

The University of Calgary
English Department
Free Exchange Conference

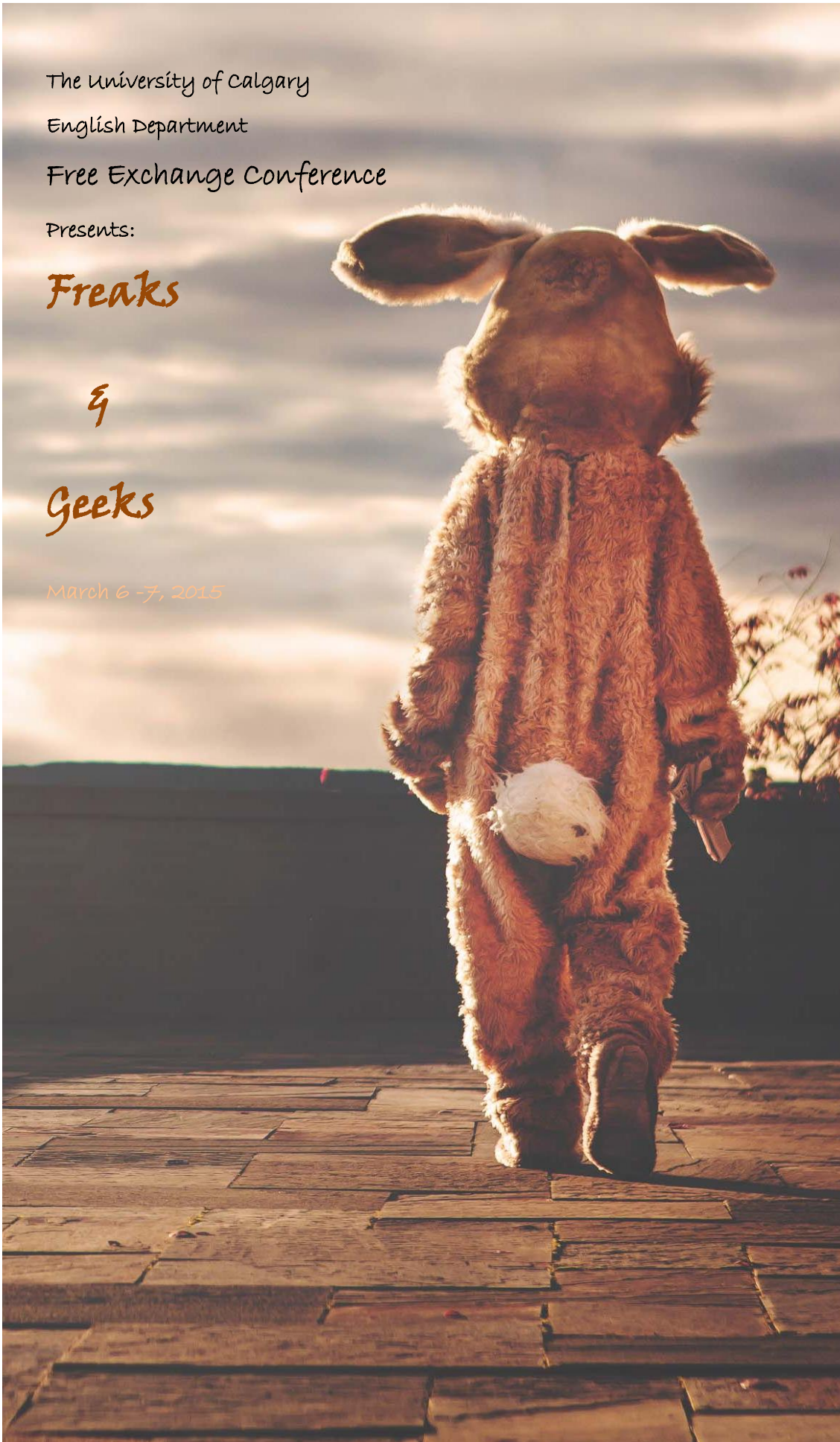
Presents:

Freaks

&

Geeks

March 6 -7, 2015



By way of introduction, we will let Jimi Hendrix speak for us here:

If the sun refuse to shine
I don't mind, I don't mind
If the mountains fell in the sea
let it be, it ain't me
Alright, 'cos I got my own world to look through
And I ain't gonna copy you

Now if 6 turned out to be 9
I don't mind, I don't mind
Alright, if all the hippies cut off all their hair
I don't care, I don't care
Dig, 'cos I got my own world to live through
And I ain't gonna copy you

White collared conservative flashing down the street
Pointing their plastic finger at me
They're hoping soon my kind will drop and die
But I'm gonna wave my freak flag high, high
Wave on, wave on
Fall mountains, just don't fall on me
Go ahead on Mr. Business man, you can't dress like me
Sing on Brother, play on drummer

- "If 6 Was 9"

Day 1: Friday, March 6th, 2015

Location: Legacy Suite
U of C Dining Hall
University of Calgary

4:30 – 5:30 – Keynote Address – Diane Walton

5:30 – 7:30 – Welcome reception

8:00 – 10:00 – Creative Writing Night

Location: Loft 112
#112 535 8 Ave SE

Panel Chair – Jess Nicol

Mallory Smith – Marginalia

Michael G. Khmel'nitsky - Otdalenie ili Ostranenie?

