuperate the stories that are often excluded from or obscured by our contentious national conversation.

MELUS 2019 has been a collaborative effort between countless individuals and institutions. I have been wowed by the support of the MELUS Society's Executive Committee. I also have been immensely gratified by the dedication of the many faculty and graduate students at the University of Cincinnati who have worked to make this conference a success, especially the incomparable Rebecca Thacker, who has worked beside me in planning day after day. I could not have asked for more support from my home institution or the many wonderful people who make it a hospitable place.

Cincinnati is a diverse and thriving Midwestern city with a deep connection to a variety of underground histories. The city has a storied past as a hub of the Underground Railroad, as well as a complicated, contradictory, and largely-untold ethnic and racial narrative of its own. We are pleased to bring this wonderful conference to our city. We hope you enjoy it as much as we do!

Thank you,

Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies
Department of English
University of Cincinnati

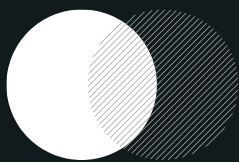


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The MELUS Planning Committee would like to say a heartfelt thank you to the following individuals and institutions: Keisha Love, Bleuzette Marshall, Gary Totten, Florine Postell, Kathy Hardin, David Stradling, Jenny Lin, Jen Lange, Alan Bothe, Leah Stewart, Sharrell Luckett, Joseph Beth Booksellers, Valerie Weinstein, Therese Migraine-George, Gila Safran-Naveh, the members of the MELUS Executive Committee (Joe Kraus, Kim Martin Long, Stella Setka, Kaylee Jangula Mootz, Sherry Johnson, Maya Socolovsky, Anastasia Lin, Cristina Stanciu), James Lee, Xuemao Wang, Cheryl Schmidt, Amy Hunter, Amy Lind, Sean Keating, Ari Finkelstein, Manuel Iris, Pauletta Hansel, Norman Finkelstein, Tyrone Williams, Yalie Kamara, Lisa Low, Aryanil Mukherjee, Matt Morgenstern, Josh Beckelhimer, Sakinah Hofler, Suzie Vander Vorste, Parisa Adlifar, Siqi Cheng, Caitlin Doyle, Rhiannon Scharnhorst, Emily Heiden.



Restaurants and Attractions

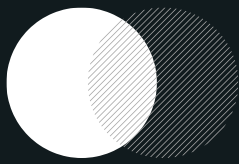
RESTAURANTS

Coffee Emporium (Breakfast/Lunch)
Sleepy Bee Café (Breakfast/Lunch)
Holtman's Donuts
Maplewood Kitchen (American)
Hathaway's Diner (American)
Sacred Beast Diner (American)
Frisch's Big Boy (American)
Skyline Chili (Cincinnati-style chili)
Arnold's Bar and Grill (American with vegan options)
The Eagle (Southern)
Metropole (American/Eclectic)
Bakersfield (Mexican)
Mita's (Spanish/Latin)
Nada (Mexican)
Sotto (Italian)
Via Vite (Italian)
Court Street Lobster Bar (Seafood)
French Crust Café (French)
Bauer European Farm Kitchen (German)
Taste of Belgium
Horse & Barrel Bourbon House (Cocktail lounge)
Queen City Radio (Pub food)
Senate (Pub food)
Taft's Ale House
Graeter's Ice Cream

Suggestions by Pama Mitchell, Dining Critic for CityBeat, and Niven Herro, Ph.D.

ATTRACTIONS

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (8-minute walk)
The Harriet Beecher Stowe House (7-minute drive)
Contemporary Arts Center (5-minute walk)
21c Museum Hotel (6-minute walk)
Taft Museum of Art (13-minute walk)
Washington Park (15-minute walk)
Cincinnati Music Hall (16-minute walk)
Roebling's Bridge (11-minute walk)
Cincinnati Art Museum (7-minute drive)
Cincinnati Reds Museum at Great American Ball Park (12-minute walk)



Speakers

VIET THANH NGUYEN

Friday 7:30-9:00
Pavilion Room

Viet Thanh Nguyen's novel *The Sympathizer* is a New York Times best seller and won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Other honors include the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, the Edgar Award for Best First Novel from the Mystery Writers of America, the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction from the American Library Association, the First Novel Prize from the Center for Fiction, a Gold Medal in First Fiction from the California Book Awards, and the Asian/Pacific American Literature Award from the Asian/Pacific American Librarian Association. His other books are *Nothing Ever Dies: Vietnam and the Memory of War* (a finalist for the National Book Award in nonfiction and the National Book Critics Circle Award in General Nonfiction) and *Race and Resistance: Literature and Politics in Asian America*. He is a University Professor, the Aerol Arnold Chair of English, and a Professor of English, American Studies and Ethnicity, and Comparative Literature at the University of Southern California. He has been interviewed by Tavis Smiley, Charlie Rose, Seth Meyers, and Terry Gross, among many others. His current book is the bestselling short story collection, *The Refugees*. Most recently he has been the recipient of fellowships from the Guggenheim and MacArthur Foundations, and *le Prix du meilleur livre étranger* (Best Foreign Book in France), for *The Sympathizer*. He is a contributing opinion writer for the New York Times and the editor of *The Displaced: Refugee Writers on Refugee Lives*.

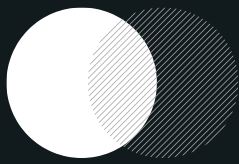
Retrieved from vietnguyen.info

SAIDIYA HARTMAN

Saturday 12:30-2:30
Hall of Mirrors

B. A., Wesleyan University (1984); Ph.D., Yale University (1992). Professor Hartman's major fields of interest are African American and American literature and cultural history, slavery, law and literature, and performance studies. She is on the editorial board of *Callaloo*. She has been a Fulbright, Rockefeller, Whitney Oates, and University of California President's Fellow. She has published essays on photography, film and feminism. She is the author of *Scenes of Subjection: Terror, Slavery, and Self-making in Nineteenth Century America* (Oxford University Press, 1997), *Lose Your Mother: A Journey Along the Atlantic Slave Route* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007), *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments: Intimate Histories of Social Upheaval* (Norton, 2019).

Retrieved from english.columbia.edu and compiled by Sally Luken



Thursday, March 21

12:30 - 1:50

SALON B

Voices of the Irish-American Diaspora in Poetry, Narrative, and Song

- Antoinette Larkin, University of Cincinnati, "Woman, Native, Other: Unprecedented Unions in Éilís Ní Dhuibhne's *The Pale Gold of Alaska and Other Stories* (2000)"
- Caitlyn Doyle, University of Cincinnati, "The Singer's House: The Irish Diaspora and the Irish Filé or Poet"
- Emily Rose Cole, University of Cincinnati, "Irish Music and Authenticity: From Sean Nos to Folklore"
- Maureen Curtin, SUNY Oswego, "When Undergrounds Don't Yield Resistance: De-railing Irish Solidarity in the U.S."

SALON C

The Song Must Go On: Influential Dialogues Between the Works of the Staple Singers, Joni Mitchell, and Prince

- Robert Loss, Columbus College of Art and Design, "Prince and Joni, Performance and Flux"
- Lesley Jenike, Columbus College of Art and Design, "Sweet Bird"
- C. Liegh McInnis, Jackson State University, "The Spiritual as the Political in the Work of Prince and the Staple Singers"

SALON E

African American Poetry and Its Progenitors: Wheatley, Dunbar, Horton

- Steven Lazaroff, Columbia College Chicago, "Black Women Writers and the Retelling of Ovid"
- Rowshan Jahan Chowdhury, North Dakota State University, "Enlightenment, Refined Humanity, and Universal Humanism: Phillis Wheatley's Theory of the Human"
- Shaibal Devroy, North Dakota State University, "Repetition and Remaking: George Moses Horton's Inspired Borrowings from The Columbian Orator"

SALON F

Writing and Re-Writing the Multiethnic City

- Shayne McGregor, Yale University, "Theorizing Black Brooklyn and Harlem From Midcentury to Present"
- Frederick Gardaphe, Queens College/John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, "Ethnic Trajectories in the American City"
- John Lowe, University of Georgia, "Underground Manuscripts: Race, Ethnicity, and Sexuality in the Unpublished San Francisco Novels of Ernest J. Gaines"

SALON G

Native Americans as Subjects and Objects of Representation

- Shaheen Ayub Bhatti, Fatimah Jinnah Women University, "Revisiting Paul Kane's *Wanderings of an Artist among the Indians of North America*"
- Rebecca Pelky, University of Missouri, "In this the Indian's Version': Subject versus (Imperialist Nostalgic) Object in 19th Century Poetry"
- Cristina Stanciu, Virginia Commonwealth University, "Underground Histories of Indigenous Film: The Recovery of *The Daughter of Dawn* (1920), A Different Kind of 'Indian Drama'"
- Amy Pezzelle, University of Tulsa, "How Women Warriors Create Hopeful Futures in LeAnne Howe's *Shell Shaker*"
- Alexander Menrisky, University of Massachusetts – Dartmouth, "Psychedelic Primitives, Prelinguistic Myths, and the Poetry of Simon Ortiz"

2:00 - 3:20

SALON B

Rethinking African American Performance

- Katie N. Johnson, Miami University, "Dragging the Great White Way: An Underground History of Hemsley Winfield's *Salomé*"
- Julie M. Burrell, Cleveland State University, "The Underground History of Reconstruction in Theodore Ward's *Our Lan*"
- Blake Wilder, University of Maryland, "Buried Performances: African American Drama and the Recognition of Black Soldiers in the First World War"
- Nicole M. Morris Johnson, California State University – Northridge, "Ntozake Shange and the Gullah Renaissance"

SALON C

Re-imagining Gender and the Arab American Novel

- Nancy Shaker Al-Doghmi, Yarmouk University, "Stepping Beyond the 'Her-Story' and Resisting Hegemonies in Laila Halaby's *West of the Jordan*"
- Frederick J. Karem, Cleveland State University, "The American Dream Underground: Class Struggle, Masculinity, and Feminist Resistance in Laila Halaby's *Once in a Promised Land*"
- Nancy El Gendy, Heidelberg University, "Third-Space Subjects in *Real Women Have Curves* (2002) and *A Map of Home* (2008)"

