



19th Annual Graduate Student Conference

**A World of Difference:
Re-Imagining the Global in the 21st Century**

Conference Program

Friday, February 1, 2019

9am-3:45pm

UNC Charlotte, Popp Martin Student Union

Conference Schedule:

8:30-9:10am Registration and Check-In | 2nd Floor Union Rotunda

9:15-9:25am Opening Remarks and Welcome | Dr. Mark West | Union 200

All panelists will have 18-20 minutes for presentations followed by a five-minute period for audience questions.

9:30-10:45am Session One

Panel One: Trauma | Moderator: Danny Anderson | Union 261

9:30-9:55 **Brooke Bassett**, “The Legacy of Body and Blood in the Works of Tsitsi Dangarembga”

9:55-10:20: **Caitlin Cosper**, “Silence Under *The Bell Jar*: Domination or Rebellion?”

10:20-10:45: **Cassandra Grosh**, “Negotiating Recovery: How Cutters Heal in *Cut* and *Blade Silver*”

Panel Two: Gender | Moderator: Jordan Costanza | Union 263

9:30-9:55: **Aidan McCourt**, “Holy Gender Performance Batman: An Analysis of the Transition of Robin from the Camp Style to Toxic Masculinity in *Titans*”

9:55-10:20: **Willie Wallace**, “Subversion and Exploration of Gender Norms: The Atypical Relationships in Judith Hermann’s *Summerhouse, Later*”

10:20-10:45: **Brooke Johnson**, “(Re)Examining Motherhood: Lynn Powell’s Use of the Virgin Mary in the context of 21st Century Maternity”

Panel Three: English Language | Moderator: Anthony Tate | Union 265

9:30-9:55: **Julia Johnson**, “African American English and Education: Da Prolem Wid It & Fixin' Da Issues.”

9:55-10:20: **Abby Hassler**, “Identity, Power Relations, and Safe Spaces: A Case Study of Nonprofit Adult ESL Learners”

10:20-10:45: **Wilder Quiroz and Irene Antequera**, “The Connecting Link: Culturally Responsive Social and Emotional Learning Practices to Facilitate ELLs’ Success in School”

Panel Four: Cultural Identity | Moderator: Arooj Hussain | *Union 266*

9:30-9:55: **Sophie Yates**, “Negotiating Intimacy and Cultural Identity in Nadine Gordimer’s *The Pickup*”

9:55-10:20: **Katie Arthur**, “Pandanu is the Place, is the People: Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner’s *Iep Jaltok* and Indigenous Anthropocene Identity”

10:20-10:45: **Marina Shafik**, “Civilized Slaveholding: Slavery, Race, and Modern Citizenship in the Cherokee Nation”

10:45-10:55am Break (10 Minutes)

10:55am-12:10pm Session Two

Panel One: Music | Moderator: Paul Kerzeja | *Union 261*

10:55-11:20: **Arooj Hussain**, “Placing Tradition in a Bollywood Setting”

11:20-11:45: **Daniel Lugo**, “Process of Construction of The Sense and Meaning of The National Anthem of The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela”

11:45-12:10: **Harley Mercadal**, “Humanity’s War on Itself and Its Environment: An Eco-Critical Analysis of Contemporary Heavy Metal Music and Social Change”

Panel Two: Knowledge, Society, and Power | Moderator: Caitlin Cosper | *Union 263*

10:55-11:20: **Shannon Murphy**, “Confinement, Examination, and Manipulation: A Foucauldian Reading of Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*”

11:20-11:45: **Christian Mendoza**, “*The Hunger Games* and the Means of Correct Training: Surveillance and Power”

11:45-12:10: **Paul Hunter**, “Such sacrifices consist of the blood and sometimes of the flesh’: Animal Sacrifice, Ritualized Offering, and the Situation of Knowledge in Mathers’ *The Key of Solomon the King*”

Panel Three: International Connections | Moderator: Sara Eudy | Union 265

10:55-11:20: **Rob Porter**, “Between the Collective and Quotidian: The Social Aesthetics of Apichatpong Weerasethakul”

11:20-11:45: **David Potsabay**, “Wole Soyinka’s Mobius Strip of Modernity in *Idanre*”

11:45-12:10: **Alexander Ruhsenberger**, “The Use of Dialectics and Negation for Human Rights and World Literature: How to Say “No” in the Twenty-First Century”

12:10-12:55pm Complimentary Lunch Break | Union 200

1:00-1:55pm Keynote Address | Union 200

Dr. Emek Ergun, “Translation as a Tool of Navigating Differences and Building Feminist Solidarities Across Borders”

