

MELUS

Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States

21ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

March 22–25, 2007 ☼ California State University, Fresno

*Work, Migration, and Globalization:
Contested Journeys in Multi-Ethnic U.S. Literature*



MELUS

The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States

21st Annual Conference

Work, Migration, and Globalization: Contested Journeys in Multi-Ethnic US Literature

Keynote Speaker: Luis Valdez

Plenary Speakers: Lillian Faderman, Shirley Geok-lin Lim, Wendy Rose

22-25 March 2007

Piccadilly Inn – University
and

California State University, Fresno



Co-sponsored by

Associated Students, Inc.

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Women's Studies Program

Cover art: Sylvia Savala, detail from "Una Vida de Abundancia"
Cover design: Martin Truong

Welcome

Welcome to the 2007 MELUS Conference! And to you who have journeyed here from afar, welcome to Fresno and to California's Central Valley! Here, as our Program cover illustrates, a diversity of human work and the bounty of nature's gifts can produce a life of abundance. Here, when the season wills, a thousand flowers bloom, and the mountain peaks lift their heads and our eyes.

California was the site of the first MELUS conference in 1987, and MELUS has returned to California for its twenty-first conference. During this span of time, MELUS and the study of the multi-ethnic literature of the United States have gained in stature and maturity. MELUS has gained a voice that cannot be ignored in shaping the American canon. Indeed, what MELUS has to say is heard around the globe—this year, scholars from Finland, Brazil, and Taiwan have come to hear and to share our findings and theirs. We are very pleased that our institution, California State University, Fresno, is able to provide a venue for such a distinguished gathering.

We wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge the support of Drs. John D. Welty (President), Jeronima Echeverria (Provost), Vida Samiian (Dean, Arts and Humanities), Luz Gonzalez (Dean, Social Sciences), Michael Gorman (Dean, Library), James E. Walton (Chair, English), Barbara Birch (Chair, Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures), and Loretta Kensinger (Chair, Women's Studies)—we are especially grateful to Drs. Samiian and Walton for their enthusiastic encouragement. Drs. Kathleen Godfrey and Samina Najmi were indefatigable in gathering and winnowing paper proposals and shaping panels, as was Dr. Yolanda A. Doub at multi-tasking! The involvement of our students was also essential. The student organizations ASI (Associated Students, Inc.), SJLA (San Joaquín Literary Association) and SESA (Students of English Studies Association) obtained 79% of the funds needed for the Conference keynote speaker and the three plenary speakers. Further, the Conference Planning Committee was constantly enabled and helped at every turn by the resourcefulness, energy, and diligence of its student members (Sharon Manning, Diane K. Lofstrom Miniel, Ben Ovando, Lejla Tricic, and Georgia Williams), special thanks being due to Lejla Tricic, associate coordinator of the Conference.

Again, we welcome you to another MELUS Conference, another opportunity to extend and enhance our shared passions in scholarship, another time to be a community of learning and teaching.

2007 MELUS Conference Committee

(C. Lok Chua, Yolanda A. Doub, Kathleen Godfrey, Sharon Manning, Diane K. Lofstrom Miniel, Samina Najmi, Ben Ovando, Kimberley Robles-Smith, Meta Schettler, Lejla Tricic, James E. Walton, Georgia Williams)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Thursday, 5:00-6:30 p.m., Opening Reception, Waldorf 5-6

Thursday, 7:45-9:30 p.m., Reading by Shirley Lim and Wendy Rose, Waldorf 1-4

Friday, 12 noon-2:30 p.m., Luncheon with Speaker Lillian Faderman, Waldorf 1-4

Friday, 7:45-9:30 p.m., Open Mic with Fred Gardaphe, Waldorf 1-4

Saturday, 6:15-10 p.m., Banquet with Keynote Speaker Luis Valdez, Satellite Student Union

Thursday, 22 March

Registration: 1:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Lanai

Session A: 2:10 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

A1. The Serious Work of Humor: Louis Owens, Margaret Cho, and Ana Castillo

2:10-3:30 p.m. *Broadmoor*

Chair: Stephen H. Sohn, University of California, Irvine

"Vision Quest Enterprises: Louis Owens' *Dark Rivers*," John Gamber, College of William and Mary

"Work It, Girl! Margaret Cho's *Revolution* and the Work of a Queer Asian American Outlaw," Caroline Kyungah Hong, University of California, Santa Barbara

"A Fine Line: Anger and Humor in Ana Castillo's *So Far From God*," Gina Valentino, University of California, Santa Barbara

