

The 42st Annual Meeting
of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature

The Cultural Heritage of the Midwest: A Symposium

May 10-12, 2012
Michigan State University Union, East Lansing, MI

Thursday, May 10, 2012

Registration 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Session A

12:00 noon – 1:30 PM

Criticism Parlor B
Moderator: Jane L. Carman (Illinois State University)
Hasnul Djohar (Central Michigan University) "Huck and Jim's Escape: A Revolt of Human Oppression"
Marcus Merritt (Wayne State University) "The last sign before the bridge': David Foster Wallace's 'Good Old Neon' and the Death of Critique"

Poetry: Nebraska Poets Today Parlor C
Moderator: Mary K. Stillwell (Lincoln, NE)
Shelly Clark Geiser (Omaha, NE) "The Cockroach Monologues"
Cliff Mason (Bellevue University) "Skydiving"
Mary K. Stillwell (Lincoln, NE) "Absolute Danger"

Session B

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Fiction Parlor A
Moderator: Brenda K. Marshall (University of Michigan)
William J. Palmer (Purdue University) A Reading from *Two Cities*
Justin D. Sikes (Hammond, IN) "From 'Gallery of Faceless Women'"

Criticism Parlor B
Moderator: Mary Catherine Harper (Defiance College)
Dennis Rohatyn (University of San Diego) "Dreiser's Last Words"
Charles E. Pankenier (Ridgefield, CT) "Twice-Told Tales: When Sinclair Lewis Brought H. G. Wells to Main Street"
Susan A. Schiller (Central Michigan University) "Willa Cather's *Death Comes for the Archbishop* Framed by Beauty and Hope"
Gabriel Downs (University of Iowa) "The Most Pathetic, Tragic, and Desperate Revolt': Critical Regionalism in Hamlin Garland's *A Spoil of Office*"

Poetry Parlor C
Moderator: Janet Heller (Western Michigan University)
Marilyn J. Carr (Maquon, IL) "From *Death of a Man* and other Poems"
Brandon Krieg (Western Michigan University) "From *Verges*"
Kevin Drzakowski (University of Wisconsin—Stout) "One Hundred Haikus by Kevin Drzakowski. This One Doesn't Count"
Terry Blackhawk (Detroit, MI) From *The Light Between*

Criticism: Green Room
Gender, Race. Resistance in the American Midwest: Three Literary Women
Moderator: Maureen N. Eke (Central Michigan University)
Elyse Laurelle Nelmark (Central Michigan University) "‘Homing’ and Region: Land and Identity Politics in the Midwest in Louise Erdrich’s *Tracks*"
Michelle Campbell (Central Michigan University) "The Freedom to Try: Voltairine de Cleyre in Postmodern Pedagogy"
Maureen N. Eke (Central Michigan University) "Pan-Africanism in the American Midwest: Lorraine Hansberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun*"

Session C

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Creative Nonfiction Parlor A
Moderator: Kevin Drzakowski (University of Wisconsin—Stout)
James E. Marlow (University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth) "A Midwestern Father"
Mary Minock (Madonna University) Reading from *The Way-Back Room: A Memoir of a Detroit Childhood*

Criticism: Parlor B
Moderator: Mary DeJong Obuchowski (Central Michigan University)
Christian Knoeller (Purdue University) "Poetics of Place in Theodore Roethke’s ‘North American Sequence’"
Justin D. Sikes (Hammond, IN) "Storytelling for Sustainability in the Great Plains"
Philip A. Greasley (University of Kentucky) "John D. Voelker: Literature and Life"

Poetry Parlor C
Moderator: Martha Vertrease-Doodly (City Colleges of Chicago)
Janet Heller (Western Michigan University) A reading from *Traffic Stop*
Andrea England (Western Michigan University) A reading from *Every Other Mile*
Mary Catherine Harper (Defiance College) "Only Wild Women and Visionaries"
Edward Morin (College for Creative Studies) Selected Poems

