

\*Registration via Whova and in-person, 12-5pm Sunday and 8am-12pm daily

\*All panels / presentations will take place at the Courtyard by Marriott hotel; virtual presentations via Zoom. See highlighted presenters in schedule.

## Sunday, June 23, 2024

### 1. 1:00pm-3:30pm, SSSL Teaching Southern Literature Workshop / Harbor Room

Facilitators: Melanee Barton and Katherine Cochran, University of Southern Mississippi

Teachers of secondary education—English and southern cultural studies—are invited to register for this special pre-conference workshop. CEUs available. Limited registration for 50 participants.

### 2. 3:40pm-5:20pm, Jesmyn Ward's Gulf South / Bay Room

Chair: Jill Goad, Shorter University

- 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

### 3. 5:20pm-6:30pm: Dinner Break

### 4. 6:30pm-7:30pm, Opening Night Plenary, "Jesmyn Ward: Let Us Descend" / Ballroom

The Mississippi Gulf Coast is home to Jesmyn Ward, a MacArthur "Genius Grant" recipient and two-time National Book Award-winner, and she will be the featured speaker at the opening night plenary of the SSSL 2024 Biennial Conference. Ward will discuss her new novel, *Let Us Descend* (2023), and talk about her experiences growing up in DeLisle, a small town along the Gulf Coast that continues to influence her writing. Join us for this marquee event to welcome Jesmyn Ward and all attendees to the 2024 SSSL Conference.

### 5. 7:30pm-8:30pm, Opening Night Reception & Book Signing / Ballroom

- Book signing with Jesmyn Ward / Pass Christian Books, Vendor (books available for purchase on-site)
- Reception with food and drink

## Monday, June 24, 2024

### 6. 8:30am-9:50am, Southern Gothic Discourses / Harbor Room

Chair: Katherine Cochran, University of Southern Mississippi

- 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

### 7. 8:30am-9:50am, The Southern Imaginary / Bay Room

Chair: Ryan Charlton, Georgia State University

- 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

### 8. 10:00am-11:20am, Everybody Knows About Mississippi / Bay Room

Chair: Stuart Rockoff, Mississippi Humanities Council

- 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

## Monday, June 24, 2024

### 9. 10:00am-11:20am, New Orleans: Past, Present, and Future / Harbor Room

Chair: Robert Jackson, University of Tulsa

- 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 Françoise: 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

### 10. 11:30am-12:50pm, Workshop: "Constructing Your Academic Portfolio" / Coastal 3

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

Sponsored by the Oxford Center for Teaching & Scholarship of Oxford College, Emory University.

This workshop is limited to 30 attendees. Members of the ESO organization and faculty undergoing reviews (3rd year and tenure reviews) in tenure-track jobs are invited to participate in this professionalization workshop. Lunch will be provided for registered attendees only.

### 11. 11:30am-12:50pm: Lunch Break

### 12. 1:00pm-2:20pm, Reconstructing Southern Literature (Panel A) / Bay Room

Chair: Pip Gordon, University of Mississippi

- 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

### 13. 1:00pm-2:20pm, *Radical Souths* (poster presentation & discussion) / Coastal 3

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

## Monday, June 24, 2024

### 14. 1:00pm-2:20pm, Southern (Dis)Abilities / Harbor Room

Chair: Ted Atkinson, Mississippi State University

- 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

### 15. 2:30pm-3:50pm, Reconstructions: New Essays on Eudora Welty's *The Golden Apples* / Bay Room

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

### 16. 2:30pm-3:50pm, Apostates and True Believers: Bridging Divides in Flannery O'Connor Studies (Roundtable) / Coastal 1 & 2

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

### 17. 4:00pm-5:00pm SSSL Networking / Social Hour

### 18. 5:00pm-7:00pm, Dinner Break

## Monday, June 24, 2024

### 19. 7:00pm-9pm, Film Screening, "Faulkner: The Past Is Never Dead," Talk Back & Reception / Coastal 1 & 2

Sponsored by the University of Mississippi's English Department and the Center for the Study of Southern Culture

Narrated by Academy Award nominee Eric Roberts, "Faulkner: The Past Is Never Dead" is about the Nobel-prize writer William Faulkner who has not only shaped the American literary canon but also America's conversations about race. As this film asks, however, how much was Faulkner able to escape his past? How should modern audiences approach a sometimes problematic subject? The film screening will be followed by a Q & A session with the filmmakers. Refreshments will be provided during this event.

