

SSSL 2024 BIENNIAL CONFERENCE / JUNE 23-26, 2024 / GULFPORT, MS /
COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT, BEACHFRONT BLVD

*Registration via Whova and in-person, 12pm Sunday and 8am-12pm daily

Sunday, June 23, 2024

- ❖ **1:00pm-3:30pm, SSSL Teaching Southern Literature Workshop** (facilitators, TBA)
- ❖ **3:40pm-5:20pm, Jesmyn Ward's Gulf South**
 - Margaret Hageman, "Climate Change, Destruction, and Survivability in Jesmyn Ward's *Where the Line Bleeds*," University of Southern Mississippi
 - Yesmina Khedhir, "The first weapon I ever held was my mother's hand": The Power of Motherhood in Jesmyn Ward's *Let Us Descend*," University of Debrecen, Hungary
 - Jill Goad, "The Reconstructed Gothic in Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing* and Randall Kenan's *Let the Dead Bury Their Dead*," Shorter University
 - Rachel Bryan, "Embodiments of Grief: Gendered Deathwork in Eudora Welty's *The Optimist's Daughter* and Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing*," University of Tennessee-Knoxville
- ❖ **5:20pm-6:30pm: Dinner Break**
- ❖ **6:30pm-8:30pm, Plenary, "Jesmyn Ward: Let Us Descend"** (keynote address, book signing & welcome reception)

Monday, June 24, 2024

- ❖ **8:30am-9:50am, Southern Gothic Discourses**
 - Wes Byers, "Hurricane Katrina, 'Rebuilding' New Orleans, and the Southern Gothic Spectacle," University of New Orleans
 - William C. Palmer, "The Weird South: An Overview of Strangeness in Black Southern Music," Huntingdon College
 - Mary Knighton, "(Re)Constructing Teratological Forms in Stephen Crane's *The Monster*," Aoyama Gakuin University
 - Abigail Ross, "The Southern Gothic, Eco-Feminism, and James Dickey's *Deliverance*," University of Arkansas
- ❖ **8:30am-9:50am, The Southern Imaginary**
 - Laura Wilson, "A Sacrifice of the Fittest: Evolutionist Imagery in Ellen Glasgow's *Virginia*," Independent Scholar
 - Blake Leland, "Walt Kelly's Okefenokee: Reconstructing the South as Fluid Utopia," Georgia Institute of Technology
 - Martin Haber, "Going (Deeper) South: The Hope to Build The Shattered Promised Land in Mexico After The Civil War," Independent Scholar
 - Ryan Charlton, "The People's Nut: Jimmy Carter, Ellen Glasgow, and the History of Peanut Populism," Georgia State University

Monday, June 24, 2024

❖ 10:00am-11:20am, **Everybody Knows About Mississippi**

- Jaylen Mack, "Why I Live in Mississippi: Medgar Evers, Clyde Kennard, and the Civil Rights Epistolary," University of Southern Mississippi
- Shiyu Zhang, "The Violence of Ungendering, the Pornotrope, and the Hunting Ritual in William Faulkner's 'The Bear,'" University of Copenhagen
- Mishi King, "When Wearing a Dress is Deadlier than Riding into Battle: The Trans-Masculine in William Faulkner's *The Unvanquished*," Independent Scholar
- Jacob Fennell, "American Addictions, American Revisions: Mississippi Lessons on National Nightmares in Kiese Laymon's *Heavy: An American Memoir*," University of Mississippi

❖ 10:00am-11:20am, **New Orleans: Past, Present, and Future**

- Amanda Hardy, "Osiris, God of the 'So-Long Goodbye': Moira Crone's Reimagining of Egyptian Symbolism in a Postapocalyptic New Orleans," Louisiana State University
- Ryan Atticus Doherty, "Antouène et François: Parody and Language in Reconstruction-Era New Orleans," Centenary College of Louisiana
- Robert Jackson, "Toni Morrison's New Orleans: Mapping the Intimacy of Liberation in *Sula*," University of Tulsa
- Courtney George, "(Re)Constructing Disaster and Resilience: Dispelling Myths about Katrina & New Orleans," Columbus State University

❖ 11:30am - 12:50pm, **Workshop: Reconstructing Your Humanities Scholar Identity; Or, Career Pathways in Academic Community Engagement**

Facilitator, Matt Bryant Cheney, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

❖ 11:30am-12:50pm: **Lunch Break**

❖ 1:00pm-2:20pm, **Reconstructing Southern Literature (Panel A)**

- Maggie Muehleman, "Mending a Nation: Sewing the Scraps of Reconstruction in Woolson's *Southern Sketches*," University of Mississippi
- Matthew Blasi, "Wary of Themselves: Strange Masculinities in Padgett Powell's Fiction," Centenary College of Louisiana
- John D. Miller, "The Performance of This Precious Duty": William Gilmore Simms and the Reconstruction of White Womanhood," Longwood University
- Pip Gordon, "Bryan Washington's Other Queer South in *Lot*," University of Mississippi

