

JANUARY 23RD, 2021

MERC

MASTER'S IN ENGLISH REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Hosted by
Bridgewater State University
and
Salem State University

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

Dr. Halina Adams

Assistant Professor of English
Bridgewater State University

Elizabeth Brady

Graduate Assistant
Bridgewater State University

Dr. Kimberly Chabot Davis

Professor of English; Graduate Coordinator
Bridgewater State University

Dr. Theresa DeFrancis

Associate Professor of English; Graduate Coordinator
Salem State University

Hannah Drew

Graduate Assistant
Salem State University

Dr. Roopika Risam

Assistant Professor of English; Program Coordinator
Salem State University

Dr. Keja Valens

Professor of English; Graduate Coordinator
Salem State University

SCHEDULE

8:30 AM - 9:35 AM
<u>From First Wave to Third Wave Feminism: Literature and Creative Writing</u>
9:35 AM - 10:40 AM
<u>Pedagogy, Empowerment, and Disempowerment</u>
10:45 AM - 11:50 AM
<u>Institutional Power of Race and Religion</u>
11:50 AM - 12:55 PM
<u>Equity, Disability Studies, and Critical Race Pedagogy</u>
1:00 PM - 2:05 PM
<u>Metatextuality in Modern and Postmodern Culture</u>
2:05 PM - 3:10 PM
<u>Healing, Nature, and Community in Ecocriticism and Native American Literature</u>
3:15 PM - 4:05 PM
<u>Popular Culture and Group Identity</u>
4:05 PM - 5:10 PM
<u>Writing, Rhetoric, and Visual Literacy</u>

Conference Zoom Link

MERC Website

From First Wave to Third Wave Feminism: Literature and Creative Writing

8:30 AM - 9:35 AM

Moderated by Dr. Maria Hegbloom, Bridgewater State University

The Path to Empowerment: The Call for Female Solidarity in Raven Leilani's *Luster*

Amy Keith

Bridgewater State University

Excerpts from *Violet is one letter off from violent*

Audrey Spina

Bridgewater State University

How Do Daisy, Jordan, and Myrtle Negotiate the Changing Culture of the 1920s in Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*? A Gender Perspective on Understanding the Flappers

Shorash Shirwany

Salem State University

Pedagogy, Empowerment, and Disempowerment

9:35 AM - 10:40 AM

Moderated by Dr. Theresa DeFrancis, Salem State University

Questioning the Standard: How MCAS 2.0 Misrepresents Students' Abilities

James Maskell

Bridgewater State University

Reviving Reading through Student Choice in the High School English Classroom

Maura Geoghegan

Bridgewater State University

Reading in the Midst of Multidimensional Existence: Utilizing Theory and Young Adult Literature to Uncover Internalized Oppression and Chaos

Matthew Hyzdu

Salem State University

The Institutional Power of Race and Religion

10:45 AM - 11:50 AM

Moderated by Dr. Keja Valens, Salem State University

Buried in the Earth: the Mestizo and the Colonizer in Silvia Moreno-Garcia's *Mexican Gothic*

Matt Cutter

Bridgewater State University

Reclaiming Religion: The African Feminist in *Purple Hibiscus*

Allison Fogarty

Bridgewater State University

Excerpt from: Good Friday: An Apocalyptic Tragedy

Remson DeJoseph

Boston College

Equity, Disability Studies, and Critical Race Pedagogy

11:50 AM - 12:55 PM

Moderated by Dr. Roopika Risam, Salem State University

Combining SEL and Equity Literacy to Provide Remote Students with a Path for Self-Advocacy

Stephanie Conley

Salem State University

Casualties of Cure: Medicinal Cautionary Tale in *Flowers for Algernon*

Clare Nee

Bridgewater State University

Nourishing Our Field: How Diversity of Voice and Experience In Text Supports Ethnic-Racial Identity Development

Patrick Morse

Salem State University

Metatextuality in Modern and Postmodern Culture

1:00 PM - 2:05 PM

Moderated by Dr. Stephanie Young, Salem State University

When Life is a Game: Metafictive-Sprawl and Kate Milford's *Greenglass House*

James Smith

Simmons University

Talking to the Audience: Implications of Contemporary Usage of Asides in Film and Television

