Performing the Social
http://www.depts.ttu.edu/english/complit

The TTU Comparative Literature Committee

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“When we seem to have won or lost in terms of certainties, we must, as literature teachers in the classroom, remember such warnings -- let literature teach us that there are no certainties, that the process is open, and that it may be altogether salutary that it is so.”
— Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak,
The Texas Tech Comparative Literature Program presents

Performing the Social

English/Philosophy Building
Texas Tech University
Lubbock, Texas (USA)
Sponsor/Supporter Acknowledgements
The conference organizers wish to thank the following sponsors for their generous contributions to the 2015 Performing the Social symposium:

- Dr. David Roach and the TTU Dean’s Office, College of Arts & Sciences
- Dr. Carol Edwards, Dr. Brian Steele, and the TTU College of Visual & Performing Arts
- Dr. Bruce Clarke, Dr. Rich Rice, Andrea Beaudin, and the TTU Department of English and Media Lab
- Dr. Randy McBee, Dr. Yuan Shu, and the TTU Asian Studies Program
- Dr. Erin Collopy, Dr. John Beusterien, Dr. Anita McChesney, and the TTU Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures Department
- The TTU Comparative Literature Committee
- TTU Department of English Student Volunteers
- Shannon Samson and the TTU Graduate School

Suggested Restaurants near Campus
- Café J, 2605 19th Street, Lubbock, TX 79401, 806.743.5400, www.cafejlubbock.com
- McAlister’s, 2415 19th St, Lubbock TX 79401, 806.740.0022, www.mcalistersdeli.com
- Chili’s, 607 University Avenue, Lubbock, TX 79401, 806.744.2025
Some would argue that performance has always been social. The origins of Western performance are often charted through rituals, liturgy, mysteries, and morality plays, and those of Eastern performance through myth, folklore, poetry, music, and dance. The popularity of plays by Kalidasa, Gao Ming, Shakespeare, Moliere, and others, in their times and beyond it, has depended in part on their ability to represent the social in ways that resonate for audiences today.

In the twentieth and twenty-first centuries, performance has been widely interpreted to include theatrical, cinematic, musical, speech, and gender acts. Following the work of Victor Turner and Richard Schechner, one branch of performance studies, deriving from anthropology and theatre, has examined the religious myths, beliefs, and rituals of Western and non-Western societies, including the continuation and relevance of these in contemporary social life. Some of these ideas have resulted in debates between those who view such studies as an example of cultural tourism versus those who believe that they offer us valuable insights about societies. In theatrical, cinematic, and dance productions where the body is often the cornerstone of performance, the social is invoked to deconstruct the alienated subject of liberalism. In music and art, performance has often been linked to installations and ensemble productions, foregrounding bodies in relation to material objects and compositions. Of particular interest is contemporary work at the intersection of media, performance, and the social by the following artists: Coco Fusco and Guillermo Gomez-Pena from the Americas; William Kentridge, Jane Taylor, and Zanele Muholi from South Africa; Jason Lim and Inder Salim from Asia, among others.

Since the 1980s, the idea of performance and “performativity” has also been applied to gender and sexual identities to develop theories based on linguistic, literary, and philosophical insights by J.L. Austin, Jacques Derrida, and Michel Foucault. As the work of Judith Butler, Eve Sedgwick, and others illustrates, the social involves political actions, affective relations, community formations, and pedagogic practices. Many of these paradigms have shifted and modified to encompass non-Western and variedly geographical, cultural, racial, and sexual experiences.

Encouraging participants to interpret the idea of ‘performance’ and the ‘social’ in broad, interdisciplinary, and innovative ways, Texas Tech University’s Annual Comparative Literature Symposium invites papers on the theme Performing the Social. Conference presenters may explore any aspect of literary, expressive, pedagogic, or activist cultures in global, regional, or national contexts.
Guidelines for Presenters and Moderators

All presentation sessions are 90 minutes in length, and this time is to be used for both presentations and related question and answer sessions.

All individual presentations should be limited to 15-20 minutes, and the floor will be opened for questions only after all of the presentations in a session have concluded. Once all of the presentations are complete, the session’s moderator will open the floor to questions and will coordinate the question and answer process.

