

# **The American Short Story: New Considerations**

A Symposium Sponsored by the Society for the Study of the  
American Short Story and the American Literature Association

September 5-7, 2019 in New Orleans, Louisiana

Symposium Director: James Nagel, University of Georgia

# **The American Short Story: New Considerations**

A Symposium Sponsored by the Society for the Study of the  
American Short Story and the American Literature Association

Symposium Director: James Nagel, University of Georgia

## **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 registration as well as all hotel logistics and arrangements. Oliver Scheiding, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, served as International Coordinator, advertising the symposium in Europe and encouraging colleagues in American Studies to attend. Many other people contributed time and effort in constructing panels and other aspects of the program, among them Robert Clark, Kirk Curnutt, Vicki Aarons, Shirley Samuels, Gloria Cronin, Molly Donehoo, Executive Assistant of the ALA, and a score of other scholars across the country who formed panels for this meeting. Their contributions have made the organizing of the event a pleasure. I offer special thanks to Alfred Bendixen and Olivia Carr Edenfield of the American Literature Association, whose generous assistance added enormously to the success of the symposium.

**Thursday, September 5, 2019**

**Welcoming Reception and Registration: 4:30-5:30 p.m.**

**(Royal Salon D)**

**Welcome by Society President Jim Nagel**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Roundtable Discussion:**

**The Forms of the American Short Story**

**5:50-7:00**

Chair: Gloria Cronin, Brigham Young University

Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University

Monika Ebert, Montclair University

Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University

Karen Kilcup, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

Jose Limon, University of Texas, Austin

Wendy Martin, Claremont Graduate University

James Nagel, University of Georgia

**Registration: 7:00-7:30 (Royal D)**

**Late Registration: 9:00-10:00 (Bienville B)**

**Friday, September 6, 2019**

**Registration: 8:20-9:00 a.m.  
(Royal Room)**

## **Program**

### **Session 1-A 9:00-10:20 (Orleans A)**

#### **Organized by the John Updike Society**

##### **John Updike's Short Fiction**

Chair: Leslie Petty, Rhodes College

1. "Writing and Well Being: Story as Salve in the Work of Two Updikes," Susan Norton, Technological University, Dublin
2. "Outside the Grand Narrative: The Personal in John Updike's *Olinger Stories*," Takashi Nakatani, Okohama City University
3. "*My Father's Tears and Other Stories* as (Literary) Last Will and Testament," Laurence W. Mazzeno, Alvernia University
4. "John Updike's 'Divorcing: A Fragment' and the Question of Genre: Shoring Stories against the Ruins in *Too Far to Go/The Maples Stories*," Robert M. Luscher, University of Nebraska at Kearney

### **Session 1-B 9:00-10:20 (Orleans B)**

#### **Organized by the William Faulkner Society**

##### **Faulkner**

Chair: John Wharton Lowe, University of Georgia

1. "Memory, Beauty, and William Faulkner's 'Barn Burning'," Abigail Scherer, Nicholls State University
2. "Airing out the Compson's Dirty Laundry: Reading *The Sound and the Fury* through 'That Evening Sun'," Travis Rozier, Texas A & M University
3. "Considering William Faulkner's *New Orleans Sketches* as a Short Story Cycle," Charles Tyrone, Arkansas Tech University

**Session 1-C 9:00-10:20 (Orleans D)**

**Contemporary Writers**

Chair: Chris Johnson, University of Minnesota, Duluth

1. "American Minimalist Narratives in Bungie's *Destiny 2* and Naughty Dog's *The Last of Us*," Robert C. Clark, College of Coastal Georgia
2. "Who Wants to be an American?: Game Shows and Citizenship in Robert Olen Butler's 'The American Couple'," Mike Miley, Loyola University
3. "The Problem with Labels: Intention, Influence, and Genre in Jennifer Egan's *A Visit from the Goon Squad*," Jennifer Smith, Franklin College

**Session 2-A: 10:30-11:50 (Orleans A)**

**African American Writers**

Chair: Dennis B. Ledden, Pennsylvania State University

1. "Respect and Reform: Reimagining the Ghetto in Claude Brown's *The Children of Ham*," William M. Etter, Irvine Valley College
2. "'I do want to be a good woman once': The Denied Lagniappe in Alice Dunbar-Nelson's 'Tony's Wife'," Deborah De Rosa, Northern Illinois University
3. "The Mis-Education of Buster and Riley: Violence and Flight in Ralph Ellison's 'A Coupla Scalped Indians'," Enrico Bruno, University of Iowa
4. "Of Course the Sky is Gray: Ernest Gaines, Canonicity, and the Rejection of Metaphor," Matthew Luter, St. Andrew's Episcopal School

