



ACCUTE 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Thursday, June 4 - Sunday, June 7, 2026

Concordia University, Montreal

DRAFT 2 – revised March 17th, 2026

ACCUTE 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

About ACCUTE

Founded in 1957, the **Association of Canadian College and University Teachers of English (ACCUTE)** was incorporated under the Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act in 2015. ACCUTE's purpose, as ratified in 2015, is to promote the interests of those teaching and researching in the various fields of English Studies in Canadian colleges and universities by facilitating the dissemination and exchange of research and the exploration of professional issues, by organizing scholarly and professional meetings, by seeking to improve working conditions, by representing and promoting the scholarly and research interests of members before such bodies as provincial and federal granting agencies, and by supporting the interests and aspirations of members entering the profession.

Territorial Acknowledgement

We would like to begin by acknowledging that Concordia University is located on unceded Indigenous lands. The Kanien'kehá:ka Nation is recognized as the custodians of the lands and waters on which we gather today. Tiohtià:ke/Montréal is historically known as a gathering place for many First Nations. Today, it is home to a diverse population of Indigenous and other peoples. We respect the continued connections with the past, present and future in our ongoing relationships with Indigenous and other peoples within the Montreal community.

Nous aimerions commencer par reconnaître que l'Université Concordia est située en territoire autochtone, lequel n'a jamais été cédé. Je reconnais/Nous reconnaissons la nation Kanien'kehá:ka comme gardienne des terres et des eaux sur lesquelles nous nous réunissons aujourd'hui. Tiohtià:ke / Montréal est historiquement connu comme un lieu de rassemblement pour de nombreuses Premières Nations, et aujourd'hui, une population autochtone diversifiée, ainsi que d'autres peuples, y résident. C'est dans le respect des liens avec le passé, le présent et l'avenir que nous reconnaissons les relations continues entre les Peuples Autochtones et autres personnes de la communauté montréalaise.

ACCUTE 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Code of Conduct

ACCUTE supports the [Code of Conduct](#) outlined by the Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences. We are committed to the advancement of teaching, research, and scholarship through respectful, inclusive, and collegial discourse and engagement. Accordingly, we require adherence to these values by all participants in our events and meetings. We strive to ensure that the participants in our activities enjoy an environment free from discrimination, harassment and bullying. Further, we are committed to providing an atmosphere through all of our activities that encourages free expression and the exchange of ideas — in a respectful manner — as well as open, critically engaged and sometimes challenging discourse. To that end, we require that all participants comply with the Code of Conduct. Failure to do so may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from Federation or association membership and/or participation in Federation or association activities.

Association Acronyms

CAAS Canadian Association for American Studies
CACE Canadian Association of Chairs of English
CAF Contract Academic Faculty
CAPS Canadian Association for Postcolonial Studies
CSM Canadian Society of Medievalists
CWC Creative Writing Collective
ESC English Studies in Canada
GSC Graduate Student Caucus
NASSR North American Society for the Study of Romanticism
NAVSA North American Victorian Studies Association
RSVP Research Society for Victorian Periodicals
VSAO Victorian Studies Association of Ontario

ACCUTE Board Members

Jason Camlot, Concordia University – President
Cynthia Quarrie, Concordia University – Vice-President
Ghislaine Comeau – ACCUTE Coordinator
Megan Arnott, Lakehead University – Contract Academic Faculty Caucus
Rajarshi Banerjee, Western University – Graduate Student Caucus
Glenn Clifton, Sheridan College – Coordinator for the CWC
Richard Douglass-Chin, University of Windsor – Member-at-Large: BIPOC Caucus
Jessi MacEachern, Dawson College – Member-at-Large: Colleges
Neta Gordon, Brock University – Member-at-Large: Professional Concerns

ACCUTE 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Lorraine York, McMaster University – Member-at-Large: Priestley Prize
Allan Pero, Western University – Editor of *English Studies in Canada* (ex-officio)
Joel Baetz, Trent University – CACE President (ex-officio)

ACCUTE Staff

Gladwell Pamba, Concordia University – Coordination and Communications Assistant
Josie Teed, Concordia University – Coordination and Communications Assistant

Conference Location

ACCUTE 2026 will be held at Concordia University (downtown campus) in the [John Molson Building](#) (MB), 1600 Blvd. De Maisonneuve Ouest, Montreal, Quebec H3H 0A1.



