Myths & Mythmaking

Holiday Inn Riverwalk
San Antonio, TX
Executive Director | Brett Bebber, Old Dominion University

Financial Officer | Catherine Swender, Spring Hill College

Board Members | Kristi Anderson, University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Leslie Boldt, Brock University
Susan Cumings, The University at Albany, SUNY
Paige Erickson, Purdue University Global
Theresa Flanigan, Texas Tech University
Linnéa Franits, Utica College
Keith Hamon, Middle George State University
Gilbert Jones, Cleveland State University
Nathan Long, Stockton University
Gregory Michna, Arkansas Tech University
Steven M. Specht, Utica College
Patricia Waters, Troy University

Executive Director Emeritus | Mark Ledbetter

The winner of the Bennie D Ussery Memorial Graduate Student Award is Irene Newman. The award is given to the best proposed paper from a graduate student attending the conference. Irene will be presenting a paper entitled “The Lone Wolf: A Tactic Turned Myth” which explores the history of organizing tactics and mythmaking in white power groups in the United States since the 1980s. Irene is a PhD candidate in American studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She studies white power violence in the late twentieth century, and is an associate editor of Southern Cultures and a field scholar for the Southern Oral History Program.

The winners of the Kathryn M. Reynolds Welcome Award are Sabrina Ali Jamal-Eddine, BSN RN and Jen Ham. They will be presenting a paper entitled “The Myth of Independence: Health as Commodity Fetish.” The award is given to a first- or second-time presenter at the conference with the best proposed paper.

Sabrina Ali Jamal-Eddine, BSN RN is an Arab, disabled, queer fourth year Nursing PhD Candidate with interdisciplinary focuses in Disability Studies and Critical Pedagogy at University of Illinois-Chicago. Sabrina researches the use of spoken word poetry as a form of critical narrative pedagogy to educate nursing students about disability, ableism, and disability justice. Sabrina's health humanities work began at The Ohio State University where she double majored in Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies and Nursing. Sabrina hopes to create transformative change within healthcare education praxis and eventually hopes to organize a community-engaged healthcare education center in a university that harnesses applied public humanities to promote radical liberation, humanization, and belongingness for patients, healthcare students, and practitioners.

Jen Ham is a third year PhD student in the History of Consciousness at the University of California Santa Cruz. Theorizing from her embedded and embodied position as a blind woman of color in a constant state of co-constitution with her canine guide and the multiplicity of environments they traverse, Jen’s work explores the ways in which accessibility emerges with/in entangled worlds. While earning her masters in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Cincinnati in 2018-20, Jen’s studies took her to Denmark where she began to develop the concept of accessibility as a relational living system which organically forms throughout the structures of cohousing communities; this then became her port of departure for her current research interests at the juncture of disability studies and posthumanism.

Congratulations to Our Winners!
Thursday, January 26, 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5:30-7:00 pm</td>
<td>Executive Board Meeting</td>
<td>Bolero Room, 7th Floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00-8:30 pm</td>
<td>Welcome Reception</td>
<td>Atrium, 7th floor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30- until</td>
<td>Hospitality Suite</td>
<td>Suite 2318</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Friday and Saturday, Registration from 8:00 am, 7th Floor Lobby
*All conference rooms on 7th floor of the hotel.

Friday, January 27, 2023

Session 1: 8:30-10:00am

- Zachary Ostraff, Texas Tech University, “Myths and Memory: Death Masks in Writing”
- Jase Sutton, Texas State Technical College, “’We Died Here, Obedient to her Laws’: Sparta and the Lost Cause in Confederate Memorials”

- Servando Hinojosa, University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, “South Texas: Land, Peyote, and Shrines of Memory”
- Juan-Danniel Hernandez, Texas Tech University, “Mythic Realism and Performative Language in The Only Good Indians”
- Gregory Michna, Arkansas Tech University, “Historians at Play: Indigeneity in Video Games and the Gaming Classroom”
- Catherine Swender, Spring Hill College, “Eighteenth-Century Gothic Horror and the Myth of Nation as Sentimental Family in Susanna Rowson’s Reuben and Rachel”
Session 2: 10:15-11:45am

