

UNIVERSITY OF PORTLAND

## Fifteenth Annual Northwest Undergraduate Conference on Literature

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Contemporary Responses,  
Critical Contexts

Saturday, March 24, 2018



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 but no literature fairs at her school. NUCL has been held annually for the past 15 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 more than 60 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.

"It was Dostoevsky and Dickens who taught me that the things that tormented me most were the very things that connected me with all the people who were alive, or who ever had been alive."

—James Baldwin

# NUCL 2018 PROGRAM OF EVENTS

## SIGN-IN

8:45 – 9:00

Mago Hunt Auditorium Foyer

## WELCOME

9:00 – 9:15

Mago Hunt Recital Hall

Molly Hiro, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Department of English

NUCL Co-Chair

## SESSION I

9:30 – 10:45

### 1. Breaking Down Barriers: Culture, Communication, and Form

Franz 217

“What a wall!”: Culture and Social Rigidity  
in *Jude the Obscure*

Caroline Holyoak  
University of Portland

The Power of the Graphic Novel and the Young  
Japanese-Canadian Lesbian in Love

Melissa Teo  
University of British  
Columbia

Gregor’s Cognitive Isolation: Philosophical  
Idealism in Kafka’s *The Metamorphosis*

Peter Liu  
Lake Oswego High School

Communication and Community in John Berger’s  
*King*

Haley Grant  
University of Portland

Respondents: Brigid Lowney and Rylee Warner

### 2. Literary Time Capsules: Unbearing and Retelling

Franz 106

Hey Mister, She’s My Sister: A Brief Study of Diction  
in “The Stepsister’s Story” and the Effects of  
Updated Fairy Tales

Kynna Lovin  
Marylhurst University

The Romantic Picturesque in Caribbean  
Postcolonial Poetry: A Mimetic Movement  
Reclaiming a Literary Tradition

Rebecca Gross  
University of Washington

Vision and Revision of Feminine Agency:  
Cassandra in Classical Tragedy, Postmodern Novel

Marissa Lewis  
Seattle Pacific University

Respondents: Janie Grosvenor and Julian Benavente

- 3. Get Well Soon: Recovering from War Franz 128**
- Inarticulate Cries: Civil War Trauma Embodiment in Bierce's *Chickamauga* Alexis McDonald  
Southern Oregon University
- The Role of Fiction in *Atonement's* Reality Carrie Gao  
University of California,  
Berkeley
- Werewolves in Full Metal Jackets:  
De-Romanticizing War in the Media Age Anthony Boucher  
Southern New Hampshire  
University
- Respondents: Amanda Zazueta and Rosa Rackham
- 4. Down With the Patriarchy! Feminist Visions Franz 205**
- Revelations of "The Undiscovered Country":  
Ophelia and Elizabethan Patriarchy Deanna McNeely  
Washington State  
University Vancouver
- Consumption and Consummation: Edible  
Sexuality in Female Victorian Poetry Elsa Kienberger  
Pacific Lutheran University
- Sexuality Shaping Morality in *Jude the Obscure* Kayla Garchar  
University of Portland
- Respondent: Keaton Gaughan
- 5. Poetic Matters of the Heart Franz 206**
- Plath, Poetry, and a Pulitzer Prize: An Overview  
of Beauty Standards in the 1950s and 1960s Nikita Lalwani  
Jesuit High School
- The Journey vs. Destination in Love Lauren Paglinawan  
Jesuit High School
- Man Versus Nature: A Romantic Conflict Megan Schenk  
University of Oregon
- Dying to Fall in Love: A Proposal Examining the  
Similarities between Love and Death in Two  
Songs by Hozier Paul Danowski  
Jesuit High School
- Respondents: Kate Fennimore and Claire Noring
- 6. Dressed For My Sex: Performing Gender Franz 214**
- Gender Performativity as Power: Queer Resistance  
in "Tale of Iphis" Jordan Ayers  
Seattle University
- Beauty, Time, and the Exquisite Self in *Oke of  
Okehurst* Eva Cilman  
Reed College

More Than a Woman in a Hat: Deconstructing the American Heterosexual Matrix through *The Female Marine*

Quincy Kitson  
Reed College

Respondent: Tayler Bradley

**7. Accessing Injustice: Fictions and Poetics of Oppression**

**Franz 223**

The Unknown World: Examining Attempts to Claim the Past as Our Own in Edward P. Jones's *The Known World*

Eva Gellman  
Lewis & Clark College

Gandhian Gender Politics in *Waiting for the Mahatma*

Amanda Fawcett  
Seattle University

An Indictment of Oppressive, Structured Reality: Magical Realism in *The Known World*

Brian Dang  
University of Washington

Respondents: Harrison Pyros and Emma Finney

**8. Exposing Hegemonies in Modern Literature**

**Franz 231**

La Petite Mort: Jonathan Safran Foer's Psychoanalysis of Human Fear in *Everything Is Illuminated*

Hana Kirchoff  
Seattle University

What Happens When the Others Show Up?

