The Society for the Study of Southern Literature 2026 Conference Schedule

Fisk University, Nashville, TN

Saturday, March 28, 2026

1. Educational Spaces of Freedom

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 1:00 PM to 2:20 PM | Franklin Library 1

Chair: Thadious Davis, University of Pennsylvania

- A Tougaloo Renaissance: Exploring an HBCU Literary Archive, Latrice Johnson, University of Mississippi
- From Witness to Freedom: Black Women Education Leaders, Racial Battle Fatigue, and the Work of Liberation in White-Led Charter Schools, LaTrina M. Johnson, WGB Collective
- Disrupting the Disruptors: Youth Literary Production as Resistance to Restrictive Southern Education Laws, Kourtney Frye, Metro Nashville Public Schools
- A Seat in Academia: HBCUs, Rural Black Students, and Educational Belonging in the Black South, Shanice Lyons, Livingstone College

2. Jim Crow Modernism

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 1:00 PM to 2:20 PM | Franklin Library 2

Chair: Robert Jackson, University of Tulsa

- The Maternal Bodies of Jim Crow Modernism: Black and White Women and Literary Procreation, Emily Lutenski, Appalachian State University
- Bad Boys Make Good Roads: Incarceration and Infrastructure in the U.S. South, David A. Davis, Mercer University
- “Still a Son of Fisk”: Du Bois, Fisk University, and The Education of Black People, Robert Jackson, University of Tulsa

3. C19 Souths

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 1:00 PM to 2:20 PM | Franklin Library 3

Chair: Jonathan Beecher Field, Clemson University

- “The Creole Instinct”: The Strange Life and Literature of Armand Lanusse, Free Man of Color, Ryan Atticus Doherty, Centenary College of Louisiana
- The Tragedy of William McIntosh: Public Memory Culture and the Aestheticization of Native American Removal, Patrick M. Erben, University of West Georgia
- “A human medley” in New Orleans: Joseph Holt Ingraham's *The South-West by a Yankee* (1835), Robert C. Petersen, Middle Tennessee State University

4. Fleeting Moments and Wonderful Weirdness in Welty, *sponsored by the Eudora Welty Society*

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 1:00 PM to 2:20 PM | Franklin Library 4

Chair: Laura Wilson, University of St Andrews

- Lithophanes and Keraunography: The Incandescence of Great Aunt Mashula, Melissa Fox, Independent Scholar
- "[B]y her own desire": Spilled Milk in Welty's *The Robber Bridegroom* and *The Golden Apples*, Katie Frye, Pepperdine University
- "She Came up By Herself": Why did Ellen and Euclid Beecham in Eudora Welty's *Losing Battles* Hitch and Cut Loose, Rebecca Mark, Rutgers University
- That Weird and Glimmering Girl in Eudora Welty's Woods, Harriet Pollack, College of Charleston
- Vehicles Out of Place and Time: Car Crashes in Eudora Welty's Short Fiction, Kaitlyn Smith, Kennesaw State University

5. Book Editors Workshop, *sponsored by the Emerging Scholars Organization (ESO)*

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 2:30 PM to 3:50 PM | Franklin Library 1

Chair: Savannah DiGregorio, Arizona State University

- Sarah Shermyen, Acquisitions Editor for the University of Georgia Press
- Aidan Watson-Morris, Acquisitions Editor for the University of Tennessee Press
- Riché Richardson, Cornell University and Co-Editor of UGA Press *New Southern Studies* Series
- Scott Romine, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Editor of the LSU Press *Southern Literary Studies* Series
- Stephanie Rountree, University of North Georgia and Co-Editor of the southern media trilogy with LSU Press: *Record, Document, Archive* (forthcoming 2026), *Remediating Region* (2021), and *Small-Screen Souths* (2017)

6. Memory and Literary Form

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 2:30 PM to 3:50 PM | Franklin Library 2

