

The 48th Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature
May 17–19, 2018

The Cultural Heritage of the Midwest A Symposium

Kellogg Conference Center, 219 S Harrison Rd, East Lansing, MI 48824

Thursday May 17, 2018

Registration 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Book Display 11:00 AM – 5:30 PM

South Lobby
105B

Session A 12:30 – 2:00 PM

Criticism Heritage
Moderator: Deonte Osayande

Travis Snyder (Baylor University), "Towards a Midwestern Gothic"
Michele Willman (Bemidji State University), "Reading Desmond's *Evicted* in a Midwest Composition Classroom"
Pamela Monaco (North Central College), "Red State, Blue State, United States: Regionalism, the Working Class, and 21st Century American Drama"

Nonfiction Willy
Moderator: James Gorman

Joyce Meier (Michigan State University), "It Could Be This, It Could Be That"
Caitlin Hill (University of Idaho), "The Veblen Effect"
Aaron LaDuke (Northwestern University, Qatar), "Another Boom on the Plains: Fracking, Frontier Myth, and Corporate Influence"

Session B 2:15 PM – 3:45 PM

Criticism Heritage
Centralizing Non-White Voices in Midwest Studies: Black Midwestern Poetics
Moderator: Joshua Lam

Patrick Kindig (Indiana University), "The Dialect Poetry of Motion: Fascination, Theatrical Gesture, and Race in Paul Laurence Dunbar's *The Sport of the Gods*"
Andy Oler (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University), "Eve Ewing's Electric Arches: Afrofuturist Chicago"
Caitlin Doyle (University of Cincinnati), "Formal Innovation as a Register for Racial Complexity in the Poetry of Gwendolyn Brooks"

Poetry 105A
Moderator: Daniel Lockhart

Mary Catherine Harper (Defiance College), "The Lifecycle of a Memory"
Angela Williamson-Emmert (University of Wisconsin, Fox Valley), "Mothering the Midwest: A Reading and Presentation of Published and Unpublished Poetry"
Jacob Boyd (University of Illinois at Chicago), "All of These Garden Parties and No Invitation!"

Nonfiction
Moderator: Matthew Fletcher

Willy

Brian Gilmore (Michigan State University College of Law), "Take Five"
Matthew Fletcher (Michigan State University College of Law), "Chmookmon Phobia"
Paul Stebleton (Lake Ann, MI), "White Middle Class Punk, 1988-1994"

Session C 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Criticism Heritage
Centralizing Non-White Voices in Midwest Studies: Writing (and Rethinking) Midwestern Community
Moderator: Andy Oler

Joshua Lam (Michigan State University), "Richard Wright's 'Basket of Deplorables': Midwestern Politics and the Black Lumpenproletariat"
Douglas Sheldon (University of Illinois, Chicago), "Economic Blackness: Midwestern Identification in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*"
Lloyd Sy (University of Virginia), "Wide Open Spaces: Michigan Landscape and the Immigrant Experience in Bienvenido Santos's *The Scent of Apples*"
Sheng-mei Ma (Michigan State University), "An MSU-within-MSU: Mandarin-Speaking Undergraduates Riting Academic English"

Prose & Poetry 105A
Moderator: Jeff Snowbarger

Edward Morin (College for Creative Studies), "The Bold News of Bird Song" (poetry)
Curtis VanDonkelaar (Michigan State University), "Life Here in Fallout Hell" (creative nonfiction)
Edward Morin (College for Creative Studies), "Other Roads Taken" (fiction)

CANCELLED Fiction: Home Base: Fictionalizing Familiar Places Willy
Moderator: Laura Hulthen Thomas

Lolita Hernandez (University of Michigan), Reading from *Autopsy of an Engine*
Kelly Fordon (College for Creative Studies), Reading from *Garden for the Blind*
Laura Hulthen Thomas (University of Michigan), Reading from *States of Motion*

