2011 Complete Digest

Department of English

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Death of Vaclav Havel

Vaclav Havel, a dissident playwright who was jailed by Communists and then went on to become Czech president and a symbol of peace and freedom after leading the bloodless "Velvet Revolution," died at age 75 on Sunday.

http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/12/18/us-czech-havel-idUSTRE7BH08W20111218


Havel's website: http://vaclavhavel.cz/

Medieval Kalamazoo
A collaborative project at Western Michigan University, sponsored by the Medieval Institute, will negotiate the resonances of medieval culture in a modern North American city. The project leaders are Dr. Richard Utz (English) and Dr. Elizabeth C. Teviotdale (Medieval Institute).

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A PUBLIC READING OF ADAM PASSEN'S ENGL 2980 CLASS IN SCREENWRITING!

Casey McKittrick will speak briefly on the practice of screenwriting as an art and a business. The reading is from 10:15-1:15ish in 3025 Brown Hall and PUNCH AND PIE (and some other stuff) will be served! Hope to see you all there --

The two scripts selected for the reading by the students are:

MEET MARIE by Colin McDonnell
Two lifelong friends get sent back to high school to avoid jail time for a party they threw. Their mission: to get close to Marie Carbone, daughter of New York city mobster Nicky Carbone and find some dirt on her father.

COVER YOUR EYES by Adam Stutsman
A madman in a Catholic priest robe and mask kidnaps people to create an "alternate world" where he is God and they are his mankind, by keeping them in an abandoned church.

Adam

Medieval Drama at MLA!
Eve Salisbury is scheduled to preside over a session organized by the Division on Middle English Language and Literature, Excluding Chaucer at the 127th Annual MLA Convention in Seattle, to be held January 5-8, 2012. Entitled Medieval Drama and Performative Theology, the Sunday morning panel (#680 in the program) includes:

1. “Performing Christians Performing Jews,” Sylvia Tomasch, Hunter College, City University of New York

INQUIRE invites submissions (especially from grad students)

Inquire invites article submissions for its fourth issue, scheduled for publication in the summer of 2012. Please refer to the website for submission guidelines and suggested topics of interest: http://inquire.streetmag.org/submissions. An abridged call for papers is included below.

Thank you,

Gabrielle Kristjanson, Editor
Inquire: Journal of Comparative Literature
inquire@ualberta.ca

Call for Papers: Inquire: Journal of Comparative Literature

Literary Violence

Inquire invites article submissions that consider the relationship between literature and violence. The representation of violence in literature is commonplace and complex, occurring by various means (e.g., physical, psychological), in many forms, across all literary traditions, past and present. Literature can expose, challenge or
oppose violent conditions, yet literature can also fall victim to violence, arising from internal (e.g., institutional) or external (e.g., political, economic) forces. In focusing this issue on violence (understood broadly as the exercise or exhibition of force, including any act of oppression, intimidation or unwanted control by individuals or groups, for whatever purpose), Inquire seeks to provide a forum for the investigation of tensions—private and public, regional and global—that speak to the cultural and historical production of identity and community.


Inquire is an international, peer-reviewed journal of comparative literature based at the University of Alberta. Inquiries and submissions can be sent to inquire@ualberta.ca.

*Inquire* particularly seeks graduate student contributions. Also, if you would like to write a book review on the same topic, you can contact: lisaann@ualberta.ca.

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**Congratulations Sean Hoen**

BOMB is pleased and proud to announce the winner and runners-up of our 2011 Fiction Contest, judged by author Rivka Galchen.

This is BOMB’s 5th year holding our fiction contest, and we are excited to reveal the winner of this year’s competition. We’re proud to report that we received over 300 submissions. Canadian-born novelist and essayist Rivka Galchen, author of 2008’s *Atmospheric Disturbances*, winner of the William J. Saroyan International Prize for Fiction, kindly donated her literary expertise to aid us in the difficult process of selecting the contest’s frontrunners. Judging literary merit is never simple, never black-and-white. With due consideration and diligence, Rivka has selected this year’s winner and two runners-up.

Our winner is the short story titled “Label” by Sean Hoen. Sean is a current resident of Brooklyn, but was raised in Dearborn, Michigan. “Label” is his first submission to a literary contest.

This year’s runners-up are “Thirteens” by Richard Weber, a New Yorker currently living in Carouge, Switzerland, and “The Man-Moth” by Naomi Williams of Davis, California.

Congratulations to our winner and runners-up, and here again is a list of this year’s finalists:

“The Last Days of Vander Clyde Broadway” by Christopher Backs

“Letter to Henry Miller” by Suzanne Freeman
“Crisp White Sheets” by Travis Freeman
“A Village in the Country” by Michael Halmshaw
“Aunt Gin in Solipsistic Slope” by Kristopher Jansma
“How to Render Alexa” by Kelly Shriver
“Eta Translator” by Paul Vidich

Thank you to everyone who took the time to submit and patiently awaited the contest’s results.

Episode 5 of the local Kalamazoo ELLE project continues this week, written, directed, and featuring performances by current and former WMU students.

Purchase your ticket by midnight tonight for the eLLe/fuel fundraiser Winter Plate. Dec. 8, and they will feed you a vegan meal by fuel[ unpredictably vegetarian], provide live music and include a viewing of eLLe 5 (a play series inspired by the L
Tickets at $35. Purchase at thisisfire.com under the events tab.

Show alone only $10, $7 for students any of the nights, Thursday through Saturday, 10:00pm.

Shakespeare's Parables
Grace Tiffany's article, "Shakespeare’s Parables," a version of which was presented at the 2011 Renaissance Prose conference at Purdue, will be published in the upcoming issue of the journal Reformation.

Witschi Writes for Art Exhibit
Nic Witschi has been commissioned by Bank of America's Art in Our Communities program to write the official companion essay for an exhibition that will travel to museums around the country over the next few years. Entitled "Searching the Horizon: The Real American West, 1830-1920," the exhibit makes its first stop at the New Britain Museum of America in Connecticut from 26 Nov. 2011 to 4 March 2012.