A2. Shading Whiteness: Multi-ethnic Contexts

2:10-3:30 p.m. *Ambassador 1*

Chair: Richard Tuerk, Texas A&M University, Commerce

"Jews and Jobs," Roy Goldblatt, University of Joensuu, Finland

"The Spy Inside/Inside the Spy: Negotiating Labor, Language and the Ethnicity in Lee's *Native Speaker* and Paredes' *George Washington Gomez*," Scott Boehm, University of California, San Diego

"Evolving Shades of 'Whiteness' in Philip Caputo's *Indian Country*," Georgia Williams, California State University, Fresno

"White Masculinity as Commodity in Annie Proulx's *Close[d] Range*," Katie O'Donnell Arosteguy, Washington State University

A3. Empire Writing Back: Critiques of Imperialism

2:10-3:30 p.m. *Ambassador 2*

Chair: C. Lok Chua, California State University, Fresno

"Unexpected Bases for Discourse and Literature: Kingdoms and Vassals and Orchestration of Voices in Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca's 1542 *La Relacion*," Ramon Sanchez, California State University, Fresno

"Re-Imagining Our America by Singing in Arapahoe: Simon Ortiz's *From Sand Creek*," Reginald Dyck, Capital University

"Reservation Realism: Contesting the U.S. Myth of Native American Opportunity," Patricia Collins, San José State University

Thursday, 22 March

Session B: 3:40 p.m - 5:00 p.m.

B1. The Work of Survival: The Labor of California Central Valley Writers

3:40-5:00 p.m. *Broadmoor*

Chair: Chris Henson, California State University, Fresno

"Work and Family in Sherley Anne Williams' Poetry and Prose," Gretchen Michlitsch, Winona State University

"Lawson Inada's Cosmopolitan Central Valley," Kenny Tanemura, University of California, Riverside

"The Modern Chicano in Andrés Montoya's Poetry," Paul Sanchez, California State University, Fresno

"Growing Up Gay in the Valley," John Beynon, California State University, Fresno

B2. Work, Sexuality, and Self: Narratives Under Revision

3:40-5:00 p.m. *Ambassador 1*

Chair: SallyAnn H. Ferguson, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

"From Autobiography to Memoir: The Plotting of Chicano Gay Identities and a New Nationalism," Alma Rosa Alvarez, Southern Oregon University

"A Woman's Work: African Mythmaking as Liberating Labor in Audre Lorde's *The Black Unicorn*," Keith D. Leonard, American University

"Naming a Self: A Lesbian Reading of a Lesbian Identity in Audre Lorde's *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*," Stacy Brand, California State University, Fresno

B3. Trauma in Multi-Ethnic Literature: Strategies for Recuperation

3:40-5:00 p.m. *Ambassador 2*

Chair: Jeffrey F. L. Partridge, Capital Community College

"Working Subaltern History (with)in(to) Alejandro Morales's *The Rag Doll Plagues*," Michelle P. Baca, University of California, Santa Barbara

"The Poetics of Postcolonial Trauma Narratives in Japanese American/Canadian Women's Fiction," Sung Hee Yook, City University of New York

"The Henryspeak': Mapping the Idioms of Trauma in *Native Speaker* by Chang-rae Lee," Judith A. Hicks, University of California, Santa Barbara

B4. Opening Reception: 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Waldorf 5-6

All conference attendees are welcome. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served.

B5. Plenary Session: 7:45 p.m. – 9:30p.m. Waldorf 1-4

A Reading by Shirley Geok-lin Lim and Wendy Rose

(Sponsored by the students of the San Joaquin Literary Association, California State University, Fresno)

Friday, 23 March

(Piccadilly Inn complimentary continental breakfast for guests: 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)

Registration: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Lanai

Book Exhibit: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Lobby

(Please visit the tables of the MELUS Archives and of the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature)

Session C: 9:00 a.m. - 10:20 a.m.

C1. Complicated Constructions: A Roundtable Discussion on the Future of Ethnic American Literature

9:00-10:20 a.m. *Broadmoor*

Chairs: David S. Goldstein, University of Washington, Bothell, and Audrey B. Thacker, California Lutheran University and California State University, Northridge

Georgina Dodge, Ohio State University

Tracy Floreani, Baker University

Jeffrey F. L. Partridge, Capital Community College

Derek Parker Royal, Texas A&M University, Commerce

Audrey B. Thacker, California Lutheran University and California State University, Northridge

Jose L. Torres-Padilla, State University of New York, Plattsburg

C2. Reworking Identity

9:00-10:20 a.m. *Ambassador 1*

Chair: Weihua Zhang, Savannah College of Art and Design

"Re-Centering the Nadir: Paul Laurence Dunbar & the Marshall Circle," Jonathan Daigle, Wake Forest University

