



# **Relationalities**

Free Exchange Interdisciplinary Graduate  
Conference

University of Calgary

March 10-12, 2017

# Relationalities

Except for the Keynote Address, Plenary Panel, and Creative Night presentations, all panels will be held on the first floor of Science Theatres, ST 131.

**Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup>**

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10:00-3:00pm **TIA House: The Littoral Contact Zone**

TIA House is a discrete event running Thursday afternoon and all day Friday, and thus has its own program:

<http://tiahouse.ca/events/littoral-contact-zone-indigenouasian-relations-salish-sea-treaty-7-territories/>

3:30-6:30pm **Keynote Address & Opening Reception**

(Legacy Suite)

Dr. Stanka Radovic, University of Toronto

7:30-10:30pm **Creative Night @ TIA House**

(SS1059)

Various new and in-progress works by:

- Jordan Bolay, University of Calgary
- Allison McFarland, University of Calgary
- Jess Nicol, University of Calgary
- TIA House presenters (TBD)

**Saturday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**

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9:30-10:00am **Breakfast**

10:00-11:15am **Panel 1: In Relation to Sex & Gender**

Panel Chair: Philippa Ruddy

Political Bodies: The Incest Taboo and Consent on the Elizabethan Stage

- Tim McNeil, University of Calgary

“We Sinful Women”: A Study of Female Subjectivities in Tehmina Durrani’s Writings

- Rubia Akram, University of Calgary

Imaginary Affinities, Imagined Assemblages, and Striations of Biopower in Sexual Normativity

- Theresa Kenney, McMaster University

11:30-12:45pm **Panel 2: In Relation to Multi-Modality**

Panel Chair: Mallory Smith

“Words Sounded Like Music”: Music in Tomson Highway’s *Kiss of the Fur Queen*

- Shuyin Yu, University of Toronto

Lars von Trier and the Sado-Masochistic Entity

- Stacey DeWolfe, Vanier College

Back from the “Upside-Down”: Sovereignty, Activism, and the Circuit of Nostalgia in *Stranger Things*

- Kevin McKenna, University of Southern Florida

12:45-2:00pm **Lunch break** (provided in the Sloman Room, SS1114)

2:00-3:15pm **Panel 3: In Relation to Colonialism**

Panel Chair: Jordan Bolay

"Navigational Aids and Effective Mapping Tools": (Re)Mapping Revanchism in the New World

- Elisia Snyder, University of Alberta

Hybridity, Laughter, and the Necessity of Dialogism as Revealed in Green Grass, Running Water

- Cole Dempsey, University of Lethbridge

Feral Fatalisms: An Indigiqueer Manifesto

- Josh Whitehead, University of Calgary

3:30-4:45pm **Panel 4: In Relation to Multiculturalism**

Panel Chair: Ben Blyth

Opting Out: Reconstructing the Self in Suki Kim's *The Interpreter*

- Isabelle Groenhof, University of Calgary

Affect in the Aftermath: Official and Communal Responses to the Quebec City Mosque Shooting and the Implications for Canadian Muslim Identity

- Zainub Rahman, University of Calgary

7:00-10:00pm **Flywheel Creative Night @ Pages in Kensington**

Various new and in-progress works by:

- Mallory Smith, University of Calgary
- Michaela Stephen, University of Calgary
- Erin Vance, University of Calgary
- Paul Meunier, University of Calgary
- Flywheel presenters (TBD)

## **Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> – Remember Daylight Savings!!**

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10:30-11:00am **Breakfast**

11:00-12:15pm **Panel 5: In Relation to Science**

Panel Chair: Erin Vance

The Other Side of Myth: Analogy, Aesthetics, and Consciousness  
in Peter Watt's *Blindsight*

- Evan Gromel, University of Calgary

Rewards, Reinforcement, and Reasons

- Evangelian Collings, University of Calgary

Expanding Classical Traditions: Temporal and Spatial  
Experimentation by Hugh MacLennan and Ethel Wilson

- Ademolawa Adedipe, University of Saskatchewan

12:15-1:30pm **Lunch break** (provided in the Sloman Room, SS1114)