Steelman Seeking Eden
On November 4 graduate student Sheridan Steelman presented "Seeking Eden: The Power of Paradox in Andrew Marvell’s Poetry" at the Midwest Conference on British Studies, hosted by Indiana State University. Her essay observes that the sacredness of the green world becomes the antithesis of a rude society and therefore medicinal
in its purpose: man will only find Paradise if he leaves God’s work untouched. She discussed Marvell’s poetry in light of colonization and the paradox inherent in man’s need to control.

"Grand Illusion" Premiere 12/4@Kalamazoo 10 ~
new Bentley film starring WMU students, faculty, alum

N.B.: tickets are FREE, but also limited (first-come, first-served) for this one-time screening at the cinema. If you want to be certain, you can reserve a seat in advance by emailing: chuckbentley@gmail.com
On Wednesday, December 7, from 4:10-6:10 pm in 4002 Brown Hall, students in ENGL 4100, Graphic Narratives, will be putting on a poster presentation of their semester projects.

If you have an interest in comics and graphic novels or if you are curious about the sort of scholarship that English students conduct in the field of comics studies, please feel free to attend. You are welcome to bring friends, colleagues, and students. As an added enticement, delicious baked goods will be on offer.

The event is set up in four sessions, each running for a half an hour. During each session, seven students will be standing next to their digital posters, ready to answer questions and to discuss their work. In the past, these sessions have been lively events, where participants and attendees have learned a great deal. Many of the students enrolled in the course are seniors, most of them are members of Sigma Tau Delta, and all of them would welcome the opportunity to show you their work.

Feel free to drop by for a few minutes -- or stay for the whole event!

Posted by Gwen Tarbox at 10:36 AM No comments:

Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Anne Fausto-Sterling visit to WMU ~ 12/1, 12/2
The WMU Department of Anthropology
Gender and Sexuality Speaker Series...

ANNE FAUSTO-STERLING

Nancy Duke Lewis Professor of Biology and Gender Studies
Brown University

"How does a child know it is male or female? From presymbolic to symbolic embodiment"
7-8:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 1
Fetzer Center

Reception following
Free and open to the public

Faculty Seminar

9:30 a.m.
Friday, Dec. 2
Moore Hall Anthropology Seminar Room
RSVP requested but not required to: bilinda.straight@wmich.edu

Special Student Meeting

1 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 2
WMU Center for the Humanities
Knauss Hall
Snacks will be available
We welcome you to join us for our final reading of the Fall 2011 Gwen Frostic Reading Series. We're honored to have three WMU alumni: poet Elizabeth Knapp, fiction writer Melinda Moustakis, and fiction writer Jason Skipper. They will read their work this Thursday, December 1st. The reading will take place at the WMU Bernhard Center, room 157-158, starting at 8:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you there.
Saturday, November 19, 2011
The Fall 2011 issue of *Comparative Drama*, volume 45.3, is now available on-line at Project MUSE. Hard copies will begin mailing in early December. This volume features the following contributions:

**Essays**
Adapting “The Liberal Lover”: Mediterranean Commerce, Political Economy, and Theatrical Form under Richelieu  
Ellen R. Welch

Why did Steele’s *The Lying Lover* fail? Or, The Dangers of Sentimentalism in the Comic Reform Scene  
Aparna Gollapudi

“Allow, accept, be”: Terrence McNally’s Engagement with Hindu Spirituality in *A Perfect Ganesh*  
Raymond Frontain

Opening *The Notebook of Trigorin*: An Analysis of Tennessee Williams’s Adaptation of Chekhov’s *The Seagull*  
Zackary Ross

Play Doctor, Doctor Death: Shaw, Ibsen, and Modern Tragedy  
Bert Cardullo

**Reviews**
*Deathly Experiments: A Study of Icons and Emblems of Mortality in Christopher Marlowe’s Plays*  
by Clayton G. MacKenzie  
reviewed by Clifford Davidson

*Shakespeare’s Freedom*  
by Stephen Greenblatt  
reviewed by Coppélia Kahn

*French Origins of English Tragedy*  
by Richard Hillman  
reviewed by Hassan Melehy

*Shakespeare and His Contemporaries*  
by Jonathan Hart  
reviewed by Hillaire Kallendorf

*Pageantry and Power: A Cultural History of the Early Modern Lord Mayor’s Show, 1585-1639*  
by Tracey Hill  
reviewed by Kara Northway

*Performing Bodies in Pain: Medieval and Post-Modern Martyrs, Mystics, and Artists*
Call for Manuscripts
Knox Robinson Publishing (2010) is unique in that we are an international, independent publisher specializing in historical fiction, historical romance and medieval fantasy. We are keen to sign authors who write in these areas. We welcome the submission of well-written, original and engaging manuscripts in the areas in which we specialize. Unagented manuscripts direct from the author are accepted.
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News
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We are looking for reviewers of our upcoming novels. If you have an interest in our books and you have an active blog or if you are a regular reviewer on sites such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble, we will provide free copies of our upcoming novels in ePub (iBooks and Nook), Mobi (Kindle), or PDF format. Hardcovers and paperbacks are available if essential.

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Medieval Fantasy

In Torquemada’s Spain during the Inquisition, scholar and manuscript hunter Richard Longmoor knows that everything is not always as it seems...Read more

Historical Fiction

Geoffrey Hotspur is one of the most talented squires in the hall of John of Gaunt; but his place rests on the good will of the lady of the hall and she does not suffer fools gladly.... Read more

Historical Romance

Escaping a brutal father, Briony runs to James, the man she loves. With his family’s blessing, they marry and prepare for a new life in a new country – America....Read more

Upcoming Books

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Easter Monday, 1809: Kirkley Hall manor house is mysteriously burgled. When suspicion falls on Jamie Charlton... Read more

ISBN - 978-0-9567901-1-8
Hardcover - 8 December
Paperback & eBook - 6 September 2012

A Viking saga that begins with a fateful kidnapping in Brittany, on to intrigue in Constantinople and ends on a battlefield in England in 1066... Read more

Hardcover - 8 December
Paperback & eBook - 6 September 2012

Podcast with the author available

1494 Barcelona. As Torquemada lights the fires of religious fervor, accused heretics are not the only victims..Read more

Excerpts

The Hermetica of Elysium
1498, Spain

Nadira awoke long before dawn when she felt Marcus roll onto her, his elbow digging into her ribs. He apologized before he got up from his bedding, pulling her to her feet with a strong arm. He passed his hands chastely up and down the sides of her body from her shoulders to her hips.

“Did I crush anything?” His voice was soft and low, a hint of a smile beneath the black beard.

Nadira shook her head, pulling bits of dry grass from her dark braid. He bent double, rolled his bedding with hers. "I spend days keeping you from harm only to squash you myself," he joked, his blue eyes twinkling. The others were moving about as well, gathering the horses and
loading them with bedding and tools. The two boys worked the pack animals while Garreth, already mounted, rode alone up the trail in front of them. Nadira waited until Marcus was ready with his horse, but instead of hauling her up beside him as he had always done before, he led her to one of the packhorses.... Read more

Literally Dead
Chicago, 1935

Ernest Hemingway and I met in the spring of 1935. "April is the cruelest month," a fellow expatriate of his wrote. Hemingway's train from New York was three hours late. Chill rain was falling in Chicago on its arrival. America was in its sixth year of Depression. All that and, to be blunt, the man considered by many as the greatest living prose stylist was just plain pissed about just plain everything.

I recognized him immediately. Broad, large head, bushy mustache, high forehead, and immense eyes were right off the dust jackets of his books. But his mouth was different. I had seen it photographed clenched as he typed. Crinkled with private irony in pictures from the Twenties. Even smiling over a kudu carcass he'd bagged on safari. On the platform of Union Station that mouth was curled in the most malevolent sneer I ever encountered. Despite being forewarned about his volatile moods, I had a duty to perform...Read more

The House of Women
Leeds, England 1870

Montgomery Woodruff scowled at the low, dirty clouds as though they had appeared just to torment him. He tugged at his lapels, jerking his greatcoat close as the wind tried its best to wrestle a way into his inner garments. The end of January had been unrelenting with blizzards, storms and freezing temperatures. Woodruff entered his carriage and yanked at the folded blanket on the seat, his impatience sending it sliding to the floor.

With a muttered oath, he arranged the blanket to better suit his needs, ignoring his clerk who stood dithering in the elements waiting for last minute instructions.

Woodruff sent him a withering glare before a curt command from his driver, Sykes, sent the showy black horses away from the three-storey Georgian building to merge with the traffic in the bustling streets of the great Yorkshire town. Sighing heavily, Woodruff stretched his neck from the starched collar, trying to relax as they traversed around pedestrians and vehicles. Winter gloom and the cold sent most people hurrying home, shop keepers were packing up, women scolded children
towards their own hearths while business men headed for the warmth and smoky atmosphere of expensive clubs... Read more

Harald Hardrada: The Last Viking
Coast of Brittany, 1031

The men from the sea sank for cover in the trees on the far side of the clearing, waiting for the scout to return. Across the glade they grouped together. No word was spoken by any, but a longer shaft of light from the moon lit up bearded faces both tense with expectation and alight with the anticipation of what was to come. Here and there a tongue moistened dry lips, while broken-nailed fingers flexed on the shafts of swords, axes and spears.

At length, the scout returned and spoke in a low murmur to one of the crouching men, one whose face in the moonlight was incongruous in its youthfulness, his only flaw an arm hideously scarred by a crudely administered cauterization.

"Nothing moves, leder. No lights, no sound. What now?" Harald looked about him, gestured to another shadowy form and pointed wide and to the right. "Skallagrim - your party to cut the road."
"Aye, Harald."

Ten men rose and moved off at a trot in the direction given. The main body moved carefully and slowly through the trees until they thinned, revealing the outlines of several buildings clustered about a small, whitewashed church with a bell tower at its seaward end. Harald whistled softly, and two men turned to him.

"Thorkill and Sweyn - to the church," he said. "That bell must not ring. Go."Read more

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Posted by bethlynn at 9:28 AM No comments:
Monday, November 14, 2011

Playwright Carlos Murillo Presents His Work: Fall 2011 Gwen Frostic Reading Series
We welcome you to join us for our fourth reading of the Fall 2011 Gwen Frostic Reading Series. We’re honored to have playwright Carlos Murillo present his work this Thursday, November 17th. The reading will take place at the WMU Bernhard Center, room 157-158, starting at 8:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you there.

Posted by Dustin at 12:44 PM No comments:
Labels: Gwen Frostic Reading Series, playwriting

Seth Abramson & Matthew Guenette
Kalamazoo Book Arts Center

Poets in Print: Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011, 7-9 p.m.
Broadside artists: Elizabeth King and a collaboration between Alta Price and Jonah Koppel
Join us for the Poets in Print reading featuring Seth Abramson and Matthew Guenette. Readings are free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:30 with time to browse current exhibitions, the broadsides and books by the poets available for purchase and signing.

Seth Abramson is the author of two collections of poetry, Northerners, winner of the 2010 Green Rose Prize from New Issues Poetry & Prose, and The Suburban Ecstasies (Ghost Road Press, 2009). He is also the co-author of the forthcoming third edition of The Creative Writing MFA Handbook (Continuum, 2012). In 2008
he was awarded the J. Howard and Barbara M. J. Wood Prize for Poetry, and his poems have appeared in such magazines and anthologies as *Best New Poets 2008*, *American Poetry Review*, *New American Writing*, *Boston Review*, *Colorado Review*, and *New York Quarterly*. A regular contributor to *Poets & Writers* magazine and *The Huffington Post*, he is a graduate of Harvard Law School, the Iowa Writers’ Workshop and is currently a doctoral candidate in English Literature at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.


Kalamazoo Book Arts Center
326 W. Kalamazoo Avenue, Suite 103A
Kalamazoo, MI

*Posted by New Issues Poetry & Prose at 2:42 PM No comments:*

**Nagle has Queer Time in Ireland**
Chris Nagle recently returned from a conference on “Queer Temporalities” held at the Humanities Institute of Ireland, University College Dublin, where he was invited to discuss the recent work of Elizabeth Freeman, whose *Time Binds* conceptualizes *chrononormativity*, *temporal drag*, and *erotohistoriography*, offering one of the most important interventions in queer theory and cultural studies of the past decade. The event was sponsored by The(e)ories: Critical Theory & Sexuality Studies, an interdisciplinary seminar series that has been convened by Noreen Giffney and Michael O’Rourke since 2002, and which has established itself as one of the leading queer theory seminars in the world.

**Sigma Tau Delta to Induct 58 on Sunday, Nov 20**

Inductees, returning members, faculty, and friends of Sigma Tau Delta: Please join us on **Sunday, November 20, at 3 p.m., in 3025 Brown Hall**, as we welcome our Fall 2011 inductees to the Alpha Nu Pi chapter of Sigma Tau Delta. We will induct 58 new members on November 20, making the Fall 2011 induction class the second largest in our chapter’s history.

And thanks to continuing support from faculty, friends of the Department of English, Dean Alex Enyedi and the College of Arts and Sciences for the Sigma Tau Delta Membership Fund, all 58 inductees will receive their lifetime memberships free of charge. (Faculty, friends, alumni: Please [click here](#) if you’d like to contribute to the fund. A gift of only $50 makes it possible to provide a deserving student with a lifetime membership to Sigma Tau Delta.)

The festivities will include (in the immortal words of 2007-08 chapter president Dan Kenzie), a “short but moving ceremony,” with a reception to follow, featuring a cake created by WMU senior and cake baker/decorator extraordinaire Cody Mejeur (Fall 2010 inductee).

Inductees, please invite your family, friends, and significant others. Returning members, please join us in welcoming our new members.

Hope to see everyone on November 20!

**Congratulations to our Fall 2011 inductees:**

Shantell Ann Aiken  
Brittany Marie Aguinaga  
Nicole Lynnae Allen  
Catherine Bailey  
Briana Marie Barnett  
Kalani Barbara Bates  
Michael Berry  
Dustin Brown  
Rosie Sharhonda Capps  
Micah Isaac Carlson  
Emily Chaney
[CANCELLED] Hoad on Wilde and Savagery - Visiting Lecture 11/10

*************************************************************************
PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS EVENT HAS BEEN *CANCELLED* & WILL BE RESCHEDULED FOR A FUTURE DATE TBA!
*************************************************************************

NEVILLE HOAD (University of Texas-Austin)

“Wildean Savagery”

In his lecture Hoad locates Victorian origin narratives, both Darwinian ontogeny/phylogeny recapitulation and Freud’s theories of psychosexual development, as sites which produced curious and deeply imbricated discourses of the primitive and the homosexual. He proceeds to investigate how racial and imperial rhetorics of savagery and sexual deviance became entrenched in the writings of Oscar Wilde as well as in public declarations about the author, particularly during his infamous 1895 trial.

Thursday, November 10, 2011
7:00PM / Knauss 2500 (Center for the Humanities)
a reception will follow

Neville Hoad is an associate professor of English and affiliated faculty with the Center for Women’s and Gender Studies, the Center for African and African American Studies, and the Bernard and Audre Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice. He authored African Intimacies: Race, Homosexuality and Globalization (Minnesota, 2007) and co-edits (with Karen Martin and Graeme Reid) Sex & Politics in South Africa (Double Storey, 2005) and currently is writing a book on the literary and cultural representations of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Sub-Saharan Africa. His areas of research include African and Victorian literature, queer theory, and the history of sexuality.

Posted by CCN at 9:07 AM No comments:
Labels: Fall Scholarly Speakers Schedule, Scholarly Speakers Series
Richard Utz recently published "Negotiating Heritage: Observations on Semantic Concepts, Temporality, and the Centre of the Study of the Cultural Heritage of Medieval Rituals," *Philologie im Netz* 58 (2011): 70-87. This essay is a revised version of a paper originally presented at the "Fifth Conference on the Cultural Heritage of Medieval Rituals" at University of Copenhagen on October 26, 2009. It seeks to review the interdisciplinary scholarship done by the Centre of the Study of the Cultural Heritage of Medieval Rituals, a project funded by the Danish National Research Foundation since 2001, from the perspective of Reinhart Kosellek's work on semantic concepts and temporality, focusing specifically on a 2009 Centre publication: *Negotiating Heritage: Memories of the Middle Ages*, edited by Mette B. Bruun and Stephanie Glaser as volume 4 in Brepols Publishers' book series, *Ritus et Artes: Traditions and Transformations*. By bringing the "father" of conceptual historiography to bear on some of the scholarship in *Negotiating Heritage*, the essay contributes to tracing, from a meta-perspective, the momentous mutations through which Western societies and their scholars continue to conceive their experiences of the medieval past.

Third Coast poem wins Pushcart Prize

Kathleen Flenniken's poem "Horse Latitudes," which appeared in *Third Coast's* Spring 2010 issue, was selected by the editors of the Pushcart Prize series for inclusion in *Pushcart Prize XXXVI: Best of the Small Presses*.
Dr. Dànielle Nicole DeVoss

Friday November 11, 2011 in Brown 1002

Dr. DeVoss is a professor of Professional Writing in the Department of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures at Michigan State University. Her numerous publications include a National Writing Project book, Because Digital Writing Matters (in collaboration with Elyse Eidman-Aadahl and Troy Hicks) and the 2007 Computers and Composition Distinguished Book Award winning title, Digital Writing Research: Technologies, Methodologies, and Ethical Issues (with Heidi McKee). Her work has also appeared in publications such as Computers and Composition; Kairos: A Journal of Rhetoric, Technology, and Pedagogy; The Journal of Popular Culture; among others. See https://www.msu.edu/~devossda/bio.html for a full bio.

WORKSHOP (10:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.)
"Text and Typography"

This hands-on workshop will provide some scaffolding discussion of the importance of text as a design element and documents as designed objects. Participants will look at some theory and scholarship about text—from rhetoric and writing studies and from graphic design. Participants will then explore different typefaces and the ways they can express meaning, and do some downloading, playing, and creating of different designed texts. All participants will leave with a jump drive of teaching materials and readings.

SEMINAR (12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.)
"Digital-Visual Rhetorics: Themes, Issues, and Questions"

This presentation will introduce seven dominant themes, issues, and questions related to issues of digital-visual rhetorics. For each of the themes, Dr. DeVoss will share contemporary, situating theory and scholarship, and also contemporary, circulating examples. After the initial discussion of the seven themes, attendees will discuss the implications of these themes in our teaching and scholarship, and work to identify other emergent themes.

If you would like to attend either the workshop or seminar (or both), please RSVP to Jessica Neuenschwander, jessica.m.neuenschwander@wmich.edu, by Friday Nov. 4, 2011.

Posted by bethlynn at 2:02 PM No comments:
Monday November 14th

6:00pm, Edwin & Mary Meader Rare Book Reading Room (#3016), Waldo Library, WMU

Alison Swan, Adjunct Professor, Western Michigan University

Title: No Complacency: Words, Imagination, and Calls to Action

Description: Award-winning writer and wildlands advocate, Alison Swan, has been immersed in the literary arts for as long as she can remember. Poetry, creative nonfiction, and fiction have been central to her connection and commitment to the wild places that have shaped her. She’ll talk about this, and read from some of the poems and prose she’s written as she works to preserve space for wild nature in an increasingly built-up Michigan.

The lecture series is co-sponsored by the WMU University Center for the Humanities and the Department of English. The reading is free and open to the public.

Monday, October 31, 2011

Poets Gerald Stern and Anne Marie Macari Read Their Work: Fall 2011 Gwen Frostic Reading Series
We welcome you to join us for our third reading of the Fall 2011 Gwen Frostic Reading Series. We’re honored to have poets Gerald Stern and Anne Marie Macari read their work this Thursday, Nov. 3rd. The reading will take place at the WMU Little Theatre, starting at 8:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you there.

Posted by Dustin at 2:40 PM No comments:
Labels: Gwen Frostic Reading Series, Poetry Reading
Friday, October 28, 2011

Medievalism in 2012
As President of the International Society for the Study of Medievalism it is my pleasure to invite you to join us at the 27th Annual International Conference on Medievalism.

With collegial regards,
Richard Utz (Western Michigan University)

The meeting will be hosted by the Kent State University Regional Campuses on October 18-20, 2012, and the focus will be on:

Medievalism(s) & Diversity
Is there diversity in medievalism? How has medievalism represented diversity of religion, race, nationality, ethnicity, sexuality, gender,...? How have medievalist works supported issues concerning equity and inclusion? How have medievalist works oppressed and suppressed? Are there elements of bigotry and discrimination? What about human rights as a medieval concept, as a contemporary concept? Media to consider might include (but are not limited to) any of the following: novels, plays, films, art works, the Internet, television, historical works, political works, comics, video games. Angles to consider might include (but are not limited to) any of the following: race, gender, sexuality, disability/ability, religion, corporation and/or class, nationality, human rights, political correctness, marginalization, anti-marginalization tactics, rewritten codes, rewritten ideologies, re-affirmed codes, re-affirmed ideologies.

Conference Location: Nestled on 200 beautiful acres, yet only minutes from the hustle and bustle of The Strip and Westfield Belden Village Mall, Kent State University at Stark provides a quiet, serene and picturesque setting for students and the community to enjoy. With rolling hills, a pond, walking trail, and a Campus Center and Food Emporium, it is located in Jackson Township, just five minutes from the Akron-Canton Airport and easily accessible from Interstate-77.

Publication Opportunities: Selected papers related to the conference theme will be published in *The Year's Work in Medievalism*.

Deadline: June 1, 2012
Please send paper and/or session proposals to either Carol Robinson (Conference Chair) or to Elizabeth Williamsen (Conference Assistant Chair).

Carol L. Robinson, Conference Chair
International Conference on Medievalism
Kent State University Trumbull 4314 Mahoning Avenue, NW Warren, Ohio 44483
EMAIL: clrobins@kent.edu FAX: 330-437-0490

Elizabeth Williamsen, Conference Assist. Chair
International Conference on Medievalism
Kent State University Stark 6000 Frank Avenue, NW North Canton, Ohio 44720
EMAIL: ewilli46@kent.edu FAX: 330-437-0490

For more information, please visit: [http://www.medievalism.net/](http://www.medievalism.net/)

*Utz presents on Robin Hood, Frenched*

Richard Utz presented a paper, "Robin Hood, Frenched," at the 26th Annual International Congress on Medievalism at the University of New Mexico in
Albuquerque. He also presided over a section that discussed "Camelot on the Small Screen: Enchantment and Authority." The conference was held under the auspices of the International Society for the Study of Medievalism as whose president Utz currently serves.

New Issues Currently Accepting Submission for the First Book Prize

We are currently accepting submissions for our First Book Prize. This year's judge is Jean Valentine:

Jean Valentine won the Yale Younger Poets Award for her first book, Dream Barker, in 1965. Her eleventh book of poetry is Break the Glass, just out from Copper Canyon Press. Her previous collection, Little Boat was published by Wesleyan in 2007. Door in the Mountain: New and Collected Poems 1965–2003 was the winner of the 2004 National Book Award for Poetry. The recipient of the 2009 Wallace Stevens Award from the Academy of American Poets, Valentine has taught at Sarah Lawrence, New York University, and Columbia.

Submissions may be sent to:

New Issues Poetry Prize
New Issues Poetry & Prose
Western Michigan University
1903 W. Michigan Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5463

Entries can also be uploaded to submishmash:

Nagle on Poly Pedagogy

Chris Nagle's essay on “Teaching the Polyamorous (Long) Eighteenth Century” appears as the lead piece in a new special issue on “Eighteenth-Century Studies and the State of Education” in the online journal Digital Defoe: Studies in Defoe and his Contemporaries. The cluster of essays gathered there began as conference presentations from a session devoted to pedagogy at an earlier meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth Century Studies. Nagle’s piece draws from both an introductory pilot course on the subject as well as his seminar from the current semester. The essay can be accessed through the link above.