**Session 2-B: 10:30-11:50 (Orleans B)**

**Writers and Their Society**

Chair: Thomas Bonner, Xavier University

1. "The Contemporary American Short Story and Print Culture," Oliver Scheiding, University of Mainz (Germany)
2. "Reified Minimalism: The Aesthetics of Epistemology in Denis Johnson's *Jesus' Son*," Lawrence Kuhar, Wilkes University
3. "The 'Spectacular' Suicide of Seymour Glass," Margaret Elizabeth Geddy, Georgia Southern University
4. "Nineteenth-Century Children's Periodicals and Animal Transformation," Emily DeHaven, University of Kentucky

**Session 2-C: 10:30-11:50 (Orleans D)**

**Southern Voices**

Chair: Nicole Camastra, The O'Neal School

- 1.. "'The Respectable Woman' and 'The Southern Cross': Reconsidering Southern Morality and Womanhood," Michelle-Taylor Sherwin, University of Georgia
2. "Missing Pieces: Reassessing the Role of Short Stories in James Still's Literary Oeuvre," Ted Olson, East Tennessee State University
3. "Black Home: Reconsidering the Narratives of Irwin S. Cobb and his Fictional People," Debbie Lelekis, Florida Technical University

**Lunch: 12:00-1:50  
(Royal Room)**

**A Reading: "Student Affairs"**

**An original story by Dorie LaRue**

**Session 3-A: 2:00-3:20 (Orleans A)**

**Contemporary Jewish American Short Stories**

**Organized by the Jewish American Literature Society**

Chair: Debra Shostak, College of Wooster

1. "Jewish Self-expression in the Short Fiction of Maxim Shrayer," Victoria Aarons, Trinity University
2. "Jewish Identity in Philip Roth's 'Eli the Fanatic'," Enikő Maior, Partium Christian University, Oradea (Romania)
3. "Nathan Englander and the Future of Jewish-America: 'What to Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank'," Hilene Flanzbaum, Butler University

### **Session 3-B: 2:00-3:20 (Orleans B)**

#### **American Writers: A Broader View**

Chair: Oliver Scheiding, University of Mainz (Germany)

1. "The Short Story of An Indian Diaspora in America: 'The Only American from Our Village'," Rajendra Ponde, Willingdon College (India)
2. "George Saunders: Defining the New American Dystopia," Robert Ficociello, Holy Family University
3. "Landscape and Women in Two of Margaret Atwood's Northern Short Stories," Maureen Long, Yukon College
4. "Kay Boyle's Study of European Fascism: Austrian, French, and German Stories from 1935-1951," Anne Boyd Rioux, University of New Orleans

### **Session 3-C: 2:00-3:20 (Orleans D)**

#### **Home as Hell: Ugliness in Living Spaces in African American Short Stories**

Chair: Trudier Harris, University of Alabama

1. "Heaven, Hell, House, and Home in Zora Neale Hurston's 'Sweat'," Valerie N. Matthews, Georgia Perimeter College
2. "'I'm Catching Hell': Home and Racialized Violence in Richard Wright's 'The Ethics of Living Jim Crow'," Trimiko Melancon, Loyola University
3. "House of God or Man: No Place for a Woman in Alice D. Nelson's Short Fiction," Elizabeth J. West, Georgia State University

### **Session 4-A: 3:30-4:50 (Orleans A)**

#### **Organized by the Grace King Society**

#### **Grace King**

Chair: Barbara C. Ewell, Loyola University, New Orleans

1. "Grace King's *Balcony Stories*," Clara Junker, University of Southern Denmark, Odense
2. "'The continual voyage I made': Grace King's Journey to Modernity," Melissa Walker Heidari, Columbia College
3. "Going to the Source: Grace King's Papers and Critical Analysis," Miki Pfeffer, Nicholls State University