1:30-2:45pm **Panel 6: In Relation to the Doxa**

Panel Chair: Zach Brewer

Emblematic Modernity

- Ben Groh, University of Calgary

“You Can’t Handle the Truth!”: Hegemonic Regulation of  
Discourses of Truth and Identity Through Ends

- Patrick Powers, University of Calgary

Theory and Praxis: Thoughts on the Relationship Between  
Academy and Community

- Tom Miller, University of Calgary

3:00-5:00pm **Plenary Panel: In Relation to Relationalities**

(SS1114)

Morgan Vanek, University of Calgary  
David Sigler, University of Calgary  
& Guest

## Academic Biographies

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### In Relation to the Keynote Speaker

**Stanka Radovic** is an associate professor in the Department of English at the University of Toronto focusing on theories of space and environment in postcolonial literature. Her current research project is titled *Wilson Harris and the Geo-poetic Imagination in Caribbean Literature*.

### In Relation to the Critics

**Ademolawa Michael Adedipe** holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) degree in French from the prestigious University of Ibadan and a Master's in English literature from Jackson State University with distinction. He is an Africanist interested in African literature. His present research is focused on the topic *Creating a New Multicultural Frame: The Cinematographic Suppression Half of a Yellow Sun and Beasts of No Nation*. He is pursuing a second Master's degree at the University of Saskatchewan.

**Rubia Akram** is an English Master's (thesis-based) student at the University of Calgary. She is currently working on her MA dissertation titled "A Study of Gender Performativity and Forms of Resistance in Tehmina Durrani's Writings."

**Evangelian Collings** is a Master's student in the Philosophy Department at the University of Calgary.

**Cole Dempsey** received his Bachelor of Arts in May, 2016 from the University of British Columbia, majoring in English Literature. He currently attends the University of Lethbridge, in the pursuit of a Master's degree in Arts and Sciences, in the Department of English. His supervisor is Dr. Heather Ladd; Dr. Ian McAdam and Dr. Janay Nugent are on his supervisory committee as well. He is researching the role of cuckoldry in London Restoration and early eighteenth-century stage comedies.

**Stacey DeWolfe** is a writer, educator, mother and musician who teaches English at Vanier College in Montreal. She holds a Master's Degree in Film Studies from Concordia University and is the author of *Sound Affects: Sado-Masochism and Sensation in Lars von Trier's Breaking the Waves and Dancer in the Dark*.

**Isabelle Groenhof** is a PhD student in the Department of English at the University of Calgary.

**Ben Groh** is an incoming PhD student in the Department of English at the University of Calgary, having completed his Master's in the department last term. He studies creative writing and primarily works with found poetry through the writing and theory of Walter Benjamin. He moved to Berlin on a SSHRC grant for the 2015-2016 academic year and taught himself German in order to study Benjamin's writing in the originals housed in the Benjamin archive at the Akademie der Künste. The result of this research was his MA thesis, a poetic composition drawn from the unfinished Arcades Project.

**Evan Gromel** is a PhD student working in the Department of English at the University of Calgary. Prior to beginning the PhD program, he worked as an adjunct and temporary full-time instructor of English at Hudson County Community College in Jersey City, New Jersey. Before teaching, Evan earned his Master's degree in English at SUNY Albany. His Master's thesis draws connections between poetic origin in the writing of Rainer Maria Rilke and the speculations and imaginations of several prominent turn-of-the-century scientists. Evan's primary research interests involve the interstices of ecocriticism and science studies, particularly where aporias in scientific method and observation precipitate shifts in meaning of the ecological.

**Theresa Kenney** is a Master's student in the Department of English and Cultural Studies at McMaster University. Her research focuses on sexual citizenship, (a)sexuality, online communities, and young adult fiction. She is currently reading and writing about asexuality, 'eating cake', and norms of belonging. Twitter: @ToPoliticise

**Kevin McKenna** earned his Bachelor's in English Literature from Salisbury University in Salisbury, Maryland, where he also earned a minor in Film. Kevin is currently a first-year graduate student pursuing his Master's in Film Studies in the Humanities and Cultural Studies department at the University of South Florida. His thesis is an examination of Jim Jarmusch's 1995 Western *Dead Man* in response to the revival of the Western genre during the early 1990s.

**Timothy McNeil** is a Master's student in the Department of English at the University of Calgary. He also teaches at Red Deer College.

