

# *Transnational American Studies Revisited*

The 56th Comparative Literature Symposium  
at Texas Tech University

April 12–13, 2024



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Department of English™



# **The 56<sup>th</sup> Comparative Literature Symposium**


**Texas Tech University**

***Transnational American Studies Revisited***

April 12-13, 2024 (Central Standard Time)  
Texas Tech University Humanities Building

This year's symposium is generously supported by the Texas Tech University's Office of Research & Innovation, the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office, the Office of Faculty Success, and the Departments of English, History, and Classical and Modern Languages & Literatures.

# Friday, April 12, 2024

<p><b>8:30-8:55 AM</b></p> <p><i>English Student Lounge, Humanities 200</i></p>	<p>Registration and Morning Coffee</p> 
<p><b>9:00-9:15 AM</b></p> <p><i>Faculty Meeting Room, Humanities 201</i></p>	<p><b>Welcome from Texas Tech University President, Lawrence Schovanec</b></p> <p><b>Opening Remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Michael Faris, Chair of the English Department</li><li>• Yuan Shu, Director of the Comparative Literature Program</li></ul>
<p><b>9:20 -10:20 AM</b></p> <p><i>Faculty Meeting Room, Humanities 201</i></p>	<p><b>Keynote Lecture I: Shelley Fisher Fishkin</b>, Stanford University, “Transnational American Studies: The Last Twenty Years”</p> <p>Moderator: Yuan Shu, Texas Tech University</p>
<p><b>10:20-10:30 AM</b></p>	<p>Coffee Break</p>
<p><b>10:30-12:00 PM</b></p> <p>CONCURRENT SESSION 1</p> <p><b>1A</b></p> <p><i>Faculty Meeting Room, Humanities 201</i></p>	<p><b>Remapping the Black Atlantic, Rethinking Transnational Feminist Identity Strategies</b></p> <p>Moderator: Marta Kvande, Texas Tech University</p> <p>“Finding a Clewe: Nella Larsen’s <i>Quicksand</i>, Ariadne’s Labyrinth, and U.S. Identity Politics,” Bonnie Roos, West Texas A&amp;M University</p> <p>“Remapping the Black Atlantic in Yaa Gyasi’s <i>Homegoing</i> and Bernardine Evaristo’s <i>Blonde Roots</i>,” Marian Ofori-Amofo, the University of Bayreuth, Germany</p> <p>“Transnational Itineraries of Black Feminist Freedom Faith,” Kanika Batra, Texas Tech University</p>

10:30-12:00 PM

**Americanization, Translational Imagination, And  
Performativity Of Queer Citizenship**

CONCURRENT SESSION 1

Moderator: Nesrine Chahine, Texas Tech University

**1B**

*Humanities 359*

“Have You Read Oscar Wilde?": Performing Queer  
Citizenship Across Law And Literature,” Namrata  
Verghese, Stanford University

“Paradigm Shift in Translation Studies: A Case Study Of  
Eugene Peterson's *The Message*,” Sarah Mariam Roy,  
Woxsen University, India

“The American Role in Kazuo Ishiguro’s Early Works,”  
Shu-Tan Lin, Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages,  
Taiwan

12:00-1:30 PM

*Leaving From English  
Faculty Lounge,  
Humanities 209*

*Formby Room, Southwest  
Collection Building 105*

**Lunch Break and Tour of TTU Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive**

(Artifacts including “The Diary of Dang Thuy Tram” translated  
and published as *Last Night I Dreamed of Peace*)

Curating: Sheon Montgomery, Texas Tech University

1:30-2:30 PM

*Faculty Meeting Room,  
Humanities 201*

**Keynote Lecture II: Brian Roberts**, Brigham Young University,  
“Translate Like an Archipelago: Archipelagic Thinking and  
Translation in the Americas”

Moderator: Jacqueline Kolosov, Texas Tech University

2:40-4:10 PM

CONCURRENT SESSION 2

**2A**

*Faculty Meeting Room,  
Humanities 201*

**The Black Pacific, the Politics of Forgetting and  
Remembering, and the Representation of Amerasians**

Moderator: Kanika Batra, Texas Tech University

“The Korean War and the Black Pacific: The  
Representation of Black Soldiers and Black-Korean  
Girls in 1950s South Korea,” Hyo Kyung Woo, Edward  
Waters University

“The Politics of Forgetting and [Re]Membering within  
the Transnational Korean American Family,” Sara Lee,  
Hofstra University

