



MELLS

2021

**VIRTUAL
CONFERENCE**

April 8 - 10, 2021

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2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Schedule Addendums

Note: Presenters who have not submitted essays as of 4.5.2021 are noted with *** BEFORE their presentation titles. We will upload essays as we receive them.

The following presentations have been added or moved:

- Thursday, April 8, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET: **Set-Byul Moon**, “All the Silence Out of the World”: The Cartography of Alternative Languages for the Afterlives of Postcolonial Jamaica in Kei Miller’s *Augustown* **ADDED TO Capitalism and Multiethnic Literatures Panel.**
- Friday, April 9, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET: **Crystal Perez**, “Detecting the Past in the Present: Teaching Walter Mosley and Lucha Corpi’s Historical Detective Novels in 2020” **MOVED TO Multiethnic Pedagogies Panel (Same time: April 9, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET)**
- Friday, April 9, 3:15 – 4:15 PM ET: **Stephanie Couey**, “Bulimia as Manifestation of Postcolonial Trauma in Edwidge Danticat’s *Breath, Eyes, Memory*” **MOVED TO Love and Desire in Contemporary African American Literature and Film panel (Same time: April 9, 3:15 – 4:15 PM ET)**

The following panel is pending cancellation:

- Friday, April 9, 3:15 – 4:15 PM ET Power and Powerless in Multiethnic American Women’s Writing

The following presenters have withdrawn in the past week:

- Thursday, April 8, 10:00 am – 11:00am: Li Yawen, “Reimagining Refugee Encounters in *The Displaced* (2018)”
- Thursday, April 8, 2:00 – 3:00 pm: Sharmila Mukherji, “Let It Die: Crossing Over from Chaos to An Equitable Cosmos”
- Friday, April 9, 11:15 am – 12:15 pm: Armando Guerrero Estrada, “This Place or Displace: Religion and Literature of Expulsion in the Time of Trump”
- Friday, April 9, 2:00 – 3:00 pm: Susana McGrade, “An Indiana Girl on an Indiana Night” to “The Ways of White Women”: How Langston Hughes and Auto-ethnography Transformed my Pedagogy
- Friday, April 10, 11:15 am – 12:15 PM: Kelly Armstrong, “Toward a Queer Central American-American Poetics: Crossings of Gender, Language and Borders in the Works of

Francisco Aragón and Roy G. Guzmán”

- Friday, April 10, 3:15 – 4:15 PM: Melissa Daniels-Rauterkus, ““They’re all our sons”: Radical Acceptance as Mothering across the Color Line”
- Saturday, April 10, 10:00 am – 11:00 am: Anita Rosenblithe, “Queer Natures and the Transnational State: Chris Abani’s *The Secret Life of Las Vegas*”



2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Thursday, April 8, 2021

(Note: All Times in EDT)

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM EDT

Writing Letters, Conjuring Stories, Making Histories | 10 – 11

Joanna Davis-McElligatt, Respondent

Crisscrossing Identities and Roles: Being a Leader and Mother in Mohja Kahf's Poetry Collections

Hasnul Djohar, UNIVERSITAS ISLAM NEGERI SYARIF HIDAYATULLAH JAKARTA

Writing Home: Epistolary Conventions in Edwidge Danticat's "Children of the Sea" and Aleksandar Hemon's "A Coin"

Una Tanovic, UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS AMHERST

Creating a Black Microclimate through Conjure Root Work in Charles Chesnutt's Conjure Women

Seohyun Kim, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Multigenerational Family Survey: Yaa Gyasi's Homegoing

Alexander Manshel, MCGILL UNIVERSITY



Capitalism and Waste | 10-11

Joel Wendland-Liu, Respondent

A Space to Play: Perilous Leisure in the Works of Colson Whitehead

Justin Mellette, NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

Capitalistic Network, Erasure of Identity, and Fetishization of Culture in the Imagined Future of Isabel Yap's Milagroso

Sandya Maulana, THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

(Im)Migrants | 10-11

MaryJo Bona, Respondent

"One's Relationship to Windows": Egresses in Mohsin Hamid's Border(less) Exit West-

Jay Shelat, THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

Becoming American: Immigration and Citizenship in Suki Kim's The Interpreter

Wonjeong Kim, MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

The Coming of Age of Latinx Literature: Nilda (1973) and Islandborn (2017) as Canonical Crossover Literature