Peter Forestell - The House of Belmont

Special Guest – Hollie Adams

Day 2: Saturday, March 7th, 2015

Location: Room 148
Science Building B
University of Calgary

9 – 9:30 – Check in, Breakfast

9:30 – 10:50 – Panel 1: Bodies

Panel Chair – Dawn Bryan

Sidney Cunningham – “Once Again, the Decisions Pertaining to Human Romance Remain Stunningly Simple”: Fan Culture, “Shipping,” and Sexual Normativity in Homestuck

Agnes Schaffhauser – The Black Body in France: A Creature to Expose

Kerry-Leigh Fox – Le freak c’est chic?: Capitalising on (in)visibility

10:50 – 11:05 – Coffee Break

1:05 – 12:25 – panel 2: Minds

Panel Chair – Janice Parker

Pippa Ruddy - Sharing the Shame: Freaks and Geeks Unite through *Mortified*

Nidhi Shrivastava - A Woman Suspended In Time: Tale of Prachi Desai of Nisha Pahuja's *The World Before Her*

Sarah Kent - "Crazy Eyes": A Foucauldian Reading of Freakhood

12:25 – 1:30 – Lunch

1:30 – 2:50 – panel 3: Creations

Panel Chair – Jaclyn Carter

Dave Eso - The Heady Costs of Geeking Out in the Archives

Alois Sieben – Romancing the Machine: An Analysis of Samantha’s Voice in Spike Jonze’s *Her*

Braydon Beaulieu – Talking About Talking About *Mountain*: An Analysis of Video Game Analyses

2:50 – 3:05 – coffee break

3:05 – 4:45 – Community Engagement Panel

Panel Chair – Rachel Brauer

Garrett Beatty
James Demers
Yrol Perera
Lady S

5 – 7 – Banquet Dinner
The Black Lounge Banquet Room
MacEwan Student Centre
University of Calgary

Presenters

Keynote Speaker – Diane Walton, Managing Editor of
On Spec Magazine

Diane comes by the label of "geek" honestly. She began reading SF in Grade 8, and hasn't stopped yet. If you are doing the math, it's about 50 years. So many books; so little time.

She discovered there was such a thing as Science Fiction fandom in the late 1970's, and embraced it wholeheartedly. AT one time, the Edmonton Science Fiction and Comic Arts Society was one of the largest clubs in Canada. An organizer of Edmonton's earliest convention, NonCon, Diane is now on the Board of the Pure Speculation Festival, managing the literary stream of programming each year, and assisting with guest selection.

Diane's association with On Spec began the night when her writers' critiquing group members started complaining about how nobody could sell their SF stories south of the border. This soon led to the realization that perhaps there was a unique Canadian voice needing to be heard. Diane began as a Fiction Editor for On Spec, and became Managing Editor a few years ago when the torch was passed. It remains a labour of love, and she makes her living in the IT world.

Diane is still well-versed in the Fan-Speak Dictionary, but some of her friends are Mundanes. She lives on her rural acreage with her husband, Rick, and the typical fannish household's allotment of cats, and oh yes--lots of books.

Creative Writing Special Guest – Hollie Adams

Hollie Adams recently graduated from the University of Calgary with a PhD in English. Her creative dissertation examines unnatural narration in postmodern fiction. Her writing has been published in several Canadian journals including *Prairie Fire*, *The Antigonish Review*, and *Carousel*, online at *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, and in an anthology of fiction inspired by the band Broken Social Scene. Her first novel, *Things You've Inherited From Your Mother*, will be released this spring. She is currently spending her first year in twenty-four years not being a student teaching at Red Deer College.

Community Panel

Garrett Beatty

Garrett Beatty is a second year Master's student studying comic books at the University of Calgary. He has Jess Nicol-colored brown hair and a loud voice. In 2014 he started a comics reading group at the U of C and tens of people attended. Garrett is currently working on finishing his Master's thesis which is concerned with the depiction of female superheroes in a post-9/11 world. One time he met Patrick Stewart and it was weird. With over two decades of comic book-reading history, Garrett is uniquely qualified to be asked last-minute to sit on this panel.

James Demers

James Demers is a trans activist and educator. He runs Calgary's only drag king troupe, Fake Mustache, as well as the trans support group, Transformers. He is the executive director at Fairy Tales Presentation Society where he heads the diversity education program OUTreels and runs Calgary's queer film festival. He also likes kittens and historical documentaries.