"Whitening and Floating Bodies: The Paralyzed Immigrant in Bienvenido Santos' 'The Day the Dancers Came,'" Sasha Pimentel, California State University, Fresno

"'Watching the Detective': The Work of the Asian American Detective in Ken Tanaka's *Death in Little Tokyo* and Leonard Chang's *Over the Shoulder*," Anne Soon Choi, National University

C3. Anti-Immigrant Racism and the Work of Fiction

9:00-10:20 a.m. *Ambassador 2*

Chair: Sidra Smith Wahaltere, Independent Scholar, Denver, Colorado

"Jessie Fauset's *The Sleeper Wakes* on Black Anxiety about Immigrants," Elizabeth Ammons, Tufts University

"Death Epidemic: Postmodern Representation of Arab-American Realities in Rabih Alameddine's *Koolhaas*," Kelvin Goh, Tufts University

"Raced Shame in Chang-rae Lee's *A Gesture Life*," Deborah Horvitz, Bates College

"Lessons from the Wound: The Critical Work of Gloria Anzaldúa's Children's Books," Tiffany Ana Lopez, University of California, Riverside

C4. Asian American Women's Writings on the U.S. Wars with Asia

9:00-10:20 a.m. *Waldorf 6*

Chair: Youngsook Jeong, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

"Trauma, Agency and Ideologies of US Empire in Lan Cao's *Monkey Bridge*," Nandini Dhar, University of Texas, Austin

"Over the Father's Corpse: Daughter's Subversive Mimicry in Jessica Hagedorn's *Dream Jungle*," Yasuko Kase, State University of New York, Buffalo

"The Woman Warrior Saves the World from the War: Pacifist Feminism in *The Fifth Book of Peace*," Youngsook Jeong, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Friday, 23 March

Session D: 10:30 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

D1. Women of Color Caucus and Queers of Color Caucus Joint Performance Panel: "Exotic Fruits, Dark Meat, and White Bread: Working It/Being Worked on the Job Market"

10:30-11:50 a.m. *Broadmoor*

Organizer: Georgina Dodge, Ohio State University

Presentation #1: "Subaltern Diva Lands a Million MLA Interviews," Reshmi Dutt-Ballerstadt, Linfield College

Presentation #2: "Measuring Up and Playing Straight: A Queer of Color's Worst MLA Job Interview Nightmare!"
Steven L. Tanaka, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Presentation #3: "The 'Raunchy Asian Woman' of Your Wildest Dreams: 'When Homophobia and Desire Collide' or 'Me Love You Long Time?' A Tragicomic Job Market Tale," Melinda L. de Jesús, California College of the Arts

Presentation #4: "Am I black/white enough for you?: Racing and (E)Racing the Job Market," Georgina Dodge, Ohio State University

D2. Compelled Work: Antebellum Slave Narratives

10:30-11:50 a.m. *Ambassador 1*

Chair: Angelica Carpenter, Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature, California State University, Fresno

"Captive Landscapes: The Intimate Life of *Petit Marronages* in Antebellum Slave Narratives," Joy Viveros, University of the Pacific

"The Influence of That Root': Magic, Secrecy, and the Escape of Frederick Douglass (according to Georgia Douglas Johnson)," Taylor Hagood, Florida Atlantic University

"Tying the (Transnational) Knot: Love and Marriage in Martin Delany's *Blake*," Leslie Hammer, University of California, San Diego

D3. Lessons in Laughter

10:30-11:50 a.m. *Ambassador 2*

Chair: Wenying Xu, Florida Atlantic University

"Han Ola og Han Per': Learning from the Laughable," Ted L. Bergman, California State University, Fresno

"Plantation Humor: The Ethnic Comedy of Hawaii," Trevor Lee, City University of New York, Graduate Center

"Waging Peace: Kingston's Pacifist Postmodernist Trickster in *Tripmaster Monkey: His Fake Book*," Elizabeth McNeil, Arizona State University

D4. The Work and Tradition of Mother-Daughter Bonds

10:30-11:50 a.m. *Waldorf 6*

Chair: Weihua Zhang, Savannah College of Art and Design

"Martyred Mothers in Villanueva's 'The Burden' and Castillo's *So Far From God*," Cristina Herrera, California State University, Fresno

"Chinese American Sewing Women's Work Ethic in Fae Myenne Ng's *Bone* and Mei Ng's *Eating Chinese Food Naked*," Dawn An, City University of New York, Old Westbury

"Labor Pain and Cultural Identity: A Working-class Italian American Daughter Situates Herself via the Literary Memoirs of Diane di Prima, Louise DeSalvo, & Carole Maso," Roseanne Giannini Quinn, Santa Clara University