Marissa Ambio, HAMILTON COLLEGE

Futurisms and Dystopias | 10 – 11

Lesley Larkin, Respondent

Oriental Ornaments: "Yellowface" and Painful Object(ification)s in Ghost in the Shell



(2017)

Donna Tong, FU JEN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY

Divining the Future through the Past: The Cyclical Historiography of Louise Erdrich's
Future Home of the Living God

Greg Deinert, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Pregnant Time: Apocalyptic Temporality and Natal Narratives in Future Home of the
Living God

Kaylee Mootz, UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

"Healing Colonial Scars through Afro-Caribbean Futurisms"

Sandra Jacobo, THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

Thursday, April 8, 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM EDT

Multiethnic Memoirs | 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Wenying Xu, Respondent

"To Break Both Silences": Memory and (Her)Story in Levins Morales' Remedios

C. Anneke Snyder, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Blurring Language, Heritage and Alterity in E.J. Koh's The Magical Language of Others
(2020)

Christopher Meade, APPALACHIAN STATE UNIVERSITY

In the Dream House: Gaslighting as Crossroads in Carmen Maria Machado's Memoir

Suzanne Uzzilia, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK



Examining Literatures of the U.S. Mexico Borderlands | 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Melanie Hernandez, Respondent

El Infierno: The Necropolitics of the U.S.-Mexico Border

Luis Cortes, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Crossing Genres, Crossing Borders: Reading Nature, Race and Landscape in Lauret Savoy's Trace

Maureen Salzer, PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

"Nothing fugitive about me": Listening to the Sonic Borderland in Octavio Solis' Retablos

Benjamin Williams, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Reading Beyond the Text | 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Kathryn Quinto, Respondent

"Every Seed you Plant Should be a Prayer": Narratives of Embodied Indigenous Agriculture for a Decolonized Anthropocene

Kyle Keeler, UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

The "Algerine" in American Abolitionism

Jacob Crane, BENTLEY UNIVERSITY

Kairology of Memory Making: UNLV's Constructed Identity

Nanette Hilton, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS



Contact Zones | 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Joe Kraus, Respondent

Multilingualism and Racial (Re-)formation in the Contemporary Campus Novel

Almas Khan, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

When Bodies and Cultures Collide: Transnational and Gendered Contact Zones in Chitra Divakaruni's "Silver Pavements, Golden Roofs"

Marilyn Edelstein, SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

"Jarring and re-tuning the physics of reading and understanding": The Metapragmatics of Alurista's Spik in Glyph?

Miguel Samano, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

"What Makes a Home a Home?": Chinese Exclusion, Indigeneity, and the American West

Alyssa Hunziker, OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Thursday, April 8, 12:30 PM – 1:45 PM EDT

Chat with the MELUS editor: Gary Totten, Editor-in-Chief of the award winning MELUS journal, welcomes conference goers to drop in and say hello.



Thursday, April 8, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

Borderlands and Geographies | 2 – 3

Leigh Johnson, Respondent

****Border Epistemologies in the Post-9/11 Undocumented Memoir*

Guadalupe Escobar, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, RENO

The Real Unreal: Dispelling 'Magic' in Cristina García's Dreaming in Cuban

Zachary Perdieu, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

Mapping the New World Border: History, Form, and the Global Borderlands

Aristides Dimitriou, GETTYSBURG COLLEGE

Capitalism and Multiethnic Literature | 2 – 3

Tracy Floreani, Respondent

Much Ado about a Thing: A Materialist Reading of Nella Larsen's Quicksand

Adam Nemmers, LAMAR UNIVERSITY

Say Yes to the Dress: Women of Color's Self-Fashioning through "Nonmodern" Labor

Alison Turner, UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

"All the Silence Out of the World": The Cartography of Alternative Languages for the Afterlives of Postcolonial Jamaica in Kei Miller's Augustown

Set-Byul Moon, UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI



MELUS Digital Pedagogy: Teaching Multi-Ethnic Literature Online | 2 – 3

Graduate Student Roundtable

Kaylee Jangula Mootz, UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT, Moderator

Sherry Johnson, GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Leah Milne, UNIVERSITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

Brenden Oliva, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS

Hayley Stefan, COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

Thursday, April 8, 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM EDT

African American Women's Literature: Toni Morrison and Jesmyn Ward | 3:15 – 4:15

Keely Byars-Nichols, Respondent

"There were no marigolds": Africana Philosophy and Freedom as Mutual Responsibility

