The City and American Literature
A Symposium Sponsored by the
American Literature Association

Conference Director
Leslie Petty, Rhodes College

September 10-12, 2015
Hotel Monteleone
214 Royal Street
New Orleans, Louisiana
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Acknowledgments
I wish to express my appreciation to the individuals who are serving on panels as well as those who organized sessions—without your continued support we would not have such robust and productive symposia. I am also grateful to Alfred Bendixen, founder and Executive Director of the ALA, and to Olivia Carr Edenfield, the Executive Coordinator of the ALA, for their unerring guidance and diligent assistance in planning this event. The Association thanks Rhodes College and the Department of Literature and Philosophy at Georgia Southern University for their support of the fall symposium. I would also like to express special thanks to our keynote speaker this year, Ed Folsom.
Thursday, September 10, 2015

Literary Tour of New Orleans: 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Nancy Dixon, professor, author of *N.O. Lit: 200 Years of New Orleans Literature*, and licensed New Orleans tour guide, will lead a literary walking tour of the French Quarter, a place known to have housed and inspired some of the greatest writers of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. *Space is limited to those who pre-registered because of New Orleans tour guidelines.* Please meet in the lobby at 3:15 pm.

Registration: 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. (Royal Salon D)

Welcome Reception
*Please join us during our opening night registration for a Welcome Reception.*
*Complimentary beer and wine will be served.*
Friday, September 11, 2015

Registration: 8:15 – 10:20 a.m. (Cathedral Room)

Session One A: 9:00 – 10:20 (Beauregard Room)

**Health and the City**

Chair: Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University.

1. “Syphilitics and the City: Gynecology and the Urban Society in Annie Nathan Meyer’s *Helen Brent, M.D.*” Stephanie Peebles Tavera, University of Texas at Arlington.

Session One B: 9:00 – 10:20 (Pontalba Room)

**The I-10 Chican@ Renaissance from Califas to Tejaztlan: Identity, Social Change, and (Re)writing the City**

Chair: Megan Elizabeth Nieto, University of Texas at San Antonio.

1. “Playwriting the City: Chican@ Theater for Social Change in East Los Angeles.” Trevor Boffone, University of Houston.
2. “‘We are all our own gods’: Proclaiming Chicana in El Chuco.” Claire M. Massey, Saarland University, Germany.

Session One C: 9:00 – 10:20 (Ursuline Room)

**Race and “Caste” in Nineteenth-Century New Orleans**

Chair: Kelli Purcell O’Brien, University of Memphis.

2. “*Blake* in the Crescent City: Martin R. Delany Reimagines Antebellum Radicalism.” Paul Fess, CUNY Graduate Center.

Session One D: 9:00 – 10:20 (Cabildo Room)

**Transatlantic Currents**

Chair: Amber Shaw, Coe College.

2. “‘The Commercial Emporium’: City, Race and Economics in James Fenimore Cooper’s Sea Novels.” Luis A. Iglesias, University of Southern Mississippi.
Session Two A: 10:30 – 11:50 (Beauregard Room)

Violence in the City
Chair: Dustin Anderson, Georgia Southern University.
1. “Narrating Race and Infrastructure in Philadelphia’s MOVE Bombing.” Anne Stewart, University of Texas at Austin.

Session Two B: 10:30 – 11:50 (Pontalba Room)

American Travelers and the City
Sponsor: Society for the Study of American Travel Writing
Chair: Deborah Wilson, Arkansas Tech University.
1. “Berlin, Berlin: Exploring the City in Mary Church Terrell’s German Diaries.” Kerstin Rudolph, University of Mississippi.
2. “What a Woman Sees and Says’: Constance Fenimore Woolson, the City, and the Female Flaneur.” Anne Boyd Rioux, University of New Orleans.
3. “These Pictures of New-York Life’: Gender, Democracy, and National Identity in Margaret Fuller’s Tribune Dispatches, 1844-1846.” Maggie Nerio, University of Texas at San Antonio.

Session Two C: 10:30 – 11:50 (Cabildo Room)

The City in American Crime Fiction I
Sponsor: Society for the Study of American Crime Fiction
Chair: David Schmid, University at Buffalo.

Session Two D: 10:30 – 11:50 (Ursuline Room)

Place and Race in Percy and Welty
Chair: Mary Anne O’Neal, University of Georgia.

Lunch: 11:50 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Riverview Room
Registration: 1:00 – 1:20 p.m. (Cathedral Room)

Session Three A: 1:20 – 2:40 (Ursuline Room)

Poe and Whitman
Chair: Carol Wardell, University of Memphis.

Session Three B: 1:20 – 2:40 (Pontalba Room)

The City and Minority Resistance
Chair: Sharon Lynette Jones, Wright State University.
3. The (In)Significance of Urban Context in Transcultural Minority Politics: Unsettling the City in Dinaw Mengestu’s The Beautiful Things That Heaven Bears.” Marta Gierczyk, University of Miami.

