



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR
**AMERICAN
STUDIES**

CAAS 2021: GREAT DIVIDES, 22-24 OCTOBER 2021

DAY ONE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22

Welcome & Opening Remarks

11:15-11:30 NDT / 10:45-11:00 ADT / 9:45-10:00 EDT / 8:45-9:00 CDT / 7:45-8:00 CST & MDT / 6:45-7:00 PDT

Session 1: Nescience and Nation: Cognitive Dissonance, Vanishing Histories, and Tensions Across Mediums

11:30-12:45 NDT / 11:00-12:15 ADT / 10:00-11:15 EDT / 9:00-10:15 CDT / 8:00-9:15 CST & MDT / 7:00-8:15 PDT

Chair & Respondent: Jenna Hunnef (University of Saskatchewan)

David Mitterauer (Western), "Ignorant of Each Other's Affairs": The Early Slave Narrative, the Antebellum Plantation Romance, and the Inversion of Ignorance

Christian Ylagan (Western), Spectres of Filipino Masculinity: White Men, Little Brown Brothers, and the Myths of Benevolent Assimilation

Katrina Younes (Western), Signifyin(g) on Science Fiction Tropes: Afropessimism and Afrofuturism in Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man*

Break

12:45-1:00 NDT / 12:15-12:30 ADT / 11:15-11:30 EDT / 10:15-10:30 CDT / 9:15-9:30 CST & MDT / 8:15-8:30 PDT

Session 2: Mid-Century Divides & Their Legacies

1:00-2:15 NDT / 12:30-1:45 ADT / 11:30-12:45 EDT / 10:30-11:45 CDT / 9:30-10:45 CST & MDT / 8:30-9:45 PDT

Chair: D. Caleb Smith (Tulane University)

Brent Ryan Bellamy (Trent University), *Great Divides in U.S. Publishing, 1950-2010*

Rowan Bayne (University of Chicago/Southern Alberta Institute of Technology), Measuring the Mind Between M and F

D. Caleb Smith (Tulane University), Race, Law, and Aluminum: Harris A. Parson and Twenty Years of Workplace Struggle

“Lunch” Break w/CAAS Executive Meeting*

2:15-3:00 NDT / 1:45-2:30 ADT / 12:45-1:30 EDT / 11:45-12:30 CDT / 10:45-11:30 CST & MDT / 9:45-10:30 PDT

*Note: the Executive Meeting will begin promptly 15 minutes after the conclusion of Session 2 at 1:00PM EDT

Session 3: Race, Roads, and Mobilities

3:00-4:15 NDT / 2:30-3:45 ADT / 1:30-2:45 EDT / 12:30-1:45 CDT / 11:30-12:45 CST & MDT / 10:30-11:45 PDT

Chair: Brent Ryan Bellamy (Trent University)

Emily Howe (York University), Psychological Orientations: Examining Alterity on the American Road

Helen Pinsent (Dalhousie University), Road Tripping Through *Lovecraft Country*: The Myth of American Automobility in Matt Ruff’s Novel and Misha Green’s Adaptation

Mazin Saffou (Wilfrid Laurier University), Neil Gaiman’s Enchanted America: The Fantastical Mode in *American Gods*

Break

4:15-4:30 NDT / 3:45-4:00 ADT / 2:45-3:00 EDT / 1:45-2:00 CDT / 12:45-1:00 CST & MDT / 11:45-12:00 PDT

Keynote Address by Dr. La Marr Jurelle Bruce (University of Maryland, College Park), “How to Go Mad without Losing Your Mind: Some Radical Utterances in the Idiom of Madness”

4:30-5:45 NDT / 4:00-5:15 ADT / 3:00-4:15 EDT / 2:00-3:15 CDT / 1:00-2:15 CST & MDT / 12:00-1:15 PDT

DAY 2: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

Session 4: Political Divides

11:30-12:45 NDT / 11:00-12:15 ADT / 10:00-11:15 EDT / 9:00-10:15 CDT / 8:00-9:15 CST & MDT / 7:00-8:15 PDT

Chair: Aidan Moir (York University)

Geordie Miller (Mount Allison University), George Saunders' Love Affair with Ayn Rand

Jason Demers (University of Regina), Directing the Divide: Steve Bannon's American Civil War

Aidan Moir (York University), The Divisive Influence of Digital Media, Celebrity, and Cultural Elitism in Post-Presidential Branding

Break

12:45-1:00 NDT / 12:15-12:30 ADT / 11:15-11:30 EDT / 10:15-10:30 CDT / 9:15-9:30 CST & MDT / 8:15-8:30 PDT

Session 5: Divided Ecologies

1:00-2:15 NDT / 12:30-1:45 ADT / 11:30-12:45 EDT / 10:30-11:45 CDT / 9:30-10:45 CST & MDT / 8:30-9:45 PDT

Chair: Adam Beardsworth (MUN Grenfell)

Lindsey Banco (University of Saskatchewan), Dividing Lines in the Sky: Chemtrail Conspiracy Narratives and Climate Emergency

Adam Beardsworth (MUN Grenfell), To the far Right of the Wild: Land, Freedom, and Justice in American Wilderness Writing

Michael Cameron (Dalhousie University), "The New People of the Earth": The Vampire and the Anthropocene in *I Am Legend*

"Lunch" Break w/CAAS AGM*

2:15-3:00 NDT / 1:45-2:30 ADT / 12:45-1:30 EDT / 11:45-12:30 CDT / 10:45-11:30 CST & MDT / 9:45-10:30 PDT

*Note: the AGM will begin promptly 15 minutes after the conclusion of Session 5 at 1:00PM EDT

