

24th Annual MELUS Conference

- April 8-11, 2010

Ethnic Transformation in the Self and the City

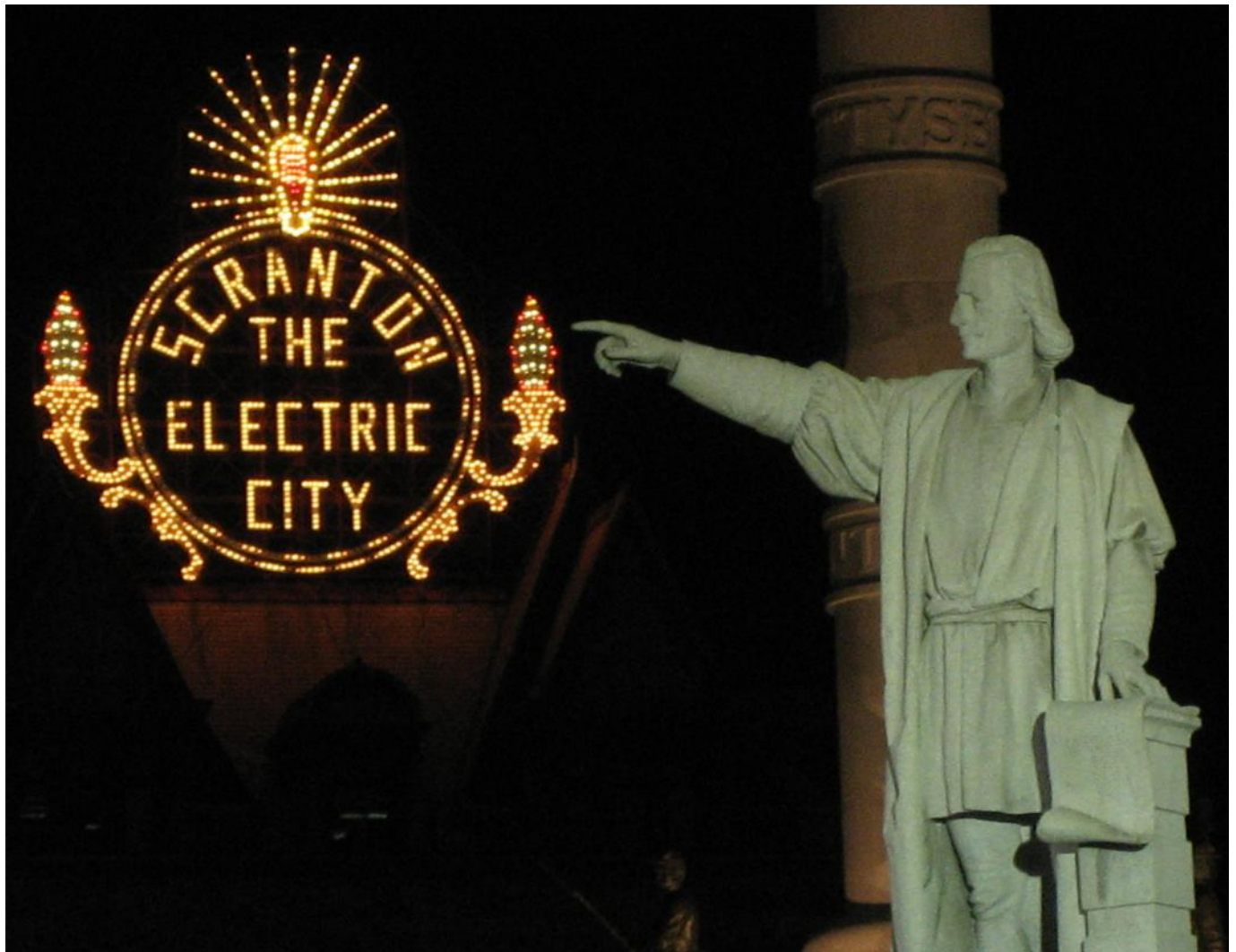


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- 2006-07
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- 2000-03
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- 1997-2000
John Lowe
- 1994-97
Amritjit Singh
- 1992-94
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- 1986-88
James R. Payne
- 1984-86
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- 1982-84
John M. Reilly
- 1980-82
Richard Tuerk
- 1978-80
John C. Miller
- 1976-78
Edward Ifkovic and
Robert DiPietro
- 1975-76
Kenny J. Williams and
Daniel Walden
- 1974-75
Katharine Newman and
Kenny J. Williams

Welcome to MELUS and to the University of Scranton.

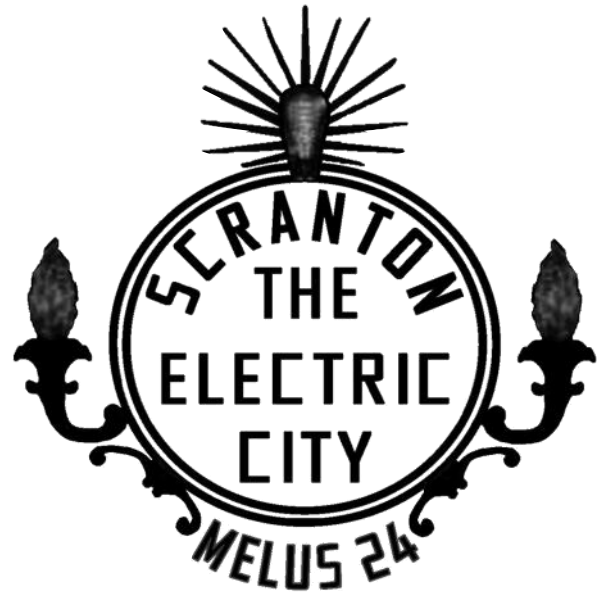
Whether you're joining us from somewhere else in Pennsylvania, from some place across the country, or from overseas, we hope you'll enjoy the conference and our community.

In our call for papers, we asked you to consider the interdependent ways in which communities shape immigrants and immigrants shape communities. We have, as you can see from this program, almost 200 papers and presentations exploring that question and celebrating current scholarship in multi-ethnic literature. We are proud of our roster of plenary speakers – Jay Parini, Marilyn Chin, Sonia Sanchez, and Dara Horn – but you, the members of MELUS, are the star attractions.

We hope that you find more than enough to keep you busy while you're here. We promise stimulating panel sessions, a variety of plenary speakers, a substantial book exhibit, and lots of opportunity to talk informally with colleagues and friends. Along with all of that, we invite you to explore Scranton for some of the ways that our architecture, demographics, and culture reflect the American ethnic experience. We are a small city, but we have often been the focus of national attention. From our days at the epicenter of the late 19th century labor movement to our serving as a working class symbol in the 2008 Presidential elections, we have represented something to the rest of the country, and you can catch a glimpse of that as you walk around the neighborhoods that border our campus.

Whether you are with us for a single day or for the full conference, we hope that you enjoy yourself and take away good feelings for our university and community and good ideas for your scholarship and classroom. Thanks for joining us.

Joe Kraus & Susan Méndez
Co-Chairs, Host Committee
MELUS 24, 2010



ETHNIC TRANSFORMATION
IN THE SELF AND THE CITY
APRIL 8-11, 2010
THE UNIVERSITY OF
SCRANTON
A JESUIT UNIVERSITY



DAY 1:

Thursday, April 8, 2010

Session I

REGISTRATION:

DeNaples Center, 4th Flr

Coffee, water & refreshments available

SESSION LOCATIONS:

4th Flr The DeNaples Center (TDC)

2-3:20pm – Session I – Day I

IA Performing Race

Ballroom A

Tracy Floreani, Baker University-Chair

- 1) “Black Boy Blending’: Blackness, Passing, and Performance in Brian Keith Jackson’s *The Queen of Harlem*,” Shamika Ann Mitchell, Temple University
- 2) “Understating and Overacting: Race, Performance, and the City in James Baldwin and John Barth,” David Ben-Merre, Buffalo State College

I would love to fix what’s going on over there [in Afghanistan]. I really would. But there’s one problem: Afghanistan is a mess. It can’t be fixed. Trust me. I’ve been there. It’s just a corrupt, barren, backwater hell hole of a place. I mean, it’s worse than Scranton.