Matt Spencer  
Portland Community College

O Jamesy Let Me Up Out of This: Narrative and Feminism in "Penelope"

Daniel Lloyd  
University of Puget Sound

Respondents: Elizabeth Barker and Kai Krajeck

**SESSION II**

**11:00 – 12:45**

**1. Selves in Context: Creative Non-Fiction**

**Franz 231**

One Journey

Jacey de la Torre  
Reed College

This Is

Avalon Styles-Ashley  
Seattle University

Dear Hollywood: The Importance of Diversity in American Media

Elena Pendleton  
Seattle University

Mount Vernon's Slaves

Hallie Chavez  
Hiram College

Respondents: Christina Beningfield and Kyle Sparrman

- 2. Mobs, Melancholy, and Madness Franz 106**
- “Now I Could Drink Hot Blood,” The Chivalric Providentialism in William Shakespeare’s *Hamlet* Kaley O’Connor  
Washington State University Vancouver
- The Sacrifice of the Poet in *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* Sienna Ballou  
Pacific University
- Degrees of Disorder: Melancholy and Villainy in *The Duchess of Malfi* Rachel Fromherz  
Seattle University
- Respondents: Ella Lamm and Kira Champelli
- 3. The Artist and the Reader: Deconstructing Theory Franz 128**
- The Death and Resurrection of Actuality Erika Rasmussen  
Santa Clara University
- To Dream of the Dead In Order to Kill the Living: Rhetorics of Tragedy and Difference in the Paul de Man Scandal Vincent Benlloch  
Grinnell College
- The Episodic Journey of “Bartleby the Scrivener” through the Literary Canon Camille Piazza  
Reed College
- Respondent: Monica Salazar
- 4. Weird English: Linguistic and Cultural Insights Franz 205**
- Syntactical Disorder, Storm Detritus: A Stylistic Analysis of Hart Crane’s “The Air Plant” Claire Lloyd  
University of British Columbia
- The Future is Nao: Weird English in Ruth Ozeki’s *A Tale for the Time Being* Stuart Myers  
Catlin Gabel High School
- Apathetic Marginalization: Unmasking the Silenced Perspectives in Junot Díaz’s *Drown* Andrew Look  
Catlin Gabel High School
- Respondent: Emily Nelson
- 5. The Collective and the Individual in Memory and Desire Franz 206**
- “Light of My Life”: Projections from the Magic Lantern of Desire in *Lolita* Caroline McCulloch  
Reed College
- Affective Memory Aditi Kumar  
Reed College
- “I Came to Explore the Wreck”: Three Feminist Waves and the Androgynous Poet in Adrienne Rich Olivya Veazey  
Reed College
- Respondent: Sasha Foley

- 6. We Remember, We Forget: Reading Collective Memory** Franz 214
- Survived by the Living and the Ghosts: Elegy in Sherman Alexie's *You Don't Have to Say You Love Me* Alex Moses  
Reed College
- Rhetorical Analysis of the Hidden Narratives of Black Individuals: Displacement in Portland, Oregon Diadira Pedro-Xuncax  
Portland State University
- Cultural Memory, Microhistory, and the use of Historical Fiction Kate Rogan  
University of Puget Sound
- Respondents: Kelley McCaffery and Hannah Tribolet

- 7. Awakening Political Consciousness** Franz 223
- Remedying Double Consciousness in Césaire's *Une Tempête* Shayna Brodnick  
University of California, Berkeley
- Philosophy, Politics, and Paranoia: Pynchon and the Construction of the Postmodern Subject Sam Beeker  
University of Oregon
- Critiques from Within: The Depiction of Regimes in the Works of Alaa Al Aswany, Sinan Antoon and Mohamed Choukri Emma Scheve  
University of Portland
- Respondents: Claire Breiholz and Christian Chase

