WELCOME TO OKLAHOMA CITY!
We’re proud to be hosting MELUS in this region and are so glad you have joined us in The Territory. Any conference is made successful by its content, so we also thank you all for providing the rich offerings represented in this program.

We also want to express thanks to our sponsors:

Finally, if you happen upon any of these people while at the conference, please thank them for their hard work:

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Cover art: Ralph Ellison, Literary Lion (2013), by Mike Hoffman of Glencoe, Oklahoma
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Oklahoma City University is a coeducational, urban private university located in Oklahoma City, in the Uptown district. The university is affiliated with the United Methodist Church and offers a wide variety of degrees in the liberal arts, fine arts, sciences and business. The only Oklahoma institution listed in the top tier of the regional, master’s-level university category by U.S. News and World Report, Oklahoma City University is also listed in Forbes’ “Best Christian Colleges” & “100 Best College Buys.”

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 6**

Registration 12:00–6:00, 2nd floor landing
Book Exhibits, Grand Ballroom Reception, 12:00–5:00

**SESSION 1: 1:30–3:00**

A. Ethnic Women Writers and Gender Binaries, Centennial 1, 1:30–3:00
**MODERATOR: ALISON GRAHAM BERTOLINI, NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**
Shirley A. [Holly] Stowe, Louisiana Scholars’ College, Northwestern State University. “Disrupting the Gendered Binary in Toni Morrison’s Home” (stavesh@lssc.edu)
Rachel Long, Missouri State University. “Postmodern Reireties of Chicana/o Folkloric Figures in Ana Castillo’s So Far From God” (rachel311@live.missouristate.edu)
Alison Graham Bertolini, North Dakota State University. “The Twinning of Cultural Identities in Marilyn Chin’s Revenge of the Mooncake Venus” (alison.bertolini@ndsu.edu)

B. New Perspectives on Ethnic Cityscapes, Centennial 3, 1:30–3:00
**MODERATOR: PATRICK NACK, COE COLLEGE**
Jean Alger, Oklahoma State University. “Urban Ethnography and Migration in the Work of Langston Hughes” (alger@ostate.edu)
Jay Whitaker, Oklahoma State University. “Humor, Allegory, and Intellectual Sovereignty in Sherman Alexie’s Ten Little Indians” (jwhita@ostate.edu)
Patrick Nack, Coe College. “Flocking to Harlem: Bird Imagery and the City in Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man and Toni Morrison’s Jazz” (pnaick@coe.edu)

C. “Going to the Territory”: Cultural Hybridity in Red, White, and Black Oklahoma, Salon A, 1:30–3:00
**MODERATOR: TOL FOSTER**
Catherine Foreman Gray, History and Preservation Officer, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma. “Cherokee Law, Federal Outlaw: Teasing the Truth from Fiction in Considering Zeko Proctor and Ned Christie” (catherine-gray@cherokee.org)
Tol Foster, Marquette University-Milwaukee. “We don’t want it on any goddam map” (tolfoster@gmail.com)
Shannon Toll, University of Oklahoma. “How Can We Know the Dancer from the Dance? Maria Tallchief, the Firebird” (stoll@ou.edu)
Joshua B. Nelson, University of Oklahoma. “Power in the Blood: Boundary Crossing and Bloodletting in Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man and Toni Morrison’s Jazz” (joshuabnelson.ou.edu)

D. Ideas of Kinship, Salon C, 1:30–3:00
**MODERATOR: MARK GRIFFIN, OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY**
Olena McLoughlin, Oklahoma State University. “Crossing Borders: Sherman Alexie’s Short Story Do Not Go Gentle ‘Stuffed’ with Ideas” (gorelov@ostate.edu)
Cassie Hemstrom, University of Nevada. “What We Come From: Kinship, Race and Class” (chemstrom@unr.edu)
Mena Hova, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. “Redefining the Black Diaspora: Identity and Migration Narratives in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie’s Americanah” (brinono@hotmail.com)

