



# NUCL

Northwest Undergraduate Conference on  
Literature  
Saturday, March 23, 2019

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 with 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. 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.

This year, Seattle University is honored to be hosting NUCL for the first time, and we are glad to welcome you to the Sixteenth Annual Northwest Undergraduate Conference on Literature.

We have three available WiFi usernames and passwords for your complementary use. These can be found on the "SU-guest" network.

o User: g-nucl1

Password: SUEvents2019!

o User: g-nucl2

Password: SUEvents2019!

o User: g-nucl3

Password: SUEvents2019!

# Acknowledgements

We gratefully acknowledge the following:

## **OUR SPONSORS**

Seattle University English Department  
David Powers, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Seattle University Undergraduate Admissions  
Shane Martin, Provost  
Sarah Watstein, Lemieux Library  
Seattle University Student Research Grants Program  
Natasha Martin, Vice President, Office of Diversity and  
Inclusion

## **THE SEATTLE U NUCL COMMITTEE**

Molly Clark Hillard, Committee Chair  
Charles Tung, Department Chair  
Maria Bullon-Fernandez  
Allison Machlis Meyer  
Bryn Gribben  
Alex Smith

## **OUR WONDERFUL STUDENT ASSISTANTS:**

Hana Kirchoff, Natalie Langdale, and Elena Selthun

## **OUR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT:**

Shawn Bell, English Department  
Karen Bystrom and Bruce Decker, College of Arts and Sciences

## **ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION READERS FROM UP:**

Joshua Swidzinski, Genevieve Brassard, Pat Hannon, Sophie  
Downing, Caitlin Shaffer, Tayler Bradley, Madeline Erickson

Finally, we would like to express our deep appreciation for the University of Portland for allowing us the tremendous privilege of hosting their conference for the year. We have relied on the prodigious knowledge and generous help of Joshua Swidzinski and Molly Hiro to bring this event about, and we hope that we have done justice to the long tradition of NUCL's excellence at UP.

# Conference Overview

---

Sign-in & Breakfast	PACCAR Atrium, Pigott Building	8:00-8:45
Morning welcome	PACCAR Auditorium, Pigott Building	8:45-9:15
Opt-in tour of campus	Leaving from PACCAR Atrium	9:30-10:30
Session 1	Various	9:30-10:50
Session 2	Various	11:00-12:20
Lunch & Awards	Student Center 160	12:30-1:30
Keynote	Student Center 160	1:30-2:15
Session 3	Various	2:30-3:50
Session 4	Various	4:00-5:20
Rare Books Petting Zoo	Popko Lounge, Lemieux Library	5:30-7:00

## Keynote Speaker Biography

---



**D**r. Dorothy Kim teaches Medieval Literature at Brandeis University. Her research focuses on race, gender, digital humanities, medieval women's literary cultures, medievalism, Jewish/Christian difference, book history, digital media, and the alt-right. She was a 2013-2014 Fellow at the University of Michigan's Frankel Institute of Advanced Judaic Studies where she drafted a monograph entitled *Jewish/Christian Entanglements: Ancrene*

*Wisse and its Material Worlds* which is forthcoming from the University of Toronto press. She also has two books, *The Alt-Medieval: Digital Whiteness* and *Medieval Studies and Decolonize the Middle Ages*, forthcoming with ArcPress. She has received fellowships from the SSHRC, Ford Foundation, Fulbright, and Mellon. She is the co-project director in the NEH-funded Scholarly Editions and Translations project *An Archive of Early Middle English*. She is co-editing *A Cultural History of Race in the Renaissance and Early Modern Age (1350-1550)* with Kimberly Coles (University of Maryland, College Park) with Bloomsbury (forthcoming 2019). She is also editing a special issue of *Medieval Feminist Forum: A Journal of Gender and Sexuality on Medieval Trans Feminisms* (forthcoming Fall 2018). She is currently an AAUW fellow working on her next book, *Race, the Crusades, and the Katherine Group*.

## NUCL 2019 PROGRAM OF EVENTS

---

Sign-in & Breakfast	PACCAR Atrium, Pigott Building	8:00-8:45
Morning welcome	PACCAR Auditorium, Pigott Building	8:45-9:15
Opt-in tour of campus	Leaving from PACCAR Atrium	9:30-10:30

### SESSION 1 9:30-10:50

#### DISORDERLY BODIES

PIGT 201

---

Moderator: Hana Kirchoff

Olivia Lim:

“Reframing the Victorian Fallen Woman: Evaluating Character in Elizabeth Gaskell’s *Ruth*”

Saraya Ittidecharchoti

“Disfigurement of Africans and African Americans in *Homegoing*”

Shirlee Watson:

“Let’s Talk About Disability in the Victorian Era, Baby!”

