The 2008 Texas Tech Comparative Literature Symposium on
“War, Empire, and Culture”
April 11-12, 2008 in the English-Philosophy Building
Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas

Thursday, April 10, 2008

Open Registration
5:00-6:00 p.m., Lubbock Inn Lounge

Film Screening: Why We Fight
7:00-9:00 p.m., English Faculty Meeting Room, English 201
Introduction and Discussion: Crystal Hicks, Texas Tech University

Friday, April 11, 2008

Registration and Morning Coffee
8:30-8:55 a.m., English Student Lounge, English 200

Opening Remark: Yuan Shu, Program Director, Texas Tech University
Welcome Speech: David Roach, Associate Dean, Texas Tech University
9:00-9:15 a.m., English Faculty Meeting Room, English 201

Session I (A): Re-defining the War on Terrorism, Re-thinking the New Imperialism
9:20-10:40 a.m., English Faculty Meeting Room, English 201
Presiding: Patricia Pelley, Texas Tech University

1. “Disaster and Delirium: Self-will Run Riot, the War on Terrorism and Capitalist
Imperialism,” Joyce Goggin, Universiteit van Amsterdam, Netherlands

Toews, York University, Canada

3. “Fake Wars and Rumors of Fake Wars: Representations of War in the Age of
Baudrillard, from Bernstein to Hagedorn to Yepez,” Jason Lagapa, University of Texas
of the Permian Basin

Session I (B): Reconsidering the American War in Vietnam and the Question of
Empire: Truth, Repression, and Rationality
9:20-10:40 a.m., English Media Room, English 352
Presiding: Sara Spurgeon, Texas Tech University
1. “Tell It One More Time: Repetition as ‘Truth’ in O’Brien’s The Things They Carried,” Brian Schneider, University of British Columbia, Canada

2. “Looking While Looking Away”: Repression and the Obliteration of Meaning in A Rumor of War,” Richard Paul Case, Rice University

3. “Why Are We In Vietnam?: From Fug to Fuck with Norman Mailer,” Kate Benjamin, University of Texas at Austin

Coffee Break
10:45-10:55 a.m. English Student Lounge, English 200

Keynote Speech I: John Carlos Rowe, University of Southern California
11:00 -12:00 a.m., English Auditorium, English 001
“The Death of Francis Scott Key and Other Dirges: War, Patriotism, and Music in the New American Studies”

Lunch Break and Reading
12:10-1:10 p.m., English Student Lounge, English 200

Session II (A): Between War and Empire: War Theory, Military Practice, and Digital Heroism in Western Culture
1:20-2:40 p.m., English Faculty Meeting Room, English 201
Presiding: Charles Grair, Texas Tech University

1. “Clausewitz’s Trinity as General Theory of War,” Andreas Herberg-Rothe, Institute for Social Sciences, Humboldt-University in Berlin, Germany

2. “‘A Military Job from Beginning to End’: Dashiell Hammett, Noir, and the Context of Global War,” Steve Carter, University of California at Santa Cruz

3. “Digital Heroism in the Videogame and its Effects upon the Imagining Of the Soldier Hero in Western Culture,” Gareth Crabtree, University of Manchester, United Kingdom

Session II (B): In the Transnational Context: Empire, Ethnicity, and Women of Silences
1:20-2:40 p.m., English Media Room, English 352
Presiding: John Beusterien, Texas Tech University

1. “The War in Nicaragua: Filibusters and the Transnational Print Cultures of Empire,” Adam Lewis, University of California at San Diego

3. “Silences Revisited: Women, War, and (Re)-Memory through a Methodology of Transnational Feminism,” Annie Fukushima, University of California at Berkeley

Tea Break
2:45-2:55 p.m., Student Lounge, English 200

Keynote Speech II: Viet Thanh Nguyen, University of Southern California
3:00-4:00 p.m., English Lecture Hall, English 106
“Impossible to Forget, Difficult to Remember: The American War in Viet Nam”

Session III (A): State Surveillance, Past and Present: Re-reading the Body, Re-creating the Pax Americana
4:10-5:30 p.m., English Faculty Meeting Room, English 201
Presiding: Kanika Batra, Texas Tech University

1. “Deceptive Documents: Rethinking State Surveillance of Gender-Nonconforming Bodies,” Toby Beauchamp, University of California at Davis

2. “Illustrating the Postwar Peace: Miné Okubo, Fortune Magazine, and the Pax Americana in the Pacific Rim,” Christine Hong, University of California at Berkeley


Session III (B): In Our Own Words: Portraits of Brooklyn's Vietnam Veterans
4:10-5:30 a.m., English Media Room, English 352
Presiding: Laura Calkins, Texas Tech University

Curators of “In Our Own Words: Portraits of Brooklyn's Vietnam Veterans,” the first show in the Brooklyn Historical Society's new Oral History Gallery, will present on the valuable confluences that resulted from this interdisciplinary collaboration among the academic, artistic, museum, history, radio, education, and veteran worlds.

Topics to be discussed: Engaging oral history narrators with the presentation of their own stories; meaningfully connecting past and present, particularly regarding the current situation in Iraq.