E. Ellisonian Cultural Contexts, Crystal Room, 1:30–3:00
**MODERATOR: ROBERT JACKSON, UNIVERSITY OF TULSA**
Robert Jackson, University of Tulsa. “Ellison and Midcentury Modernism” (rob-jackson@utulsa.edu)
Grant Matthew Jenkins, University of Tulsa. “Out There in Greenwood: Contextualizing the Battle Royal” (grant.jenkins@utulsa.edu)
Amelia Williamson, University of Tulsa. “‘A Blue Dream, A Dream I Was Dreaming’: Consciousness, Narrative, and Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man” (amelia-williamson@utulsa.edu)
SESSION II: 3:30-4:45
A. Queer Sexualities in Ethnic American Literatures, Centennial 1, 3:30-4:45
MODERATOR: PATRICK LAWRENCE, UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
Danny M. Hooy, Indian River State College. “Where is my Territory? Masculinity, Sexuality, and the Quest for Space” (dhoooy@irsc.edu)
Pamela Robin, Lawrence University. “Predatory Blindness: Coercive Specularity in Cherrie Moraga’s Giving Up the Ghost” (pamela.robin@lawrence.edu)
Trevor Holland, Oklahoma State University. “Queer Voodoo: Zora Neale Hurston’s Opposition to Heteronormativity in Their Eyes Were Watching God” (trevor.holland@okstate.edu)
B. Aggressive Gestures: Literary Constructions of Race and Ethnicity, Centennial 2, 3:30-4:45
MODERATOR: S.C. GOOD, PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Marc Diuk, Purdue University. “Inhonesty, Violence, and the Making of Gender in Stephen Crane’s Maggie: A Girl of the Streets” (mdsak@purdue.edu)
Adryan Glasgow, Purdue University. “Postcolonial White Women: Depicting the Downfall of Race in Chang Rae Lee’s Novels” (adryan@purdue.edu)
Mary Couzelis, Texas A&M University-Commerce. “Maintaining Ethnic Barriers in Adolescent Literature Fiction” (mpcouzelis@hotmail.com)
C. Women Writers Crossing Boundaries, Centennial 3, 3:30-4:45
MODERATOR: MARIE DREWS, GEORGIA REGENCY UNIVERSITY
Dalia Gomaa, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. “Towards a Transnational Reading of Narratives by Arab-American Women Writers” (dgomaa@uwm.edu)
Linn Knutson, Mississippi Valley State University. “Mapping Animals as Cultural Capital in Cherrie Moraga” (lknutson@msvu.edu)
Mary Drews, Georgia Regents University. “Isn’t it queer you and me should be such friends? Gender Subversion and the Lesbian Existence in Winnifred Eaton’s Cottage” (mdrews@gru.edu)
D. Native Authors Negotiating Binaries, Salon A, 3:30-4:45
MODERATOR: MICHAEL INVEER, OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Amanda Cobb-Gretham, Oklahoma State University. “The Unexpected Indian in Welty’s The Heartstrings of Chering EK” (amanda.cobb-gretham@okstate.edu)
Julie Williams, University of New Mexico. “Cosmopolitanism in Native Historical Fiction” (julewilliams@unm.edu)
Michael Snyder, Oklahoma City Community College. “Goin’ Back to the Territory: The Osage Homecoming of John Joseph Mathews” (msnyder@occc.edu)
E. Religious Turnings and Detours in Ethnic US Literatures, Salon B, 3:30-4:45
MODERATOR: J. STEPHEN PEARSON, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA-GAINESVILLE
Anne Hoffman, Harvard University. “Renew Our Days as of Old: The Religious Turn in Contemporary Jewish Fiction” (anne.hoffman@harvard.edu)
Christine Payson, Tufts University. “Relocation, Assimilation, and the Native American Church in House Mode of Doing” (christine.payson@gmail.com)
Christopher Bell, University of North Georgia-Gainesville. “The Good Christian’s Role in Latter Days of August Wilson’s Century Cycle” (christ.bell@ung.edu)
Dessie Mae Sanders, Dillard University. “Dating Jesus: African American Women and Subjectivity” (dessie.sanders@dillard.edu)
F. Delineating New Spaces, Asserting Voices, Salon B, 3:30-4:45
MODERATOR: REGINA CLEMENS FOX, OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY
Marahian Adakian, Northern Illinois University. “Reclaiming Sanity and Life through Love in Leslie Marmon Silko’s Ceremony: An Existential Perspective” (marahian.adakian@gmail.com)
Melissa Birkhofer, University of North Dakota. “Invisibility and Being Seen: Echoes of Ellison in Lamberto R. Henriquez’s Here & I Am” (melissa.birkhofer@und.edu)
Erri L. Alvarez, Michigan State University. “Uncovering Narratives: The Chicana Literary Desert of California” (errialvarez@gmail.com)
G. Other Oklahomas, Crystal Room, 3:30-4:45
MODERATOR: JEANETTA CALHOUN MSH, OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY
Sharon Jesse, University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. “Discovering with Some Surprise We’re From: Remembering Segregated OCR with Clara Luper, Ralph Ellison, and Toni Morrison” (jesse@uwlax.edu)
Abigail Horne, Washington University-St. Louis. “Lasso Rope or Lynching Rope? Will Rogers and Lynching in America” (abigailhorne@wustl.edu)
Michela Fazio, University of North Carolina at Pembroke. “Reimagining Sicily: Memory, Mobility, and Place in Woody Guthrie’s Ballads” (michela.fazio@uncp.edu)
H. Oklahomaans, Crystal Room, 3:30-4:45
MODERATOR: J. STEPHEN PEARSON, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA-GAINESVILLE
S. Other Oklahomas, Crystal Room, 3:30-4:45
MODERATOR: REGINA CLEMENS FOX, OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY
ThurSDay, mArCh 6 - FriDay, mArCh 7
10:00-11:30
WELCOME RECEPTION, VENETIAN ROOM, 14Th floor
Complimentary wines generously provided by Oxford University Press
11:30-1:00
B sUs DEPARTARs FROM hOTeL FOR oKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
(2 trips available)
2:00-4:00
HEnRY LOUIS GATEs JR., “FINDING YOuR ROOTS”
Freedie Center, Oklahoma City University, NW 27th and N. Florida
1:00-4:00
B sUs DEPARTARs FROM CAMPUs
(2 trips available)
1:00-4:00
FRIDAY, MARCH 7
Continental Breakfast 7:30-9:00 AM, Grand Ballroom Reception
Registration 8:00-5:00, 2nd floor landing
Book Exhibits, all day, Grand Ballroom Reception
SESSION I: 8:30-10:00
A. Transnationalism and Diaspora Reconsidered, Centennial 1, 8:30-10:00
MODERATOR: LOR ASKELAND, WITTENBERG UNIVERSITY
Richard C. Taylor, East Carolina University. “Obama–Era America in Addie’s American and Bulawayo’s We Need New Names” (taylorR@ecu.edu)
Swathi Sreerangarajan, University of Pittsburgh. “Ethnic Personal Affect and Bodies in Motion” (shs1044@pitt.edu)
Lon Askeland, Wittenberg University. “This is Not What Transnationalism is Supposed to Look Like: Jane Jeong Tienken and the Return of the Native Intellectual” (askeland@wittenberg.edu)
B. Ethnic American Identities in National Contexts, Centennial 2, 8:30-10:00
MODERATOR: JOANN RUVOLI, BALL STATE UNIVERSITY
Natalie Kubasek, University of New Mexico. “The Roots of Chicana Feminist Theater: Voice, Visibility and Diunderstanding in the Works of Josefina Neilg” (nkubasek@nm.edu)
Kat Okajima, Wesleyan University. “Disparities in Visibility: Ralph Ellison and the National Fantasy of the Cold War America” (k.okejima@wesleyan.edu)
Cristina Stanciu, Virginia Commonwealth University. “Rites & Rights: Citizenship & Performance in the Americanization Campaigns at the Turn of the Twentieth Century” (cstanciu@vcu.edu)
C. African American Narrative Histories, Centennial 3, 8:30-10:00
MODERATOR: JOHN LOWE, UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
Lisa Ze Winters, Wayne State University. “Fantastic Geographies: Boundary Crossings and Diaspora in William Wells Brown’s Clotel; or, The President’s Daughter” (lzwinters@wayne.edu)
John Lowe, University of Georgia. “Shifting Boundaries of Race and Region in Martin Delany’s Blake” (jlowe@uga.edu)
Robert Luckett, Margaret Walker Center, Jackson State University. “Margaret Walker: The Voice of the Invisible Woman in the 20th Century Black Arts Movement” (rluckett@jsums.edu)
D. Narrative Strategy and Literary History: Ralph Ellison’s Meta-Critical Technique, Grand Ballroom A, 8:30-10:00
MODERATOR: ALAN NADEL, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
Alan Nadel, University of Kentucky. “The Invisible (Ex-Colored) Man: Ralph Ellison’s Eponymous, Anonymous Double Consciousness” (amnadel2@l.uky.edu)
Melanie Masterton, University of California-Riverside. “Posthumous Afterlives: An Ecstatic Reading of Ralph Ellison’s Unbound Manuscript” (mamast003@ucr.edu)
Anthony Stewart, Bucknell University. “There is no such thing as a non sequitor: Ellison’s Instruction in Everett’s Fiction” (a0606@bucknell.edu)
E. Mixed-Race Narrative Identities, Grand Ballroom D-F, 8:30–10:00
MODERATOR: NAOMI EDWARDS, STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY
Vanessa Seals, Stanford University. “Something More than Brotherly Love: Sex and the Multiracial Sibling” [sealsv@stanford.edu]
Alexia Emboldner, University of Central Oklahoma. “She was accusing him of being white: The Precarious Position of Mixed Americans in Academia in Lucinda Roy’s ‘Effigies’” [alexian9e1408@lisi.com]
Nadine Edwards, Stony Brook University. “The Melancholy of Mixed Race: The American Child as Mediator of History” [nadm.e@wisc.edu]

