

The American Short Story:

An Expansion of the Genre

An American Literature Association Symposium
Sponsored by the Society for the Study of the American Short Story
October 20-22, 2016

Symposium Director: James Nagel, University of Georgia

Hyatt Regency Savannah
Two W Bay Street
Savannah, Georgia 31401

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Acknowledgments:

The conference director wishes to express his appreciation to a number of people who provided help with planning the program, especially my colleagues in the Society for the Study of the American Short Story. Olivia Carr Edenfield, Executive Coordinator of American Literature Association, handled all hotel logistics and arrangements and served as Site Director. Oliver Scheiding, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, served as International Coordinator, advertising the symposium in Europe and encouraging colleagues in American Studies to attend. Dustin Anderson helped in many ways, especially in taking responsibility for the society website and handling technical details. Many other people contributed time and effort in organizing panels and other aspects of the program, among them Robert Clark, Gloria Cronin, and a score of scholars across the country who organized panels for this meeting. I also thank Dartmouth College for my continuing appointment as a Resident Scholar and the use of Baker Library, a most congenial environment. My role as Eidson Distinguished Professor Emeritus at the University of Georgia allows me to continue the most important institutional connection of my life. I offer special thanks to Alfred Bendixen, the founder and Executive Director of the American Literature Association, without whose generous assistance this symposium would not have been possible.

Thursday, October 20, 2016

Registration

5:30-7:30 p.m.

(Scarborough Foyer)

Welcome Reception

5:30-7:30 p.m.

(Savannah Room)

Special Event

6:45 p.m.

A Reading by

Judith Ortiz Cofer

(Savannah Room)

Friday, October 21, 2016

**Registration: 8:00-8:40 a.m.
(Scarborough Foyer)**

Program

Session 1-A: 8:40-10:00 (Scarborough One)

Contemporary Writers

Chair: Benjamin Mangrum, Davidson College

1. "Earth as Memento Mori in Don DeLillo's 'Human Moments in World War III,'" R. Mac Jones, University of South Carolina
2. "Approaching Richard Brautigan's *The Tokyo-Montana Express* through Buddhist Non-duality," Clara Reiring, University of Duesseldorf
3. "Narrative Empathy and Short Fiction: The Curious Case of George Saunders," Michael Basseler, Justus Liebig University (Giessen, Germany)

Session 1-B: 8:40-10:00 (Scarborough Two)

American Women Writers

Chair: Robert Luscher, University of Nebraska, Kearney

1. "Writing Poverty, Race, and Class from a Black Southern Perspective," Caroline Gebhard, Tuskegee University
 2. "Jane Addams's Gendered Counter-Narratives: Storytelling to Claim Gendered Political Agency," Sarah Ruffing Robbins, Texas Christian University
 3. "As It Was in the Beginning: The Gothic in Early Indigenous Literature," Cari M. Carpenter, West Virginia University
 4. "'Most remarkable fruits': Environmental Education in Stowe's *Queer Little People*," Karen L. Kilcup, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
- Respondent: Karen A. Weyler, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

Session 1-C: 8:40-10:00 (Scarborough Three)**American Short Stories**

Chair: Steven Florczyk, Longwood University

1. "Close(d) Reading and Expansive Meaning in Jessie Fauset's Short Stories,"
Masami Sugimori, Florida Gulf Coast University
2. "Alienation and the Peculiar Institution in Short stories by Machado de Assis and
Charles Chesnutt," Michael Janis, Morehouse College
3. "Isolation, Intimacy, and the Comfort of Clutter in T. C. Boyle's 'Filthy with
Things'," Avis Hewitt, Grand Valley State University

Special Event**A Roundtable Discussion****Session 1-D: 8:40-10:00 (Scarborough Four)****Memory and Time: Saul Bellow's Tie to His Family of Origin: "The Old System"
and "By the St. Lawrence"**

Chair: Gloria Cronin, Brigham Young University

Panelists: Greg Bellow, Adam Bellow, Liesha Bellow, Daniel Bellow, Alexandra Bellow