❖ 1:00pm-2:20pm, **Radical Souths (poster presentation & discussion)**

- Michael P. Bibler, Louisiana State University
- Jaime Harker, University of Mississippi

Monday, June 24, 2024

❖ 1:00pm-2:20pm, Southern (Dis)Abilities

- Sharon Colley, "Reconstructing the Mind: Mental Illness in the Novels of Lee Smith," Middle Georgia State University
- Sterling Neill, "Medical Torture and Psychological Warfare from Slave Patrols to Phenderson Djéli Clark's 'Night Doctors,'" Georgia State University
- Delia Steverson, "Reconstructing Black Disabled Histories," University of Alabama
- David Davis, "Feeding the Freedmen: Food and Power in Reconstruction Literature," Mercer University

❖ 2:30pm-3:50pm, Reconstructions: New Essays on Eudora Welty's *The Golden Apples* Chair, Harriet Pollack, College of Charleston

- Katherine Henninger, "Girlhood Gleanings in *The Golden Apples*," Louisiana State University
- Rebecca Mark, "'Shaking the Very Foundation': Hearing the Language of Outsiders—Miss Eckhart, Easter, and the Spaniard—in *The Golden Apples*," Rutgers University
- David McWhirter, "Welty's Wild Beasts," Texas A&M University
- Sarah Gilbreath Ford, "'Suspended in Felicity': Virgie's Submersion in Eudora Welty's 'The Wanderers,'" Baylor University

❖ 2:30pm-3:50pm, Apostates and True Believers: Bridging Divides in Flannery O'Connor Studies (Roundtable)

Chair, William Gonch, Ave Marie University

- Garrett Bridger Gilmore, "O'Connor, Philosophy, Social Science," University of Alabama
- William Gonch, "What Modern Consciousness? O'Connor, Psychoanalysis, and Translation," Ave Marie University
- Thomas F. Haddox, "Flannery O'Connor and the Question of Secular Suffering: The Case of Kenzaburo Ōe's *An Echo of Heaven*," University of Tennessee-Knoxville
- William Murray, "The Terror of Recognition in 'The Geranium' and 'Judgement Day,'" Tennessee Wesleyan University
- Jessica Schnepf, "Grotesque Narrative Structure: A Crossbeam for O'Connor Studies?," Ave Marie University

❖ 4:00pm-5:00pm SSSL Networking / Social Hour

❖ 5:00pm-7:00pm, Dinner Break

❖ 7:00pm-9pm, Film Screening (TBA) & reception

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

❖ 8:30am-9:50am, Memoirs of Southern Femininity

- Jennifer C. Morrison, “Tenderheaded: Folklore, Memory, and Hair as a Site of Struggle in Sarah M. Broom’s *The Yellow House*,” Xavier University of Louisiana
- Christina Xan, “Reconstructing Southern Femininity Through Deconstruction of Domestic and Wild,” University of South Carolina
- Cameron Sauers, “ ‘Hand It Down to Posterity’: Reconstructing the Patriotic Labor of Elizabeth Keckley,” Pennsylvania State University

❖ 8:30am-9:50am, Reconstructing Queer Souths

- Chairs, Allison Rittmayer and Khirsten Doolan, Northwestern State University of Louisiana
- Eric Soloman, “Maybe Together We Can Get Somewhere”: Cobb County as Example for Queer Souths Now,” Oxford College at Emory University
 - Monami Chatterjee, “When the Performance Becomes Identity: A Study of the Performance Politics of Drags Kings from the Southern U.S. and India,” Independent Scholar
 - Khirsten Doolan, “Gay ‘til the Cows Come Home: Queer Southern Expression on TikTok,” Northwestern State University of Louisiana
 - Allison Rittmayer, “Toward a Southern Transcestry: Tracing Visibility and Activism in the 21 st Century,” Northwestern State University of Louisiana

❖ 10:00am-11:20am, Regionalism, Memory, and Media

- Cameron Lee Winter, “ ‘Where a Dwelling House Once Stood, Evidently’: Charles Waddell Chesnutt’s *The Conjure Woman* and the Reconstructed Realms of Memory in the Postbellum Ruins of the US South,” Georgia Institute of Technology
- Leigh Anne Duck, “Reconstructing Black and Creole Film History: *Cane River* and *Eve’s Bayou*,” University of Mississippi
- Bruce Craft, “(Re)constructing a Narrative of Belonging in a Digital Space: Facebook and the Remediation of a ‘Lost’ Southern Rural Culture,” Southeastern Louisiana University
- Joseph A. Farmer, “Station to Station: Reading Charles Portis’s *Norwood* as a Late Modern Novel,” Northeastern State University, Oklahoma