F. Mapping Modernities, Crystal Room, 8:30–10:00
MODERATOR: LISA JONG, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Stewart Haber, University of Tulsa. “‘OM Light ain’t been Nowhere’: Mapping Cultural Geographies in Albert Murray’s Train Whistle Guitar” [stewart.haber@gmail.com]
Nitoljir Gardzé, University of California–Berkeley. Alternative Geographies of Community in Robert Hayden’s Elégies for Paradise Valley” [egardy@berkeley.edu]
Lisa Jong, University of Michigan. “Imagining Indian Spaces: Native Regionalism in Joseph Mathew’s Who’s Kon-tah” [ljong@umich.edu]

SESSION II: 10:15–11:45
A. Decoloniality and Chican@ Literary Sensibilities, Centennial 1, 10:15–11:45
MODERATOR: CATHRYN JOSEFINA MERLA-WATSON, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY—SAN ANTONIO
Cathryn Josefinh Merla-Watson, Texas A&M University—San Antonio. “Feeling Chicana: Decolonial Feminism and Love as Resistance in Lorna Díez Cervantes’s Centenario” [cathryn.watson@gmail.com]
B.V. Olujin, University of Texas—San Antonio. “Chiapa Erótico: Warfaring and Chicana Neo-Orientalism: Desire from WWII to the War on Terror” [ben.olujin@utsa.edu]
Andrew Usandizaga. “Chi(a)na Lie: Decolonizing Genre in Nina Marie Martínez’s, Caramba!” [auandiski@gmail.com]

B. Ethnic Mobility and Migration, Centennial 2, 10:15–11:45
MODERATOR: TERRY PHILLIPS, OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY
Su-ching Huang, East Carolina University. “Journey Home: Barking Water and Indian-ness in the Writings of Ralph Ellison” [suhuang@ece.ecu.edu]
Jason D. Tillis, Oklahoma State University. “The Sublime irony of Human Being in Langston Hughes’s I Wonder as I Wander” [jtillis@okstate.edu]

C. Alternate Constructions of Jewish-American Continuity, Centennial 3, 10:15–11:45
MODERATOR: LEAH MILNE, UNIVERSITY OF SCRANTON
Joe Kraus, University of Scranton. “Assuming the Tradition: Jonathan Lethem, Dissident, and the Jewish-American Writer Circa 2013” [jleethem@fullersem.edu]
Maya Socolovsky, University of North Carolina–Charlotte. “Materiality, Bounding and Judaism in a Wireless World: Exploring Allegra Goodman’s The Cookbook Collector” [msocolove@unc.edu]
Karen Skinaz, Princeton University. “A New Brief Biala” [kskinaz@princeton.edu]

D. Distorting, Re-configuring, Questioning: Contemporary Women’s Fiction, Salon A, 10:15–11:45
MODERATOR: REGINA BENNETT, OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY
Leah Milne, Milne. “Frenchwoman in North Carolina Greensboro: ‘Ethnic Reflections and Metaphorical Distortions in Louise Erdrich’s Shadow Top” [leahmilne@bellsouth.net]
Barbara G. Piiru–Lous, University of Minnesota. “Re-configuring Paternal Legacies through Ritualistic Art: Daughters and Fathers in Contemporary Fiction by Women of African Descent” [barbara@bcb@lisi.com]
Lesley Larkin, Northern Michigan University. “From Eugenics to Genomics: Medical Exploitation in Tom Morrison’s Home” [larkin@nmu.edu]

E. Racial Ambiguity and Passing, Salon B, 10:15–11:45
MODERATOR: GINO PELLEGRINI, PIERCE COLLEGE
Masami Sugimori, Florida Gulf Coast University. “Crossing Racial and Narrative Barriers: Racial Passing and Modernist Voice in Walter White’s Flight” [msugimori@fgcu.edu]
Tarje Saar–Hambazaza, University of Texas at Dallas. “Crossing Physical and Imagined Boundaries: Nella Larsen’s Negotiation of Multietnic and Biracial Identities” [tarje@utdallas.edu]
Gino Pellegrini, Pierce College. “Complicating Race or Reproducing Whiteness?” [gino@piercecollege.edu]

