

Provisional MELUS 2015 Conference Program

I. Thursday April 9 1:30p-3:00p

A. Signposts to Home: Diaspora and Disruption, Healing and Hope

Moderator: Cheli Reutter, University of Cincinnati

1. Marsha Jenkins, Northern Kentucky University
Finding their Way Home: Trauma in African American Novels of the 20th Century
2. Cheli Reutter, University of Cincinnati
"There are no signposts in water": Caryl Phillips' Crossing the River
3. Tareva Johnson, University of Georgia
Going Underground: Subterranean Travel in Kiese Laymon's Long Division

B. Passing from Slavery to Freedom by Early African-American Texts and Writers

Moderator: Barbara McCaskill, University of Georgia

1. Holly Fling, University of Georgia
Passing Racial Connections in Time and Space: A Chronotopic Approach to Johnson's Autobiography of an Ex-Coloured Man
2. Paula Rawlins, University of Georgia
Roles Reversed: Richard as "Tragic Mulatta" in Julia C. Collins's Curse of Caste
3. John Estaban, University of Georgia
Creating Allyship in African-American Literature

C. Words, Silence, Darkness and Religion: Marrant, Simic, and Morrison mère and fils

Moderator: Steve Pearson, University of North Georgia

1. Andrew M. Pisano, University of North Carolina-Greensboro
Passing Stillness in the Early Black Atlantic: A Journal of the Rev. John Marrant, Enraptured Silence, and Assertions of Human and Spiritual Agency in the Atlantic World
2. Lejla Marijam, University of Georgia
Charles Simic's Irreverence: Making Room for New Deities
3. Carolyn Medine, University of Georgia
Toni and Slade Morrison's Children's Books

II. Thursday April 9 3:15p-4:45p

A. Science Fiction's Different Histories

Moderator: Christopher Pizzino, University of Georgia

1. Matthew David Goodwin, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
A Brief History of Robots in Latino/a Science Fiction
2. Joni L. Johnson Williams, Kennesaw State
"Gambling with History": Time Travel in Octavia Butler's Kindred and the Legend of the Flying Africans
3. Jordan Stone, University of Georgia
Shall We Learn from the Parables?: Octavia Butler, Science Fiction, Apocalypse, and Difference

B. Nineteenth Century Slavery and Abolition

Moderator: TBD

1. Lori Leavell, University of Central Arkansas
Who has not observed the proceedings of the great meeting of free negroes?":The Print Presence of the Colored Conventions
2. Yoshiaki Furui, Emory University
Harriet Jacobs in the Garret: Solitude and Slavery in Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl
3. Kristin Allukian, Georgia Tech
The Ties That Unbind: The Emotional Politics of Partnership in Elizabeth Keckley's Behind the Scenes

C. Challenges of Black Womanhood

Moderator: TBD

1. Courtney Marshall, University of New Hampshire
Ain't I A Lady: Black Womanhood and The Racial Railroad
2. Michelle S. Hite, Spelman College
When Black Women Fall and White Women Go Missing: Bessie Coleman and Amelia Earhart in Children's Literature
3. Selena Larkin, University of South Carolina
Discovering a New World: Charting Helga Crane's Epiphany in Quicksand

D. Toni Morrison and the New Historical Novel

Moderator: TBD

1. Chantell Smith, University of Georgia
"My Telling Can't Hurt You": Historical Fiction and the Narrative Journey in A Mercy
2. Jessica Maucione, Gonzaga University
Reclaiming and Revaluating the South in Edward P. Jones's The Known World and Toni Morrison's Home
3. Sharon Jessee, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse
"Hard as Cypress": A Diasporic Waystation in A Mercy by Toni Morrison

E. Ethnic Theorists PANEL TO BE MOVED

Moderator: Elizabeth H. Swails, University of Georgia

1. Dave Fife, Brigham Young University
Signifyin' Black Power: Eldridge Cleaver, Soul on Ice, and Seizing Control of the Ship of State
2. Elizabeth H. Swails, University of Georgia
W.E.B. Du Bois's Voices of Awareness in "Of the Meaning of Progress"
3. Seth McKelvey, Southern Methodist University

“No Single Imagination”: Decentering Knowledge in Tropic of Orange

III. Thursday April 9 5:00p

The Classic Center: Plenary Address, Werner Sollors

IV. Friday April 10 8:30a-10:00a

A. Criminality, Violence, and the Law

Moderator: TBD

1. Lawrence J. Oliver, Texas A&M
The Contradiction and Riddle of “Ethical” Violence: W. E. B. Du Bois’s The Black Flame Trilogy and Richard Wright’s The Outsider
2. Youngsuk Chae, University of North Carolina-Pembroke
Violence of the Big System and a “Smelly Paradise” in Arundhati Roy’s The God of Small Things
3. Anna Ioanes, University of Virginia
Expatriate Allegories: Gay Shame, Racial Crossing, and State Violence in James Baldwin’s Giovanni’s Room