Bennett Brazelton & Bizaye Banjaw, INDEPENDENT SCHOLARS

Stone/Dead: Journeys of Black Masculinity Reborn in Toni Morrison and Jesmyn Ward

Lara Narcisi, REGIS UNIVERSITY

"Impossible to Not Hear": Crossing Borders of Hum/Animal through Rememory in Jesmyn Ward's Sing, Unburied, Sing

Hyoung Min Lee, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY



City/Space | 3:15 – 4:15

Anastasia Lin, Respondent

A Cursed Circle: The Liminality of High Place in Silvia Moreno-Garcia's Mexican Gothic

Alejandra Ortega, PURDUE UNIVERSITY

"We Don't Bother with Borders Anymore": Reading Race, Sex, and Class in in N.K. Jemisin's Emergency Skin

Katrina Newsom, TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

****A Symphony Above the 110: How Representations of Counter-mobilities in Karen Tei Yamashita's Tropic of Orange Envision the Post-capitalist City*

Riley Nisbet, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Slavery, Trauma, Healing | 3:15 – 4:15

Sterling Bland, Respondent

Overcoming The Hierarchy of Trauma in order to find Home and create Identity in Lovecraft Country

Marsha L. Jenkins, INDEPENDENT SCHOLAR

A Rabbit's Foot and Prayer Books: Messianism, Christology, and Conjure in Colson Whitehead's The Underground Railroad

Stephen A. McGeary, FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY

Diasporic Trauma in Ocean Vuong's On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous

Anthony Salazar, NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY



Ecology in the 21st Century | 3:15 – 4:15

Kristin Jacobson, Respondent

Indigenizing the Near Future in Louise Erdrich's Future Home of the Living God

Jessica Maucione, GONZAGA UNIVERSITY

Writ continentally, planetarily: Narrative Ecologies of Black Pain in N.K. Jemisin's The Fifth Season

Joanna Davis-McElligatt, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

****Speculative Futures, Magical Nows: Fictional Borders in an Age of Environmental Calamity*

Erin Mae Clark, ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY

Friday, April 9, 2021

Friday, April 9, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM EDT

Approaches to Dis(Ability) in Multiethnic Literature | 10 – 11

Kim Martin Long, Respondent

Counting Coloniality: Neurodivergence in James Bird's The Brave

Ashley Bernardo, THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

Deploying Disability in Narratives About and in Response to the Euro-American Conquest of the Plains Indians

Matthew Cella, SHIPPENSBURG UNIVERSITY



Empowering Spirits: Possession and Madness in Comfort Woman by Nora Okja Keller

Min Ji Kang, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Clashing Cultures in Latinx Literature | 10 – 11

Yemisi Jimoh, Respondent

Tomás Rivera's Crystal City and the Twinned Histories of Chicanx and Japanese American Detention

Daniel Valella, University of Michigan

Unsettled Cases: Chicanx Literature's Legal Tradition

José A. de la Garza, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

What or who is the translation unit? Some examples of Latinx works in Spanish

Mattea Cussel, UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA

Resistance and Subversion in African American Literature | 10 – 11

Sherry Johnson, Respondent

Invisible Women and Hierarchy: Subverting Power through Sex

Anne Oxendine, GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Love As Resistance In Nafissa Thompson-Spires' Heads Of The Colored People

Eyal Handelsman Katz, UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Afropast, Afropresent: Prophecy and its Limits in the 21-st century African-American Novel of Precarity



Carra Glatt, BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY

Friday, April 9, 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM EDT

Bicultural Personas: Crossings of Race, Ethnicity, and Culture in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Multiethnic Literature | 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Rebecca Thacker, Respondent

To Meet in Passing: Alter-Ego as "Double-consciousness" in Dorothy West's "The Typewriter" and Sui Sin Far's Mrs. Spring Fragrance

Joseph Ozias, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Bicultural Bodies at Work: The Making of an Environmental Injustice Community in Alejandro Morales' The Brick People

Mauricio Espinoza, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

A New Type of Indian: Native American Perspectives on "The Indian Problem," 1880-1928

Rebecca Thacker, UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Pedagogy in Uncertain Times | 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Cristina Stanciu, Respondent

A Racist, an Antisemite, and a COVID-Denier All Walk into a (Virtual) Classroom...: Pitfalls and Plusses of Teaching Multi-Ethnic Literature in Our Current America —from a Distance