❖ 10:00am-11:20am, New Perspectives on the Native South

- Allison N. Harris, “Reconstructing the Past: Indigenous Critical Fabulation in Diane Glancy’s *Pushing the Bear*,” University of North Carolina Wilmington
- Julia Tigner, “ ‘Let Me Entertain You’: Masking as a Performative Element in the Addresses of David Brown and Elias Boudinot to Whites,” Jacksonville State University
- Justin Greer, “Native Southerners in Bildungsromans: Cultural Trauma and Symbolic Boundaries in Diane Glancy’s *Flutie* and Linda Hogan’s *Power*,” Pensacola State College

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

❖ 11:30am-12:50pm, Plenary: “Mississippi Literary Landscapes”

- Jay Watson, Howry Professor of Faulkner Studies, Department of English, University of Mississippi
- Catherine Pierce, Poet Laureate of Mississippi (2021-2025), Professor of English and Co-director, Creative Writing Program, Mississippi State University
- Donald M. Shaffer, Director, African American Studies and Associate Professor of English, Mississippi State University; Advisory Committee, The Mississippi Writers Trail
- A.H. Jerriod Avant, Creative Writing Instructor, Department of English, University of Mississippi, 2024 Poetry Award for *Muscadine*, Mississippi Institute for Arts and Letters

❖ 1:00pm-2:20pm, Reconstruction: Critical Response to The Work of Eudora Welty

Chair, Michael Pickard, Millsaps College

- Annette Trefzer, “Reconstructing Southern Visual Culture: Eudora Welty and Florence Mars,” University of Mississippi
- Ebony O. Lumumba, “Patchwork Politics: Black Women Stitching Their Own Identities in Eudora Welty’s Writing,” Jackson State University
- Michael Gleason, “‘Something That Was New for Me’: Comic Dialogue and Lyric Exposition in *Losing Battles*,” Millsaps College
- Harriet Pollack, “Writers of Our Mississippi Moment Rereading Eudora Welty,” College of Charleston

❖ 1:00pm-2:20pm, Southern Grotesques

- Michael P. Bibler, “Bad Books of the Pre-SEC: Reconstructing the Southern Gothic through *Cane Juice* and *Sanctuary*,” Louisiana State University
- Remy Levy, “Southploitation Films and Abjection in *Deliverance*,” Auburn University
- Brannon Costello, “Unreconstructing Charles Willeford,” Louisiana State University
- Emily Dalrymple, “Radical Softness in the Literary Freaks of Carson McCullers’ *The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter*,” Nunez Community College

❖ 2:30pm-3:50pm, *Get It While It’s Hot: Gas Station, Roadside, and Convenience Cuisine in the U.S. South (Roundtable)*

Chair, Casey Lee Kayser, University of Arkansas

- Constance Bailey, Georgia State University
- Shelley Ingram, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- Casey Kayser, University of Arkansas
- Joe T. Carson, Independent Scholar
- Khirsten Doolan, Northwestern State University of Louisiana
- Na’Imah Ford, Florida A&M University
- Peter Jay Ingrao, University of Texas at Dallas

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

❖ **2:30pm-3:50pm, Flannery O'Connor's *Why Do The Heathen Rage?: Making Sense of an Unearthed Novel-In-Progress* (Roundtable)**

Chair, Matt Bryant Cheney, University of Tennessee

- Carmine Palumbo, East Georgia State College
- Kendra Hamilton, Presbyterian College
- Anthony Szczesiul, University of Massachusetts, Lowell
- Joanna Davis-McElligatt, University of North Texas
- Thomas Haddock, University of Tennessee

❖ **4:00pm-5:00pm, SSSL Networking / Social Hour**

❖ **5:00pm-7:00pm, Dinner Break**

❖ **7:00pm-9:00pm, Literary Salon: "Write Southern, *Right Now*" & SSSL closing reception**

This marquee event will feature emerging and established creative writers, especially current students / recent graduates of the Center for Writers at the University of Southern Mississippi, sharing their work at the 2024 SSSL conference. Join us for a night of poetry and prose to understand just how Mississippi remains fertile ground for inspiring the now / next generation of southern writers!