“Myths Concerning Fatness and Body Size”
- Wesley Bishop, Jacksonville State University
- Bessie Rigakos, Marian University
- Vivienne Rose, Activist and Artist

Tango 1

- Tracey Marcel Gholston, Alabama A&M University, “Punishing Whiteness: PValley’s Corbin Kyle’s Thirst for the Whip”
- James Deutsch, Smithsonian Institution, “New Southern Myths, Heroes, and Waters in Beasts of the Southern Wild”
- Christopher Pizzino, University of Georgia, “Hospitality Myths in Patrick Wang’s In the Family”
- Lee Rozelle, University of Montevallo, “Subverting Myths of Normalcy: The New and Improved Romie Futch as Supercrip Narrative”

Bolero

Session 3: 12:00-1:30pm

- Irene Newman, University of North Carolina, “The Lone Wolf: A Tactic Turned Myth”
- Adam Banks, Ohio State University, “Mythologized Public Spectacle: How the St. Louis Arch Manifests Decimation”
- Joe Keener, Indiana University Kokomo, “Cognitive Myth-making with Shakespeare and Donald Trump”
- Matthew Moore, Iowa State University, “Fascism on the Air: The Rural Com- mute and Conservative Talk Radio”

Tango 1

- Jen Julian, Young Harris College, “Things that Speak in Symbols: Place-Based Folklore Pedagogy in the Southern Appalachians”
- Kylie Fisher and Eva Kiser, Furman University, “Recentering (Hi)Stories: Asian and Asian American Experiences in Furman’s Institutional Narrative”
- Gretchen Bullock, University of North Texas, “Community Agency and the Creation of a Black High School Band”
- Paige Erickson, Purdue University Global, “Strong City: Reimagining the Myths of Theatre, Rural Life, and Who We’re Supposed to Be”

Bolero

Lunch Break
Session 4: 2:30-3:45pm

- Jesse Weiner, Hamilton College, “Joel Barlow’s Columbiad, Colonial Mythologies, and the Epic Tradition”
- Jack Love, Texas A&M University, “Colonial Myths in John Dryden’s The Indian Emperour”
- Tamer Balci, University of Texas- Rio Grande Valley, “Linguistic History and Mythmaking”
- Daniel Benites, Texas A&M University, “Decolonial Mythologies”

Session 5: 4:00-5:30pm

- Lucinda Buck Alwa, Northern Illinois University, “Hephaestus’ Net of Love and War”
- Kyle James Mcnew, Oregon State University, “Who is Yahweh?”
- Anthony Lack, Northeast Lakeview College, “Hidden Lands and Holy War in the End of Time: The Kalachakra Tantra and the Kingdom of Shambhala”
- Rich DeRouen, Collin College, “Greek Myth, Reused and Recycled”

- Erin Cross, Doane University, “The Artist’s Sketchbook: A Resource for Memory and Storytelling”
- David Estringel, Texas A&M University- Commerce, “The Stuff of Legends Now”
- Jonathan Cardew, Purdue University Global, “A World Beyond: Myths and Mythmaking in Microfictions”
- Patricia Waters, Troy University, “Poiesis: Readings”

- Kaia Magnusen, University of Tampa, “Otto Dix’s War Portfolio: Shattering the Myths of the Great War”
- Bibiana Ossai, Texas Tech University, “The Use of Mythical Realism as a Lens for Postcolonial Experience in Akwaeke Emezi’s Freshwater”
- Jude Okpala, University of Texas at San Antonio, “Demythology in Nigerian Film: The Case of Kunle Afolayan’s The Figurine”
- Charles LaShure, Seoul National University, “The Many Faces of Myth in the Korean Webtoon and Film Along with the Gods”
6:00-6:30pm  Wine Reception  Tango 1