Chair: Volunteer Needed

- "Making Our Descent": The American South in James Baldwin's Fiction, Ashley Beresch, University of Georgia
- Marginal Gender Praxis: Feminized Survival Theory within Kiese Laymon's *Heavy*, Bleah Patterson, University of North Texas
- "incomings" as Memory: Southern Childhood Sensibilities in Monique Truong's *Bitter in the Mouth*, Md Jalal Uddin, Louisiana State University
- "Memories are living things": Forgetting, Memory-Making, and Remembering in Karen Russel's *The Antidote*, Bethany Weston, Texas Woman's University

7. Place and Space in Jesmyn Ward

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 2:30 PM to 3:50 PM | Franklin Library 3

Chair: Jacob Fennell, University of Mississippi

- Out of the Narrative and Into the Wilderness: Jesmyn Ward's *Let Us Descend*, Sarah Gilbreath Ford, Baylor University
- "This Place Binds and Blinds:" Black Interiority and the Metaphysical South in Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, Kayla J. Frye, Auburn University
- Brothers in Distress: Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing* and the Southern Neogothic, Lee Rozelle, University of Montevallo
- "Wailing Against the Wind:" Jesmyn Ward's *Let Us Descend* and the Horrors of Interiority, Stephen Margavio, Auburn University

8. Southern Pedagogies: History, Memory, and Knowledge Equity

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 2:30 PM to 3:50 PM | Franklin Library 4

Chair: Delia Steverson, University of Alabama

- Can't We Have that One Thing?: Teaching Mississippi as a Place of Pain and Pride in Black Southern Literature, Kemeshia Randle Swanson, Mississippi State University
- A Southern Gothic Orientation: Teaching Natasha Trethewey's "Pilgrimage", Ted Atkinson, Mississippi State University
- "WikiWarriors": Teaching Wikipedia in the Age of Disinformation, Delia Steverson, University of Alabama

9. Frances Ellen Watkins Harper 200: Building Spaces of Freedom in Life and Literature

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 4:00 PM to 5:20 PM | Franklin Library 1

Chair: Sherita L. Johnson, Pennsylvania State University

- "Ring Out the Freedom Bell": Frances Harper in the Reconstruction South, 1865-1867, Sherita L. Johnson, Pennsylvania State University
- "Harbinger of Hope": Frances Harper, Free Produce, and the Critique of Slavery's Capitalism, Cameron Sauers, Pennsylvania State University
- Frances Harper, Reconstruction, and the Precarity of Whiteness, Chaunece Reed, Pennsylvania State University
- (Re)Constructing Home in Frances E. W. Harper's *Minnie's Sacrifice*, Katie Painter, Pennsylvania State University

10. Speculative Plantations

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 4:00 PM to 5:20 PM | Franklin Library 2

Chair: Amy Clukey, University of Louisville

- Gothic Futurism, Amy Clukey, University of Louisville
- Pamela Colman Smith's Tarot Deck and the Global Circulation of Jamaican Folklore, Sabrina Lee, Calvin University
- Burning the Speculative Plantation in *Sinners* (U.S.) and *beDevil* (Australia), Amy K. King, Tuskegee University

11. Robert Hayden

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 4:00 PM to 5:20 PM | Franklin Library 3

Chair: Peter Schmidt, Swarthmore College

- Black Bottom Saints: A Reading, Alice Randall, Vanderbilt University
- “Life that transfigures many lives”: A Legacy of Monuments and Transfigurations, Dolores Flores-Silva, Roanoke College, and Keith Cartwright, University of North Florida
- Robert Hayden and Julius Lester, Martin Haber

12. Musical South

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 4:00 PM to 5:20 PM | Franklin Library 4

Chair: Jennie Lightweis-Goff

- “A Minstrel Show with Teeth”: Sinners’ Musical Vampires, Erich Nunn, Auburn University
- Something to Say: Voice and Image from an OutKasted South, William C. Palmer, Andrew College
- Drifter's Escape; or, Is Bob Dylan Southern?, Matthew D. Sutton, Morehead State University
- Spaces of Funk: Tasting Palm-Wine & Brettanomyces, Elizabeth McQueen, Florida State University

