Fourteenth Annual Northwest Undergraduate Conference on Literature

Contemporary Responses, Critical Contexts

Saturday, March 25, 2017
The Northwest Undergraduate Conference on Literature was founded at the University of Portland in 2004 by Herman Asarnow, Professor Emeritus of English. Dr. Asarnow’s school-aged daughter gave him the idea when she wondered why there were so many science fairs and not too many literature fairs in her school. NUCL has been held annually for the past 14 years, enabled by the dedication of the University of Portland English department (staff, faculty, interns, and students) and the generous support of the College of Arts and Sciences, Provost’s Office, and Office of Admissions. Since 2004, more than 700 students from nearly 50 high schools and colleges from across the country have come to UP to share their literary passions and commitments with the NUCL community.

Welcome! We’re glad you’re part of this tradition.

“If one reads enough books, one has a fighting chance. Or better, one’s chances of survival increase with each book one reads.”

—Sherman Alexie
NUCL 2017 PROGRAM OF EVENTS

SIGN-IN  
8:30-9:00  
Mago Hunt Auditorium Foyer

WELCOME  
9:00-9:15  
Mago Hunt Recital Hall
Michael Andrews, Ph.D.  
Dean, UP College of Arts and Sciences  
Molly Hiro, Ph.D.  
NUCL Co-Chair

SESSION I  
9:30-10:45

1. Transhistorical Ecology  
Franz 217
   Gary Snyder and the Ecological Life:  
      Melissa Schade  
      Seattle University
   A Philosophical Close Reading
   Tyler Tennant  
   University of Portland
   The Hunted and the Huntress:
   Humanist Hierarchy and the Feminist Queen in Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
   Tess Rohlfing  
   University of Portland
   Martha Ray’s Mountaintop:
   An Ecofeminist Reading of “The Thorn”
   Respondents: David Jacobs and Abby Neirynck

2. Bodies and the Body Politic in the Early Modern World  
Franz 106
   Producing Bodies: Proto-Capitalist Rationale and Exploitative Maternity
   in Josuah Sylvester’s The Divine Weeks and Works
   Jacqueline Greenberg  
   University of California, Berkeley
   Physical Bodies and the Body Politic in Siege of Jerusalem
   Sasha Foley  
   University of Portland
   Bad Girl Performativity in Shakespeare’s Antony and Cleopatra and Cary’s Tragedy of Mariam
   Jessica Busek  
   University of Portland
   Respondents: Alex Allen and Morgan Mann
3. **Trumping the Truth: History and Facts Now**

Never Sink: Lessons from
*White Jacket’s Man-of-War World*

Communication’s Important Algorithms and Re-Compilation Thresholds: Literature’s Engagement Emulator

Facts and Their Discontents

Respondents: Arran Fagan and Kate Garcia

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4. **Race, Gender, and Form**

The Hopelessness and Frustration of Charles Chesnutt’s *The House Behind the Cedars*

“To Strengthen Whilst One Stands”: Sisterhood as Salvation in “Goblin Market”

Resisting Americanized Truths: An Exploration of Asian American Literatures and Their Authors

Respondents: Ryan Greenberg and Kelley McCaffery

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5. **Religious Borders, Spiritual Binaries**

Beyond “Secular” and “Sacred”: Pentecost and the Pentecostal Oath

Difficult Balance: Analyzing Tension between the Physical and Ideal Worlds in Three Poems by Richard Wilbur

*Wide Sargasso Sea*: Problematizing Religion and Feminism in *Jane Eyre* and the Western World

Respondents: Laura Misch and Julia Boharski

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6. **A Self Exposed: Personal Essays**

The Worst of the Worst and the Bildung of a Recidivist

Our Utterances Ourselves

Jesus, Dad, Manuel, Father, Manny

Respondents: Clint Terrell, Jacey de la Torre, Monica Salazar
Phở Isn’t Far from Poetry
Charlene Quach
Pacific Lutheran University

Respondents: Stephen Kellar and Catherine Warner

7. **Critique on Criticism: Moralizing and Misunderstood Authors**

The Stain on a Nation
Jake Woods
Southern Oregon University

Wilde’s Controversial Aestheticism:
How *Dorian Gray* Killed the Aesthetic Movement
Harrison Pyros
University of Portland

The Griswold Anatomists: Victorian Moral Reception
George Leickly
University of Washington

Respondents: Jacqueline Ott and Kirby Graff

**SESSION II**

11:00-12:15

1. **Swords ‘n Stuff: Thing Theory in Early British Literature**

The Voice of the Sword: Applying Object-Oriented Ontology to *Beowulf*
Tess Rohlfing
University of Portland

Humans, Objects, and Agency in *Siege of Jerusalem*
Rebekah Kolb
University of Portland

From Figs to Asps: The Relationship Between Gendered Objects and Performance in Shakespeare’s *Antony and Cleopatra*
Hannah Vogel
University of Portland

Respondents: Keaton Gaughan and Tinglei Huang

2. **Being Human: The EmBODYment of Social Justice**

Dehumanization of the Common Man: Kafka’s Morality Tale for 21st-Century America
Brennan Cupp
Southern New Hampshire University

The Road to Starvation: Nourishment and Body Politics in *The Hunger Games* and *The Road*
Anthony Boucher
Southern New Hampshire University

Altruism and Agape: Sacrificing the Self in Post-America
Jemiscoe Chambers-Black
Southern New Hampshire University

Respondents: Jennifer Hill and Will Young

   Truths Universally Acknowledged: Exploring the Layers of Mr. Darcy's Relationship to Pride, Society, and the Byronic Hero

   The Dead Hand: Agency and Allegory in *Middlemarch*

   People and Things: A Phenomenological Reading of Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway*