Friday, 23 March

D5. Plenary Luncheon: 12 noon – 2:30 p.m. Waldorf 1-4

Welcome Remarks by John D. Welty, President, California State University, Fresno

Presentation of MELUS Award to Amritjit Singh

Speaker: Lillian Faderman "American Literature Before MELUS: A Personal Story"

Session E: 2:40 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

E1. The Golden State: California Writers at Work

2:40-4:00 p.m. *Broadmoor*

Chair: Chris Henson, California State University, Fresno

"California Contexts: Multiethnic Writing from the Golden State," Molly Crumpton Winter, California State University, Stanislaus

"Beyond 'Local Color': Lawson Fusao Inada's Fresno," Zhou Xiaojing, University of the Pacific

"Work as a Site of Multiethnic Community Formation in Karen Tei Yamashita's *Tropic of Orange*," Noelle Brada-Williams, San José State University

E2. Romance, TV Sitcom, and the Graphic Novel: Ethnic Identities in Popular Culture

2:40-4:00 p.m. *Ambassador 1*

Chair: Binbin Fu, Edgewood College

"'Another Madame Butterfly?' The (Anti-)Orientalist Discourse of Asian Female Salvation in Onoto Watanna's *The Love of Azalea*," Huining Ouyang, Edgewood College

"Ethnicity and the Graphic Novel: Transformation in Gene Luen Yang's *American Born Chinese*," Binbin Fu, Edgewood College

"Comedy beyond the Pale: 'Working' the Jewish in *Curb Your Enthusiasm*," Derek Parker Royal, Texas A&M University, Commerce

E3. Creative Journeys in US Ethnic Literature

2:40-4:00 p.m. *Ambassador 2*

Chair: Judith Rosenthal, California State University, Fresno

"The boss won't have to pay us': Letters and Oral Histories by Mexican and Central American Migrants," Elisabeth Mermann-Jozwiak, Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi

"Re-reading the Immigrant and Citizenship Papers of My Parents (an Unofficial History)," Ann Hiramane, Mid-Pacific Institute, Hawai'i

"How Could One Live in the Other Side of the World? 'Hmong Perception of the Western Lifestyle through Oral Literature on Migration,'" Kao-Ly Yang, California State University, Fresno

"Kokavim (Stars)," Jeanne Genis, Florida Atlantic University

E4. From Fields to Limousines: Work Spaces as Resistance

2:40-4:00 p.m. *Waldorf 6*

Chair: Emily Wiser, Loyola University Chicago

"Assimilation and Resistance to Economic Culture in Winnifred Eaton's *Me: A Book of Remembrance*," Emily Wiser, Loyola University Chicago

"Josephina Niggli's *Mexican Village* and Toshio Mori's *Yokohama, California*: Ethnic Communities Respond to War," JoAnne Ruvoli, University of Illinois at Chicago

"Locating America's Multi-national Corporate Officers: Don DeLillo's *The Names* and *Cosmopolis*," Jessica Maucione, Washington State University

Friday, 23 March

Session F: 4:10 p.m - 5:30 p.m.

F1. Preparing Future Faculty - A Round Table Discussion on Job Market Strategies: Choosing Schools, Interview Process and Ethical Considerations for Ph.D. Candidates and Search Committee Members Alike

4:10-5:30 p.m. *Broadmoor*

Chair: Steven L. Tanaka, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

SallyAnn H. Ferguson, University of North Carolina at Greensboro

A Yemisi Jimoh, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Jose L. Torres-Padilla, State University of New York, Plattsburg

F2. Recovering Identity

4:10-5:30 p.m. *Ambassador 1*

Chair: James E. Walton, California State University, Fresno

"(Inter)national Uplift: James Weldon Johnson and the Work of Representative Identity at Home and Abroad,"
Adam Lewis, University of California, San Diego

"The People on Board 'Tis the Old Ship of Zion': Ritual Revival, Reconciliation, and Resurrection in James
Baldwin's 'Sonny's Blues,'" Reggie Young, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

"William Saroyan: Discovering Meaning Out of Dislocation and Exile," Barlow der Mugrdechian, California State
University, Fresno

F3. Dreaming In Caribbean

4:10-5:30 p.m. *Ambassador 2*

Chair: Marta Caminero-Santangelo, University of Kansas

"Drowning in Edison, New Jersey: Work in the Dominican-American Fiction of Junot Diaz," Trenton Hickman,
Brigham Young University

"Losses and Gains of Exile: A Reading of Julia Alvarez's *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*," Priscila Campello,
Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil

"Migration and Maternity: Figurations of the Colonial in Esmeralda Santiago's *America's Dream*," Evelyn J. Boria-
Rivera, University of Notre Dame

F4. Racial Melancholia or Regenerative Nostalgia: How Does Cultural Dislocation Afflict Asian Americans?