SALON D

Rethinking the African American Canon

- Chair—Arlene (Amy) Elder, University of Cincinnati
- David Anderson, University of Louisville, "I Will Take to the Water: The Need for an Anthology on African American Writing about the Sea"
- Ryne Menhennick, Northern Michigan University, "Identifying the Nature and Impact of Nationalist Philosophy in Harlem Renaissance Literature"
- Daniel Ross Goodman, Columbia University/JTS, "The Portrait of Helga Crane: A Jamesian reading of Nella Larsen's *Quicksand*"

SALON E

Multiethnic Jewish Encounters

- Ranen Omer-Sherman, University of Louisville, "Bodies, Borders, and Jewish & Arab Queer Desire in Recent Jewish American Fiction"
- Rachel Rubinstein, Hampshire College, "The Yiddish Columbus: Jacobo Glantz Discovers America"
- Matthew Brittingham, Emory University, "A Romance of Epic Proportions: A. D. Oguz's *Di fraydenker* and Impossible Assimilations"
- Alona Weimer, Brandeis University, "James Baldwin as Mirror: A Literary Response to Jewish American Acculturation"
- Sheena Steckl, Xavier University, "Telling Both Sides of the Story: TV and the Broad Dissemination of an Inclusive Narrative"

SALON F

Linguistic Crossings: Creative Writing in English Language Acquisition Roundtable

- Alyssa Konermann, University of Cincinnati
- Yalie Kamara, University of Cincinnati
- Emma Faesi Hudelson, University of Cincinnati
- Parisa Adlifar, University of Cincinnati

SALON G

Ordinary Language and Everyday Experiences of Migration

- Alyssa Quintanilla, University of Pittsburgh, "Distant Language in the Everyday Migration of *Signs Preceding the End of the World*"
- Nathan Martinez Pogar, California State University – Dominguez, "Mariposa Migrancy: Sexuality and Border-Crossing in Rigoberto González's *Butterfly Boy*"
- Nozomi Saito, University of Pittsburgh, "Connective Migrations and Formations of Racial Identity in Gayle Jones's *Mosquito*"

3:30 - 4:50

SALON B

Uncounted, Unburied, and Undead: Multiethnic Literatures and Life after (Social) Death

- Travis Franks, Arizona State University, "Unburied History and Haunted Healing in Tiya Miles's *The Cherokee Rose*"
- Vanessa Fonseca-Chávez, Arizona State University, "*Los muertos también cuentan* and Colonial Discourses of the Sonoran Desert"
- April Shemak, Sam Houston State University, "Refugee Zombies in the works of Edwidge Danticat and Jason deCaires Taylor"

SALON C

Teaching Multi-Ethnic Children/YA Literature: Practicing Ethnically Relevant and Responsible Pedagogy

- Chair—Kaylee Jangula Mootz, University of Connecticut, "Teaching and Writing Hi/Story with Cherie Dimaline's (Metis) *The Marrow Thieves*"
- Sara Austin, Miami University, "South Asian Children's Books"
- Leah Milne, University of Indianapolis, "Radical Empathy and March"
- Karen Chandler, University of Louisville, "Reading Text and Context: *Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush*"

SALON D

Revisiting Toni Morrison

- Zach Griffith, University of Kentucky, "'We Never Shape the World': Slave Geographies and the African American Archive in *A Mercy*"
- Sidney Jones, The Ohio State University, "Exploring Grotesque Black Strength in Toni Morrison's *Sula* and Sapphire's *Push*"
- Marie Drews, Luther College, "'She remembers the Mary Janes': History, Pedagogy, and Accessing the World of Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*"
- Wren Craig Romero, Loyola University Chicago, "Affective Utopias in *Jazz* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*"

SALON E

Reimagining Puerto Rico and the Hispanophone Caribbean

- Yeshua Tolle, University of Michigan, "Victor Hernández Cruz's Boricua Social Theory"
- Lorna L. Perez, SUNY Buffalo State, "Anticolonial Blackness: Afro-Puerto Rican women and resistance in *Daughters of the Stone*"
- Keishla Rivera-Lopez, Rutgers University, "Motherhood, Memory, and Freedom: Rosario Ferré's *The House on the Lagoon* and Dahlma Llanos-Figueroa's *Daughters of the Stone*"

SALON F

Policing Desire

- Anu Chatterjee, University of Cincinnati – Clermont, "Examining Ismat Chughtai's 'The Quilt'"
- Parmita Kapadia, Northern Kentucky University, "Policing Women: How Domestic and International Forces Merge to Contain Women's Autonomy"
- Madhu Sinha, Miami University, "From Vietnam with Love: Memory and Espionage in Viet Thanh Nguyen's *The Sympathizer*"

5:00 - 6:20

SALON B

New Approaches to Appalachian Literature and Culture

- Louis Palmer, III, Castleton University, "One Root of Southern Gothic: The Appalachian Exclusion"
- Kristine Yohe, Northern Kentucky University, "Uncovering Affrilachian History in the Lewis and Clark Expedition: Frank X Walker's *When Winter Come: The Ascension of York*"
- Jannell M. Parsons and Joshua Parsons, University of Kentucky, "Pedagogies of Underground Histories: A Case Study for Exposing First-Year Students to Oral Histories of Appalachia using High-Impact Undergraduate Research Experiences"

SALON C

Rethinking Race in Popular Cultural Representations of Blackness

- Carmel Ohman, University of Oregon, "Pleasure, Profanity, and Performance in Issa Rae's *Insecure*"
- Susan Crutchfield, University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse, "Codeswitching, Performance, and Race Consciousness in Kiese Laymon's *Long Division* and Boots Riley's *Sorry to Bother You*"
- Audrey B. Thacker, California State University – Northridge, "*Sorry to Bother You*, but *Welcome to Braggsville*—and Now *Get Out!* In Underground/Underskin Racial Performance, Will the 'Real' Black Man Please Stand Up?"

SALON D

The Transnational and Multiethnic Nineteenth Century

- SallyAnn H. Ferguson, University of North Carolina – Greensboro, "Unachievable Black Utopia: The Examples of Martin R. Delany's *Blake; or the Huts of America* and Sutton E. Griggs's *Imperium in Imperio?*"
- Matthew E. Suazo, Kenyon College, "Becoming Legible: Scenes of Literacy in William Apess's *Son of the Forest* and Juan Francisco Manzano's *Autobiografía*"
- Schuyler Chapman, Glenville State College, "Down on the Wharf: Frederick Douglass and Maritime Radicalism"
- Andrew Spencer, Southern Methodist University, "Reading the Animalis Sacer: The Human-Supremacist Roots of White Supremacy in Norris's *The Octopus* and Ruiz de Burton's *The Squatter and the Don*"

SALON E

Poetry Reading

- Jocelyn Marshall, SUNY University at Buffalo
- Daniel Lockhart, Indiana University
- Isaac Pickell, Wayne State University

SALON F

Jesmyn Ward and the South in African American Literature

- Alvin J. Henry, St. Lawrence University, "Jesmyn Ward's Post-Katrina Black Feminist Memory"
- Josh-Wade Ferguson, University of Mississippi, "'Old folk's music . . . dead folk's music': Blues, Memory, and Precarity in James Hannaham's *Delicious Foods* and Jesmyn Ward's *Salvage the Bones*"
- April Kilinski, Johnson University, "Unearthing History: Welcoming Ghosts in Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing*"

SALON G

Temporality, Race, and the Fantastic in African American Literature

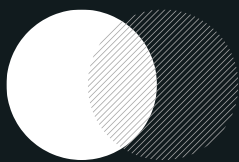
- Dana Cypress, University of Pennsylvania, "Live from the Underground: Notes for *Long Division*"
 - Marlene Allen, United Arab Emirates University, "Sing Me a Song of a Lass That Is Gone": Excavated Histories of Race and Gender in the Time Travel Novels of Octavia Butler and Diana Gabaldon"
 - Helane Androne, Miami University, "Rites and Spirits in Nnedi Okorafor and N.K. Jemisin"
 - Daniel Burns, Elon University, "Mock- Scholarship' and the Research Space of Possible Queer Worlds in Delany's *The Mad Man*."
-

6:30 - 8:00

CONTINENTAL ROOM

MELUS 2019 Welcome Reception

Co-Sponsored by Digital Scholarship Center



Friday, March 22

8:00 - 9:20

SALON B

Transforming Cincinnati

- Alana King, University of Texas – Dallas, "Cincinnati as Cultural Melting Pot"
- Christopher Wilkey, Northern Kentucky University, "Challenging Gentrification: A Narrative of Community Hope and Resilience"
- Schuyler Chapman, Glenville State College, "Was It for This?: German-American Fiction, Equality, and the Midwestern Ghosts of 1848"

SALON C

Pedagogy Panel: Creating an Inclusive, Intersectional Classroom

- Donelle Dreese, Northern Kentucky University, "Teaching the Autoethnographic Essay in Inclusive & Intersectional Literature Courses"
- Kathleen Godfrey, California State University – Fresno, "My Silences Dead as Yesterday: Using Historical Documents to Teach Wendy Rose's *Julia*"
- Mary Frances Pipino, Ursuline College, "'I believe that my entire world has been built on lies': Experiencing the Hidden History of Italian-American Life in the Adult Classroom"
- Helane Androne, Miami University, "Connecting Text and Context: The Applied Learning Project"

SALON D

Religion and Writing in America's Racial and Ethnic Imaginary

- Jennifer Murray, University of Kentucky, "'Civilizing' the Pacific: Missionary Work at the Turn of the Century"
- Danielle Procope Bell, Vanderbilt University, "The 19th Century Black Woman Preacher and The Remaking of the Christian, Proto-Feminist 'Lady'"
- Neely McLaughlin, University of Cincinnati – Blue Ash, "A Panther, Death-beds and Funerals, and a Four Week Bout with Fever: The Story of Early Nineteenth Century AME Itinerant Preacher Jarena Lee in Ohio"
- Sahar Ullah, Columbia University, "Disrupting Fetishization of Muslim Visibility through Devotional Poetics"