B. Pedagogy and Ethnic Literature

Moderator: Melissa Dennihy, Queensboro Community College, CUNY

1. Melissa Dennihy, Queensboro Community College, CUNY
Bad English, Good Literature: Teaching Alice Walker’s The Color Purple in the Urban Community College Classroom
2. Mayuri Deka, College of the Bahamas
Moving People: The Pedagogy of Empathy
3. Mollie Godfrey, James Madison University
Making African American History in the Classroom

C. Afro-Futurism

Moderator: TBD

1. Corrie Claiborne, Morehouse College
Gullah Culture and Afrofuturism: A Study of Innovation in American Literature
2. James Byrne, Wheaton College-Norton
Departing History: Afrofuturism and the Exegesis of Charles Chesnut's "The Goophered Grapevine"
3. Benjamin Lempert, Stanford University
The Present as Future Tense: ZONG!, Afrofuturism, and Black literary temporality

D. The Neo-Slave Narrative

Moderator: TBD

1. Meghan Burns, University of Connecticut
Title The Ark of Power: Animal Hierarchies as Reflections of Human Power Dynamics in Edward P. Jones' The Known World
2. Kimberly Mack, University of California-Los Angeles
Autobiographical Migrations: The Color Purple, Corregidora, and the Perilous Road to Self-Invention
3. Renee Denton, East Georgia State College
Travel by Conjure: Deciphering a Tangible Past through African Spirit Traditions in Kindred

E. Ecocriticism and Ethnicity

Moderator: TBD

1. Rachel Gilman, Brigham Young University
Burying to Uncover: Natasha Trethewey's Landscape of Identity in Native Guard
2. Daphne Grace, University-College of the Bahamas
Imperial landings: the cost of eco-adventure in Robert Antoni's As Flies to Whatless Boys
3. Brittney Wolfe Sifford, Northern Arizona University
Victim, Goddess, Woman: Violence and Ecofeminism in Woman Hollering Creek and So Far From God

F. Transatlantic Stories

Moderator: TBD

1. Kerstin Rudolph, University of Mississippi
Forging Transatlantic Connections, Shaping Diasporic Selves: Mary Church Terrell's German Diaries
2. Susan Jardine, Northern Illinois University
"We're All White Here": Anxiety of Whiteness and Irishness in F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby
3. Heidi Morse, University of Michigan
Transatlantic Neoclassicism: African Americans Visit Rome

G. The Blues and the Construction of Narratives

Moderator: TBD

1. Jean Little
Working through Blues: Trauma and Identity in Natasha Trethewey's Native Guard
2. Ryan Charlton, University of Mississippi
The Arrival of the American Blues: Nationalism and Racial Fantasy in the Autobiography of W. C. Handy
3. Noah Mass, Georgia Institute of Technology
In The Mouth of the Chickasabogue: Albert Murray's Train Whistle Guitar and the Post-Migration South

V. Friday April 10 10:15a-11:45a

A. Rhythm, Rhyme, and the Structure of Culture

Moderator: TBD

1. Alex Benson, Bard College
Back to Baffin Island: A Drum-Dance History of the Culture Concept

2. Cody Dye, University of Kansas
Jazz and the Great Migration: African-American Folk Tradition, Identity, and Community-Building in Harlem Renaissance Literature
3. Justin Atwell, North Dakota State University
Here's My Hypothesis: Intertextual Connections of Science and Hip-Hop

B. Visitations of Spirits: Religion and Ethnicity

Moderator: TBD

1. Katie Simon, Georgia College
Death-Defying Testimony: Harriet Wilson's Arrival in the Spiritualist Archive
2. Emily Lederman, University of Texas-Austin
Ashes, Altars, and Queer Saints: A Reading of the Archive in Felicia Luna Lemus's Like Son
3. Marilyn Kiss, Wagner College
Santería as Structure in Cristina García's Dreaming in Cuban

C. (Con)Quests of Gender

Moderator: Paula Rawlins, University of Georgia

1. Maria Rice Bellamy, College of Staten Island, CUNY
Cross-Dressing and the Quest for Freedom in James McBride's The Good Lord Bird
2. Erin Alvarez, Michigan State University
Las Doñas de la Tierra: Repossessing Gender in Tomás Rivera's "...and the Earth Did not Devour Him"
4. Vivianna Orsini, Grad. Student, UNLV
Charting Territory Without Mandate for Conquest: Imaginative Territories of Landscape and Women in Eva Luna and Song of Solomon