4:10-5:30 p.m. *Waldorf 6*

Chair: Brooke Yuemin He, Northern Virginia Community College

"Dislocation of Culture and Racial Melancholia: Jhumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies*," Wenxin Li, Suffolk County
Community College, State University of New York

"Deterritorializing and Revitalizing a Traditional Poetic Language: From Immigrant Workers to Detainees and
Poets," Brooke Yuemin He, Northern Virginia Community College

"Decolonizing the Mind: Meandering through the Maze of Multiple Identities in Kathleen Tyau's *A Little Too Much
is Enough*," Chingyen Yang Sawatsky, Siena College

Friday, March 23

F5. Plenary Session: 7:45 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Waldorf 1-4

Open Mic for Creative MELUS-ians and Friends!

Maestro of Ceremonies: Fred Gardaphe

Scheduled Participants:

Jeanne Genis, Florida Atlantic University

Elizabeth McNeil, Arizona State University

Diane K. Lofstrom Miniell, California State University, Fresno

Sasha Pimentel, California State University, Fresno

Wanda Podgorska Russell, California State University, Fresno

Amritjit Singh, Ohio University

Jose L. Torres-Padilla, State University of New York, Plattsburg

Wenying Xu, Florida Atlantic University

Fred Gardaphe, State University of New York, Stony Brook

And perhaps you – Please contact the maestro!

Saturday, 24 March

(Piccadilly Inn complimentary continental breakfast for guests: 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)

Registration: 8:15 a.m – 4:00 p.m. Lobby

Book Exhibit: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Lobby

(Please visit the tables of the MELUS Archives and of the Arne Nixon Center for the Study of Children's Literature)

Session G: 8:30 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.

G1. The Work of Passing: Migrating Identities

8:30-9:50 a.m. *Broadmoor*

Chair: Martha J. Cutter, University of Connecticut

"The Apprenticeship of Slavery: Passing Between the Boundaries of 'Free' Labor," Cynthia Montgomery Webb, Kent State University

"Concealing to Reveal: The Autobiographical Work of the Racial Passer," Martha J. Cutter, University of Connecticut

"The Work of Passing in the Age of Genetic Reductionism," Betsy Huang, Clark University

G2. Revising, Reclaiming, Rephrasing: From Birth to Translation

8:30-9:50 a.m. *Ambassador 1*

Chair: Meta Schettler, California State University, Fresno

"Birth as Reinvention: Luis Valdez and *The Mummified Deer* as Historical and Cultural Revision," Josué Aristides Diaz, Texas A&M University, Commerce

"The 'Wild Zone' that Reclaims and Enables in Octavia Butler's *Kindred* and Nina Simone's 'Four Women,'" Stefanie Shea-Akers, California State University, Stanislaus

"The Aesthetics of Music and Language in Eva Hoffman's *Lost in Translation: A New Life in a New Language*," Diane K. Lofstrom Miniel, California State University, Fresno

G3. In the Beginning Was the Work: Aesthetics, Race and Gender

8:30-9:50 a.m. *Ambassador 2*

Chair: Kathleen Godfrey, California State University, Fresno

"(E)Racing Labor in California and Confederacy: The Cultural Work of Servants and Slaves in the Writing of Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton and Loreta Janeta Velazquez," Jesse Alemán, University of New Mexico

"Crimes and Punishments: An Ecofeminist Reading of Lois-Ann Yamanaka's *Heads by Harry*," Jeanne Sokolowski, Indiana University at Bloomington

"'In His Hands My Body Became Clouds': Subordinating Labor to the Aesthetic in Anchee Min's *Red Azalea*," Jonathan Little, Alverno College

G4. Outsights: Images of Italian Americans in 'Other' Literatures

8:30-9:50 a.m. *Waldorf 6*

Chair: Chiara Mazzuchelli, Florida Atlantic University

Respondent: Fred Gardaphe, State University of New York, Stony Brook

"Where are the Italian Anarchists? Amiri Baraka and the Usable Past of the Immigrant Left," Matthew Calihman, Missouri State University

"Arthur Miller's Tragic Brooklynites," Tracy Floreani, Baker University

"James Baldwin Imagining Italian-Americans," Joseph T. Skerrett, Jr, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Saturday, 24 March

Session H: 10:00 a.m. - 11:20 a.m.