Session 2-A: 10:10-11:30 (Scarborough One)**Jewish American Stories I**

Chair, Victoria Aarons, Trinity University

1. "Reading Malamud's 'Magic Barrel' as Story, Collection, and Lecture," Sandor
Goodhart, Purdue University
2. "J. D. Salinger's 'Seymour' and the Jewish Sensibility," Hilene Flanzbaum, Butler
University
3. "'I am the fiction; the suitcase is myself': Elisa Albert's Rothian Fiction," Aimee
Pozorski, Central Connecticut State University

Session 2-B: 10:10-11:30 (Scarborough Two)**Modern Issues**

Chair: Robert Clark, College of Coastal Georgia

1. "Zitkala-Ša and Pauline Johnson: Among the First Women to Carry the Native Voice into the Mainstream," Ekaterina Kupidonova, University of Nebraska
2. "Crossing Borders of Nation and Race in Langston Hughes's *The Ways of White Folks*," Joshua Murray, University of Akron
3. "Destabilizing Powers: The Work of Machines in Ernest Hemingway's 'In Another Country'," Lisa Narbeshuber and Lance La Rocque, Acadia University

Session 2-C: 10:10-11:30 (Scarborough Three)**New Strategies in the Short Story**

Chair: Oliver Scheiding, University of Mainz

1. "Lydia Davis and the Terrible Humiliation of Reading," Lynn Blin, Université Paul-Valéry Montpellier 3 (France)
2. "Derrick Bell's Sci-Fi Stories: African American Satire, Law, and the Myth of Post-Racial America," Christopher A. Shinn, Howard University
3. "Commodity Fetishism in Frank Chin's 'Railroad Standard Time'," Zeineb Abbassi, Université de Sousse (Tunisia)

Session 2-D: 10:10-11:30 (Scarborough Four)**The Story-Cycle Novel: A Necessary Fiction**

Chair: Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University

1. "The Female *Bildung*: Embodying the Story Cycle from Jewett to Porter," Candace Waid, University of California, Santa Barbara
2. "Recognition and Reflection in *The Golden Apples*: The Story-Cycle Novel as Resistance to Narrative Imperialism," Leah Faye Norris, University of California, Santa Barbara
3. "Is There a Front-Porch Novel and How Does It Relate to the Back Porch of Fiction?" Trudier Harris, University of Alabama
4. "Puzzle Pieces and Parts Becoming Whole: Toward a Tribalography of Erdrich," Shirley Samuels, Cornell University

Session 3-A: 11:40-12:50 (Scarborough One)

Jewish American Stories II

Chair: Gloria Cronin, Brigham Young University

1. "The Melting Pot and Progressive Reform: Anzia Yeziarska and the Jewish American Future," Sharon Oster, University of Redlands
2. "'Envy': Cynthia Ozick Meets Melanie Klein," Andrew Gordon, University of Florida
3. "Bernard Malamud's *Kleyne Mentshelekh*: Short Stories as Parables of Conscience," Victoria Aarons, Trinity University

Session 3-B: 11:40-12:50 (Scarborough Two)

New Forms of Short Fiction

Chair: Dustin Anderson, Georgia Southern University

1. "Vignettes: Micro-Fictions in the Nineteenth Century Newspaper," Ryan Cordell and Jonathan Fitzgerald, Northeastern University
2. "Jack London's 'The Dream of Debs' and Working-Class Agency in the Naturalist Short Story," Jon Falsarella Dawson, University of Georgia
3. "Embracing the Religious Backcountry: Chris Offutt's *Kentucky Straight* as Mythopoetic Collage," Philipp Reisner, Heinrich Heine University (Düsseldorf)

Session 3-C: 11:40-12:50(Scarborough Three)

New Approaches

Chair: Robert Luscher, University of Nebraska, Kearney

1. "Connective Tissue in Linked Short Stories: Place, Character, Image Patterns, and Theme," Warren G. Green, Dominican University
2. "American Stories of War: Tim O'Brien and Phil Klay," Kelly Roy Polasek, Wayne State University
3. "Dark Night of the Soul: Complicating Race in Welty's 'The Demonstrators'," Charles Tyrone, Arkansas Tech University

