Fifteenth Annual
Northwest Undergraduate
Conference on Literature

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  
Franz 217

1. Breaking Down Barriers: Culture, Communication, and Form  
“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  
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  
Rebecca Gross  
University of Washington

Reclaiming a Literary Tradition  
Marissa Lewis  
Seattle Pacific University

Vision and Revision of Feminine Agency: Cassandra in Classical Tragedy, Postmodern Novel  
Respondents: Janie Grosvenor and Julian Benavente
3. Get Well Soon: Recovering from War
   Inarticulate Cries: Civil War Trauma Embodiment in Bierce’s *Chickamauga*
   The Role of Fiction in *Atonement*’s Reality
   Werewolves in Full Metal Jackets: De-Romanticizing War in the Media Age

   Respondents: Amanda Zazueta and Rosa Rackham

4. Down With the Patriarchy! Feminist Visions
   Revelations of “The Undiscovered Country”: Ophelia and Elizabethan Patriarchy
   Consumption and Consummation: Edible Sexuality in Female Victorian Poetry
   Sexuality Shaping Morality in *Jude the Obscure*

   Respondent: Keaton Gaughan

5. Poetic Matters of the Heart
   Plath, Poetry, and a Pulitzer Prize: An Overview of Beauty Standards in the 1950s and 1960s
   The Journey vs. Destination in Love
   Man Versus Nature: A Romantic Conflict
   Dying to Fall in Love: A Proposal Examining the Similarities between Love and Death in Two Songs by Hozier

   Respondents: Kate Fennimore and Claire Noring

6. Dressed For My Sex: Performing Gender
   Gender Performativity as Power: Queer Resistance in “Tale of Iphis”
   Beauty, Time, and the Exquisite Self in *Oke of Okehurst*

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

Respondent: Tayler Bradley

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

"Now I Could Drink Hot Blood,” The Chivalric Kayley O’Connor
Providentialism in William Shakespeare’s Hamlet

The Sacrifice of the Poet in The Tragedy of Julius Caesar

Degrees of Disorder: Melancholy and Villainy in The Duchess of Malfi
Respondents: Ella Lamm and Kira Champelli

3. The Artist and the Reader: Deconstructing Theory

The Death and Resurrection of Actuality

To Dream of the Dead In Order to Kill the Living: Rhetorics of Tragedy and Difference in the
Paul de Man Scandal

The Episodic Journey of "Bartleby the Scrivener" through the Literary Canon
Respondent: Monica Salazar

4. Weird English: Linguistic and Cultural Insights

Syntactical Disorder, Storm Detritus: A Stylistic Analysis of Hart Crane’s “The Air Plant”

The Future is Nao: Weird English in Ruth Ozeki’s A Tale for the Time Being

Apathetic Marginalization: Unmasking the Silenced Perspectives in Junot Díaz’s Drown
Respondent: Emily Nelson

5. The Collective and the Individual in Memory and Desire

"Light of My Life": Projections from the Magic Lantern of Desire in Lolita

Affective Memory

“I Came to Explore the Wreck”: Three Feminist Waves and the Androgynous Poet in Adrienne Rich
Respondent: Sasha Foley
6. **We Remember, We Forget: Reading Collective Memory**  
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**  
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
2. The Eyes Have It: Literature and Looking
Veil of Words: Communication and Intimacy in *To the Lighthouse*
Ocular Proof and Deception in *Young Goodman Brown*: Navigating the Ambiguous Through the Definite
"Taming a Sea-Horse": The Duke of Ferrara’s Lacanian Méconnaissance
Respondent: Laura Misch

3. The Roles We Fail, The Roles We Fill: Perspectives on Caretaking
Queerness, Power, and Motherhood
Birthing a Nation: Pioneer Women of American Regionalism
Serveship: Exploring Animal/Human Dynamics in Disability
Respondents: Arran Fagan and Tayte Pollmann

4. Original Poetry: NUCL in Verse
A Letter to My Skeleton
Poems of the Band and the Summer
Stone Ground
One Small Piece
Reflect + Refract
Respondents: Kirby Graff and Megan Kite
### 5. Narratives of Seduction and Repression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monsters and Madness: The Self as a Monster in the Gothic Novel</td>
<td>Kristin Stein</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edith's Ethan</td>
<td>Marylhurst University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On Fertile Soil: O.E. Rølvaag's Nature as a Seductive Threat</td>
<td>Jahan Kahusi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oregon State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondents: Wes Cruse and Olivia Mitchell</td>
<td>Olivia Gomez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Linfield College</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 6. Ecology and Me: Metaphorizing the Natural

