

**Aesthetics of Renewal
3-6 November 2011
Chateau Laurier**

**Hosted by:
Canadian Association of American Studies
Centre for Research in American Studies
Carleton University**

Day 1: Thursday, November 3rd

Session One: 12:00-1:15

A. Transnational Networks of Renewal

Chair: TBA

- Coby Dowdell, Wilfrid Laurier University, "‘Like the Cover of an Old Book’: Franklin’s *Autobiography* in a Transatlantic Context"
- Georgie Miller, Dalhousie University, "Venturing Capital: MacArthur Fellowships and the Circuits of Genius"
- Sarah G. Waisvisz, Carleton University, "The Diaspora Artist as Maroon: Witnessing in Edwidge Danticat’s *The Dew Breaker*"

B. Neighbors Informing Neighbors

Chair: TBA

- Reilley Bishop-Stall, McGill University, "Laying Tracks and Tracking Change: The Historical and Contemporary Significance of the Railway in Canadian and American Landscapes, Visual Culture and National Identities"
- John Cushnie, Mount Allison University, "Et in Arcadia Ego"
- Leah Grandy, University of New Brunswick, "‘Yankees’ and ‘Bluenosers’ at the Races: Defining a Region Through Identity and Borders"

C. Post-War Memories

Chair: TBA

- Lindsey Michael Banco, University of Saskatchewan, "The Historical Sublimity of the Manhattan Project: Lydia Millet’s *Oh Pure and Radiant Heart*"

- Amanda Wicks, Louisiana State University, "Longing for the Absent Past: Nostalgia in *Fiskadoro*"
- Robert Mousseau, Carleton University, "Turn Down the Jazz: Searching For a New Approach to Reading *On the Road*"

Session Two: 1:45-3:15

A. Re-Educating America

Chair: TBA

- Rhiannon Rogstad, University of Western Ontario, "American Peripatetic Renewal: Walking in the 21st Century"
- Samir Dayal, Bentley University, "The End of Education (as We Knew it)? An Aesthetics for Renewal in American Higher Education"
- Richard Evans, Texas Tech University, "'A Confession of Defeat' Mormon Apologetics versus Academic Consensus (1879-1922)"

B. Re-Imagining Urban America

Chair: TBA

- Alex Young, Siena College, "Worldshaving"
- Monica Manolescu, University of Strasbourg, "Reinventing the American City in Rebecca Solnit's *Infinite City: A San Francisco Atlas*"
- Peter Robert Brown, York University, "The Values of Noir: Chinatown and the History of Los Angeles"

C. Trash or Treasure?

Chair: TBA

- Scott Preston, University of New Brunswick, "Pickers vs. Hoarders: Representations of Trash & Treasures in America's Reality TV Landscape"
- Ken Simpson, Thompson Rivers University, "Garbage and the Grotesque in Philip K. Dick's *Martian Time-Slip*"
- Nemanja Protic, York University, "The Contemporary Return of the Grotesque: Badiou, Deleuze, Žižek, and Quentin Tarantino's *Inglourious Basterds*"

- Jennifer Caruso, Minneapolis College of Art and Design/ University of Minnesota, "Out of the Ruins of American Manufacturing: Towards an Aesthetics of 'Picking'"

**First Plenary NAME
3:30-5:00**

Tom Permultter,
Government Film Commissioner and Chair of the National Film Board

Cash bar reception will follow

Day 2: Friday, November 4th

Session One: 9:00-10:30

A. Nostalgia

Chair: TBA

- Chris Vanderwees, Carleton University, "Falling Bodies and Nostalgia After 9/11"
- Jakub Zdebik, Carleton University and University of Ottawa, "Rough Pixels: Nostalgia in the Video Game Art of Cory Arcangel"
- Terrance McDonald, Independent Scholar, "Nostalgic Nightmares: Images of the 1950s in *Blue Velvet* and *Tree of Life*"

B. Making "All Things New": Poetry out of the Past

Chair: TBA

- Kevin McGuirk, University of Waterloo, "'a strange book of poetry found in a Norton wrapper': A.R. Ammons's *Ommateum*"
- Craig Love, University of Waterloo, "Whitman, Dickinson, and the Renovation of Old Verse Forms"
- Matthew Smith, York University, "Love's Labour: An Ethics of Hope in Louis Zukofsky's 'A'"

