

**AMERICAN CIRCUITS
AMERICAN SECRETS**
SEPTEMBER 18-21, 2014 | BANFF, ALBERTA

CONFERENCE PROGRAMME



Social Sciences and Humanities
Research Council of Canada
Conseil de recherches en
sciences humaines du Canada

Canada



The Banff Centre
inspiring creativity

Thursday, September 18

12:00 – 5:00 pm Registration Open

Session One 2:45 – 4:45 pm

1A Reheating the Cold War

Room: Kinnear Centre 101

Chair: Jolene Armstrong (Athabasca University)

Brad Congdon (Dalhousie University)

The Terror of Balance: Gina Berriault's *The Descent*

Theo Finigan (University of Alberta)

The Americans: Reading the Cold War in a Time of Terror

Brianna Wells (University of Alberta)

Doctor Atomic and the Rise of Event Opera

1B Obscured Paths of Coercion and Opportunity

Room: Kinnear Centre 103

Chair: Brian Hochman (Georgetown University)

Eduardo Canedo (University of Connecticut)

The Truth-In-Lending Act and the Demise of Usury Limits

Yael Schacher (Harvard University)

Peeking through a Crack: Polish Sailor 'Defection' to the United States in the Early Cold War

Talia Shabtay (University of Connecticut)

Forgotten Circuits: The Visual and Material Function of Containerized Capital in Sekula's and Burch's *The Forgotten Space*

Respondent: Brian Hochman (Georgetown University)

1C Rumours and Gossip

Room: Kinnear Centre 105

Chair: Bryce Traister (Western University)

Walter Woodward (University of Connecticut)
The Costs of Battles Not Fought: Rumors and War in Early Anglo-Indian Conflict

Kristina Garvin (Ohio State University)
Susanna Rowson's Scandal: Gossip Culture in the Early Nineteenth Century

Anne MacLennan (York University)
Suspicion, Secrets and Systems: Early American Radio, the Technology and the Programs

1D Southern Circuits, Southern Secrets

Room: Kinnear Centre 303

Chair: Jon Smith (Simon Fraser University)

Jon Smith (Simon Fraser University)
Inside Agitators: Madison, Lincoln, and Southern Federalism

Sarah Gleeson-White (University of Sydney)
Secrets from the Golden Land: William Faulkner's Screenplays

Kathryn McKee (University of Mississippi)
“Whatever comes in sight or ken, that amuses or interests”: Sherwood Bonner on Mapping the Circuits and Secrets of Nineteenth-Century Travel

Anne Trefzer (University of Mississippi)
Southern Sexual Secrets: Eudora Welty and Hubert Creekmore

Virginia J. Rock Plenary 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Room: Kinnear Centre 303

Chair: Mark Simpson (University of Alberta)

Elizabeth Povinelli (Columbia University)

“Native Life,” Or, Rethinking Territoriality Outside the Carbon Imaginary

Welcome Reception 8:30 – 10:00 pm

Room: Kinnear Centre 3rd Floor Galleria

Friday, September 19

8:00 – 5:00 pm Registration Open

Session Two 9:00 – 10:30 am

2A The Circuits of Samuel Morse, from the Visual to the Electromagnetic

Room: Kinnear Centre 101

Chair: Thomas Allen (University of Ottawa)

Thomas Allen (University of Ottawa)
The Secrets of the Telegraph

Edward Larkin (University of Delaware)
Morse's Old New World

Jennifer Blair (University of Ottawa)
The “Great Movers of the Wires” and Morse's Confessions

2B Circuits of Citizenship

Room: Kinnear Centre 103

Chair: Katja Thieme (University of British Columbia)

Alyssa MacLean (University of Kentucky)
Writing Back to Massa: Black Open Letters and the Performance of Citizenship on the Canada-US Border

Jade Ferguson (University of Guelph)
“Dem Southern folks jes strings up poor niggahs”: Matthew Bullock and Anti-Lynching Activism in the Canada-US Borderlands

Xiomara Santamarina (University of Michigan)
Circulating Creole Racial History in the Early 20th-Century Gulf Basin