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Mulberries and Retributive Justice in Willa Cather's <em>O Pioneers!</em></td>
<td>Danae Golding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seattle University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliver's Trudge to Transcendence</td>
<td>Leo Deng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jesuit High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Dickinson's Queer Ecology</td>
<td>Kiana Borjian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of California, Davis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondents: Caroline Holyoak and Sarah Mernaugh</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 7. Not Just About Vampires: Theoretical Explorations of Young Adult Literature

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Violence as Communication: Comparing the Depiction of Domestic Abuse in <em>Wuthering Heights</em> and the <em>Twilight Series</em></td>
<td>Emily Boynton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Seattle University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surveillance, Terrorism, and Race in Cory Doctorow's <em>Little Brother</em></td>
<td>Andrea Garza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>University of British Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Evolution in Dystopian Fiction: Overcoming The Human Condition in <em>The Road</em> and <em>The Hunger Games</em></td>
<td>Emily Shupe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southern New Hampshire University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Respondents: Parker Wiltrot and Madeline Erickson</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### CLOSING RECEPTION

**4:15-4:45**
Franz Hall Lobby
FACULTY SPONSORS OF NUCL PARTICIPANTS

The University of Portland and NUCL honor the dedication of these teachers of literature and writing:

Alma Alvarez, Southern Oregon University
Steve Andrews, Grinnell College
Gisele Baxter, University of British Columbia
Keri Behre, Marylhurst University
Mike Benveniste, University of Puget Sound
Ina Biermann, University of British Columbia
Geneviève Brassard, University of Portland
Phyllis Brown, Santa Clara University
Maria Bullon-Fernandez, Seattle University
Molly Clark Hillard, Seattle University
Rachel Cole, Lewis & Clark College
Jay Dickson, Reed College
Elyse Fenton, University of Portland
Brenda Glascott, Portland State University
Rick Gooding, University of British Columbia
Fr. Patrick Hannon, University of Portland
Gillian Harkins, University of Washington
Kathy Heininge, George Fox University
Desiree Hellegers, Washington State University
Cara Hubbell, Marylhurst University
Nalini Iyer, Seattle University
Donna Jones, University of California, Berkeley
William Kupinse, University of Puget Sound
Lars Larson, University of Portland
Laura Leibman, Reed College
Raymond Malewitz, Oregon State University
Megan Mathes, Jesuit High School
John McDonald, University of Portland
Joseph McQueen, Northwest University
Mary Metzger, Western Washington University
Allison Meyer, Seattle University
Susan Meyers, Seattle University
Jan Mieszkowski, Reed College
Lisa Mitchell, Lake Oswego High School
Raimonda Modiano, University of Washington
Brendan O’Kelly, University of Oregon
Erin Perry, Portland State University
Paul Plank, Seattle University
Forest Pyle, University of Oregon
Mary Quade, Hiram College
Jason Rizos, Portland Community College
Christina Roberts, Seattle University
Solveig Robinson, Pacific Lutheran University
Peter Rock, Reed College
Margaret Ronda, University of California, Davis
Kirsten Saxton, Mills College
Barbara Seidman, Linfield College
Gail Sherman, Reed College
Mary-Antoinette Smith, Seattle University
Lisa Steinman, Reed College
Elizabeth Tavares, Pacific University
Doug Thorpe, Seattle Pacific University
Corbett Upton, University of Oregon
Claire van den Broek, Southern New Hampshire University
Sarah Weiger, University of Portland
Krystal Wu, Catlin Gabel High School
Irene Yoon-Miller, University of California, Berkeley
NUCL gratefully thanks...

The University of Portland
Thomas Greene, Provost
Gary Malecha, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
Jason McDonald, Dean of Admissions
Reneé Byrd, Linda Gill, Kassie Hansen, Scott Petty, Printing Services
Department of English: Geneviève Brassard, Cheri Buck-Perry, Fr. Pat Hannon,
Cara Hersh, Molly Hiro, Lars Erik Larson, John McDonald,
John Orr, Joshua Swidzinski, Sarah Weiger, Jen McDaneld
Kelly Brown, Office Manager, Department of English
Bradley Kerr, Information Services
Lori Ungern and Sara Votava, Office of the Controller
Vickie Long, Bon Appetit
Sean Ducey, Office of University Events
Student Panel Respondents
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