D. "The sound that broke the back of words": Sonic Studies of Toni Morrison's *Beloved*

Moderator: April Kilinski, Johnson University

1. Sarah Cash, University of Miami
Living Bones: Harmonic Resonance and Disruption in Toni Morrison's Beloved
2. Jonquil Bailey, University of Miami
Breaking the Back of Words: Sound and Subversion in Toni Morrison's Beloved
3. Allison Harris, University of Miami
"Know it, and go on out the yard": A Theory of Intersubjective Abjection in Toni Morrison's Beloved

E. Arriving at the Nexus: Robert Beck's *Mama Black Widow* and the Canon of African American Literature

Moderator: TBD

1. Justin Gifford, University of Nevada-Reno
Iceberg Slim and the Emergence of Black Queer Street Literature
2. Dave Seru, University of Minnesota
Sex, Work and Queer Critiques of Color in Robert Beck and Hal Bennett
3. Matthew Teutsch, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Confronting the South in Iceberg Slim's Mama Black Widow

F. Interrogating Immigration

Moderator: TBD

1. Rimun Murad, Louisiana State University
"Ungraspability" in Arab Immigrant Writing: The West as Fiction
2. David Gillota, University of Wisconsin-Platteville
Rethinking Ancestry: Immigration and Gentrification in Richard Price's Lush Life
3. Rick Taylor, Professor, East Carolina University
Accidental Immigrants: Studying Immigrant Narratives As Temporary Immigrants
4. Lupe Linares

Slapstick Immigration: Comedy at the Border in Luis Alberto Urrea's Into the Beautiful North

G. Theory and Ethnicity

Moderator: TBD

1. Amy Gore, University of New Mexico
The Frontier Asylum: Madness, Indians, and the Internment of Difference in Mark Twain's A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court
2. Zeinab McHeimech, Western University
Reading "Jabber" in Joel Chandler Harris's "The Story of Aaron"
3. SallyAnn Ferguson, University of North Carolina-Greensboro
Charles W. Chesnutt and Poststructuralism

VI. Friday April 10 1:30p-3:00p

A. Race-Mixing

Moderator: TBD

1. Su-ching Huang, East Carolina University
Ethnic Betrayal and Gender Negotiation in Sinophone American Literature: Interracial Desire in Taiwanese Immigrant Narratives by Yu Lihua
2. Kimberly Chabot Davis, Bridgewater State University
Seeking Monoracial Homelands: Mat Johnson's Pym as a Post-Soul Satire of Racial Utopias
3. Holly E. Martin, Appalachian State University
Why are the Children Dying?: Mixed-Race Children as Symbols of Social Intolerance in Chang-rae Lee's First Five Novel

B. Geographies of Identity

Moderator: TBD

1. Badia Ahad, Loyola University-Chicago CANCELLED ATTENDANCE
Feeling Diasporic: Geographies of Affect in Emily Raboteau's The Professor's Daughter and Searching for Zion

2. Nicole Stamant, Agnes Scott College
Arrivals, Geographies, and "The Usual Reply" in Emily Raboteau's Searching for Zion
3. Lara Cahill Booth, University of Miami
Nathalie Handal's Geographies of Exile

C. Law and (Dis)order

Moderator: TBD

1. Adryan Glasgow, Purdue University
Criminality and Charity Porn: Representing 419 Crimes as Resistance in Adichie and Okorafor
2. Agnieszka Tuszynska, CUNY--Queensborough
Who's Baad: Reading Race and Law in Willard Motley, in 2014
3. Raffaella N. Wilson, University of Georgia
The Right to Citizenship: Challenging Dred Scott in Marrow of Tradition and Paradise

D. Roundtable: Succeeding on the Academic Job Market: A Professionalization Workshop for Graduate Students

Moderator: Leah Milne, University of Indianapolis

1. Mary Jo Bona, Stony Brook University
2. Fred Gardaphé, Queens College
3. Cristina Stanciu, Virginia Commonwealth University

E. Native Interventions: The Politics of 21st Century Native Films Title

Moderator: Channette Romero, University of Georgia

1. Olena McLaughlin, Oklahoma State University
Lifting a Finger to Hollywood: Representational Sovereignty in Sterlin Harjo's Three Little Boys
2. Lisa Tatonetti, Kansas State University
Affect, Female Masculinity, and the Embodied Space Between: Two-Spirit Traces in Thirza Cuthand's Experimental Film

3. Channette Romero, University of Georgia
Sustainability and Sovereignty in Diné Women's Science Fiction Films

F. Photographic Revelations of Louisiana's Ethnic Past

1. Maria Hebert-Leiter, Lycoming College
2. Bryan Gienza, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

G. Figuring Otherness: Outsider Perspectives in African American Women's Writing and Art

Moderator: Barbara McCaskill, University of Georgia

1. Caroline Gebhard, Tuskegee University
Alice Dunbar-Nelson's "The Annals of Seventh Street": A Black Southerner Writes Urban New York
2. Eleanor Blount, Tuskegee University
Across Continents and Cultures: Migration, Identity, and Alice Walker's Characters
3. Barbara McCaskill, University of Georgia
Toni Cade Bambara Delivering Usable Truths to the People