— Jason Sudeikis
as Joe Biden on *Saturday Night Live*,

IB Humor, Identity, and Change in the Metropolis

Ballroom C

Patricia Gross, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) “On Beauty and Being Levi: Invented Identities and Real Politics in Zadie Smith’s Third Novel,” Nicole Calandra, University of Massachusetts
- 2) “When Anger Becomes Humor: Transformation in Yang’s *American Born Chinese* and Kingston’s *Tripmaster Monkey*,” Hongmei Sun, University of Massachusetts
- 3) “Impotency, Laughter and Renewal in Louis Chu’s *Eat a Bowl of Tea*,” Bunkong Tuon, Union College

IC Cities of God I: Religion as Exclusionary Tool

TDC 406

J. Stephen Pearson, University of Tennessee-Chair

- 1) “Race, Religion, and National Belonging in John Marrant’s ‘Narrative’ and ‘Sermon on June 24, 1789,’” Scott Gibson, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- 2) “Native American Short Fiction and the City of God: Respect is a Two-Way Street,” Carrie Sheffield, University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- 3) “God is in the Details: The Conflation of Pace and Religion in Mary Antin’s *The Promised Land*,” Jorge Santos, University of Connecticut
- 4) “Every Creator is a Trickster: Kwame Dawes,” Nancy D. Tolson, Mitchell College

DAY I:

Thursday, April 8, 2010

Session 2

ID Locale, Race and Ethnicity**TDC 405**

- 1) "The Feminine Space of the City and the Narrator's Transformation in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*," Dana Edwards Prodoehl, Marquette University
- 2) "The American City and the Denial of Success: The Need for the Ancestor within the Village," Diane Todd Bucci, Robert Morris University
- 3) "The 'Americanization' Transformation Process in the Anthracite Coal fields," Jane Waitkus, Penn State Hazleton

3:30-4:50 pm –

Session 2 – Day I

2A Diaspora, Memory, and Poetry**TDC 405**

Patricia Gross, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "The Color of Disaster: Hurricane Katrina Literature," Susan Jacobowitz, Queensborough College, CUNY
- 2) "'The Guerilla Tongue': The Politics of Resistance in Puerto Rican Poetry," Natasha Azank, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

2B Chicago and New York in Multi-Ethnic Literature**Ballroom A**

Jamie Trnka, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "Visiting the Other Spaces, Walking in the Other's Shoes: Ethnicity and Urban Geographies in Nelson Algren's *Never Come Morning* and Willard Motley's *Knock on Any Door*," Agnieszka Tuszynska, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2) "A Deadly Planet: New York City in Iva Pekarkova's *Gimme the Money*," Irina V. Rodimtseva, West Virginia University

The Lackawanna Station looked like something out of ancient Greece or Rome, with marble pillars and many steps. The lobby was full of plants, a green marble floor and walls making an echo chamber out of everything. The high, painted ceiling brought to mind a cathedral or museum.

— Jay Parini, *The Patch Boys*, 127

2C Cities in African-American Poetry**Ballroom C**

- 1) "The City of Jazz and Blues: Reading Langston Hughes' 'Railroad Avenue'," Dokubo Goodhead, Spelman College
- 2) "The Black Arts Poet in the Modern Polis," Sarah Rude, Penn State University
- 3) "Kneel on a Sidewalk Singing: Cities Broken But Beloved in the Poems of Marilyn Nelson and Patricia Smith," William Woolfitt, Penn State University

2D New York City in the 19th Century

TDC 406

Ana Rojas, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "How to be Bohemian: American Bohemianism in Henry Clapp's *New-York Saturday Press*," Brian Crowe, Lehigh University
- 2) "Hogan's Alley, the Other Half, and James Sullivan's *Tenement Tales of New York*: Reframing the Immigrant Slums of the 1890s," Bridie Chapman, Temple University
- 3) "Whiteness on Exhibition: Museum Display and Racial Identity in Charles Wilson Peale's Philadelphia and P.T. Barnum's New York," Courtney L. Novosat, West Virginia University

2E Changing Images of Pennsylvania's Immigrants

Moskovitz Theater

Ellen Casey, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "The Presence of Welsh Immigrants in Life and Literature," Robin L. Cadwallader, St. Francis University, Pennsylvania
- 2) "Images of Transformation: Religious Murals in the Life of the Immigrant," Aaron J. Rován, Independent Scholar
- 3) "From Village to City: The Experience of Slovak and Rusyn Immigrants in America," Susan Kalcik, Pennsylvania Highlands Community College

I think you'll have fun because men from Scranton are handsome and know how to show a woman a good time.

— Michael Scott, *The Office*, Season 5, episode 1

5:15-7pm -

Welcome Reception

Brennan Hall 5th Floor

Open bar, snacks & music by the band

Sixpenny Money with

Sinead Farrelly

Molly Malone

John Kennedy

Leo Schott, Jr.

Liz Kennedy

Jenny Whittaker

Stephen Whittaker



Welcome:

**Provost of the
University of Scranton,
Dr. Harold Baillie**

Dinner on your own

Restaurant list in conference packet

DAY 2:

Friday, April 9, 2010

Session 3

Sessions A-D:**The DeNaples Center (TDC), 4th Flr****Sessions E-F:****Brennan Hall, 5th Flr (PNC & Casey Rms)**

8-10 am –

Continental Breakfast

TDC 4th Flr & Brennan Hall 5th Flr

ETHNIC AMERICAN LITERATURE: POSTCOLONIAL READINGS AND INTERVENTIONS

These first-ever USACLALS roundtables at MELUS will introduce MELUS members to USACLALS, even as they explore the many questions centered in the expanding dialogue between Ethnic American Studies and Postcolonial Studies: How does the postcolonial morph into the U.S. ethnic with writers who move from Africa, Asia or the Caribbean to the U.S.? How are issues of empire and mimicry mirrored in our readings of race and exclusion in ethnic American and African American texts? How do the underlying motifs of empowerment and opportunity in narratives of migration within, say, Africa or South Asia, resonate with the similar search for citizenship and justice in the narratives of internal migration within the U.S.? Panelists will discuss these and related questions with reference to a wide range of writers, as indicated below.

USACLALS is the U.S. chapter of ACLALS (Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies), which was established in 1964 in Leeds, UK, and currently has ten chapters around the globe (<http://www.aclals.ulg.ac.be/>). The U.S. Chapter (<http://www.usaclals.org/>) was founded in December 1999 by Amritjit Singh (then at Rhode Island College) and Terri Hasseler (Bryant University) “to study postcolonial literatures ... in relationship to the varied and vital cultural contexts of the Americas, [and to] make a significant contribution to ... the energetic dialogue on diversity in relation to an awareness of difference both within and without the U.S. borders.”

To experience one of the USACLALS panels, please consider sessions 4F, 5F, or 6F of Day 2.