Michael Kerr

Salem State University

A "Risk That Must Be Run": On Substantive Modes of Emptiness & The Creative Process in Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse*

Jamie Millen

University of Massachusetts Boston

Healing, Nature, and Community in Ecocriticism and Native American Literature

2:05 PM - 3:10 PM

Moderated by Dr. John Kucich, Bridgewater State University

Everyday Ecology: An Ecocritical Reading of Pentti Saarikoski's *The Dark One's Dances*

Zachary Boissonneau

Bridgewater State University

Changing Lands: An Exploration of the Relationship between People and Land in Native American Literature

Evan Miller

Salem State University

Community and Healing in Leslie Marmon Silko's *Ceremony*: How a Community Needs and Enacts Healing

Sarah Eshelman

Salem State University

Popular Culture and Group Identity

3:15 PM - 4:05 PM

Moderated by Dr. Kimberly Davis, Bridgewater State University

“It’s Not a Dream if It’s Real”: The Pursuit of Queer Utopia in *House of X* and *Powers of X*

Carl Olson

Bridgewater State University

Imagining Under Occupation: Explorations in arabic sf

Wafaa Razeq

University of Massachusetts Boston

Writing, Rhetoric, and Visual Literacy in Pedagogy

4:05 PM - 5:10 PM

Moderated by Dr. Lee Torda, Bridgewater State University

Out with the Old and in with the New: Why Technology Improves the Writing Process

Cassandra Lemieux

Bridgewater State University

Lie Detesters: Promoting Rhetorical Responsibility in the Classroom

Sarah Bond

Bridgewater State University

Close Reading Images, Close Reading Text in Young Adult Novels with Social Justice Themes

Laura Collins

Salem State University

Presenters

Zachary Boissonneau

Zachary Boissonneau is currently pursuing an MAT at Bridgewater State University. For the past eleven years he has been a middle school English teacher. In addition, he has served as an instructor and co-director of the Buzzards Bay Writing Project's summer program for teens.

Sarah Bond

In the last twenty years, in three different states, Sarah Bond has had the privilege of teaching English at each grade level, fifth through twelfth. Her experience, much of it part time, includes private school, public school, and even a homeschool coop. Currently, she teaches Grade 8 ELA with a tremendous team of teachers at King Philip Middle School.

Laura Collins

Laura Collins is a first-year graduate student in the MAT English program at Salem State University, and plans to graduate in 2023. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of Tennessee in 2005, and a Master of Arts in English from The Pennsylvania State University in 2007. She is interested in a career in secondary education and the study of contemporary young adult literature. As a quilter and an undergraduate art history minor, her research topics often include an element of visual or art interpretation.

Stephanie Conley

Stephanie Conley is an MAT-English student at Salem State University. She received her undergraduate degree at Umass Boston, double majoring in English and Philosophy. She currently works as an instructional assistant at a local high school and enjoys volunteering with the organization Horizons for Homeless Children. She hopes to reach her goal of becoming an English teacher in a classroom that promotes equity and inclusion.

Matt Cutter

Matt Cutter graduated from BSU in 2016 and now teaches English at Abington High School in Abington MA. He just began working on his masters in the graduate program here at BSU. His interests lie in postcolonial and race studies, particularly in various horror and gothic genres. Matt also loves to travel and would love to visit Japan once the pandemic's over.

Remson DeJoseph

Remson DeJoseph (he / his / him) is an MA student at Boston College studying Early Modern English Literature. He received his BA in Theatre and English, concentrating in creative writing from Rhode Island College in 2018. Remson's published pieces include his honors thesis "Writing Voice and Character for the Page and Stage" and "My Soul has Sung Deep Like the Rivers: How the Abolishment of Slavery Birthed Generations of Music" in RIC's Digital Commons, "In Moments" in Chronicle Stories, and "Left Sock's Fabells N' Tells" on Channillo. Remson also runs a blog on literature, cinema, and theatre called "The Corner of the Bookshelf." He is the author of the new play "Good Friday: An Apocalyptic Tragedy" which premiered in New York City January 8th, 2019, and saw a second production in Providence, Rhode Island.