F. Beyond Invisible Man: Perspectives on Ellison’s Other Works, Salon C, 10:15–11:45
MODERATOR: PAUL DEULIN, STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY
Jeanatta Calhoun Mish, Oklahoma City University. “Black and White and Red All Over: Blackness, Whiteness, and Indian-ness in the Writings of Ralph Ellison” [jcmish@ou.edu]
Sujeeta J. Spoor, Anne Arundel Community College. “Oracle in Ralph Ellison’s Short Stories” [sjeetaj@aacc.edu]
Jenifer Calotasto, University of Kansas. “Blissful Integration of Identity: Reclaiming the Past and (Re)Writing History in Ralph Ellison’s Essays and Journals” [jcalotasto@ku.edu]

G. Latinos/as and Narrative Visual Media, Grand Ballroom D-F, 10:15–11:45
MODERATOR: CHRISTOPHER GONZALEZ, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY–COMMERCE
Samuel Saldivar, Michigan State University. “‘Independent Eyes: Immigration through the Audiovisual Lens’” [saldivars@msu.edu]
Mauro Espinosa, Ohio State University. “Femicide Comes First: Traditional and Alternative Constructions of Latin@ Family in Hero-Themed Comics, Animated TV Shows, and Film” [espinosa15@ohio.edu]
Christopher Gonzalez, Texas A&M University–Commerce. “Mario and Gilbert Hernandez’s Citizen Rex: Robot Consciousness, and the Chicano Movement” [cgonzalez@tamu.edu]

H. Class Politics and Aesthetics in Ethnic Literatures I, Crystal Room, 10:15–11:45
MODERATOR: JAMES ZIEGLER, UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
Myka Tucker-Abramson, Boston University. “Housing Shocks in Harlem: Surrealist Aesthetics and the Politics of Housing in Invisible Man” [mktykalt@bu.edu]
Joseph Darus, University of Connecticut. “University at War: Race, Nation, and Communism in Chester Himes’s If He Hollers Let Him Go” (joseph.darus@uconn.edu)

12:15–1:45 (Grand Ballroom D-F)
MEMBER LUNCHEON w/ PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AND AWARDS, FOLLOWED BY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SESSION III: 2:00–3:30
A. Language, Sermon, Oppression, and Prophecy in the African American Church Tradition, Centennial 1, 2:00–3:30
MODERATOR: ROBERT H. WELLS, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA–GAINESVILLE
John-Mark Hart, University of Oklahoma. “God’s Trombones: The Prophetic Poetics of James Weldon Johnson” [john.m.hart-1@ou.edu]
Jonquil Bailey, University of Kansas. “Beyond the Back of Words: Sound and Subversion in Toni Morrison’s Beloved” [jbailey5@ku.edu]
Kimberly E. Melton, Gettysburg College. “Sermon on the Mic, Removing the Southern Preacher on the Hip Hop Stage” [imelton@gettysburg.edu]

B. Women Mapping the Territory and Cultural Geographies of America: A Roundtable Presented by The Women of Color Caucus, Centennial 2, 2:00–3:30
MODERATOR: SHERRY JOHNSON, GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY
A. Yemisi Jimoh, University of Massachusetts Amherst (jimoh@afram.umass.edu)
Wenying Xu, Chatham University (wxu@chatham.edu)
Marla Camargo-Santamaria, University of Kansas (marla@ku.edu)

C. Critical Lenses of Ralph Ellison, Centennial 3, 2:00–3:30
MODERATOR: MICHAEL BORSUKH, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Doreen Dong Xiaoxue, University of Hong Kong. ‘The Lower Frequencies’ of Invisible Man and Ralph Ellison’s China in China” [dongxue@hkbu.edu]
Yukuo Wang, University of Massachusetts Amherst. “Ralph Ellison’s Literary Criticism” [yukuowang@126.com]
Michael Borsukh, Texas Tech University. “Not Just About Criticism, But About Life: Ralph Ellison and the Practice of Literary Criticism” [michaelborsuk@ttu.edu]
Friday, March 7

D. Writing Resistance, Salon A, 2:00-3:30
MODERATOR: ROBIN LUCY, EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY
Meta L. Schettler, California State University, Fresno. “Folk Culture, African Heritage and Democracy: Black Writers Writing Resistance” (mschettl@csufresno.edu)
Diane Dowdy, Sam Houston State University. “Whoose Minding the Children? The Nanny Novel as a Glimpse at Multi-Ethnic Households” (eng_ded@shsu.edu)
Robin Lucy, Eastern Michigan University. “The Road (Not) Taken: Lloyd L. Brown’s Iron City and Ellison’s New (Negro) Proletariat” (rcuty@ecmsusu.edu)

E. The Black Intellectual as Activist, Salon C, 2:00-3:30
MODERATOR: STELINDA BLAND, RUTGERS UNIVERSITY
Runrun Pan, Zhejiang University. “Back to the Front Territory: New Challenge Reviewed” (runrunpan@affam.umsen.edu)
Patrick Elliot Alexander, University of Mississippi. “The Jailhouse Jeremias King’s Letter from Birmingham Jail as Vernacular Artistry and Activism” (pealexan@olemiss.edu)
Stelinda Bland, Rutgers University. “Being Ralph Ellison: Remaking the Black Public Intellectual in the Age of Civil Rights” (stelind@rutsurx.rutgers.edu)

F. Graphic Narratives, Grand Ballroom D-F, 2:00-3:30
MODERATOR: S. C. GOOCH, PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Joanne Ruvoli, Ball State University. “Local Histories in Lila Quintero’s Darkroom: Feminist Mapping of Inter-Ethnicities” (jruvoci@bsu.edu)
Jorge Santos, University of Connecticut. “Movement through the Borderlands and Graphic Revisions in Rhone Montoya’s Pablos’s (in)Ferno” (jorge.santos235@gmail.com)
S.C. Gooch, Purdue University. “All Dirty with Blood: Gilbert Hernandez’s Errata Stigmata” (sgooch@purdue.edu)