13. Opening Plenary and Award Ceremony featuring

A Reading by Alice Randall

Saturday, March 28, 2026 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM | Appleton

Chair: Robert Jackson, University of Tulsa and SSSL President

Reception to Immediately Follow

End of Day Break

Sessions Resume Sunday Morning

Sunday, March 29, 2026

★ **ESO Coffee Meet-Up**

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 8:00 AM to 8:45 AM | Franklin Library Starbucks

The ESO invites all attendees to grab a coffee and join us for a morning mixer!

14. Black Freedom of Expression

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 1

Chair: Latrice Johnson, University of Mississippi

- "Wade in the Water": An Ecocritical Reading of Nineteenth-Century Black Spirituals, Matthew Lambert, University of Alabama
- Black Botanical Alchemy: Play & Plants in Plantation Gardens, Iyanna Hamby, Fisk University
- The Flying African: Fugitivity and Resistance in Black Southern Fiction, Joanna Davis-McElligatt, University of North Texas

15. Welty's Dissident Spaces I, *sponsored by the Eudora Welty Society*

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 2

Chair: Rebecca L. Harrison, University of West Georgia

- Confluence and/or Crossroads, David McWhirter, Texas A&M University
- The Queering and Emancipating Space of New Orleans in Faulkner's *Mosquitoes* and Welty's *The Optimist's Daughter*, Pei-Wen Clio Kao, National Ilan University (Taiwan)

★ *Please join the Eudora Welty Society immediately following panel 15 as they present the Phoenix Award to Susan V. Donaldson, College of William and Mary!*

16. Armistead Maupin's Transgressive Tales

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 3

Chair: Monica C. Miller, Middle Georgia State University

- Dear Mamas: Matrilineal Correspondence in the Life of Michael "Mouse" Tolliver, Ted Atkinson, Mississippi State University
- Retrofitting a Trans South: Anna Madrigal and the Ongoing Tales of the City, Phillip "Pip" Gordon, University of Mississippi
- Armistead Maupin's Southern Gothic Tales, Monica C. Miller, Middle Georgia State University

17. New Books in Civil War Memory

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 4

Chair: K. Stephen Prince, Louisiana State University

- Requiem for Reconstruction: Black Countermemory and the Legacy of the Lowcountry's Lost Political Generation, Robert Bland, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Disability, the Body, and Radical Intellectuals in the Literature of the Civil War and Reconstruction, Sarah E. Chinn, Hunter College, CUNY
- Confederate Sympathies: Same-Sex Romance, Disunion, and Reunion in the Civil War Era, Andrew Donnelly, University of Memphis
- Counting the Cost of Freedom: The Fight Over Compensated Emancipation After the Civil War, Amanda Kleintop, Elon University

18. Imagining Futures: Established & Emerging Scholars in Conversation

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 1

Chair: Robert Jackson, University of Tulsa and SSSL President

- Magana Kabugi, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- Gina Caison, Georgia State University
- Sherita L. Johnson, Pennsylvania State University
- Savannah DiGregorio, Arizona State University and ESO President

19. Welty's Dissident Spaces II, *sponsored by the Eudora Welty Society*

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 2

Chair: Sarah Gilbreath Ford, Baylor University

- Where Is Eugene's MacLain's Voice Coming From in Eudora Welty's "Music from Spain"?, Stephen M. Fuller, Middle Georgia State University
- The Intrusion of the Natural World in Eudora Welty's *Delta Wedding*, Izzy Herring, University of Tennessee Knoxville
- Sites of Dissidence Glimpsed in Jackson Newspapers and Welty's Letters, Julia Eichelberger, College of Charleston