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

❖ **8:30-9:50am, Reconstructing Southern Literature (Panel B)**

- Kayla Frye, "Where Are They: Southern Literature and the Missing and Hidden Black Person," Auburn University
- Mab Segrest, "Give Me Liberty or Give me Baal: Reading Flannery O'Connor's *Wiseblood* Today," Connecticut College (emeritus)
- Mark Malisa and Paula Greathouse, "Moses of South Carolina: Antisemitism and Black-Jewish Alliances in the Reconstruction Era," University of West Florida
- Atsushi Marutani, "Allen Tate's Reconstruction of the Self as a Late Modernist Poet: Southern Childhood in 'The Swimmers,'" Ochanomizu University, Japan

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

❖ 8:30am-9:50am, Zora Neale Hurston: Resisting Boundaries

- LaToya Jefferson-James, “Gendered Reconstruction? The Pernicious Effects of Racialized Gender Politics in the (Post)Reconstruction South,” Tennessee State University
- Alyssia Anders, “Redefining Ourselves Through Nature: Voodoo’s Role in a New Feminism in Zora Neale Hurston’s Works,” Louisiana State University
- Kaitlyn Smith, “Racial Fixity and Uneven Development in the Work of Zora Neale Hurston,” Georgia Institute of Technology
- Ondra Dismukes, “Featherbed Resistance and the Reconstructed South in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Mules and Men*,” Morehouse College

❖ 10:00am-11:20am, Southern Animals

Chair, Katherine Henninger, Louisiana State University

- Erich Nunn, “Birth of an Ape Man: *Tarzan of the Apes*’ Plantation Imaginary,” Auburn University
- Savannah DiGregorio, “The Mark of the Dog: The Animals of Racism’s Violent Rituals,” Vanderbilt University
- Anna Bills, “‘Coming in on Silent Footprints’: Coyote Futures and Spectral Restoration in Barbara Kingsolver’s *Prodigal Summer*,” Louisiana State University
- Rebecca Nisetich, “Familial Ecosystems in William Faulkner’s ‘The Bear’ and Jesmyn Ward’s *Salvage the Bones*,” University of Southern Maine

❖ 10:00am-11:20am, Record, Archive, Document: Constructing the South Out of Region (Roundtable)

Chairs, Lisa Hinrichsen, University of Arkansas and Gina Caison, Georgia State University

- Dolores Flores-Silva and Keith Cartwright, “Archives of the Earth’s Body: Dark-Zone Writing and Underworld Pilgrimage across the Gulf Matrix, Roanoke College and University of North Florida (respectively)
- Katherine Adams and Jacquelyne Thoni Howard, “Recovery without Reification,” Tulane University
- Elizabeth Rodriguez Fielder, “Labor of Love: Intimacy as Activism in Madeline Anderson’s *I Am Somebody*,” University of Iowa
- Katie Owens-Murphy and Kerrigan Casey, “Documenting Alabama’s Death Row through the Art of Resistance,” University of North Alabama
- Lisa Hinrichsen and Gina Caison, “Responses and Editorial Overview,” University of Arkansas and Georgia State University (respectively)

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

❖ 10:00am-11:20am, Southern Violence: Nature, Time, and Religion

- Abigail T. Pepper, "All Kinds of Truth": Flannery O'Connor's *Wise Blood* and Postsecular Religious Rhetoric," Louisiana State University
- Devin Gregg, "Temporality and Lynching in Jean Toomer's *Cane*," Auburn University
- Randall Wilhelm, "The Swamp World of Nimbus: Dark Nature, Violence and Migration in Tim Gautreaux's *The Clearing*," Independent Scholar

❖ 11:30am-12:50pm, Workshop: "Constructing Your Academic Portfolio"

Facilitator, Margaret ("Molly") McGeehee, Oxford College of Emory University

❖ 11:30am-12:50pm, Lunch Break

❖ 1:00pm-2:20pm, Toward a New South / a New Southern Studies

Chair, Emily Fontenot, Illinois State University

- Elizabeth Quirk, Wake Technical Community College
- Nathaniel Hawlish, Kent State University
- Marleigh Campbell, Independent Scholar
- Saniya Hamza Abdulla, Independent Scholar
- Matthew Blasi, Centenary College of Louisiana

❖ 1:00pm-2:20pm, Reconstructing' Flannery O'Connor

Chair, Rachel Bryan, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

- Esther Mack, "Society's Ethical Renaissance: Flannery O'Connor's Mirror into Marginalization," West Chester University of Pennsylvania
- Peter Jay Ingraio, "Be Your Own Satan: Demonic Possession and the Intellectual in 'The Lame Shall Enter First,'" University of Texas at Dallas
- Katherine Henninger, "Reconstructive Rhetorics of Displacement in O'Connor's 'The Displaced Person,'" Louisiana State University
- Ashley Massey, "Reconstructing and Releasing Sites of Incarceration in Flannery O'Connor's Milledgeville," University of North Alabama

❖ 2:30-3:50, SSSL Executive Committee Meeting

❖ 4:00pm-5:00pm, SSSL Open Business Meeting

❖ 5:00pm, SSSL Networking / Social Hour / Post-Conference