Criticism Green Room
Moderator: Frances Auld (University of Wisconsin Baraboo/Sauk)
Joseph J. Wydeven (Bellevue University Emeritus) "The Narrative Impulse in the Journals and Paintings of Charles Burchfield"
Lylanne Musselman (University of Indianapolis) "Rane Arroyo’s *Dancing At Funerals*: ‘Others’ Claiming Their Place in the World"
Daniel J. Schweitzer (SUNY Buffalo) "'All the Evils of this Town’: Alienation, Region, and Self in Denis Johnson’s *Jesus’ Son*"
Douglas Sheldon (Kent State University) "Construction of a Protest Narrative: *Come Back to Sorrento* and Institutionalized Marriage"

Dinner Break

5:30 PM

Editorial Committee Meeting

Marcia Noe, chair
Robert Beasecker
Nancy McKinney
Rob Dunne
Marilyn Atlas
Philip Greasley
James Seaton

Green Room

Jeff Swenson
Roger Bresnahan
Joseph Wydeven

Ronald Primeau
Mary Obuchowski
Bill Barillas

Friday, May 11, 2012

Registration 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Session D

8:00 AM

Creative Nonfiction: Green Room
In the Valley of the Shadow of the North: Year Three
Moderator: Matthew L.M. Fletcher (Michigan State University)
Gordon Henry (Michigan State University) "Two Dogs, Elders and the Road West: Ceremonial Ironies and Undeveloped Film"
Matthew L.M. Fletcher (Michigan State University) "Chipiitenim Debendaagozijig (Respect the Locals)"
Paul Stebleton (Lake Ann, MI) "Liquid Organic Concentrate Is a Thing That Everyone, Everyone, Everyone Needs"

Criticism Parlor A
Moderator: Marc Seals (University of Wisconsin Baraboo/Sauk)
Janet Heller (Western Michigan University) "TBD"
Sara Kosiba (Troy University) "What Does the Midwest Sound Like?: Contemporary Midwestern Musicians and Music"
Jane L. Carman (Illinois State University) "xXperimentation and xXpansion: How the Midwest mis(Shapes) Aesthetic"
Lawrence Moe (Metropolitan State University) "Prudence Gearey Sand"

Criticism: The Literature of Contemporary Detroit Parlor B
Moderator: Ron Primeau (Central Michigan University)
Darla K. Nagel (Central Michigan University) "Naomi Cordelia Long Madgett's Work to End African-American Literature's Exclusion"
Amanda Waltz (Central Michigan University) "Naomi Long Madgett the Browning Way"
Shamari Benton (Central Michigan University) "M memoir: Growing Up in Detroit, 1991"
David P. Duckett (Central Michigan University) "Broadside Poets and Historians: Differing Coverage of the Twelfth-Street Riots of 1967"

Poetry: Parlor C
Moderator: Andrea England (Western Michigan University)
Mary Minock (Madonna University) "New Poems of Place"
Lynne Musselman (University of Indianapolis) *Weathering Under the Cat: New & Selected Poems*
Martha Vertrease-Doddy (City Colleges of Chicago) "'Fun with Robert Brewer's 'Poetic Asides'"
Glenn Sheldon (The University of Toledo) "A Surrealist Heaven over the Midwest: Poems from *Angel of Anarchy*"

Session E

10:00

Criticism: Ted Kooser Parlor A
Moderator: Jeffrey Hotz (East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania)
Mary K. Stillwell (University of Nebraska—Lincoln) "Life and Death, Light and Dark: Ted Kooser's Use of Chiaroscuro"
Wes Mantooth (Lake Washington Institute of Technology) "Anatomy of Observation in Ted Kooser's Poetry: Navigating Boundaries"
Allan Benn (East Stroudsburg University) "Kooser's Valentines: No Portrait of a Lady"

Poetry: Parlor C
In memory of David Anderson and Margo LaGattuta
Moderator:
Mary Minock (Madonna University)
Mary DeJong Obuchowsky (Central Michigan University)
Ronald Primeau (Central Michigan University)
Marilyn Atlas (Ohio University)
Philip Greasley (University of Kentucky)