8:30-9:50am – Session 3 – Day 2**3A Recreating Community and Canon in Multi-Ethnic Literature****TDC 405**

- 1) “The American Dream in Maxine Hong Kingston’s *China Men*: Baba in Eastern and Western United States,” Yanjun Zhang, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- 2) “The Politicized Space of Transnational Fiction,” Stephanie Turner Reich, University of Illinois at Chicago
- 3) “Created Community: Nora Okja Keller’s *Comfort Woman* and the Construction of Korean-American Feminist Identity,” Maria Rice Bellamy, College of Staten Island, CUNY

3B Inventing the Immigrant: Memory, Belonging, and Urban Space

TDC 406

Ileana Szymanski, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "Brown Buffaloes, Glass Houses: The Carceral Archipelago in Oscar Zeta Acosta's *The Revolt of the Cockroach People*," Mike Velez, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- 2) "The (Bio)State of Immigration: Performances of National Security in Luis Urrea's *The Devil's Highway*," Kristy Ulibarri, University of Illinois, Chicago
- 3) "Figurations of Mexican (American) Place-Identity in Daniel Venegas' *The Adventures of Don Chipote*," Vincent Perez, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

3C Edward P. Jones and the City

Ballroom A

Christopher Gonzalez, The Ohio State University-Chair

- 1) "Lost in Thought, Lost in the City: Use of Free Indirect Discourse in 'Lost in the City,'" Hye Su Park, The Ohio State University
- 2) "Losing Lydia: The Real City of Jones," Cameron MacKenzie, Temple University
- 3) "Trapped in the City: Upward Mobility and Migration in Edward P. Jones' City," Christopher Gonzalez, The Ohio State University"
- 4) Urban Landscapes in Edward P. Jones's *Lost in the City* and *All Aunt Hagar's Children*," Lorraine M. Henry, Howard University

3D Uplift and Imprisonment in African-American Literature

Ballroom C

Tiel Lundy, University of Colorado-Chair

- 1) "Figures of Flight and Entrapment in Edwidge Danticat's *Krik? Krak!*," Wilson C. Chen, Benedictine University
- 2) "Delegitimizing Uplift in Colson Whitehead's *The Intuitionist*," Michael New, Penn State University
- 3) "Ralph Ellison and American Cultural Pluralism," Matthew Calihman, Missouri State University

3E Educating on Multi-Ethnic Issues

PNC Room

Laurie Grobman, Penn State Berks-Chair

- 1) "Teaching America in *The Kite Runner*," Filiz Turhan-Swenson, SUNY Suffolk
- 2) "Reading Responsibility in Ana Castillo's *The Mixquiahuala Letters*," Lesley Larkin, Northern Michigan University
- 3) "Representations of Education Across the Canon of Jewish American Literature," Dan Shiffman, Shippensburg University

Yes, I am super cool. I am an accountant at a failing paper supply company. In Scranton.

● Much like, uh, Sir Ian McKellen.

— Oscar Martinez, *The Office*, Season 3, episode 1

DAY 2:

Friday, April 9, 2010

Session 4

10-11:20am – Session 4 – Day 2

4A Dream & Community in African-American Literature**Ballroom A**

Patricia Gross, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) “Dream Confused, Urbanity Infused: Attainment and Loss in *Dance the Water* and *Brown Girl, Brownstones*,” Caryl Loney-McFarlane, Independent Scholar
- 2) “Zora Neale Hurston: Artist Outside Community,” Kristina Persenaire, Grand Valley State University
- 3) “Casting Off White Plains in Paule Marshall’s *Praisesong for the Widow*,” Eva Tettenborn, Penn State, Worthington-Scranton

Scranton always excited me, set low in a valley with green mountains surrounding it steeply. Penn Avenue was beautiful with its wide storefronts, the National Bank Building rising high, maybe a dozen stories, with the tree-lined courthouse square looking so fresh and clean.

— Jay Parini, *The Patch Boys*, 127

4B Poets and Cities**Ballroom C**

Rui Niu, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) “Qué Tan Latino Eres, Carlos?: Aesthetics, Identity, and William Carlos Williams,” Peter Ramos, Buffalo State College
- 2) “Who’s Afraid of John Yau?: Engaging Formally Experimental Works in the Twenty-First Century,” Anastasia Wright Turner, The University of Georgia
- 3) “Poets of Protest: How Federico Garcia Lorca and Langston Hughes Addressed Issues of Ethnicity in Madrid and Harlem,” Sarah Wyman and Michelle Woods, State University of New York at New Paltz

4C Space, Quest, and Humor in Asian-American Diaspora**TDC 405**

Wenxin Li, Suffolk Community College-Chair

- 1) “‘Drifting Across the Globe’: Diaspora and the City in Jhumpa Lahiri’s *Unaccustomed Earth*,” Huining Ouyang, Edgewood College
- 2) “Queer Question: Why My Quest to the City Always Ends Up Outside the City?,” Yuemin He, Northern Virginia Community College
- 3) “Home-The Hybrid Third Space Where Our Stories Are Told,” Chingyen Y. Mayer, Siena College
- 4) “‘A Tale of Two Cities’: Humor and Ethnic Identity in *The Barbarians Are Coming*,” Wenxin Li, Suffolk Community College

4D Puerto Ricans in Urban and Rural Spaces

TDC 406

Georgina Dodge, The Ohio State University-Chair

- 1) "Machismo and Feminism in Emeraldalga Santiago's *America's Dream*," Alison Van Nyhuis, Fayetteville State University
- 2) "Urban Migration and Its Impact on Ethnic Identity in Piri Thomas's *Down These Mean Streets* and Nicholasa Mohr's *Nilda*," Kellie D. Weiss, Howard University
- 3) "Re-Placing Maria: Changing the Landscape of the Puerto Rican Diaspora in the Work of Judith Ortiz-Cofer," Joanna Marshall, University of Puerto Rico, Cayey

4E Imaginary Cities

PNC Room

Peter Froehlich, Penn State Hazleton-Chair

- 1) "[M]y Splendid mirage': New York City in the Imagination of F. Scott Fitzgerald," Maggie Gordon Froehlich, Penn State Hazleton
- 2) "A Stranger Among Neighbors: Social Protest and the Politics of Speaking Out in Anzia Yezierska's *All I Could Never Be*," Elizabeth Wright, Penn State Hazleton
- 3) "'Their Own Glorious Nationality': Jewish Identity in the Utopias of Mordecai Noah, Theodor Herzl, and Michael Chabon," Justin Nordstrom, Penn State Hazleton

Cities are an immense laboratory of trial and error, failure and success, in city building and city design. This is the laboratory in which city planning should have been learning and forming and testing its theories. Instead the practitioners and teachers of this discipline (if such it can be called) have ignored the study of success and failure in real life, have been incurious about the reasons for unexpected success, and are guided by principles derived from the behavior and appearances of towns, suburbs, tuberculosis sanitarium, fairs, and imaginary dream cities – from anything but cities themselves.

— Jane Jacobs (Scranton native),
The Death and Life of Great American Cities 6

4F USACLALS

Casey Room

Roundtable One: Introducing USACLALS to MELUS Members

Chair: P.S. Chauhan, Arcadia University

- Amritjit Singh, Ohio University
- Robin Field, King's College
- K.D. Verma, University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown
- Vijay Lakshmi, Community College of Philadelphia
- P. S. Chauhan, Arcadia University

DAY 2:

Friday, April 9, 2010

Session 5

11:30-12:50pm – Session 5 – Day 2

Philosophy and the City—Tour**Limit of 15 Participants**

Join our colleague from the Philosophy department, Sharon Meagher, as she leads a walking tour of the Hill section, a neighborhood bordering campus that has seen a wide variety of different communities come and go. It boasts some of the city's most elegant homes as well as some of its most impoverished, and it is home both to a substantial faculty population and an Orthodox Jewish community. Sharon has developed the tour as part of a larger class in which she explores philosophy and the city. Meet at the conference registration area.