G. Pushing Literary and Generic Boundaries, Crystal Room, 2:00-3:30
MODERATOR: KYLIE KING, PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
Amber Rose Gonzalez, University of California-Santa Barbara. “Dualities for Healing: Violence and Love in the Mujeres de Mezcl Literary and Arts Zone” (amrosseg@gmail.com)
Anna Schmidt, Saint Louis University. “Entanglements of Race, Gender, and Religion in Thylas Moss’s The Glory Prelude” (aschm48@slu.edu)
Kylie King, Pennsylvania State University. “Post-Generic Thinking and Colson Whitehead’s Zone One” (kirk171@isu.edu)

SESSION IV: 3:45-5:15
A. Succeeding on the Academic Job Market: A Professionalization Roundtable, Centennial 1, 3:45-5:15
MODERATOR: MELISSA DENNHY, QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Martha Cutter, University of Connecticut (martha.cutter@lcucon.edu)
Christopher Gonzales, Texas A&M University-Commerce (Chris.Gonzalez@tamuc.edu)
Amitjot Singh, Ohio University (angh91@ohio.edu)

MODERATOR AND COMMENTATOR: CHERYL HAGADISH, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, BOULDER
Rachel Rubin, University of Massachusetts Boston. “He Promised Her Money and Other Fine Things: Miodrag Hauš, Murder Ballsad, and the Musemification of Appalachian Culture” (rachelrubin@umb.edu)
Emily Lordi, University of Massachusetts Amherst. “How I Got Over: Ellison in the Soul Era” (elordi@english.umass.edu)
James McMurtie, University of Massachusetts Amherst. “Formal Renditions: Revisiting the Barska-Ellison Debate Fifty Years Later” (jamesm@umass.edu)

C. Making Space, Constructing Meaning, Salon A, 3:45-5:15
MODERATOR: SHAILA MEHRA, OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Joel Wendland, Grand Valley State University. “A Geosemics of Autobiography: A Spatial Reading of Social Mobility Narratives in the Late 20th Century” (wendlap@grsu.edu)
Chad Jewett, University of Connecticut. “The Monumental Southern Space in Ralph Ellison’s ‘A Party Down at the Square’” (chad.jewett@lcon.edu)
Shaila Mehra, Oklahoma State University. “The Territory, Reimagined: Toni Morrison’s Paradiso” (shaila.mehra@gmail.com)

Friday, March 7

D. Politics, Poetics, and Place, Salon B, 3:45-5:15
MODERATOR: AMIRAN COHEN, OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY
Michelle Brittan, University of Southern California. “Rhizomatic Conjunctions in the Poetry of Li-Young Lee and Larry Levine” (brittan@usc.edu)
Hyo Kim, Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York. “Sighsome Poetics of John You’s Genghis Chan: Private Eye” (hyokwang@hotmail.com)
Vanessa Valdes, The City College of New York. “Made our gods foreign to us: Spirituality in the Works of Sandra Maria Esteva and Ntezuo Shange” (valdev@ccny.cuny.edu)

E. Postmodern and Postracial Identities, Salon C, 3:45-5:15
MODERATOR: LEAH MILNE, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA-GREENSBORO
Andrew Spencer, Texas A&M University-Commerce. “Schrodinger’s Cat and the Mind of the Storyworld” (aspenerc@leamine.tamu.edu)
Brittany Miller, University of Southern California. “Post-Race Fantasy RLR: Reading Internet Identity in Parmy Olsons: We Are Anonymous” (brittany_miller@icloud.com)
Casey Hoyman, University of Massachusetts Amherst. “Black Is, Black Ain’t: Ralph Ellison’s Meta-Black Aesthetic and the ‘End of African American Literature” (chayman@english.umass.edu)

F. Mimicry and Masquerade, Grand Ballroom D-F, 3:45-5:15
MODERATOR: ROLAND LEANDER WILLIAMS, TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
Azua Mekhmo, Aoyama Gakuin University. “Dangerous Masquerade: Nella Larsen’s Sanctuary and Plagiar Scandal” (memesute@yahoo.co.jp)
Chih-Ping Chen, Alma College. “Shirley Temple: The Trickster of Mimicry to Her ‘Other American Sisters” (chensilamas@alma.edu)
Roland Leander Williams, Temple University. “The little man who isn’t there’: How Bliss Promes Revises Batekian’s Paragon of Discretion in Invisible Man” (rolind@temple.edu)

G. Special Session 4:00-5:30, Crystal Room
The Daughter of Dawn (1920)
Screening of selected clips with commentary by Kiowa elder Dorothy Whitehorse DeLaune and representatives from the Oklahoma History Center
More info about this film and its restoration at http://www.okhistory.org/research/daughterdawn

5:30-7:30 DINNER ON YOUR OWN

7:30-9:00 POETRY READING AND BOOK SIGNING GRAND BALLROOM JOE NEVAQUAYA AND JOY HARJO

Joe Nevaquaya
Poet and visual artist Joe Dale Tate Nevaquaya is affiliated with the Yuchi and Comanche tribes of Oklahoma. He was the winner of the 2012 Oklahoma Book Award for Poetry for his collection Leaning Holes & Selected New Writings (Mongrel Empire Press), which also received the Native Writers’ Circle First Book Award for Poetry. Nevaquaya lives in Norman, OK, where he dedicates his days to working with at-risk students in the Norman Public School System. His written and visual works have been anthologized and collected nationally and internationally.