11:30 AM Gold A & B
Awards Luncheon

Session F 1:30

Criticism: Parlor A
Sandra Seaton: Playwright, Historian, Artist
Moderator: Arvid F. Sponberg (Valparaiso University)
Pero Dagbovie (Michigan State University) "TBD"
Denise Troutman (Michigan State University) "The Use of Language in *The Bridge Party*"
Arvid F. Sponberg (Valparaiso University) "The Quest for Poly-vocal Form in the Plays of Sandra Seaton, Lorraine Hansberry, August Wilson, and Suzan-Lori Parks"

Criticism: Parlor B
Moderator: Scott Emmert (University of Wisconsin--Fox Valley)
Charles Cunningham (Eastern Michigan University) "Michigan Writers and the Fordist Compromise"
Alex Engebretson (City University of New York) "Midwestern Mysticism: Overcoming the Secular-Religious Divide in Marilynne Robinson's *Gilead*"

Midwestern Drama and Poetry Parlor C
Moderator: John Rohrkemper (Elizabethtown College)
David Radavich (Eastern Illinois University Emeritus) "Midwestern Drama at the Borders"
Christian Knoeller (Purdue University) "Open Tuning"
David Radavich (Eastern Illinois University Emeritus) "A Reading from *America Bound: An Epic for Our Time*"

Session G 3:30

Criticism: Midwestern Literary Naturalism Parlor B
Moderator: Sara Kosiba (Troy University)
Scott Emmert (University of Wisconsin--Fox Valley) "Thwarted in the Heartland: The Midwestern Origins of American Literary Naturalism"
Andy Oler (Indiana University) "Middling Naturalism: Dawn Powell and 1930s Social Protest Fiction"
Kristin A. Risley (University of Wisconsin—Stout) "'Facing the Great Desolation': Naturalism and Rølvaag's *Giants in the Earth*"
Robert B. Mellin (Purdue University North Central) "The Greening of Literary Naturalism: Vonnegut's *Galápagos*, Deep Ecology, and 'Second Nature'"

Midwest Law and Literature: Green Room
Moderator: James Seaton
Mae Kuykendall (Michigan State University College of Law) "The Tragedy in Judicial Voice: Justice Samuel Freeman Miller, Free Soil Iowa, and the Slaughter-House Cases"
James Seaton (Michigan State University) "No Tears for Bankers' Daughters: *Native Son* Today"

Criticism Gold A
 Moderator: Jane L. Carman (Illinois State University)
 John Rohrkemper (Elizabethtown College) "American Odysseus: Mark Twain, Travel, and the Journey Home"
 Guy Szuberla (University of Toledo) "Chicago, the 1893 World's Fair, and 'The Great American Joke'"
 Arvid F. Sponberg (Valparaiso University) "The Chicago Theatre Symposium of 2011: Aims, Results, Action Plan"
 Marilyn Atlas (Ohio University) "Real, Romantic, Modern and Natural: Theodore Dreiser's *A Hoosier Holiday* in the Midwest"

5:00 PM Parlor A

Mentoring Café, an informal discussion of how to launch a successful academic career

6:00 PM

Executive Advisory Committee	Parlor B
SSML Officers:	Executive Council:
Roger Bresnahan, secretary-treasurer	Sara Kosiba, 2009-2012
Philip Greasley, recording secretary	Michael Kula, 2009-2012
Robert Beasecker, bibliographer	Scott Emmert, 2010-2013
Laura Julier, website manager	Sandra Seaton, 2010-2013
Marc Van Wormer, conference planner	Lynne Musselman, 2011-2014
Marilyn Atlas, awards coordinator	Marc Seals, 2011-2014
Ken Grant, program and scholarship chair	Dawn Comer 2012-2015
Marcia Noe, editorial committees chair	Jeffrey Swenson 2012-2015
Mary Obuchowski, corporate board	
Nancy Bunge, president	
Lawrence Moe, past president	
Christian Knoeller, president elect	

7:00 PM

Video: David D. Anderson Green Room

8:00 PM

Drama: Sandra Seaton's *Estate Sale* Parlor C

Saturday, May 12, 2012

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. Gold Room B
 Annual Business Meeting