H1. Diverse Gods

10:00-11:20 a.m. *Broadmoor*

Chair: Elizabeth McNeil, Arizona State University

"Work, Religion and the Artistic Imagination in Allegra Goodman's *Kaaterskill Falls*," Amanda R. Toronto, New York University

"Making Friends and Influencing People, The Laguna Way," Pamela Darville, Florida Atlantic University

"Industrious Spirits: Orisha at Work in Garcia's *The Agüero Sisters*," B. Marie Christian, University of Alaska, Anchorage

H2. The Woe of Men: Manhood in Ralph Ellison and Monique Truong

10:00-11:20 a.m. *Ambassador 1*

Chair: John Beynon, California State University, Fresno

"When Manhood Itself is Invisible: Self, Corporate Self, and the Gangster in Ellison's *Invisible Man*," Joe Kraus, University of Scranton

"Energy, Labor, and the Poetics of the BwO: Transduction in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*," Johnnie Wilcox, Ohio University

"Blood and Food in Monique Truong's *Book of Salt*," Wenying Xu, Florida Atlantic University

H3. Class, Art, and Self: Toni Morrison, Carson McCullers, and Elana Dykewomon

10:00-11:20 a.m. *Ambassador 2*

Chair: Connie Hales, California State University, Fresno

"Fiction is Not a Luxury: The Work of the Work of Art in Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*," Linda Krumholz, Denison University

"To Tell the Truth About the House?: The African American Stranger in Carson McCullers' *Clock Without Hands*," Julieann Ulin, University of Notre Dame

"Dedicated to Justice: Intersectionality in Elana Dykewomon's *Beyond the Pale*," Eva C. Karpinski, York University

H4. Writing Trauma: Holocaust Resonances and Returns in Contemporary Literature

10:00-11:20 a.m. *Waldorf 6*

Chair: Jennifer Lemberg, New York University

"Songs the Blood Sings': Jewish Identity and the Holocaust in Carole Maso's *AVA*," Christa Baiada, City University of New York

"Two 'Shawls': Representing Trauma in Stories by Cynthia Ozick and Louise Erdrich," Jennifer Lemberg, New York University

"Traveling Metaphors: Holocaust Imagery and Intertextual Voices in the Poetry of AIDS and Cancer," Ann E. Wallace, Adelphi University

Saturday, 24 March

Session I: 11:30 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.

I1. "Dream American": Cultural and Intercultural Critiques of the "American Dream" in Late Twentieth-Century U.S. Latina/o Literary and Cultural Productions

11:30 a.m.-12:50 p.m. *Broadmoor*

Chair: Laura Halperin, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

"Going Home?: Shifts from the Collective to the Individual in José Rivera's *The House of Ramon Iglesia* and Luis Valdez's *I Don't Have to Show You No Stinking Badges*," Marla Fuentes, University of California, San Diego

"Pierced Liberty: Pilar's Artistry in Cristina Garcia's *Dreaming in Cuban*," Laura Halperin, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

"Migrating Sexualities: Identity Practices in Guillermo Reyes's *Departing the Divas*," Raymond Salcedo, University of California, San Diego

I2. Margin and Center: Re-examining Multi-ethnic Literary Studies

11:30 a.m.-12:50 p.m. *Ambassador 1*

Chair: Meta Schettler, California State University, Fresno

"Poesy Reconsidered: American Multicultural Poetry," Yih-suan Tso, National Taiwan Ocean University

"Reading Ethnic Literature Now," Pete Powers, Messiah College

"Acculturation and Bicultural American Indian Literature," Meredith Bulinski, California State University, Fresno

I3. Identity and Migration

11:30 a.m.-12:50 p.m. *Ambassador 2*

Chair: Amritjit Singh, Ohio University

"What is a Portagee? The Construction of a Portugese-American Identity in *Through a Portagee Gate* by Charles Reis Felix," Debbie Avila, California State University, Fresno

"[Identity in Begali American Fiction]" Sanghamitra Niyogi, University of California, Davis

"Writing the Iranian Diaspora through Women's Eyes," Persis Karim, San José State University

I4. Interrogating the American Dream

11:30 a.m.-12:50 p.m. *Waldorf 6*

Chair: Yolanda A. Doub, California State University, Fresno

"Esmeralda Santiago, Julia Alvarez, and Luis Rodriguez: Writing to Legitimize a Latino/a Identity," Natasha Azank, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

"'The Ghostmate' in Maxine Hong Kingston's *China Men*," Fatin Guirguis, Florida Atlantic University

"A Jewish American Fairy Tale: Community and Nation Find a Common Ground in Allegra Goodman's *Kaaterskill Falls*," Karen E.H. Skinazi, University of Alberta, Canada

Lunch Break: 12:50 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Lunch on your own

Saturday, 24 March

Session J: 2:00 p.m. - 3:20 p.m.