2:00-3:45pm Session Three

Panel One: Young Adult | Moderator: Cassandra Grosh | Union 261

2:00-2:25: **Jasmin Gonzalex Caban**, “Accepting the Posthuman Other in Marissa Meyer’s *Cinder*”

2:25-2:50: **Shanice Littlejohn**, “THUG LIFE and *The Hate U Give*: A Literary Analysis of Black Childhood”

2:50-3:15: **Sam Campbell**, “Someone Planted Kudzu in New York City’: A Creative Writing Reading”

Panel Two: Addressing World Politics | Moderator: Nicole Kaufman | *Union* 263

2:00-2:25: **Macy Dunklin**, “Give U.S. Your Feedback: E-Democracy’s Struggle for Transparency”

2:25-2:50: **Tessa Crosby**, “The Labor Myth: False Promises of Redemption in the Capitalocene”

2:50-3:15: **John Purfield**, “Digital Architecture of a Social News Network: Carnival vs. Curation”

Panel Three: Ecologies and Queer Utopias | Moderator: Shannon Murphy | *Union* 265

2:00-2:25: **Jonathan Albrite**, “Isn’t It Wonderful to Get What You Want and Pay No Price?": Andrew Sean Greer’s *Less* and the Assumption of Queer Utopia”

2:25-2:50: **Amy Haupt**, “Publics, Problems, and the Uncanny: Vibrant Ecologies in *The Hungry Tide*”

2:50-3:15: **Jacie Litz**, “I would do so again”: The Affects of Exotic Discovery in *The People in the Trees*”

3:25-3:45 Closing Remarks | Dr. Lara Vetter | *Union* 200

A full program with presentation summaries can be located on page six.

Join us at The Wine Vault for drinks after the conference!

9009 JM Keynes Drive, Suite 1

Charlotte, NC 28262

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Emek Ergun

Translation as a Tool of Navigating Differences and Building Feminist Solidarities Across Borders



Dr. Emek Ergun is an Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies and Global Studies at UNC Charlotte. Her interdisciplinary area of expertise is at the junction of transnational feminism, cultural globalization, and feminist translation studies. Her research focuses on the political role of translation in connecting feminist activists, texts, and movements across borders, particularly between the US and Turkey. She is currently working on her first book manuscript exploring the ways in which the debiologizing virginity knowledges of Hanne Blank's *Virgin: The Untouched History* (2007) traveled from the US to Turkey through her politically engaged translation (2008). Dr. Ergun co-edited *Feminist Translation Studies: Local and Transnational Perspectives* (Routledge, 2017; currently being translated into Korean) and recently became the co-editor of *Feminist Theory Reader: Local and Global Perspectives* (Routledge). She is also an activist feminist translator and her most recent translation is of Octavia E. Butler's classic novel, *Kindred*, which will be published in Turkey in 2019.

Her keynote address will be held in Student Union Room 200 at 1pm.

Presentation Descriptions (Alphabetical by Last Name)

Albrite, Jonathan. James Madison University. “Isn’t It Wonderful to Get What You Want and Pay No Price?: Andrew Sean Greer’s *Less* and the Assumption of Queer Utopia.”

Jose Esteban Munoz’s *Cruising Utopia* set clear parameters on the author’s vision of queer utopianism, defining it not as the acquisition of heteronormative ideals but the ability to find hope in the surplus queer potentiality of the quotidian past. This paper argues that Andrew Sean Greer’s 2018 Pulitzer-winning novel *Less* expands upon Munoz’s ideas by examining the non-utopian elements of our queer present, while also arguing that Greer satirizes the uneven expansion of queer rights by describing his white, male, globe-trotting protagonist as having the best life of anyone he knows.

Arthur, Katie. James Madison University. “Pandanu is the Place, is the People: Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner’s *Iep Jaltok* and Indigenous Anthropocene Identity.”

Anthropocene discourse has been almost exclusively western in its orientation, a narrowness which perpetuates a destructive tradition of ethnocentrism. Marshallese poet-activist Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner’s collection of poetry, *Iep Jaltok* (2017), brings an indigenous voice to the issue.

Bassett, Brooke. University of South Carolina. “The Legacy of Body and Blood in the Works of Tsitsi Dangarembga.”

In this presentation, I examine the issues of gender, femininity and violence in two of Tsitsi Dangarembga’s novels: *The Book of Not*, and *Nervous Conditions*.

Campbell, Sam. East Tennessee State University. “Someone Planted Kudzu in New York City’: A Creative Writing Reading.”

