Welcome to the 32nd Annual Conference of the Society for the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, held at the Tuscany Suites and Casino, Las Vegas, NV, May 3-6, 2018. All sessions are on the 2nd floor of the Tuscany Conference Center. See map on the next page.

**Book Exhibit & Coffee Service: Pisa, Thursday – Sunday**

*Thursday, May 3rd: 1:00 – 5:00 PM*
*Friday, May 4th: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM*
*Saturday, May 5th: 8:00 AM – 5:00PM*
*Sunday, May 6th: 8:00 – 11:00 AM*

Many thanks to the generous sponsors of the conference:

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Guest Speakers

Thursday, May 3

José Orduña (6:00 PM): José Orduña was born in Córdoba, Veracruz, and immigrated to Chicago when he was two years old. He received an MFA from the Nonfiction Writing Program at the University of Iowa. His work explores the ways power has determined his and others’ existence as racialized subjects of the United States. His first book, The Weight of Shadows: A Memoir of Immigration and Displacement was published in 2016 by Beacon Press.

Friday, May 4

Danzy Senna (12:30 PM): Danzy Senna is the author of five critically acclaimed books of fiction and nonfiction. Her first novel, Caucasia, won the Book of the Month Award for First Fiction and the American Library Association’s Alex Award. Caucasia was a finalist for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award and was named a Los Angeles Times Best Book of the Year. Her other books include the novel, Symptomatic, the memoir, Where Did You Sleep Last Night? A Personal History, the short story collection, You Are Free, and the recently published novel, New People (Riverhead Books, August 2017). Senna is a recipient of the Whiting Writers Award and was recently awarded the 2017 Dos Passos Prize for Literature. She has written for The New Yorker, The New York Times and Vogue, among other publications. She lives in Los Angeles.

Saturday, May 5

Daniel Heath Justice (6:00 PM): Daniel Heath Justice is a Colorado-born Canadian citizen of the Cherokee Nation. He received his BA from the University of Northern Colorado and his MA and PhD from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Before coming to UBC, he spent ten years as a faculty member in the Department of English at the University of Toronto, where he was also an affiliate of the Aboriginal Studies Program. Justice currently holds the Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Literature and Expressive Culture. He is the author of Our Fire Survives the Storm: A Cherokee Literary History and numerous essays in the field of Indigenous literary studies, as well as co-editor of a number of critical and creative anthologies and journals, including the award-winning The Oxford Handbook of Indigenous American Literature (with James H. Cox) and Sovereign Erotics: A Collection of Two-Spirit Literature (with Qwo-Li Driskill, Deborah Miranda, and Lisa Tatonetti). He is also the author of Badger in the celebrated Animal series from Reaktion Books (UK) and the Indigenous epic fantasy novel, The Way of
Thorn and Thunder: The Kynship Chronicles. Justice’s current projects include Why Indigenous Literatures Matter, a literary manifesto forthcoming from Wilfrid Laurier University Press, a collection of essays titled This Hummingbird Heart: Indigenous Writing, Wonder, and Desire, as well as a new dark fantasy trilogy, a cultural history of raccoons, and a critical monograph on other-than-human kinship in Indigenous writing.

Melissa Michal Slocum (2:30 PM) is of Seneca descent. She teaches and writes about creative writing and literature. Her creative work explores historical trauma and resilience within her own community. Her criticism focuses on representation of Indigenous histories and literatures in educational curricula and how her community’s Good Mind acts as a theoretical paradigm that doesn’t simply incorporate Indigenous issues in the classroom, but also argues for understanding such issues. She is currently guest editing an issue of Transmotion focused on American Indian genocide, erasure, and absence. She received her MFA from Chatham University, her MA from the Pennsylvania State University, and PhD from Arizona State University. Melissa has work appearing in The Florida Review, Yellow Medicine Review, and the University of Iowa’s International Writing Program’s Narrative Witnessing project. Her short story collection, Living On the Borderlines, is due out with the Feminist Press in fall 2018, and was a finalist for the Louise Meriwether first book prize. She finished her novel, Along the Hills, and is now working on a nonfiction collection, Broken Blood, as well as her critical monograph, Haudenosaunee Good Mind: Combating Literary Erasure and Genocide of American Indian Presence with Literature Curriculum and Literary Criticism.

Karli Tokala Rouse (2:30 PM) is a descendant of the Ihanktonwan Dakota Oyate. A multi-genre writer, her work results from following threads, seeking to reflect multiplicities rather than absolutes, and typically centers on interconnected themes of repatriation and survivance. She graduated from UNLV in 2017 with a BA in English and continues her studies there as an MFA candidate in the Creative Writing International Program.

Zach Wilson (2:30 PM) grew up in eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas and is an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation. Zach’s work is often surreal and focuses heavily on identities that are queer, Southern, and Indigenous. Zach currently lives in Las Vegas and is pursuing an MFA in Fiction from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.
SESSION 1: THURSDAY, MAY 3: 12:00 – 1:15 PM

1A Immigrant Experience, Identity, and Citizenship (Florentine E)
Chair: James Byrne, Wheaton College
1. “Super Immigrants: Narratives of Asian Exceptionalism under Global Capitalism,” Yuan Ding, University of Minnesota
3. “Liminal Assimilation: Toward a Literary Understanding of Indian American Ethnic Identity,” Talib Jabbar, University of California, Santa Cruz

1B Transcultural Connections in Multi-Ethnic Literature (Florentine F)
Chair: Kelsey Flint-Martin, University of South Carolina
2. “Assembling Transatlantic Diasporic Identities in Yaa Gyasi’s Homegoing,” Luis Paganelli Marín, University of Arkansas
3. “‘Not American--not black--just me’: Movement as Identity Resistance and Development in Toni Morrison’s Tar Baby,” Kelsey Flint-Martin, University of South Carolina

1C Ruth Ozeki, Ecocriticism, and Capitalism (Tuscany)
Chair: Anastasia Lin, University of North Georgia
1. “Transcorporeality and the Violent Workings of Capitalism in Ozeki’s All Over Creation,” Lee Olsen, University of Nevada, Reno
2. “Ocean of Memories: Historical Trauma and Environmental Justice in Ruth Ozeki’s A Tale for the Time Being,” Heejoo Park, University of California, Riverside