VII. Friday April 10 3:15p-4:45p

A. Peculiarities of Subjectivity

Moderator: Irma Maini

1. Daniela Miranda, Washington State University
Re-Departing to Re-Arrive: New Ways to Conceptualize Diasporic Subjectivities
2. Jeremy R. Ricketts, Bethel University
"Forever a Part of All Mexico": Anthony Quinn and Latino Subjectivity in Film and Autobiography
3. Irma Maini
Representation of Muslim Identity in Ayad Akhtar's Disgraced
4. Maria S. Staton

International Students on American Campuses: the Middle Eastern Perspective

B. Memoir as Immigrant Narrative

Moderator: TBD

1. Adam Nemmers, Texas Christian University
Memoirs in the Form of Novels: The Hispanic-American Authorship of The Last Puritan and George Washington Gomez
2. April Conley Kilinski, Johnson University
Home and Identity: Edwidge Danticat's Brother, I'm Dying
3. Cristina Stanciu, Virginia Commonwealth University
M. E. Ravage's Arrivals and Departures: The Composite American in an Early Twentieth-Century Immigrant Memoir

C. Resistance, Exclusion, and Hybridity in Asian American Literature

Moderator: Wenxin Li, SUNY Suffolk Community College

1. Yan Lu, University of Toronto
Nowhere to Hide: The (Im)Possibility of Resistance in Kevin Chong's Baroque-a-nova
2. Yen Loh, University of Florida
Haunting Borders: Immigration and Exclusion in Lan Samantha Chang's Hunger
3. Michelle Brittan, University of Southern California
The Transpacific Pantoum: Metaphor, Postcolonial Hybridity, and a Poetic Form in Two Places

D. Conundrums of Place and Identity

Moderator: Christopher Bollini, University of Georgia

1. Sara Kosiba, Troy University
Contemporary Midwestern Immigration and Imagination
2. Renee M. Kingan, William and Mary University
"Move to Higher Ground": Jayne Cortez Talks about New Orleans

3. Treviene Harris, Pittsburgh University
Fragile Imaginary Belongings in Ana Mendendez's "In Cuba I Was A German Shepherd"
4. Christopher Bollini, University of Georgia
Resilience to One is Betrayal to Another: The Defiant and Subversive Moment of Return in Tar Baby

E. Transatlantic Ports of Identity: Mobility, Opportunity, and Anxiety

Moderator: Tracy Floreani, Oklahoma City University

1. Keely Byars-Nichols, University of Mount Olive
The Red and Black Atlantic: Transatlantic Anxiety in Poe's Arthur Gordon Pym and Johnson's Pym
2. Jessie LaFrance Dunbar, University of Alabama-Birmingham
Title Russian Role Models and Recombination: Refashioning the Life and Travels of Nancy Prince
3. Tracy Floreani, Oklahoma City University
White Robes and Wooden Stakes: Imperial Whiteness and the Vampiric Other in The Clansman and Dracula

F. Mexican Counter-Cartographies and the Speculative Borders of Southern Writing

Moderator: Keith Cartwright, University of North Florida

1. Sharada Balachandran Orihuela, University of Maryland
In Southern Time: Modernity, Piracy, and the Global South
2. Gina Caison, Georgia State University
South to a Speculative Place: Red Earth and Red States in Janet McAdams' Red Weather
3. Dolores Flores-Silva, Roanoke College
"Canta y no llores" in the Flavor of Caramelo by Sandra Cisneros
4. Keith Cartwright, University of North Florida
"Further South": Borders of Knowledge & Vision in Jay Wright's and Natasha Trethewey's Mexican Gulfs

G. Blurred Lines & Borders

Moderator: TBD

1. Hilary Pacheco, California State University-Fresno
Two Sides of the Same Border: Discovering Xicana Identity in Poetry
2. Phoebe Jackson, William Paterson University
Think Global, Act Local: Deconstructing Borders in Héctor Tobar's The Barbarian Nurseries
3. Zahraa Habeeb, Grad. Student, Missouri State University
The Illusion of Leaving: Omnipresent War and the Blurred Lines between Life and Death in Sinan Antoon's The Corpse Washer
4. Christopher Rieger, , Southeast Missouri State University
Between Two Worlds: Native American Birdman Mythology and Karen Russell's Swamplandia!