5A Locale, Race, and Markets**TDC 406**

- 1) "Reading Black Literature and Local Black History in Reading, Pennsylvania," Laurie Grobman, Penn State University
- 2) "Cultural Haunting and Racial Melancholia in Gish Jen's *The Love Wife*," Su-ching Huang, East Carolina University
- 3) "Capitalized Ethnic Differences and Marketed Multiculturalism in Fae Myenne Ng's *Bone*," Youngsuk Chae, University of North Carolina at Pembroke
- 4) "The Shame of Belonging/of Departing: Common Life and a Common Good in *All I asking for is my body*," Judith Hicks, University of California, Santa Barbara

5B Roundtable: State of the Multi-Ethnic Union: Transnationalism**TDC 405**

Mary Jo Bona, Stony Brook University-Chair

Roundtable Participants:

Josephine Gattuso Hendin, New York University
 Sterling Bland, Rutgers University
 Yemisi Jimoh, University of Massachusetts-Amherst
 Maya Socolovsky, University of North Carolina-Charlotte
 Irma Maini, New Jersey City University
 Amritjit Singh, Ohio University

5C Constructions of Whiteness in Multi-Ethnic Texts**Ballroom C**

Patricia Gross, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "Yellowface Heathens and Whitewashed History: The Consolidation of Whiteness in *Old San Francisco* (1927)," Amanda M. Page, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- 2) "Adam Mansbach's 'Lit-Hop' and the White Descendants of African-American Culture," Kimberly Chabot Davis, Bridgewater State College
- 3) "White Supremacy Under Fire: The Unrewarded Perspective in Edward P. Jones's *The Known World*," David Ikard, Florida State University

5D Ethnic/Gendered Self and the City

Ballroom A

Vicky Madden, Byrant & Stratton College-Chair

- 1) "Theory as Narrative: Cantu's *Canicula*," Kathryn Quinn-Sanchez, Georgian Court University
- 2) "Hecho en Mexico: (Re) production, Motherhood, and Environmental Justice in Karen Tei Yamashita's *Tropic of Orange*," Erin K. Johns, West Virginia University
- 3) "Perils and Promises of Immigrant Cities," Wu Shaojing, Purdue University

5E Harlem and the African-American Subject

PNC Room

- 1) "Too Black for Harlem: Coming of Race in New York City in Wallace Thurman's *The Blacker the Berry*," Jose de la Garza Valenzuela, Miami University
- 2) "The City and the Self: Harlem Metonymies and the Mapping of Musical Performativities as Creative Acts of Cultural Reinscription," Jean-Philippe Marcoux, Université Laval, Canada
- 3) "'this / a Harlem done / took / a beating': Urban Pathology in Sapphire's *Push*," Carina Evans, Southwestern University

5F USACLALS

Casey Room

Roundtable Two: Asian, Asian American and Arab American Literatures

Chair: C. Lok Chua, California State University, Fresno

Amy Friedman, Temple University (Salman Rushdie, Bharati Mukherjee)
Jaime Cleland, Ohio University (Kao Kalia Yang, Jade Snow Wong)
Samina Najmi, California State University, Fresno (Naomi Shihab Nye)
C. Lok Chua, California State University, Fresno (Chang-rae Lee, Shirley Lim)
Nyla Ali Khan, University of Nebraska-Kearney (Sara Suleri Goodyear)

12:50-1:50pm - Lunch on your own

Restaurant list in conference packet

It was just after dark when the truck started down
The hill that leads into Scranton, Pennsylvania.
Carrying thirty thousand pounds of bananas.

— Harry Chapin, "Thirty Thousand Pounds of Bananas"

2-3:20pm – Session 6 – Day 2**Scranton's Ethnic Churches—Tour****Limit of 15 Participants**

Our colleague from History, Josephine Dunn, will take you inside two area churches, our Catholic Cathedral and St. Luke's Episcopal Church, where she will discuss their art and architecture in an ethnic context. We have arranged for van transportation. Meet in front of the parking circle at The DeNaples Center.

6A Narratives of Former Slaves**TDC 405**

Len Gougeon, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "Family Ties: The Claiming of Positive Liberties in the Fictional Works of Those Who Had Escaped From the Horrors of Slavery," Gretchen Michlitsch, Winona State University
- 2) "Moses Roper, British and American Abolition, and the Transnational Circuit of Political Exchange between Europe and the U.S." Martha J. Cutter, University of Connecticut
- 3) "Reading between the Lines: The Black Cultural Tradition of Masking in Harriet Jacobs's *Incidents of the Life of a Slave Girl*," Novian Whitsitt, Luther College

I come from Scranton, Pennsylvania, and that's as hardscrabble a place as you're going to find. I'll show you around some time and you'll see. It's a hell hole, an absolute jerk-water of a town. You couldn't stand to spend a weekend there. It's such an awful, awful, sad place, filled with sad, desperate people with no ambition. Nobody, and I mean nobody – but me – has ever come out of that place. It's a genetic cesspool. So don't be telling me that I'm part of the Washington elite because I come from the absolute worst place on earth: Scranton, Pennsylvania.

— Jason Sudeikis as Joe Biden on *Saturday Night Live*,
Oct. 4, 2008

6B Irish Subjects in American Cities**TDC 406**

Stephen Whittaker, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "'Fading, but still there': Race, Urban Space, and Politics in Joyce Carol Oates' *What I Lived For*," Sinéad Moynihan, University of Nottingham
- 2) "Derek Mahon's 'The Hudson Letter'," Sam Robertson, Suffolk County Community College

6C Junot Diaz's *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao***Ballroom C**

Linda Ledford-Miller, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "Fukú americanus': Diaspora, the Fukú Curse, and the Uncanny in *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*," Patrick Manning, Eastern Michigan University
- 2) "The Legacy of Dark Matters: Diasporic Bodies, Curses, and History on *Páginas en Blanco*," Pamela J. Rader, Georgian Court University
- 3) "Towards a Negative Aesthetics: The Fukú, Reading, and the Future in *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz," Richard Perez, John Jay College, CUNY

Most of them lived short lives, but managed nevertheless to carve out a great measure of joy in Lackawanna: Fourth of July clambakes at Willow Woods; summer weekends at cottages on Lake Lenape twenty minutes away in the Poconos; Huckleberry picking around the Lackawanna Reservoir (*Huckleberrisa! Huckleberrisa!* The Spanish Huckleberry woman called temptingly, sensually as she strolled up and down Lackawanna's hilly cobblestone, brick, and macadam streets, an enormous straw basket of berries balanced atop her head); lovers' strolls at Mulberry Park along the snow-lined trail through the zoo, the creaky carnival rides, and past one of Lackawanna's many abandoned coal cars parked just outside the gated mine entrance; "parking" on the bluff overlooking downtown, dotted with other streetlights; swimming in the frigid water in the abandoned limestone quarry just above the rusty skeletons of abandoned cars and far below the steel bridge from which the Erie-Lackawanna trains roared every hour, making the black water tremble...

— Andrew Furman
(long-time MELUS member and son of two University of Scranton graduates),
Alligators May Be Present, 130

6D Cities of God II: Holding to the Faith

Ballroom A

Carrie Sheffield, University of Tennessee-Chair

- 1) "Black Religious Discourse as Revolutionary Rhetoric in Martin Delany's *Blake*," Sueanna Smith, California State University, Stanislaus
- 2) "Religion and the Skillet: Reassignment of Religious Communities and Women's Tools of Creation in Hurston's 'Sweat'," Jessica Reeves, University of Louisiana, Lafayette
- 3) "Korean Christian Women in the Stories of Ty Pak," J. Stephen Pearson, University of Tennessee, Knoxville

6E Multiracialism and Feminism

PNC Room

Michael Friedman, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "Multi-Racial/Ethnic Identity and the City: Rebecca Walker's *Black, White, and Jewish*," Regine Rosenthal, Dartmouth College
- 2) "Three Degrees of Immigration: Declassifying Feminism in a Contemporary Hybrid America," Vicky Madden, Byrant & Stratton College-Parma
- 3) "The Santa Fe of Mary Austin and Nina Otero-Warren," Danielle Borgia, University of California, Santa Barbara

6F USACLALS

Casey Room

Roundtable Three: Caribbean, African American and Latino American Literatures

Chair: Robin Field, King's College

Karen Ruth Kornweibel, East Tennessee State University (Lourdes Casal, Julia de Burgos)

Beatriz Rivera-Barnes, Penn State University-Scranton (Fernando Ortiz and Jean Price Mars)

Amritjit Singh, Ohio University (Richard Wright, William Attaway)

P.S. Chauhan, Arcadia University (Claude McKay)

DAY 2:

Friday, April 9, 2010

Session 7

3:30-4:50pm – Session 7 – Day 2**7A Uses of Humor in Ethnic American Writing****TDC 405**