Yrol Perera –

Lady S -

Braydon Beaulieu – University of Calgary

“Talking About Talking About *Mountain*: An Analysis of Video Game Analyses”

Braydon Beaulieu is a doctoral student at the University of Calgary, where he studies creative writing, games, science fiction, conceptual writing, and the digital humanities. You can follow him on Twitter here: @BraydonBeaulieu.

“Sidney Cunningham – University of Calgary

“Once Again, the Decisions Pertaining to Human Romance Remain Stunningly Simple”: Fan Culture, “Shipping,” and Sexual Normativity in Homestuck

Sidney Cunningham is an MA student at the University of Calgary. His work focuses on transgender studies and representations of gender in literature, especially in visual media.

Dave Eso – University of Calgary

“The Heady Costs of Geeking Out in the Archive”

In 2015, David Eso has been named one of One-Hundred Thousand Poets to Watch by the Harper government. His work as poet, scholar, anthologist and impresario unites Canadian literary heritage with its impending renaissance. With Jeanette Lynes, Eso edited Goose Lane Edition's recent release *Where the Nights are Twice as Long: Love Letters of Canadian Poets 1883 - 2014*. His writing appears in the *Rocky Mountain Outlook*, *CV2*, *ARC*, *Vallum*, *Canadian Literature*, *filling Station* and on *CBC Radio*. He currently studies the boundary 2 correspondence of Robert Kroetsch at the University of Calgary.

Peter Forestell – University of Calgary

“The House of Belmont”

Peter Forestell is a PhD student in the English department at the University of Calgary. He is the recipient of a Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Scholarship. His creative work has been published in *Plenitude Magazine* and has been nominated for the Journey Prize.

Kerry-Leigh Fox – University of Calgary
“Le Freak C'est Chic? Capitalising on (in)Visibility”

Kerry-Leigh Fox is an M.A. student whose research spans Victorian literature, queer theory, gender studies, pop culture, creative writing, and anything else that takes her fancy.

Sarah Kent – University of Calgary
"Crazy Eyes": A Foucauldian Reading of Freakhood”

Sarah Kent is a Master's student at the University of Calgary. Her research interests are in contemporary postcolonial and feminist literature.

Michael G. Khmelnitsky – University of Calgary
“Otdalenie ili Ostranenie?”

Mike Khmelnitsky [hmel-NITS-ki] is a Ph.D. student at the University of Calgary. He is currently wrapping up his dissertation on Soviet censorship and the problem of translating American satire into Russian during the Cold War. Mike was born in the imaginary country known as the U.S.S.R., lived in Israel during the very real Gulf War (suck it, Baudrillard!), immigrated to Canada, and co-founded and designed the first bilingual magazine in Nagano, Japan. At any given point in time he knows between three and five languages. Mike has been writing poetry in English for nineteen years, recently venturing into Russian and Japanese verse. He has been around the block a few times. He has his fingers in many pies.

Pippa Ruddy – University of Calgary
“Sharing the Shame: Freaks and Geeks Unite through *Mortified*”

Pippa Ruddy is a second-year Master's student at the University of Calgary. She is an intersectional feminist, an affect theory enthusiast, and a life-long literary geek.

Agnes Schaffhauser – University of Minnesota
“The Black Body in France : A Creature to Expose.”

Agnès Schaffhauser is a French Graduate student in French Literature at the University of Minnesota. She is interested in Francophone Literature and especially in the concepts of blackness in France. She also works on travel novels and authors who deal with clandestine immigration.

Alois Sieben – Simon Fraser University
Romancing the Machine: An Analysis of Samantha's Voice in Spike Jonze's *Her*

Alois recently completed his MA at Simon Fraser University, and is a prospective PhD student at the University of Calgary. His research focuses on spaces of encounter between people and digital technologies, with a focus on the potential of the human voice to generate a sound shape of digital processes.

Mallory Smith – University of Calgary

“Marginalia”

Mallory Smith is starting the 2nd year of her PhD in Creative Writing and English at the University of Calgary, having successfully swum the lake of papers and books that was her comprehensive exam. Out of the lake, and into the ocean of her major exam! She is acquainted with free time, and when they get together, print-making, bookbinding, flânerie, photography, and, of course, writing ensue. She has considered permanently becoming a Bunburyist for the sake of going to Montreal or Europe on more than one occasion. But her commitment to her Teaching Assistantship and Writer-in-the-School position, and teaching young writers the arts of narrative, poetry, punning, and innovative ways to describe their collective hatred of mayonnaise, have waylaid that decision. For now.

Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Dr. Aruna Srivastava and Carole Taylor for their work in setting up our opening reception, and for bringing in prospective students for whom we can showcase the variety of scholarship that makes the U of C English department unique.

We would also like to thank Tara Trost Miller for her fantastic work on our posters, and her help in distributing them throughout the school.

Free Exchange could not happen without the help of our volunteer army in the English Department. Our thanks to everyone who gave time, books, and baked goods in service of what we think is a vital part of our departmental community.