His research interests are in gender/feminist studies, performance studies, and Shakespeare studies, specifically finding ways for newer readers/audience to interact with his plays and poetry.

Sarah Eshelman

Sarah Eshelman is an English and Journalism teacher at Burlington High School in Burlington, Massachusetts. She graduated from Gordon College in 2010 with a degree in both English and Secondary Education. She is pursuing her Masters in English at Salem State University as a part of her professional license. Her focus through her studies is the way community is portrayed through literature and how that reveals either our reality or our aspirations. Sarah lives in Salem and enjoys playing board games, making Spotify playlists, and rereading Terry Pratchett's Discworld novels.

Allison Fogarty

Allison Fogarty is a high school Special Education and English teacher at Mansfield High School. She has been teaching for ten years. She taught in the Bronx, Boston, and Sudbury before landing in Mansfield. She has a Masters in Adolescent Special Education from CUNY Brooklyn College and is currently working on her Masters of English at Bridgewater State University.

Maura Geoghegan

Maura Geoghegan is currently a graduate student at Bridgewater State University working towards her Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT). She is planning on graduating by the fall of 2022. Maura attended Assumption College, now Assumption University, as an undergraduate student where she majored in Secondary Education and English. While at Assumption, Maura published her honors thesis titled, The Factors that Influence the Selection of Literature in a High School English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum. This research has influenced Maura's current research on choice reading at the high school level. Maura also currently works as a 9th and 10th grade English teacher at Shrewsbury High School.

Matthew Hyzdu

Matthew Hyzdu is a teacher of English at Dracut High School in Dracut, Massachusetts and is a current student in the Master of Arts in English program at Salem State University in Salem, Massachusetts. He received a Master's of Science in Education from Merrimack College in North Andover, Massachusetts. His 2017 paper, titled "Greed, Class, and Dystopia: Deconstructing '80s Phenomena," was accepted for the Sigma Tau Delta conference in 2018. Prior to enrolling in the Master of Arts in English program, his undergraduate course work included experience in studying Victorian literature, Shakespeare studies, and 20th century American literature. His research interests include trends and topics in 20th century American literature, and British Literature during the time of early 20th century modernity.

Amy Keith

Amy Keith teaches 7th grade ELA in Randolph.

Michael Kerr

Michael Kerr is a non-matriculating graduate student at Salem State University. Michael earned his baccalaureate from Fitchburg State University where he studied professional writing. His interests are in postmodern and contemporary literature. Between academic careers, he organized a quarterly public forum to discuss various subjects within the humanities. In his free time, Michael enjoys writing creatively and has been published twice for short works of non-fiction.

Cassandra Lemieux

I am currently enrolled in BSU's Educational Leadership MA program to become a high school principal. I am also taking English classes at BSU for my professional teaching license. I teach English at Brockton High School and couldn't imagine a day without talking about reading or writing.

James Maskell

James Maskell has been teaching English at Weymouth High School since 2002. During his time in Weymouth Schools, he has designed and implemented curriculum in American Literature, Comedy and Humor in Literature, and Creative Writing. He has also served as chair of the Fine Arts Academy design team and was a co-designer of the Weymouth High School Capstone Project. He received his M.Ed. from Fitchburg State University in 2006 and is currently in the final stages of receiving a Master of Arts in English from Bridgewater State University.

Jamie Millen

Jamie Millen is currently a student in the Master of Arts program at the University of Massachusetts Boston concentrating in literature with an anticipated graduation date of 2021. The focus of Jamie's research is primarily on 20th century literature, with a particular focus on British and American modernism. Jamie's work puts a specific emphasis on the nature of consciousness, creativity, and perception in modern novels. Similarly, Jamie's prior course work ranges from examinations of Edith Wharton, Virginia Woolf, Anzia Yezierska, among other 20th century authors.