Wed. November 9, 2011 at 7 p.m. Reading with Judith Rypma
Two WMU Poet with New Book

Judith Rypma, author of Rapunzel's Hair, Forget-Me-Not and Holy Rocks, will be reading from and autographing her new poetry book at Kazoo Books, 2413 Parkview Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008. The reading is free, and refreshments will be served. For more information, e-mail read@kazoobooks.com; or go to the website http://www.kazoobooks.com

Scholarly Speakers Series Presents Dr. Randy Bomer
Dr. Randy Bomer, Associate Professor in the College of Education at University of Texas Austin and Director of the Heart of Texas Writing Project, will give a talk entitled "Building a Literacy Curriculum on Student Strengths: Learning to See What Already Exists" on Thursday, October 27, at 7:00 p.m. in Brown 2028.

On Friday, October 28, Dr. Bomer will lead an informal conversation on "Teaching English for a Better World: Bringing Students into Literacy Practices for Social Change." This will take place at the new University Center for the Humanities (2500 Knauss Hall) from 10-11:30 a.m.

All department members are warmly encouraged to attend both events. Dr. Bomer's visit is co-sponsored by the WMU Department of Education and Human Development and the Third Coast Writing Project.

"The Cannibal War-Machine - Sacred Empowerment and the New World Order"
Presentation date: October 20 at 5:30 pm. at 3025 Brown Hall.

Dr. Whitehead will lead a graduate seminar for faculty and graduate students on October 21 from 10:00 to 11:00 am in 4028 Brown Hall.

Dr. Whitehead's visit has been supported by WMU's Visiting Scholars's series, the Department of Anthropology, Africana Studies, English, and Global Studies and the Haenicke Institute.

Contact Dr. Mustafa Mirzeler for more information regarding Dr. Whitehead's visit to WMU.

Thursday night October 28, 7:00, 2028 Brown
Building a Literacy Curriculum on Student Strengths: Learning to see what already exists
Sometimes, in the rush to pull a curriculum into alignment with official standards, we might neglect to consider the literacy practices in which our students already engage. But as educators have long understood, and as research is increasingly demonstrating, it's necessary to build new learning on the basis of what students already know. This conversation will allow us to become acquainted with strategies for bringing students' existing competence into the English classroom and then connecting those discoveries to the growth of advanced, academic literacies.

Friday morning 10-11:30 (probably in the Brown Humanities Center, room still awaiting confirmation)

Teaching English for a Better World: Bringing students into literacy practices for social change

Reading and writing can position students as powerless or powerful, as passive receptors or active world-changers. Teachers make decisions about the kinds of people who will be produced by the curriculum they offer, and enacting that curriculum, they help create the social world. In this conversation, we will examine first the ways the classroom itself promotes democracy, and second, some of the literacy practices we might make available to students that can build capacity in them to be agents of social justice.

Fiction Writer Sterling Watson Reads His Work: Fall 2011 Gwen Frostic Reading Series
We welcome you to join us for our second reading of the Fall 2011 Gwen Frostic Reading Series. We’re honored to have fiction writer Sterling Watson read his work this Thursday, October 13th. The reading will take place at the WMU Bernhard Center, in room 157-158, starting at 8:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you there.

Posted by Dustin at 1:08 PM No comments: 
Labels: fiction reading, Gwen Frostic Reading Series
Friday, October 7, 2011
Robert Bradley and Karl Sandelin, English Department Distinguished Alumni 2008-2009 and 2009-2010, respectively, visited their academic home department as part of their 2011 Homecoming activities. Both of them took classes with Dr. William R. Brown, the English Department's second chair, after whom Brown Hall was named. Sandelin and Bradley were greatly pleased to see their former professor honored by the new mural recently added on the left of the Brown Hall main entrance. They also visited Richard Utz's ENGL 5300 class on The Matter of Troy in Medieval Literature, speaking to students in the class about their experience at Western and actively participating in classroom discussions about Benoit de St. Maure's *Roman de Troie*, Boccaccio's *Il Filostrato*, and other matters regarding various cultural, literary, and political *translationes* of texts from Classical Antiquity through the Middle Ages.

Mark your calendars for December 1, 2011!
Anne Fausto-Sterling will give a public lecture in Fetzer Auditorium with schedule as follows:
"5 Under 35"
The National Book Foundation’s "5 Under 35" Fiction, 2011

5 Under 35 LogoThe National Book Foundation will recognize the 2011 5 Under 35, five young fiction writers selected by National Book Award Winners and Finalists, on Monday, November 14, once again at powerHouse Arena in DUMBO, Brooklyn. This year’s celebration will be hosted by filmmaker and author John Waters, with poet and National Book Award Finalist Patricia Smith as DJ.

Rebecca Keith, Program Manager at the National Book Foundation, who oversees the 5 Under 35 program, comments, “Host John Waters writes in his essay collection, Role Models, ‘Don’t let me ever hear you say, ‘I can’t read fiction. I only have time for the truth.’ Fiction is the truth, fool!’ This could well be the mantra for 5 Under 35, a program which has honored some of the best young fiction writers in the game since its inception in 2006. We’re pleased to see this year’s list of authors expand into new territory, with John Corey Whaley, the first ever Young Adult novelist honored, and Shani Boianjiu, one of our youngest 5 under 35 authors ever, at 24, who is completing the manuscript for her first novel.”

5 Under 35 Honorees

The 2011 5 Under 35 Honorees are:

* Shani Boianjiu, The People of Forever Are Not Afraid (Hogarth, an imprint of Crown Publishers, forthcoming in 2013)  
  o Selected by Nicole Krauss, National Book Award Fiction Finalist for Great House, 2010

* Danielle Evans, Before You Suffocate Your Own Fool Self (Riverhead Books, 2010)  

* Mary Beth Keane, The Walking People (Mariner Books/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2009)  
  o Selected by Julia Glass, Fiction Winner for Three Junes, 2002

* Melinda Moustakis, Bear Down, Bear North: Alaska Stories (The University of Georgia Press, 2011)  
  o Selected by Jaimy Gordon, Fiction Winner for Lord of Misrule, 2010
Shani Boianjiu was born in Jerusalem in 1987, from an Iraqi and Romanian background. She was raised in a small town on the Lebanese border. At the age of 18, she entered the Israeli Defense Forces and served for two years. She is at work on her first novel, The People of Forever Are Not Afraid.