VIII. Friday April 10 5:00p

UGA Chapel: Plenary Address, Cristina Garcia

IX. Friday April 10 6:15p - 8:00p

Jackson Street Building: Oxford University Press Reception

X. Saturday April 11 8:30a-10:00a

A. Out of Africa

Moderator: TBD

1. Maia Butler, University of Louisiana-Lafayette
Imagining Countries, Re-memorying Homes: Displacement and Unhomeliness in NoViolet Bulawayo's We Need New Names

2. Joanna Davis-McElligatt, University of Louisiana-Lafayette
"We are Afropolitans": The Problematics of Race, Class, and National Identity in Taiye Selasi's Ghana Must Go and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Americanah
3. Muna Al-Badaai, United Arab Emirates University
An Islamic Perspective on African American Muslim Slave Narratives: Omar Ibn Said's Autobiography as an Example

B. Memory and Mobility

Moderator: TBD

1. Raul Rubio, John Jay College, CUNY
Leaving & Going Back: Cuban-American Narratives on Memory and Mobility
2. Nissa Parmar, Independent Scholar
From Christopher Columbus to Car Wrecks: Sherman Alexie's Challenge to the American Myth of Mobility
3. Brandy E. Underwood, University of California-Los Angeles
Free Falling: Shifting Mobility and Class Anxieties in Colson Whitehead's The Intuitionist

C. Middle Passages: Transitions and Liminality in Multi-Ethnic U.S. Literature

Moderators: Margaret T. McGehee, Oxford College of Emory University;
Eric Gary Anderson, George Mason University

1. Gretchen Martin, University of Virginia's College at Wise
The Slave Narrative as an Inversion of the Middle Passage
2. Natalie Aikens, The University of Mississippi
Seeking a Middle Ground: Queering and Blending towards a New Order in Mama Day
3. Emily Taylor, Presbyterian College
Writing Between: Hawaiian Creole English as Literary Language
4. Margaret T. McGehee, Oxford College of Emory University

Becoming Known: Liminality and The Search for American Identity in Cristina Henríquez's The Book of Unknown Americans

D. Voice, Identity, and Resistance in Multi-Ethnic Women Writers

Moderator: Lingyan Yang, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

1. Lingyan Yang, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Title Asian American Feminist Postmodernism in Jessica Hagedorn's Dogeaters
2. Kaitlin Tonti, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Adolescent Rebellion and the Mother in Tsitsi Dangarembga's Nervous Conditions
3. Meghan Hurley, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
A Voice of Her Own: Mother-Daughter Resistance, Identity, and Empowerment in Jessica Hagedorn's Dogeaters

E. Rethinking Latinos/as in Visual Narratives and Media

Moderator: Christopher González, Texas A&M University-Commerce

1. Samuel Saldivar III, Michigan State University
Alien-Nation: Chicano/Latino Enstrangement in Science Fictional Film and Television
2. Mauricio Espinoza, Ohio State University
Finding New Life in Death: Performing Latino/a Cultural Survival and Empowerment in Day of the Dead-Themed Films
3. Christopher González, Texas A&M University-Commerce
Storytelling Media as Key to Complex Racial Superhero Creations: Blue Beetle Jaime Reyes as Supertype

F. The Edwidge Danticat Society Panel

Moderator: Megan Feifer, Louisiana State University

1. TBD
2. TBD
3. TBD

G. 19th Century—The Immigrant’s Story

Moderator: TBD

1. Lucas Wilson, Vanderbilt University
The Land of the Free and the “Home” of the Suffocating Enclave: Domestic Space and the Jewish-American Struggle in Anzia Yezierska’s “Children of Loneliness”
2. Scott Pett, Rice University
“If you touch me”: The Evolution of Liberty as a Medium for Dialogue from Emma Lazarus to Tato Laviera
3. Marie-Reine Pugh, Brigham Young University
One Nation: Imagined Unity and American Identity in Eula Biss’ Notes From No Man’s Land

XI. Saturday April 11 10:15a-11:45a

A. Panel Title

Moderator: New Angles on Ralph Ellison

1. Keith Byerman, Indiana State
“I Did Not Learn Their Names”: Female Characters in the Short Fiction of Ralph Ellison
2. Sterling L. Bland, Rutgers University-Newark
Migrating toward Invisibility in Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man
3. Jarret Rose, SUNY-Binghamton
Entering the Ranks: Melville, Ellison, and the American Canon

B. The Role of Genre in Latino/a Literature

Moderator: TBD

1. Carol N. Moe, Inter-American University of Puerto Rico
Ana Castillo, Teatro Campesino, and the traditions of Latino Satire
2. Kimberly O’Neill, Quinnipiac University
Mobile Diasporas: A Theory of the Latina/o Family Saga

3. J. Ryan Marks, Penn State University
Spending Time in “Stupider Realities”: Temporality, Postracial Aesthetics, and Genre in The Rag Doll Plagues and Atomik Aztex