### **Session 4-B: 3:30-4:50 (Orleans B)**

#### **Identity, Race, and Displacement in the American Short Story (1934-1959)**

Chair: Aimee Pozorski, Central Connecticut State University

1. "The Child Gaze and Counter-surveillance in Langston Hughes's 'Red-Headed Baby,'" Amanda Greenwell, Central Connecticut State University
2. "Varieties of Displacement in Flannery O'Connor's 'The Displaced Person,'" Katalin G. Kállay, Károli Gáspár University of the Hungarian Reformed Church, Budapest (Hungary)
3. "Philip Roth, Paul Gauguin, and The Lion Tamer: Reading the 'Heart' Books in Roth's *Goodbye, Columbus*," Aimee Posorski, Central Connecticut State University

### **Session 4-C: 3:30-4:50 (Orleans D)**

#### **Social and Religious Issues in the Short Story**

Chair: Philipp Reisner, Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf (Germany)

1. "Native American Short Stories as Healing Strategies," Gudrun M. Grabher, University of Innsbruck (Austria)
2. "Lutheranism in the Contemporary Short Story," Philipp Reisner, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf (Germany)
3. "Interrogation of Patriarchy in Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's 'Arranged Marriage,'" Muktaja Vikas Mathkari, Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women's University (India)
4. "Megan Abbott and Noir in the Suburbs," Brad McDuffie, SUNY, Ulster

### **Session 5-A: 5:00-6:20 (Orleans A)**

#### **Jim Harrison and Raymond Carver**

Chair: Robert Luscher, University of Nebraska, Kearney

1. "Epic-Not-Fail: Jim Harrison's 'Legends of the Fall' and the Short Narrative as Epic," Chris Johnson, University of Minnesota, Duluth
2. "'Taking His Bearings': The Body of Signification in Raymond Carver's Fiction," Steve Gregg, Palm Beach Atlantic University
3. "Narratological Experiments in Jim Harrison's Short Fiction," Rick Wallach, University of Miami

### **Session 5-B: 5:00-6:20 (Orleans B)**

#### **Southern Stories**

Chair: Shirley Samuels, Cornell University

1. "Running like the Mischief ': Civil War Louisiana in the *Southern Magazine*," Kathleen Diffley, University of Iowa
2. "Forgotten Soldiers, Commemoration, and the Recuperative Work of Historical Fiction in Alice Dunbar-Nelson's 'Esteve, the Soldier Boy,'" Sidonia Serafini, University of Georgia
3. "Mixed Company," Elizabeth Steeby, University of New Orleans
4. "Like a Mother: Milking Parlors and White Supremacy in Selected Short Fiction by Flannery O'Connor," Katie Berry Frye, Pepperdine University

### **Session 5-C: 5:00-6:20 (Orleans D)**

#### **Ernest Hemingway**

Chair: Nicole Camastra, The O'Neal School

1. "Utopian Counter-Discourses in Hemingway's 'Big Two-Hearted River'," Lisa Nabeshuber and Lance La Rocque, Acadia University (Canada)
2. "Trauma, Loss, and Subjectivity in the Stories of Katherine Anne Porter and Ernest Hemingway," Mark Henderson, Tuskegee University
3. "Hemingway's Good Places," Steven J. Florczyk, Hampden-Sydney College
4. "*Nada* by Thy Name: The Power of 'Nothing' in 'A Clean Well-Lighted Place'," Connie Chen, Harvard University

### **Session 5-D: 5:00-6:20 SSASS Business Meeting (Bienville C)**

Chair: Jim Nagel, President

Business meeting for the Society for the Study of the American Short Story and the Editorial Board for the new journal.

Topics for the society: forthcoming European conferences; plans for San Diego; should we have society dues? With regard to the journal: the submission process; articles for the first issue; editorial board assistance on attracting new material; content emphasis for the first few volumes.

## Saturday

### Session 6-A: 9:00-10:20 (Orleans A)

#### Reconstruction Stories

Chair: Kathleen Diffley, University of Iowa

1. "Bodily Reconstruction in Charles Chesnutt's 'Po' Sandy'," Candace Waid, University of California, Santa Barbara
2. "Children on/in the Ground: Ambrose Bierce," Shirley Samuels, Cornell University
3. "Telling Tales: Problematizing the Lost Ground Thesis in Jack London's *The Red One*," Gina M. Rossetti, Saint Xavier University