Audrey Thacker, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE



****Insisting on Embodiment: Zoom Pedagogy in the African American Literature Classroom*

Wren Romero, LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO

Teaching in the time of chaos: Empathy and the multiethnic US literature classrooms

Mayuri Deka, UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS

Place and Displacement | 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Samina Najmi, Respondent

"Nobody Walks in LA": the Pedestrian Perspective of Helena Maria Viramontes' Their Dogs Came With Them

Cynthia Garcia, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

"In America, we were all lost": Cultural Counterfeiting in Anzia Yeziarska's Bread Givers

Aaron J. Rovin, WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY

The Stabilization of Space and Place in a Fractalized, Gigaspeed, Picnoleptic World

Chicanx Picture Books in the Dromosphere

Phillip Serrato, SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY

Responses to Black Lives Matter | 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Martha Cutter, Respondent

Model Minority (Tres)Passing and the Unmasking of Asian-American Self-Hate and Anti-Blackness In Chang-rae Lee's Native Speaker

Hannah Nahm, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Writing an Ethnic Autobiography in 2020



Marc DiPaolo, SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

"Why don't you make you your project?": Training the Gaze on White Liberals in Claudia Rankine's The White Card.

Emily R. Rutter, BALL STATE UNIVERSITY

Friday, April 9, 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM EDT

Keynote Discussion: Werner Sollors, winner of the 2003 MELUS Award for Distinguished Contribution to Ethnic Studies, will speak in conversation with longtime MELUS member and former president John Lowe.

Friday, April 9, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

Approaches to War and Conflict in Multiethnic Literatures | 2 – 3

Wenying Xu, Respondent

****Teaching Sri Lankan War and Genocide in the Midwest and the South*

Dinidu Karunanayake, ELON UNIVERSITY

The Afro-Asia Victimology of the Korean War

Kodai Abe, BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY, SUNY

Brest, France: Literary Waypoint in Black American Accounts of WWI

Leslie Rowen, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

"The Past Promised Nothing to the Future;" Diasporizing Californio Identity in María Amparo De Burton's The Squatter and the Donleah

Anthony Gomez, STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY



Multiethnic Pedagogies | 2 – 3

David Goldstein, Respondent

"Industrial Work": Reading Indian Boarding Schools in the Literature Classroom

Leah Milne, UNIVERSITY OF INDIANAPOLIS

"Something I have created": Birth and Motherhood Trauma in Thi Bui's The Best We Could Do

Marie Drews, LUTHER COLLEGE

Detecting the Past in the Present: Teaching Walter Mosley and Lucha Corpi's Historical Detective Novels in 2020

Crystal Perez, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY

Narrative Form and Culture | 2 – 3

Emily R. Rutter, Respondent

History of the Sentence: Whiteness and Settler Colonialism in the Work of Claudia Rankine and Layli Long Soldier

Anne Shea, CALIFORNIA COLLEGE OF THE ARTS

"Outsiders Within" Oscar and Lola's Intersectional Identity

Hayat Bedaiwi, KING SAUD UNIVERSITY

The Woman Question in Frances Harper's Iola Leroy: Blurring Boundaries, Combatting Race and Sexual Stereotyping, and Confronting Chaos in Post-Reconstruction Era

Lisa Elwood-Farber, HERKIMER COLLEGE



Publishing Roundtable | 2 – 3

Stella Setka, Respondent

Gary Totten, EDITOR OF *MELUS*

John Duvall, EDITOR OF *MODERN FICTION STUDIES*

Erica Wetter, EXECUTIVE EDITOR, *STANFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS*

Victoria Aarons, SERIES EDITOR, *LEXINGTON STUDIES IN JEWISH LITERATURE*

Friday, April 9, 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM EDT

Reflections on the Work of Jeffrey Ferguson: A Roundtable | 3:15 – 4:15

Kenneth Warren, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Glenda Carpio, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Faraj Jasmine Griffin, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

David Blight, YALE UNIVERSITY

Magdalena Zaborowska, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

{Pending cancellation} Power and Powerlessness in Multiethnic American Women's Writing | 3:15 – 4:15

***"The Erotic" and "Homeplace" as [Blended] Forms of Creative Resistance in Sandra Cisneros' *The House on Mango Street*, Audre Lorde's *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name*, and Ntozake Shange's *For colored girls who have considered suicide / when the rainbow is enuf*.



