

# 5th Annual MSU Undergraduate Literature Conference - April 5-6, 2019, PSU Room 317

## Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> Panels

### 9:05-9:55 am: Literature, Culture, and Sociopolitics

- **Erin Benedict**, "The Myth of Sisterhood in *Wonder Woman*"
- **Lauren J. Barclay**, "Outlaw Women and Unconventional Responses to Trauma in Works by Toni Morrison"
- **Kat Sittenauer**, "Politics and Religious Influence: The Entanglement of Politics and Religion in *Paradise Lost* and *The Witches, Salem 1692*"

### 10:10-11:00am: Issues in Ethnic American Literature and Culture, I

- **Daren Colbert**, "The Originality and Imitation of *To Pimp A Butterfly*, as Viewed Through Zora Neale Hurston's 'Characteristics of Negro Expression'"
- **Emily Lewandowski**, "The Caribbean Mongoose Against the Fukú"

### 11:15am-12:05pm: (Lunch Break)

### 12:20-1:10: Issues in Ethnic American Literature and Culture, II

- **Alexander Durbin**, "Ethnic American Identity and Žitkálá-Šá's 'Blue Star Woman'"
- **Katherine Busch**, "Beautiful-Ugly: Ambiguity in Paule Marshall's *Brown Girl, Brownstones*"
- **Shae Park**, "Meanings of Death in 'The Ballad of Rudolph Reed' and 'Lady Lazarus'"

### 1:25-2:15pm: Reading Literature and Culture through Disability Studies

- **Tyler Woosencraft**, "Faulkner's Reflection on American Eugenics and Disability History in *The Sound and the Fury*"
- **Maureen N. Havey**, "Modern Day Heroes: A Look at Disabilities and Nuanced Characters in *Percy Jackson and the Olympians*"
- **Rachel Edens**, "Marvel's Bucky Barnes: Disability Stereotypes"

## Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup> Panels

### 9:00-10:00am: Representing the Social

- **Kyle Richardson**, "The Stagnant Half-life of Humanity in Literature"
- **Raymond Moylan**, "Authority, Utopia, and the Advent of Neoliberal Capitalism"
- **Savannah Hartje**, "Ceremony and Society: The Female Power in *Beowulf*"

### 10:00am-11:00am: Feminist Approaches to Literature

- **Rebecca Harris**, "Demon in the House: Victorian Conventions and the Punishment of Women in *Great Expectations*"
- **Morgan Kinder**, "Analyzing the 'Old Maid' Character in Ethnic American Literature: Israel Zangwill's *The Melting Pot*, Paule Marshall's *Brown Girl, Brownstones*, and Chang-Rae Lee's *Native Speaker*"
- **Anna Rickard**, "Destroying the Transparent Eyeball: Thoreau's *Walden* Through an Ecofeminist Lens"

### 11:00am-12:00pm: Gender and Popular Culture

- **Emily L. Arneson**, "Non-Toxic Masculinity: Male Relationships and Emotional Vulnerability in Fleischer's *Venom*"
- **Stevie Leigh**, "Gendered Expressions and Queer Perceptions: (De)coding the Music of Freddie Mercury"
- **Alex Fallon**, "Reconstructing Foundations: Normalizing Queer Identities in Apocalyptic Landscapes"

### 12-1pm: (Lunch Break)

### 1-2pm: Shakespeare

- **Taylor Stanton**, "Finding Female Identity: Necessary Guises for Living Well in *The Merchant of Venice* and *Measure for Measure*"
- **Holly Morrison**, "Making Use of Nothing in Shakespeare's *King Lear*"
- **Brad Kelly**, "A Historicist Approach to Shakespeare's *Richard II*"

### 2-3pm: Approaches to My *Ántonia*

- **Victoria Janacek**, "Re-imagining the American Identity: Cultural Pluralism in *My Ántonia*"
- **Haley Nelson**, "A Historicist Approach to Willa Cather's *My Ántonia*"
- **Katherine Coulter**, "Jim Burden: The Burden of Portraying the West"
- **Sophia Orlando**, "Reflection of Self in *My Ántonia*"

## Keynote Speaker: Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 4:00pm

### **Dr. Susan Stewart, "Doing Double Duty: Diversity Inside and Outside the Text"**

Dr. Susan Stewart, Associate Professor of Literature at University of Texas A&M-Commerce, explores the roles of diversity in adolescent literature and discusses how we can talk about diversity in today's complicated world. A reception will follow the lecture.