Session Three C: 1:20 – 2:40 (Beauregard Room)

Toni Morrison
Chair: Rachel Smith, University of Memphis.
1. “Precarious Urbanity in the Post-Obama Era: Morrison’s God Help the Child and the (Im)possibility of Redress.” Asimina Ino Nikolopoulou, Northeastern University.
2. “Harlem is for the Birds: Avian Imagery and the City in Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man and Toni Morrison’s Jazz.” Patrick Naick, Coe College.

Session Three D: 1:20 – 2:40 (Cabildo Room)

Southern Cities
Chair: Steven Price, Mississippi College.
1. “Between Baton Rouge and Burden’s Landing in Robert Penn Warren’s All the King’s Men.” Deborah Wilson, Arkansas Tech University.
Session Four A: 2:50 – 4:10 (Beauregard Room)

Philadelphia

Chair: Ashley Rattner, University of Memphis.

Session Four B: 2:50 – 4:10 (Pontalba Room)

The City in American Crime Fiction II

Sponsor: Society for the Study of American Crime Fiction
Chair: Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University.
1. “City and Setting in Ben H. Winters’ Last Policeman Trilogy.” David Schmid, University at Buffalo.
3. “The Wire and Crime Fiction After Ferguson and Baltimore.” Andrew Pepper, Queen’s University Belfast.

Session Four C: 2:50 – 4:10 (Cabildo Room)

Urban Southscapes

Sponsor: Society for the Study of Southern Literature
Chair: Michael Bibler, Louisiana State University.

Session Four D: 2:50 – 4:10 (Ursuline Room)

William Faulkner and the City

Chair: Anne Boyd Rioux, University of New Orleans.
Session Five A: 4:20 – 5:40 (Pontalba Room)

**The City of the Roaring Twenties**

Chair: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University.

1. “Detroit was a great city to live in’: John Herrmann’s Literary Memorials to Detroit’s Past.” Sara Kosiba, Troy University.

Session Five B: 4:20 – 5:40 (Ursuline Room)

**Kate Chopin, New Orleans, and Nineteenth-Century Literature**

Chair: J. Christopher O’Brien, University of Memphis.

1. “Chopin Property Transfers in New Orleans During the 1870s and Their Literary Implications.” Thomas Bonner, Xavier University of Louisiana.
2. “Post Bellum New Orleans’s Societal Influences on Motherhood and Femininity in Kate Chopin’s Fiction.” Kelli Purcell O’Brien, University of Memphis.

Opening Reception and Keynote Address: 5:40 – 7:15 p.m.

East/West Ballrooms

“What Walt Whitman Learned (and Failed to Learn) in New Orleans”

Ed Folsom
University of Iowa
Editor: *Walt Whitman Quarterly Review*
Saturday, September 12, 2015

Session Six A: 9:00 – 10:20 (Beauregard Room)

Ethnic Communities in the City
Chair: Trevor Boffone, University of Houston.
1. “Affective Topographies of the City in Tina De Rosa’s Paper Fish and Salvatore Scibona’s The End.” Sabrina Vellucci, University of Roma Tre.
3. “Cities of Hope and Freedom: The Parallels between Harlem and Moscow as Seen through the Accounts of the Black and White Cast.” Ileana Sherry, Trinity University.

Session Six B: 9:00 – 10:20 (Pontalba Room)

The Post 9/11 City
Chair: Samantha Anderson, University of Memphis.

Session Six C: 9:00 – 10:20 (Ursuline Room)

The Harlem Renaissance in Chicago and New York
Chair: Megan Tutt, University of Memphis.
3. “‘Your shuttered door of glass’: Impenetrable Interiors in Claude McKay’s Harlem Shadows.” Steven A. Nardi, College of Mount St. Vincent.

Session Six D: 9:00 – 10:20 (Cabildo Room)

New Orleans, Then and Now
Chair: Nancy Dixon, Dillard University.
1. “Slave-bricked Streets and Women’s Work: The Practiced Place of Brenda Marie Osbey’s New Orleans.” Shari Evans, University of Massachusetts Dartmouth.
Session Seven A: 10:30 – 11:50 (Beauregard Room)

Outside the City Walls
Chair: Jerome Loving, Texas A&M University.
1. “From Shillington to Ipswich: John Updike’s Midcentury Suburbia.” Matthew Koch, Tarrant County College South.
2. “Fleeing the City for Authorial Self-Construction in Jack London’s The Road (1907), Jack Kerouac’s On the Road (1957), and Cormac McCarthy’s The Road (2006).” Jeanne Campbell Reesman, University of Texas at San Antonio.

Session Seven B: 10:30 – 11:50 (Pontalba Room)

Moving Around Manhattan
Chair: Sara Kosiba, Troy University.

Session Seven C: 10:30 – 11:50 (Cabildo Room)

American Literature and the European City
Chair: Leslie Petty, Rhodes College.
1. “‘One sees everybody here at Rome’: Literary Networks and Harriet Beecher Stowe’s Italian Sojourn.” Amber Shaw, Coe College
2. “‘Perishing Republic’: Margaret Fuller, Rome, and the American Democracy.” David M. Robinson, Oregon State University.
3. “Venice as a Topographic Palimpsest in William Dean Howells’ Venetian Life (1867).” Eleftheria Arapoglou, University of California, Davis.