Detailed maps of the spaces we will use in the MB and elsewhere will be added to a future draft of this conference program.

ACCUTE 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Schedule at a Glance: THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026

8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Salvage Inventory &/or Inventory Salvage MB 1.210	New Writing in a Time of Disorientation 1 MB 2.210	Speculative Renaissance MB 2.430	Literature and the geo-logics of conquest 1 MB 2.435	Fractured Selves in Canadian Literature MB 2.445	Adaptation Across Media MB 3.430	Creative Research 1 MB 3.210	Imagining Futures Otherwise MB 3.270	Pedagogies of Repair MB 3.435	Social Media, Communication, and Community MB 3.445	
10:00 a.m.	BREAK										
10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Rethinking Romantic Science 1 MB 1.210	The World Remade 1 MB 2.210	How Should a Person be Bored? MB 2.430	Rethinking the Profession of Journalism and Authorship in/through Periodical Studies MB 2.435	Marxism vs. Poetry MB 2.445	Reimagining Canada: Roundtable MB 3.430	Celebrity and Cultural Authority MB 3.210	Writing the Eighteenth Century MB 3.270	Pedagogy in the Age of AI MB 3.435	Storytelling, Worldbuilding MB 3.445	Teaching, Researching and Writing Literature in Genocidal Times MB 3.255
12:00 p.m.	ACCUTE Representatives Lunch LB 649			ACCUTE Board Lunch LB 646			Group Book Launch for New Scholarly Books on Canadian Literature 4th space – LB Building (Ground Floor)				
1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	Speculative Fictions of Sleep and Wellness MB 1.210	What is African Feminism? MB 2.210	Alienation and Identity in Western Poetry MB 2.430	Special Issues of Cultural and Critical Production in Canada MB 2.435	Disability and Illness Narratives as Re-Worlding 1 MB 2.445	Reflexive Trauma Methodology: Workshop MB 3.430	Ecological Kinship, Grief, and Care MB 3.210	Fictions, Ethics, Attention MB 3.270	Worldbuilding as a Political Practice 1 MB 3.435	Queer Mediation MB 3.445	Pedagogical Powder Kegs: Academic Freedom in an Era of Book Bans MB 3.255
3:00 p.m.	BREAK										
3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Plenary: Michael Bucknor MB 1.210										
6:00 - 8:30 p.m.	Evening Events: Opening Conference Dinner (Ticket Required) Satay Brothers 3721 rue Notre Dame Ouest										

ACCUTE 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Schedule at a Glance: FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026

8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Mental Health in the Creative Writing Classroom 1 MB 1.210	Restorative Storytelling MB 2.255	Humour Me: Retelling Stories and Histories MB 2.435	Reimagining Canada: Panel MB 2.445	Mediating Meaning: Time, Politics, Embodiment MB 3.210	That Sh*t Hurt: Beyond the Limits of Language MB 3.430	Diaspora and Memory in Asian North American Literature MB 3.270	Literature in the Digital Age 1 MB 2.430	Poetic Worlds, Poetic Spaces MB 3.435	Philosophical Approaches MB 3.445	Roundtable on Victorian Incubators MB 3.255
10:00 a.m.	BREAK										
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Beyond Binaries: Victorian Literature MB 2.255	New Writing in a Time of Disorientation 2 MB 2.210	Narratives of the Unspoken: Trauma, Memory and Identity 1 MB 2.435	Irrepressibility: Women's Writing Throughout History 1: 1600-1900 MB 2.445	AMA and FAO: Submitting your Research to a Literary Journal: Roundtable MB 3.210	Sound Pedagogy: Listening to Literary Audio in Classrooms MB 3.430	Postcolonial Masculinities and Femininities MB 3.270	Modernism, Fascism, and Race MB 2.430	Practicing Poetic Attention MB 3.435	Writing a Life from the Margins 1 MB 3.445	Mapping Canadian Literatures from Backwoods to Prairies MB 3.255
12:00 p.m.	ACCUTE Creative Writing Caucus Lunch LB 646			ACCUTE Graduate Student Caucus Lunch LB 649			ACCUTE Contract Faculty Lunch LB 659.04				
1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	Wave Upon Wave 1 MB 1.210	Celebrating the Centenary of Margaret Laurence's Manawaka Saga MB 2.210	Literature and the Geologies of Conquest 2 MB 2.435	Disability and Illness as Narrative Reworlding 2 MB 2.445	Audience Reactions to Shakespeare MB 3.210	Improvisatory Practices in Research and Pedagogy: Workshop MB 3.430	Feeling American: Race, Labour, Orientalisms MB 3.270	Black and Indigenous Relationalities MB 2.430	Worldbuilding as a political practice 2 MB 3.435	Opacity, Agency, and the Subject in Creative Forms MB 3.445	Problems of Memory and Nostalgia MB 3.255
3:00 p.m.	BREAK										
3:15 p.m.- 4:45 p.m.	Indigenous Horror MB 1.210	Medieval Masculinities MB 2.210	Self in the Age of Autofiction 1 MB 2.435	Ramones at Fifty MB 2.445	The Literary Critic of Humour, Round 2 MB 3.210	Montreal in the Cultural Imagination MB 3.430	Technology in the Literature Classroom MB 3.270	Performing Resistance MB 2.430	Circulation and Authority in Victorian Literature MB 3.435	R. Murray Schafer: Reassessing his legacy MB 3.445	
5:00 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.	Celebration of Research and Plenary: Marcie Frank MB 1.210										