Session 3-D: 11:40-12:50 (Scarborough Four)**Contemporary Stories**

Chair: James W. Thomas, Pepperdine University

1. "*The October Country: The Unheimlich Homes of Ray Bradbury*," Tracy Fahey, Limerick School of Art and Design (Ireland)
2. "Poetry and Politics, Labor and Love: Carver, Spahr, Buuck, and Permanent Impermanence," Diana Rosenberger, Wayne State University
3. "Leroy and Norma Jean Meet Rock, Doris, and Dr. Strangelove in Bobbie Ann Mason's 'Shiloh'," Deborah Wilson, Arkansas Tech University

**Special Event: Lunch: 1:00-2:10
(Windows)**

Speaker: James Nagel

"The Future of the

Society for the Study of the American Short Story"

Registration: 1:30-2:00

(Scarborough Foyer)

Session 4-A: 2:20-3:50 (Scarborough One)

African American Short Stories

Chair: Maryemma Graham, University of Kansas

1. "The Civil Rights Movement and the Black Short Story," Julius Fleming, University of Maryland
2. "Geo-Tagging Edward P. Jones," Kenton Ramsby, University of Texas at Arlington
3. "African American Short Stories on Film," Dante James, University of Dayton
4. "Literacy and the Power of Communication in Octavia Butler's Short Stories," Briana Whiteside, University of Alabama

Session 4-B: 2:20-3:50 (Scarborough Two)

Stories of the American South

Chair: J. Gerald Kennedy, Louisiana State University

1. "Numbered, Numbered: Commemorating the Civil War Dead in Constance Fenimore Woolson's 'Rodman the Keeper'," Kathleen Diffley, University of Iowa
2. "Peter Taylor's Aesthetic of Darkness," Thomas F. Haddox, University of Tennessee
3. "Ernest Gaines's Bloodline: Race, Region, Masculinity and the Short Story Cycle," John Wharton Lowe, University of Georgia

Session 4-C 2:20-3:50 (Scarborough Three)

New Writers on the American Scene

Chair: James W. Thomas, Pepperdine University

1. "Female Madness and the Hazards of Black National Belonging in Ayana Mathis's *The Twelve Tribes of Hattie*," Caroline A. Brown, University of Montreal
2. "Indians in America: Cultural and Gendered Contact Zones in Chitra Divakaruni's 'Silver Pavements, Golden Roofs'," Marilyn Edelstein, Santa Clara University
3. "Possession and North American Identity in Anne Hébert's 'Le torrent'," Conor Scruton, Western Kentucky University

Session 4-D 2:20-3:50 (Scarborough Four)

A Roundtable Discussion: "Interesting Intersections: When Short Stories become Film"

Chair: James H. Meredith

Participants: Allen Josephs, University of West Florida
 Jeanne Fuchs, Hofstra University
 James H. Meredith, Colorado State University--Global
 Kathleen Robinson-Malone, Eckerd College
 E. Stone Meredith, Colorado State University--Global

Session 5-A 4:00-5:20 (Scarborough One)

Edgar Allan Poe

Chair: Richard Kopley, Pennsylvania State University, DuBois

1. "Reconstructions of Poe's 'Tales of the Folio Club' since 1928: Approaches and Prospects," Alexander Hammond, Washington State University
2. "Edgar Allan Poe, 'Psyche Zenobia,' and the Tradition of Anti-Feminist Gothic Satire," David Cody, Hartwick College
3. "Fethers and Spectacles: How Music Shapes Genre in Poe's Short Stories," Charity McAdams, Arizona State University

Session 5-B 4:00-5:20 (Scarborough Two)

American Women Writers

Chair: Donna M. Campbell, Washington State University

1. "Eyes without Speaking Confess the Secrets of the Heart:' Edith Wharton and Louisa May Alcott," Debra Ryals, Pensacola State College
2. "The Artist's Dilemma in Cather's 'Coming Aphrodite!'" Tracienne Ravita, Georgia State University
3. "In Praise of Quiet Stories': The Dramatic Impetus of Kindness in Wendell Berry and Sarah Orne Jewett," Matthew Forsythe, Rollins College

Session 5-C 4:00-5:20 (Scarborough Three)

New Approaches to the Short Story

Chair: Dustin Anderson, Georgia Southern University

1. "Pedagogy and the Short Story," Brianne Jaquette, College of the Bahamas
2. "Teaching Styles in Short Stories: Using Carver's 'A Small Good Thing' and Faulkner's 'Barn Burning' as Examples," Suocai Su, City College of Chicago
3. "Creatures of Habit: The Role of Habits in Short Story Character Creation," Thomas W. Howard, Jackson College