1D Multi-Ethnic Science and Speculative Fiction (Siena)
Chair: Megan Elizabeth Nieto, University of Texas at San Antonio
1. “Colonized Bodies, Decolonized Landscapes, and Border Control: Transient Conceptions of Citizenship and the Decolonial Cyborg in Sabrina Vourvoulias’s Ink,” Jonathan Martinez, University of Texas at San Antonio
2. “Time, Interconnectivity, and the Art of Extrospection in Ruth Ozeki's, A Tale for The Time Being,” Leslie Fernandez, University of California, Riverside
3. “Traversing Culture and (Sub)Genre: The Pregnant Body of Color, Premature Deaths, and Reproductive Injustice in Feminist (Ally) of Color SF-Like Literature and Performance,” Megan Elizabeth Nieto, University of Texas at San Antonio

1E Journeys and Migrations (Firenze)
Chair: Lauren J. Gantz, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point; AV Requested
   1. “‘Re-Molding, Re-Designing’: Alienating the Statue of Liberty in Tato Laviera and Ester Hernández,” Scott Pett, Rice University
   2. “En ruta hacia el otro lado: Buses as Transformative Spaces,” Debbie Cifuentes Ramírez, University of Texas at Austin
   3. “Children of the Sea: Jason de Caires Taylor and Migrations of Public Memory,” Lauren J. Gantz, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point
   4. “Transit and Transience in McKay’s Home to Harlem and Banjo,” Blake Wilder, University of Maryland

SESSION 2: THURSDAY, May 3: 1:30 – 2:45 PM

2A Citizenship and Mobility in South Asian Narratives (Florentine E)
Chair: Anastasia Lin, University of North Georgia
   3. “Social Mobility through Intimacy: Miscegenation in the South Asian Diaspora,” Madhura Nadarajah, University of Central Florida

2B Translation and Multilingualism in Multi-Ethnic Literature (Florentine F)
Chair: Doug Steward, Modern Language Association
   1. “Translanguaging and Multilingualism in Junot Diaz’s The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao,” Gabriela Almendarez, University of California, Riverside
   2. “Translating Language and Self in Miguel Syjuco’s Ilustrado (2010),” Cecilia Nina Myers, University of Memphis
   3. “The New ‘New Mestiza’ in Arab American Women’s Writing,” Niven Herro, University of Cincinnati
2C Genre, Gender, and Identity (Florentine G)
Chair: Daniel Burns, Elon University
2. “Spy-vilization: Double-consciousness and Assemblage Formation in Asian American Literature,” Dong Yang, University of Georgia
3. “Secret History as Subterraneity: Excavating Chris Abani’s Las Vegas,” Daniel Burns, Elon University

2D Passing in Antebellum and Modern America (Tuscany)
Chair: Amanda M. Page, Juniata College
1. “Ellen Craft’s Extravagant Passing & Transnational Masquerades,” Rosa Martinez, California State University, Sacramento

2E Transcultural Blues (Siena)
Chair: Josh-Wade Ferguson, University of Mississippi
1. “Embodying Black Blues: Transracial Narrative in Alice Walker’s ‘Nineteen Fifty-Five,’” Eddie A. Moore, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2. “Transnational Blues: A Shift in Blues Literature,” Josh-Wade Ferguson, University of Mississippi
3. “Reading Whiteness and the Blues: Transatlantic American-ness in Adichie’s Americanah,” Janelle Jennings-Alexander, Florida State University

2F Transnational and Transcultural Poetics and Identities (Firenze)
Chair: Nancy El Gendy, University of Nevada, Reno
1. “‘TransCulture’: Negotiating Identities in Contemporary American Muslim Women’s Writing,” Hasnul Djohar, University of Exeter
2. “‘Accidental Transients’: The Transnational Poetics of Randa Jarrar,” Sylvia Terzian, University of Waterloo
3. “Survivance Strategies in Contemporary Arab American Women’s Novels,” Nancy El Gendy, University of Nevada, Reno
SESSION 3: THURSDAY, MAY 3: 3:00 – 4:15 PM

3A Identity and the Ethnic Other in Film (Florentine E)
Chair: Jesse Alemán, University of New Mexico
1. “‘You’re a Traitor to your Country and Your Class’: Rollin Ridge’s Legend of Joaquin Murieta as it Survives Print Culture, Zorro, and Batman in the 20th Century,” Lauren E. Perry, University of New Mexico

3B Border-Crossing and the West in Ethnic Literature (Florentine F)
Chair: Maya Socolovsky, University of North Carolina, Charlotte
1. “‘Dear Mrs. Trump, Please Read This Picture Book’: The Ethics of Counting and Border Crossing in Jairo Buitrago’s Two White Rabbits,” Maya Socolovsky, University of North Carolina, Charlotte
2. “Sesshu Foster, Ai, and the Rhizomatic West,” Christopher Muniz, University of Southern California

3C The Vietnam War in Literature (Florentine G)
Chair: Alaina Kaus, University of Connecticut
2. “‘My life is in your hands’: Mis/representations of Self and Relational Economies of Reciprocation in Le Ly Hayslip and Jay Wurts’ When Heaven and Earth Changed Places,” Quynh H. Vo and Janet J. Graham, University of Hawaii
3. “Supongamos: Racial Representation and Transhistoric/Transpacific Trauma in Alfredo Vea’s Gods Go Begging,” Nancy Huayan Carranza, University of California, Riverside

3D African American Speculative Fiction (Tuscany)
Chair: Leah Milne, University of Indianapolis
1. “From Pecola to Mnemosyne: Transmutations of Literary Black Girlhood in Darryl A. Smith’s ‘The Pretended,’” Samira Abdur-Rahman, University of San Francisco
2. “Transcultural Labor in N. K. Jemisin’s The Fifth Season,” Leah Milne, University of Indianapolis
3E  **African American Rhetorical Strategies (Firenze)**
Chair: Nanette Rasband Hilton, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; AV Requested
1. “Cultural Jim Crow and the Black Academy of Arts and Letters,” Matthew Calihman, Missouri State University

**SESSION 4: THURSDAY, MAY 3: 4:30 – 5:45 PM**

4A  **Octavia Butler’s Parable Series (Florentine E)**
Chair: Anne Schmalstig, University of Miami
1. “Alternative Communities of Resistance in Octavia Butler’s *Parable* Series,” Anne Schmalstig, University of Miami
2. “Mapping Liberation in Octavia Butler’s *Parable of the Sower*,” Fiona Maurissette, Tufts University
3. “Dystopian Transformations and the Near Workless World Imaginary in Octavia Butler’s *The Parable of the Sower*,” Katrina Newsom, Wayne State University

4B  **Diasporic Identities (Florentine F)**
Chair: Martha Pitts, Howard University
1. “The Dichotomy of Longing and Belonging: Armenian Diasporic Identity,” Meltem Şafak, University of Georgia
2. “Amanda Berry Smith and the Politics of Home, Mobility, and Diasporic Identity,” Martha Pitts, Howard University
3. “The Rest is Deluge: Meditations on Achy Obejas’ *The Tower of the Antilles*,” Lacie Rae Cunningham, Cornell University
4. “Domino Effect within Menendez’s *In Cuba I Was a German Shepherd*,” Jamie Crosswhite, University of Texas, San Antonio