20. Southern Ecologies

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 3

Chair: Zeba Shahbaaz, Tennessee State University

- Imagining Futurities Beyond Rescue: Ecological Crisis in *Beasts of the Southern Wild* and *Annihilation*, Jim Case, Northwestern State University of Louisiana
- Lafcadio Hearn's *Chita* and "the life of the coast." Ryan Charlton, Georgia State University
- Toxic Wonderland: Seriality, Stasis, and *Swamp Thing*, Brannon Costello, University of Louisiana
- River Plots: Hydroelectric Landscapes in T.S. Stribling's *Unfinished Cathedral*, Jency Wilson, University of North Alabama

21. Placemaking

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 4

Chair: Garrett Fuller, Independent Scholar and Artist

- Nowhere Else to Be: Memphis as Makom, Meredith Heath Boulden, University of Memphis
- "Good Police Work": Surveillance, Spectacle, and Neoliberalism in Déjà Vu and Project NOLA's Facial-Recognition Cameras, John W. Byers, University of Mississippi
- Bobble Buns: Remembering Birmingham's Industrial Past at the Vulcan Gift Shop, Ashley Rattner, Jacksonville State University
- What's Happening in the "What's Happening in Auburn and Opelika" Facebook Group?: Feelings of Disgust and Anxiety Towards Queer Visibility, Remy Levy, Indiana University - Bloomington

Lunch Break: 11:35 AM to 1:00 PM

★ SSSL Executive Committee Meeting

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 11:45 AM to 12:50 PM | Franklin Library 1

Members of SSSL's Executive Committee will meet to discuss organizational business.

Sunday Afternoon Featured Events

22. Richard Beale Davis Award Roundtable Honoring

John T. Matthews
Boston University

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 1:00 PM to 2:20 PM | Fisk Memorial Chapel

Chair: Catherine Kodat, Marist University

Lisa Hinrichsen, University of Arkansas
Peter Lurie, University of Richmond
Randy Boyagoda, University of Toronto
Catherine Kodat, Marist University
Mark Eaton, Claremont Graduate University
Jay Watson, University of Mississippi

23. Richard Beale Davis Award Roundtable Honoring

John Wharton Lowe
University of Georgia

Awarded Posthumously and Accepted by

June Lowe

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 2:30 PM to 3:50 PM | Fisk Memorial Chapel

Chair: Lisa Hinrichsen, University of Arkansas

Keith Cartwright, University of North Florida
Taylor Hagood, Florida Atlantic University
Barbara McCaskill, University of Georgia
Thadious Davis, University of Pennsylvania
Katherine Henninger, Louisiana State University

SSSL Thanks the Richard Beale Davis Award Committee:
Lisa Hinrichsen (University of Arkansas), David Davis (Mercer University), and Catherine Kodat (Marist University)

24. Sunday Afternoon Plenary

“Toni Morrison and the HBCU South”
Dana A. Williams, Howard University

Chair: Robert Jackson, University of Tulsa and SSSL President

Sunday, March 29, 2026 | 4:30 PM to 6:00 PM | Fisk Memorial Chapel

End of Day Break

Sessions Resume Monday Morning

Monday, March 30, 2026

25. Text, Space and Memory: Italian Transnational Practices Across the Global and U.S. Souths

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 1

Chair: Andrew Maginn, Middle Tennessee State University

- Primo Bartolini's Poetic Landscapes and the Making of Diasporic Freedom in the U.S. South, Matteo Brera, University of Padova / Seton Hall University
- Reclaiming Spaces: Italian Contributions to Public Memory in the American South, Alessia Martini, Sewanee: The University of the South
- From Coal Mines to City Hall: Tracing the Italian American Experience in Birmingham, Alabama, Alessandra Montalbano, University of Alabama

26. Black Literature and the South: Nature, the Environment, and Liberation

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 2

Chair: Stephanie Rountree, University of North Georgia

- Honeybees, Pear Trees, and Hurricanes: Ecofeminism and the Southern Black Women's Experience in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Chloe Bruce, Spelman College
- Thing-Power in a Toxic South: How Oil and Methamphetamines Shape Life in Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied, Sing*, Arya Sheth, Georgia College & State University
- The Myth of "Racial Progress" in Ralph Ellison's *The Invisible Man*, Riley Clements, University of North Georgia
- Eco-cosmopolitanism in Toni Morrison's *A Mercy*, Dokubo Melford Goodhead, Fisk University