Sam Campbell will be reading her creative work, a short fiction piece titled, “Someone Planted Kudzu in New York City.” This story highlights the experiences of someone who moves from a small, southern town to New York City and finds that home is where you make it and that you can grow wherever you plant yourself.

Cosper, Caitlin. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. “Silence Under *The Bell Jar*: Domination or Rebellion?”

In Sylvia Plath’s *The Bell Jar*, the main character, Esther, feels the pressures of a 1950s patriarchal society to marry and fulfill her role as a woman. Esther’s survivor discourse is marginalized by a society that frequently ignores or silences the experiences of women, survivors of sexual assault, the “mad,” or, in Esther’s case, a combination of all three. In *The Bell Jar*, Esther’s account portrays silence as a frustrating and depressive issue, but also as a way to rebel against the confessional structures and the expert mediators hoping to conquer her survivor speech.

Crosby, Tessa. James Madison University. “The Labor Myth: False Promises of Redemption in the Capitalocene.”

This presentation explores the ways in which our entrance into this new geological “age of man” reframes the relationship between accumulative and productive work and the valuation (and devaluation) of lives and labor. Such “cheapening” is exemplified in J.M. Coetzee’s *Life and Times of Michael K* and Helon Habila’s *Oil on Water*, both of which depict the manner in which colonial alterations to landscape intercede with traditional means of production and the fulfillment of labor roles.

Dunklin, Macy. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. “Give U.S. Your Feedback: E-Democracy’s Struggle for Transparency.”

By analyzing the presentation of e-government personas through their various websites, researchers can better determine how e-government sites are using new digital affordances. Through a cross-linguistic analysis of the United States Department of State and Auswärtiges Amt’s Policy Issues Webpage, I investigate how two e-governments are navigating transparency and information sharing as a way to build viewer interest and citizen trust.

Gonzalez Caban, Jasmin. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. “Accepting the Posthuman Other in Marissa Meyer’s *Cinder*.”

Marissa Meyer’s series, *The Lunar Chronicles*, introduces readers to the possibilities of living in a posthuman world. This presentation will focus on the first novel of this series, *Cinder*, which is based on the popular Cinderella tale, illustrating how Meyer’s cyborg protagonist challenges readers to consider other forms of beings.

Grosh, Cassandra. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. “Negotiating Recovery: How Cutters Heal in *Cut* and *Blade Silver*.”

Patricia McCormick’s *Cut* and Melody Carlson’s *Blade Silver: Color Me Scarred* are both problem novels that explore why teenage girls self-harm—specially cutting—and ways in which these girls seek recovery. This presentation will explore the recovery methods of these novels and analyze why these methods are unrealistic depictions of self-harm recovery, pointing out flaws within each text.

Hassler, Abby. University of Tennessee at Knoxville. “Identity, Power Relations, and Safe Spaces: A Case Study of Nonprofit Adult ESL Learners.”

This presentation is part of a larger qualitative study of a Knoxville, Tennessee, nonprofit that serves adult ESL learners. Findings deal with how adult learners perceive and respond to power imbalances in the community through humor, mock language use, and vaulting safe spaces.

Haupt, Amy. James Madison University. “Publics, Problems, and the Uncanny: Vibrant Ecologies in *The Hungry Tide*.”

Evidence of the ecological uncanny permeates the plot of Amitav Ghosh’s novel, *The Hungry Tide*, which explores the vibrant, and often violent, dynamics of the ecologies of India’s Sundarbans. In this paper, I will explore the complex and problematic relationship between humans and Bengal

tigers through “moments of mutual recognition” that highlight the confrontation between antihumanist conservation and anthropocentric humanism.

Hunter, Paul. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. “Such sacrifices consist of the blood and sometimes of the flesh’: Animal Sacrifice, Ritualized Offering, and the Situation of Knowledge in Mathers’ *The Key of Solomon the King*.”

In this paper, I examine S. L. MacGregor Mathers’ 1889 translation of *The Key of Solomon the King*, a significant early modern European grimoire, through a theoretical lens that draws on Donna Haraway’s ecofeminist concept of situated knowledge and Jane Bennett’s posthumanist concept of distributive agency. Application of the framework to the grimoire’s sections concerning animal sacrifices and ritual offering highlights the interdependency of the various agents – corporeal and incorporeal, human and non-human – involved in the magical operations detailed in the grimoire and raises issues of the role of animal agency in early modern magical thought and practice.

Hussain, Arooj. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. “Placing Tradition in a Bollywood Setting.”