   Respondents: Megan Macker and Emily Nelson

4. **Gendered Adaptations**

   Reclaiming Leda: Michael Field’s Interpretation

   Constructing A Feminist Framework: Barrett Browning’s *Aurora Leigh*

   The Evolution of the Directional Purpose of Parody

   Respondents: Elizabeth Barker and Emily Kline

5. **Stories that Tell: Narrations and Their Readers**

   The Physical Fictional: Materiality and Reader Response in S. and *Building Stories*

   “Palabras casi vacías de ruido”; Faulkner, Rulfo, and the Politics of Narration

   The Literary and Philosophical Culture of Autobiographical Narratives

   Multiple Narratives in Coleridge's “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner” and Shelley’s “Alastor”

   Respondents: Sam Leicht and Emily Fitzgerald

6. **Race, Gender, and Exchange in the City**

   Culture as a Cage in Amy Levy’s *Reuben Sachs*

   The Exploitation of the Male Gaze in Dreiser’s *Sister Carrie*

   Economic and Emotional Strain: Identity in the City

   Respondents: Megan Macker and Emily Nelson
7. **Homelands: Negotiating Place & Identity**

- **The Displaced Subject: Hybridity and Third Spaces through an Economic Lens in *Everyday is for the Thief***
  Sara Gómez-Horta  
  Linfield University

- **Exploration of Western Imposition on Native Land and Identity in *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian***
  Sasha Foley  
  University of Portland

- **Settlers vs. Savages: The Construction of the White Frontier American in Laura Ingalls Wilder’s *Little House on the Prairie***
  Nikhil Murthy  
  Catlin Gabel High School

Respondents: Sarah Mernaugh and Monica Salazar

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**LUNCH AND AWARDS**  
12:30-1:30  
The Bauccio Board Room

Awards Presented by Joshua Swidzinski, Ph.D.  
NUCL Co-Chair

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS**  
1:45-2:45  
Bauccio Commons

“Critical Thought for Critical Times”  
Dr. Erica Edwards, University of California, Riverside

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**SESSION III**  
3:00-4:15  
Franz 217

1. **Illness, Affliction, Art**

- **Cancer as Metaphor: The Metaphorical Implications of Romanticized Illness***
  Bridget Bey  
  Trinity University

- **“Killing Time Won’t Stop This Crime”: Violence and its Permanence in Early Elliott Smith***
  Kruthi Annigeri  
  Jesuit High School

- **“How easy it once seemed to grow older”: An Analysis of Disease and Disillusionment in Three Poems by William Matthews***
  Abby O’Connor  
  Jesuit High School

Respondent: Caitlyn Shaffer and Christopher Lee
2. **Bodies, Beasts, and Violence**  
Heathcliff, Hareton, and the Hounds  
Death Possessed: Georges Bataille and the Erotic Poetry of John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester  
For the Love of Open Mouths: Kissing and Music in “Penelope”  
Respondents: Tyler Tennant and Rebekah Kolb  

3. **Challenging Time: Cultures of Temporality**  
Technology & Time: Understanding Simultaneity & Mechanized Temporality in *Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.*’s “4,722 Hours”  
Knowledge is Not for Knowing: Criticisms of Empiricism in Tom Stoppard’s *Arcadia*  
Yoko Ogawa, Borges’s Ts’ui Pen, and the Importance of Magical Realism  
Respondents: Brooke Zimmerle and Theresa Foley  

4. **Baldwin, Beyoncé, Butler: African American Form(ations)**  
“The Past and the Future Merge to Meet Us Here”: Afrofuturism in *Lemonade*  
James Baldwin and the Development of Identity: A Lacanian Approach  
Wildfire Fear: Examining Threat Construction in *Fledgling*  
Respondent: Johnny Boddy and Jessica Busek  

5. **NUCL in Verse: Original Poetry**  
Airplanes, Horizons, and Baggage  
Portrait of a Child’s Memory  
To Water, Everything is a Swimmer  

Respondent: Tor Strand  
Linfield College  

Sarah Hovet  
University of Oregon  

Timmy Straw  
Reed College
Somewhere In That Cinema
Bengamin Bartu
Linfield College

We Need You Here
Stephen Kellar
University of Portland

Respondents: Tayler Bradley and Kate Fennimore

6. PoCoLo: Post-Colonial Locations
Franz 214

A Landless Limbo: The Roles of Home, Unhomeliness, and Nomadism in The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
Kate Garcia
University of Portland

A Postcolonial Look at the Landscape of Martinique
Rachel Conway
Linfield College

A Rejection of Colonial Control: Rebellion in Annie John
Sarah Murphy
The Evergreen State College

Respondents: Rylee Warner and Coito

7. This Woman’s Work: Trauma, Loss, & Caretaking

Mother, Speak to Me: Trauma, Racism, and This Bridge Called My Back
Jacqueline Ott
University of Portland

“The Life of Perished Things”: Loss Without a “Lost” Identity
Laura Misch
University of Portland

Scrambled Egg or Ice Cream?: When Sandwiches Influence Caretaking in The Free
Emily Kline
University of Portland

Respondents: Harrison Pyros and Christina Beningfield

CLOSING RECEPTION 4:15-4:45
Franz Hall Lobby
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The University of Portland and NUCL honor the dedication of these teachers of literature and writing:

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Laura Bloxham, Whitworth University
Thomas Caraway, Whitworth University
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University of Portland Student Readers: Coito, Kate Garcia
And last but far from least! The Stupendous NUCL Interns:
Jessica Busek, Sasha Foley, Jacqueline Ott

Ornament from An Essay on Criticism, from Works (1717), Alexander Pope