Sights and Sites: Final Program: 10/22/18

**Sights and Sites:**
Vision and Place in American Literature

November 1-3, 2018

Drury Plaza Hotel in Santa Fe
828 Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Conference Director:
Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University

Keynote Speaker: Karen Kilcup,
University of North Carolina, at Greensboro

**Thursday, November 1:**

*Informal welcoming reception: 8:30 pm – 10:30 pm. (Palace B):*
(Pick up Badges and Programs. Complimentary wine, beer, and soft drinks).

**Friday, November 2**

9:00 AM – 10:00

**Welcome and Opening Plenary Session: Opening Insights (Palace A)**

Chair: Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University

Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University
Karen Kilcup, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
José E. Limón, University of Notre Dame
Wendy Martin, Claremont Graduate University
Jeanne Reesman, University of Texas, San Antonio
Session One: 10:10-11:30

1-A  Reading the Landscape  (Palace A)

Chair: Ariel Clark Silver, Columbus Ohio Institute of Religion

1. “Eyes on the West: Emerson and Environmental Ethics,” Susan Dunston, New Mexico Tech

2. “Thoreau, the Saunterer, and the Sacred,” David M. Robinson, Oregon State University

3. "How Mark Twain Reads and Misreads the Land in Roughing It," Jeanne C. Reesman, University of Texas at San Antonio

1-B  Florida as Site and Sight  (Rivera A)

Chair: Dina Smith, Drake University


3. “Key West in the Anthropocene: Ideas of Order in Stevens, Bishop, and After,” Peter Balaam, Carleton College

1-C  Contemporary Sites  (Rivera B)

Chair: Cheryl Nuzum, Georgia Southern University

1. “Thomas Sanchez’s American Landscapes”: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

2. “Historical and Personal Place in Don DeLillo’s Falling Man and Thomas Pynchon’s The Crying of Lot 49,” Larry Kuhar, Wilkes University

3. “Formal Innovations in Contemporary Indigenous American Poetry,” Dean Rader, University of San Francisco
Session Two 11:40-1:00 pm

2-A Political and Poetic Spaces (Rivera A)

Chair: Wendy Martin, Claremont Graduate University


2. “Claudia Rankine: Double Take on the American Landscape,” Anne Shea, California College of the Arts


2-B Sites of Labor (Rivera B)

Chair: Karen Kilcup, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

1. “Realism is an Inadequate Term: Two Late Nineteenth Century Women’s Novels and their Thick Descriptions of Place,” Karen E. Waldron, College of the Atlantic


2-C Sights and Sites in the American Short Story (Palace A)

Organized by the Society for the Study of the American Short Story

Chair: Robert C. Clark, College of Coastal Georgia

1. “Kate Chopin’s Cultural and Physical Landscapes in ‘In Sabine,’ ‘No-Account Creole,’ and ‘In and out of Natchitoches,’” Lisa Abney, Northwestern State University

2. “Winesburg, Ohio: The Rise of the Übermensch and the Industrialization of Rural America,” Austin Tyra, University of New Mexico

3. “‘An Eastern Western’: The Dreamscape of Arthur Miller’s ‘The Misfits,’” Brad McDuffie, SUNY Ulster

Lunch 1:00-2:00  New Mexican Buffet featuring chicken and steak fajitas and vegetarian enchiladas and salad; catered by Eloisa. (Palace B)
Session Three 2:10-3:30

3-A Revisioning Space and Place: Black and Brown American Imaginaries and Landscapes (Rivera A)

Organizer: Brittney Edmonds
Chair: Gloria Cronin, Brigham Young University

1. “The Imperative is Escape: Native Son and the Fugitive Imaginary,” Brittney Edmonds, Princeton University

2. “Horizontal Contact Zones: Re-invisioning Spaces of Coalition and Reading Practices,” Maria Paula Chaves Daza, SUNY Oneonta University


3-B Heartland Gothic: Re-Visioning Mythic Conceptions of the Midwest and Great Plains Regions (Rivera B)

Organizer: Aaron LaDuke,
Chair: Cindy Murillo, Colorado State University

1. “Necrotic Bodies and the Midwestern Gothic in Sam Shepard’s Buried Child,” Julia Madsen, University of Denver

2. “There’s never been much use for reality out here”: Annie Proulx’s Wyoming Stories and a Great Plains Gothic,” Aaron LaDuke, Northwestern University-Qatar

3. “In the River Bottoms with the Weird Things”: The Midwestern Gothic in Contemporary American Poetry,” Brandi Holman, Johnson and Wales University

Session Four 3:40-5:10

4-A Figures and Figurations of Place and Displacement in Northern New Mexico and Southern Texas: José de la Luz Sáenz, Américo Paredes, Felipe Maximiliano Chacón, and George I. Sánchez (Rivera A)

Co-chairs: José E. Limón, University of Notre Dame, and Gabriel Meléndez, University of New Mexico

1. “South Texas Planetarity: The War Diary of José de la Luz Sáenz and Post-National Affiliation, “Javier Rodríguez, University of North Texas

3. "When the Language is Political: Poetic Negotiations in the Early 20th-Century Writing of 'el feliz ingenio neomexicano,' Felipe M. Chacón," Anna M. Nogar, University of New Mexico

4. "I, Mexican American: George I. Sánchez’s Forgotten People(s) and the Politics of a Nuevomexicano Intellectual in Texas," Michael Trujillo, University of New Mexico

4-B Poetic Landscapes (Rivera B)

Chair: Alan Soldofsky, San Jose State University

1. "The American Landscape as a Site of Trauma in Civil War Poetry," Monica Pelaez, St. Cloud State University

2. "Duende on the Prairie: James Wright’s Rust Belt Poetics," Brandon Menke, Yale University, Department of English