6:30pm  Open Mic Plenary  Tango 1
• Nathan Long
• Jonathan Cardew
• Paige Erickson
• Cathy Swender
• Open to Others

7:30-until…  Hospitality Suite  Room 2318

Saturday, January 28, 2023

Session 6: 8:30-10:00am

• Giulia Oprea, University of Texas at Austin, “JFK Reloaded: Another Shot at Reexamining the Conspiracy through a First-Person Shooter”
• Angela Fantone, Weber State University, “The Mythopoetic Memorial: Creating and Recreating Myth and Sites of Memory in Neil Gaiman’s The Sandman”
• David A. Garner, Indiana University, Bloomington, “Making a List, Checking it Twice: Capitalism and Myth”
• Dale Pattison, Texas A&M University Corpus Christi, “Never Let Me Go and the Value of the Humanities”

• Kimberlee R. Mendoza, Wayland Baptist University, “Teaching Squirrels: How to Reach Generation Z and Create Lasting Engagement”
• Frederick Gooding, Jr., Texas Christian University, “Deciding on Which Story to Share”
• Sabrina Jamal-Eddine & Jen Ham, “The Myth of Independence: Health as Commodity Fetish”
• Nadia Nartey and Anthoanette A. Kommeh, Kennesaw State University, “A Mixed Methods Approach to Reimagining Income Inequality and Black Violent Crimes: Let the ‘Insiders’ Tell the Myth”
Session 7: 10:15-11:45am

“Windows and Mirrors: Fighting the Myth that the Humanities are Dead”
  • Clarence Goss, Elizabeth City State University
  • Brande McCleese, Elizabeth City State University
  • Debra Rook, Elizabeth City State University
  • Karen Strother-Jordan, Elizabeth City State University

Session 8: 12:00-1:30pm

• Iván-Daniel Espinosa, University of Colorado Boulder, “Earth Tomes: Dancing Below and Beyond Anthropocentric Myths in Contemporary Dance”
• Odalis Garcia Gorra, University of Texas at Austin, “Soy la Que Decide Cuando Vamos al Mambo: A (Social) Media Analysis of Miami’s Autonomous Femme-Perreo Space”
• Lyzette Wanzer, Independent Writer, “Trauma, Tresses, and Truth: Untangling our Hair through Personal Narratives”
• Lauren Woods, Auburn University, “Mythic Time and Cycles of Creating”

• James Weatherford, Southern New Hampshire University, “The Gentile ‘Savior of the Jews’: Archetype and Myth in the Twenty-first Century Holocaust Film”
• Pamela Wright, Texas A&M University Kingsville, “Malicious Mythmaking: Katherine Burdekin’s Swastika Night”
• Robert Cavazos, Texas A&M University San Antonio, “Truth and Cultural Mythmaking”
• Kaitlyn Newman, Georgia College & State University, “Saying Something without Saying Everything: The Challenge of Genocide Fiction”

Steven Specht, Utica University, “Thomas Szasz ‘The Myth of Mental Illness’: Its Relevance 60 Years Later”
  • Jeff Brooks, Collin College, and Adrian Cook, Terrant County College, “Hold Yourself Together: the Integrative Power of Myth for Identity Formation”
  • Hampton Harmon, University of Colorado Denver, “Myth to Meaning: How Language Myths Become Manifested Communities”
  • Nathan Long, Richard Stockton College, “Everyone is Thinking of You”

Lunch Break
Lunchtime Readings from Recent Publications by SHC Members

• Sharon Raynor, Elizabeth City State University- Practicing Oral History with Military and War Veterans (Routledge, 2022)
• Lee Rozelle, University of Montevallo- Ballad of Jasmine Mills (Montag Press, 2021)
• Jude Okpala, University of Texas at San Antonio- Pacification of the Primitive Tribes of the Lower Niger (Page Publishing, 2022)