4C  **Ethnography, Transcultural Relationships, and Transgression in Zora Neale Hurston (Florentine G)**
Chair: Jessica Teague, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
1. “Transcription and Transmedial Ethnography of Zora Neale Hurston and Alan Lomax,” Jessica Teague, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2. “Respond and Resist: The Impact and Influence of Fannie Hurst’s *Imitation of Life* on Zora Neale Hurston,” Allison Parker, Massachusetts Maritime Academy
3. “Transgressive Motherhood and Neighbor-Love in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Seraph on the Suwanee*,” Hannah Nahm, University of California, Los Angeles

**4D Native American Texts and Contexts (Siena)**  
Chair: Shari Evans, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

1. “Transversing Identity: Performance, the Past, and the Possible in Louise Erdrich’s *The Last Report of the Miracles at Little No Horse*,” Shari Evans, University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth
2. “Narrative Critical Framing: Tribal Critical Race Theory Transforming Scholarship,” Melissa Michal Slocum, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
3. “‘Where Is What I Started For?: Collecting Ancestral Bones and Narrating Indigenous Migration in Louis Owens’s *I Hear the Train*,” Patricia M. Perea, University of New Mexico

**4E Photography, Identity, and Multi-Ethnic Literature (Firenze)**  
Chair: Autumn Widdoes, University of Nevada, Las Vegas; AV Requested

1. “Under the Sign of Disaster Triumphant: Contemporary Ruin in the US and Latin America,” Jesús Costantino, University of New Mexico
2. “The Afterimage of Trauma: Memory, Language and the Photographic Image in W.G. Sebald’s *Austerlitz* and Audre Lorde’s ‘Afterimages,’” Autumn Widdoes, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
3. “Flotsam and the Flâneur: Teju Cole’s *Every Day is for the Thief*,” Oscar Oswald, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4. “(Digital) Methodology of the Oppressed: Decolonizing the Digital Humanities,” Lorena Gauthereau, University of Houston

**THURSDAY, MAY 3: 6:00 – 9:00 PM**  
KEYNOTE SPEAKER & OPENING RECEPTION

Reading by José Orduña (*Florentine C*), 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Opening Reception (*Florentine AB*), 7:00 – 9:00 PM: Sponsored by Loyola Marymount University Department of English; UNLV Department of English; UNLV Department of Interdisciplinary, Gender, and Ethnic Studies; UNLV Department of Sociology; UNLV Department of History; UNLV Department of World Languages and Cultures
SESSION 5: FRIDAY, MAY 4: 8:00 – 9:15 AM

5A Trauma, Intolerance, and Strategies of Resistance in Multi-Ethnic Texts (Florentine E)
Chair: M. Catherine Jonet, New Mexico State University
1. “Transnational Loss in The Gangster We Are All Looking For,” Laura Anh Williams and M. Catherine Jonet, New Mexico State University
2. “Silence as a Coping Strategy for Long-Ranging Trauma in Lan Cao’s Monkey Bridge,” Alison M. Johnson, University of Nevada, Reno
3. “Theorizing the World-Systems Sublime: Futurity and Representational Resistance in Mohsin Hamid’s The Reluctant Fundamentalist and Nuruddin Farah’s Crossbones,” Bryant Scott, University of Miami

5B Critiques of Racialization in Multi-Ethnic Literature (Florentine F)
Chair: Dima Alzayat, Lancaster University
1. “I was all Arabs, look how dark’: Transforming Arab American racialization in Rabih Alamedine’s The Angel of History,” Dima Alzayat, Lancaster University
2. “Staring Down the Panopticon: Surveillance and Resistance to the Controls of Whiteness, Chester Himes and If He Hollers, Let Him Go,” Robert R. Lucci, University of Maryland
3. “‘Convincing and Unremarkable’: Language, Power, and Identity in Chang-rae Lee’s Native Speaker,” Julie Yeeun Kim, California State University, Long Beach

5C Understanding and Constructing Jewish Identity (Florentine G)
Chair: Roberta Sabbath, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
1. “Looking the Other Way: Iranian Jewish Identity and Class Conflict in Dalia Sofer’s The Septembers of Shiraz,” Andrea Modarres, University of Washington, Tacoma
2. “Subjunctive as a Mood of Nostalgia in the Works of Contemporary Jewish American and Cuban American Writers,” Izabela Zieba, Raritan Valley Community College
3. “Genizah in The History of Love: Transgenerational Loss, Unburying, and Creation,” Abigail Manzella, Tufts University

5D The Afterlives of Empire (Tuscany)
Chair: Soh Yeun Kim, University of Washington
2. “A Suitable Orphan and a Passing Parent: The Politics of Kinship in the Afterlife of Empire,” Soh Yeun Kim, University of Washington
3. “Hawaiian Dreams: The Utopian Imagination in Select Short Stories by Michael Puleloa and Gary Pak,” Deepthi Siriwardena, University of Florida

5E Identity, Trauma, and Gender in Octavia Butler (Siena)
Chair: Christine Montgomery, California State University-Sacramento
1. “Visualizing Transcultural Subjectivities in Octavia E. Butler’s *Kindred,*” Christine Montgomery, California State University-Sacramento, and Ellen C. Caldwell, Mt. San Antonio College
2. “‘Lost an arm on my last trip home’: Linking Epigenetics with Race, Memory, and Trauma in Octavia Butler’s *Kindred,*” Suchismita Dutta, University of Miami
3. “Future Shock!” Transcultural Hierarchies of Masculinities and Species in Octavia Butler’s *Lilith’s Brood,*” Michael Pitts, University of Arkansas

5F Alienation: On the Racial Transverse of Science Fiction (Firenze)
Chair: Diane Leong, University of Utah
1. “Quantum Entanglement as Technological Repatriation of Orientalized Spatiotemporality in Ruth Ozeki’s *A Tale for the Time Being,*” Haerin Shin, Vanderbilt University
2. “Racing Time: Empire and Time Travel in Charles Yu’s Fiction,” David S. Roh, University of Utah
3. “‘John Henry was born with a hammer in hand’: Anoriginary Technicity between Automation and Autonomy”, Michael Litwack, University of Alberta
4. “‘A Hundred Tiny Hands’: Slavery, Scale and Nanotechnology in Nalo Hopkin’s Midnight Robber,” Diana Leong, University of Utah