Session 5-D 4:00-5:20 (Scarborough Four)

New Views of American Stories

Chair: Olivia Edenfield, Georgia Southern University

1. "Gothic Origins of the American Short Story: Irving, Poe, Hawthorne," Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University
2. "Why Dansie and Josie Sleep: Imagining Death in African American Stories," Emily DeHaven, University of Kentucky
3. "The Representations of the Deceased in 'Spunk' by Zora Neale Hurston and 'Clarence and the Dead (And What Do they Tell You Clarence? And the Dead Speak to Clarence)' by Randall Kenan," Sharon Lynette Jones, Wright State University

Session 5-E 4:00-5:20 (Savannah)

New Readings of Short Fiction

Chair: Lee Clark Mitchell, Princeton University

1. "Urban Space and Political Agency in Alice Dunbar-Nelson's 'The Pearl in the Oyster,'" Sidonia Serafini, University of Georgia
2. "Gothic Projections of Madness and Racial Inferiority: The Perils of Hyper-Rationality in 'The Fall of the House of Usher' and 'Benito Cereno,'" John Gruesser, Kean University
3. "Diagnoses of Jhumpa Lahiri's *Interpreter of Maladies*," Bradley Edwards, Georgia Southern University

Special Event: Reception

5:30-7:00

(Windows)

Keynote Address:

J. Gerald Kennedy

**“National Strangeness in the
Antebellum Tale”**

Saturday, October 22, 2016

Registration: 8:00-8:40 a.m. (Scarborough Foyer)

Session 6-A: 8:40-10:00 (Scarborough One)

Contemporary Short Stories

Chair: Robert Clark, College of Coastal Georgia

1. "Metaphysics, Positivism, and the Truth of Fiction: Rebecca Goldstein's 'Legacy of Raizel Kaidish'," Emily Budick, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
2. "Chuck Palahniuk's Living Dead: Generation Me's 'Zombies' in the Age of Depression," Patrick Osborne, Florida State University
3. "The Worst and Best Short Story John Updike Ever Wrote," James W. Thomas, Pepperdine University

Session 6-B: 8:40-10:00 (Scarborough Two)

New Approaches to F. Scott Fitzgerald: Reinventing the Canonical, Recovering the Popular

Chair: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

1. "Can't Buy Me Love: Commodification and Redemption in F. Scott Fitzgerald's 'The Popular Girl' (1922)," Farrah R. Senn, Brewton-Parker College
2. "'Absolution' (1924) and Transnational Identities," Dustin Anderson, Georgia Southern University
3. "Visualizing 'The Rich Boy' (1925): F. Scott Fitzgerald, F. R. Gruger, and *Red Book Magazine*," Jennifer Nolan, North Carolina State University

Session 6-C: 8:40-10:00 (Scarborough Three)

New Forms of Short Fiction

Chair: Bradley Edwards, Georgia Southern University

1. "Morphing Genres: Novels in Flash and Flash Cycles," Jennifer J. Smith, Franklin College
2. "Speculative Fiction: Back in the Beginning of the End of the World with Junot Diaz's 'Monstro'," Christiane E. Farnan, Siena College
3. "Decentered Narratives and Fantastic Otherness in Kelly Link's Postmodern American Fairy Tales," Andrew M. Hakim, Princeton University

Session 6-D: 8:40-10:00 (Scarborough Four)**Women, God, and Violence in the Short Fiction of Andre Dubus**

Chair: James Meredith, Colorado State University, Global

1. "Saving Maid Marian: Southern Chivalry in the Short Fiction of Andre Dubus,"
Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University
2. "The Theological Implications of Andre Dubus's 'A Father's Story',"
Patrick Samway, S.J., St. Joseph's University
3. "Opening Sentences, Eruptive Violence, in *Dancing after Hours*," Lee Clark Mitchell,
Princeton University

Session 7-A: 10:10-11:30 (Scarborough One)**American Women Writers and the Short Story**