2C Travelling Archives

Room: Kinnear Centre 105

Chair: Terri Tomsy (University of Alberta)

Sarah Melton (Emory University)
Travelling Histories: The Politics of Transnational Heritage in a South African Exhibit

Isabella Helfgott (University of Wyoming)
Museums Without Walls: Traveling Art Exhibitions and Competing Visions of
National Identity During the Great Depression

Susanne Luhmann (University of Alberta)
Americanizing Nazi Family Secrets: James Moll's (2006) *Inheritance*

2D Transnational Circuits of Entertainment, 1880s-1930s
Room: Kinnear Centre 303

Chair: Mark Simpson (University of Alberta)

Christine Bold (University of Guelph)
"Playing Indian" on the Vaudeville Circuit

Kristin Moriah (City University of New York)
Black Stars and Pearls: Performances of Black Femininity on the Vaudeville Circuit
in Germany

Susann Lewerenz (University of Hamburg)
"It had the high speed of America and all the colour of Europe and Asia": Doorlay's
Non-Stop Revue "Tropical Express" in Nazi Germany

Session Three 10:45—12:15 pm

3A Sexual Secrets and Gender Inversions
Room: Kinnear Centre 101

Chair: Priscilla Walton (Carleton University)

Stuart Murray (Carleton University)
The Circuits of Secret Desire: Masturbation and the Defence of Scholarly Cynicism

Michael Dorland (Carleton University)
The Weird World of HBO's *Masters of Sex*

Priscilla Walton (Carleton University)
Prisoners of Pathology: the Covert War on Women in Prime Time

3B Secrecy, Power, Mobility and Formalism
Room: Kinnear Centre 103

Chair: Thomas Carmichael (Western University)

Michael Zeitlin (University of British Columbia)

Vietnam, Ellsberg's Secrets, and Some Deaths in the Canadian War in Afghanistan"

Paul Budra (Simon Fraser University)
Cormac McCarthy and the Last American Road Trip

Thomas Carmichael (Western University)
Contingency, Secrecy, and the Event in Contemporary American Fiction

3C Home and Away

Room: Kinnear Centre 105

Chair: Nat Hurley (University of Alberta)

Tom Velk & Ari Zuckerbrot (McGill University)
China and North America - The Need for Partnership

David Grondin (University of Ottawa)
National Security as *The American Way of Life*: Can There Ever Be Privacy Outside
the National Security State?

12:15 - 1:30 Lunch

CAAS Executive Meeting (Reserved Table in Vista's Dining Room)

Session Four 1:30 - 3:00 pm

4B Scholarly Publishing for Junior Scholars

Room: Kinnear Centre 103

Chair: Mark Simpson (Co-Editor, *ESC: English Studies in Canada*)

Linda Cameron (Director, University of Alberta Press)
Douglas Armato (Director, University of Minnesota Press)
Caren Kaplan (Series Editor, Duke University Press)
Priscilla Walton (Editor, *Canadian Review of American Studies*)
Michael O'Driscoll (Co-Editor, *ESC: English Studies in Canada*)

4C Secret Letters Across the Pacific: Tracing Love and Sex in Twentieth-Century U.S.-Asian
Relations

Room: Kinnear Centre 105

Chair: Mari Yoshihara (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)

Vernadette Vicuna Gonzalez (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)
Sex, Lies, and National Security: Isabel Rosario Cooper and the Geopolitics of
Imperial Love

Naoko Shibusawa (Brown University)
Covert Sex Research: Kinsey's Secret Collaborator in Japan

Mari Yoshihara (University of Hawai'i at Mānoa)
Dearest Lenny: Leonard Bernstein's Epistolary Love and U.S.-Japan Relations in the
1980s

4D Surveillance & its Discontents

Room: Kinnear Centre 303

Chair: David Grondin (University of Ottawa)

Donia Mounsef (University of Alberta)
Performing Surveillance as Irony, or What Happens to the Holes when the Cheese is
Gone

Oliver Jones (York University)*
"Precious Fluids": Containment, Incontinence, Security, and the Grotesque in Stanley
Kubrick's *Dr. Strangelove*

Allen Anderl (University of Alberta)
The New Subliminal: Narrative Networks and National Defense

