



CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR
**AMERICAN
STUDIES**

CAAS 2023: WEST BY NORTHEAST, 22-24 SEPTEMBER 2023

DAY ONE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

<https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/94440791288?pwd=bkJWU2xlZHR4b0R3N0dZTTRzVjF0dz09>

Meeting ID: 944 4079 1288

Passcode: 97405287

Welcome & Opening Remarks

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

Session 1: Curating Mythologies of the West

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

Chair: **Jenna Hunnef** (University of Saskatchewan)

Melanie J. Fishbane (Western University), "Going West": Paternal Politics and the Mythology of
the Constructed West in Laura Ingalls Wilder's *Little House* Series

Laura Beard (University of Alberta), "It's Wild, It's Real, It's Western": Advertising and
Mythmaking in Deadwood

Short Break

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

Session 2: Hollywood's Capitalist Constructions of the West

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

Chair: **Natasha Farrell** (MUN Grenfell)

Natasha Farrell (MUN Grenfell), *Star-Dust in Hollywood: Jan and Cora Gordon's Multimedia
Portraits of America and Its Movie Dream Factory*

Ian Williams Curtis (Kenyon College), *Jean Rolin's Hollywood Flâneur: Terrorism, Stardom, and*

the American West in *The Kidnapping of Britney Spears*

Dakota Pinheiro (University of Waterloo), Where's the Work-Life Balance? Critiquing the Doubling Down on Productivity Myths in Apple TV's *Severance*

Extended Break (with CAAS Executive Committee Meeting*)

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

*Attention all EC members: the Executive Meeting will begin promptly 15 minutes after the conclusion of Session 2 at 1:00 p.m. EDT. Please **join the breakout room** available through the main Zoom meeting.

Session 3: Geographies of Disaster & Exploitation

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

Chair: **Bernadette Russo** (Mount Saint Vincent University)

Christopher M. Sterba (San Francisco State University), Natural Disasters and Imperial Dreams: California, Chile, and the Great Earthquakes of 1906

Richard Mangum (Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University), The Dakota Access Pipeline: How Dominant Narratives Delegitimize, Erase, and Replace Counter Narratives

Short Break

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

Virginia J. Rock Plenary Address: Dr. Kalenda Eaton (University of Oklahoma), "The West of Us: Regional Subjectivity in African American Studies"

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

The keynote address will take place in a **separate Zoom Webinar**. Please use this link to access the keynote following the conclusion of the Short Break:

<https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/92140588597?pwd=MlBYNEluZ2xTcXd4U3F5MjRVLzVxQT09>

DAY 2: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

<https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/93767826855?pwd=U29ObFpvWGhFNzIzQ0hBRXRJK2tDZz09>

Meeting ID: 937 6782 6855

Passcode: 72888954

Session 4: Tall Tales and Urban Legends in American Literature

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

Chair: **Jasleen Singh** (University of Toronto)

Ross Bullen (OCAD University), "Wake up, you idiots! Whatever made you think paper was so valuable?": Economic Tall Tales in Kurt Vonnegut's *Galápagos*

Nilak Datta (Birla Institute of Technology & Science), A Tall Tale for Heritage and Roots Tourism: Ishmael Reed's *Yellow Back Radio Broke-Down* (1969)

Simon Turner (Carleton University), Reiterative Revision, Ethical Violence: *Candyman* (2021) as Black Lives Matter Folk Tale

Short Break

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

Session 5: Frontier Ecologies

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

Chair: **Melanie J. Fishbane** (Western University)

Adam Beardsworth (MUN Grenfell), The Posthuman West: Doug Peacock's *Grizzly Years*

Jessica Hawkes (Dalhousie University), Climate Change and the West: The New Wilderness and *Gold Fame Citrus*

Veronika Kratz (Carleton University), Fluid Aridity: Re-Thinking the Scale of Drought with Claire Vaye Watkins's *Gold Fame Citrus* (2015)

Extended Break (with CAAS AGM*)

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

*Note: the AGM will begin promptly 15 minutes after the conclusion of Session 5 at 1:00 p.m. EDT. All are welcome to attend!

Session 6: Unexpected Wests

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

Chair: **Jenna Hunnef** (University of Saskatchewan)

Matthew Rooney (Western University), "North's as near as West": Elizabeth Bishop's Pan-American Poetics

Sara Gallagher (University of Waterloo), "If Charlie Parker was a Gunslinger": Jazz and the American West

Brian Jansen (University of Maine), "Local to where, across the river?": Elmore Leonard's Detroit Novels and the Urban Western at the Borderlands

Short Break

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

Session 7: The Cowboy Figure in Western Reelism

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

Chair: **Bernadette Russo** (Mount Saint Vincent University)

Caroline Diezyn (Western University), The Wall that Progress Bashes Against: Nostalgic Reflections and Restorations of John Wayne Masculinity in *Yellowstone*

Emily Howe (University of Ottawa), "The Cowboy Fantasy": The Frontier in Taylor Sheridan's *Yellowstone* and 1883

Nicola Nixon (Concordia University), The Reel Real, or the Western's Anxiety of Inauthenticity

Peter Brown (Mount Allison University), The Call of the West: Cowboys in Los Angeles

DAY 3: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

<https://usask-ca.zoom.us/j/93250281244?pwd=dWUvY1BWOFl4ODJ3dWpiME85SnVQUt09>

Meeting ID: 932 5028 1244

Passcode: 79453669

Session 8: Diasporic Transformations

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

Chair: **Jasleen Singh** (University of Toronto)

Shoshannah Ganz (MUN Grenfell), East-West Literary Influences by Way of Yone Noguchi's *The American Diary of a Japanese Girl*

Aidan Wakely-Mulroney (Independent Scholar), The United States of Past, Present, and Future: Heideggerian Temporality in Walt Whitman's "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"

Short Break

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

Session 9: Monstrous Metaphors & the Sublime Terror of the West

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

Chair: **Lindsey Banco** (University of Saskatchewan)

Jason Haslam (Dalhousie University), Energy Frontiers: Gothic Interruptions of Green Utopias

Brad Congdon (University of Saskatchewan), Abjection and Spectacle in the American Kaiju Film

Helen Pinsent (Dalhousie University), American Dreams and Nightmare Roads: Sal Paradise's Gothic Conflict in Kerouac's *On the Road*

Extended Break

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

Session 10: Presidents' Roundtable: The Role of the West in American Studies

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

Chair: **Jennifer Harris** (University of Waterloo)

Art Redding (York University)

Jenna Hunnef (University of Saskatchewan)

Ross Bullen (OCAD University)

Jason Haslam (Dalhousie University)

Adam Beardsworth (MUN Grenfell)

Closing Remarks

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