Editorial Committee Dinner Meeting 5:30 PM State Room

Marcia Noe, chair	Marilyn Atlas	Patricia Oman	Mary DeJong Obuchowski
Robert Beasecker	Philip Greasley	Roger Bresnahan	William Barillas
Nancy McKinney	Steven Trout	Sara Kosiba	Andy Oler
Bob Dunne	Jeff Swenson	Scott Emmert	

Friday May 18, 2018

Registration 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM South Lobby
Book Display 8:00 AM – 9:00 PM 105B

Session D 8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Criticism: Nick Adams, Jake Barnes, Frederic Henry, and Ernest Hemingway Willy
Moderator: Katherine Palmer, North Central Michigan College

Donald A. Daiker (Miami University), "The Evolution of Nick Adams: Jake Barnes"
John Beall (Collegiate School), "Hemingway's Dark Comedy: 'A Way You'll Never Be'"
Michael Kim Roos (University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College), "The Out-of-Body Experiences of Nick Adams, Frederic Henry, and Ernest Hemingway"

Criticism: Comics in the Midwest Heritage
Moderator: Jeffrey Swenson (Hiram College)

Guy Szuberla (University of Toledo), "Finding Midwestern Character(s) in *Chicago Tribune* Editorial Cartoons"
Sara Kosiba (Troy University), "Exploring Midwestern Ethnicity through Graphic Novels"
Jeffrey Swenson (Hiram College), "Flyover Country: The Midwest in Mainstream Comics"

Creative Nonfiction & Roundtable Discussion: 105A
Midwestern Niceness & Midwestern Gothic: The Janus-Faced Nature of the Interior's Sensibility
Moderator: Nicholas Gulig

Barrett Swanson (University of Wisconsin, Whitewater), "Midwestern Gothic"
Meghan O'Gieblyn (Madison, WI), "American Niceness"
Nicholas Gulig (University of Wisconsin, Whitewater)
Brandi Homan (Johnson & Wales University)
Julia Madsen (University of Denver)

Session E **10:15 - 11:45**

Criticism Heritage
Moderator: Caitlin Doyle

Patricia Oman (Hastings College), "In Cather's Shadow: The Almost-Successful Literary Career of Carolyn Renfrew"
Rodney Rice (South Dakota School of Mines and Technology), "A Work of Love: Sherwood Anderson's Influence on Wright Morris"
Michael C. Steiner (California State University, Fullerton), "The Midwest as Matrix for Cultural Pluralism: Horace M. Kallen and the Regional Roots of a Prolific Idea, 1911-1918"

Criticism Willy
Moderator: Travis Snyder

Marilyn Judith Atlas (Ohio University), "Geography Lessons and Space in Nathan Hill's *The Nix*"
Aaron Babcock (Ohio University), "Little Fires on an Upland Moor: Disruptive Identities, Ethnic Bodies, and the Suburban Pastoral of Celeste Ng's *Little Fires Everywhere*"
Rachael Price (Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College), "Everyone Loved La Petenera': Female Empowerment in Henry Bellamann's *Petenera's Daughter*"

Poetry 105A
Moderator: Jennifer Holly Wells

Peggy Rozga (University of Wisconsin, Waukesha), "Reimagining Alice"
John Beall (Collegiate School), "From Alton to Broadway"
Janet Ruth Heller (Michigan College English Association), "Nature's Olympics"
Mary Minock (Madonna University), "Places"

Awards Luncheon **12:00 NOON - 1:30 PM** **Red Cedar Rm.**

2018 Mark Twain Award presented to . . . Tim O'Brien

2018 Mid-America Award presented to . . . Donald A. Daiker

2017 Writing Prizes

Session F**1:45 PM – 3:15 PM**

Criticism 105A
 Celebrating the Work of 2018 Mark Twain Award Winner Tim O'Brien
 Moderator: Sara Kosiba

Susan Eastman (Dalton State College), "How to Tell a [True War] Story': Tim O'Brien, Mark Twain, and Meta-Fiction"
 Joshua Jones (University of South Alabama), "From Modernism to Postmodernism: The War Writings of Robert Graves, William March, and Tim O'Brien"
 Lucie Jammes (University of Toulouse), "Looking Back: The Orphic Quest of the Narrator in Tim O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*"