daniellevaloreevans.com

Mary Beth Keane graduated from Barnard College in 1999, and received an MFA from the University of Virginia in 2005. She was a winner of the Chicago Tribune’s Nelson Algren Prize, and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. One of her stories was selected as a PEN/O. Henry Recommended Story for 2009, and her first novel, The Walking People, received Honorable Mention at the 2010 PEN/Hemingway Awards. She is currently working on her second novel, and lives in Pearl River, New York with her husband and two sons.

marybethkeane.com

Melinda Moustakis was born in Fairbanks, Alaska and raised in Bakersfield, California. She received her MA from UC Davis and her PhD in English and Creative Writing from Western Michigan University. Bear Down, Bear North: Alaska Stories, her first book, won the 2010 Flannery O’Connor Award in Short Fiction. Her stories have appeared in Alaska Quarterly Review, Kenyon Review, Conjunctions, and elsewhere. She is currently a visiting professor at Pacific Lutheran University. www.melindamoustakis.com

John Corey Whaley is a former teacher from Springhill, Louisiana. Where Things Come Back is his first novel. He was named a Spring 2011 Flying Start Author by Publishers Weekly. His novel was a Spring 2011 Okra Pick by the Southern Independent Booksellers Alliance and is currently a nominee for the American Library Association’s Best Fiction for Young Adults 2012. The ABC Children’s Group also included Whaley on their New Voices for Teens Top Ten List this year. He found an agent for Where Things Come Back through www.webook.com, being the first author to do so using this medium, and you can
watch him on YouTube as WeBook’s #1 AgentInbox Success Story. For more information, visit his website, www.johncoreywhaley.com, or follow him @corey_whaley. (Photo by Ashley Bankston)

National Book Award Authors

Julia GlassJulia Glass is the author of Three Junes, winner of the 2002 National Book Award for Fiction; The Whole World Over; I See You Everywhere, winner of the 2009 Binghamton University John Gardner Book Award; and most recently The Widower’s Tale in 2010. She has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the New York Foundation for the Arts, and the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. Her short fiction has won several prizes, and her personal essays have been widely anthologized. She lives in Massachusetts with her family. (Photo by Dennis Cowley)

Jaimy GordonJaimy Gordon’s fourth novel, Lord of Misrule, won the National Book Award for Fiction in 2010, and was a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award; it also won the Tony Ryan Award for the year’s best book about horse racing. Gordon’s previous novels include Bogeywoman, a Los Angeles Times Best Book for 2000, and She Drove Without Stopping, which brought her an Academy-Institute Award from the American Institute of Arts and Letters. She has been a Fellow of the Provincetown Fine Arts Work Center and the Bunting Institute of Radcliffe College. Among her other books are Shamp of the City-Solo and Circumspections from an Equestrian Statue. She has translated several works of Maria Beig from German, most recently Hermine, an Animal Life. Born in Baltimore, Gordon teaches at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo and in the Prague Summer Program for Writers. (Photo by Alan Ritch)

Oscar HijuelosOscar Hijuelos is the international bestselling author of eight novels, including The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love, for which he became the first Latino to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction, and a memoir, Thoughts Without Cigarettes. He has also received the Rome Prize and prestigious grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation. He lives in New York City. (Photo by Dario Acosta)

Nicole KraussNicole Krauss is the author of Great House, which won the ABA Indies Choice Honor Award and the Anisfield-Wolf Award and was a finalist for the National Book Award and shortlisted for the Orange Prize. She is also the author of the international bestseller The History of Love, which was published by W. W. Norton in 2005. It won the William Saroyan International Prize for Writing and France’s Prix du Meilleur Livre Étranger, was named the Amazon.com Editors’ #1 Choice in Literature and Fiction, and was short-listed for the Orange, Médicis, and Femina prizes. Her first novel, Man Walks into a Room, was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Award for First Fiction and was selected as a Los Angeles Times Best Book of 2002. In 2007, Krauss was selected as one of Granta’s Best Young American Novelists, and in 2010, she was included as one of The New Yorker’s 20 under 40 best writers. Her fiction has been published in The New Yorker, Harper’s, Esquire, and Best American Short Stories, and her books have been translated into more than
Robert Stone
Robert Stone is the acclaimed author of seven novels: Dog Soldiers (winner of the National Book Award), A Hall of Mirrors, A Flag for Sunrise, Children of Light, Outerbridge Reach, Damascus Gate, and Bay of Souls. His short-story collection, Bear and His Daughter, was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. His memoir, Prime Green, was published in 2006. The recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship, Stone lives with his wife in New York City. His most recent book, a collection of short stories entitled Fun with Problems, was published in 2010. (Photo by Gigi Kaeser)

The 5 Under 35 Celebration’s Host

John Waters
John Waters is an American filmmaker, actor, writer, and visual artist best known for his cult films, including Hairspray, Pink Flamingos, and Cecil B. DeMented. He is most recently the author of Role Models and lives in Baltimore, Maryland. (Photo by Greg Gorman).

The 5 Under 35 Celebration’s Featured DJ

Patricia Smith
Patricia Smith is the author of six books of poetry, including Blood Dazzler, chronicling the tragedy of Hurricane Katrina, which was a finalist for the 2008 National Book Award, and one of NPR’s top five books of 2008; and Teahouse of the Almighty, a National Poetry Series selection. Shoulda Been Jimi Savannah will be released in spring of 2012. Her work has appeared in Poetry, The Paris Review, TriQuarterly, Tin House, and both Best American Poetry 2011 and Best American Essays 2011. She is a Pushcart Prize winner and a four-time individual champion of the National Poetry Slam, the most successful poet in the competition’s history. She is a professor at the City University of New York/College of Staten Island, and is on the faculty of both Cave Canem and the MFA program of Sierra Nevada College. And she plays good music. http://wordwoman.ws/ (Photo by Rachel Eliza Griffiths)

Our Video Interviewer, Emma Straub

Emma Straub
Emma Straub is the author of the story collection Other People We Married, as well as the forthcoming novel Laura Lamont’s Life in Pictures. She also works as a bookseller at Brooklyn’s BookCourt. Follow her thoughts about books, baked goods, and trashy television @emmastraub, and at www.emmastraub.net.