Session Five 3:15 – 4:45 pm

5A Eugenic Economies

Room: Kinnear Centre 101

Chair: Taylor Scanlon (University of Alberta)

Samantha Balzer (University of Alberta)
The "Secret" History of Compulsory Sterilization: The Case of Project Prevention

Paul Lawrie (University of Winnipeg)
"Wasteful, Wild and Intractable Elements": Racial Ergonomics and the New Negro in
Wartime Political Economy (1915-1919)

Sarah Blacker (University of Alberta)
Measuring Body Burden: The Secret Afterlives of American Industry

5B Rewired Scripts

Room: Kinnear Centre 103

Chair: Jason Haslam (Dalhousie University)

David Hollingshead (Brown University)

“A Fluid Sort of Organism”: Jack London, Suspended Vitality, and the Rewriting of the Punishable Body

Bryce Traister (Western University)

Our Queer Puritanism

Michael Epp (Trent University)

The Home Depot Declaration of Independence Road Trip and Secrets of the American Public Text

5C Stuck in Traffic

Room: Kinnear Centre 105

Chair: Michael Zeitlin (University of British Columbia)

Patrick Manning (McMaster University)

Rust Belt Lit: Toward a New (Critical) Regionalism in American Literature

Peter Brown (Mount Allison University)

The Circulation of Images of Los Angeles

Brent Bellamy (University of Alberta)

Oil Bound: The Animating Petro-Logic of Steven Soderbergh's *Traffic* and *Contagion*

5D The Visual Culture of Stealth: Interpreting the Imagery of Airpower

Room: Kinnear Centre 303

Chair: Caren Kaplan (University of California, Davis)

Caren Kaplan (University of California, Davis)

Deception in Warfare: Interpretation and Stealth in Militarized Aeromobility

Lisa Parks (University of California, Santa Barbara)

Drones, The Sensor Society, and US Exceptionalism

Robert White Plenary 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Room: Kinnear Centre 303

Chair: Michael O’Driscoll (University of Alberta)

Ron Deibert (Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto)

The Needle in the Haystack: Citizenship in the Age of Big Data

Film Screenings 8:30 - 10:30 pm

Room: Kinnear Centre 303

Chair: Brent Bellamy (University of Alberta)

Yucca Mtn Tally, 2013 (21 min). Director Phoebe Brush

Around Crab Orchard, 2012 (70 min). Director Sarah Kanouse

Documentary screenings and Q&A session with Director Sarah Kanouse

Yucca Mtn Tally is a desert meditation on America's first national high-level nuclear waste repository.

Around Crab Orchard takes as its point of departure a visit by the FBI following a run-in with a security guard at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. As the only wildlife refuge in the United States whose mission includes industry and agriculture alongside conservation and recreation, Crab Orchard claims a harmonious balance between past and present, nature and culture. As the filmmaker uncovers the refuge’s history and tries to understand its contradictory present, Crab Orchard's status as a contaminated refuge emerges less as an exception and more an example of the power and perils of "nature" as we understand it today.

Saturday September 20

8:00 – 5:00 pm Registration Open

Session Six 9:00 – 10:30 am

6A Sexual Geographies

Room: Kinnear Centre 101

Chair: Jennifer Blair (University of Ottawa)

Jason Haslam (Dalhousie University)

Cruising Nevérÿon: Delany, Muñoz, and Negative Space; or, Everyone Becoming in Utopia

Cecily Devereux (University of Alberta)

Bordering on obscene: erotic dancers between the US and Canada at the *fin-de-siècle*

Benedict Fullalove (Alberta College of Art and Design)

Secrets in Ice: Psychosexual Geography in Matthew Barney's *Cremaster 2*

6B Family Secrets

Room: Kinnear Centre 103

Chair: Art Redding (York University)

Paula Rabinowitz (University of Minnesota)

The Fathers' Secrets: Cold War Dads

Thomas Foster (DePaul University)

Sex and Enslaved Manhood

Rita Bode (Trent University)

Secret Sharers: Fathers, Daughters, Sisters in the Time of the Mirabals

6C Remediations

Room: Kinnear Centre 105

Chair: Michael Epp (Trent University)