C. Empowering the Folk

Moderator: TBD

1. Martyn Bone, University of Copenhagen
Extending Hurston’s Extended Caribbean: from Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937) to “The Migrant Worker in Florida” (unpublished, 1958)
2. Anna Lillios, University of Central Florida
Zora Neale Hurston’s Great Migration
3. Seretha D. Williams, Georgia Regents University
Margaret Walker Reads Margaret Walker and Langston Hughes: Renaissances and the Radicalism of the Folk

D. Trauma, History, and the Cosmic

Moderator: TBD

1. Marta Werbanowska, University of Warsaw-Poland
The Cosmic Cycles of Death and Birth in Tracy K. Smith’s Life on Mars
2. Heather Hathaway, Marquette University
Literary Reimaginings of Japanese American Internment: The What and Speculations Upon the Why
3. Trenton Hickman, Brigham Young University
Palimpsests of Nostalgia and Trauma: Reading the Images of Natasha Trethewey’s Thrall

E. Roundtable: Writing Across the Color Line: Ethics, Problems and Productive Possibilities

Moderator: Brittany Miller, Las Positas College

1. Tim Bruno, University of Maryland
2. Brittany Miller, Las Positas College

3. Kyle Rood, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
4. James West, University of Manchester
5. Dagmar Van Engen, University of Southern California
6. Pia Deas, The Lincoln University

F. Black and Immigrant: Movement, Contact, and Difference

Moderator: Stephanie Li, Indiana University-Bloomington

1. Aretha Phiri, Rhodes College, South Africa
Expanding Black Subject(ivity)s in Toni Morrison's Song of Solomon and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's Americanah
2. Stephanie Li, Indiana University-Bloomington
Blackness in the Stories of Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
3. Roxane V. Pickens, University of Miami CANCELLED ATTENDANCE
Title Darkly Playing: Parties and Playful Departures in Festive Harlem Renaissance Texts

G. Panel Apocalypse and Homelessness: African American Migrations in Contemporary Fiction, Poetry, and Film

Moderator: TBD

1. Linda Krumholz, Denison University
Genesis and Revelations: Florens' Journey in Toni Morrison's A Mercy
2. Allison Cummings, Southern New Hampshire University
Teaching Patricia Smith's Blood Dazzler: History, Empathy, Climate
3. Diana Mafe, Denison University
To Weather the Storm: Apocalyptic Displacement in Beasts of the Southern Wild

XII. Saturday April 11 12:00p-2:00p

Classic Center Atrium: MELUS Luncheon, Reading by Natasha Trethewey and MELUS Awards Ceremony

XIII. Saturday April 11 2:15p-3:45p

A. Edward Said's Legacy

Moderator: TBD

1. Laila Amine, University of North Texas
The New Face of Orientalism: A Harem in Texas in Alicia Erian's Towelhead
2. Martina Koegeler-Abdi, University of Copenhagen
Arabian Antipodes: Self-representation at the Crossroads of U.S. Orientalism and Empire in the Memoir of Rosemary Hakim, Miss Lebanon American 1954
3. Anita Rosenblithe, Raritan Valley Community College
"Unreadable Silence": The World and Worldliness in Edward Said's Out of Place

B. The Language of Departure

Moderator: TBD

1. Lauren Silber, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Choosing to Leave: Narrative Form and Narrated Feelings in Loida Maritza Pérez Geographies of Home
2. Allison Fagan, James Madison University
Walking South and Off The Page: Narrative and Material Departures in Salvador Plascencia's The People of Paper
3. Stephen Knadler, Spelman College
Arriving at the Undercommons: Latinidad and the Afterlife of Blackness in Hector Tobar's The Tattooed Soldier

C. Ethnic Sexualities

Moderator: Patrick S. Lawrence, University of Connecticut

1. Kaylee Jangula Mootz, North Dakota State University
"That isn't why you did this to me": Sex and Sovereignty in LeAnne Howe's Shell Shaker
2. Patrick S. Lawrence, University of Connecticut
A Politic Born out of Necessity': Disability, Racism, and Sexuality in Cherríe Moraga's Heroes and Saints
3. Justin Holliday, Clemson University CANCELLED ATTENDANCE
Abject and Merciless: Queer Reclamation in Toni Morrison's A Mercy

D. First Contact Narratives

Moderator: TBD

1. Begoña Simal González, Universidade da Coruña
Entering "Nature's Nation": An Analysis of First Contact Narratives in Asian American Literature
2. Melissa Birkhofer, Western Carolina University
English Arrivals and Spanish Departures: How Language (Non)Use Matters
3. Stephanie Callan, Spring Hill College
The Perils and Promise of First Contact in Mary Doria Russell's The Sparrow

