McGill English Graduate Students Association 16th Annual Conference

A Measure of Place: Space in Text and Context

Friday, February 5th 2010

Session One: 1:30 – 3:00 PM

Open Access Seminar: Dr. Brent Nelson (University of Saskatchewan)

Board Room One

Session Two: 3:15 – 4:45 PM

Panel One: Politics of Space in Film and Television

Board Room One

Chair: Amanda Tripp

Nathan Koob (University of Michigan)

“Divided Attention: The Split Screen Effect’s Theorization of Space.”

Simon Lewsen (McGill University)

“Formal Power/Informal Space: Conservative Fantasies in Christopher Nolan’s The Dark Knight.”
Myles McNutt (Acadia University)

“A Canadian in an American Sitcom: The Spatial Construction of Identity in How I Met Your Mother.”

Panel Two: New Dimensions, New Perspectives

Board Room Two

Chair: Benjamin Barootes

Naben Ruthnum (McGill University)

“Secular Maps of Hell: Weird Dimensionality in the Stories of H.P. Lovecraft.”

Dominique Bauer (University of Louvain)

“From Constructing to Dissolving Empirical Space: The Fortunes of the Tableau

Jayne Hildebrandt (Concordia University)

“Waking and Finding: Dreaming, Interiority, and the Relativization of Space in Paradise Lost”

Panel Three: Border Crossings

Board Room Three

Chair: TBA

Kiara Kharpertian (Boston College)


Aya Latifa Gaddas (Université de Montréal)
“Borders Unsettled, Borders Resettled: Contemporary Geopolitical Mapping at the Mexican-American Border in Sandra Cisnero’s *The Woman Hollering Creek.*”

Mayassa Zouaghi (Université de Montréal)

“‘Transit Lives’: Exportability, Deportability, and the Reversal of Global Traffic Borders in Abdurrahman Waberi’s *Transit* and *In the United States of Africa.*”

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**Session Three: 5:00 – 6:30 PM**

**Faculty Address: Dr. Alanna Thain (McGill University)**

*Ballroom*

“Anarchive.”

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**Saturday, February 6th, 2010**

**8:00 – 8:45 AM**

*Thompson House*

Breakfast

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**Session Four: 8:45 – 10:15 AM**

**Panel Four: Mapping Sites of Conflict**

*Board Room One*
Chair: Ian Whittington

Bianca Baggianini (York University)

Natalie Brown (York University)

Rawane Nassif (University of Alberta)
“The Politics of Memory in the Reconstruction of Downtown Beirut.”

Panel Five: Ethics, Identity, and Texts

Board Room Two

Chair: Rosel Kim

Dilyana Mincheva (Trent University)
“Religion and Media – Towards a Normative Reformulation of the Public Sphere?”

Abraham Rubin (City University of New York, Graduate Center)
“‘Square Letters Illuminating Living Faces’: The Space of the Text in Emmanuel Levinas’ Ethics”

Sophia Warshall (Concordia University)
“Use of Simhala Narrative Among Nepalese Newari Buddhists.”
Panel Six: Public Address and Literary Spaces

Board Room Three

Chair: Julie Greczko

Melissa Davidson (McGill University)

“Tin Hats and Candlesticks: F.G. Scott and the Creation of Liturgical Space at the Front, 1914-18.”

David M. Diamond (University of Chicago)

“‘Form’d by thy converse’: Alexander Pope’s Verse Epistles and the Poetics of Public Address.”

Tom Ue (McGill University)

“Navigating through Geographical, Temporal, and Literary Terrains: George Gissing’s By the Ionian Sea.”

10:15 – 10:30

Thompson House

Coffee

Session Five: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Panel Seven: Locations of Knowledge: Museums, Libraries, Schools

Board Room One

Chair: Justin Pfefferle

Vicky Chainey Gagnon (University of Quebec at Montréal)
“Exhibitions as Spaces of Multi-Directional Exchange.”

Jared Hildebrandt (University of Western Ontario)

“Library as Green Space: How Libraries Inform Sustainable Communities.”

Taunya Tremblay (York University)

“Rural Media Education: The Study of Popular Cultural in Pastoral Spaces.”

Panel Eight: Sites of Memory

Board Room Two

Chair: Gary O’Neil

Sarah Bezan (McMaster University)


Pat Feindel (Simon Fraser University)

“‘Disability,’ Visibility, and Public Memory.”

Benjamin Barootes (McGill University)

Title: TBA

Panel Nine: Domestic Space

Board Room Three

Chair: Ariel Buckley
Jonathan Stubbs (West Chester University of Pennsylvania)

“‘Badly Adjusted Like you Own’: Shifting Economics and Social Space During Wartime in Harriet Arrow’s *The Dollmaker.*”

Stephanie McAllister (University of Toronto)

“The Hermetically Sealed Jar: Home-making in Charlotte Brontë’s *Villette.*”

J.A. Weingarten (McGill University)

“‘The material end of things’: The Possession of Space in Patrick Hamilton’s *The Slaves of Solitude.*”

12:00 – 1:00 PM
Break for Lunch

Session Six: 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Panel Ten: World War II and After

*Board Room One*

Chair: Ian Whittington

Ariel Buckley (McGill University)

“‘Jackets on or off’: Food and Sex in the Second World War.”