Chair: Donna Campbell, Washington State University

1. "The Echo of the Inner Voice: How Women Writers Pioneered the Interior Monologue in the Short Story Form," Sara Rutkoski, City University of New York
2. "Dorothy Canfield Fisher's *Hillsboro People*: Feminist Short Story and Founding Vermont State," Ceillie Clark-Keane, Northeastern University
3. "The Revolutionary Short Story: Sandra Cisneros's *Woman Hollering Creek*,"
Sonia Alvarez Wilson, Catawba College

Session 7-B: 10:10-11:30 (Scarborough Two)**New Considerations**

Chair: Bradley Edwards, Georgia Southern University

1. "Peter Taylor: Supernatural Presences in the Late Stories," David M. Robinson,
Oregon State University
2. "Doctor Martino's Other Stories: Unity and Cohesion in *These 14*," Kirk Curnutt,
Troy University
3. "Humor and Horror in Two Stories of the Holocaust by Nathan Englander," Frank
G. Novak, Pepperdine University

Session 7-C: 10:10-11:30 (Scarborough Three)**Nineteenth-Century Issues**

Chair: John Wharton Lowe, University of Georgia

1. "Maternal Morality and Mourning: Womanhood in Rebecca Harding Davis's Civil War Fiction," Paula Rawlins, University of Georgia
2. "The National 'Abortive Romance' in 'Ethan Brand'," Allan Benn, East Stroudsburg University
3. "Reading the Animals: Faulkner's Expansion of Melville's Epistemological Expedition into the Wilderness," Elizabeth H. Swails, University of Georgia

Session 7-D: 10:10-11:30 (Scarborough Four)**Hemingway's Short Fiction**

Chair: Steven Florczyk, Longwood University

1. "The Ebro River Valley in 'Hills Like White Elephants'," Marie Mullins, Pepperdine University
2. "Adaptation, Extrapolation, and Hemingway's 'The Killers'," Lesa Carnes Shaul, University of West Alabama
3. "'Pauline Pfeiffer's *Safari Journal* as a Source for Hemingway's 'The Snows of Kilimanjaro'," Dennis B. Ledden, Independent Scholar

Session 8-A: 11:40-12:50 (Scarborough One)**American Modernism**

Chair: Matthew Forsythe, Rollins College

1. "The Complex Design of Sherwood Anderson's 'Hands'," Richard Kopley, Pennsylvania State University
2. "Race, Phenomenology, and O'Connor's Short Fiction," Ben Mangrum, Davidson College
3. "Reversed Gender Roles and Prostitution in Fitzgerald's 'Head and Shoulders'," Paul Blom, Independent Scholar

Session 8-B: 11:40-12:50 (Scarborough Two)**Women Characters in the Short Story**

Chair: Nicole Camastra, University of Georgia

1. "Lauren Groff's 'Ghosts and Empties' and the Literary Paradigm of the Walking Woman," Nina Bannett, New York City College of Technology
2. "The Medical is Social: Reexamining Retrospective Diagnosis in 'The Yellow Wallpaper'," Emily Banks, Emory University
3. "Homosexual Avoidance and the Destruction of the Female in Poe's 'The Black Cat'," Urshela Wiggins Atkins, Polk State College

Session 8-C: 11:40-12:50 (Scarborough Three)**Perspectives from the Savannah College of Art and Design**

Chair: Weihua Zhang, Savannah College of Art and Design

1. "Shattering the Literal: Flannery O'Connor's Violent Intention," Mary Aswell Doll, Savannah College of Art and Design
2. "Sexual Identities in Yiyun Li's *A Thousand Years of Good Prayers*," Mary Chi-Whi Kim, Savannah College of Art and Design
3. "Voices of Real People: Stories of Chinese Immigrants in Ha Jin's *A Good Fall*," Weihua Zhang, Savannah College of Art and Design

Session 8-D: 11:40-12:50 (Scarborough Four)**New Explorations**

Chair: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

1. "Trauma, the Missing, and Fractured Lives in Luis Camacho Ruiz's *Barefoot Dogs*," Rob Luscher, University of Nebraska, Kearney
2. "Relational Autonomy in the Short Story Cycle," Helena Kadmos, Murdoch University (Australia)
3. "Romances of Reunion in the Short Fiction of Bret Harte," Tara Penry, Boise State University