27. The Black Intellectual Tradition and Scholar-Activism at Fisk University

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 3

Chair: Zeba Shahbaaz, Tennessee State University

- Lifting Every Voice: James Weldon Johnson, Fisk University, and the Legacy of the Black Intellectual Tradition, Zeba Shahbaaz, Tennessee State University
- Black Feminist Hermeneutics in Diane Nash's reflection on the Civil Rights Movement, Jennifer Hayes, Tennessee State University
- Harlem Renaissance (Anti-)Heroine: Nella Larsen's Feminist Critique of American Modernism, Olufemi Oyebade, Tennessee State University

28. Writing Back

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 4

Chair: Joanna Davis-McElligatt, University of North Texas

- Visions of Liberatory Queer Southern Spaces, Allison Rittmayer, Northwestern State University of Louisiana
- Mapping Dissident Spaces: Lillian Smith, South Today, and Laurel Falls Camp for Girls, Mae Miller Claxton, Western Carolina University
- "Ain't No Room for Nothing Else": Censorship, Stubbornness, and Renoir's *The Southerner*, Garrett Akins, Faulkner University
- The Unbannable Library, Paul Collins, Austin Peay State University

29. Emerging Scholars Workshop Event: Fisk University Special Collections and Archives Visit, *sponsored by the Emerging Scholars Organization (ESO)*

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Meet in Foyer

Advance registration required, limited to emerging scholars. First come, first served.

30. They Came by This Way: How Fisk University Influenced Numerous Harlem Renaissance Writers

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Appleton

Chair: La Tanya L. Rogers, Fisk University

- La Tanya L. Rogers, Fisk University
- Tashaura Cummings, Fisk University
- Madison Hightower, Fisk University
- Marcus Hart, Fisk University
- Taylor Reed, Fisk University
- Amare' Woods, Fisk University

31. Labor and Liberation

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 1

Chair: Robert Birdwell, Emory University

- James S. Allen: Organizer, Editor, Historian against Jim Crow Capitalism, Robert Birdwell, Emory University
- Temporary Spaces of Freedom: Southern Literature Pedagogy Behind Prison Walls, Ashley Massey, University of North Alabama
- Class Recognition in the Southern Strike Novel, Byron Miller, Louisiana State University
- Degrees Without Doors: Black Women, Labor Containment, and Workplace Unfreedom in State Institutions, Zaheerah Smith, Tennessee State University; Capella University

32. Contemporary Fiction

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 2

Chair: Matthew Blasi, Centenary College of Louisiana

- The Reimagined South in Padgett Powell's *Mrs. Hollingsworth's Men*, Matthew Blasi, Centenary College of Louisiana
- And Now, for Something Completely Different?: Lee Smith's *Silver Alert*, Sharon E. Colley, Middle Georgia State University
- "Demon time" and Southern Literary Persistence of History in Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing*, Jill LeRoy-Frazier, East Tennessee State University
- Japanese American Detention and Sites of Memory in the U.S. South in Vivienne Schiffer's *Camp Nine*, Mariko Hiwatashi, Fukuoka University

33. Monsters, Magic, and Hauntings

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 3

Chair: Jacqueline Pinkowitz, Mercer University

- Conjuring at Crossroads: Haints, Haunts, & Black/Indian Insistence from Wasioto (Nashville) to Bvlbancha (New Orleans), Rain Prud'homme-Cranford, University of Louisiana, Lafayette / That Painted Horse Press
- From the South to the Global South: Julie Dash's *Daughters of the Dust* & Magical Realism in the Americas, Jerry W. Carlson, The City College & Graduate Center CUNY
- "I don't know no such a lie": History, Metafiction, and the Marvelous Real in Randall Kenan's "Let the Dead Bury Their Dead," Jordan Dominy, Auburn University at Montgomery
- Father and Furtherer of New Beings: Dracula, Fevre Dream, and the Vampire in a Southern American Context, Simon P. Ross, University of Mississippi