Evan Miller

Evan Miller was born and raised in Massachusetts. He attended Boston College for his undergraduate studies, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a concentration in Ethnomusicology. Currently, Evan attends Salem State University, where he is pursuing a dual master's degree in Teaching and English, with a focus on literary studies and a goal of teaching English at the high school level.

Patrick Morse

Patrick Morse is a Graduate Student in the English Literature program at Salem State University. He is a high school English teacher at KIPP Academy Lynn Collegiate in Lynn, MA. He received his BA in English and Secondary Education from Salem State in 2009 and his licensure from the Massachusetts Department of Education in 2008. He has worked with Citizen Schools, an education non-profit based in Boston that works to connect middle school students with experts in a field of interest in order to lower drop-out rates and foster engagement in secondary/post-secondary education. Since 2011 he has worked in high schools, both private and public, in Istanbul, Virginia, and Massachusetts with a developing focus on equity and antiracism in his classroom.

Clare Nee

My name is Clare Nee and I am a new Graduate student in the English M.A program at Bridgewater State University. I graduated from Siena College in Loudonville, N.Y, this past Spring with a B.A in English and a minor in Psychology.

My research essay, 'The Calamity of Social Ignorance' was published in Siena College's First Year Seminar Journal: Gleanings in Fall of 2017, and 'The Haunt of Injustice: Exploring Homophobia in Vampire Literature' was published in the Digital Literature Review Spring of 2020. I was also selected to present my research capstone 'The Sensationalism of Trauma in American Film and Literature' in Spring 2020 at the National Conference of Undergraduate Literature, and my article 'The Cataclysmic Desire for Power: The Irish Rebellion of 1641' was recently published in the Armstrong Undergraduate Journal of History this Fall. My poems 'Retrograde' and 'Memories Unspoken' were published by Albany Poets this month as well.

Carl Olson

Carl Olson is in the first year of his Master's in English at Bridgewater State University. His field of interest includes queer studies, writing center studies, film, and rhetoric and composition. Currently, he works as a professional writing tutor and a manager in the Academic Resource Center at Massachusetts Community College.

Wafaa Razeq

Wafaa Razeq completed her MA in English Literature at UMass Boston in December of 2020 where her research area focused on sf, critical theory, Arabic literature, works in translation, and Sufi mystic poetry. While completing the MA, she worked as the editorial assistant for *Composition Studies*, the oldest pedagogical journal in its field. Her last conference was the Undergraduate English Conference of Central Connecticut where she presented "Narrative Shifting and Manipulation in William Wordsworth's *The Ruined Cottage* (1799)" on the Wordsworth panel. Wafaa is currently pursuing a Master's in Library Science and works in public librarianship in Cambridge, MA.

Shorash Shirwany

My name is Shorash Shirwany, and I am originally from the Iraqi Kurdistan Region. I am an M.A. international student majoring in English literature and graduating from Salem State University in June 2022. I have not published any papers in academia, but I have some unpublished papers related to both English literature and linguistics. As for presentation experience, I have 5 years of professional experience with presentation from the professional world. Therefore, I am so enthusiastic to be given a chance to present my academic paper in the MERC conference.

James Smith

James Smith (he/him and they/them) is a first-year Master's candidate in Children's Literature and Teaching at Simmons University in Boston. While they are particularly interested in developing strategies for discussing social-justice themed children's literature with kids in socially-just ways, their interdisciplinary work ranges from research projects investigating early literacy and read-alouds to those focused on queer theory, genre studies, public scholarship, and digital humanities. They are also interested in expanding gender-based research on non-Anglophone children's literature, especially that of Spain and the Hispanophone world.

Audrey Spina

Audrey Spina is currently a graduate assistant at Bridgewater State University, where she is a candidate for a MA in English in December 2020. Her creative thesis, *Violet is one letter off from violent*, a collection of poetry, explores the female body, women's anger, violence, and trauma focalized through the institutionalized power of the museum. She holds a BA in English and Art History from Wheaton College, Massachusetts. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *North Dakota Quarterly*, *Another New Calligraphy*, *The Graduate Review*, *They Call Us*, *Sublunary Review*, *Bandit Fiction*, and *Babe Lincoln*.