Derek Parker Royal, Texas A&M University-Commerce-Chair

- 1) "A Comedy of Peace: Remasculinization through Communal Joking in Kingston's *Tripmaster Monkey*," Caroline Kyungah Hong, Queens College, CUNY
- 2) "From Sceccu to Chooch: The Signifying Donkey in Italian and Italian-American Cultures," Fred Gardaphe, Queens College, CUNY
- 3) "The Lighter Side of the 'Sinister Collectivity': Humor and the Urban Landscapes in Philip Roth's Fiction," Derek Parker Royal, Texas A&M University-Commerce

7B Works of Toni Morrison**TDC 406**

Colin Dewey, Cornell University-Chair

- 1) "Memory Tracks and Sidewalk Cracks: Reading the Urban Unhomely in Toni Morrison's *Jazz*," Petra Eckhard, University of Graz, Austria
- 2) "From *Bluest Eye* to *A Mercy*: Toni Morrison on Color, Race, and Love," Bonnie TuSmith, Northeastern University
- 3) "Family History in Toni Morrison's *A Mercy*," Stephen Whittaker, University of Scranton, PA

7C Naming / Charting the City in African-American Literature**Ballroom C**

Meghan Rich, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "Charting Here and Now: Historiographic Strategies in *The Philadelphia Negro*," Kelley Wagers, Penn State, Worthington-Scranton
- 2) "Real Estate, Police Presence, and the Ethnic Community: The Neighborhood as Trauma Center," June Dwyer, Manhattan College
- 3) "Urban Story-Worlds: City-Naming Narratives in Hip-Hop Culture," James Braxton Peterson, Bucknell University

7D Cities in Post 9/11 Literature**Ballroom A**

Jody DeRitter, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "From Amman to Tucson with Terror: Anagrams, Shards, Memories, Stories, and Cross-Cultural Translations in Laila Halaby's *Once in a Promised Land*," Mazen Naous, The College of Wooster
- 2) "Defying the Military Sublime: Art Spiegelman's New York City," Samina Najmi, California State University, Fresno

New York is like Scranton on acid. No, on speed. Nah. On steroids.

— Michael Scott, *The Office*, Season 2, episode 16

7E Alternative Ethnicities in the City

PNC Room

Marzia Caporale, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "Urban Space and Franco-American Identity in Jack Kerouac's *The Town and the City*,"
Cynthia C. Lees, University of Delaware
- 2) "Urban Villagers in the United States: The Multiple Social Texture of the Little Italies,"
Stefano Luconi, University of Padua, Italy
- 3) "O.E. Rølvaag's City Immigrant: A Preparation for the South Dakota Prairie," Oyvind T.
Gulliksen, Telemark University College, Norway

7F WOCC Roundtable: "What's Ethnic and Why?"

Casey Room

Georgina Dodge, The Ohio State University-Chair

Roundtable Participants:

- Georgina Dodge, The Ohio State University, "Is Black Ethnic?: Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity"
- Susan Wood, Midland Lutheran College, "Christianity and the Stockade: Ethnicity in Mary Derwent"
- Wenyong Xu, Florida Atlantic University, "Embodied Ethnicity: A Lacanian Approach to Desire"

7G USACLALS Executive Committee Meeting

TDC 404

7H Beatriz Rivera-Barnes & MELUS authors reading

Moskovitz Theater

5:15-6:30pm -

**Dinner Tickets
Brennan Hall, 5th Flr**

You should come on down this weekend man. Yeah.
We'll hang out Scranton style.

— Ryan Howard, *The Office*, Season 5, episode 21

6:45-7:45pm -

**Reading by Jay Parini
Moskovitz Theater, TDC, 4th Flr**



Introduction:

**Fr. Scott Pilarz, S. J., President
University of Scranton**



8pm -

**Poetry Reading
Marilyn Chin and Sonia Sanchez
Marywood University***



*Free SmartRide Van. Pick-up at the corner of Linden & Monroe, in front of St. Thomas Hall.

DAY 3:

Saturday, April 10, 2010

Session 8

Half an hour from Scranton, I saw the first coal breaker rear its head from the distance. The mining country started up, with little towns clustered around shafts, the familiar patches with their shabby triplexes and company stores. It was broken country, the sides of mountains torn out, the woods leveled and patchwork buildings stumbling down the hills. Not like New York City, where everything seemed fixed and sure of itself. But I breathed easier here.

— Jay Parini, *The Patch Boys*, 15

Sessions A-D:
Sessions E-G:

The DeNaples Center, 4th Flr
Brennan: 203, 205& 105

8-10 am –

Continental Breakfast:
TDC, 4th Flr & Brennan Hall 2nd Flr

8:30-9:50am – Session 8 – Day 3

8A Sex, Religion, and Television in African-American Literature

Ballroom A

- 1) “Jerena Lee’s ‘Religious Experience’ and Darwinian Psychological Conquest,” SallyAnn H. Ferguson, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- 2) “Race and Sexuality in the works of James Baldwin,” Kathryn Sussman, University of Edinburgh, Scotland
- 3) “James Baldwin and the Institutions of New York Television,” Adam Kaiserman, University of California, Irvine

8B Urban/Ethnic Encounters of Walt Whitman

TDC 405

Colin Dewey, Cornell University-Chair

- 1) “‘Condensed Babel’: Whitman’s ‘Letters from a Travelling Bachelor’ and Urban Identity,” Kevin Cooney, Temple University
- 2) “My tongue remembers your wounded flavor: Sex, Eating, and the (Public) Self in Li-Young Lee and Walt Whitman,” Shannon Brennan, University of California, Santa Barbara
- 3) “A Downward Southern Spiral: The ‘Creole Episode’ in Walt Whitman’s *Franklin Evans*,” Amina Gautier, Saint Joseph’s University

8C Bharati Mukherjee's Works

Ballroom C

- 1) "From Being to Non-Being: Claims to Shifting Identity Components in Bharati Mukherjee's *The Holder of the World*," Mayuri Deka, The College of the Bahamas
- 2) "'Greedy with Wants and Reckless With Hope:' Bharati Mukherjee's *Jasmine* and the Racial Politics of Immigrant Self-Transformation in New York City and the American West," Jonathan Little, Alverno College
- 3) "Errant Subjectivities in Bharati Mukherjee's Fictions," Ubaraj Katawal, Binghamton University

8D Visions & Versions of Los Angeles

TDC 406

- 1) "Strange Rumbblings in Aztlan: Regional Abjection and Resignification in Oscar Zeta Acosta's *The Revolt of the Cockroach People*," Heather Alumbaugh, College of Mount Saint Vincent
- 2) "'We are the Viet Cong of America': Articulating the East in Oscar Zeta Acosta's East LA," Grace I. Yeh, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
- 3) "Ethics and Ethnic History: Mosley and Pynchon's L.A. Detective Fiction," Sean Patrick Moiles, Penn State University

8E Woman's Perspective in African-American Texts

Brennan 203

Tracy Floreani, Baker University-Chair

- 1) "Purple and Blue: Two Examples of Twenty-First Century Broadway Embracing the African-American Woman Writer," Sharron Greaves, Nyack College
- 2) "Phyllis Wheatley: Sun in the City," Will Harris, United Arab Emirates University
- 3) "Prison Cells, Street Cuffs: Metaphorical Women's Imprisonments in Ericka Huggins' '[I Wake in Middle-of-Night-Terror]'," Amy Leigh Washburn, Union County College

8F Works of Anzia Yezierska

Brennan 205

- 1) "Reflections on Anzia Yezierska's *Bread Givers*," Patianne Stabile, Pace University
- 2) "Feeling like a Person: Affect and Ethnicity in Anzia Yezierska's *Hungry Hearts*," Gila Ashtor, Tufts University
- 3) "Sounds of the City and Women's Voices: Early Twentieth-Century Writers and Their Acoustic Environments," Karen Li Miller, University of Connecticut

I've tried every store in Scranton and nobody sells whole pigs.