This paper analyzes the song “Bhar Do Jholi Meri” through linguistic features such as its language and lexical content, rhythm, and the songs overall purpose. The analysis will indicate that the song falls into more than one genre, Traditional and Bollywood. This leads to the assumption that the song is a hybrid genre of Traditional and Bollywood music due to its intertextuality, attention to pathos and audience, and language and metaphor usage.

Johnson, Brooke. East Tennessee State University. “(Re)Examining Motherhood: Lynn Powell’s Use of the Virgin Mary in the context of 21st Century Maternity.”

This presentation will attempt to examine the connections between Lynn Powell’s “mother poetry” and the figure of the Virgin Mary. In doing so, the presentation will also attempt to offer a clearer perception of maternity in the 21st Century.

Johnson, Julia. North Carolina A&T University. “African American English and Education: Da Prolem Wid It & Fixin’ Da Issues.”

Julia Johnson, first year MA student at North Carolina A&T State University, will discuss the historical, educational issues that have been met due to African American students speaking their dialect within educational settings. She will also discuss researched techniques that can be implemented by educators in order to avoid dialectal prejudice.

Littlejohn, Shanice. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. “THUG LIFE and *The Hate U Give*: A Literary Analysis of Black Childhood.”

The conversations surrounding blackness in literature are necessary as they’re pivotal in the deconstruction and reconstruction of black childhood. *The Hate U Give* effectively describes black childhood, but this paper will analyze how that happens and whether close reading analysis and critical thinking in addition to reading for pleasure is necessary to truly provide insight into the lives of black children.

Litz, Jacie. Old Dominion University. “I would do so again”: The Affects of Exotic Discovery in *The People in the Trees*.”

By studying *The People In The Trees* using Amitav Ghosh’s *The Great Derangement* and his theory of how climate change cannot be in “serious literature”, I hope to find out how the extinction of an indigenous turtle and the near elimination of an island are not the focus of the story. I hope to find out how the novel is read differently if the focus is on the trees and not the people. This matters because ignoring the environmental depredation is ultimately caused by labeling the island and its people exotic and placing them in the periphery.

Lugo, Daniel. Greensboro College. “Process of Construction of The Sense and Meaning of The National Anthem of The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.”

This presentation aims to show the results of an investigation whose goal was to analyze the process behind the creation of the meaning of a national anthem lyrics. The purpose was to study, from the participant's perspective, the elements converging in the way they perceive this text.

McCourt, Aidan. The University of North Carolina at Wilmington. “Holy Gender Performance Batman: An Analysis of the Transition of Robin from the Camp Style to Toxic Masculinity in *Titans*.”

I will analyze the change in the live action portrayals of Robin/Dick Grayson from the camp style featured in the 1960’s *Batman* television series to the hypermasculinity seen in the 2018 series *Titans*. I argue that his close relationship with Batman has caused some to question the nature of their relationship and prompted this shift in masculinity.

Mendoza, Christian. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. “*The Hunger Games* and the Means of Correct Training: Surveillance and Power.”

This essay defines Foucault’s three means of correct training (hierarchical observation, normative judgement, and the examination) and applies them to Collins’ *The Hunger Games*, while discussing and analyzing the implications of the modern relevancy of these means.

Mercadal, Harley. East Tennessee State University. “Humanity’s War on Itself and Its Environment: An Eco-Critical Analysis of Contemporary Heavy Metal Music and Social Change.”

This paper will examine the lyrics from four heavy metal bands to analyze the critiques on humanity’s abuse of the Earth and the call to environmental change from unconventional sources.

Murphy, Shannon. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. “Confinement, Examination, and Manipulation: A Foucauldian Reading of Margaret Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*.”

By using Michel Foucault's *Discipline and Punish*, this paper will examine the use of confinement and observation to create docile bodies in Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*. This paper will focus specifically on the Handmaid training camp and how Offred, Janine, and Moira react to confinement and constant observation.

Porter, Rob. James Madison University. “Between the Collective and Quotidian: The Social Aesthetics of Apichatpong Weerasethakul.”

An introduction and examination of key works by Thai filmmaker Apichatpong Weerasethakul. A preeminent Global filmmaker, Weerasethakul’s inimitable cinema explores memory and history as they are expressed and transmogrified by the tensions and contradictions of global development.

Potsubay, David. Florida State University. “Wole Soyinka’s Mobius Strip of Modernity in *Idanre*.”

My focus will be on the work of the poet the Nigerian modernist Wole Soyinka as an example for employing a separate modernism outside of Western standards of what is “modernity.” I would like to look further into how his writing accomplishes a transnational poetics using a critical concept that would be useful for this closer examination.

