

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We collectively acknowledge that Michigan State University occupies the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Lands of the Anishinaabeg—Three Fires Confederacy of Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi peoples. In particular, the University resides on Land ceded in the 1819 Treaty of Saginaw. We recognize, support, and advocate for the sovereignty of Michigan's twelve federally recognized Indian nations, for historic Indigenous communities in Michigan, for Indigenous individuals and communities who live here now, and for those who were forcibly removed from their Homelands. By offering this Land Acknowledgement, we affirm Indigenous sovereignty and will work to hold Michigan State University more accountable to the needs of American Indian and Indigenous peoples.

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

SSML PUBLICATIONS

MidAmerica

MidAmerica is the peer-reviewed yearbook of the Society for the Study of Midwestern Literature. We welcome submissions of scholarly essays from our members on any aspect of Midwestern literature and culture.

Submission Guidelines

4,000–8,000 words (including Works Cited and Notes), formatted according to the most recent edition of the MLA handbook.

Submit Word document to Patricia Oman (poman@hastings.edu). Do not include any personally identifying information in the Word file.

Annual Deadline: July 1

Review Essays

MidAmerica publishes a limited number of review essays in each issue. To propose a review essay or to request that *MidAmerica* review your recent publication, please contact Patricia Oman (poman@hastings.edu).

Midwestern Miscellany

Midwestern Miscellany is published twice per year. A guest editor selects a theme or topic. Often essays selected for the special issue are presented on panels organized by the guest editor at SSML's annual meeting or at the Society's panels at MMLA, MLA, PCA, and/or ALA. See ssml.org/resources for current calls.

Members who would like to be a guest editor for an issue of *Midwestern Miscellany* should contact Patricia Oman (poman@hastings.edu).

Society for the Study of MIDWESTERN LITERATURE

MAY 28–29
2026

WRITING THE MIDWEST

2026 Symposium of Scholars and Creative Writers

Kellogg Hotel and Convention Center
East Lansing, MI

THURSDAY, MAY 28

7:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Registration South Lobby
Book Display 104

SESSION A 9:00–10:15 AM

Criticism 103AB

Within and Without: Resistance, Exile, and Trauma in Midwestern Literature

Moderator: Patricia Oman, Hastings College

“The homeland from which he was exiled ...’ On the Midwestern Characters and Setting in Denis Johnson’s Fiction,” David Buehrer, Valdosta State University

“Fascism and the Frontier: Literary Resistance and Reaction in Sinclair Lewis and William Dudley Pelley,” Wes Bishop, Jacksonville State University

“What the Hell Was Wrong with Nick? Drinking, Time, and Memory of the First World War in Hemingway’s ‘The End of Something’ and ‘The Three-Day Blow,’” Michael Schupska, University of Alabama

“We Keep Each of Us Safe: A Reflection on Minnesota Resistance,” Lisa DuRose, Inver Hills Community College

Prose and Poetry 105AB

Writing Place in the Midwest

Moderator: Rachael Price, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

“Selections from *Drift*,” Patrick Kindig, United States Naval Academy

“Scenes from Buchanan Street,” Cornelius Fortune, Lake Michigan College

“Apparently I’m a Midwesterner Now,” Gretchen Lida, Gateway Technical College

“A Young Chicagoan Discovers the UP,” Ed Morin, College for Creative Studies

Prose and Poetry 102

Beyond Midwestern Nice: Literary Resistance and Rage

Moderator: Michelle Campbell, University of Michigan

“You Know Nothing,” Yasmina Din Madden, Drake University

“Women’s Rage at a Ren Faire of the Future: A Reading of Fiction,” Zoe Zolbrod

“Amber Alert,” Sharon Bippus

“Poetry as a Form of Activism and Rage,” Laura Apol, Michigan State University

“Legend,” Lisa Slage Robinson

SESSION B 10:30–11:45 AM

Prose and Poetry 103AB

Small and Independent: Publishing Midwest Authors

Moderator: Wesley R. Bishop

“Thick as My Noodles, Bok Choy of My Soul,” Shan Shan Song

“If Adam Picked the Apple,” Danielle Coffyn

“Water the Bones” and “Cat and Fox,” M. J. Wegert

Criticism 105AB

Is the Midwest Innocent? A Roundtable Discussion

Moderator: Marcia Noe, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Marcia Noe, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

Roger Bresnahan, Michigan State University

Robert Dunne, Central Connecticut State University

William Barillas, Independent Scholar

John Rohrkemper, Elizabethtown College

Ed Morin, College for Creative Studies

Criticism 102

Midwestern Feminist Rage: When Will Our Stories Be Heard?

Moderator: Michelle Campbell, University of Michigan

“The Women’ from *Tell It Right: Serve the Sentence*,” Sarah Layden, Indiana University Indianapolis

“Just Admit It,” Marydell Forbes, West Lafayette Junior/Senior High School

“Energy Fix,” Rhonda Collins

LUNCH BREAK & MEETINGS 12:00–1:00 PM

Editorial Committee Brody Square

Student Mentoring Cafe Brody Square

SESSION C 1:15–2:30 PM

Criticism 103AB

Women and Stereotypes in Midwestern Literature

Moderator: Rachael Price, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College

“Post-COVID Frontier Gothic: The Anxiety of White Womanhood in *Hold Your Breath*,” Patricia Oman, Hastings College

“Emily’s Mother: A Midwestern Working-Class Icon of Depression-Era Motherhood,” Kane Kijek, Ohio University

(cont. on next page)

THURSDAY, MAY 28 (CONT.)