C. Remaking the American Body

Chair: TBA

- Katie Aubrecht, University of Toronto, "Dwelling "In the Beyond": A Phenomenology of Disability Disclosure"
- Ewa Luczak, University of Warsaw, "(The) Perfect Returns: Eugenics and American Popular Culture"
- Jason Demers, University of Toronto, "From Moral Reform to Supermaximum Security: The Biopolitics of Control Unit Prisons"

D. (Re) Fashioning Feminism

Chair: TBA

- Elizabeth Groeneveld, University of Guelph, "(Re) Making: Crafting Public Cultures in Feminist Periodicals"
- Clare Bermingham, University of Waterloo, "Fast Girls on the Track: Roller Derby and the Reinvention of Femininity in Contemporary American Narratives"
- Heather Hillsburg, University of Ottawa, "Anger and Post-Feminism: Why it Won't Go Away"

Session Two: 10:45-12:15

A. Reinventing Space and Place

Chair: TBA

- Aaron Mauro, Queen's University, "'What Kinder Place Could There Be On Earth': Marilynne Robinson's Homely Aesthetics of Repose and Refuge"
- Alexander Eastwood, University of Toronto, "Escape and Renewal: Deep Regionalism and the American Lyric"
- Mike McCleary, Wilfrid Laurier University, "(Re)Acquiring Spaces: The Politics of Aesthetic Renewal in Kim Stanley Robinson's *Red Mars*"

B. Film and the Remake

Chair: TBA

- David Briggs, University of Alberta, “Out of Time: Contemporary Horror Remakes America”
- Theodore Steiner, “Truth, at Twenty-Four Frames Per Second: Interrogation of the Structural Properties of Language, History and their Plausible Semiotic Translation to the Screen in the Creation of an Autonomous Indigenous Identity”
- Sara Villa, Université de Montréal, “Screening *On the Road*: How the Current Beats’ Renaissance Helped Defeat the Cinematographic Ineffability of Kerouac’s Novel”

C. Race and the Renewal of American Culture

Chair: TBA

- Constance Chen, Loyola Marymount University, “East Asia and ‘Neo-Orientalism’ in the United States”
- Claire Gullander, Trent University, “Bamboozled: Spike Lee and the Twenty-First Century Minstrel Show”
- Jennifer Harris, Mount Allison University, “Digging up—and Using—the Past at Jupiter Hammon’s House”
- Ross Daniel Bullen, University of Western Ontario, “A Tale of Two Topsy’s”

D. Fashions of Renewal

Chair: TBA

- Lauren Downing, Parsons the New School for Design, “Performing Vintage: The Consumption and Cultivation of Identities at the Brooklyn Flea Market”
- Carolyn Dowdell, Queen’s University, “Eighteenth-Century Up-cycling: Garment Modification in Pre-Industrial England”
- Eva Hagberg, University of California-Berkeley, “Finding Comfort in the Past: Contemporary Architecture’s Dark Nostalgia for the 1920’s and 30’s”
- Jean Thomas Tremblay, University of Ottawa, “Experiencing a Kitsch Space: The Contemporary Disjunction in Frank Lloyd Wright’s Organicism”

Lunch: 12:15 - 1:30
Reading: Armand Ruffo
CAAS Executive Meeting

Session Three: 1:30-3:00

A. Re-Making Citizenship

Chair: TBA

- Charmaine Eddy, Trent University, "The True Language of Citizenship: Recuperating a Genetics of Race in *True Blood*"
- Wail Qattan, Independent Scholar, "Marked Borders and the Origins of Citizenship"
- Julie Dufort, Université du Québec à Montréal, "The Representations of the United States-Mexico Border in Hollywood Movies: A Constant (Re)Definition of the American National Identity"

B. Archives of "the Popular"

Chair: TBA

- Christine Bold, University of Guelph, "Princess Chinquilla"
- Sara Humphreys, Trent University, "Archival Things"
- Victoria Lamont, University of Waterloo, "Why We Completely Forgot About BM Bower"