34. Southern Environmental Humanities, *sponsored by the Emerging Scholars Organization (ESO)*

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 4

Chair: Savannah DiGregorio, Arizona State University

- Mutated Realisms and the Pesticide South, Anthony Gottlich, University of Mississippi
- Resurrecting the Mule: A Critical Return to the (Un)Dying Mule of the U.S. South, Anna Bills, Louisiana State University
- The Forgotten South:" Storm-Haunted Narratives and Generational Trauma in *Salvage This World*, Maisie Smith, Baylor University
- Dr. John Anderson, the Affrilachian-Indigenous Ethnomedicine Specialist, Ami Hanna-Huff, University of Louisiana in Lafayette

35. Workshop Event: Fisk University Special Collections and Archives Visit

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Meet in Foyer

Advance registration required. All participants are welcome. First come, first served.

36. Monday Afternoon Plenary

Afterlives of the Plantation & HBCU Archives: A Conversation Between Jarvis C. McInnis and Magana Kabugi

Jarvis C. McInnis, Duke University
Magana Kabugi, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 1:30 PM to 2:50 PM | Appleton

37. Flannery O'Connor and the Grotesque, *sponsored by the Flannery O'Connor Society*

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 3:00 PM to 4:20 PM | Franklin Library 1

Chair: Matt Bryant-Cheney, Georgia College and State University

- Tomfoolery: Enduring Echoes of Eliot in O'Connor's "The Enduring Chill," Benjamin Crace, Tennessee Tech University
- Light Leaves Water: Flannery O'Connor's Racism Through the Grotesque, Justice Yoo, University of California, Berkeley
- Flannery O'Connor's and Evelyn Scott's Narrow Houses, Rachel Bryan, The University of Tennessee - Knoxville

38. "Again. Sadder than was. Again. Saddest of all. Again.": New Readings of *The Sound and the Fury* (1929) on the Eve its Centennial

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 3:00 PM to 4:20 PM | Franklin Library 2

Chair: Laura Wilson, University of St Andrews

- The Medieval Masculinity of Quentin Compson, Vincent Herrington, University of Southern Maine
- "Once A Bitch Always a Bitch": Jason Compson Can't Cope, Will Connell, University of Southern Maine
- The Haunting of Candace Compson: Threats of The Feminine in Southern Gothic, Bella Ciampi, University of Southern Maine
- Reading, Again: A Conversation with *The Faulkner Journal* Student Interns, Laura Wilson, University of St Andrews

39. James Baldwin and the Making of the Self: Visibility, Fluidity, and Freedom

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 3:00 PM to 4:20 PM | Franklin Library 3

Chair: Brooke Morrison, University of Southern Mississippi

- Structural Inequality and Hypervisibility from Childhood to Adulthood in Baldwin's *Little Man, Little Man* and Rankine's *Citizen: An American Lyric*, Brooke Morrison, University of Southern Mississippi
- Transcending Binaries: Interpersonal Fluidity as Traced through the Life of James Baldwin, Madison Brown, University of Southern Mississippi
- Revising the Self Under Siege: Baldwin's *If Beale Street Could Talk* as Act of Renewal, Rheagan Case, University of Southern Mississippi
- The Threshing Floor: Baldwin's Spiritual Freedom Reflected in His Secular Fiction, Peyton Phillips, University of Southern Mississippi

40. Building Spaces of Freedom, *sponsored by the Emerging Scholars Organization (ESO)*

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 3:00 PM to 4:20 PM | Franklin Library 4