SALON E

Fiction Reading

- Jake Mattox, Indiana University – South Bend
- Yuemin He, Northern Virginia Community College
- Fred Gardaphe, Queens College

SALON F

Multiethnic South Asia

- Wenying Xu, Jacksonville University, "Indians Meeting Indians: Reading Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's *The Mistress of Spices*"
- Jessica Maucione, Gonzaga University, "Inevitability without Apocalypse: Mohsin Hamid's *Exit West* and Re-imagining the 'Refugee Crisis'"
- Dinidu Karunanayake, Miami University, "Undoing the Postcolonial Security State: Militarism, Neoliberalism and Queer Memory 'Assemblages' in the Work of Mistry and Selvadurai"
- Stephanie Hsu, Pace University, "Trans Narration and the (Return) Migration Metaphor in Shani Mootoo's *Moving Forward Sideways Like a Crab* (2014)"
- Diana Rosenberger, Wayne State University, "Epic Compressed": *Exit West* and Rethinking the Network Novel"

SALON G

Teaching Shannon Gibney's Dream Country, the Neo-Slave Narrative, and the "Hidden Histories" of Slavery, Racism, and US/Liberian Migrations

An Interdisciplinary Conversation with the Author

- Lori Askeland, Wittenberg University
- Marisol Brito, Metropolitan State University
- Taiyon J Coleman, St. Catherine University
- Respondent—Shannon Gibney, Minneapolis Community & Technical College

9:30 - 10:50

SALON B

Multiethnic Ralph Ellison

- Maria Lauret, University of Sussex, "Underground and Underworld: New York City, Ellison and DeLillo"
- Ernest L. Gibson, III, Auburn University, "A Descent in Darkness: Rethinking Invisibility as Afro-fugitivity in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*"
- Deborah Thurman, Washington University in St. Louis, "'Supersensitive' Subjects: Race, Affect, and Underground Epistemology in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*"
- Tracy Floreani, Oklahoma City University, "The Epic, Ethnic West: Ralph Ellison at the Movies"

SALON C

Revisiting Slavery in Contemporary Fiction

- Ashley Quinn, Grand Valley State, "The Desire for Power in Valerie Martin's *Property*"
- Nealie Andrews, Grand Valley State, "Believe What You See, Not What You Hear: The Unreliable Narrator in Valerie Martin's *Property*"
- Ohad Reznick, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, "Between Fiction and Reality: De-racialization in Barbara Chase-Riboud's *The President's Daughter*"

SALON D

Problematizing the "Diversity" of Mainstream Media: Critical Engagements with the Limitations of Latinx Presence in Television and Film

- Frederick Aldama and Carlos Gabriel Kelly, The Ohio State University, "The Good, Bad, and Messy: Michael Peña's Browning the 21st Century Silver Screen"
- Danielle Alexis Orozco, The Ohio State University, "Race and Alien-Face: Zöe Saldana's Queer Indigeneity and Alien Identity"
- Katlin Sweeney, The Ohio State University, "Positioning Racialized 'Realness': Differentiating the Visual Rhetorics of Violence in *Orange is the New Black*"

SALON E

Roundtable: Reclaiming the Weird: Examining the potential and Pitfalls of "Experimental" Fiction and Poetry For Marginalized Writers

- Emily Rose Cole, University of Cincinnati
- Brenda Peynado, University of Central Florida
- Daniel Paul, University of Cincinnati
- Gwen E. Kirby, Phillips Exeter Academy

SALON F

Race and Memory in Holocaust Representation

- Holly Wielechowski, Wayne State University, "Unreasonable Remembrance: Berlin Alexanderplatz and The Mnemonic Flash of Fascism"
- Gary Weissman, University of Cincinnati, "Looking at Former Nazi Camps"
- Kate Polak, Wittenberg University, "Into the Next Darkness: Contemporary Holocaust Representation in the Age of Social Media"

SALON G

Underground Caribbean Literature

- Tarika Sankar, University of Miami, "Pandits and Obeah Women: Harm, Healing and Inter-ethnic Solidarity in Lauren Francis-Sharma's *'Til the Well Runs Dry*"
- Suzanne Uzzilia, CUNY Graduate Center, "Fighting Erasure: Writing Back in Jamaica Kincaid's *Mr. Potter*"
- Set Moon, University of Miami, "The Limitation of Brown Middle-Class Saga: Race-ing and Erace-ing Blackness in V. S. Reid's *New Day*"
- Laura Bass, University of Miami, "On the Hinge of History and Memoir: Narrating Self, Narrating Empire in Lesley-Ann Brown's *Decolonial Daughter: Letters From a Black Woman to her European Son*"

11:00 - 12:20

SALON B

The Place of Poetry and Poetics in the Multiethnic Canon

- Maria Dikcis, Northwestern University, "Printed Internets: Pseudo-autobiography and Digital Interruptions in 21st C. Multiethnic Poetry"
- Michael S. Hennessey, University of Cincinnati/University of Pennsylvania, "Preserving Diversity within the Archive"
- Norman Finkelstein, Xavier University, "Wallace Stevens' Rabbinic Romance"
- Allison Pitinii Davis, University of Tennessee, "Testimony as Litmus Test: Bridging the Multiethnic Reception of Charles Reznikoff's Documentary Poetics"

SALON C

Formal Innovation in Contemporary African American Poetry

- Cera Smith, Yale University, "Moving towards 'Uncommon Sense': Playing with Prosody in Nathaniel Mackey's *Bedouin Hornbook*"
- John Brooks, Indiana University, "Unfamiliar Pasts: Heretical History in Robin Coste Lewis's *The Voyage of the Sable Venus*"
- Daniel McGee, University of Denver, "Olio and the African American Archive"

SALON D

Official and Untold Stories: Re-constructing the Latinx Subject

- Regina Marie Mills, University of Texas, "Uncovering an Archive of Experimentation: Bringing to Light a Different Piri Thomas"
- C. Christina Lam, CUNY Borough of Manhattan Community College, "Alternate Archives: Latinx Narrative Interventions in Carolina de Robertis' Perla and Alicia Partnoy's *The Little School*"
- Trent Masiki, Boston University, "Music, Mysticism, and Genetic Profiling in Raquel Cepeda's *Bird of Paradise: How I Became Latina*"

SALON E

Imagining Ontologically Irreducible Becoming—Feminist Futures Beyond Omnipresent Oppressive Systems: Speculative Poetry and Fiction by Ethnic and Minority Women Writers

- Chair—Beth Ash, University of Cincinnati
- Thomas Cherry, University of Cincinnati, "The Queer Futuristic Possibility of Octavia Butler's *Dawn*"
- Rebecca Thacker, University of Cincinnati, "History has a Subtext: The Use of Temporal Drag to Re-envision the Future in *The Book of Joan*"
- Rhiannon Scharnhorst, University of Cincinnati, "The 'Uncanny Child': Locating a Posthuman Future in Louise Erdrich's *Future Home of the Living God*"
- Madeleine Wattenberg, University of Cincinnati, "From Motherland to Mothership: Post-Colonial Critique in the Science Fiction Verse of Cathy Park Hong's *Engine Empire* and Lo Kwa Mei-en's *The Bees Make Money in the Lion*"

SALON F

Gendering the Slave Narrative

- Natalie Aikens, Wabash College, "The Counter-History of Mary Prince"
- Katie Collins, Washington University in St. Louis, "'Race, Childhood, and Unstable Regimes of Subjecthood in Harriet Wilson's *Our Nig*"
- Katrina Sellinger, McMaster University, "Raced and Gendered Passings in the Escape From Slavery"
- N.A. Pierce, Old Dominion University, "The Boundaries of Love: Collaboration and Resistance in Dolen Perkins-Valdez's Neo-Slave Narrative *Wench*"

SALON G

Literary Afterlives of Slavery: Finding African Id in the Aftermath

- Chair—Stacie McCormick
 - Daniel Archer, Texas Christian University, "'Present Memory': Connecting Transnational Approaches to the Past in Juan Rulfo's *Pedro Páramo* and Octavia Butler's *Kindred*"
 - Julie Johnson, Abilene Christian University, "'In This Here Place, We Flesh': Womanist Theology in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*"
 - Steven Moore, Abilene Christian University, "'The Fire Next Time': Prophetic Warnings of a Black Rage Silenced"
 - Toya Mary Okonkwo, Texas Christian University, "Tracing Fantastic Roots: Mythology and Lineage of St. George and Prometheus in Toni Morrison and Kara Walker's Poem and Illustration Collaboration"
-

1:30 - 2:50

SALON B

Vietnam and Its Ghosts

- Parama Sarkar, University of Toledo, "Good Immigrant/Bad Immigrant: The Politics of Representation in Contemporary Literature and Media"
- Preston Taylor Stone, University of Miami, "Spectral Knowing in Viet Thanh Nguyen's 'Black-Eyed Women'"
- Paul Petrovic, Emmanuel College, "Challenging 'Act was Fact': Asymmetrical Resistance and Cultural Performance in Aimee Phan's 'Motherland' and Viet Thanh Nguyen's 'Fatherland'"
- Nicolyn Woodcock, Miami University, "The Transpacific Intimacy of Remembering Vietnamese Refuge(es)"

SALON C

Women of Color Caucus

Big Tree, Small Ax: Unearthing Histories in the Works of Women of Color

- Sherry Johnson, Grand Valley State University, "Forgetting to Forget: How Alzheimer's Disease's Unearthed Memories Disrupt Personal Narratives"
- Tala Khanmalek, Princeton University, "'Becoming a Laboratory': Reexamining the History of Sterilization Abuse in Puerto Rico Through Aurora Levins Morales's *Remedios*"
- Kimberly Mack, University of Toledo, "The Self-Making of a Blueswoman: *The Color Purple*'s Squeak and the Power of Autobiographical Narrative"
- Leah Milne, University of Indianapolis, "Embracing the Monster in Carmen Maria Machado's 'The Resident'"