Joy Harjo
Writer, artist, and musician. Joy Harjo was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma and is a member of the Mvskoke Nation. Her books of poetry, which include such well known titles as How We Became Human, The Woman Who Fell From the Sky, and She Had Some Horses, have garnered many awards. These include the New Mexico Governor’s Award for Excellence in the Arts, the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native Writers Circle of the Americas, and the William Carlos Williams Award from the Poetry Society of America. Harjo’s most recent publication is the memoir Crazy Brave (WW. Norton).
SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Continental Breakfast 7:30-9:00 AM, Grand Ballroom Reception
Registration 8:00-11:00
Book Exhibits, Grand Ballroom Reception

SESSION I: 8:00-9:15

A. Cultural Resistance in Works by Carlos Bulosan, Hisaye Yamamoto, Marilyn Chin, and Ha Jin, Centennial 2, 8:00-9:15
MODERATOR: YICHUN SHEN, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY-FULLERTON
Laura Macarewicz, California State University-Fullerton. “America is in the Heart: In Search of a Colorblind American Dream” (lmacarewicz@cox.net)
Pamela Simon, California State University-Fullerton. “O Shining Sorrow: The Failure of Resistance in Hisaye Yamamoto’s ‘Epiphalamus’” (pjschreyer@gmail.com)
Ammanda Monroe, Norco College-California “Resisting Stereotypes with Chopsticks and Gimbals in Revisions of the Moonlight Venus by Marilyn Chin” (ammandamonoire@irccd.edu)
Yichun Shen, California State University-Fullerton. “The Battle of Chicks: Gastronomical Conflicts and Cultural Resistance in After Cowboy Chicken Came to Town by Ha Jin” (yichun@lexchange.fullerton.edu)

B. Black and White and Red All Over: Literary Allegiances and Lineages between African America and Russia, Centennial 2, 8:00-9:15
MODERATOR: NICHOLAS RINEHART, HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Raquel Greene, Grinnell College. “It’s to the Soviet Union and its Civilizing Mission in the 1920’s” (greenep@grinnell.edu)
John MacKay, Yale University. “True Songs of Freedom: Uncle Tom’s Cabin in the Soviet 1920s” (john.mackay@yale.edu)
Nicholas Rinehart, Harvard University. “Nabokov in Black: Two Sketches” (rneinharz@gmail.com)

C. “New Immigrants”: Negotiating National Identities, Centennial 3, 8:00-9:15
MODERATOR: CORINNA K. LEE, MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY
Ont Rabkin, Ben Gurion University. “Crossing Borders from Jew to American? The Case of Mary Antin’s The Promised Land” (prabkin@post.bgu.ac.il)
Daniel Morse, University of Edinburgh. “False Idols: Transgressive Education in Jewish New Immigrant Fiction” (dmorse2@staffmail.ed.ac.uk)
Corinna K. Lee, Marquette University. “Children of the ‘Ghetto’ James T. Farrell and Michael Gold” (corinna.lee@marquette.edu)

D. Ellison and Women, Salon A, 8:00-9:15
MODERATOR: KEITH BYERMAN, INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY
Paul Devlin, Stony Brook University. “Exploring the Possibility of Ann Petry’s Influence on Ralph Ellison” (pauldevlin@gmail.com)
Ken Morris, Indiana University. “Music and Memory in ‘Solo on the Drums’ and ‘Three Days Before the Shooting...’” (kenmorris2@iu.edu)
Mona Yates-Richard Rice University. “What Is Your OTHER’S NAME?: Echoes of Black Female Pain in Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man” (mty3@iu.edu)
Keith Byerman, Indiana State University. “Female Characters in the Short Fiction of Ralph Ellison” (keith.byerman@iun.edu)

E. Reflections on Asian American and Asian Diasporic Literature and Criticism, Salon C, 8:00-9:15
MODERATOR: WENNI L. SUFFOLK COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Paul Petrovic, University of Tulsa. “Seeing the Culture from a Position of Privilege: Class Divisions and Asian American Auto-Critique in Don Lee’s ‘The Collective’” (paulpetrovic@gmail.com)
Lingyan Yang, Indiana University of Pennsylvania. “A Brief Intellectual History of Asian Pacific American and Asian Diasporic Cultural Criticism” (lyang@iusp.edu)
Wenxin Li, Suffolk Community College. “The Fruit of Labor on a Diasporic Imagination: Eileen Chang’s ‘The Rice Sprout Song’” (wenxinli@yahoo.com)

F. The Limits of Liminality, Crystal Room, 8:00-9:15
MODERATOR: REGINA CLEMENS FOX, OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY
Rachel Luckenbill, Duquesne University. “Crossing Boundaries & Seeking Reconciliation in Louise Erdrich’s The Last Report on the Miracles at Little No Horse” (luckenbill@duquesne.edu)
Amber James, Oklahoma State University. “Liminal Spaces, Liminal Identities: Mexico-United States Border Narratives as Travel Writing” (amber.james@ou.edu)
Colleen G. Elk, The University of Texas at Austin. “The Limits of Literature in Salvador Plascencia’s The People of Paper” (colleen.elk@utexas.edu)

G. Blues, Jazz, and African American Literature, Grand Ballroom D-F, 8:00-9:15
MODERATOR: DANIEL BARLOW UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Kimberly Mack, University of California-Los Angeles. “The Space Between: The Politics of Silence in African American Jazz and Blues Fiction” (mackpro@hotmail.com)
Damién Weaver, University of Massachusetts Amherst. “Jazz Liberalism and the Literature of Change” (damienevweaver@hotmail.com)
Daniel Barlow, University of Pittsburgh. “Pushing Play: Sound, Pedagogy, and the Geopolitics of Form in Bailey’s Café” (dpb29@pitt.edu)

SESSION II: 9:30-10:45

A. Shadow Ballers/Pitchin’ Men: Ralph Ellison and Narratives of the Black Male Athlete in the US: A Roundtable, Centennial 1, 9:30-10:45
Michael A. Antonucci, Keene State College (mantonucci@keene.edu)
Garin Cycholl, University of Illinois at Chicago (gcycholl1@uic.edu)
Sterling D. Pumphrey, Professor Emeritus, University of Illinois at Chicago