**Tom Miller** is a PhD candidate in the Department of English at the University of Calgary working in comic book studies. He also teaches classes at Bow Valley College. He used to run his own comic book store and once ran a campground.

**Patrick Powers** is a Master's student in the Department of English at the University of Calgary. He previously worked as a substitute teacher in central California.

**Zainub Rahman** completed her Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in English at the University of Calgary in 2014. Her undergraduate thesis explored Muslim American responses to post-9/11 acts of othering. Her research interests include construction of Muslim identity in popular North American culture as well as the cultural productions of North American Muslims.

**Elisia Snyder** is a Master's candidate at the University of Alberta in the department of English and Film Studies. Her main research interests are: Canadian studies, creative nonfiction, and the poetics of affect.

**Joshua Whitehead** is an Oji-Cree, Two-Spirit storyteller and scholar from Peguis First Nation, Treaty 1. He is currently working towards a PhD with a focus in Indigenous Literature and Cultures. He is the recent winner of the Canadian Aboriginal Arts and Stories Challenge wherefrom he was awarded a Governor General's History Award. He has a book of poetry forthcoming from Talonbooks in Fall 2017. You may find his work published in *The Malahat Review*, *Prairie Fire*, *CV2*, *EVENT*, and *Arc Poetry Magazine*.



**Shuyin Yu** is a social third year, academic fourth year undergraduate student at the University of Toronto; she is specializing in English Literature and minoring in Creative Expressions and Society. She is currently the Student Chair of the Hart House Literary and Library Committee and Co-president of the Undergraduate English Students' Union. After graduation, she hopes to pursue graduate studies with a focus on Asian North American literature and/or graphic fiction.

### **In Relation to the Creatives**

**Jordan Bolay** studies questions of trace—the politics of presence in the archive—as a doctoral candidate in the University of Calgary’s English Department. His readings and writings sprawl across the imagined boundaries, metaphorical grey zones, and ideological hinterlands of the creative and the critical, the original and the adapted.

**Allison McFarland** is completing her combined undergraduate honours degrees in Law and Society and English with a Creative Writing concentration. She is the current managing editor of Nōd Magazine at the University of Calgary. She will be pursuing a Master’s degree in English with a focus on Creative Writing in the fall.

**Paul Meunier** is a Master’s student in the Department of English at the University of Calgary with a background in creative writing. He holds Bachelor’s degrees in Photography from Alberta College of Art and Design and in English from the University of Calgary. His work combines conceptual poetry and identity politics, with an interest in social justice. Paul has been published in NōD Magazine and Honey Pot Literary Miscellany; and his current poetry explores language deconstruction and recontextualization, as evidenced in his Free Exchange presentation “Gramograms.”

**Jess Nicol** is a PhD student at the University of Calgary. Her creative work has been published in filling Station magazine and online at McSweeney’s Internet Tendency, and also resides comfortably in rejection piles across North America.

**Mallory E. Land Smith** is a PhD candidate in the University of Calgary's English and Creative Writing program, where she pursues her interests in poetry and poetics, materiality and the book as object, and creative writing pedagogy. She has read her poetry for Filling Station's Flywheel reading series and Woolf's Voices, and her work has appeared in *The Fig* and *Burning Water Magazine*. She is glad to return to the Free Exchange conference as a presenter.

**Michaela Stephen** is a Master's student in the English department at the University of Calgary.

**Erin Emily Ann Vance** is a Master's student in the department of English at the University of Calgary. Her poetry has appeared in *QWERTY*, *Existere*, *Untethered*, and *NoD* magazine and is forthcoming in *Contemporary Verse 2* and *The White Wall Review*. She works with children and adolescents on the autism spectrum and as an assistant in the University of Calgary Archives and Special Collections.

## **Special Thanks**

The peoples of Treaty 7

The University of Calgary Department of English and Graduate Program

Larissa Lai and The Insurgent Architects House

Marc Lynch, *fillingStation* magazine, and Flywheel reading series

Pages Bookstore

Fairy Tales Film Festival

Good Earth Coffeehouse

The Graduate Students in the U of C Department of English

Barb Howe and Carole Taylor – “the greasers of the cogs,” without whom Free Ex and all other department functions would come to a grinding halt