ACCUTE 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Schedule at a Glance: SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026

8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Gail Scott: Fiction+ /Theory 1 MB 1.210	The World Remade 2 MB 2.210	Poetry of Infrastructure/ Poetic Infrastructures 1 MB 2.430	Pedagogies of Relation MB 2.435	The Pregnant Text: Reimagining the Maternal Body MB 3.430	Transparency and its others in 18th Century Literature MB 2.445	Modernism, Markets and the Politics of Use MB 3.210	The Future of EDI MB 3.270	Tuning in to Literary Radio 1 MB 3.435	Writing a Life from the Margins 2 MB 3.445	Writerly Forms from Doodles to Data MB 3.255
10:00 a.m.	BREAK										
10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Gail Scott: Fiction+ /Theory 2 MB 1.210	Imagining Spatiality in End of the World Narratives 1 MB 2.210	Doing Critical Thinking Differently MB 2.430	How much do I need to learn about elves? MB 2.435	Doing Magic in the University: A workshop for the Admin-Curious MB 3.430	Irrepressibility 2: Women's Writing Throughout History MB 2.445	Beyond Interdisciplinarity MB 3.210	Montreal as Contact Zone: Topography, Diaspora, and the Poetics of Place MB 3.270	Queer Memory and Forms of Care MB 3.435	Staging Vision in Early Modern Literature MB 3.445	Translation in Contemporary Literature MB 3.255
12:00 a.m.	Book L(a)unch MB 5.215										
1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	Climate Change and the Maximalist Novel MB 1.210	New Writing in a Time of Disorientation 3 MB 2.210	Literature in the Digital Age: Reading, Writing and Reviewing Across Platforms 2 MB 2.430	Narratives of the Unspoken: Trauma, Memory, and Identity 2 MB 2.435	Care for: Epistolary as Reflection, Research, and Resistance: Workshop MB 3.430	19th Century Activism and Social Justice MB 2.445	Roundtable on The Bloomsbury Handbook of Poetry, Gender, Sexuality and Poetry MB 3.210	Decolonial Poetics and Archives in Canadian Contexts MB 3.270	Trust, Labor, and Voice in the Contemporary Academy MB 3.435	Forbidden Fiction MB 3.445	Mary Shelley's "The Last Man" in 2026 MB 3.255
3:00 p.m.	BREAK										
3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Plenary: Jordan Abel MB 1.210										
6:00 p.m.	Evening Activity Location and Details TBA										

ACCUTE 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Schedule at a Glance: SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