Anna Kahn:

“Looking at the Same Sky Together:” Space, Place, and Vantage Points in John Green’s *Turtles All The Way Down*”

---

**ECOCRITICISM AND NATURE**PIGT 203

---

Moderator: Charles Tung

Caroline Holyoak:

“Gardens and Domination in *The Canterbury Tales*”

Mikhaila Bishop:

“A Waterfall of Mercy: Ecocriticism in Toni Morrison”

Julia Parkey:

“Pollution and Class in Engels’ ‘The Great Towns’”

Kyra Mainer:

“Fluid Minds and Permeable Selves: Water Imagery and the Oceanic Sublime in Glasgow’s *Barren Ground*”

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHAUCER**PIGT 204

---

Moderator: Maria Bullón-Fernández

Gianluca Bertoia:

“Don’t Mess with Chess: The Consequences of Chaucer’s Allegory Gone Wrong”

Kelsi Mack:

“*The Wife of Bath*: Chaucer’s Strides for Women’s Rights”

Sofia McVea:

“Chaucer’s *The Wife of Bath* and Proto-Feminism”

---

## IDENTITY AND INDIVIDUALITY

PIGT 306

---

Moderator: Alia Fukumoto

Abigail Preston:

“Subjectivity of Memory and Self-Representation in Autobiography”

Emerson Hamlin:

“Carrie: Building Identity Through Consumption”

Rachel Hay:

“Noble Intentions and Incoherencies: Moral Liberation in Shakespeare’s *King Lear*”

## POSTCOLONIAL DISCOURSES AND THEORIES

PIGT 307

---

Moderator: Amanda Fawcett

Berkeley Franklin:

“Of Mimicry and Mustafa: Mimetic Discourse in Tayeb Salih’s *Season of Migration to the North*”

Taylor Bradley:

“The Colonization of the Female Body: Feminist and Postcolonial Theory in Salih’s *Season of Migration to the North*”

Theresa Foley:

“A Colonial Product”



**CREATIVE NONFICTION I: WRITING PLACE**

PIGT 308

Moderator: Ian Wuertz

Alexia Kemerling:

“In Memoriam of Rust”

Zia Pollis:

“The Wood Burning Prayer”

Elizabeth Ayers:

“Sea-Bound”

Brenna White:

“Los Tres de Espadas”

**SESSION 2**

11:00-12:20

**MEDIEVAL ORDER AND DISORDER**

PIGT 201

Moderator: Kathryn Vulic

Kyle Riper:

“Them’s Flyting Words: The Boundaries of Acceptable  
Affronts in Medieval European Poetry”

Em Nelson:

“Bringing Morals to the Table: English Medieval  
Leadership from Beowulf to Sir Gaiwan”

Riley Stewart:

“The Original Scarlet Letter: Flyting, Green Girdles, and  
Medieval Order in England”

## TRAUMA AND HEALING

PIGT 203

---

Moderator: Alexandra Smith

Mason Pierce:

“What Makes a Guilty Nation?: J.M. Coetzee’s *Waiting for the Barbarians* and the Truth & Reconciliation Commission”

Kennedy Dresh:

“Haunting in *Edinburgh*”

Kate Henley:

“Curing Racism: Infecting and Healing a Colonized World”

## SCENES ON AND OFFSTAGE

PIGT 204

---

Moderator: Allison Meyer

Bianca Salazar:

“The Figure of Orlando in *As You Like It*”

Logan Albert:

“How to Get Away with Witchcraft: an Examination of Helena’s Character in *All’s Well that Ends Well*”

Nola Peshkin:

“Scenes That go Un-Seen are Not Always Obscene”

Elsa Kienberger:

“Critiquing Hierarchies: Victorian Women Playwrights and Slave Motifs”

---

**WRITING FORM, FORMING WRITERS**

PIGT 306

---

Moderator: Elizabeth MacGregor

Emily Schlepp:

“A Freelance Angel: The Portrayal of the Female Artist in Elizabeth Barrett Browning’s *Aurora Leigh*”

Claire Noring:

“The Dangers of Deceit in Letter Writing”

Daisy Couture:

“ “fertile (?) mud”: Rebirth and the Epic Form in William Carlos Williams’ *Paterson*”

Madeline Scully:

“Jane Austen’s Insular Radicalism”

**GIRLHOODS**

PIGT 307

---

Moderator: Elizabeth Tavares

Sophie Downing:

“First and foremost, a thing to be judged”: Skewed Power Dynamics in *The Girls*”

Hannah Nguyen:

“Girl Power in the Victorian Era! Illustrated in Christina Rossetti’s ‘Goblin Market’”

Kira Russell:

“The Weird Sisters, Hand in Hand: The Absurdity of Girlhood in Salem Witchcraft Literature”

---

## CREATIVE NONFICTION II: WRITING FAMILY I

PIGT 308

---

Moderator: Amy Gulley

Sierra Stella:

“You Are Here”

Trey Rudolph:

“A Whole-Heart to a Half-Brother”

Brian Dang:

“Who Do I Write For?: Mapping Form and Subject Onto the Self”

---

Lunch & Awards

Student Center 160

12:30-1:30

Keynote

Student Center 160

1:30-2:15

*Dr. Dorothy Kim. Brandeis University:*

*“Medieval Race, the Preracial, and the Archive”*

---

## SESSION 3

2:30-3:50

## MOTHERHOODS

PIGT 201

---

Moderator: Emma Wahl

Claire Breiholz:

“The Economics of Motherhood: Roy’s *The God of Small Things*”

---

**MOTHERHOODS CONT.**PIGT 201

---

Saya Watanabe:

“Maidens, Mothers, and Marked Women in Shakespeare’s *Measure for Measure*”

Megan Troupe:

“Chicana Reclamation of Spiritual Authority in *So Far from God*”

**GENDER EXPRESSIONS**PIGT 203

---

Moderator: Kennedy Dresh

Iris de Lis:

“Carried Away: Gendered Aspiration and Desire in *Sister Carrie*”

Tira McGavin:

“Gender Expressions of Galahad in *Le Morte D’Arthur*”

Nicholas Steinhour:

“Herbert-Ex-Machina: Redefining Masculinity”  
Southworth’s *The Hidden Hand*”

Claire Pask:

“A *Fin-de-siècle* Sphinx: New Women, Decadent Men, and the Riddle of Gender”

---

**WAR STORIES**

PIGT 204

---

Moderator: Madeline Erickson

Adikus Schmahl-Waggoner:

“The invisible scars of war: Desensitization in World War I”

Anna Ladokhin:

“Let’s Call a Gun a Gun: Dickinson and the Civil War”

Emily Nelson:

“A Woman’s Place: The Revolution Personified in *A Grain of Wheat*”

**ON LIBERTY: POETIC AND NATIONAL IDENTITIES**

PIGT 306

---

Moderator: Elizabeth MacGregor

Tyler Bunker:

“Paradox and Hope in Phillis Wheatley’s ‘Liberty and Peace’”

Sarah Hovet:

“‘Bannabees,’ Bananas, and Sweet Potatoes: Claude McKay’s *Songs of Jamaica* and Traditional Jamaican Foodways as Nationalist Expression”

Marielle LeFave:

“Uniting Individuals in the American Experiment: Walt Whitman’s Democratic Poetry”

---

**POETRY I: WRITING THE SELF**PIGT 307

---

Moderator: Natalie Langdale

Malia Maxwell

“Six Syllables”

Ragini Gupta:

“Self-Portrait” and Other Poems

Sarah Pruis

“Direction to Water”

**POETRY II: WRITING THE BODY**PIGT 308

---

Moderator: Elena Selthun

Caroline Holyoak:

“Live Wire”

Eliza Frakes:

“‘Puncture’ and Other Poems”

Yumi Wilson:

“If not the Womb: A Collection of Six Poems”

Alafia Buckley:

“this blossoming heart”

---

## SESSION 4

4:00-5:20

### RELIGION AND SPIRIT

PIGT 201

Moderator: Jessica McKiernan

William Erickson:

“Cloistered in Apostasy: Sacrament and Suicide in John Donne’s ‘The Flea’”

Alex Sapadin:

“Is God Wyrd? A Subtle Argument for Christian Supremacy in an Age of Christian Pagan Syncretism”

Allison DeBoer:

“Transformative Moments of Communion: Exploring Theological Significance in O’Connor and Carver’s fiction”

Kaitlyn Tribes:

“Where is Your God Now? The Monk and Anti-Catholic Rhetoric”

### ROMANTICISM, ANTI-ROMANTICISM, POST-ROMANTICISM

PIGT 203

Moderator: Tira McGavin

Abby Rogers:

“‘Many Sights, and Many Sounds’: The Ineloquence of ‘Mont Blanc’”

Sofia Deatherage:

“Modernist Movement Metamorphoses”



**ROMANTICISM, ANTI-ROMANTICISM,  
POST-ROMANTICISM CONT.**PIGT 203

---

Naomi Gilmore:

“Masculine Optimism and Feminine  
Hopelessness: Frankenstein and Prometheus  
Unbound”

Savannah Schilperoort:

“Frankenstein in Hotel Transylvania”

**IMMIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT**PIGT 204

---

Moderator: Falen Wilkes

Julia Poage:

“Pearlman’s Portrait’s: Narration in ‘Purim Night’”

Natalie Langdale:

“Understanding Animal and Nature-Based Imagery in  
Mohsin Hamid’s Exit West: A Canonical Conformity or  
Radical Reimagining?”

Amanda Fawcett:

“West African Diaspora in Yaa Gyasi’s Homegoing and  
Marvel’s Black Panther”

---

**FICTION: WRITING LOSS**

PIGT 306

---

Moderator: Taygh Atwell

Sydney Von Arx:

“Little Miracle”

Ian Wuertz:

“The Rapture in a Backpack”

Amy Gulley:

“Tradition”

**POETRY III: WRITING FAMILY II**

PIGT 307

---

Moderator: Bryn Gribben

DeForest Wihtol:

“Wild Horses: Poems for My Mother”

Theresa Foley:

“The Bed My Father Assembled”

Sarah Haman:

“When She Had Heard What Happened”

---

Rare Books Petting  
Zoo

Popko Lounge,  
Lemiux Library

5:30-7:00

# FACULTY SPONSORS OF NUCL PARTICIPANTS

Seattle University, the University of Portland, and NUCL honor the dedication of these teachers of literature and writing.

Victoria Aarons, Trinity University  
Ronda Arab, Simon Fraser University  
Linda Biersds, University of Washington,  
Seattle  
Genevieve Brassard, University of Portland  
Maria Bullon-Fernandez, Seattle University  
Elisabeth Ceppi, Portland State University  
Julia Chavez, Saint Martin's University  
David Coley, Simon Fraser University  
Stephen Collis, Simon Fraser University  
Jay Dickson, Reed College  
Victoria Dryden, The Northwest School  
Burt Emerson, Whitworth University  
Michael Everton, Simon Fraser University  
Elyse Fenton, University of Portland  
Brenda Glascott, Portland State University  
Jerry Harp, Lewis & Clark College  
Desiree Hellegers, Washington State  
University, Vancouver  
Cara Hersh, University of Portland  
Nalini Iyer, Seattle University  
June Johnson, Seattle University  
Laura Laffrado, Western Washington  
University  
Charles LaPorte, University of Washington  
Laura Leibman, Reed College  
Sarah Lincoln, Portland State University  
Scott Magelssen, University of Washington  
Jennifer Maier, Seattle Pacific University  
Megan Mathes, Jesuit High School  
John McDonald, University of Portland

Joseph McQueen, Northwest University  
Mary Metzger, Western Washington  
University  
Susan Meyers, Seattle University  
Omar Miranda, University of San Francisco  
Lisa Mitchell, Lake Oswego High School  
Peter Moe, Seattle Pacific University  
Ira Nadel, University of British Columbia  
Rae Paris, University of Washington  
Daniel Pollack-Pelzner, Linfield College  
Mary Quade, Hiram College  
Juan Reyes, Seattle University  
Lysa Rivera, Western Washington University  
Tara Roth, Seattle University  
Pancho Savery, Reed College  
Judith Scholes, University of British  
Columbia  
Laura Scott, Portland State University  
Nancy Simpson-Younger, Pacific Lutheran  
University  
Jon Smith, Simon Fraser University  
Joshua Swidzinski, University of Portland  
Elizabeth Tavares, Pacific University  
Jesse Taylor, University of Washington  
Corbett Upton, University of Oregon  
Kathryn Vulic, Western Washington  
University  
Mia Wall, The Overlake School  
Edwin Weihe, Seattle University  
Lawrence Wheeler, Portland State University

# Notes

---



**SEATTLEU**