Session Seven D: 10:30 – 11:50 (Ursuline Room)

Sex in the Southern City
Sponsor: Society for the Study of Southern Literature
Chair: Andy Crank, University of Alabama.
1. “Sex Change and the City: The Unlikely New Orleans of Truman Capote’s ‘Dazzle’.” Michael Bibler, Louisiana State University.
3. “Drag Designing Women: Performing Gender in the Southern City.” Monica Miller, Georgia Institute of Technology.
Lunch: 11:50 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Riverview Room

Session Eight A: 1:20 – 2:40 (Beauregard Room)
Southern Women Writers: City Life and Pastoral Visions
Sponsor: Ellen Glasgow Society
Chair: Jordan Von Cannon, Louisiana State University.
   2. “A ‘Castle’ of Her Own: Amelie Rives’ Rejection of the City in Barbara Dering.” Amy Berke, Middle Georgia State College.
   3. “Pastoral and Anti-Pastoral Visions in Ellen Glasgow and Mary Johnston.” Gwendolyn Jones Harold, Clayton State University.

Session Eight B: 1:20 – 2:40 (Cabildo Room)
Protest and Reform in the City
Chair: Jeanne Campbell Reesman, University of Texas at San Antonio.

Session Eight C: 1:20 – 2:40 (Ursuline Room)
Hybridity, Urbanity, and Shifting Identities
Chair: Doni Wilson, Houston Baptist University.
Session Nine A:  2:50 – 4:10 (Beauregard Room)

**Detectives and Mysteries in the City**

Chair: Allen Josephs, University of West Florida.

1. “Crime, Class, and Communities: Examining Encounters in Edward P. Jones’s *Lost in the City*.” Sharon Lynette Jones, Wright State University.

Session Nine B:  2:50 – 4:10  (Pontalba Room)

**Feminine Geography and Female Spaces in Twentieth-Century Poetry**

Chair: Ruth Caillouet, Georgia Gwinnett College.

2. “The Heterogeneity of Suffering, the Universality of Difference: Spatial Theoretics in Joy Harjo’s ‘Woman Hanging From The Thirteenth Floor Window’.” Tierney S. Powell, Creighton University.
3. “‘Across a city from you, I’m with you’: Feminine Geographies in Three Poems by Adrienne Rich.” Alyssa Duck, Emory University.

Session Nine C:  2:50 – 4:10  (Cabildo Room)

**Transnational Cityscapes**

Chair: Dustin Anderson, Georgia Southern University.

1. “‘In the corazon of the capital:’ Globalization and Urban Design in Cisneros’s *Caramelo*.” Elisabeth Mermann-Jozwiak, Gonzaga University.
2. “Archipelagic Memory.” Kevin Concannon, Texas A&M University - Corpus Christi.

Session Nine D:  2:50 – 4:10  (Ursuline Room)

**Chopin’s The Awakening and Global New Orleans**

Chair: Gwendolyn Harold, Clayton State University.

1. “*The Awakening*’s New Orleans Coffee: Global Commodity and National Culture.” Kathryn Dolan, Missouri University of Science and Technology.
2. “Rac(e)ing the U.S.-Mexico Border: Kate Chopin’s Global New Orleans.” Shanna Michelle Salinas, Kalamazoo College.
3. “‘The Voice of the Sea’: The Specter of Transatlantic Slavery in *The Awakening*.” Carina Evans Hoffpauir, Southwestern University.
Session Ten A: 4:20 – 5:40  (Beauregard Room)

Literary Lessons of the New Republic
Chair: Alyssa Duck, Emory University.

3. “Sex and the City: Pamela and the Policing of Female Sexuality in the New Republic.” Carol Wardell, University of Memphis.

Session Ten B: 4:20 – 5:40 (Pontalba Room)

Policing Gender and Sexuality in the City
Chair: Monica Miller, Georgia Institute of Technology.

1. “Reversing the Gaze: Natasha Trethewey’s Storyville Sex Workers in Bellocq’s Ophelia.” Mary Carruth, Southern University.

Session Ten C: 4:20 – 5:40  (Ursuline Room)

Ann Petry
Chair: Steven Nardi, Mount Saint Vincent University.


Session Ten D: 4:20 – 5:40  (Cabildo Room)

William Faulkner and Lyle Saxon
Chair: Dustin Anderson, Georgia Southern University.

3. “‘Mr. New Orleans’: Lyle Saxon’s Literary Portraits of the City He Loved.” James W. Thomas, Pepperdine University.

Closing Reception: 5:40 – 7:00 p.m.
Riverview Room
Please join us for our 27th Annual Conference:

May 26-29, 2016
Hyatt Regency Embarcadero
San Francisco CA

Conference Director:
Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University

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American Literature Association
Symposium on Frontiers and Borders in American Literature

Sheraton Gunter Hotel
San Antonio, TX

Conference Director:
Steven Frye, California State University, Bakersfield

Please see the ALA website for the complete call for papers for these and other future events sponsored by the ALA. Thank you for your support of the American Literature Association.