

**CELEBRATING AFRICAN AMERICAN LITERATURE: THE NOVEL SINCE 1988
TENTATIVE PROGRAM**

**Day One
October 23, 2009**

8 – 10:15 am On-Site Conference Check-in/Registration - ROTUNDA

9-10:15 am Welcome

Opening Keynote on Criticism and Theory– ASSEMBLY ROOM
Houston Baker, Jr.

REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:30-noon Breakout Sessions

A. Critical and Theoretical Approaches – ASSEMBLY ROOM

Kevin Bell, State University of New York at Albany
The Atopicality of Time in Wasted Space; Drift Practices in the Work of Percival Everett

Aldon Lynn Nielsen, Penn State University
Jeffrey Boulevard: Drifting through the text of Jeffrey Renard Allen

Evie Shockley, Rutgers University
Legibility and the Neo-Slave Narrative

Moderator: **Loretta Woodard**, Marygrove College

B. Race and Identity – MT. NITTANY ROOM

Badia Sahar Ahad, Ph.D., Loyola University Chicago
Sincere Subjectivities: The Psychic Life of Race in Danzy Senna's Caucasia

Gabeba Baderoon, Penn State-University Park
Migrating (Across) Narratives of Race: Reading a South African American Novel

Carmen Gillespie, Bucknell University
“Certainly no clamor for a . . .”: Intersections of Race and Sexuality in Toni Morrison's *A Mercy*

Moderator:

C. Women's Narratives of Healing – BALLROOM D

Tru Leverette, University of North Florida
Womanist Wholeness in Gayl Jones's *The Healing*

Éva Tettenborn, Penn State Worthington Scranton
Paradigms of Bondage in Phyllis Alesia Perry's *Stigmata* and *A Sunday in June*

Mildred R. Mickle, Penn State-Greater Allegheny
The History of Blood, Faith, and Religion: Healing Critiques in Tananarive Due's *Blood Colony*

Moderator:

D. Sapphire's *Push* – BALLROOM E

Sterling L. Bland, Jr., Rutgers University
Giving Name to the Nameless in Sapphire's *Push*

Robin E. Field, King's College
Why Push? Rereading Sapphire, Reconsidering the Incest Narrative

Aliyyah I Abdur-Rahman, Brandeis University
The Girl Within: A Reading of Sapphire's *Push*

Marlo D. David, University of Florida
"Push, Preschita, Push": Mapping Motherhood as Transgressive Subjectivity in Sapphire's Post-Civil Rights Dystopia

Moderator:

NOON-1:00 Lunch – FACULTY-STAFF CLUB
1:15-2:45 **Breakout Sessions**

A. Percival Everett – BALLROOM A

Keith Mitchell, University of Massachusetts-Lowell
Grotesque Realism and the Carnavalesque in Percival Everett's *Zulus*

Robin Vander, Xavier University of Louisiana
Performance and Narrative in Percival Everett's *For Her Dark Skin*

J. James Scott, University of Mississippi
Taking a Stand: Identity Politics, Reparations and the Confederate Flag in Percival Everett's "The Appropriation of Culture"

Moderator:

B. Community, Identity, and "Choice" – BALLROOM D

Keith Byerman, Indiana State University
The Travels of John Edgar Wideman: *The Island* and *Fanon*

Reanna Ursin, McDaniel College
Caryl Phillips' Crossing the River: Same Old Story or New Framework for Alignment?