SESSION 6: FRIDAY, MAY 4: 9:30 – 10:45 AM

6A The Straight and Narrow: The Intersection of Prison and Freedom in John Edgar Wideman’s Writing (Florentine E)
Chair: Keith Byerman, Indiana State University
1. “Black Death in Wideman’s *Writing to Save a Life,*” JuYoun Jang, University of Mississippi
2. “Policing Blackness: Race and Law Enforcement in Wideman’s Writing,” Tracie Guzzio, SUNY, Plattsburgh
6B Interpreting Transnational Asian American and Asian Diasporic Literature in the Twentieth & Twenty-First Centuries (Florentine F)
Chair: Lingyan Yang, Indiana University of Pennsylvania
2. “Going Beyond Translation: The Texts of Eileen Chang’s The Golden Cangue,” Wenxin Li, Suffolk Community College, SUNY

6C Transgressive Bodies and Legibility: Variously Reading Race, Ethnicity, and Culture in Popular Media (Florentine G)
Chair: Olga Herrera, University of St. Thomas
2. “‘The Pregnant Lady Playing Tennis’: Women’s Bodies, the Myth of Frailty, and Serena Williams,” Liz Wilkinson, University of St. Thomas
3. “Amigo Bronco: Fear the Walking Dead’s Transborder Textuality,” Olga Herrera, University of St. Thomas

6D Frameworks of Reading in African American Literature (Tuscany)
Chair: Dean Anthony Brink, National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu City, Taiwan
1. “Racialization and Ontologies of Change in Amiri Baraka’s Performance Poetry,” Dean Anthony Brink, National Chiao Tung University, Hsinchu City, Taiwan
2. “Lost Reading: Black Thoughts on a Kind of Undisciplined Method and Poetics,” Javon Johnson, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
3. “Malcolm and Hartman in Ghana: Afterlives of Slavery in the African Diaspora,” Benjamin Moats, University of Miami

6E Representations of Childhood in Ethnic American and Hemispheric Literature (Siena)
Chair: Nicole M. Guidotti-Hernández, University of Texas at Austin
1. “Hunting Like a Girl: Social Constructions of Black Girlhood in Michelle Cliff’s Abeng,” Maxine Montgomery, Florida State University
2. “Girl-Children Writing Revolution: Dispatches from the Partido Liberal Mexiano, 1916-1922,” Nicole M. Guidotti-Hernández, University of Texas at Austin
4. “Quaring Childhood: Transgression and Transformation in Randall Kenan’s A Visitation of Spirits,” Katherine Henninger, Louisiana State University
6F Representing Slavery and the Slave Narrative in Contemporary Film (Firezne)
Chair: Ashley Byock, Edgewood College; AV Requested
3. “Intransigent Historiographies in Film Translations of U.S. Slave Narratives,” Ashley Byock, Edgewood College

SESSION 7: FRIDAY, MAY 4: 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

7A Poetry and Arab and American American Identity (Florentine E)
Chair: Sirene Harb, American University of Beirut
1. “Experimental Spaces, Ghostlines, and Violence in Arab-American Literature,” Sirene Harb, American University of Beirut
2. “Arab-American Identity and Naomi Shihab Nye’s Poetry,” Shaheena Ayub Bhatti and Maham Michelle Gill, Fatima Jinnah Women University, Pakistan

7B Women of Color Caucus Roundtable: Making Your Voice Heard: Strategies for Navigating Academic Meetings (Florentine F)
Chair: Sherry Johnson, Chair, Women of Color Caucus Committee
1. Georgina Dodge, Associate Provost, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, Bucknell University
2. Kim Martin Long, Dean, College of Liberal Arts, Education and Human Development, University of New Orleans

7C Labor and Commodification in Multi-Ethnic Literature (Florentine G)
Chair: Julianna Crame, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2. “Where is My Home, Where is My Heart?: The Filipino-American Identity Flux in Carlos Bulosan’s America is In the Heart,” Julianna Crame, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
3. “Transformation and the Traffic in Women from Faulkner’s Addie to Keller’s Soon Hyo,” Nozomi Saito, University of Pittsburgh
4. “Social Transformation and the Makers of History in Rigoberto González’s Crossing Vines and Gary Soto’s Jesse,” Marcial González, University of California, Berkeley
7D  Poetics of Diaspora and the Other (Siena)
Chair: Mauricio Espinoza, University of Cincinnati
1. “A DREAMER Divided: The Transnational Poetics of Javier Zamora,” Mauricio Espinoza, University of Cincinnati
2. “Documentary Poetics and Latin@ Literature,” Dennis López, California State University, Long Beach
3. “‘The Other’ and ‘the Self’ in Coyote Traces: A Chinese Yi Poet’s Empathy for Native American Cultural Legacy,” Wen Peihong, Southwest Minzu University, Chengdu, China

7E  Defending the Ethnic Studies Border with Transcolonial Pedagogy: Authority and Agency in U.S. Historical Narrative (Tuscany)
Chair: Kolette Draeggan, Central Arizona College; AV Requested
1. Kolette Draeggan, Central Arizona College
2. Heather Moulton, Central Arizona College
3. Joe Faykosh, Central Arizona College

7F  The Transformative Classroom: A Case Study for Teaching Multi-Ethnic Literatures in the Twenty-First Century (Firenze)
Chair: Julia Lee, Loyola Marymount University; AV Requested
Participants: Mauricio Hernandez, Sydney Delaney, Andre Enriquez, Yoan Moreno, Angelo Antonio, Julia Lee, Melanie Hubbard, Loyola Marymount University
Respondent: David S. Roh, University of Utah

FRIDAY, MAY 4: LUNCHEON, MELUS AWARDS, & KEYNOTE SPEAKER, 12:30 – 2:00 PM (Florentine C)
Presentation of MELUS Awards
Reading by Danzy Senna

SESSION 8: FRIDAY, MAY 4: 2:15 – 3:30 PM

8A  Immigration, Violence, and Borders (Florentine E)
Chair: Tracy Floreani, Oklahoma City University
1. “‘Public Enemy Number One’: Drug Discourse in Daniel Cano’s Shifting Loyalties,” Kevin Pickard, Southern Methodist University
2. “Transnational Violence: Borders, Capitalism, and People as Collateral Damage in Linda Hogan’s *Mean Spirit* and Alicia Gaspar de Alba’s *Desert Blood,*” Isabel Quintana Wulf, Colby College

8B MELUS Presidential Roundtable: Past MELUS Presidents Discuss the Society’s Past, Present, and Future (Florentine F)
Moderator: Joseph Kraus, University of Scranton, Current MELUS President
Panelists: Marco Portales, Texas A&M University (MELUS President 1992-94), John Wharton Lowe, University of Georgia (MELUS President 1997-2000), Wenying Xu, Jacksonville University (MELUS President 2009-12), A Yemisi Jimoh, University of Massachusetts, Amherst (MELUS President 2012-15)