1. Philip Napoli, Professor of History at Brooklyn College (CUNY)

2. Kate Fermoile, Vice President for Exhibits and Education at the Brooklyn Historical Society

3. Alison Cornyn, Photographer and Founding Partner and Director of Picture Projects
4. Sady Sullivan, Oral History Program Coordinator at the Brooklyn Historical Society

Banquet:
6:30-8:00 p.m., Lin’s Asian Buffet Restaurant (5608 Slide Road)
(Its regular buffet items contain Japanese sushi bar, vegetarian salad bar, Mongolian grill, Chinese stir fries, Italian pasta, and American steaks. Its special items for the banquet include roast duckling, whole fish, sea food mix, sea food soup, and fresh Asian vegetables. All soft drinks and teas are covered.)

Saturday, April 12, 2007

Morning Coffee
8:30-8:55 a.m., English Student Lounge, English 200

Session IV (A): Re-reading Imperialism, Re-visiting History: Politics, Memory, and the Rhetoric of Conflict
9:00-10:20 a.m., English Faculty Meeting Room, English 201
Presiding: James Whitlark, Texas Tech University

1. “Defining Terrorism: Sino-Japanese Conflict in Tianjin, China, 1931-1945,” Brett Sheehan, University of Southern California

2. “The Memoir of an Aggressor: Tamura Taijiro’s War Literature,” Kazuko Masumitsu, University of Alberta, Canada

3. “A False History: Challenging the Rhetorical Location of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” Morgan Cooper, University of Hawai’i at Manoa

Session IV (B): The Return of the Repressed: Rethinking Violence, Rewriting History
9:00-10:20 a.m., English Media Room, English 352
Presiding: Kanika Batra, Texas Tech University

1. “Analogous Atrocities? Comparing the My Lai and Cassinga Massacres,” Gary Barnes, Rhodes University, South Africa

2. “Agent Orange (dioxin toxic): Race, War, and Military Violence,” Ngocnga Nguyen, University of California at San Diego

3. “Comparing and Contrasting the Representation of the American War in Vietnam in High School History Textbooks in Vietnam and in America,” Titi Mary Tran, California State University at Long Beach

Coffee Break
10:25-10:35 a.m., English Student Lounge, English 200
Keynote Speech III: Caren Kaplan, University of California at Davis  
10:40-11:40 p.m., English Lecture Hall, English 106  
“Endless War: Cosmopolitanism and the Neoliberal Subjects of Technology”

Lunch Break and Reading  
11:45-12:40 p.m., English Student Lounge, English 200

Session V (A): War, History, and Popular Culture  
12:45-2:05 p.m., English Faculty Meeting Room, English 201  
Presiding: Ann Ransdell, Texas Tech University

1. “Ghost Tour, Spectral War: the Making of Friends and Enemies in Popular U.S. Culture,” Benjamin D’Harlingue, University of California at Davis


3. “A Farewell to the Ivory Tower? The Literary Review Decision and American-European Cooperation in 1941,” Elisabeth Marie Piller, University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Session V (B): Culture, Media, and Warfare  
12:45-2:05 p.m., English Media Room, English 352  
Presiding: Priscilla Ybarra, Texas Tech University


2. “American and Western Influences on the Development of the Federal Republic of Germany,” Bryan Treadway, Texas Tech University

3. “Humanizing War on Television: Rod Serling’s ‘A Quality of Mercy’,” James C. Jones, Texas Tech University

Tour of the Vietnam Archive: Stephen F. Maxner, Texas Tech University  
2:15-3:15 p.m., Exhibition Room, Southwest Special Collections Building  
Introduction, Tour, and Exhibition  
(Items vary from the recently recovered diary of Dr. Dang Thuy Tram to the correspondence between American soldiers and their families to the collection of comic books during the American War in Vietnam period.)

Tea Break  
3:20-3:30 p.m., Student Lounge, English 200
Session VI (A): Literary Representation, Cultural Projection, and Historical Re-contextualization  
3:35-4:55 p.m., English Faculty Meeting Room, English 201  
Presiding: Yuan Shu, Texas Tech University  

1. “Metafiction and Appalling Paradox: Bao Ninh’s *The Sorrow of War*,” Ann Ransdell, Texas Tech University  


3. “The Post-globalization of Culture in Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road*,” Andrew Joseph Husband, Sam Houston University  

Session VI (B): War, Women, and Representation  
3:35-4:55 p.m., English Media Room, English 352  
Presiding: Priscilla Ybarra, Texas Tech University  


2. “From Bin Lids in the Bogside: Derry, Northern Ireland Women and the Home/War Front,” Elizabeth MacCrossan, University of Texas at San Antonio  

3. “Pawn Takes Pawn: The Marginalization of Cultures in Michael Cimino’s *The Deer Hunter*,” Spencer Ingram, Texas Tech University  

Session VII: Dystopia, Hybridity, and the Cultural Representation of the Other  
5:00-6:20 p.m., English Faculty Meeting Room, English 201  
Presiding: Yuan Shu, Texas Tech University  

1. “Dystopia Versus Utopia in Kurt Vonnegut’s *Slaughterhouse-Five*,” Quan Manh Ha, Texas Tech University  


4. “Less than Human: Portrayal of Criminals in America,” Rosemarie Caldwell, University of the Incarnate Word  

Symposium Wrap-up: Yuan Shu, Texas Tech University  
6:20-6:30 p.m., Faculty Meeting Room, English 201  

7:00 p.m., Dinner at Texas Land and Cattle Steak House (7202 Indiana Ave)