Purfield, John. University of South Carolina. “Digital Architecture of a Social News Network: Carnival vs. Curation.”

My argument is situated in ongoing conversations on the subject of curation and digital seamlessness started by such writers as Geert Lovink, Jeff Rice, and Lori Emerson. The issues addressed by these current academics, I believe, can be mitigated by understanding of and consideration towards the important of the carnival, grotesque spaces, and profanation. Digital architecture can be built in such a way that sacred and profane subject matter are concurrent, thereby precluding the formation of echo chambers and the vitriolic rhetoric which tends to fester therein.

Quiroz, Wilder; Greensboro College. Antequera, Irene; University of Malaga. “The Connecting Link: Culturally Responsive Social and Emotional Learning Practices to Facilitate ELLs’ Success in School.”

The fast-paced growth of the immigrant ELL population is currently a critical challenge in NC schools. Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) offers a set of culturally responsive principles and practices with the potential to help schools develop a more effective, equitable, and compassionate approach to facilitate ELLs’ academic success.

Ruhsenberger, Alexander. Florida State University. “The Use of Dialectics and Negation for Human Rights and World Literature: How to Say “No” in the Twenty-First Century.”

Global or world literature exposes a dialectics of negation, refuting nationalism and producing a humanism through the power of negation and the word “no”.

Shafik, Marina. James Madison University. “Civilized Slaveholding: Slavery, Race, and Modern Citizenship in the Cherokee Nation.”

This presentation looks at narratives from those formerly enslaved by the Cherokee, former slaveowners, and modern pieces by the descendants of Black Cherokee who discuss the process of gaining tribal citizenship. Narratives address genetic markers, geographic placement, and the Dawes

Roll census as ways in which citizenship has been decided in the past, while debates continue on the legitimacy of Afro-Cherokee history and citizenship in the present day.

Wallace, Willie. East Tennessee State University. "Subversion and Exploration of Gender Norms: The Atypical Relationships in Judith Hermann's *Summerhouse, Later.*"

In her 1998 collection of short stories, Judith Hermann often includes characters who subvert the typical gender roles ascribed to them, such as weak and emotional men, women who refuse to express their emotions, or women who want to control and destroy nature. These subverting characters are never portrayed as comedic or perverse, fitting in more with later works than those of the earlier twentieth century, and by breaking free of these societal impositions, they are more realistic. This is done by acknowledging the essentialized gender expectations and then rejecting them, often by partnering two characters together to highlight the role reversal, and it is these relationships that I will explore.

Yates, Sophie. The University of North Carolina at Charlotte. "Negotiating Intimacy and Cultural Identity in Nadine Gordimer's *The Pickup.*"

Using the frameworks of Orientalism, identity politics, and questions concerning subjectivity, I hope to examine the intimacy that exists between Julie and Ibrahim within the context of their national and personal conceptions of their separate identities, creating a study that examines the possibility of intimate and global acceptance within the context of a modern and globalized world.

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

We recognize that the land we are gathering on today is the occupied territory of the Catawba People and we pay our respects to elders both past and present. The Catawba People have lived on these lands for more than 6000 years and we acknowledge them as original stewards of this area. Please visit [the nation's website](#) for more information or to volunteer your time.

This conference was organized and hosted by the English Graduate Student Association (EGSA) at UNC Charlotte

EGSA is a graduate student led organization comprised of students within the English M.A. Program at UNC Charlotte. EGSA plays an important role in graduate student development by organizing activities with faculty, providing financial support for students attending conferences, and hosting our annual Graduate Student Conference every spring. In 2019, our conference entered its 19th year and grew substantially in its reach, inviting presenters from five states across the Southeast. Our theme for this year's conference, "Re-Imagining the Global in the 21st Century," was deeply informed by our interests as scholars and global citizens, and we're honored to provide a space for academic growth and the discussion of topics that approach global connections, literature, and politics.

Your EGSA Officers are: Sara Eudy (President), Anthony Tate (Vice President), Arooj Hussain (Secretary), Jordan Costanza (Treasurer), Caitlin Cospers (Public Relations), and Shannon Murphy (GPSG Senator). If you are a current or prospective UNC Charlotte English Graduate Student and have an interest in serving on your officer board next year please reach out to us at egsa@uncc.edu by **April 30th, 2019**.

Funding for this conference was provided in part by UNC Charlotte's Graduate and Professional Student Government and the Student Activity Fees Commission.

Notes:

Notes:

