

American Poetry

A Symposium Sponsored by
The American Literature Association and
The Society for the Study of American Poetry

November 7 – 9, 2024

Drury Plaza Hotel
Paseo de Peralta
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Conference Director:
Richard Flynn
Georgia Southern University

Keynote Speaker:
Karen Kilcup
University of North Carolina Greensboro

Acknowledgements:

The conference director wishes to express his appreciation to a number of people who provided help with planning the program. Executive Assistant Holly Garrett offered invaluable help with the program and registration; my colleague Olivia Carr Edenfield, Director of the American Literature Association, helped me in numerous ways, offering daily advice and supervising the final program—I appreciate her friendship, trust, and support. The Association and I both thank the Department of English at Georgia Southern University, Department Head Beth Howells, and the College of Arts and Humanities for their continued support. Thanks to our keynote speaker, Karen L. Kilcup, for her address for her friendship. Of course, I offer special thanks to Alfred Bendixen, the founder, Executive Director, and guiding light of the American Literature Association, who handled all the hotel arrangements and who assisted me with planning the program. Alfred went above and beyond this year especially, offering patient assistance with the program as Helene's five-day power outage and a case of Covid-19 caused me difficulties. Most of all, I would like to thank all the participants in this exciting symposium for your patience and your exemplary commitment to poetry and poetry scholarship.

The Drury Plaza Hotel, in which we have gathered to share our scholarly explorations of American literary history and culture, sits on unceded ancestral Tewa Land, specifically O'gha Po'oge, now present-day Santa Fe. The descendants of O'gha Po'oge, the modern day Tewa people, still exist and live in Santa Fe and the local Pueblos of Nambe, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara and Tesuque. We pay our respect to the Indigenous caretakers of these lands and waters, those who came before and those who remain present today.

Thursday October 7, 2024
Opening Reception and Poetry Reading

5:00 – 7:00 pm (Palace A)



2024 Fall Symposium "American Poetry"
Opening Reception
Drury Plaza Hotel, Santa Fe, NM

Poetry READING



Thursday, November 7, 2024
5:00 - 7:00 PM in Palace A



Tommy Archuleta

is Santa Fe, New Mexico's seventh Poet Laureate. He is the author of *Fieldnotes* (Lily Poetry Review/Press) and *Susto* (2023, Center for Literary Publishing). He was featured in the November/December 2023 issue of *Poets & Writers* in their annual "5 Over 50." Archuleta's 2024 community collaborations include the Museum of International Folk Art; the New Mexico School of the Arts; and Maggie Toulouse Oliver, New Mexico Secretary of State. His new manuscript, *Bone Harvest*, awaits publication.



Jenny George

is the author of two poetry collections, *After Image* and *The Dream of Reason*, (Copper Canyon Press). She has received support from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the Iowa Writers Workshop, Lannan Foundation, MacDowell, and Yaddo. Her poems have appeared in *Kenyon Review*, the *New York Times*, *Ploughshares*, *Poetry*, and elsewhere. She lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, where she works in social justice philanthropy.



Elizabeth Jacobson

was the fifth Poet Laureate of Santa Fe, New Mexico and an Academy of American Poets 2020 Laureate Fellow. Her third collection of poems, *There are as Many Songs in the World as Branches of Coral*, is forthcoming from Free Verse Editions, 2025. Her previous Collection, *Not into the Blossoms and Not into the Air*, won the New Measure Poetry Prize, and the 2019 New Mexico-Arizona Book Award for both New Mexico Poetry and Best New Mexico Book.



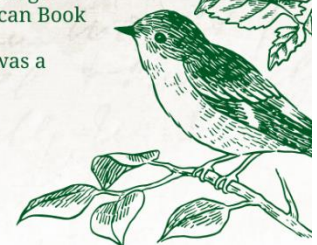
Carol Moldaw

is the author of one novella and seven poetry collections, including *Go Figure*, just released from Four Way Books. A volume of her selected poems translated into Chinese by Sheng Yu is forthcoming from Guangxi Normal University Press (Beijing) in 2025. Her work has been published widely in journals, including *APR*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Georgia Review*, *Poetry*, and *The Yale Review*. She lives in Santa Fe, NM, and teaches privately.



dg nanouk okpik

a Lannan Foundation Fellow, attended Salish Kootenai College, The Institute of American Indian Arts, and Stonecoast College. Okpik's first poetry book, *Corpse Whale*, won The American Book Award, May Sarton Award, and Truman Award. Inupiat dg nanouk okpik's 2022 collection, *Blood Snow*, was a Pulitzer finalist.



ORGANIZED BY
Elizabeth Jacobson

SPONSORED BY
The American Literature Association

Friday, November 8, 2024

Registration 8:00 – 10:00 am (Outside Palace A)

8:30 - 9:45 am

Session 1- A: 19th-Century African-American Poetics (Rivera A)

Chair Noelle Morrissette, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

1. "Nat Turner, Poet? The South Hampton Uprising and the Continuum of Slave Resistance." Jake Fournier, Institute of American Indian Arts
2. "The Poetics of Frances E.W. Harper's Economic Theory." Kristin Allukian, University of South Florida
3. "The University and the Intellectual Lives of Phillis Wheatley and George Moses Horton." J.P. Sloan, Rutgers University
4. "'I felt to work in my head': George Moses Horton's Unwritten Writings." Eliza Richards, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Session 1-B: Hauntology, Documentary, Cyborgs, and Exile (Rivera B)

Chair: Angela Mullis, Rutgers University

1. "Hauntological Poetry: Séance & Exorcism in Philip's *Zong!* and Petrosino's *Hymn for the Black Terrific*." Anne Duncan, University of Washington
2. "Designed Imagination: Russell Atkins and the Documental Turn in Midcentury Black American Poetry." Cary Stough, University of Iowa
3. "Lists in Franny Choi's *Soft Science*: The Possibilities of Agency in Femme Asian American Cyborgs." Hannah Charity, University of Illinois
4. "Continuity in Exile in Joan Naviyuk Kane's 'Disappearance,' 'Composition with Transformed Birds,' and 'Ugivak/King Island.'" Jessica Maucione, Gonzaga University

10:00 am -11:15 am

Session 2-A: Space, Voice, and Mourning in Contemporary American Poetry (Rivera A)

Chair: Anne Duncan, University of Washington

1. "Sorrow as Voice in Claudia Rankine's *The End of the Alphabet*." Angela Mullis, Rutgers University
2. "Claudia Rankine's 'Essays Upon Epitaphs.'" Sarah Berry, University of Dallas
3. "The Sound of Mourning and Transnational Elegy." Hoon Lee, Indiana University
4. "The Spaces that 'Gnaw': Spatial Tactics in Jorie Graham's *Materialism*." Kaley Hutter, Liberty University

Session 2-B: Poetry, Performance and Popular Platforms (Rivera B)

Chair: Wendy Martin, Claremont Graduate University

1. "Post-Secular Transgressions: Mysticism, Mediation, and Poetic Voice in H.D. and Patti Smith." Julius Greve, University of Oldenburg
2. "Anne Waldman's *Fast Speaking Woman*: Chanteuse, Shaman, and 'Concepts of the Oral.'" Kirk Curnutt, Troy University
3. "Songs of Ourselves: The Circulations and Citations of Nineteenth-Century American Poetry on Twitter." Micah Bateman, University of Iowa
4. "Fragmenting Frank O'Hara: Poetry Snippets, Parallel Posts, and Personism in the Social Media Age." Sam Downey, University of Illinois

11:30 am - 12:45 pm

Session 3-A: American Troubadours: Willie Nelson & John Prine (Rivera A)

Moderator: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

1. "Lyrical Paradoxes: Postmodern Irony and Chaos in John Prine's Songwriting." Lawrence Kuhar, Wilkes University
2. "Willie, Weir, and Hank Williams' 'American Zen.'" Ryan Slesinger, Oklahoma State University
3. "Shotgun Willie and the Violence of Storytelling." Patrick Bonds, Troy University

Session 3-B: Language, Economics, and Cultural Practice (Rivera B)

Chair Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University

1. "The Language of Poetry and the Language of the Age, 1790-1850." Kerry Larson, University of Michigan
2. "Economic Features of the New American Poetry." Sam O'Hana, CUNY Graduate Center
3. "How to Stuff a Poet: American Verse and the Anthological Mind." Bruce Michelson, University of Illinois

Registration: 12:45 - 1:00 pm

Lunch Buffet 12:45 – 2:00 pm (Palace A)

2:15 - 3:30 pm

Session 4-A: Philosophical Poetics (Rivera A)

Chair: Robert von Hallberg, Claremont McKenna College

1. "Groundwork of Poetry." Brett Bourbon, University of Dallas
2. "An Ordinary Evening in New Mexico: Wallace Stevens' 'Philosophy of Poetry.'" Leland de la Durantaye, Claremont McKenna College
3. "Avant-Gardes Abroad: Becoming Historical in Leningrad." Dan Blanton, University of California, Berkeley

Session 4-B: Middle Generation Genealogies (Rivera B)

Chair: Richard Flynn, Georgia Southern University

1. "'Queer Light': Henri Cole's Forms of Knowledge." William Fogarty, University of Central Florida
2. "'familiar, unbidden': Lichens in Elizabeth Bishop's Poetry." Shihoko Inoue, Kobo City University of Foreign Studies
3. "'As kingfishers catch fire': Gerard Manley Hopkins in 'The Middle Generation.'" Brett Millier, Middlebury College
4. "Rediscovered Voices: Anne Spencer's Environmental Ethos and the Black Arts Aesthetic." Noelle Morrisette, University of North Carolina, Greensboro

3:45 - 5:00 pm

Session 5-A: Roundtable on Robert Hayden's "How It Strikes a Contemporary" (Rivera A)

Chair: Sarah Berry, University of Dallas

1. Chuyuma Elliott, Case Western Reserve
2. Derik Smith, Claremont McKenna College
3. Robert von Hallberg, Claremont McKenna College

Session 5-B: Modernist and Postmodern: Duration, Collaboration, and Interrelation (Rivera B)

Chair: Richard Flynn, Georgia Southern University

1. "Arrhythmia Daily: Upholding the 'nonlinear lived duration of experience' in Carla Harryman's *Cloud Cantata*." Małgorzata Myk, University of Lodz
2. "'Out of Correspondence Build a Workplace': The Materialization of Collaborative Poetics in *LEGEND*." Carly Heidenfeld, University of New Mexico
3. "'Where nothing is lost': besmilmr brigham's Sensuous Attention." Alicia Wright, University of Denver
4. "'And the place / was water': Lorine Niedecker's Urgent Waves of Verse." Sue Tyburski, Independent Scholar

5:15-7:00 pm
Opening Reception and Keynote Address
Karen L. Kilcup, University of North Carolina Greensboro
"A People's Poetry"

Karen L. Kilcup is the Elizabeth Rosenthal Excellence Professor of English, Environmental & Sustainability Studies, and Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Emerita at UNC Greensboro. Professor Kilcup has broken important new scholarly ground and made valuable contributions to the study of women writers, ecocriticism, children's literature as well as American poetry and poetics. Her recent academic publications include *Who Killed American Poetry?: From National Obsession to Elite Possession* (2019), *Stronger, Truer, Bolder: American Children's Writing, Nature, and the Environment* (2021), and a coedited volume, *The Selected Works of Ora Eddleman Reed: Author, Editor, and Activist for Cherokee Rights* (2024). Her creative work includes the collection *The Art of Restoration* (2023), which received the 2021 Winter Goose Poetry Prize, and her chapbook *Red Appetite* (2023), which received the 2022 Helen Kay Chapbook Poetry Prize. Her forthcoming work includes a second full-length poetry collection, *Feathers and Wedges*.

Saturday November 9, 2024

Registration 8:00 – 10:00 am (Outside Palace A)

8:30 - 9:45 am

Plenary Panel (Palace A)

Contemporary Poetics: A Round Table Discussion

Moderator: Stephanie Burt, Harvard University

1. Andrew Epstein, Florida State University
2. Nikki Skillman, Indiana University
3. Rachel Trousdale, Framingham State University
4. Dorothy Wang, Williams College
5. Hertha Dawn Sweet Wong, University of California, Berkeley
6. Timothy Yu, University of Wisconsin

10:00 - 11:15 am

Session 7-A: Auto/Biographical Poetry and Poetics (Rivera A)

Chair: Micah Bateman, University of Iowa

1. "A delicate cage': The Formative Impact of Early Female Relationships on Richard Brautigan's Poetic Development." Megan R Pickett, The Winchendon School
2. "There at the Creation: Raymond Carver, Charles Bukowski, and 'You Don't Know What Love Is.'" Diane Smith, Writer and Independent Scholar
3. "Clown Cantos." Barbara Mossberg, University of Oregon

Session 7-B: Minding the Gap: Crossing Borders in Ethnic American Poetry (Rivera B)

Organized by The Society for the Study of Multi-Ethnic Literature of the United States (MELUS)

Moderator: Tracy Floreani, Oklahoma City University

1. "'Touch our Last Name': Monumentalizing Migration in Eduardo Corral's *Guillotine*." R. Joyce Garay, New Mexico State University
2. "'We think, therefore we are t/here, therefore t/here is': Tonya Foster's Grammar of Being." Katherine Preston, Brown University
3. "Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Indigenous Restor(y)ation, and 'Land Back' as Reciprocal Relationship in Joy Harjo's *American Sunrise*." Rachel C. Jackson, University of Oklahoma

11:30am - 12:45 pm

Session 8-A: C.D. Wright (Rivera A)

Chair: Julius Greve, University of Oldenburg

1. "'Moving Under My Dress': C.D. Wright and Clothing." Rachel Trousdale, Framingham State University
2. "'Words Appeared / By Which She Wanted to Live': C.D. Wright's Realism." Stephanie Burt, Harvard University
3. "The Right Road Lost: Atmospheric Narrative, Allegory, and America's Original Sin in C.D. Wright's *One With Others*." Jennifer Sperry Steinorth, University of Michigan

Session 8-B: Gendered Forms (Rivera B)

Chair: Wendy Martin, Claremont Graduate University

1. "‘Make it a Woman’s World’: Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s Suffrage Poetry." Leslie Petty, Rhodes College
2. "Slant Truths and ‘Circuit Lies’: Dickinson, Deception, and the Ethics of Dazzling Gradually." Brian P. Elliott, University of Montana Western
3. "‘Mutually Anointing’: Rearticulating Lesbianism in the Poetry of Elsa Gidlow." Grace Vowels, University of Illinois
4. "Gender, Form, and Sentiment in Edna St. Vincent Millay’s Sonnet Sequence *Sonnets from an Ungrafted Tree*." Eleanor Wakefield, University of Oregon

12:45 - 2:00 pm: Box Lunch Discussion Group

Box lunches are available to attendees who wish to participate in the lunch discussion group featured below. If you wish to participate, please pick your lunch outside of Palace B and take your lunch to:

Session 9 (Rivera A): Reading and Writing Poetry: A Discussion Group with Harold Abramowitz and Andrea Quaid