Paula Derdiger (McGill University)

“Rebuilding and Realism in Mid-Twentieth-Century Britain.”
Justin Pfefferle (McGill University)

“Mass Observation, the English Pub, and Patrick Hamilton’s The Slaves of Solitude.”

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Panel Eleven: Placing Identity in Canadian Literature

Board Room Two

Chair: Laura Cameron

Brianne Colon (Concordia University)

“(In)visible Minorities: Queering the Single in Carol Shields’ The Republic of Love.”

Alexandra Gilbert (Acadia University)

“Reinhabiting Space: Searching for Place and Belonging in John Steffler’s The Grey Islands.”

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Panel Twelve: Racialized Space

Board Room Three

Chair: TBA

Steve Asselin (McGill University)

“Being White in Blank Spaces: Hyper-whiteness and the Fear of Becoming the Racial Other in Polar Narratives of the 19th Century.”

Stephanie Clare (Rutgers University)

“Subjectivity and Territoriality: Revisiting Fanon’s Black Skin, White Masks.”
Jeremy MacFarlane (Acadia University)

“‘Corpses Cannot be Bribed’: Racialized Space in Richard Wright’s Native Son.”

2:30 – 2:45
Thompson House
Coffee

Session Seven: 2:45 – 4:15PM

Panel Thirteen: Beyond Colonialism?
Board Room One

Chair: Simon Lewsen

Melanie Bell (Concordia University)

“Decolonizing the Language Garden: Narratives of Exploration and Acquisition in Jamaica Kincaid’s Garden Writing.”

Marty Fink (City University of New York)

“Mother Space: Locating Diaspora in Saidiya Hartman and Susan Lori Parks.”

Alicja Surzyn (University of Toronto)

“Metonymic Space: Arundhati Roy’s Examination of Post-Colonialism.”
Panel Fourteen: Mapping Marginal Montréal

Board Room Two

Chair: Marc Ducusin

Jason B. Crawford (Concordia University)

Sandra Jensen (Concordia University)
“Writing on the Main: Tracing Street Posters Upon St. Laurent Boulevard.”

Danielle Lewis (Concordia University)

Panel Fifteen: Navigating the Nation

Board Room Three

Chair: Tom Ue

Fulya Ozkan (Binghamton University)
“Roads for Security or Subversion? The Trabzon-Erzurum Road in the Late Ottoman Empire.”

Jeanine Marie Pitas (University of Toronto)
“Unwriting the Nation: On Witold Gombrowicz’s Reluctant Cosmopolitanism.”

Maxwell Uphaus (Columbia University)
“What’s Done in Paris: Producing and Subverting National Space in Madame Bovary.”

Session Eight: 4:30 – 6:00 PM

Keynote Address: Dr. Brent Nelson (University of Saskatchewan)

Ballroom

“Marginal Belief: Space and Taxonomy in the Age of Curiosity”

Sunday, February 7th, 2010

8:00 – 8:45 AM

Thompson House

Breakfast

Session Nine: 8:45 – 10:15 AM

Panel Sixteen: Spatial Selves in Contemporary Art and Theatre

Board Room One

Chair: Amanda Clarke

David Cecchetto (University of Victoria)

“Bodily Spacing: Mark Hansen’s Affective Poshumanism in Lazzarini’s Skulls.”
Josh Morrisson (University of Western Ontario)
“Staging Insanity: The Spatiality of Madness in Theatre and Text.”

Emily Rosamond (Concordia University)
“Spatializing Character: On the Work of Geoffrey Farmer.”

Panel Seventeen: Sites of Urban Resistance and Reaction

Board Room Two

Chair: TBA

Hellin Burkay (Carleton University)
“Spaces of Neo-liberal Urban Governance: Squatter Transformation in Istanbul.”

Kris Murray (Concordia University)
“Alternative States and Spaces of the Everyday: Graffiti as a Means of Belonging and Expression.”

Robin Simpson (Concordia University)
“They’ll Come Back for More of the Same: Navigating Rochdale College through Printed Ephemera.”

Panel Eighteen: Prehistories in Modern Urban Space

Board Room Three

Chair: TBA

Bradford Taylor (University of California, Berkeley)
“‘Are we in life, now? What is art?’: Reading Wyndham Lewis’s *Tarr* within the Discursive Space of Little Magazines.”

cfs. Creasy (University of California, Berkeley)

“‘Thankless Field of Letters’: Urbanity and Vulgarity in Poe’s Place of Truth.”

Christopher Miller (University of California, Berkeley)

“Learning the Language of Cost in a Failing City: An Analysis of Place in William Carlos Williams’ *Paterson*.”