SALON D

Writing with and through Underground Histories:

Methods for Decolonizing the First- and Second-Year Composition Classroom

- Mira Kafantaris, The Ohio State University, "Shakespeare, Race in America, and the First-Year Writing Classroom"
- Cathy Ryan, The Ohio State University, "Underground History and Stories of Acculturation and Belonging in Shaun Tan's *The Lost Thing* and *The Arrival*"
- Sonya Parrish, The Ohio State University, "'[S]he Gave Me Some Lines in the Indian Language': Using Jane Johnston Schoolcraft in Second-Year Writing Classes"

SALON E

Documentary and Dystopia in Omar El Akkad's *American War*

- Kelly Polasek, Wayne State University, "Historicizing State-Sponsored Terror with Speculative Fiction: Omar El Akkad's *American War*"
- Matthew Spencer, Middle Tennessee State University, "Post-racial Dystopia: Omar El Akkad's *American War* and the Phantom Pain of Race"
- Matthew Dischinger, Georgia State University, "Reading Underneath Region in Omar El Akkad's *American War*"

SALON F

Contemporary Multiethnic and Transnational Performance

- David Siglos, University of California – Riverside, "Performance Out-of-Place: (In)Authenticity in the Reperformance of American Culture in Jessica Hagedorn's *Dogeaters*"
- Alexander Lalama, Claremont Graduate University, "'Please, Please, Please Let Me Get What I Want': Morrissey, Androgyny, and Reimagining Latinidad in Latinx Cultural Texts"
- Andrea Delgado, University of Washington, "Different Stories, Differing Histories—*Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992*"

SALON G

Latinx Literature and the Boundaries of "American" Identity

- Jose de la Garza Valenzuela, Florida Atlantic University, "Conditional Citizenship: Containment in Contemporary Latinx Literature"
- Suejeong Kim, Claremont Graduate University, "Héctor Tobar's *The Tattooed Soldier* and Guatemalan Genocide"
- Gabriella Pishotti, West Virginia University, "Expanding the Narrative: Border Violence in Yuri Herrera's *Signs Preceding the End of the World*"
- Oscar Chavez, University of Chicago, "Graphic Writing and Chicana Worlding in Oscar Zeta Acosta's *The Revolt of the Cockroach People*"

3:00 - 4:20

SALON B

Zora Neale Hurston and American Multiethnic Literature

- Robin Lucy, Eastern Michigan University, "'Can the black poet sing a song to the morning?': Recovering the Depression-era Work of Sterling Brown of Zora Neale Hurston"
- J.J. Butts, Simpson College, "New Deal Modernization and the Countermodern Folk Vision of Hurston's *Moses, Man of the Mountain*"
- Kimberly Stanley, Indiana State University, "Language: What Is It Good for?"
- Brett Seekford, University of Delaware, "Pluralizing the Past in Zora Neale Hurston's *Dust Tracks on a Road*"
- Kelley Wagers, Pennsylvania State University – Scranton, "'Myself Two Times': Writing Collective Agency as History in Hurston's *Barracoon* and *Tell My Horse*"

SALON C

Racialized Femininities and Objecthood

- Gabby Benavente, University of Pittsburgh, "Challenging the Abstraction of the Transfeminine through Janet Mock's Redefining Realness"
- Chair—Rachel Jane Carroll, Oberlin College, "'What's holding her up': The Decorative Avant-Gardisms of Harryette Mullen and Mickalene Thomas"
- Jorge Enrique Cartaya, Cornell University, "Oceanic Altars: The Watery Thresholds to a Queer, Femme Erotics of Resistance in Ana-Maurine Lara's *Erzulie's Skirt*"
- Erica Kanesaka Kalnay, University of Wisconsin, "'To Be a Japanese Doll': Kathleen Tamagawa and the 1927 U.S.-Japan Doll Exchange"

SALON D

Sandra Cisneros: Intersections and Crossings

- Chair—Katharine Salzmann, Texas State University
- Geneva Gano, Texas State University, "Musa y Madrina: Sandra Cisneros and the Fin-de-Siècle San Antonio Arts Scene"
- Margarita Greenberg, California State University – Los Angeles, "Chicana Literary Networks: Sandra Cisneros and Helena María Viramontes"
- Olga Herrera, University of St. Thomas, "The Racial City in the Work of Sandra Cisneros"
- Lea Colchado, Texas State University, "Cisneros, Sexuality, and Assault: How Sandra Cisneros Paved Way for the #MeToo and #WhyIDidntReport Movements"

SALON E

The Subterranean Self: How Writers of Color Confront Assigned Narratives of Race and Identity

- Chair—Furaha Norton, University of Cincinnati
- Afsheen Farhadi, University of Cincinnati, "'Representations of Islamic Identity in Mahajan and Updike"
- Christopher R. Alonso, Florida International University, "Deep Song and Howl"
- Maria Obondo, California State University – Fullerton, "Theorizing Oneness, Abundance, and Mystery in Ethnic Studies"
- Keyana Parks, University of Pennsylvania, "Post Black Gaze: Black Autonomy after Double Consciousness in Fran Ross's *Oreo*"

SALON F

Cincinnati's Haunted Geographies

- Heather Hathaway, Marquette University, "A Japanese American Internment Camp Refugee in Cincinnati: The Experiences of Toyo Suyemoto"
- Tim Messerkruse, Bowling Green State University, "Performing Raced Labor Identity: Hidden History of Labor Day in Cincinnati"
- Cathy Wagner, Miami University, "Occupying Texts: Reading Through the Grid in Cincinnati"

SALON G

MLA-Sponsored Panel: Multiethnic Literature in the English Department and Major

- Chair—Doug Steward, MLA
- Lori Askeland, Wittenberg University
- Joe Kraus, University of Scranton
- Anita Mannur, Miami University
- Koritha Mitchell, The Ohio State University
- Jene Schoenfeld, Kenyon College

4:30 - 5:50

SALON B

Mapping Edwidge Danticat

- Jana Evans Braziel, Miami University, "Enfants 'òt bò dlo' (Babies on the Other Side): Infant Mortality in Edwidge Danticat's Literary Corpus"
- Alaina Kaus, University of Alabama, "Intervention and Immigration: Reclaiming Sovereignty in Edwidge Danticat's *Brother, I'm Dying*"
- Cara Byrne, Case Western Reserve University, "Dismantling Prisons & Building Bridges: Children's Revolutionary Architecture in Gloria Anzaldúa & Edwidge Danticat's Picture Books"
- Laura Barrio Vilar, University of Arkansas, "Blurring Boundaries and Crossing Borders to Record the Untold Stories of Hispaniola"

SALON C

The Image of the Other: Identity and Multiethnic Film Cultures

- Chris Gonzalez, Utah State University, "Hidden Figures: Speculative Imaginings of the Latina in US Cinema"
- Indigo Recker, Duquesne University, "Historical Ghosts and the Neoliberal Settler State in Contemporary Western Film"
- Joshua Cowan, University of Houston, "Anti-Immigration and the Neoliberal Film"
- So Yeon Kim, University of Hawaii, "Transnational Identity in Benson Lee's Teen Film *Seoul Searching* (2015)"
- Hannah Skjellum, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, "Not Running But Choosing: Clothing's Ties to Black Lesbian History in Dee Rees's *Pariah*"

SALON D

Asian American Literature and American State Intervention

- Alden Marte-Wood, University of California – Irvine, "From Filipino Houseboys to Filipina Helpers: Counter-Sentimentalities in Twentieth-Century American Domestic Fiction"
- Julianna Crame, University of Nevada – Las Vegas, "Home is Where the Heart is: Second-Generation Filipino American Identity in *America Is Not the Heart*"
- Jane Im, University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign, "It's because we're American and because we're Japanese and sometimes the two don't mix: The Motif of the Divided Self in John Okada's *No-No Boy*"
- Jessica Thelen, University of Delaware, "Underground Histories of Japanese Incarceration"

SALON E

Constructing Gender in Latina Literature

- Luz M. Jimenez Ruvalcaba, Stanford University, "Domesticity and Violence in Helena María Viramontes' *Their Dogs Came with Them* (2007)"
- Sergio Robles, California State University – Long Beach, "Voices in Cherrie Moraga's *Heroes and Saints*: Powerless Bodies and Powerful Voices"
- Visnja Vujin, University of Nebraska, "Psychological Exile as an Everyday Element of Existence in the Works of Chicana, Latina, and Southeastern European Female Authors"

SALON F

Underground and Multiethnic Media: Troubling the Canon

- Matthew T. Pifer, Husson University, "Echoes from the Underground: Dissent, Sixties Underground Presses, and Social Media"
 - Alexander Manshel, Stanford University, "Always Historicized: Multi-Ethnic History and the Contemporary Canon"
-

7:30 - 9:00

PAVILION ROOM

Viet Thanh Nguyen Lecture and Book-Signing

Books will be available for purchase from Joseph Beth Booksellers.