Shreerekha Subramanian, University of Houston-Clear Lake
Romancing the Nation: The Topography of Community from Morrison's *Paradise* to *A Mercy*

Courtney Thorsson, Columbia University
Inscribing Community: Toni Morrison's *Paradise*

Moderator: Wilfred Samuels, University of Utah

C. AFRICANISMS AND AFRICAN TRADITION IN WOMEN'S NOVELS – BALLROOM B

Donald H. Matthews, Central Michigan University
Stranger than Fiction: A Concentric Analysis of Africana Women's Writings on Africana Women

William Woolfitt, Pennsylvania State University
A Reading of J. California Cooper's *The Wake of the Wind*

Babacar M'Baye, Kent State University

Senegambian and Yoruban Folklore in Julie Dash's *Daughters of the Dust*: An Anthropological and Historical Interpretation of the Novel

Sandra L. Staton-Taiwo, Ph.D., Penn State-York
Conceptions of Africa in Contemporary African-American Literature

Moderator:

D. Novels of Urban Life - ASSEMBLY ROOM

Kristina Graaff, Center for Metropolitan Studies, Technical University of Berlin
A Sucker for Drama: Street Literature and the Mode of Spectacular Writing

Frank A. Salamone, Iona College
Easy Rawlins as Metaphor

Marlene Allen, Georgia Southwestern State University
Walter Mosley's *Blue Light*: A Blues-Science Fiction Novel

Moderator: Candice Love Jackson

2:45-3:00 **REFRESHMENT BREAK**

3:00-4:30 **Breakout Sessions**

A. Alice Randall – ASSEMBLY ROOM

Riché Richardson, Cornell University
Slaves to Love: White Masculine Possessions and Obsessions in New Novels of Slavery

Melissa R. Kowalski, Lehigh University
Parody, Fantasy and Re-visioning Antebellum Culture in Alice Randall's *The Wind Done Gone*

Ladrica Menson-Furr, The University of Memphis
The Arm in the Wall and the Mind in the Past: Time, Space, Kinship, Trauma, and Healing in Octavia Butler's *Kindred* and Alice Randall's *Pushkin and The Queen of Spades*

Moderator: Lovalerie King

B. Satire - BALLROOM B

Darryl Dickson-Carr, Southern Methodist University
The Historical Burden that Only Oprah Can Bear": African American Satirists and the State of the Literature

Keenan Norris, UC Riverside
Coal, Charcoal and Chocolate Comedy: The Evolution of Satire, Self-Examination and Hopefully Harlem, from John Killens to Mat Johnson

Chaunce Ridley, California State-Sacramento
The Revenge of a Mad Ellisonian in Percival Everett's *Erasure*

Anthony Stewart, Dalhousie University
Deforming the Game: Revising the Black American Narrative in Percival Everett's "Meiosis"

Moderator:

C. Roundtable on Morrison's *A Mercy* – MT. NITTANY ROOM

Katina Sawyer, Penn State-University Park

Stephanie Troutman, Penn State-University Park
Nicole Laliberte, Penn State-University Park
Nicole Sparling, Penn State-University Park

“Hope, Fate and Foreclosure: Toni Morrison’s *A Mercy* and The Emergence of Inter-Disciplinary Knowledge/s in a Women’s (Academic) Book Club”

Moderator:

D. Literature and the Law I – BALLROOM A

Karla Holloway, Duke University
“Privacy, Literature, and the Law”

Jon-Christian Suggs, John Jay College
Walter White, Mat Johnson’s *Walter White*, and the Romance of the Rope

Richard Schur, Drury University
The Apparent Absence of Legal Critique in Sister Souljah’s *Coldest Winter Ever*

William Gleason, Princeton University

Moderator:

6:30 Cocktails – ASSEMBLY ROOM
7:30 Dinner – ASSEMBLY ROOM
8:15 – 9:15 Banquet reading and keynote – Novelist Alice Randall
9:15-9:30 Closing Remarks

Day Two October 24, 2009

8:30-9:15 Opening Keynote on Pedagogy – FACULTY-STAFF CLUB
Maryemma Graham

9:15-10:00 **READING – NOVELIST MAT JOHNSON – FACULTY-STAFF CLUB**

10:15-11:45 **Breakout Sessions**

A. Roundtable on Pedagogical Approaches – BALLROOM D

Alexander Weheliye, Northwestern University
Crystal Anderson, Elon University
Bertram Ashe, University of Richmond
Rolland Murray, Brown University
Moderator: **Joycelyn Moody**, University of Texas at San Antonio