B. Getting Started in Scholarly Publishing: A MELUS Roundtable, Centennial 2, 9:30-10:45
MODERATOR: AMRISTT SINGH, OHIO UNIVERSITY
James Buss, Salisbury University (jmbuss@salisbury.edu)
Keith Byerman, Indiana State University (keith.byerman@iun.edu)
Martina Cullen, MELUS editor (martina.cullen@iucan.edu)
Catherine Fong, MELUS Book Review Editor (cfong@lib.berkeley.edu)
John Lowe, University of Georgia (jlowe@uga.edu)

C. Translated Selves: Language and Belonging, Centennial 3, 9:30-10:45
MODERATOR: MELISSA DENNHY, QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE–CUNY
Gretchen Buehler, Woman’s University “No single, adequate translation”. Working against the Monolingual Paradigm in Multietnic Women’s Poetry” (gbeu@wisc.edu)
Carly Houston, University of Massachusetts Amherst. “Ora V. Edelmann Reed and the Politics of Indian English” (chouston@english.umass.edu)
Melissa Dennhy, Queensborough Community College–CUNY “They Mustn’t Take Your Mind and Use You: Assimilative Schooling and Linguistic Insubordination in Nicholasa Mohr’s Nésis

D. From Chesnutt to Ellison, Salon A, 9:30-10:45
MODERATOR: SALVATION FERGUSON, UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA–GREENSBORO
Francisca Sawaya, University of Oklahoma “The ‘Guilt Dress’ of Philanthropy in Chestnutt and Ellison” (fsawaya@ou.edu)
Pearlie Peters, Rider University “African American Folktales and The Development of African American Literature from Charles Chesnutt to Zora Neale Hurston, J. Mason Brower, and Ralph Ellison” (peterlp@rider.edu)
SallyAnn Ferguson, University of North Carolina-Greensboro. “Rice as Manhood Text: The Examples of Chestnutt’s Dr. Miller and Ellison’s Invisible Man” (sersai20@iol.com)

E. Regions of Race and Ethnicity, Salon B, 9:30-10:45
MODERATOR: CHRISTOPHER KELLER, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS–PAN AMERICAN
Long Le-Khac, Stanford University “Reframing the ‘Regionalist’ Story Cycle Mapping Communities of Fate in Aimee Phan’s We Should Never Meet” (bkkhai@stanford.edu)
Hy Wee, University of Pittsburgh “Chinatown as a Cultural Lingua Franca in East Goes West” (hwee1@pitt.edu)
Christopher Keller, University of Texas-Pan American. “The Struggle has always been inner” (keller@utcpa.edu)
F. Class Politics and Aesthetics in Ethnic Literatures II, Salon C, 9:30-10:45
MODERATOR: ADAM MIECH, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Dennis López, California State University-Long Beach. “Belaboring Difference: Race, Class, and Power in William Attaway’s Blood on the Forge” (Dennis.Lopez@csulb.edu)
Greg Gabrela. “On Writing Modern Myths: Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison in the History of Psychoanalysis” (greg.gabrela@gmail.com)
Adam Meekin. University of Arizona. “Black and Red: Ellison, Ideology, and the Problematization of Black Marxism” (ameekin@arizona.edu)

G. Teaching Multi-Ethnic American Literatures, Grand Ballroom D-F, 9:30-10:45
MODERATOR: CRISTINA STANCIU, VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
Anastasia Turner, University of North Georgia. “Teaching Topics of Orange with Geographical Information” (Anastasia.Turner@ung.edu)
J.J. Butts, Simpson College. “Teaching Multilingual Literature: from Midtown to Midwest” (jbutts@simpson.edu)
Mary Anne Lyons, University of Illinois-Chicago. “Balancing Content and Context: Teaching Native American Literatures in a Gen. Ed. Setting” (MaryLyons4@uic.edu)
J. Stephen Pearson, University of North Georgia. “Generalism and Multiculturalism: Integrating Multicultural Literature into the Non-MC Class Room” (Steve.Pearson@ung.edu)
Joanne Ruvolo, Ball State University. “Teaching Inter-Ethnic Encounters: Conflicts and Alliances in Italian American Literature” (JoanneRuvolo@yahoo.com)

H. The Politics of Ethnic Representation in Children’s and Young Adult Literature, Crystal Room, 9:30-10:45
MODERATOR: LIZ WILLNER, OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY
Jackie K. White. Lewis University. “Julia Alvarez’s New England as New Territory” (jj.butts@simpson.edu)
Yollotl Lopez, California State Northridge. “Jewish encounters: Portrayal of interethnic relationships by non-Jewish authors in Young adult Novels” (yollotllopez@gmail.com)

OUT-OF-TOWN GUESTS, PLEASE NOTE: Oklahoma City tests its emergency systems every Saturday at noon. Do not be alarmed if you hear a tornado siren!

SESSION III: 11:00-12:15
A. Trauma, Violence, and the Shaping of Narrative, Centennial 1, 11:00-12:15
MODERATOR: ADRIAN GLASGOW, PURDUE UNIVERSITY
Mahenoud Zdan, Binghamton University. “The Violent Body in James Baldwin’s If Beale Street Could Talk” (maidan@binghamton.edu)
Heather Hathaway, Marquette University. “The Trauma and Rhetoric of Silence in Japanese American Internment Literature” (heather.hathaway@marquette.edu)
Maria Seger, University of Connecticut. “NO TREPPASSIN’: The Property-Based Logic of Racial Violence in Richard Wright’s Uncle Tom’s Children” (maria.seger@uconn.edu)

B. Space/Place/Race, Salon A, 11:00-12:15
MODERATOR: CRISTINA STANCIU, VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
Caitlin Hodges, Temple University. “Staging Victory and Fleeing the Scene: Grounding Imagination in America Parades: George Washington Comes” (cait.hodges@temple.edu)
Erin Murrah-Mandrf, University of New Mexico. “Specters of Adina de Zavalia’s History and Legends of the Alamo” (emmurrah@unm.edu)
Sandra M. Grayson, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. “Border Crossings in ‘Amnesty.’ Portray of the Sower, and The Epic of San-Juan” (grayson@milwu.edu)