Co-Sponsored by the Mercantile Library



Saturday, March 23

8:00 - 9:20

SALON B

Racial Justice and Literary Activism

- Matt Lessig, SUNY Cortland, "A vision of a million clenched fists': The Death of Ralph Gray and the Archival Traces of Black Radicalism"
- Matthew Calihman, Missouri State University, "Race, Modernity, and the Cultural Apparatus in Richard Wright's *12 Million Black Voices*"
- Allison Serraes, University of Mississippi, "Assata Shakur, Eve Ewing, and the Aesthetics of Struggle"
- Brittany Henry, Rice University, "Decolonial Spirituality and Differential Social Movement as Body-Politics of Resistance in Sabrina Vourvoulias's *Ink*"

SALON C

Representing Paranoia: Race and Intertextuality

- Yu-Yun Hsieh, CUNY Graduate Center, "Asian Representation in Global Hollywood"
- Elizabeth Bidwell Goetz, CUNY Graduate Center, "Poetic Networks and Social Scenes: The Collective Autoliterature of Hettie and LeRoi Jones"
- Leah Light, CUNY Graduate Center, "Cultures of Conspiracy: Race Paranoia in Contemporary Cinema"

SALON D

Harlem Renaissance Print Culture

- Sophia Jeffery, McKendree University, "'Fair is Foul and Foul is Fair': in the Harlem Renaissance: A Performance History of Orson Welles's Haitian *Macbeth* through Historic Black Newspapers of the Harlem Renaissance"
- Martha H. Patterson, McKendree University, "The Harlem Renaissance Weekly"
- James Knippling, University of Cincinnati, "Oneness Against the World in Chester Himes's Harlem"

SALON E

War and Memory in Arab American Literature

- Fadila Habchi, Yale University, "The Interrelations Between Historical Memory, Political Thought and the Quotidian in the Shaping of Literary Visions of Urban Space"
- Molli Spalter, Wayne State University, "The Art of Mending Memory: Remembering and Re-membering in Nathalie Handal's 'Here'"
- Farzana Akhter, East West University, "Voices from the Margin: Resistance by Reclaiming Muslim Identity in *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* and *Saffron Dreams*"

SALON F

Trauma Narratives

- Jocelyn Marshall, SUNY Buffalo, "Working within the Folds: Decolonial Approaches to Transgenerational Trauma"
- Jennifer Smith, Franklin College, "For Emmett and Trayvon: Elegies that Bear Witness"
- Helen Makhdounian, University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign, "'Speak of Those Times, or, Don't': Connective Memoryscapes in Nancy Kricorian's *All the Light There Was*"
- Julie Yeeun Kim, California State University – Long Beach, "Affectionate Racism: Colorblind Racism and the Politics of Kinship"

SALON G

Multiethnic Comics and Graphic Narratives

- Anushka Sen, Indiana University, "Comic Frames, Political Layers, and the Jostle of Histories in George Herriman's *Krazy Kat*"
- Andrea Modarres, University of Washington – Tacoma, "Beirut's Fragmented Histories: Zeina Abirached's Graphic Memoirs As Personal and Urban Reconstructions"
- Nona Landis, Miami University, "Mapping the Nation and Reimagining Home in Vietnamese American Graphic Narratives"

9:30 - 10:50

SALON B

Roundtable: Multiethnic Pedagogy and Negotiations of Identity in Midwestern Education

- Sarah Le, Indiana University
- Abby Ang, Indiana University
- Bianca Perez, Indiana University
- Anushka Sen, Indiana University

SALON C

Multiethnic Literature and the Medical Humanities

- Min Ji Kang, University of Florida, "Stigma and Stigmata: Insanity and Psychological Oppression in Phyllis Alesia Perry's *Stigmata*"
- Rachel Bracken, Northeast Ohio Medical University, "Early Twentieth-Century Latinx Fiction as Public Health History in the Borderlands"
- Phyllisa Deroze, United Arab Emirates University, "Margarine and Marginalization: Discovering Patti LaBelle's Autobiographical Cookbooks as Health Narratives"
- Breana McQueen, University of Cincinnati, "Oh the Horrors!: Representation of Ethnicity and Disability in Horror Fiction"

SALON E

Neo-Passing: The Underground Histories of Post-Jim Crow Identity Performance

- Presider—Mollie Godfrey, James Madison University
- Jennifer Glaser, University of Cincinnati
- Christopher Brown, Wake Forest University
- Derek Adams, Ithaca College
- Respondent—Michelle Elam, Stanford University

SALON F

Food and Asian American Literary Cultures

- Chair—Wenxin Li, SUNY Suffolk County
- Samantha Pergadia, Washington University in St. Louis, "Tasting Asia: Globalizing the Metaphorics of Meat"
- Siqi Cheng, University of Cincinnati, "Consuming Identities: a feminist discourse analysis of food in Chinese American literature"
- Savannah Trent, Miami University, "Eating as the other: The Asian American body, desire, and cannibalism in *The Sympathizer* and 'Bottles of Beaujolais'"

SALON G

Ida B. Wells

- Nanette Hilton, University of Nevada – Las Vegas, "Ida B. Wells: Resurrected Romantic"
- Kathryn McClain, University of Kentucky, "Adapting 'Productive Details' from the Narrative of First-Wave Feminism: Contemporary Representations of Susan B. Anthony and Ida B. Wells"
- Frederick Staidum, Loyola University Chicago, "Carnivalizing Republicanism: The Simultaneity of Mob Rule and the Rule of Law in the Works of Alice Dunbar Nelson and Ida B. Wells-Barnett"

11:00 - 12:20

SALON B

MELUS Career Panel: Academics and Scholarly Work Inside and Outside of Traditional Academia

- Doug Steward, MLA
- Cristina Stanciu, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Julie Kae, Metropolitan State University
- Georgina Dodge, Bucknell University
- Michele Fazio, University of North Carolina – Pembroke
- Anastasia Lin, University of North Georgia

SALON C

Reimagining Gender and Queerness in Latinx Culture

- Miguel Antony Vasquez, University of Miami, "Digital Questioning(s): Interrogating Latinx Masculinity through Social Media Sketches"
- Dalia Goma, Denison University, "Queer Temporality: Re-visiting US National History in Cherrie Moraga's *The Last Generation*"
- Frank Garcia, University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign, "Decentering the Heteronormative Clicka: The Pachuco Elegy and 70s Queer Locos"
- Richard C. Taylor, East Carolina University, "Queering Multi-Ethnic Literature: Benjamin Alire Sáenz's *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*"
- Roberto Macias, University of California – Santa Barbara, "The Arrested Dialectic of Masculinity in John Rechy's *City of Night*: What's Love Got To Do With It?"

SALON D

Contemporary African American Women Novelists at a Crossroads

- Katrina Newsom, Wayne State University, "Reading Deindustrialization and the African American Experience in Angela Flournoy's *The Turner House*"
- Manal S. Khan, Bentley University, "Ecological Chronotopes in Gloria Naylor's *Mama Day*"

SALON E

Zora Neale Hurston's *Barracoon*: Recovery and Reception

- Co-Chair—Dan Burns, Elon University
- Cole Morgan, Brown University, "Interlocution and Interpretation in Hurston's *Barracoon*"
- Nicholas T. Rinehart, Harvard University, "The African Thing': Hurston, Ethnography, Testimony"
- Scott Thomas Gibson, Universidad San Francisco de Quito, "Polyvocality and Authenticity in Zora Neale Hurston's *Barracoon*"
- Co-Chair—Sharon Lynette Jones, Wright State University, "Recollections and Reflections: Representations of Women in Zora Neale Hurston's *Barracoon*: The Story of the Last 'Black' Cargo"

SALON F

The Forgotten, the Misread, the Illegible, and the Erased: Recovering Texts and Eclipsed Histories

- Chair—Cristina Stanciu, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Agnieszka Tuszynska, CUNY Queensborough Community College, "In Search of Race in Willard Motley's Archive"
- Kerstin Rudolph, Catawba College, "Alice Dunbar-Nelson's Reverberations of Ethnicity, Race, and Gender in *The Annals of 'Steenth Street*: Tracing a Network of Turn-of-the-Century Black Urban Identity"
- Kimberly O'Neill, Quinnipiac University, "Virtual Space and Migrant Narrative"
- Isabel Quintana Wulf, Salisbury University, "From Homogeneous Masses to Idiosyncratic Experiences: Testimonio as Counter-Knowledge in Graciela Limón's *The River Flows North*"

SALON G

Saidiya Hartman's Critical Literary Geographies

- Aisha Lockridge, St. Joseph's University, "To Reckon with the Limits of Her Discipline: Narrativizing the Black Woman Professor"
- Grace Ebert, Loyola University Chicago, "Unearthing a Family: Lineage in Saidiya Hartman's *Lose Your Mother* and Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing*"
- Michael Auterson, University of Cincinnati, "The Persistence of the Remnant: Problems of Relationality and Community in Giorgio Agamben's *Remnants of Auschwitz*, Saidiya Hartman's *Lose Your Mother*"

12:30 - 2:30
HALL OF MIRRORS

Saidiya Hartman
Keynote Address, Luncheon, and Book-Signing

Co-Sponsored by Taft Center for the Humanities and Helen
Weinberger Center for the Study of Drama and Playwriting

Books will be available for purchase from Joseph Beth Booksellers

3:00 - 4:20

SALON B

Colson Whitehead, *The Underground Railroad*, and Hidden Histories of Race in America

- Martha Cutter, University of Connecticut, "Reclaiming Visuality: The Politics of Looking Back in Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*"
- Letitia Guran, North Carolina A&T State University, "The Underground Railroad: When Neither History Nor Fiction Are Enough"
- Susan E. McGrade, Indiana Tech, "Lessons in Protest and Survival from Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*"
- Eva Tettenborn, Pennsylvania State University – Scranton, "The Ancestral Figure in Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*"

SALON C

Sailing Through the Abyss: Underground Aesthetics in Black Atlantic Literatures and Cultures

- Richard Perez, CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice, "Harboring Spirits: Theories of Time, Relativity, and Race in *Gods Go Begging* by Alfredo Vea"
- Victoria Chevalier, CUNY Medgar Evers College, "Ghosts and Things of the Black Atlantic: The Ethical Turn of Abyssal Histories in *Sing, Unburied, Sing* and *The Underground Railroad*"
- Chad B. Infante, Northwestern University, "The Butchered Ethics of Abstraction in *Cooks in the Kitchen* and *Study for Artist and Model*"

SALON D

Roundtable: Revisiting the Elegy in the Black Lives Matter Era

- Emily Rutter, Ball State University
- Darlene Scott, Virginia Union University
- Sequoia Maner, Southwestern University
- Deborah Mix, Ball State University