## Tuesday, June 25, 2024

### 20. 8:30am-9:50am, Memoirs of Southern Femininity / Harbor Room

Chair: Jennifer C. Morrison, Xavier University of Louisiana (tentative)

- 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

### 21. 8:30am-9:50am, Reconstructing Queer Souths / Bay Room

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 21st Century," Northwestern State University of Louisiana

## Tuesday, June 25, 2024

### 22. 10:00am-11:20am, Regionalism, Memory, and Media / Bay Room

Chair: Leigh Anne Duck, University of Mississippi

- 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

### 23. 10:00am-11:20am, New Perspectives on the Native South / Harbor Room

Chair: Justin Greer, Pensacola State College

- 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

### 24. 11:30am-12:50pm, Luncheon Plenary: "Mississippi Literary Landscapes" /

**Coastal 1 & 2 / Sponsored by *The Mississippi Quarterly***

Moderator: Donald M. Schaffer, Mississippi State University

- 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
- Minrose Gwin, Kenan Eminent Professor of English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (retired); 2024 Richard Beale Davis Award for Distinguished Lifetime Service to Southern Letters

## Tuesday, June 25, 2024

### 25. 1:00pm-2:20pm, Reconstruction: Critical Response to the Work of Eudora Welty / Bay Room

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

### 26. 1:00pm-2:20pm, Southern Grotesques / Harbor Room

Chair: Brannon Costello, Louisiana State University

- 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

### 27. 2:30pm-3:50pm, Get It While It's Hot: Gas Station, Roadside, and Convenience Cuisine in the U.S. South (Roundtable) / Coastal 3

Chair, Casey Lee Kayser, University of Arkansas

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

### 28. 2:30pm-3:50pm, Flannery O'Connor's *Why Do The Heathen Rage?*: Making Sense of an Unearthed Novel-In-Progress (Roundtable) / Bay Room

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 Haddox, University of Tennessee

## Tuesday, June 25, 2024

**29. 4:00pm-5:00pm, SSSL Networking / Social Hour**

**30. 5:00pm-7:00pm, Dinner Break**

**31. 7:00pm-9:00pm, Literary Salon: “Write Southern, *Right Now*” & SSSL Closing Reception / Coastal 1 & 2**

Sponsored by the Center for Writers at the University of Southern Mississippi, The Margaret Walker Center at Jackson State University, and the Mississippi Humanities Council

This marquee event will feature emerging and established creative writers, sharing their work at the 2024 SSSL conference:

- Emily Goldsmith, University of Southern Mississippi
- Amira Wallace, Jackson State University
- Gaven Wallace, University of Southern Mississippi
- A.H. Jerriod Avant, Creative Writing Instructor, Department of English, University of Mississippi, 2024 Poetry Award for *Muscadine*, Mississippi Institute for Arts and Letters
- Minrose Gwin, Kenan Eminent Professor of English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (retired); 2024 Richard Beale Davis Award for Distinguished Lifetime Service to Southern Letters

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

**32. 8:30-9:50am, Reconstructing Southern Literature (Panel B) / Harbor Room**

Chair: Kathryn McKee, University of Mississippi

- 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)
- 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

### 33. 8:30am-9:50am, Zora Neale Hurston: Resisting Boundaries / Bay Room

Chair: Ondra Dismukes, Morehouse College

- 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
- Ondra Dismukes, "Featherbed Resistance and the Reconstructed South in Zora Neale Hurston's *Mules and Men*," Morehouse College

### 34. 10:00am-11:20am, Southern Animals / Bay Room

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

### 35. 10:00am-11:20am, Record, Archive, Document: Constructing the South Out of Region (Roundtable) / Coastal 1 & 2

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

### 36. 10:00am-11:20am, Southern Violence: Nature, Time, and Religion / Harbor Room

Chair: Annette Trefzer, University of Mississippi

- 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

### 37. 11:30am - 12:50pm, Workshop: Reconstructing Your Humanities Scholar Identity; Or, Career Pathways in Academic Community Engagement / Coastal 3

Facilitator, Matt Bryant Cheney, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Sponsored by the English Department, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

This workshop is limited to 30 attendees. Members of the ESO organization, any graduate students, and other early-career scholars are invited to participate in this professionalization workshop. Lunch will be provided for registered attendees only.

### 38. 11:30am-12:50pm, Lunch Break

### 39. 1:00pm-2:20pm, Toward a New South / a New Southern Studies / Harbor Room

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

### 40. 1:00pm-2:20pm, Reconstructing Flannery O'Connor / Bay Room

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 Ingrao, "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

**Wednesday, June 26, 2024**

**41. 2:30-3:50, SSSL Executive Committee Meeting / Gulf View Boardroom**

**42. 4:00pm-5:00pm, SSSL Open Business Meeting / Bay Room**

**43. 5:00pm, SSSL Networking / Social Hour / Post-Conference**