8:30 a.m.- 10:00 a.m.	Annual General Meeting MB 1.210									
10:00	BREAK									
10:30 a.m.- 12:00 p.m.	Gail Scott: Fiction+/Theory 3 MB 1.210	Imagining Spatiality in End of the World Narratives 2 MB 2.210	Poetry of Infrastructure/Poetic Infrastructures 2 MB 2.430	Narratives of the Unspoken: Trauma, Memory and Identity 3 MB 2.435	Medieval Magic MB 2.445	Creative Research 2 MB 3.210	Rethinking the Postcolonial Subject MB 3.270	Indigenous Literary Resistance MB 3.435	19th Century Forms and Practices MB 3.445	The Role of Publishing Houses in Shaping Discourse MB 3.430
12:00 p.m.	ACCUTE BIPOC Caucus Lunch LB 646				English Studies in Canada Lunch LB 649					
1:30 p.m.- 3:00 p.m.	Rethinking romantic science 2 MB 1.210	Silence, Speech, and Trauma MB 2.210	Systems Thinking and/in Literature MB 2.430	Self in the age of autofiction 2 MB 2.435	Reading Canada Otherwise MB 2.445	Ecocritical Perspectives in Contemporary Canadian and Indigenous Writing MB 3.210	Neoliberalism and the Public Sphere MB 3.270	Shakespeare in Extremis MB 3.435	Writing a Life from the Margins 3 MB 3.445	Diasporic Identities MB 3.430
3:00 p.m.	BREAK									
3:30 p.m.- 5:00 p.m.	Wave Upon Wave 2 MB 1.210	Indigenous Storytelling as World (re)making MB 2.210	Teachers as Investigators in the Age of AI MB 2.430	Canadian Fictions and Movements MB 2.435	Paradise and Polemics in Milton and Dryden MB 2.445	Global and Indigenous Graphic Narratives MB 3.210	Life Writing in Embodied and Feminist Forms MB 3.270	Tuning in to Literary Radio 2 MB 3.435	Victorian Faith, Femininity, and Felines MB 3.445	Identifying and Disrupting Racialized-Gendered Normativities in the Classroom: Workshop MB 3.430

ACCUTE 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Table of Contents

[About ACCUTE](#)

[Territorial Acknowledgement](#)

[Code of Conduct](#)

[Association Acronyms](#)

[ACCUTE Board Members](#)

[Schedule at a Glance](#)

[THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026](#)

[DAY 1 – Session 1: 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.](#)

[DAY 1 – Break: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.](#)

[DAY 1 – Session 2: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.](#)

[DAY 1 – Lunch: 12:00 p.m - 1:30 p.m.](#)

[DAY 1 – Session 3: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.](#)

[DAY 1 – Break: 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.](#)

[DAY 1 – Plenary: 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.](#)

[DAY 1 – Evening Events](#)

[FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026](#)

[DAY 2 – Session 1: 8:30 a.m. -10:00 a.m.](#)

[DAY 2 – Break: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.](#)

[DAY 2 – Session 2: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.](#)

[DAY 2 – Lunch: 12:00 p.m - 1:30 p.m.](#)

[DAY 2 – Session 3: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.](#)

[DAY 2 – Break: 3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.](#)

[DAY 2 – Session 4: 3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.](#)

[DAY 2 – Plenary: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.](#)

[SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026](#)

[DAY 3 – Session 1: 8:30 a.m. -10:00 a.m.](#)

[DAY 3 – Break: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.](#)

[DAY 3 – Session 2: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.](#)

[DAY 3 – Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.](#)

[DAY 3 – Session 3: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.](#)

ACCUTE 2026 CONFERENCE PROGRAM

DAY 3 – Break: 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

DAY 3 – Plenary: 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

DAY 3 – Evening Events

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

DAY 4 – Annual General Meeting: 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

DAY 4 - Break 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

DAY 4 – Session 2: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

DAY 4 – Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

DAY 4 – Session 3: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

DAY 4 – Break: 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

DAY 4 – Session 4: 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

ACCUTE 2026 PUBLISHERS’ BOOK EXHIBITION

WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY JUNE 4, 2026

DAY 1 – Session 1: 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m. *Salvage Inventory &/or Inventory Salvage*
MB 1.210

Chair: Mark McCutcheon, Athabasca U; Titi Aiyegbusi, U of Toronto

Paul Barrett, U of Guelph – Sounding the Future: *The Blue Clerk* After Humanism
Madhubrata Bhattacharyya, U of Toronto – “Thinking of water in a time of wreckage”:
Dionne Brand and *The Boatmen of Bengal*
Titiola Aiyegbusi, U of Toronto - **TBD**

8:30 a.m. *New Writing in a Time of Disorientation 1*
MB 2.210

Chair: Anna Veprinska, U of Calgary; Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike, U of Calgary

Anna Veprinska, U of Calgary – Writing Crisis: Poetry as Violation, Responsibility,
and/or Necessity
Theo Fox, York U – Decontextualize, Reappropriate, Materialize: Palimpsestic Poems
That Resist
Euan Lim, U of Calgary – Thirty Days Left to Live: Autofiction as Therapy

