

Society for  
the Study of  
**MIDWESTERN  
LITERATURE**

MAY 28-30  
**2024**

**PROVISIONAL LAND  
ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

This document, composed by the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program at MSU is considered a living document. It has been redacted to accommodate space considerations.

We acknowledge that Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg—the Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. The University resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. We recognize that settler and Indigenous signatories understood the terms of treaties in starkly different terms. According to a map within the University archive, Anishinaabeg maintained an ‘Indian Encampment’ south of the Red Cedar River when classes were first held at the University (then known as Michigan Agricultural College) on May 13, 1857.

We recognize, support, and advocate for the sovereignty of Michigan’s twelve federally-recognized Indian nations (Bay Mills Indian Community, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Hannahville Indian Community, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Match-e-be-nash-she-wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of the Potawatomi, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, and Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians), as well as other Indigenous people and historic tribes in Michigan (Burt Lake Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, Grand River Bands of Ottawa Indians, Mackinac Band of Chippewa and Ottawa Indians, and Swan Creek Black River Confederated Ojibwa Tribes), across Turtle Island, and throughout the Fourth World.

We collectively understand that offering Land Acknowledgements or Land Recognitions do not absolve settler-colonial privilege or diminish colonial structures of violence, at either the individual or institutional level. We recognize that Land Acknowledgements must be preceded and followed with ongoing and unwavering commitments to American Indian and Indigenous communities. We affirm Indigenous sovereignty and hold Michigan State University accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.

Inquiries can be sent to Prof. Kristin Arola, Interim Director of the American Indian and Indigenous Studies Program (arola@aiis.msu.edu).

**WRITING THE MIDWEST**

**A Symposium of Scholars and Creative Writers**

**Kellogg Hotel and Convention Center  
East Lansing, MI**

**11 AM – 4:30 PM**

**Registration** **South Lobby**  
**Book Display** **104**

**SESSION A** **12:30–2 PM**

**Prose and Poetry** **105**

Moderator: Rachael Price

“Enough to Lose: Stories,” R.S. Deeren, Austin Peay State University

“Other People’s Horses: Essays,” Gretchen Comcowich, Gateway Technical College

“The Boy Who Fell into Lake Michigan: Poems,” Korey Hurni

“Singing the Midwest,” Joyce Meier, Michigan State University

**Poetry** **101**

Moderator: Janet Ruth Heller

“I Can’t Be Your Mother,” Samantha Imperi

“Even the Least of These: The Ten-Line Poem in the Time of Crisis,” Anita Skeen, Michigan State University

“Poems on the Midwestern Rural Woman,” Emilee Kinney, University of Southern Mississippi

“Faced with the Death of Trees: Poems,” Angela Williamson Emmert

**Criticism** **102**

Rereading Hemingway

Moderator: Justin Costello-Stebelton

“Hemingway’s ‘Iceberg’ Theory in Action: *The Sun Also Rises*,” Donald A. Daiker, Miami University

“A Very Sinister Book: W.H. Hudson and ‘The Purple Land’ in Hemingway’s *The Sun Also Rises*,” Michael Kim Roos, University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College

“Hemingway’s Bullfighters and Yasunari Kawabata’s *The Master of Go*,” Mark Holland, East Tennessee State University

“Hemingway’s Art of Revision: Who Says the Hills ‘look like white elephants?’” John Beall, The Collegiate School

**SESSION B** **2:15–3:45 PM**

**Criticism** **105**

Moderator: Jeffrey Hotz

“An Antydote for the Brute’: Apocalyptic Imagination in *Farmer Hiram on the World’s War*,” Jefferson Storms, Kansas State University

“A Giant Barrier Set Against All Intrusion’: Trauma and Setting in Henry Bellamann’s *Floods of Spring*,” Rachael Price, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

“Publishing the Short Stories of Belle Maniates: Behind the Scenes at Hastings College Press,” Patricia Oman, Hastings College

**Prose and Poetry** **101**

Moderator: Edward Morin

“Broken Cages and Multiple Masks: Poetry of Addiction, Incarceration, and Ekphrasis, Rooted in the Midwest,” Charles Kell, Community College of Rhode Island