8C Trans-subjects, Liminal Spaces, and Identity (Florentine G)
Chair: Jesse Alemán, University of New Mexico
1. “I wish I had been born a man’: The Trans-subjects of Loreta Janeta Velazquez’s Civil War Narrative,” Jesse Alemán, University of New Mexico
2. “Between Africa and the Stars: The Liminal Spaces of Nnedi Okorafor,” Ande Davis, University of Missouri, Kansas City
3. “Out of Bounds: A Cartography of Transgression in Ruth Ozeki’s *My Year of Meats,*” Tanya Y. Kam, University of Wisconsin, Whitewater
4. “Playing Indian: The Problem with Transracial Identities in *Chamisa Dreams* and *Jemez Spring,***” Myrriah Gomez, The University of New Mexico

8D Protest, Freedom, and Incarceration (Tuscany)
Chair: Josephine Metcalf, University of Hull
4. “Dystopian Futures, Decolonial Hope: Revolution and the Colonial Differences in *Lunar Braceros* and *Ink,*” Brittany Henry, Rice University

8E Rewriting History, Rewriting War: Transcultural Refugee Discourse (Firenze)
Chair: Priya Jha, University of Redlands
1. “‘My Orphaned Voice’: Confessions of a Refugee of War and Memory,” Pamela J. Rader, Georgian Court University
3. “Can the Oriental Speak? Saying the Unsayable in The Sympathizer,” Reshmi Dutt-Ballerstadt, Linfield College

SESSION 9: FRIDAY, MAY 4: 3:45 – 5:00 PM

9A Forms of Indigenous Resistance (Florentine E)
Chair: Lorinda Toledo, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
1. “Transnational Waterways and Transformative Power: Lessons from Linda Hogan’s Solar Storms and #NoDAPL Water Protectors,” Helen Makhdoumian, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
2. “(Un)marked Space: Whiteness, the Blank Page, and Marginalized Bodies in Indigenous Women’s Writing,” Amy Gore, University of New Mexico

9B Multi-Ethnic Memoir and Autobiography (Florentine F)
Chair: Mimi Pipino, Ursuline College
2. “Honest Transgression: Art and the Subversion of Dominant Narratives in Men We Reaped by Jesmyn Ward,” Joel Wendland, Grand Valley State University

9C African American and African Diasporic Identity and the City (Florentine G)
Chair: John Hay, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
1. “Murder, Mobility, and the Urban Aesthetic in Richard Wright’s Native Son,” Marc Dziak, San Juan College

9D Identity and Mobility in Multi-Ethnic Literature (Siena)
Chair: Richard C. Taylor, East Carolina University
1. “‘Chera Harfe Gooz Mizane’? Maz Jobrani and Iranian American Identity Making,” Kaitlyn Wauthier, Bowling Green State University
3. “Cities Teetering at the Edge of the Abyss”: Speculative Global Commons and ‘the (In)human’ in Mohsin Hamid’s Exit West,” Preston Waltrip, University of California, Riverside

9E Memory, Erasure, and Colonial Genealogies in Native American Literature (Tuscany)
Chair: Ariel Santos, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2. “When my hands are empty / I will be full’: Rhetorical Erasure and Chyrstos’s Not Vanishing,” Crystal Veronie, University of Southern Mississippi
3. “Genetic Memory and Transformative Storytelling in Deborah Miranda’s Bad Indians,” Ariel Santos, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

9F Roundtable: Pedagogy in Anxious Times: Teaching Multi-Ethnic Literatures of the United States (Firenze)
Chairs: Cristina Stanciu, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Anastasia Lin, University of North Georgia; AV Requested
1. “Teaching Satirical Literacy and Social Responsibility through Race Comedy,” Jessie LaFrance Dunbar, University of Alabama
4. “Who Needs Race Talk Anyway?: Teaching African American Literature to Students of Color in Anxious Times,” Agnieszka Tuszynska, Queensborough Community College, CUNY

SESSION 10: SATURDAY, MAY 5: 8:00 – 9:15 AM

10A Slavery and Black Poetics (Florentine E)
Chair: Regina Dickerson, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
3. “‘I Saw What Perilous Circumstances I was in . . . and Became Almost an Englishman’: Nonhuman Animals and Identity in Olaudah Equiano’s Interesting Narrative,” Kyle Keeler, Kent State University
10B  Issues of Genre in Multi-Ethnic Texts (Florentine F)  
Chair: Rachel Jane Carroll, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
2. “Challenging the Boundaries: Transpacific Entanglements in Shawna Ryan’s Green Island,” Iris Pei-fang Tsai, National Taiwan Normal University  

10C  The Ethnic Archive (Florentine G)  
Chair: Belinda Wheeler, Claflin University  
1. “Recovering Hispanic Immigrant Narratives: Print Culture in Early Los Angeles,” Vincent Pérez, University of Nevada Las Vegas  
2. “Black, White, and Native: The Multiracial, Multicultural, Multinational Print Space of Hampton Institute’s Southern Workman,” Sidonia Serafini, University of Georgia  
3. “Gwendolyn Bennett’s Transformative Archive,” Belinda Wheeler, Claflin University

10D  Activist Texts, Organizations, and Strategies (Tuscany)  
Chair: Nancy Kang, University of Baltimore; AV Requested  
1. “‘Negro, Por Favor’: Translating Racialized Language in the Dominican Diaspora,” Nancy Kang, University of Baltimore, and Silvio Torres-Saillant, Syracuse University  
2. “Solidarity is the Weapon of the People: The Young Lords Organization and Their Politics of Unity,” Jacqueline Lazú, DePaul University  
3. “Transience, Discontinuity, and Political Consciousness in Fae Myenne Ng’s Bone,” John Charles Goshert, Utah Valley University

10E  Cultural, Racial, and Gender Identities in Multi-Ethnic Literature (Firenze)  
Chair: Emily R. Rutter, Ball State University; AV Requested  
1. “Zoot Suit Riot: The Clash Between Cultural Identities in Luis Valdez’s Zoot Suit,” Sergio Robles, Jr., California State University, Long Beach  
2. “Sensing the Way Toward a Politics of Afro-Asian Solidarity,” Stephanie Kung, Indiana University  
4. “Revisiting ‘Blind Tom’ Wiggins and the Postbellum Era in Tyehimba Jess’s Olio and Jeffery Renard Allen’s Song of the Shank,” Emily R. Rutter, Ball State University
SESSION 11: SATURDAY, MAY 5: 9:30 – 10:45 AM