Session 6: Boundaries and Borders

3:00-4:15 NDT / 2:30-3:45 ADT / 1:30-2:45 EDT / 12:30-1:45 CDT / 11:30-12:45 CST & MDT / 10:30-11:45 PDT

Chair: Sarah Blanchette (Huron University College)

~~Luke Bresky (St. Mary's University), Between Survival and Survivance: The Ironies of Charles Eastman/Ohiyesa~~

Bernadette Russo (Mount Saint Vincent University), Transmuting the Boundaries of Time and Space, History and Place: Stephen Graham Jones's *Mongrels*, *Mapping the Interior*, and *The Only Good Indians* as Ecogothic Deep Maps and Spatial Narratives

Tim Clarke (University of King's College), A Divide that Binds: The Morbid Vitalist Strain in United States Letters

Break

4:15-4:30 NDT / 3:45-4:00 ADT / 2:45-3:00 EDT / 1:45-2:00 CDT / 12:45-1:00 CST & MDT / 11:45-12:00 PDT

Session 7: Bartleby's Blackness: Melville's Fugitive-Slave Story of Wall Street (roundtable discussion)

4:30-6:00 NDT / 4:00-5:30 ADT / 3:00-4:30 EDT / 2:00-3:30 CDT / 1:00-2:30 CST & MDT / 12:00-1:30 PDT

Ademola Adesola, On The White Slave: A Tale of Slave Life in Virginia (1852)

Anna Blackmore, The Colt-45 Revolver

Alyson Brickey, The Bandanna and the Fugitive Slave Ads

Lauren Dietterle, Organized Kidnapping in Manhattan

Amy-Leigh Gray, Ginger, Ginger Nuts, and Slavery

Andrew Loman, John J. Astor's Trade in Skins

Natalie LoVetri, Inscribing on Cotton

Caitlyn McIntyre, The Space of the Plantation

Dana Medoro, The Chancery Court and Mortgaged Humans

DAY 3: SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24

Session 8: Crises in the Borderlands, Past & Future

11:30-12:45 NDT / 11:00-12:15 ADT / 10:00-11:15 EDT / 9:00-10:15 CDT / 8:00-9:15 CST & MDT / 7:00-8:15 PDT

Chair: Jennifer Andrews (University of New Brunswick)

Erin Bistline (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), *The Many Divides of Strange Empire*

Jennifer Andrews (University of New Brunswick), *Moving North: Thwarting the Promise of Canadian Liberty in Erdrich's Future Home of the Living God*

Jessica Hawkes (Dalhousie University), "Wild Time" and Water: Hydrological Divisions in *Watershed* and *The Water Knife*

Break

12:45-1:00 NDT / 12:15-12:30 ADT / 11:15-11:30 EDT / 10:15-10:30 CDT / 9:15-9:30 CST & MDT / 8:15-8:30 PDT

Session 9: Divided Subjects

1:00-2:15 NDT / 12:30-1:45 ADT / 11:30-12:45 EDT / 10:30-11:45 CDT / 9:30-10:45 CST & MDT / 8:30-9:45 PDT

Chair: Bernadette Russo (Mount Saint Vincent University)

Sarah Blanchette (Huron University College), Bo Burnham *Inside the Mental Health Pandemic*

Noel Glover (OCADU), *Doubtful Democracy Between the Mother Tongue and the "Nation Thing"*

Ian Gibson (University of Waterloo), "No End in Nature": Emerson's "Circles" and the Legacy of Transcendentalism

"Lunch" Break

2:15-3:00 NDT / 1:45-2:30 ADT / 12:45-1:30 EDT / 11:45-12:30 CDT / 10:45-11:30 CST & MDT / 9:45-10:30 PDT

Session 10: Generic Debates and Cultural Divides

3:00-4:15 NDT / 2:30-3:45 ADT / 1:30-2:45 EDT / 12:30-1:45 CDT / 11:30-12:45 CST & MDT / 10:30-11:45 PDT

Chair: Peter Robert Brown (Mount Allison University)

Rick Cousins (Trent University), Finding Million-Dollar Ideas in a Five-and-Ten Store: How Terrytoons' Paul Terry Helped Make Disney's Magic Kingdom

Peter Robert Brown (Mount Allison University), "You Can Always Go, Downtown": Geography, Narrative, and Downtown Los Angeles in David Lynch's *Mulholland Drive*"

Art Redding (York University), The Mystery of the Missing Mystery: Edmund Wilson on Modernism and Detective Fiction

Break

4:15-4:30 NDT / 3:45-4:00 ADT / 2:45-3:00 EDT / 1:45-2:00 CDT / 12:45-1:00 CST & MDT / 11:45-12:00 PDT

Session 11: Bridging Divides and Blending Genres

4:30-5:45 NDT / 4:00-5:15 ADT / 3:00-4:15 EDT / 2:00-3:15 CDT / 1:00-2:15 CST & MDT / 12:00-1:15 PDT

Chair: Ross Bullen (OCADU)

Ross Bullen (OCADU), Following the Money with William Wells Brown

Brad Congdon (Dalhousie/Saint Mary's University), Bridging Divides in Fran Ross's *Oreo*

Jennifer Harris (University of Waterloo), Restorying the Prairie: Linda Sue Park's *Prairie Lotus*

Closing Remarks

5:45-6:00 NDT / 5:15-5:30 ADT / 4:15-4:30 EDT / 3:15-3:30 CDT / 2:15-2:30 CST & MDT / 1:15-1:30 PDT