Chair: Christina Xan, Northwestern Oklahoma State University

- Adeem the Artist and Working-Class Country Music, Nathaniel Erickso-Hawlish, Victoria College
- Troubling the Crossroads of Orthodoxy: Monument and Mississippi in Natasha Trethewey's Poetry, Jeffrey Caliedo, Yale University
- The New Black Southern Gothic in MONUMENTS (2025), Jacqueline Pinkowitz, Mercer University
- The Regional Aestheticism of George B. Rose: Writing Art at the Arkansan Fin de Siècle, Evan Leonhard, Rutgers University

41. Center and/or Periphery?: The Unlikely Dissidence of the U.S. South and Central Eastern Europe

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 4:30 PM to 5:50 PM | Franklin Library 1

Chair: Gina Caison, Georgia State University

- The Soviet South: Porgy and Bess in Leningrad, Jennie Lightweis-Goff, Independent Scholar
- "There's only one good thing about a small town": The Motif of Childhood, Memory, and Leaving in an American and in a Hungarian Contemporary Novel, Csaba Horváth, Károli Gáspár University
- "That Crate in Kentucky": The Crown of St. Stephen, Jimmy Carter, and Attila Bartis's *The End*, Gina Caison, Georgia State University

42. Medical Humanities Across Species

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 4:30 PM to 5:50 PM | Franklin Library 2

Co-Chairs: Sarah Hagaman, University of Rochester, and Savannah DiGregorio, Arizona State University

- Racializing the Veterinary Humanities: Black Horsemen and the Limits of the Human, Savannah DiGregorio, Arizona State University
- "Health Is Your Right": Community, Disability, and Health Justice in *The Salt Eaters* and *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, Sarah Hagaman, University of Rochester
- Suppressing (Con)science: The Medical Animalization of Women in Naomi Wallace's "The Breach", Sterling Neill, Georgia State University
- The Long Reach of Medical Apartheid from Montgomery's "Mothers of Gynecology" to Dolen Perkins Valdez's *Take My Hand*, Riché Richardson, Cornell University's Africana Studies and Research Center

43. New Gothic, New Horror

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 4:30 PM to 5:50 PM | Franklin Library 3

Chair: Garrett Fuller, Independent Scholar

- "Flames of Fortune": The Horrific Risk of Casino Labor in *The Card Counter* and *Sinners*, Jacob Fennell, University of Mississippi
- Reckoning Gothic in the Southern Photography of RaMell Ross, Katherine Henninger, Louisiana State University
- The Wendigo as Warning: Indigenous Gothic, Colonial Hunger, and the Limits of the Southern Gothic, Abigail Ross, University of Arkansas
- Faulkner, but with More Tentacles: Cosmic Horror in the South, Daniel Spoth, Eckerd College

44. Voicing Resistance/Embodying Hope: Language, Photography, Instruments

Monday, March 30, 2026 | 4:30 PM to 5:50 PM | Franklin Library 4

Chair: Taylor Hagood, Florida Atlantic University

- Lingual Multivalence and Textual Resistance in Gina Apostol's *Insurrecto*, Jenna Grace Sciuto, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts
- "Virtual ghosts": Photographic Haunting at the Contemporary Plantation, Laura Wilson, University of St Andrews
- Claude McKay's *Banjo*: Resistance in American-African Instrumentation, Taylor Hagood, Florida Atlantic University
- The South after "The South": Desouthernizing Southern Futures, Eric Gary Anderson, George Mason University

End of Day Break

Sessions Resume Tuesday Morning

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

45. Revisiting the Southern Gothic I: Framing Southern Gothic

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 1

Chair: Michael Bibler, Louisiana State University

- Todd Hagstette, University of South Carolina-Aiken
- Katie Henninger, Louisiana State University
- Harry Stecopoulos, University of Iowa
- Samuel Parler, Baylor University