11A Religion in Literature I: Reclaiming Religion in the Postsecular Era: Muslim and Native American Writers (Florentine E)
Chair: J. Stephen Pearson, University of North Georgia
2. “Transcending Modern Justice in Louise Erdrich’s The Round House and LaRose,” Makayla C. Steiner, University of Iowa

11B Native American Sovereignty and Justice (Florentine F)
Chair: Sarah Ruffing Robbins, Texas Christian University
1. “‘Were you cured?’: Latency, Nationalism, and Sovereignty in Louise Erdrich’s The Plague of Doves,” Sara L. Pfaff, Brown University

11C Chicana Perspectives on Translation and Spanish-Language Texts (Florentine G)
Chair: Melina Vizcaíno-Alemán, University of New Mexico; Moderator: Lorena Gauthereau, University of Houston
1. “Healing the Sweet Avarice of the Rich: Translating the Meaning of Diabetes,” Amanda Ellis, University of Houston
2. “Material Culture and Transnationalism in Jorge Ainslie’s Los Pochos,” Sonia M. Del Hierro, Rice University
3. “Amalia Millán’s New Mexico: A Continuation of Mexico’s Northern States,” Elena V. Valdez, Rice University
4. “Me Civilizo’/My Civilizing’: Gender and Geography in Jovita Gonzalez’s Work,” Melina Vizcaíno-Alemán, University of New Mexico

11D Best Practices for Writing, Revising, and Publishing (Tuscany)
Chair: Amy Gore, University of New Mexico
1. Nancy El Gendy, University of Nevada, Reno
2. Leah Milne, University of Indianapolis
3. Tracy Floreani, Oklahoma City University
4. Gary Totten, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
11E  **Landscaping Citizenship in Multi-Ethnic American Literature (Siena)**  
Chair: Danelle Dyckhoff Stelzriede, Kennesaw State University  
1. “‘How do you change this tragedy of vision?’: Postnational Feminist Resistance at the Border,” Danelle Dyckhoff Stelzriede, Kennesaw State University  
2. “Between Colonialization and Post-Colonialism: Nicholas Said’s Nuanced Nationalism,” Jessie LaFrance Dunbar, University of Alabama at Birmingham  
3. “‘In the End I will Carry a Hoe’: *China Men*’s Transformations of Land and Identity,” Anastasia Lin, University of North Georgia  

11F  **Exoticism, Cultural Appropriation, and Racial Identity (Firenze)**  
Chair: Christopher Gonzalez, Utah State University; AV Requested  
1. “Transcultural Collaborations in Filmic Storytelling: Negotiating Narrative Permissibility in Disney/Pixar’s *Coco*,” Christopher Gonzalez, Utah State University  
2. “Mapping the Other: Resurgence of Neo-Orientalism in American Films and Popular Culture,” Parama Sarkar, University of Toledo  
3. “Colonized Labor, Technology, and Liberal Multiculturalism in Aliette de Bodard’s ‘Immersion,’” Rachel Schlotfeldt, University of Washington  

**SESSION 12: SATURDAY, MAY 5: 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM**

12A  **Black Escape and Transgressiveness in Satire and Black Humor Studies (Florentine E)**  
Chair: Tajanae Barnes, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
1. “‘In Spite of My Being a Victim’: Sexual Violence, Black Boys and Subverting Rape Narratives,” Brandon Manning, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
2. “‘I am the stone that the builder refused’: An Analysis of Dismissiveness of Black Rage in America through Aaron McGruder’s *The Boondocks*,” Tajanae Barnes, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  

12B  **Affect, Nostalgia, and Abjection in Multi-Ethnic Texts (Florentine F)**  
Chair: Kayla Miller, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
3. “Black Motherhood, the Abject Body, and Ancient Properties: Toni Morrison's *Sula* and *Tar Baby,” Kayla Miller, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

**12C** **Articulating Identity in Asian American Texts (Florentine G)**
Chair: Hanna Andrews, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

2. “Locked Inside the Crowd and Carried in Its Moment: Translingualism in Theresa Hak Kung Cha’s *DICTEE,*” Hanna Andrews, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
3. “Rewriting the Bildungsroman: Diasporic Mobility in *Re Jane,*” Sukie Kim, Tufts University

**12D** **Awkward, Magic, and Professional: Transcending Traditional Definitions of Black Womanhood (Tuscany)**
Chairs: Tiffany Austin, University of The Bahamas, and Darlene Anita Scott, Virginia Union University

1. “The Magic of Sassafrass: Interpreting *Queen Sugar* through the lens of ‘Black Girl Magic,’” Tiffany Austin, University of The Bahamas
3. “‘We Are Ugly, But We Are Here’: Challenging the Cultural Aesthetic of Black Womanhood,” Darlene Anita Scott, Virginia Union University

**12E** **Transfigurations: Why Theory Matters When Reading “Minority” Literatures in the Americas (Siena)**
Chair: Richard Perez, John Jay College, CUNY

2. “Blackness and The Butchered Ethics of Manuel Ocampo’s Abstraction in *Cooks in the Kitchen,*” Chad Infante, Northwestern University
3. “‘Writing at the Edge of Being’: De-subjectivity and the Negation of Identity in *Face* by Cecile Pineda,” Richard Perez, John Jay College, CUNY

**12F** **Transnational, Transcultural, and Transgressive Family Formations in Multi-Ethnic U.S. Literatures (Firenze)**
Chair: Kyung-Sook Boo, Sogang University, Korea; AV Requested

1. “Genocide, Adoption, and Uncertain Futurity in Louise Erdrich’s *The Round House, LaRose,* and *The Future Home of the Living God,*” Lori Askeland, Wittenburg University
2. “Transgressive Bonds: Family and Incarceration in Helen Elaine Lee’s Fiction,”
   Agnieszka Tuszyńska, Queensborough Community College, CUNY
3. “Through the U.S. Looking Glass: Transpacific and Transcultural Family Formations in
   Yong Soo Park’s Boy Genius and Min Jin Lee’s Pachinko,” Kyung-Sook Boo, Sogang
   University, Korea

SESSION 13: SATURDAY, MAY 5: 1:00 – 2:15 PM

13A  Cultural Migrations: Transnational and Transhistorical Latinidades (Florentine E)
Chair: Constancio R. Arnaldo, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
      Readings of Lin-Manuel Miranda’s Hamilton,” Mirelsie Velázquez, University of
      Oklahoma
   2. “‘Straight into some Chicano chick’s eyes’: The Shinning Sinners of Queer Post-Punk,”
      Richard T. Rodriguez, University of California, Riverside
      Ariana Ruiz, University of Iowa