— Phyllis Lapin, *The Office*, Season 3, Episode 11

10-11:20am – Session 9 – Day 3**The Office Tour****Limit of 60 Participants**

Three of our current and recent students, Colin Holmes, Theresa O'Connor, and Andrea Scahill, will serve as your guides to the city as it's reflected in the NBC television show, *The Office*. This bus tour will take you throughout the city with the opportunity to get out and explore (and perhaps your photo taken in front of) some of the city's more storied places. Meet in front of the parking circle at The DeNaples Center.

Scranton had become steadily greedier as the money to be made dwindled, but somehow never greedy enough. Now, as it had for so many other towns, the hour of the city's desperation had struck. It was going into space to become a migrant worker among the stars.

—James Blish, (Hugo Award-winning science fiction author)
A Life for the Stars, 1962

9A Diasporic Filipinos and Urban Spaces**TDC 406**

- 1) "Manila's Many Voices: Polyphonic Narrative in Jessica Hagedorn's *Dogeaters*," Katherine Harclerode, West Virginia University
- 2) "The Myth of Cosmopolitanism: The Ethnic American and the Immigrant of New York City in Jessica Hagedorn's *The Gangster of Love*," Tiffany Salter, The Ohio State University
- 3) "Asian American Urban Literary Naturalism," Lingyan Yang, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

9B The City Makes Poetry: Diaspora, Reinvention and Citizenship in Caribbean and Chicana Literature**TDC 405**

Discussant/Respondent: Professor Mary Pat Brady, Cornell University

- 1) "Neighborhoods, Masculinity, and Politics in the Fiction of Helena Maria Viramontes: Toward a Decolonial Feminist Reading," Wanda Alarcón, University of California, Berkeley
- 2) "Unearthing the Hungry Woman: An Exposition of Citizenship's Rhetoric of Rationality and Reason," Sara Ramírez, University of California, Berkeley
- 3) "Love Song to Harlem: Harlem and Home in the Work of Willie Perdomo," Liana Silva, University of California, Berkeley
- 4) "The Dew Breaker in the City: Refashioning Haitian Identities in Edwidge Danticatt's *The Dew Breaker*," Gail Upchurch, Binghamton University

9C Disruptive Spaces & Narratives in African-American Literature Ballroom A

- 1) "Locating the Borderlands in A.J. Verdelle's *The Good Negress*," Denise Karachuk Feikema, University of Connecticut
- 2) "Barbara Chase-Riboud's *Hottentot Venus*: Challenging Historic Discourses of Subjugation through Contemporary Fiction," Riki Meier, Arizona State University

9D Environmental Justice and Urban Issues Ballroom C

Elizabeth Ammons, Tufts University-Chair

- 1) "Urban Violence and Japanese-American Resistance in Karen Tei Yamashita's *Tropic of Orange*," Chiyo Crawford, Tufts University
- 2) "Getting Back to an Imagined Nature: The Mannhatta Project and Environmental Justice," Jeffrey Myers, Manhattan College
- 3) "A Yard of One's Own: Urban Black Mothers and Environmental Justice in Gwendolyn Brooks and Lorraine Hansberry," Sidra Smith Wahaltere, University of Denver
- 4) "Teaching Activist Poets: Martin Espada, Adrienne Rich, Simon Ortiz," Elizabeth Ammons, Tufts University

9E Representations of Class in Contemporary Ethnic Literature Brennan 203

Michele Fazio, University of North Carolina, Pembroke-Chair

- 1) "Factory Work and Corporate Culture in Louise Erdrich's *Love Medicine* and *The Bingo Palace*," Michele Fazio, University of North Carolina at Pembroke
- 2) "Class War Dance: Exploring Class in Sherman Alexie's *War Dances*," Joan Clingan, Prescott College
- 3) "Ethical Media-Poetics and Empathetic Consciousness in June Jordan's 'From Sea to Shining Sea,'" Jeannetta Calhoun Mish, Visiting Poet-Scholar, *World Literature Today*

9F Cosmopolitanism and Crisis: American Cities and the Vicissitudes of Loss in Immigrant Fiction Brennan 205

- 1) "Settling in the City of Hope: Los Angeles, Hybridity and Cosmopolitanism in *Moonlight on the Avenue of the Faith*," Samaa Abdurraqib, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2) "Desire and Disappointment in DC: Post-Immigration Melancholy in Dinaw Mengestu's *The Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears*," Lauren Vedal, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 3) "Cosmopolitanism in Dionne Brand's *What We All Long For*," Sherry Johnson, University of Wisconsin-Madison

DAY 3:

Saturday, April 10, 2010

Session 10

11:30am-12:50pm – Session 10 – Day 3

10A Roundtable: Subverting/Perverting Boundaries-Place, Space, Time, Genre, Narrative, Poetics-in Marilyn Chin's *Revenge of the Mooncake Vixen* TDC 405

Pamela J. Rader, Georgian Court University-Chair

Roundtable Participants:

Marilyn Chin

Catherine Cucinella, lecturer and interim director of General Education Writing at California State University, San Marcos

Reshmi Dutt-Ballerstadt, Associate Professor, Linfield College in Oregon

Barbara Seidman, Professor, Linfield College in Oregon

10B Tricksters, Saints, and Violence in Native American Literature TDC 406

Linda Ledford-Miller, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "Sainthood on the Reservation: Erdrich's Sister Leopolda and Father Damien," Jennifer McClinton-Temple, King's College
- 2) "Fight or Flight?: From Violence to Tolerance in Sherman Alexie's *Flight*," Jennifer C. Rossi, St. John Fisher College

Coach: Oh, Christ, boys, Christ, it's so good...the joy in my heart to feel you around me again, together again, can't find words to say it...Magnificent! My boys standing around me again! A toast to the 1952 Pennsylvania State High School Basketball Champions! You were a legend in your time, boys, a legend. Never forget that, never.

— Jason Miller
(Academy Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning Scranton native
and graduate of the University of Scranton),
That Championship Season Act I, p. 17

10C Pedagogy and Multi-Ethnic Texts Ballroom A

Robert "Hank" Willenbrink, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "Encountering Texts: The Multicultural Theatre Project and 'Minority' Literature," Joi Carr, Pepperdine University
- 2) "Text and Image: Teaching Eric Gansworth's *Mending Skins* and *Breathing the Monster Alive* in the Undergraduate Classroom," Vanessa Holford Diana, Westfield State College
- 3) "Deconstructing the 'Pedagogy of Abuse': Teaching Sapphire's *Push*," Elizabeth McNeil, Arizona State University

DAY 3:

Saturday, April 10, 2010

Session 10 & 11

10D Women's Identities & Cities in Diaspora

Ballroom C

Teresa Grettano, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "Sex and the City: A Geographical Understanding of Alicia Erian's *Towelhead*," Therí A. Pickens, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2) "Creating the Ethnic Self in Diana Abu-Jaber's *Crescent*," Robin E. Field, King's College
- 3) "The Many Spaces that Influence Identity," Kristen Johnson, California State University, Fresno
- 4) "Cities Lost and Found and the Afghan Diaspora," Zubeda Jalalzai, Rhode Island College

10E California and Latin@ Literature

Brennan 205

Ana Rojas, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "Tales of the Unexpected: Cyberspace, California, and Cuban-American Identity in Himilce Novas' *Princess Papaya*," Maya Socolovsky, University of North Carolina-Charlotte
- 2) "Finding Identity in Fresno: Contributing to Chicana Literature," Erin L. Alvarez, California State University, Fresno

10F Jewish Souls and Urban Spaces

Brennan 203

Meghan Rich, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "The Eruv and the Postmodern Jewish City in Michael Chabon's *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*," Danny Anderson, Case Western Reserve University
- 2) "Instant Ethnicity: City Souls and Magical Transformations in Nathan Englander's 'The Gilgul of Park Avenue' and Steve Stern's 'The Tale of a Kite'," Aaron Tillman, University of Rhode Island
- 3) "Reshteltization and New Pales," Roy Goldblatt, University of Eastern Finland

12:50-1:50pm -

Lunch ticket

TDC, 3rd Flr

That place is Scranton, with clams. — Tony Soprano, when asked
what he thought of Boston,
The Sopranos, Season 2, Episode 1