Nonfiction: Willy
 Memory, Place, and Ecology: Creative and Scholarly Responses
 Moderator: Michelle Campbell

Christian Knoeller (Purdue University), "Always Beginning: Where Our History Has Brought Us"
 Ryan Schnurr (Purdue University), "What the River Knows"
 Michelle Campbell (Purdue University), "Memory, Place, and Ecology: Reimagining Environmental History and In the Watershed"

Session G**3:30 PM – 5:00 PM**

Criticism Heritage
 Moderator: Peggy Rozga

Jennifer Holly Wells (Montclair State University), "Community in Louise Erdrich's Novels"
 Heather McNaugher (Chatham University), "The Midwest as Anti-Place in *Moo* and *The Art of Fielding*"
 Marc Seals (University of Wisconsin, Baraboo), "Roots in the Driftless: Tracing the History of Wisconsin Environmentalist Literature"

Criticism: Midwestern Literature and World War I Willy
 Moderator: Scott Emmert

Scott Emmert (University of Wisconsin, Fox Valley), "The War on Midwestern College Campuses: Ruth Suckow and John Williams"
 Ross K. Tangedal (University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point), "You Better Not Think About It': Hemingway's Michigan Battlegrounds"
 Steven Trout (University of South Alabama), "Returning from the Great War: Ernest Hemingway's 'Soldier's Home' and Thomas Boyd's 'The Long Shot'"

Nonfiction: 105A
 If You Can't Say Something Nice: Reflections on Pathological Midwestern Niceness
 Moderator: Dawn Burns

Dawn Burns (Ivy Tech Community College, Warsaw)
 Jan Maher (State University of New York, Plattsburgh)
 Stephanie Amada (Michigan State University)

Mentoring Café**5:15 PM****105A**

An informal discussion: How to launch a successful academic career
 Facilitated by Jennifer Holly Wells, Doug Sheldon, Andy Oler, Ross Tangedal, Steven Trout

Executive Advisory Committee	6:00 PM	Centennial
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<p>Mary Catherine Harper, president Jeffrey Hotz, vice-president/president-elect Jeffrey Swenson, past president Roger Bresnahan, secretary-treasurer Philip Greasley, recording secretary Robert Beasecker, bibliographer Marcia Noe, editorial committee chair Marilyn Atlas, awards coordinator Laura Julier, conference chair & web manager Marc Van Wormer, corporate board Mary DeJong Obuchowski, corporate board Sara Kosiba, corporate board Scott Emmert, corporate board</p>	<p>Andy Oler, 2015–2018 Mary Minock, 2015–2018 Douglas Sheldon, 2016–2019 Patricia Oman, 2016–2019 Jane Holwerda, 2017–2020 Edward Morin, 2017–2020 Ross Tangedal, 2018–2021 Rachael Price, 2018–2021</p>
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Dramatic Reading	7:30 PM	105A
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Dramatic Reading of Tim O’Brien’s *The Things They Carried*
 Moderator: Mary Catherine Harper, SSML president

John Beall (Collegiate School)
 James Gorman (Otterbein University)
 Edward Morin (College of Creative Studies)

Saturday May 19, 2018

Registration 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM	South Lobby
Book Display 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM	105B

Annual Business Meeting	8:00 AM – 9:00 AM	105A
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All are invited. A continental breakfast with hot and cold options will be served.