SALON E

Race and the Subject in Speculative/Science Fiction Literature

- Angelo Antonio Jr., Loyola Marymount University, "From Nothing to Something: Survivalism, Class, and Literacy in Octavia Butler's *Parable of the Sower*"
- Smaran Dayal, New York University, "Speculative Histories of Slavery and Settler Colonialism"
- Karma Waltonen, University of California – Davis, "No Serenity for the Reavers: Critiquing Colonization"
- Lesley Larkin, Northern Michigan University, "Speculative Reading and the Contemporary Black Essay"
- Dan Graham, Emmanuel College, "Are There Any Lost Worlds That Wish to Communicate? Imperialist Futures and the Right to Prophecy in Pauline Hopkins's *Of One Blood; or, the Hidden Self*"

SALON F

Latinx Textuality in the 21st Century

- Andrew Hudnall, Florida Atlantic University, "Confrontations with Humanity: Disidentificatory Possibility in *The Tattooed Soldier*"
- Riley Nisbet, Wayne State University, "Rethinking American Literature in the Age of Trump: Adolescent and National Performativity in Latino/a-authored Works"
- Maya Socolovsky, University of North Carolina – Charlotte, "Disappearance and Documentation in Latinx Children's Literature"
- Lexi Perez Allison, University of Texas – Austin, "The Decolonial Project of Salvador Plascencia's *The People of Paper*"

SALON G

Theorizing Trans-ness in Multiethnic Literature and Culture

- Hilary Pacheco, University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign, "POSE on FX: Narrating Trans & Queer Ontologies"
- Shelby Roberts, Virginia Tech, "Roots That Shatter: Science, Transfeminism, and the End of Passing"
- Nicholas Taylor Reich, University of Miami, "*Tangerine* and Trans Urban Waste"
- Megan Dennis, University of Kansas, "'Forever Galloping Toward Completion': Caucasia, 'Passing,' and the Creation of Trans* 'Underground' Worlds"

4:30 - 5:50

SALON B

Critical James Baldwin Studies

- Maggie Hawkins, New York University, "Oscar Wilde and James Baldwin: The Authentic 'Other'"
- Hannah Nahm, University of California – Los Angeles, "Toward Performative Sodomy: James Baldwin's Insight on the Inside Story of Melville's 'Billy Budd' in *Giovanni's Room*"
- Hayley Stefan, University of Connecticut, "Transhistorical Rights Work through James Baldwin's *The Fire Next Time*"
- Michael Sanders, Washington University in St. Louis, "What is Uncitizen Literature?"

SALON C

Fiction Reading

- Reshmi Hebbar, Oglethorpe University, "Home is Where the Heart Isn't"
- Shannon Gibney, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, *Dream Country*
- Afsheen Farhadi, University of Cincinnati, "The Locals"

SALON D

Slave Narratives and African American Literary and Political Cultures, Past and Present

- Kimberly Bain, Princeton University, "'Poor, Panting Slave': Breathing Economies and Fugitivity in the 19th Century Slave Narrative"
- Rio Bergh, North Dakota State University, "Blackness in the 'Grey Area': Representations of Virtuous Labor in Venture Smith's *Narrative*"
- Leila Mansouri, Scripps College, "Slavery Narratives and Black Electoral Politics"

SALON E

Social Justice Pedagogy

- Julie Kae, Metropolitan State University, "Teaching U.S. Multiethnic Literature about Immigrants of Color Through an Abolitionist Framework"
- Kevin Pyon, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, "Rap Music and Social Justice in the Classroom: Straight Outta Compton, To Pimp a Butterfly, and the Literary Composition of Racial Capitalism"
- Visnja Vujin, University of Nebraska, "Creating Mechanisms for Meaningful Collaborations: Using Public Writing and Immigration Literature to Bridge the Gaps Between High School and College Students"
- Jennifer Ryan-Bryant, SUNY Buffalo State, "'Who is the human in this place?': Teaching the Literature of Lynching"

SALON F

The Intersections of Trauma, Childhood, and Motherhood in Multiethnic American Literature

- Stella Setka, West Los Angeles College, "Hidden Stories: The Role of Shamanism in Nora Okja Keller's *Comfort Woman*"
- Danelle Dyckoff, Kennesaw State University, "Undocumented Narratives in Lisa Ko's *The Leavers*"
- Carlye Ann Schock, Georgia State University, "'In such a crisis a mother's heart usurps the place of intellect': Racialized Motherhood as Epistemology and Charles Chesnut's *The Marrow of Tradition*"
- Amanda Page, Juniata College, "The Consumption of Children in Literary and Anthropological Accounts of Organ Trafficking"
- Katherine Henninger, Louisiana State University, "Before *Moonlight*: Literary Genealogies of the Quare Southern Child"

SALON G

Theorizing the Immigrant and the Refugee in Multiethnic Literature

- Phoebe Jackson, William Patterson University, "Changing Times: Writing the New Narratives of Immigration"
- Belkis Gonzalez, CUNY LaGuardia Community College, "Family at the Border"
- Camila Sanabria, Utah State University, "The Red Front Door: Representing Narratives of Mixed-Status Families in Trump's America"
- Dasol Choi, Miami University, "Refugee, Home, and Belongingness in Dave Eggers' *What is the What* and Caryl Phillips' *A Distant Shore*"
- Diana Filar, Brandeis University, "Naming (in) the Immigrant Novel: Literary Onomastics, Racialized Subjectivity, and the Assimilation Narrative"

7:30 - 9:00

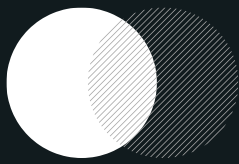
ROOKWOOD ROOM

Co-Sponsored by the UC Provost's Office

Reception and Multilingual Poetry Reading

Feat. Cincinnati Poet Laureates Manuel Iris & and Pauletta Hansel

Norman Finkelstein, Tyrone Williams, Yalie Kamara, Lisa Low, Mauricio Espinoza, and Aryanil Mukherjee



Sunday, March 24

1:00 - 2:00

SALON B/C MELUS membership meeting

9:00 - 10:20

SALON D

Rethinking Transracial or Racially Liminal Identities

- Christian Ravela, University of Central Florida, "Abandoning this Sinking Ship America': The Classical Bildungsroman, Minor Characters, and the Negative Dialectic of Race in Paul Beatty's *The White Boy Shuffle*"
- Lekha Roy, Indian Institute of Technology - Ropar, "Exploring the Liminal as Post-Marginal in the Poems of Rita Dove"
- Yari Cruz Rios, Indiana University, "Trance/scribing Identity, Reclaiming Existence: Spectral Strategies for Articulating the Othered Self in Ling Ma's *Severance*, and Louise Erdrich's *Future Home of the Living God*"

SALON E

Gendering Asian/Asian American Representation

- Lara Narcisi, Regis University, "Not merely unspoken, but unspeakable': Celeste Ng's Silences and Everything They Should Have Told Us"
- Hsiu-chuan Lee, National Taiwan Normal University, "Notes from the Underground': Story-Copying and Music-Compiling as Methods of History-Writing in *Do Not Say We Have Nothing*"
- Susan Moynihan, Tennessee Tech University, "Estranged Histories and the Affective Politics of the Gesture in Asian American Literature"

SALON F

Intellectual History and the African Diaspora

- Talia Isaacson, University of Toronto, "The Soviet Union's influence on Afro-American and Afro-Caribbean Writers"
- Daniel Scherwatzky, University of Miami, "Subversive Versions: Rearticulating the Transatlantic Rasta Narrative in Kei Miller's *Augustown*"
- Crystal Harris, University of Memphis, "The Meaning of Progress,' Desire, and Black Women"
- Andrew Hebard, Miami University, "Draining the Swamp: W.E.B Du Bois, Corruption, and the Racial Ecology of the State"

SALON G

Comparative Ethnicity and Arab American Literature

- Leila Tarakji, Michigan State University, "Storytelling and a Muslim American Origins Narrative in Lalami's *The Moor's Account*"
 - Mazen Naous, University of Massachusetts – Amherst, "Sign after Sign: A Poetics of Cross-Signification in Mohja Kahf's *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*"
 - Eman Ghanayem, University of Illinois – Urbana-Champaign, "Motherlands and Surrogates: Natives in Home Space, Exiles, and Enclosures"
 - Niven Herro, University of Cincinnati, "The Complexities of Community: Fae Myenne Ng's *Bone* and Mohja Kahf's *The Girl in the Tangerine Scarf*"
-

10:30 - 11:50

SALON C

Tongue Twisters: Spanish and Bilingual Literary Production in the U.S. from Theory to Practice

- Chair—Mauricio Espinoza, University of Cincinnati, "Making a Bilingual (Literary) Ohio: Spanish-Language Poetry in the Heart of It All"
- Rebecca Lindenberg, University of Cincinnati, "On Being Translated: Linguistic Collaboration and Creative Discovery"
- Violeta Orozco Barrera, Ohio University, "*Cantinleando*: Writing in Spanish in the U.S. as a Praxis of Resistance and Cultural Hybridization. The Perspective of the Bilingual Authors Ilan Stavans and Gloria Anzaldúa"

SALON D

Roundtable: Innovative Forms as Performances of Otherness

- Afsheen Farhadi, University of Cincinnati
- Parisa Adlifar, University of Cincinnati
- Sakinah Hofler, University of Cincinnati

SALON E

Voice, Agency, and Justice in Ayad Akhtar's *Disgraced*

- Hyo-Chang Hong, Marshall University, "Dialogic Negotiations in Ayad Akhtar's *Disgraced*"
- Puspa Damai, Marshall University, "How just is the law? A reflection on Ayad Akhtar's *Disgraced*"

SALON F

The Technology of Identity in African American Literature

- Gunner Taylor, University of Delaware, "John Henry vs. The Steam Drill: 'Racing' the Machine in the Information Age"
- Christine M Lupo, California State University – Sacramento, "Anachronistic Technologies and the Black Woman's Geography in Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad*"
- Ursula McTaggart, Wilmington College, "Infrastructure for Liberation in Cincinnati, *The Underground Railroad*, and *Exit West*"