4. "To See/The Universe': the Self and 'I' in Edward Dorn’s Gunslinger," Sarah Worland, University of New Mexico

Keynote Address and Reception

5:20-7:00 pm

(Palace A)

"Animating Landscapes:
Swinging, Burrowing, Spinning, Burning,
Consuming, Growing”

Karen Kilcup,
University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Saturday, November 3:

Session Five 9:00-10:20

5-A  Visions of the Sacred Female in American Literature: A Round-Table (Rivera A)

Moderator: Ariel Clark Silver, Columbus Ohio Institute of Religion

1. “Redemption, Revenge, and Reversal: The Book of Esther and the Divine Female in America,” Ariel Clark Silver, Columbus Ohio Institute of Religion

2. “From the Sacred to the Profane: Susan Magoffin and Abortion in the West,” Vicki Van Brocklin, University of New Mexico


4. “Shapeshifting and Aleatory Matter in Octavia Butler’s Wild Seed,” Bernabe Mendoza, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

5. “Saints and Soldiers: Divinity and Paramilitarism in Feminist Speculative Fiction,” Charity Fox, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg

5-B  Mapping Native American Spaces (Rivera B)

Chair: Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University


2. “Where Are We? Homeland and Nation in Sarah Winnemucca’s Life among the Piutes: Their Wrongs and Claims (1883)” John Carlos Rowe, University of Southern California

Session Six  10:30- Noon

6-A  Western sites  (Rivera A)

Chair: Bernadette V. Russo, Texas Tech University

1. “‘Every spot of holy ground…shall be known, reverenced and loved’: Robert Montgomery Bird’s Monumental Frontier Violence,” Brian Elliott, University of Montana Western

2. “Helen Hunt Jackson’s Place in the American West,” Lesley Ginsberg, University of Colorado, Colorado Springs, CO 80918


6-B  New York Sites  (Rivera B)

Chair: Cheryl Nuzum, Georgia Southern University

1. “‘The Pleasantest Localities in New York’: Natural and Social Sites in 19th-Century Gothic Fiction,” Melissa Walker Heidari, Columbia College


Lunch from Noon to 1 pm. (Palace B).
Session Seven  1:10-2:30

7-A  African-American Sites  (Rivera A)
Chair: Breanna Harris, Georgia Southern University

1. “Places Real, Unreal, and Surreal in the Novels of Sutton E. Griggs,” John Gruesser, Sam Houston State University
2. “Toni Morrison’s Beloved Site of Memory: Recollection as the Duplex of Sight and Site,” Kevin Foskin, Colorado State University
3. “Perception and Light Imagery in Richard Wright’s “Big Boy Leaves Home”” Hunter Walsh, Georgia Southern University

7-B  Poetic Spaces  (Rivera B)
Organizer: Matthew Hofer
Chair: Charles Altieri, University of California, Berkeley

1. “Jay Wright and the Myth of Place,” Robert von Hallberg, Claremont McKenna College
2. “Poesis from Place to Space: Cosmogenic Rapture in the Poetry of Christopher Dewdney and Cody-Rose Clevidence,” John Wilkinson, University of Chicago
3. “Isolation, Correspondence, and the Place of Poetics: The LEGEND Collaboration,” Matthew Hofer, University of New Mexico

Session Eight  2:40-4:00

8-A  Place and Vision in Poetry  (Rivera A)
Chair: Matthew Hofer, University of New Mexico

1. “The refusal of gender considerations in Moore’s Landscapes”? Charles Altieri, UC Berkeley
2. “A Border Crosser’s Liminality: Juan Felipe Herrera and Reimagining Border Spaces,” Alan Soldofsky, San Jose State University
3. Elizabeth Bishop: A Visionary Poet? George Lensing, University of North Carolina

8-B **Visualizing Places** (Rivera B)

Chair: J.D. Isip, Collin College

1. “Midwest Dreams and Landscapes: Jim Harrison and Bachelard’s The Poetics of Space.” Chris “CW” Johnson, University of Minnesota Duluth,

2. “The Ozark’s (a) Place in Contemporary Literature” Dina Smith, Drake University

3. “The Mine With the Iron Door: Tracing the Landscape from Text to Screen,” Jennifer L. Jenkins, University of Arizona

**Session Nine 4:00-5:20**

9-A **Expansive Visions** (Rivera A)

Chair: Hunter Walsh, Georgia Southern University

1. “Solace for [their] very soul": Trees as a Catalyst for Self-fulfillment in Freeman’s *Six Trees,* Breanna Harris, Georgia Southern University

2. “’[T]hat is happiness’: Vision and Place in Willa Cather’s *My Antonia,*” Shannon Forbes, University of St. Thomas

3. “Willa Cather’s Expansive Historical Vision in *Death Comes for the Archbishop,*” Molly Metherd, Saint Mary’s College of California

9-B **New Sites and Insights** (Rivera B)

Chair: Chris “CW” Johnson, University of Minnesota Duluth,

1. “Food as an Icon of Place and Time in the Culinary Writings of M F K Fischer and Jim Harrison,” Rick Wallach, University of Miami

2. "Mixed up like Jesus in the Wilderness: Woody Guthrie and John Steinbeck’s Outlaw Preachers,” Edward Shannon, Ramapo College of NJ,


5:30 – 7:00 Closing reception.
Informal gathering at Drury Plaza for those staying at hotel.
Audio-Visual equipment (LCD projector and Screen) will be available to those in Rivera B slots on Saturday and only on that day.
A microphone should be available at the podium in Palace A on Friday morning for the opening plenary and for our keynote talk that afternoon.

The hotel will offer event parking rate of $10 per day for those not staying in the hotel and attending the conference.