The English Graduate Student Association
Presents

RE/INVENTIONS
ALTERNAR[RRATIVES]

5th Annual Department of English
Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference

California State University, Long Beach
Karl Anatol Conference Center
April 7, 2016
CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Registration: 8:00AM
Please make sure to sign in!
Presenters are able to register throughout the day.

Welcome: 8:15 - 8:30 AM
Dr. Gary Griswold

Labor and Language: Tensions at the Borders of Narrative
8:30 - 9:40 AM
Moderator: Nicole Bennett

Mayra Lopez
San Diego State University

“Subverting Male Power in the Dramaturgical Narrative: Compulsory Heterosexuality, Identity, and Female Desire in Cherrie Moraga’s Giving up the Ghost”
Stephanie Mendez
California State University, Long Beach

“(Re)Framing the Aesthetics of Sound Art: Reconsidering Site-Specificity and Sound Objects”
Michael Benitez
University of Southern California

Beyond Knights and Ladies: Complicating Gender in Alterna[r]ra]tives of the Middle Ages
9:45 - 10:55 AM
Moderator: Dr. Ilan Mitchell-Smith

“The Ballad of a Pardoner: Indelible Faith in Absence and Instability”
Caitlin Postal
California State University, Northridge

“Homonormative Desire: Investigating Male-Male Relationships in Anglo-Saxon Literature”
Kim Flack
California State University, Long Beach
“A Leman Worth the Squeeze: The Middle English Sweetheart and Lover”
Sara Gonzalez
California State University, Long Beach

“All the peynes”: Saint Margaret’s Suffering as Salvation and Emulation as Survival”
Jennifer Morford Martindale
California State University, Long Beach

Keynote Address
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

“Against Omniscient Narration: A Farm Worker Novel’s Critique of Neoliberalism”
Dr. Marcial González
University of California, Berkeley

Introduced and Moderated by Dr. Dennis López

Drawn from his current book project on Chicano/a farm worker literature and capitalist crisis, Dr. González’s talk focuses primarily on Salvador Plascencia’s 2005 novel, *The People of Paper*. The novel allegorizes the lives of Mexican American farm workers with characters who wage a war against the novel’s omniscient narrator for control of their own narratives. He argues that the farm worker characters in the novel find themselves in a formal predicament that bears a striking resemblance to the social contradictions of neoliberal capitalism in which people who work for a living must constantly look for ways to contest neoliberalism’s omniscient narratives of ubiquitous dominance and class power.

Lunch
12:30 - 1:00 PM

Reimagining with Electracy: Politics, Religious Expression, and Theory in a Digital Age
1:00 - 2:10 PM
Moderator: Dr. Sarah Arroyo

“Metamodern Perspectives in the Electrate Apparatus”
Jordan Khajivipour
California State University, Long Beach

“Voting with Your Keyboard: The Transition from Old to New Media in Political Activism”
Eric Hamilton
California State University, Long Beach
“Reentry and Reinvention: Alterna[rra]tives in Digital Spaces”
Sally Sowter
California State University, Long Beach

“The Hol(e)y Space of YouTube: Rethinking Religious Debate Within a Digital Medium”
Shauna Chung
California State University, Long Beach

**Authoring the Resilient Self: Depression, Trauma, Illness, and Resistance**
2:15 - 3:25 PM
Moderator: Dr. Araceli Esparza

“Their Eyes Were Watching God: Staging the Heterodox”
D’Angelo Bridges
California State University, San Bernardino

“Literary Misfit: David Foster Wallace and the Literature of the Nonendogenous”
Rhett Farinholt
University of California, San Diego

“Sail Away with Me: Neal Shusterman’s Treatment of Mental Illness in *Challenger Deep*”
Amanda Dearman
Southern Utah University

“Sites of Emergence’: Posttraumatic Growth and the Rehabilitative Power of Trauma”
Kristen Skjonsby
California State University, Long Beach

**Examining Narratives of Justice: Rights, Dignity, and Heroism**
3:30 - 4:40 PM
Moderator: Dr. William Mohr

“Man For Man Up There’: The Romanticization and Alterna[rra]tive of the North in Richard Wright’s *Black Boy*”
Meagan Meylor
California State University, Long Beach

“Complex Notions of Blackness in the Literary Art of Colson Whitehead”
Keyana Parks
University of Pennsylvania
“‘Don’t Assume Everything’s Racial’: The Definition of a Hero in the Comic Icon”
Hayley Shucker
California State University, Long Beach

“The Good, the Bad, and the Mistranslated: Ambiguity Between Good and Evil in Beowulf”
Jeremy Cooley
California State University, Long Beach

**Mind/Body Access: Grunge, Fantasy, and the Right to Space**
4:45 - 5:55 PM
Moderator: Kristen Skjonsby

“grunge feminism”
Linnea Zeiner
San Diego State University

“Body and Space in Maria de Zayas y Sotomayor’s ‘Innocence Punished’”
Anahit Manoukian
California State University, Long Beach

“Intertextuality and Gendered Space in Hernandez’s Heartbreak Soup”
Miguel Aguilar
California State University, Dominguez Hills

“The Forced (De-)Gendering of People of Color in Helena Maria Viramontes’s Under the Feet of Jesus”
Indigo Vu
California State University, Long Beach

**Approaching the Boundaries of Perception: The Currency of Sensory Interpretation**
6:00 - 7:10 PM
Moderator: Michael Palomarez

“Consanguinity: An Examination of the Connectedness of the Human Condition Marked by Colonialism as seen in Heart of Darkness and Disgrace”
Erika Zemanek
California State University, Long Beach
“Possessing the Boundary: Deconstructing American Exceptionalism in Herman Melville’s *Moby-Dick and Benito Cereno*”
Bethany Avalos
Claremont Graduate University

“The Struggle Between the Natural and Industrial within Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings*”
Taleen Altebarmakian
California State University, Long Beach

“‘Out of Mere Words’: Linguistic Placements, Displacements, and Replacements in *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*”
Tania Dominguez
California State University, Northridge

**Misdirection and Detection: A Productive Application of Power**
7:15 - 8:25 PM
Moderator: Dr. Norbert Schürer

“What Did They Expect to Find?: Audience and Intention in Wanda Coleman’s Poetry”
Nicole Dib
University of California, Santa Barbara

“His Wife Ought To Have An Outlet’: Patriarchy, Art, and Domestic Disruption in Vernon Lee’s ‘Oke of Okehurst’”
Gitana Deneff
California State University, Long Beach

“Exploring Identity, Ideology, and Politics Under the Influence of State Apparatuses”
Erika Gavitt
California State University, Long Beach

“Machiavelli’s Affective Animus – The Animal Instinct and Radical Politics in *The Prince*”
Promise Li
Occidental College
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Our moderators, in order of appearance: Nicole Bennett, Dr. Ilan Mitchell-Smith, Dr. Dennis López, Dr. Araceli Esparza, Dr. William Mohr, Kristen Skjonsby, Michael Palomarez, and Dr. Norbert Schürer for supporting scholars with their time and expertise.

The Executive Board
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California State University, Long Beach
1250 Bellflower Boulevard. Long Beach, CA 90840-2404