	<p>“Claiming Transnational ‘Asian America’: The Representation of Eurasians in the Works of the Eaton Sisters,” Yuki Matsumoto, Kindai University, Japan</p>
<p><b>2:40-4:10 PM</b> CONCURRENT SESSION 2  <b>2B</b>  <i>Humanities 359</i></p>	<p><b>Aesthetic-Industrial Complex, “Great” Vietnam War Novels, and the Vietnam Women’s Memorial</b> Moderator: Jen Shelton, Texas Tech University</p> <p>“Aesthetic-Industrial Complex: How the American ‘Barbie’ Evokes a Sino-Vietnamese Ocean of Pain,” Quynh H. Vo, American University in Washington D.C.</p> <p>“The ‘Great’ Vietnam War Novel and the Early Days of Vietnam War Literary Criticism,” Kevin M. Gibbs, the University of Texas at Austin</p> <p>“Forget Me Not: The Vietnam Women’s Memorial,” Winona Doubrava, Texas Tech University</p>
<p><b>4:10-4:20 PM</b></p>	<p>Tea Break</p>
<p><b>4:20-6:00 PM</b> CONCURRENT SESSION 3  <b>3A</b>  <i>Faculty Meeting Room, Humanities 201</i></p>	<p><b>Rereading Enlightenment and Environmentalism, Rethinking Trans-indigeneity and Necropolitical Technologies</b> Moderator: Roger McNamara, Texas Tech University</p> <p>“Slavery and the Origins of Environmentalism: Enlightenment Era Naturalists and the Study of Climate Change on Plantations (1763-1865),” Francesco Yugiro Asano, New York University</p> <p>“Transnational or Trans-indigenous? Reading Indigenous Literatures across Boundaries in the U.S. and Norway,” Brad Buckhalter, Texas Tech University</p> <p>“Reading Tanya Tagaq’s Split Tooth: Indigeneity, Settler Colonialism, and Necropolitical Technologies,” Jennifer Tubbs, Texas Tech University</p>
<p><b>4:20-6:00 PM</b> CONCURRENT SESSION 3  <b>3B</b>  <i>Humanities 359</i></p>	<p><b>Cross-Cultural Adoptive Storybooks, French and American Cuisine, and Commodification of Authenticity</b> Moderator: Elissa Zellinger, Texas Tech University</p> <p>“Representations of Birth Country Characteristics in Cross-national Adoptive Storybooks,” Jacki Fitzpatrick, Texas Tech University</p>


“The Transnational Development of ‘French’ and ‘American’ Restaurants,” Ben Poole, Texas Tech University

“Tom’s European Fantasies: Commodifying Authenticity in *The Talented Mr. Ripley*,” Jaxon Parker, Villanova University

**Afterward:** Dinner at Longhorn Steakhouse



# Saturday, April 13, 2024

<p><b>9:00 -10:00 AM</b></p> <p><i>Faculty Meeting Room, Humanities 201</i></p>	<p><b>Keynote Lecture III: King-Kok Cheung</b>, University of California, Los Angeles, ““Surprised by Sin’: Confessions of a Cantonese Dame on Reading Fae Myenne Ng’s <i>Orphan Bachelors</i>”</p> <p>Moderator: Kanika Batra, Texas Tech University</p>
<p><b>10:00-10:10 AM</b></p>	<p>Coffee Break</p> 
<p><b>10:10-11:40 AM</b></p> <p>CONCURRENT SESSION 4</p> <p><b>4A</b></p> <p><i>Faculty Meeting Room, Humanities 201</i></p>	<p><b>Capitalocene, Transnational Inheritance, and the US-Mexico Border</b></p> <p>Moderator: Yuan Shu, Texas Tech University</p> <p>“Transnational California of the Capitalocene: Susan Straight’s Trilogy,” Katarzyna Nowak-McNeice, the University of Wroclaw, Poland</p> <p>“Reading Heirs: Transnational Inheritance in the U.S. Literary Imagination,” Iana Robitaille, the University of Texas at Austin</p> <p>“My Heart Is Half There: The Border and Mobility in Valeria Luiselli’s <i>Lost Children Archive</i>,” Catarina Moura, the New University of Lisbon, Portugal</p>
<p><b>10:10-11:40 PM</b></p> <p>CONCURRENT SESSION 4</p> <p><b>4B</b></p> <p><i>Humanities 359</i></p>	<p><b>Assimilation, Community, and Re-assessment of a Transborder Translation Literature</b></p> <p>Moderator: Kanika Batra, Texas Tech University</p> <p>“Examining Narratives of Perceived Assimilation and Meek Surrender in Bharati Mukherjee’s <i>Jasmine</i> and Jhumpa Lahiri’s <i>Hell-Heaven</i>,” Abhipriya Priyadarshi, the University of Texas in Dallas</p>

“Self, Place, and Community in Louise Glück’s Poetry,”  
Alice Carletto, the New University of Lisbon, Portugal

“Reassessing Haruki Murakami’s Work as ‘Trans-  
border Translational Literature,’” Hideyuki Yamamoto,  
Kobe University, Japan

**11:40-1:10 PM**

*Faculty Meeting Room,  
Humanities 201*

**Lunch Break and Special Forum: Thinking Globally and  
Writing Locally: The Practice of Transnational American  
Studies**