C. Renewal, INC.

Chair: TBA

- Daniel Opler, College of Mount Saint Vincent, "'To Guide Local Change': Columbia University and the Gentrification of Morningside Heights, 1947-1968"
- Chris Button, University of New Brunswick, "Gaga over Gaga: The Consumerist Evolution of Hipsters in America"
- Patrick Manning, McMaster University "'Frontiers are all around us': Exploring Nostalgia, Amnesia and Commercialism in the Deindustrialized Pittsburgh Area"

D. Modernist Thought and the Anxiety of Renewal

Chair: TBA

- Tim De Jong, University of Western Ontario, "Renewing the Time: Eliot on Literature and Mass Culture"

- Rasmus Simonsen, University of Western Ontario, "Modernist Prophecy?: The Case of Hart Crane"
- Robert Morden, York University, "Pawnshop Modernism: *Miss Lonelyheart's* Language of Things"

Second Plenary NAME
4:00-6:00

"The Inward Turn: American Opera Revisits America's Past"
Drs. Linda and Michael Hutcheons, University of Toronto

Day 3: Saturday, November 5th

Session One: 9:00-10:30

A. Visual and Public Art

Chair: TBA

- Sarah Cervenak, UNC-Greensboro, "Dis/membering as Re/Membering: Race, Sexuality and Value in the Art of Leonardo Drew and Wangechi Mutu"
- Maggie Kainulainen, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, "The Crafted Subject: Hegemony, Agency, and the Practice of Guerilla Knitting"
- Ivan Wang, University of Victoria, "Mediated Experience: A Study on the Experiences Conducted by Digital Media in Visual Arts and Buddhism"

B. Memory and the (Re-) Production of History

Chair: TBA

- Kerry Manders, York University, "It's All Just a Little Bit of History Repeating: The Zoetropography of *Jimmy Corrigan's* Memorial Theatre"
- Tom Cull, York University, "Freaking History: The Figure of the Wild Man in Cormac McCarthy's *Blood Meridian* and Ishmael Reed's *Yellow Back Radio Broke-Down*"
- Eric Sandeen, University of Wyoming, "Renewing or Forgetting: Building a New Landscape at Heart Mountain, Wyoming"

- Michael Davis, University of Cincinnati, "Opposing Freemasons, Defending Freemen: A History of Anti-Masonry"

C. Renewal on the Right

Chair: TBA

- Jon Geelen, University of Windsor, "Remember, Repent and Return: Narrative and Memory in the Resurgence of the Christian Right in the United States"
- Bruce Tucker, University of Windsor, "The Revolutionary Tradition in Post 9/11 American Political Culture"
- Jason Blahuta, Lakehead University, "A Machiavellian Interpretation of the Tea Party Movement"

D. Ontological Returns in Digiculture & American Music

Chair: TBA

- Benoît Faucher, Université de Montréal, "Out with the Old Recycling, In with the New Repurposing: Accelerated Sampling as the Language of Urgency"
- Sara Danièle Bélanger-Michaud, University of Toronto, "Musical Hauntology Beyond Nostalgia"
- Jason R. D'Aoust, University of Western Ontario, "Music From Hell: Orpheus in America"

Session Two: 10:45-12:15

A. Reviving Imperialism

Chair: TBA

- Brian Foster, Carleton University, "'I Love Working for Uncle Sam! Lets Me Know Just Who I am!': An Elongated History of Anthropologists in the U.S. Army"
- Neil Gerlach, Carleton University, "Justifying an American State of Exception: Biothrillers and the Ideology of the War on Terror"
- Bryce Traister, University of Western Ontario, "Freedom and Democracy, Transnational Style"

- Frédérick Gagnon, Université du Québec à Montréal, "The (Digital) 'Imperial Temptation'; U.S. Imperialism, Militarism and National Myths in War, Western and Sci-Fi Video Games"

B. The Politics of Iconographic Recycling in America

Chair: TBA

- Aarnoud Rommens. University of Western Ontario, "Compulsive Repetitions of the Primitive: Border Gnosis in the Corpus of Guillermo Gómez-Peña"
- Lucille Toth Colombié. University of Southern California, "Don Draper, The Impossible Hero of a Cleanse America"
- Ian McCausland, York University, "Woman as Symptom of Can: Transference and American Nostalgia in Old Milwaukee's Pin-up Girl Campaign"