Sarah Mortazavi Brooks, OLD DOMINION UNIVERSITY

****Temporal Ruins of Suicide in Ruth Ozeki's A Tale for the Time Being*

Sidne Lyon, MIAMI UNIVERSITY

Love and Desire in Contemporary African American Literature and Film | 3:15 – 4:15

Almas Khan, Respondent

Loving and the Spectacle of Interracial

Clark Barwick, INDIANA UNIVERSITY, BLOOMINGTON

"They're all our sons": Radical Acceptance as Mothering across the Color Line

Nancy Kang, UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Bulimia as Manifestation of Postcolonial Trauma in Edwidge Danticat's Breath, Eyes, Memory

Stephanie Couey, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

Asian American: Foreigner Within | 3:15 – 4:15

Wenxin Li, Respondent

Min Jin Lee's Free Food for Millionaire (2007) and Pachinko (2017)

Joo Young Lee & Kiin Chong, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN & SEOUL NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

*Misfit Professionalism: Asian American Chefs, Restaurateurs, and Cookbook Narratives
in the Twenty-First-Century Food World*

Leland Tabares, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



Reading Home in Celeste Ng's Everything I Never Told You and Little Fires Everywhere

Nicolyn Woodcock, CLARK UNIVERSITY

Friday, April 9, 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM EDT

Rolling Happy Hour - Join old friends, meet new ones! Our first room will open at 5:00, and the happy hour will then roll through time zones to 6:00 pm and 7:00 pm with different hosts.

Saturday, April 10, 2021

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM EDT

Exploring Intersections of Identity, Fear, and Economics | 10 – 11

Joel Wendland-Liu, Respondent

Preserving Japanese American Cultural Heritage through Literature

Corinna Barrett Percy, IDAHO STATE UNIVERSITY

From the Chinese Fear to the White's Fear: On Fear in Steer Towards Rock

Zhou Chipeng, SHANGHAI INTERNATIONAL STUDIES UNIVERSITY

Economic, Financial and Geo-Political revisions of "Homeland:" Ayad Akhtar's Homeland Elegies (2020) after Mohsin Hamid's The Reluctant Fundamentalist (2007)

Susana Araujo, CEC, ULISBOA/FLUC UCOIMBRA



The Role of Memory in 21st Century Ethnic American Literature and Poetry | 10 – 11

Wenxin Li, Respondent

Generating Epiphenomenal Time through Poetic Form, Translation, and Palimpsests in Ruth Ellen Kocher's domina Un/blued

Lucien Meadows, UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Beyond Remembrance: Form and Memory in Ocean Vuong's On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous

Maile Young, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

Connective Memory and Accumulation by Dispossession in Ling Ma's Severance (2018)

Seon-Myung Yoo, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Black Aesthetics | 10 – 11

Jessie Dunbar, Respondent

"MOST YOUNG KING(S) GET THEIR HEAD(S) CUT OFF": Kevin Young's Mimetic Ekphrasis and the Initiation of (More) Young Black Artists

Cecelia Alfonso-Stokes, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE

The Aesthetics of Defacement: Graffitiing Confederate Statuary as the Enactment of Black Critique

John Brooks, BOSTON COLLEGE

Reparative Body-ody-odies: The FutureSex Poetics of Contemporary Musicians of Color

Matthew Hester, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY



Reimagining Black Women's Responsibilities through Passing and Lemonade

Rachel Smith, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Liminal Spaces in Multiethnic Literature | 10 – 11

Anastasia Lin, Respondent

From Refugee to Illegal Alien: Mediating Displacement in Demetria Martínez's Mother Tongue

Alaina Kaus, GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

Yaa Gyasi's Homegoing: Expanding the Neoslave Narrative Tradition

Eva Tettenborn, PENN STATE SCRANTON

Saturday, April 10, 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM EDT

Black Lives Matter and Pedagogy | 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Tracy Floreani, Respondent

Overwhelming Affects: Teaching Anna Deavere Smith's Twilight: Los Angeles, 1992 in the Era of Black Lives Matter

Brandy E. Underwood, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, NORTHRIDGE

White Fragility in the Canon: Beatty's The White Boy Shuffle and Thoreau's Walden Pond

Krupal Amin, NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATH

When Black Lives Really Do Matter: Repairing and Rewriting Women's Bodies through



African-Diasporic Healing Rituals in Toni Morrison's Fiction

Martha Cutter, UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

Spatiality and African American Mobility | 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Gary Totten, Respondent