Session H	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
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Criticism	Heritage
Moderator: Aaron LaDuke	

Charles Cunningham (Eastern Michigan University), "American Salvage as Post-Fordist Fiction"
 Janet Ruth Heller (Michigan College English Association), "People's Relationship to Objects in Linda Nemece Foster's Talking Diamonds"
 Bill Barillas (University of Wisconsin-La Crosse), "A Field Guide to the Poetry of Theodore Roethke"
 Phil Greasley (University of Kentucky), "On Philip Levine's *The Last Shift*"

Nonfiction	Willy
Moderator: Curtis VanDonkelaar	

Mary Minock (Madonna University), "Those Two Years in Columbus"
 Dawn Burns (Ivy Tech Community College), "Leaving Farm," a selection from *Picking Persimmons: Encounters with Midwestern Men*
 Becky Miller (Syracuse, IN), "Leaving Farm," a selection from *Picking Persimmons: Encounters with Midwestern Men*

Hybrid Poetry & Commentary
Moderator: Joyce Meier

105A

Margaret Rozga (University of Wisconsin, Waukesha), "Creating Poetry from the Swirl of 1856
Presidential Campaign Rumor: Pestiferous Questions, A Life in Poems"

Daniel Lockhart, (Urban Farmhouse Press), "In Search of the Promised Land: Readings from *This City at
the Crossroads*"

Deonte Osayande (Wayne County Community College), "How to Create a High Concept Manuscript"

Session I

10:45 AM – 12:15 PM

Criticism Roundtable

Heritage

Foreign Born: Discovering John Herrmann's Unpublished World War I Home Front Novel

Chair: Sara Kosiba

Ross Tangedal (University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point)

Patricia Oman (Hastings College)

Steven Trout (University of South Alabama)

Sara Kosiba (Troy University)

Criticism:

Willy

Moderator: Pamela Monaco

Jeffrey Hotz (East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania), "Working Class Heroes and Ordinary Men:
Post-Watergate America in Kurt Vonnegut"

Daniel Lockhart (Windsor, ON), "Taking Root at the Crossroads"

James Gorman (Otterbein University), "Is Canada in the Midwest? An Alice Munro Introduction"

Fiction

105A

Moderator: Michael Steiner

Jan Maher (State University of New York, Plattsburgh), "Naming the River"

Jane Holwerda (Dodge City Community College), "Vanishing Point"

Jeff Snowbarger (University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point), "Kansas Always Bleeds"

Session J

12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

105A

Pathological Midwestern Niceness Therapy Session, or Use Your Words!

Moderators: Dawn Burns and Jan Maher

SSML Annual Writing Prize Nominations and Publication

Please use this form if you wish to submit your work to be considered for one of the prizes below.

Eligibility and Requirements: Entries must have been presented at the SSML Annual East Lansing Conference, must never been published or committed for publication, must be original, and must have a demonstrable Midwestern character (e.g. topic, theme, tone, imagery, etc., as appropriate to genre). Winning entries will be published in the next volume of *MidAmerica*.

Four (4) blind copies of each entry should be provided (i.e., your name should not appear on a title page, if there is one, or on any page-headers or page-footers).

Deadline: August 1, 2018. This form, together with the 4 copies, may be turned in at the conference registration table *or* mailed to Marilyn J. Atlas, SSML Prize Coordinator, 230 North Roosevelt Avenue, Bexley, OH 43209. For questions please contact Marilyn at atlas@ohio.edu.

Name: _____

Institutional affiliation (if any): _____

Degree program (if student): _____

USPS address: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize (\$250)

You may enter up to 3 poems, but no more than 14 pages. Please list titles:

Paul Somers Prize for Creative Prose (\$250)

Please indicate the genre of your entry—fiction, memoir, or creative nonfiction—and list the title:

David Diamond Student Writing Prize (\$1,000)

Please indicate the genre of your entry—poetry, fiction, or creative nonfiction—and list the title:

James Seaton Midwestern Heritage Prize for Literary Criticism (\$250) (formerly the David Anderson Prize) Please list the title of your essay:

Note: If you are a student, you may choose to submit your work **either** to the prize for the appropriate genre category **or** to the Student Writing Prize. It's up to you, but you must choose.

Note: If you are submitting your conference paper for the Prize for Literary Criticism Prize, you may *also* want to submit it to be considered by the peer reviewers for publication in *MidAmerica*. If so, you should send an electronic copy of your paper separately to marcia-noe@utc.edu by July 1, 2018.