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syoung@nationalbook.org

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Purdue Conference on the King James Bible
Beth Bradburn and Grace Tiffany presented papers last week at the biannual conference on Renaissance prose at Purdue University, held this year in honor of the 400th anniversary of the first publication of the King James Bible. Beth Bradburn’s paper discussed the KJV’s status as an (or as the) original seventeenth-century prose poem. Grace Tiffany discussed Shakespeare’s adaptation of biblical parables to comedy, history play, and tragedy.

Utz reviews Post-Historical Middle Ages
Richard Utz recently reviewed the following volume for the *Journal of English and Germanic Philology*, 110/4 (2011), 520-22:


The front cover of this essay collection gives equal space to a picture of Karl Marx and a medieval manuscript, but neither of them is at the center of what the editors and contributors really have in mind for their readers. In fact, George Edmondson’s essay on
the “Naked Chaucer” in Brian Helgeland’s 2001 movie A Knight’s Tale may serve to explain why Marx and manuscripts can only serve as backdrops to the scholarship presented in this volume....

Read Complete Review Here.

Posted by Richard Utz at 11:59 AM No comments:

Monday, September 26, 2011

Arnie Johnston as King Lear

Good Morning All,

We are pleased to share with you early reviews of King Lear. Arnie Johnston returns to the Civic as King Lear! Follow the link for information on Johnston along with dates and times of the show.


Posted by bethlynn at 9:06 AM No comments:

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

Dupuis, Tiffany and Witschi Open Scholarly Speakers Series

This semester’s keynote talk in the Scholarly Speakers Series will be given by Professors Meg Dupuis, Grace Tiffany and Nic Witschi. Their presentation, entitled "Collecting Wisdom: Editing as Scholarly Work" will be Thursday, September 29 at 7 p.m. in Brown Hall 3025. All members of the English Department community are warmly invited to attend.

Posted by Beth Bradburn at 2:26 PM No comments:

Poet William Olsen Reads His Work: Fall 2011 Gwen Frostic Reading Series
We welcome you to join us for our first reading of the Fall 2011 Gwen Frostic Reading Series. We’re honored to have WMU faculty member and poet William Olsen read his work this Thursday, Sept. 22nd. The reading will take place at the WMU Bernhard Center, in room 208-209, starting at 8:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you there.

Posted by Dustin at 10:59 AM No comments:
Labels: Gwen Frostic Reading Series, Poetry Reading, William Olsen

Monday, September 19, 2011

Queering Paradigms IV Conference (Rio/July 25-28, 2012)

Call for papers

[CFP page in English -- http://alab.org.br/eventosalab/queering/pag.php?view=article&id=98&
Character of the conference and contributions:

Following the success of the three international, interdisciplinary Queering Paradigms conferences held thus far on three continents, the Interdisciplinary Graduate Program in Applied Linguistics at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), the Graduate Program in Social Memory at the Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro (UNIRIO) and the Brazilian Association of Applied Linguistics (ALAB) are proud to announce Queering Paradigms IV, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from the 25th to the 28th of July, 2012.

Our confirmed keynote speakers are Annamarie Jagose (University of Sydney, Australia), José Quiroga (Emory University, USA), Alípio Sousa Filho (Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte, Brazil), Jack Halberstam (University of Southern California, USA), Luiz Paulo da Moita Lopes (Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil) and Jô Gondar (Federal University of the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).

As in the previous conferences, we use the term 'queer' to refer to an indefinite, borderless domain of non-normative genders, sexualities and bodily practices that is also affiliated with critical analytic approaches, while recognizing that the term does not resonate globally as it emerged from Western experience. 'Queering' thus questions, contrasts, challenges and destabilizes heteronormativity, but is not restricted to it: homo-, class-, religion-, scientific- and academic-normativity are also part of its scope of analysis.

The aim of the conference is thus to analyze the status quo and the future challenges of Queer and LGBTIQ Studies from an ample, inter/multidisciplinary perspective, in order to problematize/destabilize (i.e. to queer) discourses and paradigms. Our intention is to bring together researchers from many countries in an exploration of queer and LGBTIQ social practices, presenting from disciplines as diverse as, but not limited to, anthropology, sociology, language studies, theology, political science, law, social medicine, philosophy, geography and social psychology.

Proposals for Papers and Panels:

Paper and panel proposals are invited on any aspect of Queer or LGBTIQ Studies. They shall be grouped into the following areas:

Queering ethics
Queering institutions
Queering language practices
Queering art and literature
Queering media practices
Queering races and ethnicities
Queering epistemologies and methodologies
Queering activism
Queering temporalities and geographies
Queering bodies, embodiment and identities

The proposals will undergo a peer-review process by our international board of reviewers and should be submitted through our website: http://www.alab.org.br/eventos/queering-paradigms-iv, by 15 December 2011.

Proposals for individual papers: These should take the form of abstracts with a minimum of 1500 and a maximum of 3500 characters, followed by three keywords.

Panel proposals: Panels may have between four and six participants, one of whom shall be the organizer. The submission must include a panel rationale of between 1500 and 3500 characters followed by three keywords, as well as four to six paper abstracts of the same length, each also including three keywords. The organizer is responsible for writing the panel rationale, collecting the participants’ abstracts, and submitting everything together through our website.

Proposals may be submitted, and papers may be presented, in English, Portuguese or Spanish, but due to the international nature of the conference, the use of English is highly encouraged. Abstracts should be written in the intended language of presentation. For those who use English as a second/foreign language, please note that what matters for our conference is not so-called near-native fluency, but rather the ability to communicate ideas clearly, which may be further enhanced by visual props such as slides. Papers may be single- or co-authored. Potential participants may submit up to two proposals.

The proceedings of this conference will be prepared for peer-reviewed
publication in the Queering Paradigms Series, made available by the international academic publishers Peter Lang.

Requests for further information can be sent by email to: queeringparadigms4@gmail.com.

You can also learn more on our website (http://www.alab.org.br/eventos/queering-paradigms-iv), and follow us on Twitter (@QueeringP4) and on our Facebook page (Queering Paradigms 4).
Blog Archive

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The Laureate