13B  Roundtable: Publishing Your Article in MELUS (Florentine F)
Panelists will offer short presentations about what constitutes a strong submission to MELUS and
then take questions from the audience.
Chair: Gary Totten, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
Panelists: Martha J. Cutter, University of Connecticut (Immediate Past Editor-in-Chief and
Editorial Board Member, MELUS), A Yêmisi Jimoh, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
(Editorial Board Member, MELUS, and past president of MELUS), Gary Totten, University of
Nevada, Las Vegas (Editor-in-Chief, MELUS), Wenying Xu, Jacksonville University (Editorial
Board Member, MELUS, and past president of MELUS)

13C  Religion in Literature II: Varieties of Religious Experience: Karen Tei Yamashita,
     Mat Johnson, and Pearl Buck (Florentine G)
Chair: J. Stephen Pearson, University of North Georgia
      Christian Academy
   2. “Miscegenation and Spiritual Transformation in the Haunted Mansion of Mat Johnson’s
      Loving Day,” Jennifer McFarlane Harris, Xavier University
   3. “Deconstructing Power and Privilege in Pearl Buck’s Works: An Analysis of Religion in
      The Good Earth and Pavilion of Women,” Xiuping Li, University of Tsukuba, Japan

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13D  Music, Sound Studies, and African American Literature (Tuscany)
Chair: Chelsea Adams, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
   Kimberly Mack, University of Toledo
2. “Sounding Exchange: Cosmopolitan Sonic-Poetics in Langston Hughes’s Ask Your Mama,”
   Adam Schuster, University of Wisconsin-Madison
3. “From Cakewalk to Second Line: Contextualizing Helene and Shadrack through Dance in Sula,”
   Chelsea Adams, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

13E  You Can’t Trust Your Eyes: The Challenge of Observable Race (Siena)
Chair: John Hay, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
   Raquel Baker, California State University, Channel Islands
2. “(Sc)optical Illusions in George Schuyler’s Black No More and Jordan Peele’s Get Out,”
   Wanda Raiford, Florida International University
3. “Not Black, but Negro: Renegotiating the Politics of Identity Through Activism,”
   Marta Mack Washington, University of Kentucky

13F  Black/Be/Longing: Transitions Toward Humanly Workable Geographies (Firenze)
Chair: Hannah Skjellum; AV Requested
1. “What About Puerto Rico” Reexamining Space in the American Neo-Slave Narrative,”
   Marcy Pedzwater, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2. “A Seat at the Table: Solange Knowles’ Poetics of Black Belonging,”
   Emilio Taiveaho, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
3. “‘You just drove here?...Like you just was on one and got on the highway?’: A Queer
   Ecocritical Consideration of Spaces in Moonlight,”
   Hannah Skjellum, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
4. “The Limits of Empathy: Resisting the Virtual Colonization of Subaltern Space,”
   Doug Stark, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

SESSION 14: SATURDAY, MAY 5: 2:30 – 3:45 PM

14A  Emerging Indigenous Creative Writers Plenary Panel (Florentine EFG)
Chair: Doug Unger, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
1. Melissa Michal Slocum, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2. Karli Rouse, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
3. Zach Wilson, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
SESSION 15: SATURDAY, MAY 5: 4:00 – 5:15 PM

15A MELUS General Membership Meeting (Florentine EFG)

SATURDAY, MAY 5: 6:00 – 9:00 PM: KEYNOTE & RECEPTION

Daniel Heath Justice, University of British Columbia (Florentine C), 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Reception Celebrating the Work of Joseph T. Skerrett, Jr., sponsored in part by Oxford University Press (Florentine AB), 7:00 – 9:00 PM

SESSION 16: SUNDAY, MAY 6: 8:00 – 9:15 AM

16A Place, Memory, and Identity Formation (Florentine E)
Chair: David Siglos, Jr., University of California, Riverside
1. “‘Alza la Bandera’: Transnational Imaginary Formation and Performance in Lin-Manuel Miranda’s In the Heights,” María J. Durán, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2. “Reading the Landscape in Nineteenth-Century American Literatures American Souths: Reading Social Markers through the Landscape,” Lara Galas, University of California, Santa Cruz
3. “Butterfly Boy, Delaying Desire,” David Siglos, Jr., University of California, Riverside

16B Violence, Spectatorship, and Race in Charles Chesnutt (Florentine F)
Chair: Michelle-Taylor Sherwin, University of Georgia
1. “Chesnutt’s Conjuring Mark,” Christine Walsh, University of Arizona
2. “The Duality of the Mulatto Character: An Examination of Race and Morality in Charles W. Chesnutt’s Paul Marchand and Mark Twain’s Pudd’n’Head Wilson,” Michelle-Taylor Sherwin, University of Georgia

16C Issues of Representation and Influence in Neo-Slave Narratives (Florentine G)
Chair: Chelsea Adams, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
1. “The Past is History: Tensions of Recovery in Edward P. Jones’s The Known World and Dolen Perkins-Valdez’s Blam,” Justin Williams, University of Memphis
2. “Unconscious Consciousness: Neo-Slave Narratives and the Anxiety of Influence in Chicago’s Drill Music,” Daniel Scherwatzky, University of Miami
3. “On the Road: Complicating Slavery through Liminal Spaces in Edward P. Jones’s *The Known World,*” Aleisha C. Smith, University of Minnesota

**16D Disability and the Ethnic Body (Tuscany)**
Chair: Jessica Waggoner, University of Houston
1. “Rural Geographies of Race and Disability in Neo-Slave Narratives,” Matthew J. C. Cella, Shippensburg University
3. “Race, Gender, and the Exclusions of Psychiatric Reform and Anti-Psychiatry,” Jessica Waggoner, University of Houston

**SESSION 17: SUNDAY, MAY 6: 9:30 – 10:45 AM**

**17A The Spatial and Temporal Implications of the Neo-Slave Narrative (Florentine E)**
Chair: Kaylee Jangula Mootz, University of Connecticut
2. “‘Who Builds Anything in this Country?’ Colson Whitehead’s *The Underground Railroad,* Afro-Pessimism, and Radical Temporalities,” Kaylee Jangula Mootz, University of Connecticut
3. “Peripheral Transgressions and Liberation in Ana Castillo’s *Watercolor Women / Opaque Men: A Novel in Verse* and Colson Whitehead’s *Underground Railroad,*” Dominique Vargas, University of Notre Dame

