

Missouri State University
Department of English- English Week
10th Annual MSU Undergraduate Literature Conference,
April 18th-19th, 2024

THURSDAY, April 18th, 2024, 9:30AM – 3:15PM, Hill Hall 001

9:30-10:45AM: RELIGION AND RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

Moderator: TBA

- **Makayla Malachowski (MSU)**, “Along the heath and near his fav’rite tree”: Paganism in Thomas Gray’s “Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard”
- **Bianca Salomon (MSU)**, “Fixed as Fate”: Religion and Free Will in the World of Mary Shelley’s *Frankenstein*
- **Alyssa Hinkston (MSU)**, Baldwin and Me: Interrogating the Ethics of Missionary Practice and Church Institution
- **Caleb Cloud (MSU)**, How Brandon Sanderson Defied Tropes to Create a New Kind of Missionary Character

11:00AM-12:00PM: RETHINKING GENDER IN AMERICAN WOMEN’S WRITING

Moderator: TBA

- **Kwan Willhoft (Webster)**, My Life, My Choice (To Be a Wife): Adèle Ratignolle in *The Awakening*
- **Lucy J. Rodery (MSU)**, Sylvia Plath’s *The Bell Jar*, White Feminism, and the Civil Rights Movement
- **Reanna Schrader (MSU)**, “Freezer Bride, Your Sweet Divine”: *Preacher’s Daughter* and Modernizing the Female Southern Gothic

12:00-12:30PM: SNACK AND CHAT

Join us for informal discussion of English Department programs and organizations!

12:30-1:45PM: ETHNIC AMERICAN LITERATURE

Moderator: TBA

- **Madison S. Johnson (MSU)**, “Nothing Solid”: The Intersection of Gender and Ethnicity in Hisaye Yamamoto’s “Wilshire Bus”
- **Ben Verstraete (MSU)**, *Ceremony’s* White Creation Myth as a History of Race: A Close Reading
- **AJ Moles (MSU)**, Model Minority and the Abstraction of Self in Chang-Rae Lee’s *Native Speaker*
- **Halle Lawson (MSU)**, The Birds of Freedom: The Actualization of Freedom in Elmaz Abinader’s “The Birds”

2:00-3:15PM: ISSUES IN WORLD LITERATURE

Moderator: TBA

- **Zikun Jiang (MSU)**, The Moon Image in Chinese Classical Poetry Translation from the Perspective of Cultural Translation Theory
- **Tai Lee (MSU)**, *Moby Dick* as a Proto-Existential Text: Comparing Melville and Dostoevsky
- **Dessa Outman (MSU)**, Anti-Propaganda: Erick Maria Remarque’s *All Quiet on the Western Front* and the Dismantling of the Argument for War

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FRIDAY, April 19th, 2024, 9:05AM – 3:45PM, Hill Hall 001

9:05-9:55AM: LABOR AND SOCIAL STATUS

Moderator: TBA

- **Skylar Droege (Webster/Zoom)**, Weaving Homes and Networks: Women and their Labor in *The Odyssey*
- **Emily R. McKenna (MSU)**, Game of Tales: A Ludonarrative Analysis of Storytelling in *The Canterbury Tales*

10:10-11AM: ISSUES IN DRAMA

Moderator: TBA

- **Elijah Hertzog (MSU)**, Through Painful Toil: Drama in *Mankind* and *Piers Ploughman*
- **Trinity Locke (Webster)**, “Juliet and Her Romeo”: The Role of Romeo’s Dagger in Juliet’s Autonomy
- **Brady Stiff (Webster)**, Innovation of Friendship in *As You Like It*

11:15AM-12:05PM: NEW APPROACHES TO KINSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP

Moderator: TBA

- **Madalyn Tuning (MSU)**, To Be a Mother: Adapting Gender in the Novel and Film *To Live*
- **Claire Inman (MSU)**, Why Should the Daughter Pay for the Sins of the Father? How the Father-Daughter Dynamic is Represented in *Bluey*
- **Tyler Wilkerson (MSU)**, Carol, Her God: Queerness, Answers, and Age Gaps in *The Price of Salt*

12:20-1:10PM: SNACK AND CHAT

Join us for informal discussion of English Department programs and organizations!

1:25-2:15PM: GENDER AND SEXUALITY

Moderator: TBA

- **Lillian Durr (MSU)**, Gay Panic: *The Picture of Dorian Gray* as a Response to Victorian Fears of Effeminacy
- **Kaitlin Jeppson (MSU)**, The Collective Impact of Highsmith’s *The Price of Salt* and Feinberg’s *Stone Butch Blues*
- **Catherine Kearbey (MSU)**, Heteropessimism in Hisaye Yamamoto’s *Seventeen Syllables*

2:30-3:45PM TRAUMA, POWER, AND SELF IN POPULAR NARRATIVE FORMS

Moderator: TBA

- **Melissa Villela (MSU)**, What Lies Beyond the Door: The Portrayal of Trauma in *Chainsaw Man*
- **Siera Richardson (MSU)**, Documenting Trauma in Graphic Narrative Form
- **Victoria Isabelle Campos (MSU)**, The Danger of Power: How Hunter x Hunter’s Chimera Ant Arc Challenges the Narrative Conventions of Shounen Protagonists
- **Mar Prax (MSU)**, The Relationship Between Self-Insert and Self-Expression in Mark Twain’s *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*