EXPLORING 1-Lands

Borders, Identity and Myth

The University of Virginia Department of English Graduate Conference

March 16-18, 2012
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WELCOME LETTER

FICTION OR NON-FICTION. Foreign or domestic. Liberal or Conservative. Inside or outside. Male or female. The self or the other.

Categories like these permeate our world. Like them or not, we are consistently called upon to engage with them in ways that give shape and meaning to our lives. They define us in both liberating and limiting ways, but just how impermeable are such borders? What are the limits? Where do we draw the line? Do the lines draw us? Our goal this weekend is to investigate how borders and barriers are made, broken, and refashioned, giving special attention to individual and national identities and the mythologies that inform them. Among other things, we will consider aspects of class, space, race, gender, and national identity as well as questions of genre and form.

As a full examination of our theme necessarily requires an interdisciplinary focus, our conference accordingly addresses such varied genres and topics as feminist poetics, science fiction, class tensions, cross-cultural exchange and the divine in order to understand better the ways in which we define and represent identities in a variety of mediums.

The annual graduate conference is one of the intellectual highlights of the year at the University of Virginia English Department. We’re thrilled that you can join us for three days of border-crossing mythic exploration as keynote speaker Professor Lorna Goodison, masterclass speaker Professor Jahan Ramazani, and our conference presenters lead the expedition into new territory.

On behalf of the 2012 GESA Conference Committee, welcome to “Exploring I-lands: Borders, Identity, and Myth”!

Sophia Gu & Brandon Walsh     Co-Chairs, 2012 Graduate Conference Committee
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This conference was made possible by generous donations from:

The Department of English
Graduate English Students Association
University of Virginia Student Council
University of Virginia Graduate School of Arts & Sciences
    Graduate Student Council
The Departments of Classics, French, German, Italian, Music,
    Philosophy, Portuguese, Religious Studies, Spanish.

With special thanks to:

Gordon Braden, Jenny Braun, Sashanna Caldwell, Ted Chamberlin,
    Laura Goldblatt, Barbara Heritage, Ed Herring, Pam Lawson,
    Dan Lepage, Dorothy Lippincott, Elizabeth Ott, Jahan
    Ramazani, Sarah Rodriguez, Michael Schoenfeldt, Annie Swafford,
    June Webb, Jennifer Wicke.

And:

The Local, Rare Book School, Red Roof Inn, UVA Catering, Victo-

Our sincere thanks to all those above for their support!
The University of Virginia Graduate Conference was organized by the following students:

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Sophia Gu & Brandon Walsh  
*Co-Chairs*

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ABOUT THE SPEAKERS

Keynote Speaker: Lorna Goodison

Lorna Goodison is the Lemuel A. Johnson Collegiate Professor of Literature and Afro-American and African Studies at the University of Michigan. She has published eleven poetry collections; her second, *I Am Becoming My Mother*, won the 1986 Commonwealth Poetry Prize for the Americas region. Her work often confronts Jamaica’s colonial history and its linguistic and cultural implications, exemplified by the code-switching between Standard English and Creole that occurs in many of her poems. She both celebrates Jamaica’s cultural hybridity and reclaims traumatic aspects of its history by presenting nuanced character portraits of its marginalized denizens. Her most recently published work is a memoir titled *From Harvey River* (2008).

Master Class Speaker: Jahan Ramazani

Jahan Ramazani is the Edgar F. Shannon Professor of English at the University of Virginia. He is the editor of the third edition of the *Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary* (2003) and the recipient of the American Comparative Literature Association’s 2011 Harry Levin Prize for his book *A Transnational Poetics* (2009). His interests include modern and contemporary poetry and postcolonial studies.
### SCHEDULE

**Friday, March 16, 2012**

#### 12:00 - 6:00 PM: Registration (Monroe Hall North Lobby)

#### 1:30-2:45 PM: Session 1

**Panel A: Class and the City**

Monroe 130

Rebecca McCann, moderator

- **Kirsten Andersen (University of Virginia):** "Shivering Sands and Narrative Boundaries: The Limits of Servant Selfhood in The Moonstone"  
- **Mark Celeste (Syracuse University):** "You Say You Want a Revolution: The Significance of Sound in Gaskell’s *North and South*"

**Panel B: Postcolonial Space and Race**

Monroe 134

Annie Galvin, moderator

- **Christmas Beelee (Virginia Commonwealth University):** "The Use of Biblical Motifs to Explore Identity in The Lonely Londoner"
- **Ashley Billman (University of Virginia):** "History Unraveled: Understanding Haitian Diaspora Through Art in Edwidge Danticat's *The Dew Breaker*"