“Ambivalence as Political Aesthetic in the Dollmaker,”
Charles Cunningham, Eastern Michigan University

“Gaping Possibilities: Embracing Mexican Stereotypes
in Erika Sanchez’s *Yo no soy tu perfecta hija mexicana*,”
Chris T. Schulenburg, University of Wisconsin-
Platteville

Poetry 105AB

Interactive Poetry Workshop: Collaborating with
Theodore Roethke

Moderator: John Rohrkemper, Elizabethtown College

John Rohrkemper, Elizabethtown College

Anita Skeen, Michigan State University, Friends of
Roethke Foundation

Sherrin Frances, Saginaw Valley State University, Friends
of Roethke Foundation

Prose 102

Living Here, Exploring Elsewheres: A Roundtable
Discussion

Moderator: Caitlin Horrocks, Grand Valley State University

Taylor Oberhausen, Grand Valley State University

Caitlin Horrocks, Grand Valley State University

Brandon Smith, Grand Valley State University

Aaron Ponce, Grand Valley State University

SESSION D 2:45–4:00 PM

Prose 103AB

On an Inland Sea: Writing the Great Lakes

Moderator: Raymond Deeren, Austin Peay State University

“Accents on the Horizon,” Antonio Diaz Oliva, Museum of
Contemporary Art Chicago

“Tree World,” Raymond Deeren, Austin Peay State
University

“Smelt,” Dawn Burns, Michigan State University

“Gibraltar Bay, Lake Erie,” Cal Freeman, Oakland
University

“Rituals and Revelations at Days at the Lake Bar and
Grill,” Sarah Pazur, CS Partners

Criticism 105AB

Memory, Melancholy, and Legacy in Midwestern Literature

Moderator: Jeffrey Hotz, East Stroudsburg State University

“Equilibrium and Memory-Making in Ted Kooser’s *Raft*,”
Jeffrey Hotz, East Stroudsburg State University

“Why Sherwood Anderson Still Matters,” Robert Dunne,
Central Connecticut State University

“A ‘Lost’ Michigan Novel: Rediscovering *The Spring
Flight* by Lee J. Smits,” Scott Emmert, University of
Wisconsin-Oshkosh

“‘In a Dark Time’: Depression and Agency in the Poetry
of Robert Frost and Theodore Roethke,” John
Rohrkemper, Elizabethtown College

SESSION E 4:15–5:30 PM

Prose and Poetry 103AB

Unburdened: Clawing Away the Caregiver Yoke in Poetry
and Prose”

Moderator: Michelle Campbell, University of Michigan

Dawn Burns, TBA

Mary Catherine Harper, TBA

Bex Miller, TBA

Joyce Meier, TBA

Amy Wise, TBA

Criticism 105AB

In Memoriam: A Roundtable Celebrating the Life of Philip
Greasley

Moderator: Jeffrey Hotz, East Stroudsburg State University

Marcia Noe, University of Tennessee at Chattanooga

William Barillas, Independent Scholar

Scott Emmert, University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh

MEETINGS 5:45–6:45 PM

Executive Advisory Council Meeting 105AB

Light Meal

PLENARY 7:00–8:00 PM

David D. Anderson Plenary Presentation 103AB

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READING 8:15–9:15 PM

Bonnie Jo Campbell 103AB

XXX

FRIDAY, MAY 29

7:30 AM – 4:00 PM

Registration South Lobby

Book Display 104

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING 8:00–9:00 AM

Meeting and Continental Breakfast 104

SESSION F 9:00–10:15 AM

Prose and Poetry 103AB

Creativity, Praxis, and Multimodality

Moderator: Dawn Burns, Michigan State University

“Turning Memory into Haibun,” Mary Catherine Harper,
Defiance College

“Writing Within and Without Formulas: How a Fiction
Is,” Jane Carman, Bradley University

“Do Right, Mr. President: Poems and Songs,” Ed Morin,
College for Creative Studies

Criticism 105AB

The Geography of Grit: Mapping Midwestern Feminist
Rage in Literature and Poetry

Moderator: Michelle Campbell, University of Michigan

“Flipping the Table: Poetry and Prose of Midwestern
Feminist Rage and Hunger,” Michelle Campbell,
University of Michigan

“Smashing the Gilded Cage: Negotiating Space in Heather
Colley’s *The Gilded Butterfly Effect*,” Rachael Price,
Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College,

“Poems on Midwestern Feminist Rage,” Emilee Kinney

SESSION G 10:30–11:45 AM

Criticism 103AB

Midwestern Gothic

Moderator: Rachael Price, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural
College

“Tether,” Millie Frankel, Northern Michigan University

“All the Dead-Long Day,” Tyler Sookralli, University of
Chicago

“The Girl in the Dumbwaiter; or, The Woman in the Fur
Coat,” Sophia Craig, University of Iowa

Prose and Poetry 105AB

Changing Times: A Creative Roundtable in Honor of Janet
Ruth Heller

Moderator: Dawn Burns, Michigan State University

Linda Nemeck Foster

Mary Catherine Harper

Dawn Burns

LUNCHEON 12:00–1:30 PM

Awards Room

MARK TWAIN AWARD READING 1:45–3:00 PM

Margaret Rozga 105AB

SESSION H 3:15–5:15 PM

Prose and Poetry 103AB

Reckoning with Loss in Writing

Moderator: Rachael Price, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural
College

“Seeking Kenny: A Wrestler’s Journey,” Michael
Copperman, Michigan State University

“The C Word Has No Answer,” Jane L. Carman, Bradley
University

“Bones,” Jane L. Carman, Bradley University

“Food Desert,” Rachael Price, Abraham Baldwin
Agricultural College

MEETING 5:30–7:00 PM

Board of Directors Olympus Room