SALON G

Redefining Citizenship in Immigrant Literature

- Tiffanie Clark-Sisay, University of Cincinnati, "Disenchanted Nostalgia: Ilka Oliva Corado's Transnational Poetics"
- Pam Lieske, Kent State University – Trumbull, "Elizabeth Strout's *The Burgess Boys*: Somali Refugees, Immigration, and Ideas of Home"
- Alison M. Johnson, University of Nevada – Reno, "Displacement and Purposeful Silence: Rebelling Against the White Gaze in *The Gangster We Are All Looking For*"

2:00 - 3:20

SALON B

Black Women Theorizing Race

- Casey Wayne Patterson, Stanford University, "Suppressed Subjects: The Miseducation and Autodidacticism of Black Literary Women"
- Brandi Locke, University of Delaware, "A Complicated Sisterhood: Alice Dunbar-Nelson's Writings from the Margins of the Black Clubwomen's Movement"
- Rachel O. Smith, Purdue University, "Disguising White Anxiety: Sarah Baartman's Impact on Contemporary Cultural Appropriation"

SALON C

Anxious White Self-Production: Confronting the Self but not Quite the Other, 1666-1999

- Sarah Le, Indiana University, "Margaret Cavendish's prose fiction, *The Blazing World* (1666)"
- Anushka Sen, Indiana University, "Marina Carr's play *The Mai* (1995)"
- Zoe Henry, Indiana University, "J. M. Coetzee's novel *Disgrace* (1999)"

SALON D

Literary Non-Fiction Reading

- Emily Heiden, University of Cincinnati, *Unplanned*
- Leila Mansouri, Scripps College, "Iranian Hair, American Borders"
- Tyrone Williams, Xavier University, "Put That Book Down and Go Play Outside/Reading While Black"

SALON E

The Role of Newspapers in African Diaspora Self-Fashioning

- Hannah Wakefield, University of Tennessee – Chattanooga, "Nineteenth-Century African American Newspapers and the Subterranean Meanings of Black Poetry"
- Brian Baaki, University of Memphis, "Crime and the Creation of the African American Press"

SALON F

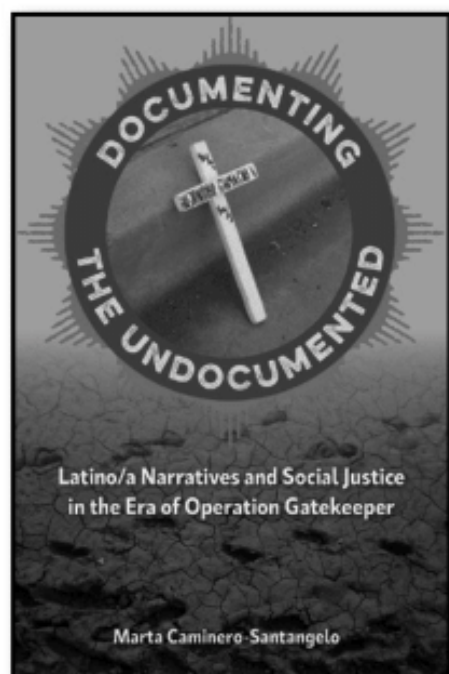
African Literature and Otherness

- John Getz, Xavier University, "Buried in the Desert: Unearthing Underground Narratives in Okorafor's Binti Trilogy"
- Wonjeong Kim, Idaho State University, "Surviving the Cultural Exploitation of Tourism in Zake Mda's *The Heart of Redness*"
- Jose Fernandez, Western Illinois University, "Transforming the Canon of Immigrant Literature through Social Mobility in Adichie's *Americanah*"

SALON G

Native American Textuality

- Alison Turner, University of Denver, "Rag Friends' and Triplicates: Native American Historical Fiction and Critiquing the Archive"
- Andrew Hamilton, University of Minnesota, "'We're Going to Be with Our Relatives': Occupation, Recognition, and Radical Inhabitation in Tommy Orange's *There There*"
- Frank P Kelderman, University of Louisville, "Sovereign Lessons: Indigenous Childhood and the Politics of Reform in Susette LaFlesche's Magazine Writings"
- Corinna Barrett Percy, Idaho State University, "Warriors, Killers, and Silence: Masculinity in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony*"



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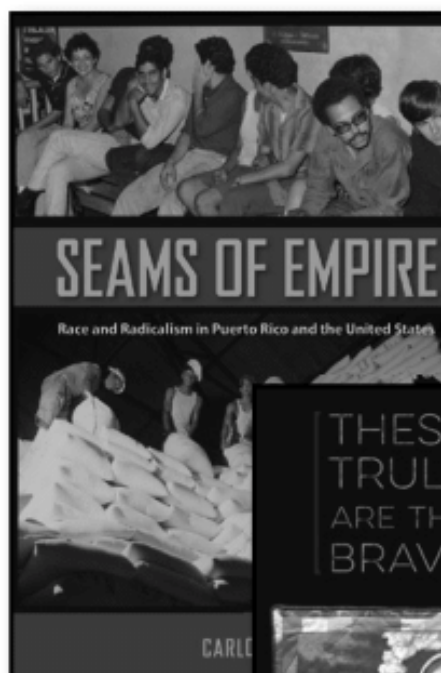
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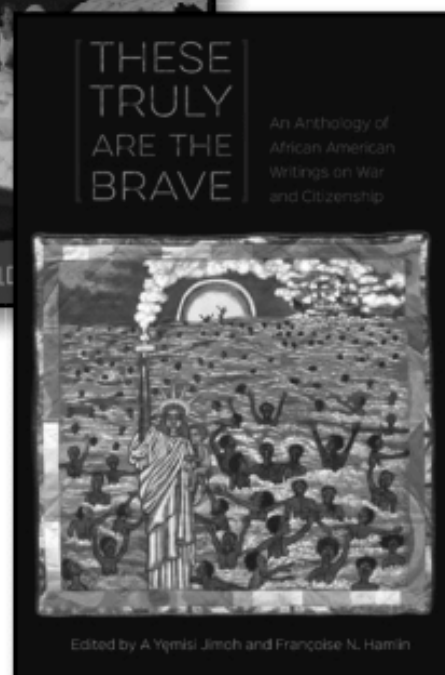