- **Jombi Ebro (University of Iowa):** "Doors That Looks Like Mountains: Towards a Poetics of Place in the Poetry of Simon J. Ortiz"  
- **Chinenye Okparanta (University of Maryland):** "From Where Do I Write?: Shifting Locations and Traveling Letters in Ama Ata Aidoo's *Our Sister Killjoy*"

#### 2:30-3:45 PM: Session 2

**Panel A: Queer and Gender Theory**

Monroe 124

Susan Fraiman, moderator

- **Victoria Dickman-Burnett (Ohio University):** "Enforcing Borders, Generating Violence: A Comparative Reading of Derrida and MacKinnon"
- **Kelly Masterson (University of Tennessee, Knoxville):** "The Empty House of Appearance: Breaking Down and Breaking Through Bounds of Genre and Identity in Angela Carter's *The Bloody Chamber* and *The Tiger's Bride*"

**Panel B: The Nation and I**

Monroe 134

Anne Llewellyn, moderator

- **Sherif Abdelkarim (University of Virginia):** "Las Casas and the Golden Rule, or the Lore of Las Casas"  
- **Jeffrey Griswold (University of Virginia):** "Bonfont's Irish Identity"

- **Nichole Peacock (University of Montevallo):** "O for a Muse of Fire: The Role of Linguistics in the Assertion of National Identity in Shakespeare's *Richard II* and *Henry V*"

#### 4:00-5:15 PM: Session 3

**Panel A: I, We, Poetry**

Monroe 124

Mark Edmundson, moderator

- **Caitlin Berka (University of Virginia):** "Ariel as Reinvention"
- **Bryan Chitwood (Emory University):** "Border Crossings: Tom Pickard's *Ballad of Jamie Allan* and the Sound of Poetry"

**Panel B: Allegories of Identity**

Monroe 134

Laura Goldblatt, moderator

- **Andrew Ferguson (University of Virginia):** "Slings the Dangiest Dangeroo: R. A. Lafferty's Science of Story Areas"
- **Jeffrey Villines (University of Virginia):** "The Synoptic Trout: The Problem of Vonnegut’s Alter-Ego as a Consistent Identity"

- **Mike Witcombe (University of Southampton, UK):** "Blimey, I’m a foreigner! - Nation-Building and Zionist Allegory in *Passport to Pimlico* and Michael Chabon’s *The Yiddish Policemen’s Union*"
Keynote Speech
6:00-7:15 PM, Monroe Hall 130

LORNA GOODISON
Lemuel A. Johnson Collegiate
Professor of Literature and Afro-American
and African Studies at the University of Michigan

Keynote Reception
7:30-9:00 PM, Commonwealth Room, Newcomb Hall

The University of Virginia Victorian Theatrical Society’s performance of
“The Maid and the Magpie” will begin at 8:00 PM.
(Sorry, no one admitted under the age of 21)

Saturday, March 17, 2012
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM: Registration (Monroe Hall North Lobby)

9:00-10:15 AM: Session 4

Panel A: Poetry and Cross-Cultural Exchange
Monroe 124
Brynne Jones, moderator

Marvin Campbell (University of Virginia): “‘Driving into the Interior’ of Elizabeth Bishop’s Brazil”

Erin Cooper (University of Virginia): “Multivoicalism in Lorna Dee Cervantes’ ‘Poema para Los Californios Muertos’”

Emily Goldstein (Princeton University): “Agha Shahid Ali’s Poetry of Shifting Borders”

Marie Ostby (University of Virginia): “The Transnational Ghazal as Protest Poem”

Panel B: Transcultural Exchange
Monroe 134
Jesse Bordwin, moderator

Kimberly Clarke (George Washington University): “Rewriting Romance, Revolution & Race in the Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic World”

I. Augustus Durham (Princeton Theological Seminary): “A Masculinist Conversation Amongst the Wretched: Rhetoric as a Response to Violence in James Cone, Franz Fanon & David Walker”


Lacey Saborido (Vanderbilt University): “The Voices of Fugitives: Henry Bibb’s Transnational Vision”

10:30-11:45 AM: Session 5

Panel A: Contemporary Gender Poetics
Monroe 124
Mary Cook, moderator

Brynne Jones (University of Virginia): “Rewriting Romance, Revolution & Race in the Nineteenth-Century Transatlantic World”


Lindsay Turner (University of Virginia): “No Woman is an Island: Adrienne Rich’s Global Feminism”

Rare Book School Workshop

“Books and the Marks of Their Makers”
Barbara Heritage, leader

Meet in the Alderman Lobby
Participation is limited to those who have RSVPed
Master Class
1:30-3:00, Monroe Hall 130

Jahan Ramazani
Edgar F. Shannon Professor of English
University of Virginia
“Poetry, the Dialogic, and the Postcolonial Diaspora”