Black Flâneuserie and Otherwise Ecologies in Jamaica Kincaid's Seed Collecting Hikes/Journeys

Dorottya Mozes, UNIVERSITY OF DEBRECEN

Sing, Unburied, Sing's "Home-in-Motion": Automobility, Mobile Points of View, and the Search for a Southern Black Home

Erika Gotfredson, PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Blackness, The Underground, and Quotidian Fugitivity in Pauline Hopkins's Winona

Eunice Toh, PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY

Enslavement and Abolition in the Americas | 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Yemisi Jimoh, Respondent

Plain Reading the Constitution: Frederick Douglass, Textualism, and Revisionary Racial Justice

Emma Brush, STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Past, Present, and Future Challenges of Abolitionist Texts: The Transcultural Case of Jean-

Robert Cadet's Restavec



Laura Barrio-Vilar, UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK

Reading Between and Through | 11:15 AM – 12:15 PM

Joe Kraus, Respondent

****Racial Ambiguity and Identity In-Betweenness in Asian American Fiction*

I-Hsien Lee, GEORGIA STATE UNIVERSITY

*On Blackness and Indigeneity, or the Shape that Freedom Might Take: A Field Survey
and Paired Reading of CITIZEN and WHEREAS*

Hollis Druhet, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Double-Consciousness in McPherson's "A Solo Song: For Doc"

Michael Ferguson, COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY – PUEBLO

Saturday, April 10, 12:30 PM – 1:30 PM EDT

MELUS Membership Meeting - All are invited! Please join us to learn more about MELUS.

Saturday, April 10, 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM EDT

"Awakening a Humanized Response to Immigrants and People of Color: Effecting Change in and through Teaching English," A Session in Honor of Douglas Steward (1970-2020), Associate Director of Programs and Director of the Associated Departments of English (ADE/MLA) | 2 – 3

Tracy Floreani, OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY



Jesse Aleman, UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

Priya Jha, UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS

Kyung-Sook Boo, SOGANG UNIVERSITY

Sherry Johnson, GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

Ricardo Oritz, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Contemporary Latinx Identities | 2 – 3

Chris Gonzales, Respondent

Less Than Perfect: Mestizaje, Monstrosity, and the Defective Male Body in Ernest Hogan's High Aztech

Chrysta Carson Wilson, UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

When Borders Come and Find You: Nativism in Benjamin Alire Sáenz's "The Art of Translation"

Isabel Quintana Wulf, SALISBURY UNIVERSITY

****Kate del Castillo and her dual personification of fiction-reality as a potential counter-hegemonic narrative for Latina first-generation migrants in the United States.*

Judith Martínez, MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY

Trauma and Migration | 2 – 3

Stella Setka, Respondent

Dislocated lives: Migration, Displacement, and Reckonings in Contemporary Multi-ethnic texts



Parama Sarkar, UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

The Specter of American Imperialism: Forgetting, Remembering, and Haunting in David Chariandy's Soucouyant

Rachel Hartnett, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

"A bedtime story for the end of the world": Archives of Policed Borders in Daniel Borzutzky's THE PERFORMANCE OF BECOMING HUMAN

Rachel Ann Walsh, BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY

Movements Beyond the Body: Speculative Migrations/Alternative Realities | 2 - 3

Marc DiPaolo, Respondent

Undoing the Border Binary: Challenging Categorizes of Citizenship in the US-Mexico Borderlands

Alyssa Qunitanilla, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

The Right to Space: Reimagining Citizenship in Anders, Basu, and Onyebuchi

Jessica Fitzpatrick, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

Lives Without Inspection: Mythology and Undocumentation in Writing about Migration

Elizabeth Rodriguez Fielder, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA



We thank the following for making MELUS 2021 a reality:

The MELUS 2021 Logistical and Administrative Team:

Anastasia Lin, Allison Grundel, and Mandy Losito, University of North Georgia

The MELUS 2021 Virtual Conference Planning Committee:

Stella Setka (chair), Amanda Greenwell, Matthew Hester, Alaina Kaus, Joe Kraus, Chris Meade, Kaylee Mootz, Hayley Stefan, and Anna Ziering.

All of our volunteer respondents and the entire MELUS EC Board

Please hold the date for the MELUS 2022 conference:

March 23 - 27, 2022



THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW ORLEANS

All previously accepted essays for the original 2020 conference in New Orleans will be automatically accepted. A slightly amended CFP will be published on MELUS.org soon.