### Session 6-B: 9:00-10:20 (Orleans B)

#### Filming and Performing the African American Short Story

Chair: Trudier Harris, University of Alabama

1. "A Rarity: The Perfectly Matched Film of Ernest J. Gaines's 'The Sky Is Gray'," Trudier Harris, University of Alabama
2. "Over-adapting Wright's 'Long Black Song': How to Mutilate a Short Story in 30 Minutes or Less," Sondra Bickham Washington, University of Alabama
3. "'Here is Where You Turn Back': Performing African American Short Stories," Robin Vander, Xavier University

### Session 6-C: 9:00-10:20 (Orleans D)

#### Adventures in Short Fiction by Authors Famous for Other Genres

Chair: Gail Sinclair, Rollins College

1. "Are Judy O'Grady and the Captain's Lady Really Sisters?: Women in Edna Ferber's Short Fiction," Leslie Petty, Rhodes College
2. "Hard Candy, Black Masseurs, and a Short Story Named Desire: Tennessee Williams's Neglected Short Fiction," Kirk Curnutt, Troy University
3. "Form and Function in Walker Percy's *Lost in the Cosmos: The Last Self-Help Book*," Patrick Bonds, Troy University

**Session 7-A: 10:30-11:50 (Orleans A)****Organized by the Poe Studies Association**

Chair: Steve Rachman, Michigan State University

1. "Poe: Another Look at the Stories," John Gruesser, Sam Houston State University
2. "Poe and Short Fiction," Susan Elizabeth Sweeney, Holy Cross University
3. "The Placeless Space of Consciousness: Fitzgerald's 'Nightmare' and Poe's 'The System of Doctor Tarr and Professor Fether'," Nicole J. Camastra, The O'Neal School

**Session 7-B: 10:30-11:50 (Orleans B)****Louisiana Stories**

Chair: Clara Junker, University of South Denmark

1. "A Dream on the Bayou," Dorri Beam, Syracuse University
2. "Short Narratives by Kate Chopin and Assia Djebar: 'Écriture Feminine' in Dialogue," Fadhila Sidi Said, Mouloud Mammeri University of Tizi Ouzou, (Algeria)
3. "Kate Chopin's 'An Egyptian Cigarette': An Ignored Psychoactive Moment of Truth," Liam Purdon, Doane University

**Session 7-C: 10:30-11:50 (Orleans D)****Organized by the William Faulkner Society****New Approaches to Faulkner**

Chair: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

1. "Faulkner's War Stories: World War I and the Sartoris Stories," David Davis, Mercer University
2. "'Ad Astra': Faulkner's Melancholic Commentary on Transnational Brotherhood," John Wharton Lowe, University of Georgia
3. "Wars Great and Small: An Intertextual Reading of William Faulkner's 'Victory,'" Christopher Rieger, Southeast Missouri University
4. "The Patri-Phallic Fixation in 'A Rose for Emily,'" Jordan Costanza, University of North Carolina, Charlotte

**Lunch: 12:00-1:50**

**(Royal Room)**

**Keynote Address:**

**“Cat in the Rain’:**

**The Craftsman at Work”**

**Scott Donaldson**

**University of William and Mary**

**Session 8-A: 2:00-3:20 (Orleans A)**

**Contemporary Writers**

Chair: Shirley Samuels, Cornell University

1. “John Wideman’s Briefs: Experiments in the Short Story Form,” Keith Byerman, Indiana State University
2. “Embodiment and Sexuality in Gayl Jones’s *White Rat*,” Deborah Wilson, Arkansas Tech University
3. “The Rewriting of Dalton Trevisan’s Short Stories from Periodicals into Book Form,” Leandro Valentin, São Paulo State University (Brazil)
4. “Short Form Thinking in Lydia Davis: A Comparative Study,” Bernardo Palmeirim, University of Lisbon

**Session 8-B: 2:00-3:20 (Orleans B)****Organized by the Kate Chopin International Society****Roundtable Discussion****Indispensable Chopin: The Short Stories that Continue to Shape the Genre**

(No papers will be read. The session will be a discussion among the panelists and the audience. Participation is expected.)