Moderator: Yuan Shu, Texas Tech University

Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Co-founder of *The Journal of  
Transnational American Studies* and Book Series Editor  
at Oxford University Press, Stanford University

Alfred Hornung, Editor-in-Chief of *The Journal of  
Transnational American Studies*, the Johannes  
Gutenberg University in Mainz, Germany

King-Kok Cheung, Special Advisor to the US-China  
Education Trust, the University of California, Los  
Angeles

Brian Russell Roberts, Two-term Fulbright Senior  
Scholar to Indonesia, Brigham Young University

**1:20-2:20 PM**

*Faculty Meeting Room,  
Humanities 201*

**Keynote Lecture IV: Alfred Hornung**, Johannes Gutenberg  
University, “The Transnational Work of African American  
Women in Germany: Angela Davis, Audre Lorde, and Mary  
Church Terrell”

Moderator: Carmen Pereira, Texas Tech University

**2:30-4:10 AM**

CONCURRENT SESSION 5

**5A**

*Faculty Meeting Room,  
Humanities 201*

**Mapping a Transnational Morrison: Perspectives from the  
Arab World**

Moderator: Nesrine Chahine, Texas Tech University

“Precarity, Identity, and Women’s Working conditions  
in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved* and Saud Al Sanousi’s  
*Bamboo Stalk*,” Feroza Jussawalla, the University of  
New Mexico

“Familicide and Fratricide in Naguib Mahfouz’s *The  
Beginning and the End* and Morrison’s *Sula*,” Doaa  
Omran, the University of New Mexico



	<p>“In the Wake of Toni Morrison: Navigating <i>Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and The Literary Imagination</i> in Suhair Hammad’s <i>Born Palestinian, Born Black</i>,” Nada I. Tayem, Indiana University of Pennsylvania</p> <p>“The Hard Road Home: Gendered Liminal Spaces in Toni Morrison’s <i>Beloved</i> and Hanan al-Shaykh’s <i>The Story of Zahra</i>,” Tanja Stampfl, University of the Incarnate Word</p>
<p><b>2:30-4:10 AM</b></p> <p>CONCURRENT SESSION 5</p> <p><b>5B</b></p> <p><i>Humanities 359</i></p>	<p><b>Genealogy, Indigeneity, and Ghosts of Colonialism</b> Moderator: Sara Spurgeon, Texas Tech University</p> <p>“Narrative Genealogy– The Chinese American Experience in Kingston’s <i>China Men</i>,” Nana Nyarko Boateng, Texas Tech University</p> <p>“Ghosts of Colonialism in a Global City--Reading Hagedorn’s <i>Dogeaters</i>,” Lauren Smithwick, Texas Tech University</p> <p>“Reconciling Indigenous and American Identities in <i>Reservation Dogs</i>,” Manish Pandey, Texas Tech University</p> <p>“Where the Revenge Takes Place: <i>The Only Good Indians</i>,” Sungbean Son, Texas Tech University</p>
<p><b>4:10-4:20 PM</b></p>	<p>Tea Break</p>
<p><b>4:20-6:00 AM</b></p> <p>CONCURRENT SESSION 6</p> <p><b>6A</b></p> <p><i>Faculty Meeting Room, Humanities 201</i></p>	<p><b>Godzilla, Superhero, and Phantasies of the Public and Private</b> Moderator: Cordelia Barera, Texas Tech University</p> <p>“‘Photo-bomb the planet’: Rae Armantrout’s Transnational Imperative,” Rob Stanton, South University</p> <p>“<i>Godzilla</i> and the Nuclear Shadow in the Transpacific,” Lance Lomax, Texas Tech University</p> <p>“Superheroes, Teenage Children, and Iconic Villains in Modern Cinema,” Julia Giacomet Thomazoni, Texas Tech University</p>

“Desire and Madness: M. Butterfly and the Public and Private Fantasies of David Cronenberg,” Michael Moriarty, Texas Tech University

**4:20-6:00 AM**

CONCURRENT SESSION 6

**6B**

*Humanities 359*

**Disconnections, Delicate Harmony, and Deconstruction of White Mysticism**

Moderator: Lucas Wood, Texas Tech University

“‘You Fail in Some Measure Always’: Disconnections of Identity in Chang-rae Lee’s *A Gesture Life*,” Garrett Akins, Texas Tech University

“Japanese ‘Delicate Harmony’ in Chang-rae Lee’s *A Gesture Life*,” Carie King, Texas Tech University

“From *Blood Meridian* to *Red Dead Redemption*: Deconstructing White Mysticism as a Savior Model for the Transnational West,” Vincent Crowson, Texas Tech University

“The Sea of Differences: from Walt Whitman to Jorie Graham,” Jaeden McCarter, Texas Tech University

**6:10 PM**

*Faculty Meeting Room,  
Humanities 201*

**Symposium Wrap-up**

Yuan Shu, Texas Tech University

**7:30 PM – SYMPOSIUM BANQUET**

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