J1. Free Bodies, Free Labor: Representing Race, Labor and Freedom in Nineteenth-Century African America

2:00-3:20 p.m. *Broadmoor*

Chair: Michelle Taylor, Miami University

"Queen Cities and Grand Dames: Eliza Potter, Mary Ellen Pleasant and the Allure of the American West," Michelle Taylor, Miami University

"Black Bodies, White Spaces: (Re)Imagining the Politics of Domesticity in Elizabeth Keckley's *Behind the Scenes*," Rynetta Davis, State University of New York, Brockport

"Redefining Labor: Subversions of the Language of Slavery through Masculinity Performance in the Work of Venture Smith and Prince Hall," Patrick Elliot Alexander, Duke University

J2. Migrating Culture(s): Negotiating Identity and Place

2:00-3:20 p.m. *Ambassador 1*

Chair: Jose Torres-Padilla, State University of New York, Plattsburg

"Exiled from Exile: Richard Wright and Depression Migration Narratives," Benjamin Balthaser, University of California, San Diego

"Seeking Cultural Retentions in Ishmael Reed and Gloria Anzaldúa," Christopher Douglas, University of Victoria, Canada

"Work, Migration, and Globalization: Contested Journeys in the Works of Three Diasporic Puerto Rican Writers," Carmen Haydee Rivera, University of Puerto Rico

J3. Activism in the Classroom: Pedagogical Strategies with Multi-ethnic Literature

2:00-3:20 p.m. *Ambassador 2*

Chair: Wenxin Li, Suffolk Community College, State University of New York

"Engaging the Personal and the Political: Teaching Nella Larsen's *Passing*," Tina Good, Suffolk Community College, State University of New York

"Working for Social Change: Social Ecology, Environmental Action, Political Participation in Native American Literature," Catherine Lipnick, Suffolk Community College, State University of New York

"The Global Subject: Re-Thinking Pedagogy in the Multi-ethnic Literature Classroom," Mayuri Deka, Kent State University

Saturday, 24 March

Session K: 3:30 p.m. - 4:50 p.m.

K1. Women of Color Caucus Panel: "Laboring Under These Conditions': Women Writers of Color on Work, Class and Creativity"

3:30-4:50 p.m. *Broadmoor*

Organizer: Georgina Dodge, Ohio State University

"The 'blessed narcotic value of interesting occupation': Love and Work in Jessie Redmon Fauset's *Plum Bun*,"
Saundra Liggins, State University of New York, Fredonia

"The Dichotomized Discourse of the Bangladeshi Female Immigrant: A Negotiation of Labor Relations between the Inside/Outside or the Home and the World," Sunita Peacock, Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania

"Injustice, Democracy, Reward and Woman's Work in Anzia Yezierska's *The Lost Beautifulnes*," Georgina Dodge, Ohio State University

K2. Points of Origin

3:30-4:50 p.m. *Ambassador 1*

Chair: Steve Adisasmito-Smith, California State University, Fresno

"Heart of My Race': Questions of Identity in Jerre Mangione's Sicilian-American Writing," Chiara Mazzuchelli, Florida Atlantic University

"Central Americans in the City: Goldman, Tobar, and the Question of Pan-ethnicity," Marta Caminero-Santangelo, University of Kansas

"Mythicized Work, Invisible Americans: Reconstructing Asian American Dreams," Joan Chiung-huei Chang, Soochow University, Taiwan

K3. Sex, Work, and Literary Texts

3:30-4:50 p.m. *Ambassador 2*

Chair: Stephen H. Sohn, University of California, Irvine

"Working Hard for Your Money: The Queer Asian American Alternative Economy in Chay Yew's *Wonderland*,"
Stephen H. Sohn, University of California, Irvine

"Between *Machos* and *Fox Girls*: Globalization, Human Trafficking, and Quests for Agency," Balance Chow, San José State University

"Hooked on the American Dream: Transnational Sexual Labor in Nora Okja Keller's *Fox Girl*," Silvia Schultersmandl, University of Tennessee

K5. Keynote Address: 6:15 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Satellite Student Union at California State University, Fresno

(Shuttle service from Piccadilly Inn begins at 6:10 p.m.)

Presentation of MELUS Award to Thadious Davis

Speaker: Luis Valdez, "Migrant Dreams: To Whom Does the Future Belong?"

(Introduction by Marco Portales, Texas A&M University)

Book-signing will follow Luis Valdez's speech

Performers: Los Danzantes de Aztlán and Mkaui Hmong Long Ching

(Sponsored by: The Students of English Studies Association, California State University, Fresno)

Sunday, 25 March

(Piccadilly Inn complimentary continental breakfast for guests: 6:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.)