10:15 – 10:30 AM

*Thompson House*

Coffee

Session Ten: 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Panel Nineteen: American Spaces, Public and Private

*Board Room One*

Chair: TBA

Holly Allaire (University of New Hampshire)

“Transcending the Boundaries of Public and Private Space in the Modern Metropolis: Fern’s *Ruth Hall* and Melville’s ‘Bartleby, the Scrivener.’”

Adrian DeVuono (McGill University)

“‘Green Fields of the Mind’: The Space of the Baseball Stadium in the American Imagination.”
Myung Seok Hyun (Georgia Institute of Technology)

“The Spaces of Landscape, the Natural and the Aesthetic: A Study of Julius Shulman’s Photographs of Richard Neutra’s Postwar Domestic Space.”

Panel Twenty: True North: Three Constructions

Board Room Two

Chair: Steve Asselin

Constance Carrier-Lafontaine (Concordia University)

“Culture, Nature, and Autochtony: A Semiotic Analysis of Farley Mowat’s High Latitudes and No Man’s River.”

Mary Elizabeth Luka (Concordia University)

“Seeing the North in 30 Seconds or Less: (Re)presenting Artistic Practices on CBC Artspots, a Canadian Public Broadcasting Initiative.”

Riccardo Mauricio-Cardilli (Concordia University)

“North.gc.ca: Rhetoric, Representation, and Constructed Space.”

Panel Twenty-One: Early Modern Theatrical Spaces

Board Room Three

Chair: Chelsea Honeyman

Matt Kibbee (Cornell University)

“Imaginary Spaces in Ben Johnson’s The Alchemist.”
Amy L. Merritt (University of Maryland)
“The Tragedy of Mariam: A Tragedy of Space.”

Rachel Zlatkin (University of Cincinnati)
“A Comedy of Errors: Wandering in Illusions in Epheus.”

12:00 – 1:00 PM
Break for Lunch

Session Eleven: 1:00 – 2:30 PM

Panel Twenty-Two: Torture, Discipline, Restraint

Board Room One

Chair: TBA

Jessa Alston-O’Connor (Concordia University)
“What Lies Beneath: The Forgotten Histories of Place Royale”

Simon Rolston (University of British Columbia)
“Confinement and Conversion in the American Prison.”

Dustin Grue (University of British Columbia)
“Fragmentation, Containment, Genre: Tom Brown’s School Days.”
Panel Twenty-Three: The Optical Imagination in Contemporary Literature

*Board Room Two*

Chair: TBA

Rachel Kyne (Concordia University)

“Unfixed Images: Photography, Landscape, and Self-Mapping in W.G. Sebald’s *The Rings of Saturn.*”

David Hollingshead (McGill University)

“‘Ungessed Kinships’: Cormac McCarthy’s Optical Democracy.”

Kait Pinder (McGill University)

“Spaces of Recuperation: Narrative and the Photograph in the Textual Space of *Austerlitz.*”

Panel Twenty-Four: The 20th Century (Sub)urban Experience

*Board Room Three*

Chair: Paula Derdiger

Joshua Lam (State University of New York, Buffalo)

“‘Multitudinous Movement: Mobility and Mobilization in Henry James.”

Jacob Siefring (McGill University)

“The Narrative Logic of Ruins and Zones in the Writings of W.G. Sebald.”
Agnieszka Tuszynska (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign)

“Signifying on the Margins: Jazz/Blues Improvisation in the Marginal Spaces of Ann Petry’s *The Street*, Billie Holiday’s *Lady Sings the Blues*, and Benjamin Appel’s *Sweet Money Girl*."

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**2:30 – 2:45 PM**

*Thompson House*

Coffee

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**Session Twelve: 2:45 – 4:15 PM**

**Panel Twenty-Five: Spatiality in Popular Visual Culture**

*Board Room One*

Chair: Jessa Alston-O’Connor

Meghan Adams (University of Toronto)

“Endless Slides in Cyberspace: Tensions between Space and Place in *Portal*.”

Valérie Cools (Concordia University)

“Interstitial Liminality: Manga as Articulated Othering Landscape.”

Crista M. Livecchi (Pennsylvania State University)

“Navigating the Dreaming: Transgressions of Public and Private Space in Neil Gaiman’s *The Sandman*."

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**Panel Twenty-Six: Renegotiating Canadian Identity**

*Board Room Two*
Chair: Joel Deshaye

Dietlind Bork (University of Alberta)

“Projections of North and the Canadian Experience.”

Mahreen Nabi (Carleton University)


Judith Mintz Sanchez (Trent University)

“Afrofest and the Claiming of Space in Urban Toronto: Diasporic Identities and the Quest for the Multicultural.”

Panel Twenty-Seven: Literary Cartography, Literary Journeys

Board Room Three

Chair: J.A. Weingarten

Renaud Roussel (McGill University)

“‘At each filament-like dot on the country maps, something had happened’: Cartography, Text, and Borders in Michael Ondaatje’s Divisadero.”

Katrin Fennesz (University of Vienna/University of Alberta)

“Back Doors, or Disappearing Travelling.”

Grant Wythoff (Princeton University)
“‘More typical than any real state’: Mapping the Everyday in Sinclair Lewis’s *Babbitt*.”