E. Native American Spatial Imagination

Moderator: TBD

1. Carol Zitzer-Comfort, California State U--Long Beach
Still Seeking Sovereign Spaces: Literary Analyses of Native Women using Words as Tools of Survivance against 500+ years of Assaults
2. Michael Tavel Clarke, Assoc. U of Calgary
Momaday's The Way to Rainy Mountain and Modernist Anthropology
3. Kelly McCormick, Western Illinois University
The Two-World Divide in Tracks and The Grass Dancer

F. Homebound: Home as a Metaphor for Liminality in Texts by 20th Century Multi-ethnic Authors

Moderator: Leah Milne, University of Indianapolis

1. Scott Thomas Gibson, Wake Forest University
Domestic Disturbances: Relocating Mulatta Fiction in Pauline Hopkins's "Talma Gordon"
2. Erin Wedehase, Catawba College
Gender and Ethnicity within the Microregion of Hester Street in Anzia Yezierska's Bread Givers
3. Leah Milne, University of Indianapolis
Vindictively American': Reimagining Ethnic Identity in Toni Morrison's Home

G. Roundtable: "Sittin' on the Dock of the Bay: Autobiography, Geography, and the African-American Athlete"

Moderators: Michael Antonucci and Garin Cycholl

1. Ed Pavlic, University of Georgia
Richard Sherman and the Black (Male) Athlete
2. Valerie Babb, University of Georgia
LeBron James
3. Michael Hill, University of Iowa
Relationship between Hip-Hop and Baseball

XIV. Saturday April 11 4:00p-5:30p

A. Images of Eating in Ethnic Literature

Moderator: TBD

1. Marie Drews, Georgia Regents University
"The astrologer who floats cross-legged above my kitchen stove": Food Spaces and Contested Fate in Bharati Mukherjee's Jasmine
2. Colleen Eils, University of Texas-Austin
Formal Departure: Evading Textual Captivity in Monique Truong's The Book of Salt

3. Lesley Larkin, Northern Michigan University
I Want to Suck Your DNA: Genetic Vampirism in Octavia Butler's Fledgling

B. Comics, Graphic Narrative, and Multi-Ethnic US Politics

Moderator: Jorge Santos, College of Holy Cross

1. Martha J. Cutter, University of Connecticut
Between Words and Pictures: Telling the Graphic Story of US Slavery in Abolitionist Political Cartoons
2. Jorge J. Santos, College of the Holy Cross
"To Look – Really Look." Photo-Graphic narratives in Lila Quintero Weaver's Darkroom
3. James Buss, Salisbury University; Marc DiPaolo, Oklahoma City University
Deconstructing Turok: The Kiowa Dinosaur Hunter in Comics and Film (1954 - 2014)

C. Transgression, Rebellion, and Manhood

Moderator: TBD

1. Lamar Garnes, Florida A&M
From Migrants' Son to Hustler in Claude Brown's Manchild in the Promised Land
2. Joe Kraus, University of Scranton
Escaping the Frame-Up: Theorizing the Jewish Gangster as a Sign of Self-Erasure
3. Leah Pennywark, Purdue University
Hard-Boiled Harlem: The Arrival of the Black Detective in Cold War Era Detective Fiction

D. Encroaching Histories

Moderator: TBD

1. Marcus Degnan, University of Florida
The Past We Try to Rewrite

2. Jenny Heijun Wills, University of Winnipeg.
Paradoxical essentialism in black abolitionists' and Asian adoptees' memoirs
3. Dongho Cha, University of Illinois-Chicago
Wishing for a Home: Race, Class, and Global Capitalism in Theresa Hak Kyung Cha's Dictée and Se-Hŭi Cho's A Little Ball Launched by a Dwarf

E. Double Duty: Critics and Their “Creative” Writing

Moderator: Fred Gardaphe

1. Mary Jo Bona, Stony Brook University
2. Fred Gardaphe, Queens College/CUNY
3. Wenying Xu, Jacksonville University

F. Memory and Relocation in Ethnic Women's Writing

Moderator: Tanya Long Bennett, University of North Georgia-Dahlonega

1. Kyoungnye Kwon, University of North Georgia-Dahlonega
Remembering Home in Nora Oka Keller's Novel Comfort Woman
2. Donna A. Gessell, University of North Georgia-Dahlonega
Between Languages: Judith Ortiz Cofer's Exploration of Becoming a Poet
3. Tanya Long Bennett, University of North Georgia-Dahlonega
Boundary-Play: A Study of Louise Erdrich's The Plague of Doves

G. Arriving in the Twentieth Century: Public Participation and Literary Resistance

Moderator: Hellen S. Lee, California State University-Sacramento

1. Hellen S. Lee, California State University-Sacramento
Private Musings of Public Appearances in Alice Dunbar-Nelson's Diaries
2. Jake Mattox, Indiana University-South Bend