Panels should limit their overall presentation to 60 minutes/1 hour and leave the remaining 30 minutes of their session open for questions and answers.

Moderators should introduce all presenters at the start of the related session and should time presenters to make sure presentations remain in the time limits noted above (15-20 minutes for individual presentations and 60 minutes for panel presentations). Moderators should also make sure questions are held until all of the presentations are complete, and once all presentations are done, the moderator should open the floor to questions and coordinate the question and answer process.

TTU Map, Taxis, and Emergency Numbers

Additional maps of the university and Lubbock are available at the hotels and in the Student Union. Both Staybridge Suites and Woodrow House are located on 19th street from across the TTU campus. Taxis to/from hotels/airport are ~$25. City Cab is 806.765.7474 and Yellow Cab is 806.765.7777. Call 911 or Kanika Batra at 806.252.0086 or John Beusterien at 806.787.3727 if you have an emergency.
Program “At-A-Glance”
Additional specifics provided further in the program.

Day 1: Friday (April 10, 2015)
- 8:30-8:45 Pick-up from Staybridge and Woodrow
- 9:00-9:30 Coffee/Tea (English 200)
- 9:30-10:00 Registration and Welcome (English 201)
- 10:15-11:30 Keynote 1: Honor Ford-Smith (English 201)
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch (English 200)
- 12:30-2:00 Publishing workshop with Tani Barlow (English 302)
- 12:30-2:00 African storytelling workshop with David Donkor (English 106)
- 12:30-2:00 Session 1: Performing Gender and Sexuality (English 201)
- 2:00-2:15 Coffee/Tea (English 200)
- 2:15-3:30 Keynote 2: Sangeeta Ray (English 106)
- 3:30-5:00 Session 2A: Interdisciplinary Perspectives (English 201)
- 3:30-5:00 Session 2B: Performing Postcoloniality (English 301)
- 5:00-5:30 Walking tour of campus
- 6:00-9:00 Dinner on your own

Day 2: Saturday (April 11, 2015)
- 8:30-8:45 Pick up from Staybridge and Woodrow
- 9:30-10:00 Coffee/Tea (English 200)
- 10:15-11:30 Keynote 3: Tani Barlow (English 201)
- 11:30-12:30 Lunch (English 200)
- 12:30-2:00 3A Narrative Performances in British Literature (English 201)
- 12:30-2:00 3B Narrative Performances in American Literature (English 302)
- 12:30-2:00 Session 1: Performing Gender and Sexuality (English 201)
- 2:00-2:15 Coffee/Tea (English 200)
- 2:15-3:30 Keynote 4: John Slater (English 201)
- 3:30-5:00 Session 4A: Performing Gender/Class (English 201)
- 3:30- 5:00 Session 4B: Culture, Negotiation, and Identity (English 301)
- 5:00-5:15 Symposium Wrap-Up (English 201)
- 6:30-9:00 Conference Dinner at John Beusterien’s house (2810, 30th Street)
Day 1: Friday
April 10, 2015
9:00–9:30: Registration and Coffee/Tea (English 200)
Please register as soon as possible. See http://english.ttu.edu/complit for more information. If you have time, consider checking out TTU’s Graduate School. See http://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool for more information.

9:30–10:00: Opening Remarks (English 201)
Please join us to meet new colleagues and friends. Bruce Clarke, Chair of English and Kanika Batra, TTU Comparative Literature Program Director, will open.

**TTU College of Arts & Sciences**

**THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES** at Texas Tech offers a wide variety of courses and programs in the arts, humanities, mathematics, social and behavioral sciences, natural sciences, and communications. The largest of the Colleges at Texas Tech, it offers 120 degree programs in 15 departments.

**MAJORS RANGE FROM A to Z**, from Anthropology to Zoology. With 8,333 undergraduate and 1,285 graduate students enrolled in the College, classes may range in size from large lower division lecture courses to more intimate upper division courses and graduate seminars. Whether the course enrollment is large or small, faculty are interested in their students as individuals and make an effort to be accessible for individual conferences or help-sessions outside of class.