2-3:20pm - Session 11 - Day 3

11A Plenary Session

Moskovitz Theater, TDC, 4th Flr

Susan Méndez, University of Scranton, Moderator

Marilyn Chin and Sonia Sanchez read and dialogue on the
role of poetry in Ethnic-American Literature



DAY 3:

Saturday, April 10, 2010

Session 12

3:30-4:50pm – Session 12 – Day 3

12A Roundtable: Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Getting Your Essays Accepted for Publication and Your Books Reviewed **TDC 405**

Martha J. Cutter, University of Connecticut-Chair

Roundtable Participants:

Martha J. Cutter, University of Connecticut, editor *MELUS*Joseph T. Skerrett, Jr., University of Massachusetts-Amherst, former editor *MELUS*Nathan Grant, Saint Louis University, editor *African American Review*Derek Parker Royal, Texas A&M University-Commerce, editor *Roth Studies*Carolyn Sorisio, West Chester University of PA; former book review editor, *College Literature*; guest editor *ESQ***12B New Perspectives in Multi-Ethnic Literature** **TDC 406**

Carl Schaffer, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "The Discourses of Disability and Environmental Justice in Multiethnic Literatures of the United States," Matthew J.C. Cella, Shippensburg University
- 2) "City Landscapes and Afrofuturism: Imagined Presence and Liminality in Nalo Hopkinson's Fiction," Cherie Ann Turpin, University of the District of Columbia
- 3) "The Story Without an Ending: Art, Midrash, and Disaster in Dara Horn's *The World to Come*," Sandor Goodhart, Purdue University

12C Border Citizens in the Barrio **Ballroom A**

Vicky Madden, Byrant & Stratton College-Chair

- 1) "Mythical Cities: The Language & Construction of Jaime Hernandez's *Locas*," Trevor Strunk, Bucks County Community College
- 2) "The Borders of Childhood & Reflective Nostalgia in Albert Rios's 'The Smallest Muscle in the Human Body'," Sienna Palmer Dittmer, Brigham Young University

12D New York Jews **Ballroom C**

Roy Goldblatt, University of Eastern Finland-Chair

- 1) "Urban Economics and Cultural Production: Abraham Cahan's Narrative of New York City's Jewish Ghetto," Peter Kvidera, John Carroll University
- 2) "'Good deeds never perish': The Federal Writers' Project and Jewish Transformation in New York," Jonathon J. Butts, Wartburg College
- 3) "'Just Folks' Versus Walter Winchell: Assimilation and Counterpublics in Roth's *The Plot Against America*," Jackson Ayres, University of Arkansas

DAY 3:

Saturday, April 10, 2010

Session 12

12E Constructing Asian-American Identity in Cities

Brennan 205

- 1) "Constructing Identity in the ManMade Spaces of Maxine Hong Kingston's *The Woman Warrior* and *Tripmaster Monkey*," Holly E. Martin, Appalachian State University
- 2) "Exorcising the Spooked Is/land and Ethnic Empowerment in Chang-rae Lee's *Native Speaker*," Jong-lm Lee, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- 3) "Racial Traces in John Okada's *Seattle*," Linda Margarita Greenberg, California State University, Los Angeles

12F African-American Women Passing in the City

Brennan 203

Tracy Floreani, Baker University-Chair

- 1) "*Of One Blood*: Pauline Hopkins' Passing, Penumbral Glimpses at Afro-Orientalism," G.E. Rutledge, University of Nebraska, Lincoln
- 2) "Reading Race in *Passing* and the Rhinelander Case," Rebecca Nisetich, University of Connecticut
- 3) "A Stranger in the City: Passing and Anonymity in Frances Harper's *Iola Leroy*," Jené Schoenfeld, Kenyon College

5-6:20 pm

MELUS General Meeting*
Moskovitz Theater
TDC, 4th Flr.

MELUS GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

C. LOK CHUA RECEIVES THE 2010 MELUS LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD

MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

Beer, wine, soda and Hors d'oeuvres

**ALL Conference participants can attend.*



Dinner on your own

Restaurant list in conference packet

8:30pm



**Reading
by Dara Horn**

Houlihan-McClean Building

9:45pm

**Drinks and Dancing with DJ Lee Ashlin
Atrium of the Houlihan-McClean Building**

DAY 4:

Sunday, April 11, 2010

Session 13

All sessions:**The DeNaples Center (TDC), 4th Flr****8-10 am****Continental Breakfast
TDC, 4th Flr****9-10:20 am****13A Latino Voices Articulating Identity****TDC 405**

Teresa Grettano, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "To Be American: The Assimilationist Visions of Maria Amparo Ruiz de Burton and Richard Rodriguez," Esther Lopez, Georgia College and State University
- 2) "The Role of the Migrant in Latina/o Literature and the Question of the Re-Invention of Identity," Natalie Yasmin Soto, Cornell University
- 3) "The Visual as Metaphor and Vice Versa," Matthew David Goodwin, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

13B Women of Color Writers**TDC 406**

Vicky Madden, Byrant & Stratton College-Chair

- 1) "Women Writers of Color & Tricksterism: The Case of Maxine Hong Kingston's *Tripmaster Monkey: His Fake Book*," Johnnie Stover, Florida Atlantic University
- 2) "Re-Imagining Cross-Race Collaboration: The Case of Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins," Carolyn Sorisio, West Chester University of Pennsylvania
- 3) "Archetypal Looks in Jacobs' *Incidents in the Life of a Slave-Girl*," Stafford Gregoire, LaGuardia Community College

13C Race & Sacrifice / Ethnicity & Genre**Ballroom A**

Rui Niu, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "A Shamus in L.A.: Investigating Genre and Ethnicity in *The Big Lebowski*," Tiel Lundy, University of Colorado Denver
- 2) "Reflections on Langston Hughes's *I Wonder as I Wander*," Adebe DeRango-Adem, York University, Toronto-Ontario
- 3) "Using Liberation Theology to Analyze Jefferson's Sacrifice in *A Lesson Before Dying*," Tamara Powell, Kennesaw State University

13D Beyond 'Civilization and Barbarism': The Self and its Multiple Identities in Latino Fiction**Ballroom C**

Yamile Silva, University of Scranton-Chair

- 1) "Being There, Here, or Somewhere: The Representation of Cultural Space in Francisco Goldman's Works," Amanda Frantz-Mamani, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania
- 2) "The Cultural Wars Within and Without: Self and the Other in Daniel Alarcon's *War by Candlelight* or 'What Kind of Latinos Are We?,'" Carlos Mamani, Gannon University.

Scranton's Ethnic and Labor History

Think of this region, with Scranton as its largest city, as the Houston of the 19th Century. In an era when coal was the leading source of energy, NEPA (Northeast Pennsylvania) sat on top of the largest reserves of anthracite coal in the world. That natural resource, exploited in various ways, caused Scranton to rise from a population of fewer than 1000 in the 1840s to more than 35,000 by the early 1860s.

Scranton developed as one of the world's largest company towns. Originally called Slocum Hollow, it changed its name to that of the owners of the Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company in 1851. The company developed the first American industrial process for producing railroad track – until then track had to be imported from England. As a consequence, it prospered through the growth of the American railway system and through the need for armaments during the Civil War. (While you're in the city, consider visiting Steamtown, a National Historical Site in walking distance that celebrates the railroad heritage.) Most of the city's growth for the next half century was tied to the steel, coal, or railroad industries.

Scranton created the first all-electric street car system. That technological achievement, remarkable for the late 19th century, gave the city a reputation for innovation and earned it the nickname, "The Electric City."

NEPA retains a distinct ethnic character. Scranton has served as the seat of the Polish National Catholic Church since 1897 and the city once boasted that it had the largest Welsh population outside of Cardiff. As our students can attest, we assemble what the local press declares as the fourth largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in the country.

Many of the smaller towns in the region developed as ethnic enclaves. With the cities of Scranton and Wilkes-Barre dominated by industrial interests, many of the immigrant miners and other laborers found it easier to gather in neighboring smaller towns where they could exercise political control. As a result, communities like Pittston, Old Forge, Dunmore and Dickson City continue to be dominated by Italian- and Polish-American communities.