Claudette Lauzon (Ontario College of Art and Design)

The New Aesthetics of Drone Warfare: Gazing through the Pharmakon

Susan Parrish (University of Michigan)

Disaster Mediation, 1927: Circuits and Snarls

Mary O'Connor (McMaster University)

Archive, Image, Text in Taryn Simon's *An American Index of the Hidden and Unfamiliar*

6D Public Informants

Room: Kinnear Centre 303

Chair: Christopher Elias (Brown University)

Elena Razlogova (Concordia University)

The Snoopiest Nation: Radical Lawyers v. FBI Informers in 1970s United States

Laura Fisher (Ryerson University)

How the Other Half Talks: Class-Passing and Eavesdropping in Urban America

Ayantika Mukherjee (University of Alberta)

The Child Imperialist and the Circulation of American Exceptionalism in American Travel Fiction in the Nineteenth Century

Session Seven 10:45 am-12:15 pm

7A Selves in Circulation

Room: Kinnear Centre 101

Chair: Peter Brown (Mount Allison University)

Luke Bresky (St. Mary's University College)

Pro-Americans, Proto-Americans, and Un-Americans in Melville's *Israel Potter*

Carter Neal (Indiana University)

Circuits of Desire, Circulating Letters: The Counterpublic Correspondence of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Margaret Fuller

James Dobson (Dartmouth College)

The Telephonic Self: A Non-Systemic Systems Theory of Autobiography

7B Resurrections

Room: Kinnear Centre 103

Chair: Rita Bode (Trent University)

Julia Wright (Dalhousie University)
American Horror Story: Beneath the Silver Screen

Melissa Jacques (University of British Columbia)
The Project of Selfhood: Vampires, Race, and the Archive

Heather MacLeod (University of Alberta)
Fragile Bodies: The Social Networks, Connections, and Constructions around
Stephenie Meyer's *Twilight* Series

7C Celluloid Circuits

Room: Kinnear Centre 105

Chair: Samantha Balzer (University of Alberta)

Shama Rangwala (University of Alberta)
Vienna Noir: Narrativization and Genre in *The Third Man*

Art Redding (York University)
"Don't Wave that Goddamn Flag at Me": The Early Films of Samuel Fuller

Virginia Shay (University of Waterloo)
Crime, Ethics, and Human Responsibility in the Cinematic Postmodern City: Michael
Mann's *Collateral*

12:15 - 1:30 Lunch

Session Eight 1:30 - 3:00 pm

8A Digital Populations

Room: Kinnear Centre 101

Chair: Paula Rabinowitz (University of Minnesota)

Megan Farnel (University of Alberta)
The (Not So) Secret Life of Fans

T.V. Reed (York University)
Social Movement Organizing Under the Panoptic Gaze

Justin Joque (European Graduate School)
Empty Secrets: Cryptographic Machines and the Creation of Digital Populations

8B Intimate Publics

Room: Kinnear Centre 103

Chair: Luke Bresky (St. Mary's University College)

Taylor Scanlon (University of Alberta)

Unauthorized: The Autobiography of Julian Assange and the Politics of the "Too Personal"

Christopher Elias (Brown University)

Public Secrets: McCarthyism, Gossip, and National Intelligence

Lindsey Banco (University of Saskatchewan)

Intimacy, Celebrity, and the Nuclear: The Public Lectures of J. Robert Oppenheimer

8C DeLillo and Friends

Room: Kinnear Centre 105

Chair: Theo Finigan (University of Alberta)

David Houseman (University of Alberta)

Acceleration and Exhaustion: Time and the Logic of Control in Don DeLillo's *Point Omega*

Colin Meissner (University of Notre-Dame)

Coded Absence: Words, Wars, and the End of Fiction

Marie-Christine Leps (York University)

Desert Maneuvers: Gambling with DeLillo and Ondaatje

8D Extra/ordinary Renditions

Room: Kinnear Centre 303

Chair: Julie Pelletier (University of Winnipeg)

Melissa Stephens (University of Alberta)

Neoliberal America: On the Circuits of "Figural Resemblance" in Molly Crabapple's *Guantánamo Bay*