Professors, writers and editors Harold Abramowitz and Andrea Quaid invite you to join a discussion group to explore how our poetry reading practices inform our creative and literary critical writing practices. This discussion group derives from the premise that poets, teachers, and literary critics often hold poetry reading practices that inform their creative and scholarly work, and that acknowledgment of these practices frequently remains personal, tangential, and or consigned to the individual realm. The discussion group will be a generative forum to explore relationships between our reading and writing lives. How do the two intersect? How might one influence the other? As facilitators, we will offer questions and examples to prompt the group’s reflections. We invite you to bring your reading practice – in the form of an influential poem or one of your poems – to share with the group. Participants will have the opportunity to share writing and thinking with each other, followed by a conversation that asks us to reflect on our myriad approaches to poetry, reading and writing.

2:15 - 3:30 pm

Session 10-A: Registering Difference (Rivera A)

Chair: Robert von Hallberg, Claremont McKenna College

1. "Race and Classics: Nicole Sealey's *Ordinary Beast*." Chiyuma Ellyott, Case Western Reserve University
2. "Sound, Semblance, and Signification in Mackey's *Double Trio*." John Beer, Portland State University
3. "The Last of What Has No Currency: Alice Notley's Counter-rational Poetry." Scarlett Higgins, University of New Mexico.

Session 10-B: Ecopoetics: Snyder, Trask, and Berry (Rivera B)

Chair: Sue Tyburski, Independent Scholar

1. "'Tawny Grammar' & 'Indra's Net': An Exploration of Cross-Cultural Ecological Dialogue in Gary Snyder's New Nature Poetics." Sheng Yu, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences
2. "From the Eco-Erotic to the Land Erotic: Animist Kinship Relations in the Poetry of Haunani-Kay Trask and Gary Snyder" Garin Hay, University of California, Davis
3. "'Haunted by the Ghost of an Old Forest': Ecospectrality in the Poetry of Wendell Berry." Carla Barger, University of South Dakota

3:45 - 5:00 pm

Session 11- A: Forms (Rivera A)

Chair: Robert von Hallberg, Claremont McKenna College

1. "Jeffers and Milosz, Arguing about America." Robert Faggen, Claremont McKenna College
2. "August Kleinzahler's Poems on Music." Dustin Simpson, Reed College
3. "Aram Saroyan, Epistolarity, and *The Letter Poem*." Matthew Hofer, University of New Mexico

Session 11-B: Black Aesthetics (Rivera B)

Chair: Makayla Steiner, Brigham Young University

1. "Taboo Bodies, Improvised Bodies: Biopolitics, the Physicality of Language, and the McKoy Twins in Tyehimba Jess's Syncopated Sonnet." Noah Hickman, Brigham Young University
2. "Richard Wright's Anaphora." Candace Waid, University of California, Santa Barbara

5:15 - 6:30 pm

**Plenary Panel: Contemporary Native Poetry and Poetics: A
Roundtable Discussion (Palace A)**

Chair: Jake Fournier, Institute of American Indian Arts

1. dg nanouk okpik (Iñupiak) Institute of American Indian Arts
2. Sara Marie Ortiz (Acoma Pueblo) Poet
3. Jamie Natonabah (Diné) Institute of American Indian Arts
4. James Thomas Stevens (Akwasasne Mohawk) Institute of American Indian Arts

**Call for Papers
American Literature Association
36th Annual Conference**

May 21-24, 2025

The Westin Copley Place
10 Huntington Avenue
Boston, MA 02116

Conference Director: Olivia Carr Edenfield
Georgia Southern University

Conference Fee: \$175
\$125 for Graduate Students, Independent Scholars, and Retired Faculty.

Deadline for Proposals: January 30, 2025

The ALA website contains details and instructions for submitting proposals as well as important information for representatives of participating author societies.

Proposals from individuals and program information from author societies should be sent to Professor Olivia Carr Edenfield via email (carr@georgiasouthern.edu) following the instructions on the website:

www.americanliteratureassociation.org