“The Hidden Creek: Homecoming and Poetic Form,” James Matthew Wilson, University of Saint Thomas

“Big Boggle,” Edward Morin, College for Creative Studies

**SESSION C** **4–5:30 PM**

**Criticism** **105**

A William Dean Howells Retrospective

Moderator: Scott Emmert

“Seeing Through the Dark: The Speculative Short Stories of William Dean Howells,” Scott Emmert, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

“Howells and the City: Strikes and Labor Unrest in *A Hazard of New Fortunes*,” Debbie Lelekis

“Decision Points in William Dean Howells’s *Dr. Breen’s Practice* (1881): Writing the Female Doctor Protagonist,” Jeffrey Hotz, East Stroudsburg University

**Prose** **101**

Moderator: Rachael Price

“The Wild Margins,” Laura Citino, Western Michigan University

“A Pat on the Back Is Only a Few Inches Away from a Kick in the Pants,” Janet Ruth Heller, Michigan College English Association

“Seeking Eden,” Michael Copperman, Michigan State University

**EVENING GATHERINGS** **5:45 PM**

**Meet Up for Dinner** **South Lobby**

If you would like to join others for dinner, please meet at the registration table.

**Editorial Committee Meeting** **Olympus**

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

**8 AM – 4:30 PM**

**Registration** **South Lobby**  
**Book Display** **104**

**SESSION D** **8:15–9:45 AM**

**Prose and Poetry** **105**

Moderator: Rachael Price

“Juanga”: My Pilgrimage to See the Juan Gabriel Altar at the National Museum of Mexican Art,” Pau Nava, University of Michigan

“Midwestern: A Story in Photos and Poems,” Justin Hamm

“Delight Song from the Heartland: An Autoethnography in Verse,” Laura Sweeney, Illinois State University

“New and Selected Poems and Songs,” Edward Morin, College for Creative Studies

**Criticism** **101**

Moderator: Marilyn Atlas

“A Ghost Is What Happens When a Person Is Gone but Still Taking Up Space’: Horror and the Rust Belt in Video Games,” Justin Cosner, University of Iowa

“(Im)purity: Thomas Ligotti’s Corrupted Midwest,” Katlyn O’Shaughnessy, University of Iowa

“The Metaphorical Rise of the House of Atreus or Kicking the Chorus Out of the House: Geography Lessons in Lorraine Hansberry’s Obliquely Midwestern Play *The Sign in Sidney Brustein’s Window*,” Marilyn Atlas, Ohio University

“Eve L. Ewing and Matthew Olzmann: Transforming the Narrative of the Modern Midwest,” Nicole Nunez, Indiana State University

**Criticism** **102**

Moderator: Jon Lauck

“Tim O’Brien, Vietnam, and the Darker Midwest,” Philip A. Greasley, University of Kentucky

“Anderson, Trilling, and the Influence of Powerful Critics: Score One for the Author,” Robert Dunne, Central Connecticut State University

“Multiple Awakenings in Sherwood Anderson’s Story ‘An Awakening,’” Janet Ruth Heller, Michigan College English Association

**SESSION E** **10–11:45 AM**

**Criticism** **105**

Theodore Roethke Panel

Moderator: William Barillas

“Inside the Lines: Beatrice Roethke’s Unseen Narratives on a Pulitzer Legacy,” Madeline Bruessow

“Roethke’s Enduring Legacy in 21st Century Communities and Classrooms,” Sherrin Frances, Saginaw Valley State University

“I Learn by Going Where I Have to Go,” Anita Skeen, Michigan State University

“Perpetual Beginners: The Beginnings and Continuing Renewal of the Theodore Roethke Foundation,” Annie Ransford, Friends of Theodore Roethke Foundation

**Criticism (Presidential Panel)** **101**

Midwestern Culture in the 21st Century: Recent Trends in Literature, TV, and Film, 2000–2024