Terri Tomsy (University of Alberta)

Team America: the Guantánamo Lawyers and "Honorable Advocacy"

Gregory Phipps (McGill University)

Mazes, Rhizomes, and the Circulation of Capital and Information in Postwar American Crime Fiction

CAAS 50th Anniversary Plenary 3:15 – 4:45 pm

Room: Kinnear Centre 303

Chair: Nat Hurley (University of Alberta)

Lisa Gitelman (New York University)

The Envelope Please: A Natural History

CAAS AGM 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Room: Kinnear Centre 303

CAAS 50th Anniversary Celebration

BBQ Dinner on the Terrace & Room 103

6:30 - 8:30pm

Cash Bar

Sunday September 21

Session Nine 9:00 – 10:30 am

9B *Venture Activism*

Room: Kinnear Centre 103

Chair: Cecily Devereux (University of Alberta)

Daniel Harvey (University of Alberta)
Enterprising Subjects, Entrepreneurial Circuits

Julie Pelletier (University of Winnipeg)
“Show Me the Money”: American Indian Gaming, Secrecy, and Settler Society

Noah Springer (University of Colorado, Boulder)
“It’s All About the Giving”: The Social & Economic Circuits of the Hybrid Economy of redditgifts

9C *Transnational Americas: America Abroad and Abroad in America*

Room: Kinnear Centre 105

Chair: James Gifford (Fairleigh Dickinson University)

James Gifford (Fairleigh Dickinson University)
1930s Cairo + 1940s California: Public Poetics and Private Polemics in International Literary Networks

Orion Ussner Kidder (Fairleigh Dickinson University)
National Theatres: Divergences in North American Approaches to Institutional Drama

Jolene Armstrong (Athabasca University)
North of the Medicine Line: Dreaming, Mythologizing, Narrating and Historicizing American/Canadian National, Boundary, Identity, and Nationhood in Guy Vanderhaegue’s *The Englishman’s Boy*

9D *Public Assemblage*

Room: Kinnear Centre 303

Chair: Mark Simpson (University of Alberta)

Heather Allison Love (Indiana University)
The Dialectics of Information: John Dos Passos’s *Newsreels* as Cybernetic History

Michael Truscello (Mount Royal University)
The Surveillant Assemblage and the Suicidal State

Mary Eileen Wennekers (Western University)*
Circulation Through the Cipher: "I have only to use it properly and I shall arrive at
the gold of which it is the index"

Session Ten 10:45 am– 12:15 pm

10A Crowd Sourcing

Room: Kinnear Centre 101

Chair: Mary O'Connor (McMaster University)

Carole Lynn Stewart (Brock University)
Revolutionary Secretions: Masonic and Temperance Links in African-American
Reform

Karl Coulthard (University of Guelph)
Invisible Man vs. Invisible Women: Social Activism in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*
and Toni Cade Bambara's *The Salt Eaters*

Ainsworth Clarke (University of Illinois at Chicago)
The "Infinite Possibilities" of the Crowd, or, W.E.B. DuBois and the Question of
Political Agency

10B Contested Spaces

Room: Kinnear Centre 103

Chair: Brent Bellamy (University of Alberta)

Mark Hulsether (University of Tennessee)
Stealth Religious Discourse in the Overlapping Territory Between Cultural Critique
and Popular Music

Barbara Ching (Iowa State University)
The Land Grant Underground: Cultivating the Campus in Jane Smiley's *Moo*

Carolyn Veldstra (McMaster University)
Suffering Optimism in *Swamplandia!*

10C Altered Views

Room: Kinnear Centre 105

Chair: Brianna Wells (University of Alberta)

Sandra Tomc (University of British Columbia)

“A Form of Life in Which Art is Not Art”: Labour Activism in the Aesthetic Regime

Cynthia Martin (University of New Mexico)

A Documentarian’s Opportunity: Breast Cancer Representation, Environmental Toxins, and “The Sensible”

John Culbert (University of British Columbia)

Native Secrets, Secret Natives: Travel, Mobility, and American Identity in Edith Wharton

Thank you for joining us...

Safe Travels!