**17B Resistance, Disidentification, and Queer and Trans Identities in Film and Literature (Florentine F)**
Chair: Frank García, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
1. “Transgender and Transgeneric Representations in *Drunktown’s Finest,*” John Gamber, Utah State University
2. “*Entre Mariocones y Locos*: Disidentifications, Counterpublics, and Dino Dinco’s *Homeboy,*” Frank García, University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign
3. “Silence as Resistance in *The Book of Salt,*” Alison Hsiao, Tufts University
17C  Multi-Ethnic Transformations: Transgressive Bodies, Beings, Time and Space (Florentine G)
Chair: Amanda Ellis, University of Houston
2. “I Don’t Live in Harlem: Blackness, Border Areas, and Geographies of Transfiguration in Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man,” Emerson Zora Hamsa, Rice University
3. “Blood Sugar Canto: ire’ne lara sila’s Chicana Diabetic Poetics of Transformation,” Amanda Ellis, University of Houston
4. “Puerile Becoming: Domestic Violence as Playful Masculine Transition in Justin Torres’ We the Animals,” Luz Minerva Jimenez Ruvalcaba, Stanford University

17D  Transnational Identity and Civil Rights (Tuscany)
Chair: Jose Fernandez, Western Illinois University
2. “Shifting Geographies: Caribbean Imaginaries of the Mediterranean,” Maria Anne Zazzarino, Louisiana State University

17E  Representing War (Firenze)
Chair: J. J. Butts, Simpson College
2. “Historicity and Rupture in John A. Williams’s Captain Blackman,” Marc Farrior, University of Arizona
3. “Dead Man Walking: Gender, Race, and the Militarized Body in Mario Acevedo’s Felix Gomez Series,” Chrysta Wilson, University of New Mexico

SESSION 18: SUNDAY, MAY 6: 11:00 AM – 12:15 PM

18A  Borderlands and Border Crossings (Florentine E)
Chair: Michael Docherty, University of Kent
1. “Narrative Translocality as Decolonizing Spatial Practice: Mapping an Afro-Muslim Spatiality along the U.S./Mexico Borderlands in Laila Lalami’s The Moor’s Account,” Crystal Bustamante, Texas A&M University
2. “Dancing on the Edge of America: Ballrooms as Borderlands in the Fiction of John Fante,” Michael Docherty, University of Kent
18B Transnational and Transcultural Subjectivities (Florentine F)
Chair: Youssef Yacoubi, Seton Hall University
3. “Near and Unforgotten: Transnational Subjectivities in Tarfia Faizullah’s Seam,” Aria Pahari, Mount Holyoke College

18C Landscape, Space, and Place in Indigenous Texts (Florentine G)
Chair: Gary Totten, University of Nevada, Las Vegas
2. “Visionary Totems and Ocean’s Scrotums: Transmotion as Transgression in Vizenor and Silko’s Stories of Native Resistance,” Jake Barrett-Mills, University of East Anglia
3. “‘Traveling through the Ruins of Western Civilization’: Pilgrimage, Mobility, and Manifest Destiny in Contemporary Indigenous Texts,” Gary Totten, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

18D Queer and Trans Identities in Multi-Ethnic Texts (Tuscany)
Chair: Ammanda Moore, Norco College
1. “Trans Experiences of Mei Ling and Moonie in Revenge of the Mooncake Vixen by Marilyn Chin,” Ammanda Moore, Norco College
3. “Transidentification and Transgression in The Pagoda by Patricia Powell,” Suzanne Uzzilia, CUNY Graduate Center

18E History, Temporality, and Transgressive Sexuality in Colson Whitehead’s Underground Railroad (Firenze)
Chair: Grace Heneks, Texas A&M University
1. “‘The secret beneath us’: Trans-temporal History in Colson Whitehead’s The Underground Railroad,” Grace Heneks, Texas A&M University
2. “‘If two women were a flaw, what was a community?’: Transgenerational Oppression in Whitehead’s The Underground Railroad,” Ashley Hemm, University of Miami
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Join us for the 33rd annual MELUS conference in Cincinnati, OH!

March 21-24, 2019

Conference Theme: Underground Histories

Hosted by the University of Cincinnati

Hilton Netherland Plaza, 35 W 5th St., Cincinnati, OH

Deadline for Abstracts: October 1, 2018

The theme of the 2019 MELUS conference begins from the premise that a subterranean history beats below every official narrative. What stories get told? What stories get erased or moved to the periphery? How do multi-ethnic literature, film, narrative media, and performance bring to light these critical narratives?

Cincinnati is a diverse and thriving Midwestern city with a deep connection to a variety of underground histories. The city has a storied past as a hub of the Underground Railroad, as well as a complicated, contradictory, and largely-untold ethnic and racial narrative of its own. Host to a huge wave of German and German Jewish immigration during the nineteenth century, Cincinnati is the site of the nation’s first Reform Jewish seminary and home to one of its most famous bootleggers, a German immigrant who provided Fitzgerald with the model for Jay Gatsby. Directly across the Ohio River from Northern Kentucky, the city has seen multiple waves of African American migration from the South—from the dangerous travels of runaway slaves escaping across the river to the later movements of those seeking an often-elusory emancipation in the city. A number of Japanese citizens were relocated to the city after World War II, carrying with them a tragic, and often untold, story of internment and state violence. Recently, Cincinnati has seen an influx of Latinx immigrants and become a sanctuary city, opening its borders to refugees whose stories face erasure by Trump era immigration policies.

We welcome proposals for individual papers and panels on the broad spectrum of underground histories in multi-ethnic literature, culture, and performance including, but not limited to:

- Representations of the underground railroad
- The collision between official and untold histories
- Erasure and writing back
- Underground comics
- The power of outsider narratives and subcultures
- Critical pedagogies
- Uncovered archives
- Counter-canons in multiethnic literature
- Contemporary underground movements, such as Black Lives Matter and Dreamers
- Borderlands, migration, and other types of crossing-over
- Mining, fracking, and underground ecological disaster
- Underground media (street art, oral storytelling, certain online communities)
- Centering African American feminist discourses
- Underground presses and publishing
- Hidden histories of foodways
- The erasure of LGBQ and Trans narratives from multiethnic histories
- Relationship between center and periphery communities in urban space (e.g. Appalachian and black communities in Ohio, gentrification, etc.)
- Performing otherness
- Counter-academic discourses
- Feminist and multiethnic intersections
- Cool-hunting, taste, and ideas of the underground

We also welcome proposals on all aspects of multi-ethnic US literature and narrative media.

Please send 250-300 word abstracts and a short CV by October 1st, 2018 to melus2019@gmail.com. For more information about MELUS, The Society for the Study of the Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States, visit www.melus.org; for more information about the MELUS journal, visit https://academic.oup.com/melus.