Moderator: Jon Lauck

Marcia Noe, University of Tennessee Chattanooga

Anthony Harkins, Western Kentucky University

Jeffrey Hotz, East Stroudsburg University

Cortland Rankin, Bowling Green State University

Patricia Oman, Hastings College

Jacob Bruggeman, Johns Hopkins University

Rachael Price, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

Adam Ochonicky, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

**LUNCHEON & READING** **NOON – 1:30 PM**

**Awards** **Red Cedar**

Mark Twain Award

MidAmerica Award

David D. Anderson Award

Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize

Paul Somers Prize for Creative Prose

James Seaton Midwestern Heritage Prize

David Diamond Student Writing Prize

**SESSION F**

**Mark Twain Award Winner** **1:45–2:45 PM**

Dr. Haki R. Madhubuti 105

**David D. Anderson Plenary Presentation** **3–4 PM**

Dr. Patrick Kindig 105

**EVENING GATHERINGS**

**Performance and Conversation** **5–6 PM**

An Evening of Hemingway Themed Music and Other Songs with Michael Kim Roos 105

**Executive Advisory Council Meeting** **6:15–7:30 PM**

Light Meal 104

## THURSDAY, MAY 30

**8–11:30 AM**

**Registration** **South Lobby**  
**Book Display** **104**

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING** **8–9 AM**

**Meeting and Continental Breakfast** **103/104**

**SESSION G** **9–10:30 AM**

**Criticism** **105**

Moderator: Patricia Oman

“Toni Morrison’s Mad Women: Rethinking Madness in a Mad World,” Heather O’Leary, Illinois State University

“American Nightmare: A Gothic Look at Donald Ray Pollock’s *Knockemstiff*,” Keriann Kaufmann, Harvard Extension School

“Location, Time, and Space in David Trinidad’s Pedestrian *Tiny Moon Notebook*,” Rodney Davis, Indiana State University

“Theodore Roethke as Nietzsche’s Child of Wisdom in the Artist’s Journey,” Jeff VandeZande, Delta College

**Prose and Poetry** **101**

Good Old-Fashioned Religious Trauma, Part I

Moderator: Dawn Burns

“Innocence Missions: The Illusions of Purity,” Sara Moslener, Central Michigan University

“The Three Times I Lost My Virginity: How I Left Purity Culture Behind,” Rachael Price, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

“How Far Is Too Far?” Bree Straayer, Michigan State University

**SESSION H** **10:45 AM – 12:15 PM**

**Prose and Poetry** **101**

Good Old-Fashioned Religious Trauma, Part II

Moderator: Dawn Burns

“Go to Hell: A Love Story,” Dawn Burns, Michigan State University

Bex Miller, Lansing Community College

“How to Baptize a Child in Flint, Michigan,” Sarah Carson

**SSML BOARD MEETING** **12:30–1:30 PM**

**Buffet Lunch** **Olympus/State Rooms**

## ANNUAL PRIZES

### Eligibility and Requirements

To be considered for a prize, entries must meet the following requirements:

1. Must have been presented at the SSML annual conference
2. Must never have been published or committed for publication (exception if submitted simultaneously to *MidAmerica*)
3. Must be original
4. Must include a demonstrable Midwestern character (e.g., topic, theme, tone, imagery, etc., as appropriate to genre)

### Submission

Entries must include this form and four (4) blind copies and may be submitted to Marilyn Atlas via one of the following options:

1. Email (Word doc): atlas@ohio.edu
2. Drop off physical copies at the registration table.
3. Mail physical copies to the following address:

Marilyn J. Atlas, SSML Prize Coordinator  
 230 North Roosevelt Avenue  
 Bexley, OH 43209

**Deadline: August 1**

Name	Mailing Address
University Affiliation (if any)	Phone
Degree Program (if student)	E-mail
Title(s) of Entry	

Select one of the following prize contests:

- Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Prize (\$1,000). You may enter up to 3 poems, but no more than 14 pages.
- Paul Somers Prize for Creative Prose (\$1,000). Genre:
- David Diamond Student Writing Prize (\$1,000). Genre:
- James Seaton Midwestern Heritage Prize for Literary Criticism (\$1,000)

*Note:* Literary criticism may be submitted simultaneously for consideration to *MidAmerica*.