C. What do Things Want?

Chair: TBA

- Catherine Lemieux. University of Montreal, "From the New Old to the Authentic Fake – Philosophical Perspectives on Kitsch in American Fleamarkets"
- Robert S. Covolo, Fuller Seminary, "Fashioning Culture: The Romantic Roots of Aesthetic Renewal"
- Julie Sando, University of Windsor, "Loving (In Stereo)"

D. Conformity, Capitalism, and Community

Chair: TBA

- Michele Krugh, George Mason University, "Crafting an Ethical Community: The Consumption of Handmade Commodities"
- Luke Bresky, St. Mary's University College, "Japhy Ryder's Footprint: Kerouac's Rucksack Revolution in Consumer Culture"
- Petra Slinkard, Indianapolis Museum of Art, "Dreadlocks in Babylon; Caucasians and Dreadlocks"

Lunch: 11:45 - 1:15
Annual General Meeting

Session Three: 1:30 - 3:00

Third Plenary NAME
"The Reality of My Surroundings:
What Colson Whitehead and Fishbone Can Teach Us About Producing Blackness in
America"
Dr. Anthony Stewart, Dalhousie University

Session Four - 3:15 - 4:45

A. Renewing the Vietnam War in American Memory

Chair: TBA

- Liam van Beek, University of Toronto, "Not all women wore love beads in the sixties': The Vietnam Women's Memorial and the Aesthetics of Renewal"
- Robert Hall, University of Ottawa, "Black Vietnam War Veterans Interpret American Exceptionalism"
- Alena Papayanis, Birkbeck College, "The Regeneration of America: Gender, National Identity and the Gulf War"
- Geoffery C. Stewart, University of Western Ontario, "Henry Cabot Lodge as High Commissioner: A Renewed Appraisal of America's Ambassador to Ngo Dinh Diem's Vietnam"

B. Renewing Affects

Chair: TBA

- Dana Dragunoiu, Carleton University, "Vladimir Nabokov and the Poetics of Courtesy"
- Mary Esteve, Concordia University, "Toward a Revisionist History of Postwar Happiness"
- Sarah Wilson, University of Toronto, "Realistic Reforms"

C. Re-Writing Music

Chair: TBA

- Troy Rhodes, Concordia University, "The Creative Advance: How Remix Makes the Familiar Novel Again"
- Hilarie Ashton, New York University, "The Doppelganger Artist: Reuse and/or Originality in Postmodernity and Popular Music"

- Jesse Stewart, Carleton University, "Spinning Hip Hop as 'the New Jazz': Aesthetic Renewal and Cultural Memory through Hip Hop Turntablism"

D. Intimacy in a Digital Age

Chair: TBA

- Lucy Leake, Plymouth College of Art, "Making Pasts: Investigating the Sustainability of Family Stories in a Digital Age"
- Victoria Niva Millious, Queen's University, "The Nostalgic Womb: Examining the Return of Memento Mori Photography in the Era of 4D Fetal Imaging"
- María Lourdes De Panbehchi, Virginia Commonwealth University, "Hipstamatic, an App for Nostalgia of the Recent Past"

Session Four: 5:00 - 6:30

A. Religious Renewal(s)

Chair: TBA

- Stefanie Stiles, University of Waterloo, "Aspirational Christianity in the Shadow of the Financial Crisis"
- David Drysdale, University of Western Ontario, "Born Again American: Tea Party Conversion Narratives"
- Judy Ehrentraut, Carleton University, "Secularists, Fundamentalists, and the Divine: Grotesque Satire in Flannery O'Connor's Fiction"

B. Frontier Violence and Foundational Myths

Chair: TBA

- Anna Peppard, York University, "From Tonto to Mr. T: *The A-Team* and the Transformation of the Western in Post-Vietnam America"
- Erik Mortensen, Wilfrid Laurier University, "Vigilantes, Politics and Youth of the Nation"
- Brian Froese, Canadian Mennonite University, "Road of a Thousand Terrors: Retelling the Frontier Myth in Horror Film"