C. Queer Disruptions, Alternative Masculinities, Salon A, 11:00-12:15
MODERATOR: DOUGLAS STEWARD, MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION
Derrick King. University of Florida. “The Social Barriers of Neoliberalism, New Cultural Styles, and the Potentialities of Utopian Hope in the Work of Samuel Delany” (dking87@ufl.edu)
William Thomas McBride, Illinois State University. “Who’s Afraid of Oh Snap! Black Queer Snapping Comes Full Circle” (wmcbiddle@ilstu.edu)
Youngju Lee, Sagam University. “From Boys to Men: African American Manhood in James Baldwin’s Going to Meet the Man” (simleewybg@gmail.com)

D. The Indigenous West: Iconography, Indigenous Identity, and Nation Building, Salon C, 11:00-12:15
MODERATOR: ANDREA DOMINGUEZ, DEVRY UNIVERSITY
Andrea Dominguez, DeVry University. “Indian Presence (and Absence): Ishi and Racial Memory in the Urban West” (adominguez@devry.edu)
Anta Huizar-Hernandez, University of California-San Diego. “The Indian Who Would Not Vanish Geronimo and the Battle to Define the West” (antasl.hill@gmail.com)
Lisa Thomas, Schoolwide, Inc. “The Texas Frontier: Quanah Parker and Liminality in the West” (liathomasaucsc@gmail.com)

E. Ralph Ellison and the Art of Civil Rights, Grand Ballroom D-F, 11:00-12:15
MODERATOR: SHANNA GREENE BENJAMIN, GRINNELL COLLEGE
Lena Hill, University of Iowa. “Staging Equality beyond Invisible Man” (lenahill@uiowa.edu)
Michael Hill, University of Iowa. “Unsigned Petitions: Ralph Ellison’s Alternative Endorsement of Toni Morrison” (michael.hill@uiowa.edu)
Horace Porter, University of Iowa. “Who Speaks for the Negro: Ralph Ellison and the Promise of Democracy” (horace.porter@uiowa.edu)

F. Inter-ethnic Considerations, Crystal Room, 11:00-12:15
MODERATOR: WILL HARRIS, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES UNIVERSITY
Agnieszka Tuynska, Queensborough Community College - CUNY. “Anna Lucasta’s Transracial Journeys” (aluczynskaj@qc.cuny.edu)
Trent Masiki, University of Massachusetts Amherst. “Afro-American Narrative Strategies in Contemporary U.S. Afro-Latino Literature” (tmaski@afroam.umass.edu)
Will Harris, United Arab Emirates University. “Muslim American Slave Narratives and the African American Canon: A Dis-integrating Interrogative?” (twillharr13@gmail.com)
SUNDAY, MARCH 9

SPECIAL PROGRAM SESSIONS

A. Guided Walking Tour of OKC’s Deep Deuce neighborhood, ending with a live jazz brunch at Urban Roots, 322 NE 2nd St ($15 + tax and gratuity). Please wear your conference badges to the restaurant to help them identify our group. No reservation necessary: meet in Skirvin Hotel lobby at 9:45 AM. Those with mobile devices are encouraged to bring them along. Please note that the tour site is about a 10-minute walk from the hotel.

B. Oklahoma’s Jazz Hall of Fame in Tulsa, 10:00-10:45, Crystal Room
A presentation by Jeff Kos, Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, http://www.okjazz.org/

C. “Native Tribes of Oklahoma,” 11:00-11:45, Crystal Room
A presentation by Dr. Blue Clark, Oklahoma City University/Muscogee Nation

D. Guided walking tour of the Oklahoma City National Memorial (weather permitting) with Dr. Brooke Hessler, Oklahoma City University
Departs from Skirvin Lobby at 11:30 AM. Please note that the memorial is a 10-minute walk from the hotel.
http://www.oklahomacitynationalmemorial.org/

RALPH ELLISON

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ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES
IN U.S. MULTI-ETHNIC LITERATURES

29th Annual MELUS Conference, 2015
April 9–12, Athens, Georgia

We all scan arrival and departure boards at airports to get a sense of future movements; for centuries, however, arrivals and departures have been critically important in a broader and more meaningful way in the lives and narratives of ethnically defined peoples. This conference will interrogate all the many interpretations of these terms, concentrating on immigration, mobility, exile, diaspora, disruptions, career moves, family separations, and family reunions; modes of transportation and their depictions, be it boats, ferries, horse or mule drawn wagons, airplanes, or spaceships; scenes of arrival and departure; births; deaths; upward or downward mobility; historic events that herald innovation or a farewell to past traditions.

As always, paper and panel proposals are also welcome on any aspect of the multicultural literature of the United States.

DEADLINE FOR ABSTRACTS/PANEL PROPOSALS:
December 15, 2014

Email to 2015melus@gmail.com. To be considered for the graduate student travel award and the contingent faculty award cc: mdennihy@gmail.com. All presenters, chairs, and moderators must be members of MELUS. Membership information can be found on the MELUS website at www.melus.org.

Athens, Georgia, has been ranked as one of the most beautiful and exciting college towns in the nation. Its vibrant music scene has launched groups like the B-52s and REM, from venues like the fabled Georgia Theater. Athens is also home to the Georgia Museum of Art and the Georgia Botanical Garden, which will be in bloom during the conference. The compact downtown, adjacent to the historic and charming University of Georgia campus, is chock-a-block with funky boutiques, excellent local restaurants, and historic sites. Accommodations have been reserved at hotels either in or near the beautifully appointed Classic Center, the location for the conference meetings. We will also have an opening reception on campus at the architectural masterpiece, the Jackson Street building. While all of these locations are within walking distance of each other, the campus and town are served by excellent bus systems, which make frequent stops; the campus system is free. Come experience an Athens Spring!