With Simon Pokagon at the World's Fair

3. Carrie Khou, University of Mannheim
Claiming the Public Stage: Kishida Toshiko's "Daughters in Boxes" (1883) and Emma Goldman's "The New Woman" (1898)
4. Shelley McGinnis, Clayton State University
W.E.B. Du Bois and the Atlanta Press, 1897-1910

XV. Saturday April 11 5:45p

Classic Center: MELUS Membership Meeting

XVI. Sunday April 12 9:00a-10:30a

A. Crossing the Color-Line

Moderator: TBD

1. Letitia Guran, North Carolina A&T
Crossing the Color Line/Piercing the Iron Curtain: African American Patterns of Self-Fashioning
2. Christopher Allen Varlack, University of Maryland
Writing Across the Color Line: Carl Van Vechten's Nigger Heaven and the Insatiable Hunger for Literature of Black American Life
3. Benjamin Forkner, Louisiana State University
Gaines's Bloodline: Escaping the Old South

B. "We Made It": Marginal Identity, Mobile Sociality

Moderators: Francisco Robles, Princeton University;
Brittney Edmonds, Princeton University

1. Francisco Robles, Princeton University
Traveling Borderlands and Travesía Hermeneutics in Sandra Cisneros's Caramelo
2. Brittney Edmonds, Princeton University

When An Unstoppable Force (Class) Meets An Immovable Object (Race): Gentrification, Neoliberalism, and Mat Johnson's Hunting for Harlem

3. Anusha Alles, Yale University
Island Time: Borders of Postcolonial Fugitivity in Margaret Cezair-Thompson's The True History of Paradise
4. Julia Michiko Hori, Princeton University
Games and Hunts and Scraps: Triangulating Food, Flesh, and Kinship in Justin Torres' We The Animals

C. In Between Water and Land: Southern Swamps as Multi-Ethnic Spaces

Moderator: Kirstin L. Squint, High Point University

1. Taylor Hagood, Florida Atlantic University
Swampmonsters, Terror(ism), and Cartoon Capability in "Bayou" and "Archer"
2. Kirstin L. Squint, High Point University
Mapping Women's Power in Representations of Southern Swamps
3. Anthony Wilson, LaGrange College
Oil Culture, Ecoculture, Cajun Culture: Tim Gautreaux and the Problems of Authenticity
4. Eric Gary Anderson, George Mason University
Raising the Indigenous Undead

D. Negotiating Space, Place, and Identity in Immigrant Narratives of Asian American Women

Moderator: Terry Easton, University of North Georgia

1. Lori Askeland, Wittenberg University
Most-Favored Immigrants or Child Migrants?: Adoptees, Foster Children and Diaspora in Aimme Phan's We Should Never Meet
2. J.J. Butts, Simpson College
Morning Glory and Marion Ascough: Immigrant Women Negotiating Bohemian America in Novels by Yone Noguchi and Winnifred Eaton
3. Anastasia (Stacy) Lin, University of North Georgia

The Geographic Density of Frances Chung's Crazy Melon and Chinese Apple

XVII. Sunday April 12 10:45a-12:15p

A. Cartographic Visions

Moderator: TBD

1. Andrea Modarres, University of Washington-Tacoma
Cartographic Identities: Diaspora and Identity in A Map of Home
2. E. Gale Greenlee, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
"Mon Petit Monde": Constructing a Little Black Boy as Global Citizen in Popo and Fifina
3. Long Le-Khac, Stanford University
Narrating the Transnational in Junot Díaz's *Drown*: Transnarrative Form Remapping American Immigration

B. Departure and Displacement in the Ethnic Short Story

Moderator: TBD

1. Jill Parrott, Eastern Kentucky University
Cultural Displacement and Dramatism in Lahiri's "Interpreter of Maladies"
2. Karen Yaworski, University of Toronto
Losing Her, Losing Him: Reinventing 'You' in Junot Díaz's This is How You Lose Her
3. Akash Belsare, Penn State University
From Collection to Cycle: Representational Patterns of Cultural Departure in Jhumpa Lahiri's Unaccustomed Earth

C. Forgiveness and Reconciliation: Harjo and Ozeki

Moderator: TBD

1. Rachel Luckenbill, Duquesne University
Loving the Enemy in Joy Harjo's Poetry

2. Zhi Huang, Soochow University
Uji, Trauma and Ruth Ozeki's A Tale for the Time Being
3. Christopher Kocela, Georgia State University
Self, No-Self, and Interdependence: Ruth Ozeki's A Tale for the Time Being as Experimental Buddhist Life Writing

XVIII. Sunday April 12 12:30p

Classic Center: MELUS Executive Committee/Conference
Committees Meeting