Session L: 8:30 a.m. - 9:50 a.m.

L2. Subversive Marginalities

8:30-9:50 a.m. *Ambassador 1*

Chair: Toni Wein, California State University, Fresno

"The Tragic Immigrant: Recognition Scenes and the Discovery of Blackness in Mark Twain and James Weldon Johnson," Richard Hardack, Santa Clara University

"Stereotype, Defiance, and Legitimacy, Songs of Marilyn Chin's *Rhapsody in Plain Yellow*," Darren Klassen, California State University, Fresno

"From Shanghai to La Havana and from New York to Saigon With Love: Interethnic Spaces in Cristina Garcia's *Monkey Hunting* (2003)," Marion Christina Rohrleitner, University of Notre Dame

L3. Sheherazade After 9/11: Muslim and Arab American Writing

8:30-9:50 a.m. *Ambassador 2*

Chair: Samina Najmi, California State University, Fresno

"Orientalism Revisited: Relevance and Application of Edward Said's Ideas in Post 9/11 Humanities," Lejla Tricic, California State University, Fresno

"Muslims as a New Face of the USA: The Dilemma of Ideological Visibility," Barkuzar Al Dubbati, George Washington University

"Politics of Place and Poetry of Naomi Shihab Nye," Tanya Nichols, California State University, Fresno

"An Aesthetic of Smallness: The Post-Iraq Poems of Naomi Shihab Nye," Samina Najmi, California State University, Fresno

L4. The City and the Globe

8:30-9:50 a.m. *Waldorf 1*

Chair: C. Lok Chua, California State University, Fresno

"Los Angeles 'Traffic': Migration and the Politics of Globalization in Karen Tei Yamashita's *Tropic of Orange*," Susan Thananopavarn, East Carolina University

"Urban Migrations: San Francisco's Mission District and Modern Ruins: A Reading of Alejandro Murgia's 'The Other Barrio,'" Andrea Dominguez, University of California, San Diego

"Working with Specters in the Global Future: Haunted Technologies and Disease in Alejandro Morales and Amitav Ghosh," Eric L. Martinsen, University of California, Santa Barbara

Sunday, 25 March

Session M: 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

M2: And the Earth Did Not Swallow Them: A Poetry and Prose Reading by Central Valley Chicano/as and Latinos

10:00-11:30 a.m. *Ambassador 1*

Chair: Jorge Garcia, California State University, Northridge

"Swap Meet," James Espinosa, California State University, Fresno

"Teaching the *Gringo* some Spanish," Jefferson Beavers, California State University, Fresno

"Border Watch," Sallie Perez Saiz, California State University, Fresno

"Food for the Fields," Sylvia Savala, California State University, Fresno

"'To the Part-time Field Worker' and 'To My Mother in the Grape Fields,'" Jc Trevino, California State University, Fresno

M3. Coming to Self

10:00-11:30 a.m. *Ambassador 2*

Chair: Yolanda A. Doub, California State University, Fresno

"The Poetics of Work, Migration, and Coming of Age in *Bless Me, Ultima*," Yolanda A. Doub, California State University, Fresno

"Seeing Stars: The Maturation of Estrella as Working Mother Figure in Viramontes' *Under the Feet of Jesus*," Allison M. Pattison, University of Louisiana, Lafayette

"Reading Asian American Adolescent Sexuality: Queer Transactions of Gender, Sexuality and Ethnicity," Nancy Wan, San Francisco State University

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Spring' 07

CineCulture

Cineculture club
Promotes diversity
and cultural aware-
ness through films
and post-screening
discussions



March 23
@5:15PM

McLane 121 (behind
the Student Union)

LETTERS FROM THE OTHER SIDE

Heather Courtney. 2005. Mexico/USA. Spanish w/English subtitles. 74 min.

(Sponsored by the CSUF Cesar Chavez Committee, Cesar Chavez Education Conference, and National Multi- Ethnic Literature Conference)

"How many more deaths does it take for the U.S. government to do something? Let it be on their conscience that since our tragedy many more have died and many more will die!"

So says Laura in a video letter to the U.S. government, speaking about her husband who died trying to cross the U.S./Mexico border to search for work. LETTERS FROM THE OTHER SIDE interweaves video letters carried across the U.S./Mexico border with the intimate stories of women left behind in

post-NAFTA Mexico. By focusing on a side of the immigration story rarely told by the media or touched upon in our national debate, LETTERS paints a complex portrait of families torn apart by economics, communities dying at the hands of globalization, and governments incapable or unwilling to do anything about it.



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Advisor: Dr.Denise Blum
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Post-Screening discussion
from the Coalition for Humane
Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