Session H 9 AM

Criticism Parlor A
 Moderator: Andy Oler (Indiana University)
 Kevin Oberlin (University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College) "Remaking Men: An Examination of Masculinity in the Works of Midwestern Male Poets"
 Elizabeth Weber (University of Indianapolis) "The Dark Wheat Listens: the Midwest Speaking in James Wright's Poetry"
 Victoria F. Harris (Illinois State University) "Robert Bly's Words for World Peace"

Fiction: Parlor B
Moderator: Marilyn Carr (Maquon, IL)
Daniel A. Hoyt (Kansas State University) "From 'Security'"
Broc Riblet (Defiance College) "Frozen Sky"
Brenda K. Marshall (University of Michigan) "A Reading from *Dakota, Or What's a Heaven For*"
Jane L. Carman (Illinois State University) A Reading from "Animal Tales"

Creative Nonfiction Parlor C
Moderator: Mary Minock (Madonna University)
Marie Lannen (Central Michigan University) "Beat Poets Meet the Midwest"
Marc Van Wormer (Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature) "Prints Class with Mrs. Wiles"
Lawrence Moe (Metropolitan State University) "When I Was a Child, I Spake as a Child..."

Criticism Gold A
Moderator: Sara Kosiba (Troy University)
Patricia Oman (University of Illinois at Springfield) "'He Who Walks Behind the Rows': Industrial Agriculture and Heartland Horror"
Frances Auld (University of Wisconsin—Baraboo/Sauk) "Midwest as Memoryscape in Peter Straub's *Dark Matter*"
Marc Seals (University of Wisconsin—Baraboo/Sauk) "'Traveling to the Edge of the Map': Fantastic Wisconsin and Patrick Rothfuss's *Kingkiller Chronicle*"
Loren Logsdon (Eureka College) and Keith Tookey (Eureka College) "Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* and Dante's *Divine Comedy*: Dramatic Stories of Awakening, Enlightenment, and Redemption"

Session I 10:30

Fiction Parlor A
Moderator: Daniel A. Hoyt (Kansas State University)
Danielle Black (Kansas State University) "From *Booze and Shoes*"
Jacob Euteneuer (Kansas State University) "From *The Survivors' Affair*"
Emi Griess (Kansas State University) "From *Armoben Streamset Zoological Park*"
Zachary Powell (Kansas State University) "From *Iron Kills the Stars: The Commu7ne of Eternal Light*"

Panel: Sandra Seaton: Playwright, Historian, Artist Parlor B
Moderator: Arvid F. Sponberg (Valparaiso University)
David W. Stowe (Michigan State University) "TBD"
Ann Larabee (Michigan State University) "TBD"
Tama Hamilton-Wray (Michigan State University) "TBD"

Creative Nonfiction Parlor C
Moderator: Lawrence Moe (Metropolitan State University)
Dawn Comer (Defiance College) "'I don't feel safe, Mom. I feel scared': The Public School Experience of one Asperger Child and How He and His Mom Survived It."
Nancy Bunge (Michigan State University) "Reserve"
Geromina Courtney (Defiance College) "Out of Options: Surviving ADHD in the '70s"

Criticism Green Room
Moderator: Joseph J. Wydeven (Bellevue University Emeritus)
Jennifer Holly Wells (Drew University) "Following Louise Erdrich's Fleur Pillager: Complications, Successes, and Ethics in Digital Mapmaking of Fictional Places"
Janet LaBrie (University of Wisconsin—Waukesha) "The Entrepreneurship of Traditional Indian 'Business' in Louise Erdrich and Sherman Alexie"

Editorial Board Meeting**12:00 noon***Dictionary of Midwestern Literature*

Green Room

Phil Greasley, editor Robert Beasecker

Marcia Noe

Joseph Wydeven Robert Dunne

Mary Obuchowski

Marilyn Atlas Sara Kosiba

William Barillas

The Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature encourages you to revise your conference paper as a publishable essay and submit one hard copy by September 1, 2011, to Marcia Noe, 535 Elinor Street, Chattanooga, TN 37405. Find details at www.ssml.org/publications (click on the *MidAmerica* link).