**OFFERING A BROAD RANGE OF INSTRUCTION**, Arts & Sciences faculty have a common purpose: to impart the knowledge and skills, the values and attitudes that constitute a liberal education. To help students solve problems, think, and communicate are the primary and essential aims of the College.
10:15–11:30: Keynote 1 (English 106)

Honor Ford-Smith, York University, “Performing the Social: Interventions into Memory and Violence in Jamaican Communities”

Introduction: Kanika Batra

11:30–12:30: Lunch (English 200)

12:30–2:00: Workshop on publishing for graduate students

Tani Barlow, Rice University (English 302)

12:30–2:00: Lecture for undergraduate students

David Donkor, Texas A&M University, “Between the Page and the Stage: Ananse Storytelling and Post-Independence Ghanaian Writing” (English 106)

12:30–2:00: Session 1: Performing Gender and Sexuality (English 201)

Moderator: Marjean Purinton

Marjean Purinton (TTU), “Periperformative Spaces and Social Critique in Georgian Comedy: Frances Burney’s The Witlings (1779-1780) and Mary Robinson’s Nobody (1794)”

Chayanika Saxena, Ashoka University (India), “When Cross Performances are not Emancipating” (via Skype)

Dain Wood (TTU), “The Woman on the Wall: Representing Andromache”

Kenna Neitch (TTU), “Building the City of Ladies on the Grounds of Morality”
2:00–2:15: Coffee/Tea (English 200)

2:15–3:30: Keynote 2 (English 106)

Sangeeta Ray, University of Maryland, “Ecology of Intimacies: An Ethics, Aesthetics and Politics of Reading The Hungry Tide and The Whale Caller”

Introduction: Roger McNamara

3:30–5:00: Session II

2A: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Performing the Social (English 201)

Moderator: Anita McChesney

Wyatt D. Phillips (TTU), “The Revolution will be Colorized: Pop Art as a Trojan Horse for Critical Viewership in 1960s ‘Camp TV’”

Rachel Tudor, Collin College, Plano (Texas), “An Experiential Discourse on the Performance of Gender and its Effect on a Native American Professor’s Affective Relations, Community Formations, and Pedagogic Practices”

Neil D. Anderson (TTU), “Performing Translation: On Footnotes and Fictional Translators in Berta Dávila’s O derradeiro libro de Emma Olsen [Emma Olsen’s Last Book]”

Sumaia Aldubaikh (TTU), “Translating the Quran”

2B: Performing Postcoloniality (English 302)

Moderator: Roger McNamara

Kaveh Rafie, TTU “Disjointing Time and History: An Analysis of William Kentridge’s Drawing-Films”

Kerry Manzo (TTU), “Accounting for Cultural Relevancy in Taiye Selasi’s Ghana Must Go and NoViolet Bulawayo’s We Need New Names?”

Nidhi Kaith (TTU), “Maoism, Mau Mau, and Rebellion in Mahasweta Devi’s Mother of 1084 and Ngugi wa Thiong’o’s Weep Not, Child”

5:00–5:30: Join us for an optional walking tour of campus.
Day 2: Saturday
April 11, 2015
9:30–10:00: Registration and Coffee/Tea (English 200)

Have you had a chance yet to walk around campus? Mornings are cool. You might, for instance, take a stroll to the TTU Library and check out our shared class spaces.

10:15–11:30: Keynote 3 (English 201)
Tani Balow, Rice University, “Commercial Advertising Art in 1840-1940 ‘China’”

Introduction: Yuan Shu

11:30–12:30: Lunch (English 200)

12:30–2:00: Session III

3A: Narrative Performances in British Literature (English 201)

Moderator: Ryan Hackenbracht

Sarah Sprouse (TTU), “Narratives of Invasion: The Expugnatio Hibernica and the Crusade Cycle”

Gaura Narayan, Purchase College, State University of New York, “Performance, Empire, and Narrative in Rudyard Kipling’s Kim”

Alexis Milmine (TTU), “The Loathsome Egyptian Nightmare: Imperial Anxiety in Richard Marsh’s The Beetle”