46. Reckonings and Ambivalence: Flannery O'Connor and Race, *sponsored by the Flannery O'Connor Society*

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 2

Chair: Rachel Bryan, The University of Tennessee - Knoxville

- From "Dear Brethren" to the "Pig Parlor," Flannery O'Connor and Frederick Douglass: A Dialectic of Humor and Violence, James Sisson, Middle Georgia State University
- Flannery O'Connor, "Skeptimentality," and Black Interiority in Brainard Cheney's *This is Adam*, Matt Bryant-Cheney, Georgia College and State University
- Artificial Banshees: Interrogating Racial and Ethnic Stereotypes with/in Flannery O'Connor and Martin McDonagh, Jessica Schnepp, Ave Maria University

47. Faulkner and the Problem of Progress

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 3

Chair: Volunteer Needed

- "If he ever sweats, he will die:" Southern Stagnation in William Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying*, Jackson Giesbrecht, University of Toronto
- The Influence of Early Twentieth-Century Science on Faulkner's Yoknapatawpha, Spencer Horner, University of Memphis
- "Not Ravaged, Not Invaded … Though Reserved for Something More": Out-of-Place Caribbeans and American Imperialism in William Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!*, Cameron Lee Winter, Georgia Institute of Technology
- A Queer Southern Literary Inheritance: From William Faulkner's Quentin Compson to Hayley Williams's "True Believer," Khirsten Doolan, Northwestern State University of Louisiana

48. Creative Spaces of Freedom: Southern Creative Writing from Southern Creative Writers

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 8:45 AM to 10:05 AM | Franklin Library 4

Chair: Matthew Blasi, Centenary College of Louisiana

- Have Small Heart and Braveness, Matthew Blasi, Centenary College of Louisiana
- No Restaurants After the Revolution, Jennie Lightweis-Goff, Independent Scholar
- "Sunday" and "Chefs in a Blizzard," Emily Fontenot, Independent Scholar

49. Revisiting the Southern Gothic II: More-Than-Gothic Possibilities

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 1

Chair: Michael Bibler, Louisiana State University

- Eric Gary Anderson, George Mason University
- Joanna Davis-McElligatt, University of North Texas
- Monica C. Miller, Middle Georgia State University
- Erich Nunn, Auburn University
- Scott Romine, The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

50. Resisting the Plantation

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 2

Chair: David Squires, University of Louisiana at Lafayette

- Sally Hemings's Plantation Dramaturgy, I.B. Hopkins, University of Texas at Austin
- The Shadows of Lindendale: Reading Hannah Crafts's *The Bondwoman's Narrative* as Plantation Fiction, Elizabeth Robertson, Louisiana State University
- Guns and Sugar: The Specter of Revolution on Postslavery Plantations, David Squires, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
- The New Woman and Freedom in Kate Chopin's *At Fault*, Heather Ostman, SUNY Westchester Community College

51. Humanity and Medicine

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 3

Chair: Volunteer Needed

- Barbara Kingsolver's Appalachia: Narratives of Disability in *Demon Copperhead*, Kara Adams, University of Michigan
- Deixis in the Time of Pain: Forming Southern Addiction from Rukeyser's *The Book of the Dead* to Lynn's *Mothman Apologia*, Tanner Crunelle, Cornell University
- Spiritualism in the Asylum: Contesting the Moral Treatment in the Patient Publication of the Alabama Insane Hospital 1872-1881, Garrett Bridger Gilmore, University of Alabama

52. Pop-Cultural Representation of HBCUs and the Black Collegiate Experience: A Panel Discussion

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 10:15 AM to 11:35 AM | Franklin Library 4

Chair: Jennifer Morrison, Xavier University of Louisiana

- Reframing School Daze: Revising the Troubling Gender and Sexual Dynamics in an Iconic Film, Jennifer Morrison, Xavier University of Louisiana
- HBCU Sound and Southern Cultural Memory in Beyoncé's *Homecoming*, Laura Oliver, Xavier University of Louisiana
- Who Left the Gate Open: On Protecting Black Greekdom in *Step Sisters*, Madison Hunter, University of Memphis

★ SSSL Membership General Business Meeting

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 | 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM | Franklin Library 1

All are welcome to a discussion of SSSL present and future organizational business

End of Conference

Please Travel Home Safely!