C. Heteronormativity and Sexuality

Chair: TBA

- Lynne Evans, Dalhousie University, “‘You see, it is the dawn of a new era’: The (Re)Imagining of America in Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s *Herland*”
- Jason Haslam, Dalhousie University, “Fritz Lang’s America: Metropolis, Howl, and the Queer (in the) Machine”
- Spencer Morrison, University of Toronto, “Everything you put your hands on comes to pieces:” Private Optimism in Baldwin’s *Giovanni’s Room*”

D. Rebranding Political Tradition

Chair: TBA

- Michael Epp, Trent University, “Manufacturing Publics: Propaganda, the Declaration of Independence, and the International Centre for the Study of Radicalisation and Political Violence”
- Ira Wells, Wilfrid Laurier University, “American Polemic”
- Ryan J. Kirkby, University of Waterloo, “Vintage Politics: Vietnam Vets, Tea Partiers, and the Dissolution of the Left-Right Dichotomy”

7:00

Conference Banquet

Cash Bar and Dance, open to all, will follow

Day 4: Sunday, November 6th

Session One: 9:00-10:30

A. Neo-Taxation, Neo-Consumption, Neo-Community

Chair: TBA

- Scott Aquanno, York University, “Reinventing Monetary Policy: The New Politics of Central Banking”
- Guy Charlton and Carsten Nickel, Auckland University of Technology, “The Political Economy and the Policy Framing of Progressive Income Taxation in the United States and Germany”
- Stephen Schryer, University of New Brunswick, “The Slum of Innermost Being: The Changing Face of Poverty in Saul Bellow’s Fiction”

B. Age Reconsidered

Chair: TBA

- Patricia Life, University of Ottawa, "Renewal of Work and Age: The Utopian Novels of Bellamy, Morris and Russ"
- Art Redding, York University, "A Finish Worthy of the Start: The Poetics of Age and Masculinity in Clint Eastwood's *Gran Torino*"
- Carol Easton, Athabasca University, "Neighbourhood Placemaking and the Transportation Conundrum - New Map Required"

C. Intellectuals (re-) Define America

Chair: TBA

- William Gleberzon, York University, "Randolph Bourne and the American Alienated Young Intellectuals of the 1920s"
- Kim Banion, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, "Revising the Revolution: The War of Independence in Mid-Nineteenth-Century Literature"
- David Heckerl, St.Mary's University, "A Harmony Inaudible to Men': Stanley Cavell's Aesthetic Renewal of Transcendentalism"
- Brad Bannon, University of Western Ontario, "Coleridge, Emerson and the Renewal of Edwardsean Theology"

Session Two: 10:45-12:15

A. The Transformative Power of Publishing

Chair: TBA

- Jenna Hunnef, University of Toronto, "The Law, the Man, and the Child: The Composition, Adaptation, and Revision of *True Grit*"
- Talia Regan, University of Toronto, "Republishing Parker; The Portability of Meaning in Dorothy Parker's *Arrangement in Black and White*"
- Cindy McMann, Wilfrid Laurier University, "Re-imagining Lolita on the Covers of Nabokov's Novel"
- Brad Congdon, Dalhousie University, "'Leading with the Chin': Ernest Hemingway and *Esquire* in the 1930s"

B. Theatrical Re-Creation

Chair: TBA

- Pavlina Radia, Nipissing University, “‘Doing the Lady Gaga Dance’: American Transaesthetics and the Spectacle of Loss in Don DeLillo’s *The Body Artist*”
- Kerry McElroy, Concordia University, “Making a Splash in Hollywood: Then and Now”
- Mikë Vienneau, Université du Québec à Montréal/Université de Montréal, “The Remake in the American Cinema: Aesthetics of the Spectacularisation of the Memory”

C. Rewriting American Innocence and Heroism

Chair: TBA

- Ed Jewinski, Wilfrid Laurier University, “Twain, Nostalgia, and the Subversion of the Innocence of *Huck Finn*”
- Pamela Mansutti, University of Waterloo, “Not ‘under the nom de guerre ‘The Kid’: Hollowing out the Myth of William H. Bonney in Cormac McCarthy’s *Blood Meridian*”
- Ashna Bhagwanani, University of Waterloo, “‘Deviant’ Discourses: *The National Police Gazette* and American Literature of the 1840s and 50s”