Chair: Leslie Petty, Rhodes College

1. Thomas Bonner, Xavier University of Louisiana
2. Barbara Ewell, Loyola University
3. Susan Moldow, Florida Atlantic University
4. John Staunton, Eastern Michigan University
5. Emily Toth, Louisiana State University

**Session 8-C: 2:00-3:20 (Orleans D)****Mid-Century Writers**

Chair: Olivia Carr Edenfield

1. "‘Just a Little One’: Dorothy Parker and the Creation of *The New Yorker Casual*," Park Bucker, University of South Carolina, Sumter
2. "*Too Far To Go*: The Short and the Long of John Updike’s Maples Story Cycle," Gail Sinclair, Rollins College
3. "Post-Automobile Nostalgia in Breece Pancake’s Short Stories," Megan Flanery, Georgia Southern University

**Session 9-A: 3:30-4:50 (Orleans A)****Nineteenth-Century Issues**

Chair: Jerome Loving, Texas A & M University

1. "‘Jumping Frogs’ and *Roughing It Out West*," Susan L. Roberson, Texas A & M University, Kingsville
2. "The Politics of the Fiction/Nonfiction Boundary: Mark Twain and the Form(s) of Anti-Imperialism," Andrew Levy, Butler University
3. "Latinx Responses to Jack London’s ‘The Mexican’," Jeanne Reesman, University of Texas at San Antonio
4. "‘The Piazza’ Reconsidered: Melville’s Psychological Introduction to *The Piazza Tales*," Brian Elliott, University of Montana Western

**Session 9-B: 3:30-4:50 (Orleans B)**

**Organized by the Eudora Welty Society**

**Eudora Welty's "Moon Lake" Revisited on the 70th Anniversary of Publication**

Chair: Monika Ebert, Montclair University

1. "Moon Lake' Modernism: Rethinking All the Risk in Its Form," Harriet Pollack, College of Charleston
2. "On Adapting Eudora Welty's 'Moon Lake' for Performance," Brenda Currin, Independent Scholar
3. "The Vibrant Matter of Eudora Welty's 'Moon Lake'," Sarah Ford, Baylor University
4. "Moon Lake' Revisited 25 Years After Publishing *The Dragon's Blood: Feminist Intertextuality in Eudora Welty's The Golden Apples*," Rebecca Mark, Tulane University

**Session 9-C: 3:30-4:50 (Orleans D)**

**American Short Fiction between Cultural Mobility and Critical Regionalism**

Chair: Robert C. Clark, College of Coastal Georgia

1. "Black Priants on White Pages: Community, Toni Cade Bambara, and the Short Story," Gérald Preher, Université Catholique de Lille (France)
2. "Affect, Community, and Mobility in the Speculative Fiction of Steven Millhauser and George Saunders," Michael Basseler, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen (Germany)
3. "Beyond Survival: Sense of Belonging in the American Short Story," Fatmah Alharthi, Florida State University

Response: Oliver Scheiding, University of Mainz (Germany)

**Session 10-A: 5:00-6:20 (Orleans A)**

**Multi-Cultural Short Stories**

Chair: Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University

1. "Understanding Sandra Cisneros's 'Never Marry a Mexican' through the Lens of Gloria Anzaldúa's *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*," Dennis B. Ledden, Pennsylvania State University
2. "Liminal Identities in 'Negocios' and 'Invierno' by Junot Diaz," Luisa Sánchez Rivas, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain)
3. "Literacy and Resistance: The Postwar Stories of Hisaye Yamamoto," Nancy Cho, Carleton College

**Session 10-B: 5:00-6:20 (Orleans B)****Organized by the Poe Studies Association****New Studies in Poe**

Chair: Susan Elizabeth Sweeney, Montclair University

1. "The Duc, the Devil, and the Pantaloons," Sandra Tomc, University of British Columbia (Canada)
2. "Some Words with a Mummy' or the Un/American Face of Edgar Poe," Steve Rachman, Michigan State University
3. "Unpacking 'The Oblong Box'," Ellen Weinauer, University of Southern Mississippi
4. "Speculating with Von Kempelen: Poe's Experiment," Caleb Doan, Louisiana State University

**Session 10-C 5:00-6:20 (Orleans D)****Roundtable Discussion: Future issues for the study of the American short story**

(No papers will be read. The panelists will make brief comments and then the discussion will open for audience comments and questions.)

Chair: Jim Nagel, University of Georgia

Panel: Oliver Scheiding, University of Mainz (Germany)  
 Gudrun M. Grabher, University of Innsbruck (Austria)  
 Robert C. Clark, College of Coastal Georgia  
 Trudier Harris, University of Alabama

**6:30-7:30 Reception (Riverview Room)**