Session 9: 2:30-3:45pm

- Rosamond Cary Rodman, Georgia State University, “Living in the Wake of the Mythologized Second Amendment”
- Jay Branagan Webb, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, “James Fenimore Cooper and the Creation of American Gun Culture”
- Madeleine Miller, University of Texas at Arlington, “Crystalizing the Myth of the American West in the Mid-Century Tourist Boom”
- Jarrett Kaufman, Oklahoma Panhandle State University, “Crowds of the Frontier: Lynch Law Myths in the Ox-Bow Incident”

- Kai Hinson and Paola Brinkley, Lamar University, “Bulgakov’s Bacchae: A Nietzschean Critique of Stalinism in The Master and the Margarita”
- Hannah Bahlmann, Texas Tech University, “Raphael and the ‘Myth of La Fornarina’: Female Portraiture and Humoral Medicine”
- Jaime Javier Rodriguez, University of North Texas, “Feminist Anti-Myths of the Mexican Revolution”
- Laura Narvaez, Southern Methodist University, “The Iconography and Ideological Influences of the Mexican Revolution on Chicana/o Activism in the Southwest, 1968-1974”
Session 10: 4:00-5:30pm

- Brande McCleese and Debra Rook, Elizabeth City State University, “The Myth of the Happy Slave Examined through the Lives of John S. Jacobs, Harriet Jacobs, and Allen Parker”
- Willie Hurst, Emory University, “Esteban the Enigma”
- Hasani Eliotero dos Santos, Federal University of São Carlos, “Black Sociological Thought Contesting Two Social Myths: The US and Brazil in Perspective”
- Bruce A. Craft, Southeast Louisiana University, “Remediation of Truth and Myth: The Casket Girls of New Orleans”

“Creative Writing: Readings”
- David Ray Vance, University of Texas at San Antonio
- Susi Lopera, University of Texas at San Antonio
- Andrew Martinez, University of Texas at San Antonio
- Julian Johnson, University of Texas at San Antonio
- Kimberly Garza, University of Texas at San Antonio

6:00-6:30
Wine Reception
Tango 1

6:30pm
Plenary Session
Tango 1

7:30- until...
Hospitality Suite
Room 2318

“The Forrest Shearon and Percy Miller Memorial Plenary Session”

Laurie Ann Guerrero: Writer, Essayist, Poet

Laurie Ann was born and raised in the Southside of San Antonio and is a multidisciplinary artist and the author of four collections: Babies under the Skin Panhandler (2008), A Tongue in the Mouth of the Dying (University of Notre Dame Press 2013), A Crown for Gumecindo (Aztlan Libre Press 2015), a collaboration with visual artist, Maceo Montoya, and I Have Eaten the Rattlesnake: New & Selected (TCU 2021). She is the former poet laureate of the city of San Antonio (2014-16) and the state of Texas (2016-17). Laurie Ann Guerrero is the Writer-in-Residence and an Associate Professor at Texas A&M University-San Antonio.
Sunday, January 29, 2023

Session 11: 9:00-10:30am

- Donna L. Sadler, Agnes Scott College, “Traces of a Nun’s Life: Mirror and Metaphor of Convent Life in Miniature Nuns’ Cells”
- Nell Ruby, Agnes Scott College, “The Viewer Before the Glass Door”
- Katharine Scherff, Texas Tech University, “Manifesting the Deity: Jumbotrons, Liveness, and the Corpus Christi”
- Theresa Flanigan, Texas Tech University, “The Ponte Vecchio and the ‘Myth of Florence’: Architecture and Civic Mythmaking in Late Medieval Florence”

- Enrique Mallen, Sam Houston State University, “Picasso’s Liminal Minotaur: Beyond the Boundary”
- Sean Hooks, University of Texas at Austin, “Leonard Gardner’s Fat City: Reading a Totemic Novel as the Zeitgeist Grapples with Masculinities Toxic and Otherwise”
- Laurie Babcock, Vermont College of Fine Arts, “Lost Things in Deep Places: Mythology and Alterity in the Writing of Ursula LeGuin”