A number of ethnic self-defense groups emerged in the conflict between labor and management. The dangerous work of the mining region meant dramatic turnover in workers, and company owners routinely exploited linguistic and cultural differences to keep workers disenfranchised. One response was for several particular ethnic groups to form associations and protective societies, a fact reflected until the recent decade by the distinctive ethnic character of many of the region's Catholic parishes.

Most ethnic self-protective associations were legal, but not all. The region was home to the Irish-American Molly Maguire movement in the 1870s. (You might notice from the stonework that the wall surrounding the Scranton family estate in the middle of our campus was originally much lower than it is now. The family had it raised to prevent angry miners from shooting into their home.) From the 1920s forward, the region was rumored to be a center of Mafia activity, particularly in the Pittston area.

For similar reasons, Scranton found itself on the front-lines of the labor movement. At the beginning of the 20th Century, the region served as one the most fertile organizing centers for John Mitchell and the United Mine Workers. (There is a statue near City Hall commemorating Mitchell's work. In turn, he converted to Catholicism, in part because he was so taken with the ethnic character of the local labor movement.) Even today, the area remains a strong union center.

The collapse of the coal industry meant the region was 'frozen in time.' NEPA proved to be a post-industrial bellwether, having to confront the obsolescence of much of its infrastructure decades before the similar experiences of cities such as Bethlehem, PA or Detroit. One clear consequence was a dramatic decrease in population: the city had more than 140,000 people in 1930 and has declined in each Federal Census since to roughly 70,000 today. Another is that much of the city's architecture and infrastructure remains largely as it was half a century ago.

Scranton and NEPA have been at the forefront of the transformation to a ‘Service Economy.’

The region’s economic and demographic comeback over the last 20 years has been based largely on its infrastructure and location. Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, and Hazleton are all within a two-hour drive of most of the major East-Coast cities, and area politicians have been careful to secure a variety of interstates to make transportation cheap and efficient. As a result, the region has become a center for distribution, warehousing, financial services and higher education.

Some Facts on the Jesuits, Ethnicity and Higher Education

Ignatius of Loyola was moved to found the Jesuits as he contemplated his war-time experiences.

While recuperating from his near fatal wounds at the Battle of Pamplona in 1521, Inigo developed the principles of his book, *The Spiritual Exercises*, privileging the idea of Discernment – the notion that true faith requires both faith and reason. One of the centerpiece statues of our campus, located just above Dionne Green, commemorates his transformation.

The Jesuits grew into the intellectual wing of the Counter-Reformation. Ignatius envisioned his new Catholic religious order as a service order (in contrast to the more common monastic ones of the Middle Ages), and he and his followers almost immediately developed a reputation for running schools that introduced students to the principles of humanism in a Catholic context. They were not the first to negotiate the rediscovered Classical works with Catholic theology, but they were the most successful at sustaining a pedagogy that did so.

Some early critics accused the Jesuits of being “too Jewish.” Many of Ignatius’s first followers – including his amanuensis and his two successors as Superior General – were descended from Jews who converted during the Inquisition. Few questioned the religious faith of such individuals, but they experienced ethnic discrimination, a discrimination that Ignatius refused to tolerate.

Jesuit schools were among the first with the complaint, “I can’t understand my T.A.’s accent.”

Committed to exposing their students to a broad sense of intellectual and religious traditions, the early Jesuits made it a point to move teachers from one country or region to another. The result was an early, widespread multi-ethnic effort.

In the United States, Jesuit colleges took the lead in educating ethnic immigrants. Most of America’s leading colleges, particularly in the Northeast, had roots in the Protestant tradition, a fact that discouraged many Catholics (passively and sometimes expressly) from attending them. The early Jesuit colleges in the U.S. – Georgetown, Fordham, and Boston College in particular – provided an elite Catholic alternative.

Jesuit Colleges in the United States parallel the history of ethnic America. If you look at the locations and founding dates for Jesuit colleges across the country, you’ll see that the Jesuits made sure to have a presence in most of the major cities with substantial Catholic working class populations.

The Jesuits remain active among the recent waves of immigrants. Through their Nativity Schools, middle schools serving newer ethnic populations in the inner city, and their Christo Rey high schools, they carry on their half-millennium-long tradition of educating those who might otherwise go untaught.

The Jesuits remain in the forefront of the Catholic push for human rights worldwide. Our students at the University of Scranton as well as from other Jesuit institutions have a strong tradition of “living for others,” of providing service that often includes working in impoverished countries. Jesuits were particularly vocal and visible in the second half of the 20th Century in pushing for justice in South America; you might note the portraits on the first floor of DeNaples depicting six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter who were murdered in 1989 by the El Salvadoran military for their opposition to the right-wing government.

MELUS AWARDS for DISTINGUISHED CONTRIBUTION to ETHNIC STUDIES

2008	John Lowe	1997	Amy Ling	1989	Mitsuye Yamada
2007	Amritjit Singh and Thadious Davis	1996	Eric Sundquist and Nellie McKay	1988	Charles Nichols
2005	Tey Diana Rebolledo	1995	Michael S. Harper and Jules Chametzky	1987	John M. Reilly
2004	Joe Skerrett	1994	Barbara Christian	1986	A. LaVonne Ruoff
2003	Werner Sollors	1993	Daniel Walden	1985	Blyden Jackson
2000	Helen Barolini	1992	Charles Nilon	1983	Brom Weber
1999	Raymund Paredes	1991	Jean Fagan Yellin	1982	Katharine Newman
1998	Helen Jaskoski	1990	Paul Lauter	1979	Nicolas Kanellos
				1974	Robert E. Spille

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Smothered and silent, for some miles the fire
 Still riddles the fissured hill, deviously
 Wasting and inextinguishable. They
 Have sealed off all the veins they could find,
 Thus at least setting limits to it, we trust.

-- W.S. Merwin, "Burning Mountain," 1960

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He and his, unwashed all winter,
In that abandoned land in the punished
North, in a gnashing house sunk as a cheek,
Nest together...all
Kin to begin with when they crawl in under,
Who covers who they don't care.
-- W.S. Merwin, "The Native," 1960

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Photography at the Speed of Life

Marie specializes in photojournalism of the local and cultural environment in the City of Scranton and promotes this up-and-coming city, while preserving its historical heritage.



25th Annual MELUS Conference
April 7 – 10, 2011
Florida Atlantic University
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THEME: Ethnic Canons in Global Contexts

As an ongoing and vital process through which societies and cultures have become integrated through a globe-spanning network of communications, economics, and politics, globalization addresses the transnational circulation of ideas and languages. Its impact on literature is manifold, with both positive and negative associations, wherein cultures receiving outside influences ignore some, adopt others as they are, and then immediately start to transform others. Certain aspects of globalization – such as hybridity and multi-rootedness – are increasingly present in literary texts as we witness ways in which they shape new literary forms, interrogate existing canons, and explore the emergence of ethnic canons.

We invite paper abstracts and complete panels, workshops, and roundtable proposals on all aspects of the multi-ethnic literatures of the United States. We are particularly interested in proposals that explore globalization in terms of its influence on ethnic canons, and vice versa, and encourage presentations on all global frameworks of analysis, such as Atlantic studies, global feminisms, pan-Africanism, postcolonialism, transnationalism, global indigenous studies, etc. Submissions should detail requests for specific audiovisual equipment, if needed. We also ask that a proposal for a complete panel, roundtable, or workshop include a short description of the central topic, supplemented by brief abstracts of individual speakers' contributions.

Deadline for abstracts and proposals (250 words in Word or rtf format): NOVEMBER 15, 2010

Please e-mail abstracts to: Prof. Nora Erro Peralta and Prof. Taylor Hagood at melus2011@gmail.com



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"Ain't no party like a Scranton party
'cause a Scranton party don't stop."

— Michael Scott, *The Office*, Season 3, episode 2