3:15-4:30 PM: Session 6

Panel A: Twentieth-Century African-American Novels
Monroe 124
Tim Bruno, moderator

Matt Bryant Cheney (University of Tennessee - Knoxville): “'Mah folks can’t plant nothing!': The Pastoral and Environmental Racism in Richard Wright’s Uncle Tom’s Children”

David Schell (Virginia Commonwealth University): “Memory and Possibility in the Narratives of Toni Morrison's Jazz”

Courtney Sviatko (Virginia Commonwealth University): ““Raising and Clearing”: Collective Re-memory and the Subversion of Master Narratives in Toni Morrison’s Beloved and Love”

Kelsey Till (University at Buffalo): “Heteronormative, Yet Multiply Queer: Queer Spaces in Danzy Senna’s Caucasia”

Panel B: Textual Forms – The Book Unbound
Monroe 134
Justin Tonra, moderator


Rebecca Fall (Northwestern University): “Pamphilia Unbound: Rethinking the Text and Re-Visioning the Edition through Mary Wroth’s Folger Manuscript, V.a.104”


4:45-6:00 PM: Session 7

Panel A: Contemporary Female Novels
Monroe 124
Jennifer Foy, moderator


Jill Goad (Georgia State University): “Crime Makes it “Real”: The Tangible Traumatic Kernel in Gloria Naylor’s The Women of Brewster Place”

Rachel Oriol (Miami University of Ohio): “An Authorial Lacuna: The Use of Cross-Cultural Authorship in Kingsolver’s The Lacuna”

Panel B: Literary and Cultural Theory
Monroe 134
Walter Jost, moderator

Natasha Mikles (University of Virginia): “Harry Potter and the Intrepid Interpretant: Translating Fantastical Creatures Across Cultures”

Claire Niedzwiedzki (University of South Carolina & Université Paris 7): “Spiral Jetty: Bridging the Distance”

Rebekah Scoggins (Georgia State University): “Crossing the Border between Authenticity and Imitation: The Self-Replication of Jasper Johns”

Ying Xiong (University of Oregon): “From “Self” to the “Public” - A Marxist Interpretation of “Marked with D” by Toni Harrison”

8:00 PM  Meet & Greet Pub Night on the Downtown Mall (see flyer for details)
Sunday, March 18, 2011
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Registration (Monroe Hall North Lobby)

9:00-10:15 AM: Session 8

Panel A: Family Resemblances - Gender and Marriage
Monroe 124
Samantha Cash, moderator


Marija Reiff (University of Virginia): “Eliminating I-Lands: Building a Shaker-Like Community in Elizabeth Gaskell’s Ruth”

Chelsea Skalak (University of Virginia): “Deciphering the Marriage Topos in Middle English Romance”

Sara West (East Tennessee State University): “Chopin’s Calixa: Overcoming the Boundaries of Patriarchy”

Panel B: Divine Identities
Monroe 134
Beth Sutherland, moderator

Jenny Braun (University of Virginia): “Originality, Imprints, and the Ancients in Crevecoeur’s House”

Mary Grace Elliott (Georgia State University): “Angelic Complication: The Matter of Angels in Paradise Lost and His Dark Materials”

Gretchen York (University of Virginia): “The Congregation’s Voice in Private Prayer: Liturgical and Literary Forms of the Sidney Psalter”

10:30-11:45 AM: Session 9

Panel A: The Limits of Genre
Monroe 124
Sherif Abdelkarim, moderator

Thomas Berenato (University of Virginia): “Joe Mitchell’s Secret”

Ann McBee (University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee): “Flash Fiction or Prose Poetry? The Borders of Narrative and the Birth of the Writer-Poet”

Elizabeth Ott (University of Virginia): “Catalogs and the 19th Century Book”

Elizabeth Steedley (Johns Hopkins University): “Mythical Ends and Satirical Beginnings in the Post-War Memoirs of Robert Graves and Wyndham Lewis”

Panel B: American Myths, Past and Present: Region in 20th Century American Literature
Monroe 134
Jennifer Wicke, moderator

Annalisa Dias-Mandoly (The Catholic University of America): “Staging the American West: Liminality and Identity in David Belasco’s 1905 Production of The Girl of the Golden West”

Elizabeth Morgan (University of South Carolina): “Constructive Nostalgia: Facing Myth in Cormac McCarthy and Wallace Stegner”

Lee Surma (University of Virginia): “The Proximity of Punishment: An Alternate Puritan Legacy for The Scarlet Letter”

Jillian Weber (University of South Carolina): “Inventing Appalachia: Stereotypes in James Dickey and James Still”
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