Session 12: 10:45am-12:15pm

- Brooke Edsall, University of North Texas, “Protecting Perfection: Prenatal Care and the Transformation of Maternal Marking, 1913-1930”
- Leah Bouas, University of Texas at Arlington, “‘One for All and All for One’: The Pan American Round Table of San Antonio and the Myth of the Women’s Separate Sphere”
- Reilly Smith, Lamar University, “The Bad Mother: Euripides’ Making of an Enduring Myth”
- Stephanie Thompson, Purdue University Global, “Super Mom: Southern Motherhood, Memoir and Mythmaking”

- Krystal Catalina Ledesma, University of California Los Angeles, “Why Does the Chicana/o Community Want to Claim Marilyn Monroe?”
- Melissa Kimball, Texas Tech University, “Re-claiming ‘La Malinche’ through the artwork La Malinche by Chicana Artist Santa Barraza”
The Southern Humanities Conference, 2024

Call for Papers
Conference Theme: (Em)Body/Environment
Savannah, GA, February 1-4, 2024

The Southern Humanities Conference offers an opportunity for scholars, artists, writers, musicians, performers, and humanists of all kinds to share their knowledge, research, work, and experiences in an interdisciplinary, welcoming, and engaging intellectual space.

The Southern Humanities Conference invites proposals for papers on any aspect of the theme “(Em)Body/Environment,” broadly conceived. Our conference themes are meant to be inspiring and prompt reflection, not limiting. The topic is interdisciplinary and invites proposals from all areas of study, as well as creative pieces including but not limited to performance, music, art, and literature. Customary paper and full panel proposals are invited, as are ones for creative presentation formats like roundtables, workshops, and demonstrations. Moreover, the Southern Humanities Conference welcomes proposals from teachers and professionals outside the academy, as well as from scholars in the early stages of their academic careers including graduate students. Please note that the name of our organization simply reflects its having been founded in the U.S. South; no presenter is expected to present anything “southern” or be from the South, though southern topics are also welcomed. Conference attendees come from all over the United States, Canada, as well as overseas.

(Em)Body/Environment:
We live in a crucial moment when the health of our planet, and of our own bodies are endangered. Climate change is an increasingly dangerous and unsurmountable problem; erratic weather patterns, flooding, drought, failed agriculture, unstable wildlife habitat, hurricanes and snowstorms, heat surges, and wildfires destroy millions acres of land, devastate crops, kill, injure, and force millions of people from their homes each year, leading to record climate migration. Simultaneously, a global pandemic has reduced the life expectancy in the US and globally.

We also live in and embody various social, spatial, and physical environments within our shared global home. Our research can trace the contours and push the boundaries of these environments, and discuss the ways in which they shape, transform, and limit our bodies and our embodiment. And yet, advanced technology allows us—in fact encourages us—to work, shop, entertain ourselves, wage war, and interact with each other “remotely,” distancing ourselves from our own bodies, each other, and the environments we live in. Academia itself is often critiqued for its tendency to disembody those within it, for its disregard of the body over the mind, and for creating artificial or exclusive environments removed from the material world. How can we engage in critical thinking while remaining embodied? How can we best discuss issues of environmental sustainability and human interconnectivity? How do our disciplines and daily activities affect our bodies as well as the planet we live in? As humanities scholars, what can we offer to discussions of bodies, embodiment, and environment?

Please submit proposals of 300-500 words through our website at www.southernhumanities.org by December 15, 2023.
Credits

Images

Cover: A Boat on the Riverwalk, San Antonio, TX by Jon Bilous
Inside Cover: Illustration of the Battle of the Alamo, San Antonio, Texas, March 6, 1836. Getty Images
Page 8: San Antonio, Texas, USA by Sean Pavone
This Page: Forsyth Park in Savannah, Georgia, USA by Sean Pavone

Program Design

Danielle Gallegos, DD Creative Co.