Special Event: Luncheon: 1:00-2:10 (Windows)

Speakers:

Dante James, The African-American Film Series

Richard Layman, The Short Story Project

Session 9-A: 2:20-3:50 (Scarborough One)

Early Twentieth Century

Chair: John Wharton Lowe, University of Georgia

1. "Good Instincts in Jack London's 'South of the Slot'," Kenneth Brandt, Savannah College of Art and Design
2. "Dreiser's Cinematic Modernism: 'Victory' as Precursor to *Citizen Kane*," Roark Mulligan, Christopher Newport University
3. "Edith Wharton's Suspense Theater: Naturalism and Gothic Modernism in the 1920s Stories," Donna M. Campbell, Washington State University

Session 9-B: 2:20-3:50 (Scarborough Two)

Hemingway and the Art of the Short-Story Cycle

Chair: Robert Clark, College of Coastal Georgia

1. "Hemingway's Modernist Manifesto: *In Our Time* and the Short-Story Cycle Genre," Steven Florczyk, Longwood University
2. "'The war was always there': *Men Without Women* as a Short-Story Cycle," Brad McDuffie, Nyack College
3. "Music and the 'Persevering Traveler': *Winner Take Nothing* as a Modernist Short-Story Cycle," Nicole Camastra, University of Georgia

Session 9-C: 2:20-3:50 (Scarborough Three)

Approaches to Contemporary Stories

Chair: Megan Flanery, Georgia Southern University

1. "The Southern Stories of Ron Rash," Lisa Abney, Northwestern State University
2. "One Thousand Dozen Marketable Goods: An Historical Critique of a Lesser Known Jack London Short Story," Terrence Cole, University of Alaska Fairbanks
3. "The Street Carnival: Recurrent Motifs in Cisneros's *The House on Mango Street*," Lacey B. Rogers, University of Nebraska Kearney

Session 9-D: 2:20-3:50 (Scarborough Four)

New Considerations of the Story Form

Chair: Bradley Edwards, Georgia Southern University

1. "The Expansion of the Genre: From the Story Cycle to Microfiction," Oliver Scheiding, University of Mainz (Germany)
2. "Rhapsody and Requiem: The Influence of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* on the Short Stories of Raymond Carver," Josh Temples, Georgia Southern University
3. "An Unlikely 'Patriot': Reconsidering the Short Fiction of Meridel Le Sueur," Lisa Kirby, Collin College

Session 10-A: 4:00-5:20 (Scarborough One)

Studies in Modernism

Chair: Bradley Edwards, Georgia Southern University

1. "F. Scott Fitzgerald's Later Saturday Evening Post Stories: Finding the Quirks of New Plot Lines in 1929," Nancy VanArsdale, East Stroudsburg University
2. "Who Needs Masculinity?" Margaret Bockting, North Carolina Central University
3. "The Stories of Dashiell Hammett," Richard Layman, Publisher, Columbia, SC

Session 10-B: 4:00-5:20 (Scarborough Two)

Flannery O'Connor and Bret Harte

Chair: Matthew Forsythe, Rollins College

1. "Nietzsche Went Down to Georgia: Existential Anxiety in O'Connor's 'A Good Man Is Hard to Find'," David Polanski, Independent Scholar

2. "Adrian Tomine's *Killing and Dying* and the Minimalist American Graphic Short Story," Robert Clark, College of Coastal Georgia
3. "Romances of Reunion in the Short Fiction of Bret Harte," Tara Penry, Boise State University

Session 10-C: 4:00-5:20 (Scarborough Three)

American Realism

Chair: Lee Clark Mitchell, Princeton University

1. "How Stephen Crane Revolutionized Naturalism with the Short Story," Jeremy K. Locke, University of Tennessee
2. "What is 'Pace' in Stephen Crane's 'The Pace of Youth'," Brian Gingrich, Princeton University
3. "Reading New Orleans Stories," James Nagel, University of Georgia

Closing Reception 5:30-7:00

(Windows)

Special Event

A Reading of Original Short Stories by SSASS Members

Chair: Robert Clark, College of Coastal Georgia

1. Kirk Curnutt, Troy University
2. Richard Kopley, Pennsylvania State University
3. Jennifer Memolo, Clarkson College