Troy Gregory, Wayland Baptist University, Plainview (Texas), “Performing Service in Wodehouse”

3B: Narrative Performances in American Literature (Room 302)

Moderator: Wyatt Phillips

Nora Rossbach, Aims Community College, Greeley (Colorado), “The Personal is the Political is the Psychopathological: Subjectivity as Performance in Infinite Jest”

Maria O’Connell, Wayland Baptist University, Plainview (Texas), “Performing Identity: John Grady Cole and Billy Parham’s Spanish in Cormac McCarthy’s Border Trilogy”

Azza Zagouani, Faculty of Arts and Humanities of Kairouan (Tunisia), “Female Subjectivity in Faulkner’s Light in August”
2:00–2:15: Coffee/Tea (English 200)

2:15–3:30: Keynote 4 (English 201)

**John Slater**, University of California at Davis, “The Textual Performance of the Hispanic Baroque: From Lucretius to the Spice Islands”

*Introduction: John Beusterien*

3:30–5:00: Session IV

4A: Performing Gender, Performing Class (English 201)

*Moderator: Gaura Narayan*

**Taryn Gilbert** (TTU), “Performing Migration in Maxine Hong Kingston’s *The Warrior Woman* and *The China Men*”

**Allison Spikes-Gilbert** (TTU), “Linguistic Politeness and Gender Performance in Chang-Rae Lee’s *Native Speaker*”

**Stacey Lea** (TTU), “Virginal Cardigans: Exploring Imperialism’s Performative Effect on Gender and Sexuality in Jessica Hagedorn’s *Dogeaters*”

4B: Culture, Negotiation, and Identity (English 302)

*Moderator: Roger McNamara*

**Robin Michelle Blanchard** (TTU), “Western Adulation Contrasted with Appropriation of Eastern Cultures in Jessica Hagedorn’s *Dogeaters*”

**Brianne Dayley** (TTU), “Embodying the Third Space: Narratives of Negotiation in Hwang’s *M. Butterfly*”

**Josh Osbourn** (TTU), “Post-War Guilt and Japanese Identity in Akira Kurosawa’s *Drunken Angel*”

5:20–5:30: Symposium Wrap-Up (English 201)

Please join Kanika Batra for a quick wrap-up of this year’s symposium, as well as for a special invitation to next year’s symposium.

6:30–8:30: Conference Dinner at John Beusterien’s house

(2810 30th Street, Lubbock)
Participants

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Thanks for attending! Join us next year!

- TTU Graduate School: http://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool
- TTU College of Visual & Performing Arts: http://www.depts.ttu.edu/cvpa
- TTU Department of English: http://www.english.ttu.edu
- TTU Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures: http://www.depts.ttu.edu/classic_modern

Comparative Literature Symposium 2015
See http://english.ttu.edu/complit for information on next year’s symposium! We are gearing up for another excellent conference. Contact Kanika.Batra@ttu.edu for more information.

TTU’s New Quality Enhancement Plan
Bear Our Banners Far and Wide: Communicating in a Global Society is a five-year Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) designed to improve the communication skills and global awareness of Texas Tech University undergraduate students. See http://www.depts.ttu.edu/provost/qep/TTUQualityEnhancementPlan2015.pdf

TTU Undergraduate Minor in Comparative Literature
Comparative literature is designed for students who are interested in critical studies of literatures and cultures across national boundaries. The program provides a minor for the Bachelor of Arts degree. The minor consists of 18 hours of courses, 3 hours of which must be at the 4000 level. Students may apply 6 hours of sophomore-level course work from either the Department of Classical and Modern Languages and Literatures or the Department of English if such course work is not in the student’s major field. Students not majoring in a foreign language must complete at least 3 hours at the junior or senior level in a foreign language. Comparative literature minors must take at least 6 hours from the following courses: CLAS 3350; CLT 4300, 4305, 4317; CMLL 2305; ENGL 3337, 3384, 3389; GERM 2312; HUM 2301, 2302; SLAV 2301; WS 4310. Individual minor programs are arranged by the student and the Director of the Program on Comparative Literature. See http://www.depts.ttu.edu/english/complit/undergradminor.php