

4th Annual MSU Undergraduate Literature Conference - April 13-14, 2018, PSU Room 317

Friday, April 13th Panels

10:10-11:00 am: Representing African Americans and Africans

- **Calvin Coon**, "Christian Property: A Critique on Slaveholder Religion in Frederick Douglass' *Narrative*"
- **Noah Standish**, "Pain, Pride, & Renewal: How Langston Hughes Embodied the Harlem Renaissance"
- **Maria Meluso**, "Black Panther: Representation of African Culture in American Media during Eras of Increased Civil Rights Awareness"

11:15am-12:05 pm: The Cultural Meanings of Comics

- **Rachel Edens**, "Marvel's The X-Men: A Mirror of America's Divided Society"
- **Devin Nauman**, "Captain America: Heroism Leaves No Room For Physical Impairments"

12:20-1:10pm: Mode and Genre in American Literature and Culture

- **Julia Morrow**, "Exploration of the Unconscious in 'Young Goodman Brown'"
- **Cassi Loveland**, "Hillbilly Noir"
- **Laura Berthold**, "*The Mythos of Winter*: Satire and Irony in the Lyrics of Saint Motel"

1:25-2:15pm: Reading Shakespeare

- **Seth Hadley**, "Prince Hamlet, A Tool of Mimesis: Hamlet Demonstrating Human Paralysis as a Result of Competing Interpersonal Claims"
- **Brooke Worley**, "Proto-Existentialism in Shakespeare's *King Lear*"
- **Bob Jorash**, "The Hollow Machiavellian: An Exploration of Shakespeare's Second Tetralogy"

2:30-3:20pm: Language and Form

- **Bradley C. Kelly**, "Hayden's 'Those Winter Sundays': An Analysis of Cold Imagery and Sound Devices"
- **John King**, "Troubled Silences in Susan Glaspell's 'Trifles'"
- **Sarah Bachler**, "The Tip of the Iceberg: Layers of Meaning in *The Argonauts*"

Saturday, April 14th Panels

9:30-11am: Early Modern and Eighteenth-Century English Literature

- **Sydney To**, "From Speech to Silence: Resisting Tyranny in Thomas Kyd's *The Spanish Tragedy* and Elizabeth Cary's *The Tragedy of Mariam*"
- **Buse Dölarslan**, "Women, Virtue, and Social Class: *Moll Flanders* and *Pamela*"
- **Tianna Snyder**, "'The Disappointment': Aphra Behn Rebels Against Ovid"

11am-12pm: Representing Women in Literature and Popular Culture

- **Morgan Kinder**, "Manifestations of Gender Performance in Susan Glaspell's 'Trifles'"
- **Rachel E. Kramer**, "The Normalization of Misogyny: Women's Power Struggles in *Mad Men*"
- **Maggie Morris**, "First Wives and Fitness Instructors: The Women of Roxane Gay's 'Florida'"

12-1pm: Lunch

1-2pm: Representing Queer Identities

- **Evan Pyle**, "Disturbing the Canon: Queer and Masculine Autonomies in Ernest Hemingway's *In Our Time*"
- **Annie Wampler**, "A Space for Underrepresented Identities in Fanfiction: The Case of *Jane Eyre*"
- **TJ Pyatt**, "The Storytellers of Our Generation: An Exploration of Gender and Drag in the Queer Community"

2-3pm: Literature, Culture, and Social Activism

- **Lauren J. Barclay**, "Manifestation of Female Power Through Alternative Forms of Voice: From Margaret Atwood's *The Blind Assassin* to the #MeToo Movement"
- **Hannah Brashers**, "The Radicalism of the High Romantics: Wordsworth's 'Preface' and the Language of Contemporary Populism"
- **Laura Davis**, "The Contemporary Significance of Adorno's *Minima Moralia*: Neocapitalism and the Twenty-First Century"

3-4pm: Reception

Keynote Speaker: Friday, April 13th, 3:30pm

Dr. Rich Schur, "Can I Kick It? The Uneasy Relationship between African American Literature and Hip-Hop"

In this talk, Dr. Richard Schur, Professor of English and Director of the Honors Program at Drury University, explores how hip-hop and African American literature each sought to gain cultural recognition and marketplace success during the 1980s and 1990s. Using Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and *A Tribe Called Quest* (among other examples), Dr. Schur examines how literature and music can create identities and build communities despite social and cultural tensions.