B. The Graphic Novel – BALLROOM E

Howard Ramsby II, Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
Expanding Visions of Black Novels: Mat Johnson’s and Kyle Baker’s Graphic Narratives

John Jennings and Damian Duffy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Objects and Things: The Voodoo of the Metapicture in Deconstructing African American Stereotypes

James Braxton Peterson, Bucknell University
Bad-Brother-Man: Black Folk Figure Narratives in Comics

Moderator:

C. Gender Matters – MT. NITTANY ROOM

Deidre L. Wheaton, Albion College
Black Women Lost in *The White Boy Shuffle*: Analyzing Paul Beatty’s Gendered and Satirical (Re) Constructions of Black Identity

LaMonda Horton-Stallings, University of Florida
Sampling the Sonics of Sex in Paul Beatty’s *Slumberland*

Blake Wilder, North Carolina State University
Manhood and Critical Retrospection in Contemporary African American Fiction

Wendy Hayes-Jones, Centre for Performance and Literature, Swansea Metropolitan University
‘Boxing on Paper’: Deconstructing masculinity in the works of Ishmael Reed

Moderator:

11:45-1:00 Lunch - FACULTY-STAFF CLUB

1:00-2:30 **Breakout Sessions**

A. Martha Southgate and Colson Whitehead – BALROOM A

LaRonda M. Sanders, University of Tennessee
“Let Them Rise or Fall as They May”: The Appropriation of White Hegemony in *The Fall of Rome*

Ayesha K. Hardison, Ohio University
Race in “Rome” and Gender “from the Left”: Martha Southgate’s Post-Soul Aesthetic

Peter Collins, Penn State University
Commemoration and Commodification: *John Henry Days* and the Violent Production of History

David E. Magill, University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown
Colson Whitehead’s *John Henry Days* and the Politics of Cultural Memory

Moderator:

B. Literature and the Law II – BALLROOM B

I. Bennett Capers, Hofstra University

Wendy Greene, Cumberland Law School
A Reading of *I, Tituba*

D. Quentin Miller, Suffolk University

Charlton Copeland, University of Miami
“Property and Progress in August Wilson’s *Two Trains Running* and *Radio Golf*: A Legal-Literary Analysis”

Moderator: **Richard Schur**, Drury University

C. LGBTQ Novels – MT. NITTANY ROOM

Carmen Phelps, University of Toledo

Marci Blackman's *Po Man's Child*

Maria J. Obando, George Mason University

Randall Kenan's *A Visitation of Spirits*

Marlon Moore, University of Florida

Soulful Queerness: LGBTQ Spirituality in the Post-Baldwin Era

Gwyn McVay, Millersville University

Queering the Body Academic: Race, Sexual Abjection, and Higher Education in Samuel R. Delany's *The Mad Man*

Moderator:

D. Hip-Hop Novels – BALLROOM DE

Regina N. Barnett, Florida State University

Sex, Drugs, Stilettos, Hoes: Sexuality, Power, and the Body in Women's Hip Hop Narratives

Eve Dunbar, Vassar College

Hip Hop Fiction (feat. Women Writers); or, Other Things Hip Hop Music Has Taught Black Fiction

Shani Tahir Mott, Johns Hopkins University

Disciplining the Race: Literary Truth and Narratives of Desire

Moderator: Candice Love Jackson, Tougaloo College

2:30-2:45 **Break**

2:45-4:15 **CLOSING PLENARY ROUNDTABLE – BALLROOM DE**

Martha Southgate, Brooklyn College

Dana Williams, Howard University

Richard Blint, NYU

TBA

TBA

TBA

4:30-6:30 Wine and Cheese Reception (with book signings) – FACULTY-STAFF CLUB
CONFERENCE ENDS.