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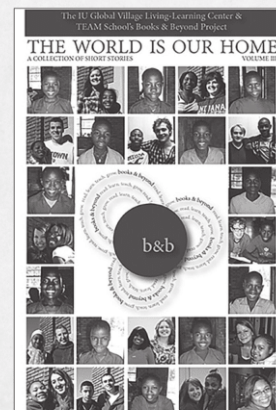
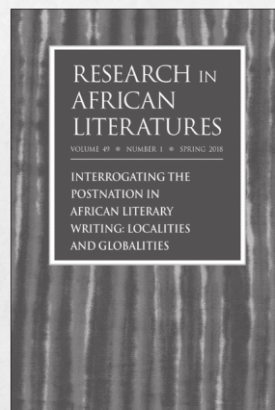
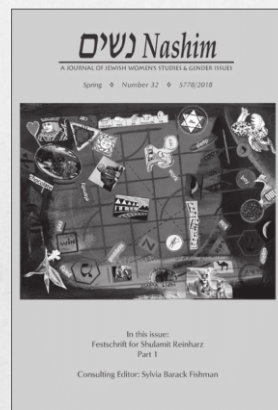
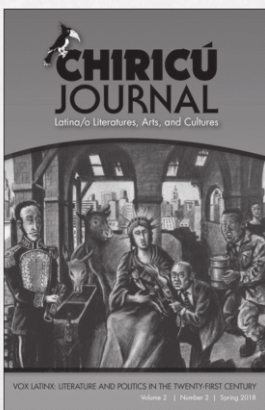
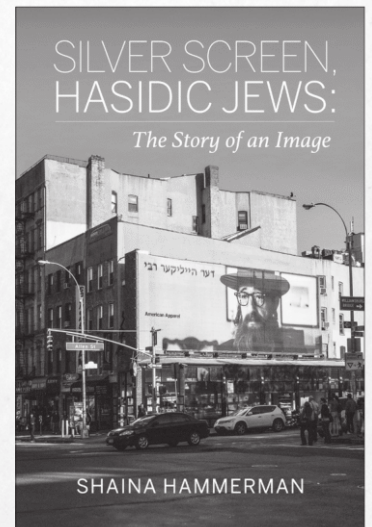
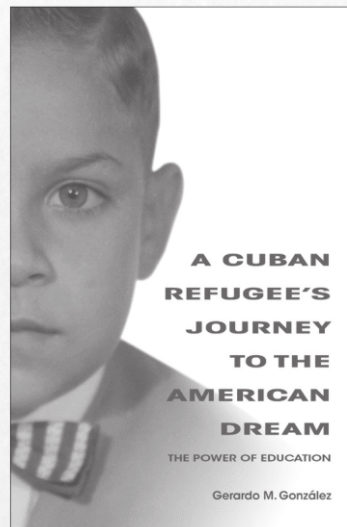
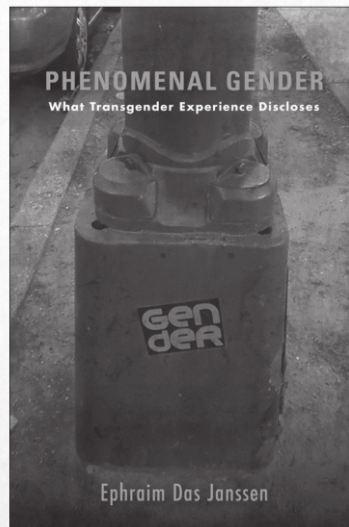
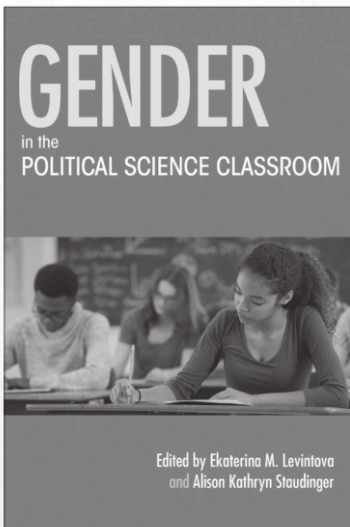
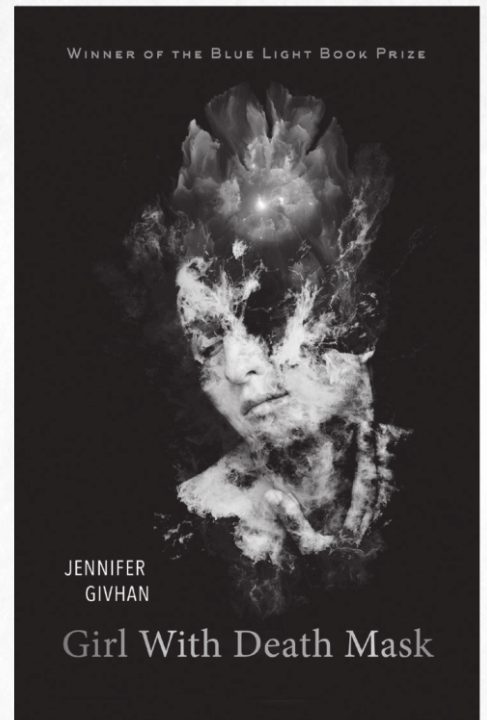
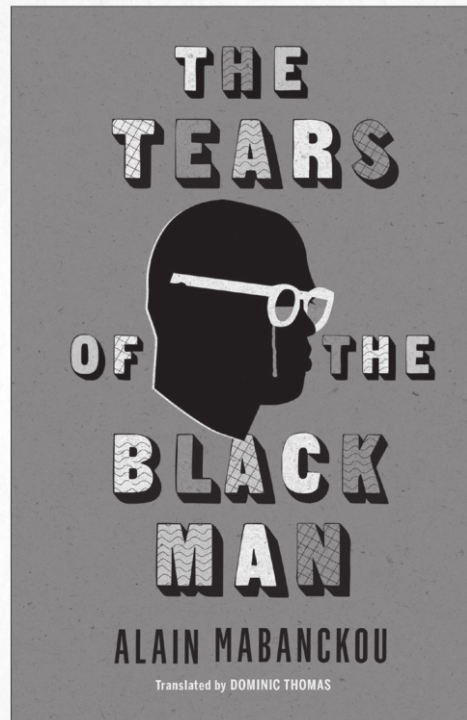
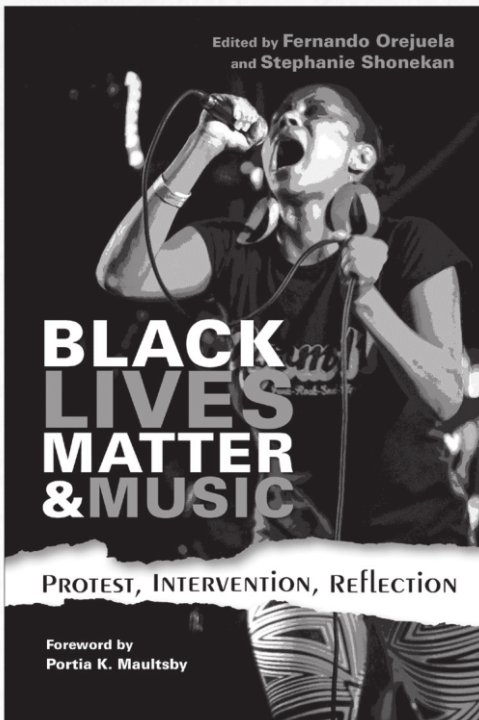
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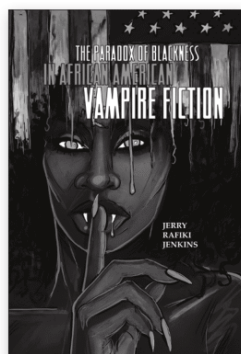
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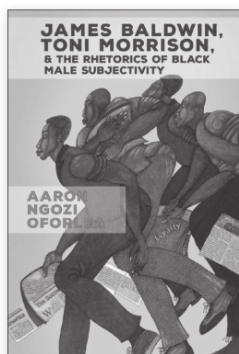
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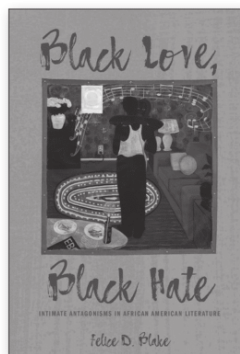


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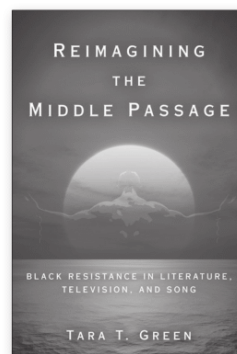


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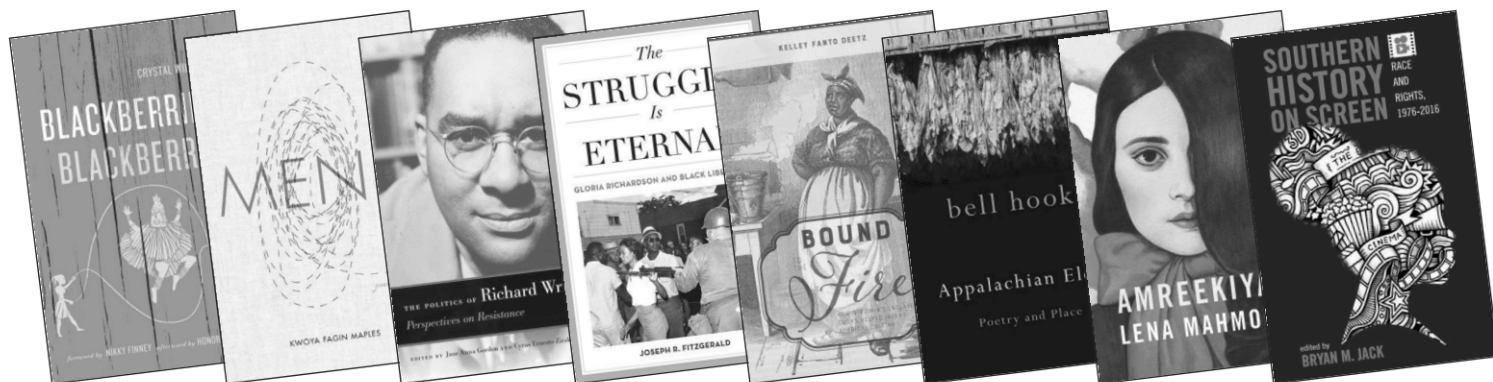
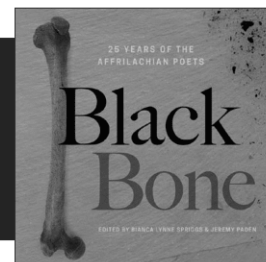


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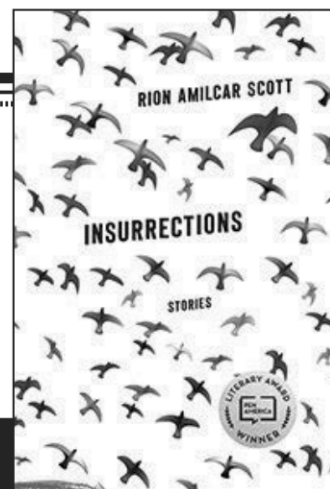
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MELUS 2020

CALL FOR PAPERS

University of New Orleans
April 2-5
Le Meriden Hotel

"Awakenings and Reckonings: Multiethnic Literature and Effecting Change--Past, Present and Future"

MELUS 2020 takes its theme's inspiration from the 2016 novel *In the Wake: On Blackness and Being*, in which Christina Sharpe draws on the various meanings of "wake" to consider Black experience in the US. She invokes the watery wake that followed the slave ship, the ritual of the funeral wake, and a state of consciousness, wakefulness, or "wokeness" that signals awareness about new and enduring legacies of injustice.

New Orleans is an apt site for considering how multiethnic literatures have been in dynamic relation to various wakes. Ships, burials, mournings, and hauntings have long defined the experiences of and stories told by New Orleanians and those who have passed through the city. A port city that served as 19th-century America's largest trading center of enslaved Africans and African Americans, New Orleans saw one of the most important and overlooked rebellions led by enslaved people in the U.S. The long wake of slavery created dramatic race and class disparities. The wake of the failure of the federal levee system, which caused the tragedy that was Hurricane Katrina, continues to be visible 14 years later.

The conference theme also alludes to Kate Chopin's classic New Orleans novel, *The Awakening*, which challenged gender and sexual norms of the late 19th century. Chopin is part of a robust genealogy of writers who have told--and continue to tell--stories of shifting consciousness, social change, and painful reckonings set in and around the South. As such, we aim to highlight and discuss how literature has responded to and effected change in the past, present, and in imagined and manifested futures. New Orleans been a key site for moments or processes of personal and collective awakenings. For many, Katrina was an important moment of awakening or renewed consciousness about the adaptation of past structures of exploitation and disposability for a new era.

New Orleans' diverse communities also provide considerable opportunities for examining how immigrant groups and their literatures have effected and continue to effect change. The city's port was the second largest point of entry for immigrants to the U.S. in the 19th century, among them German, Irish, Italian and Sicilian, and Haitian immigrants after the 1809 revolution. More recently, Vietnamese and Latin American immigrants have also helped to shape the city. Their voices join others in moments of awakenings and reckonings.

We welcome proposals for individual papers, panels, and roundtables, as well as creative writing and pedagogical discussions, on the broad spectrum of underground histories in multi-ethnic literature, culture, and performance including, but not limited to:

- Representations of wakes, wakefulness, and awakenings;
- Representations of reckoning with the past;
- Shifts in consciousness;
- Reckoning with the South's Confederate Past;
- Literature and public memory/monuments;
- Representations of ports, shipping, and circulation;
- Representations of funerals, wakes, and burials;
- And any other topics related to multi-ethnic literature and change.

The MELUS 2020 conference website, along with a complete CFP, will be available later this summer. In the meantime, if you have questions, you may email Kim Martin Long at kmlong@uno.edu.