**LUNCH AND AWARDS** 12:30 – 1:30 **Bauccio Commons Board Room**

Dean's Welcome: Gary Malecha, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences  
Awards Presentation: Joshua Swidzinski, Assistant Professor, Department of English, NUCL Co-Chair

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

"Does Literature Change Anything?: Lessons from African American Writing"  
Dr. Kenneth Warren, University of Chicago

**SESSION III** 3:00 – 4:15 **Franz 205**

- 1. A Monstrous Identity: How *Frankenstein* Shapes Us**
- Unstitched: Archival Presentism in *Frankenstein* Irena Huang  
Mills College
- Abject Bodies and the Power of a Label Keaton Gaughan  
University of Portland

<p>The Monstrosity of Othering: Questioning What It Means to Be Human in Shelley’s <i>Frankenstein</i></p> <p>Respondent: Hannah Vogel</p>	<p>Sasha Foley University of Portland</p>
<p><b>2. The Eyes Have It: Literature and Looking</b></p> <p>Veil of Words: Communication and Intimacy in <i>To the Lighthouse</i></p> <p>Ocular Proof and Deception in <i>Young Goodman Brown</i>: Navigating the Ambiguous Through the Definite</p> <p>“Taming a Sea-Horse”: The Duke of Ferrara’s Lacanian <i>Méconnaissance</i></p> <p>Respondent: Laura Misch</p>	<p><b>Franz 106</b></p> <p>Jake Bienvenue George Fox University</p> <p>Natasha Perrino Reed College</p> <p>Abby Rogers Northwest University</p>
<p><b>3. The Roles We Fail, The Roles We Fill: Perspectives on Caretaking</b></p> <p>Queerness, Power, and Motherhood</p> <p>Birth of a Nation: Pioneer Women of American Regionalism</p> <p>Servicemanship: Exploring Animal/Human Dynamics in Disability</p> <p>Respondents: Arran Fagan and Tayte Pollmann</p>	<p><b>Franz 128</b></p> <p>Sadie McCarthy Western Washington University</p> <p>Emily Nelson University of Portland</p> <p>Ella Lamm University of Portland</p>
<p><b>4. Original Poetry: NUCL in Verse</b></p> <p>A Letter to My Skeleton</p> <p>Poems of the Band and the Summer</p> <p>Stone Ground</p> <p>One Small Piece</p> <p>Reflect + Refract</p> <p>Respondents: Kirby Graff and Megan Kite</p>	<p><b>Franz 231</b></p> <p>Jessie Box University of Oregon</p> <p>Christine Claringbold Portland State University</p> <p>Kate Fennimore University of Portland</p> <p>Benjamin Bartu Linfield College</p> <p>Kelley McCaffery University of Portland</p>



- 5. Narratives of Seduction and Repression Franz 206**
- Monsters and Madness: The Self as a Monster in the Gothic Novel  
Edith's Ethan  
Kristin Stein  
Marylhurst University
- On Fertile Soil: O.E. Rølvaag's Nature as a Seductive Threat  
Olivia Gomez  
Linfield College
- Respondents: Wes Cruse and Olivia Mitchell
- 6. Ecology and Me: Metaphorizing the Natural Franz 214**
- White Mulberries and Retributive Justice in Willa Cather's *O Pioneers!*  
Danae Golding  
Seattle University
- Oliver's Trudge to Transcendence  
Leo Deng  
Jesuit High School
- Emily Dickinson's Queer Ecology  
Kiana Borjian  
University of California, Davis
- Respondents: Caroline Holyoak and Sarah Mernaugh
- 7. Not Just About Vampires: Theoretical Explorations of Young Adult Literature Franz 223**
- Violence as Communication: Comparing the Depiction of Domestic Abuse in *Wuthering Heights* and the *Twilight* Series  
Emily Boynton  
Seattle University
- Surveillance, Terrorism, and Race in Cory Doctorow's *Little Brother*  
Andrea Garza  
University of British Columbia
- The Evolution in Dystopian Fiction: Overcoming The Human Condition in *The Road* and *The Hunger Games*  
Emily Shupe  
Southern New Hampshire University
- Respondents: Parker Wilttrout and Madeline Erickson

**CLOSING RECEPTION**

**4:15-4:45**

**Franz Hall Lobby**

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of literature and writing:

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University of Portland Student Readers: Monica Salazar, Sasha Foley, Coito  
And last but far from least! The Stupendous NUCL Interns:  
Kelley McCaffery, Caroline Holyoak, Kyle Sparrman



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