8:30 a.m. *Speculative Renaissance*
MB 2.430

Chair: Kevin Pask, Concordia U

Darragh Languay, Concordia U – Willing and Tilling: The Utopian Sustainability of
Isabella Whitney and Hugh Plat
Erin Paulhus, McGill U – *The Tempest*: Shakespearean Romance and Speculative,
Apocalyptic, and Dystopian Adaptation
Paul Yachnin, McGill U – *King Lear* as Speculative Theatre

8:30 a.m. *Literature and the Geo-Logics of Conquest 1*
MB 2.435

Chair: Brennan McCracken, Concordia U

Sydney Wildman, Queen's U – Reading the Rocks: Nineteenth-Century Perceptions of Africa's Geological Primitivity

Harman Uppal, Simon Fraser U – Island Laboratories and Building Nations: Deconstructing Terra Nullius in Rachel Heng's *The Great Reclamation*

Benjamin Bush Anderson, Dalhousie U – Site-specificity and ecopoethics in Jacquelyn Mills' *Geographies of Solitude*

8:30 a.m. *Fractured Selves in Canadian Literature*
MB 2.445

Chair: TBA

Sara Jamieson, Carleton U – Multi-Species Perspectives on Dementia in Recent Writing by Margaret Atwood

Doaa Tirmizi, McMaster U – When The Soul Splits

Sophia Shelley, McMaster U – Mocking the Phallus: Gendered Subjectivities and Humour as Counter-Narratives in *Lives of Girls and Women*

8:30 a.m. *Adaptation Across Media*
MB 3.430

Chair: TBA

Madelaine Moynes-Keshen, U of Western Ontario – The Yuppie Oedipus: Michael Almercyda's 2000 film adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

Julia Garcia, U of Western Ontario – The Sun Will Shine on Us as on Man: Reimagining *Frankenstein's* Creature and Other Monsters in the 21st Century

Irina Znamirovski, U of Toronto – To Dance in the Moonlight Revels: The Narratological Function of Pas De Deux sequences in 1960s Classical Ballet Translations of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*

8:30 a.m. *Creative Research 1*
MB 3.210

Chair: TBA

Misha Solomon, Concordia U – Montréal Biodôme as Place and Bestiary

Scott Ennis, Independent Scholar – *Mill Relics*: Sonnettics and the Poetics of Infrastructural Memory

Jenna James, U of New Brunswick – *Fire in Virtue*: Queering Ecological Crisis Through Poetics of Dissociation

8:30 ***Imagining Futures Otherwise***
MB 3.270

Chair: TBA

Naomi Boswell, Dalhousie U – No Orange Sunsets Over Grass: Afropessimism, the
Extroverted African Novel, and Afrofuturism as Ways of Writing Africa
Reed Inver, U of British Columbia – “Might Be Going to Have Lived”: Anthropology,
Anarchism, and Unknowable Utopias in Ursula K. Le Guin’s *Always Coming
Home*

Aiza Gamboa Bragg, U of British Columbia – Even In Another Time: Poetic
Reproduction and Immortal Queer Futurism

8:30 ***Pedagogies of Repair***
MB 3.435

Chair: TBA

Payal Nagpal, U of Calgary – Rice's Decolonial Apocalypse: the Possibility of Epistemic
Resurgence

Emily Zepick, U of Saskatchewan – In Search of Safe Spaces: 2SLGBTQIA+ Spaces in
Mary Jean Chan’s Poetry Collection *Flèche* in Relation to Saskatchewan
Trauma-Informed Pedagogy

Deborah Blenkhorn, Kwantlen Polytechnic U – Trauma Informed Practice in
Composition and Literature Classes

8:30 ***Social Media, Communication, and Community***
MB 3.445

Chair: TBA

Zahra Falahatpisheh, U of Western Ontario – Social Media, Social Capital, and
International Students’ Adaptation in Canada

Rebecca Halliday, U of Victoria – Communication as Workplace-Ready Skills for
English Majors?: Exploring Professionalization and Interdisciplinary Boundaries
at the University of Victoria

Sarah Rewega, U of Guelph – Veiled Histories and Viral Protests: How one Image of
Mahsa Amini Transcended Personal Suffering

DAY 1 – Break 1: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

DAY 1 – Session 2: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

10:30 a.m. Rethinking Romantic Science 1 (NASSR/ACCUTE)
MB 1.210

Chair: Raj Banerjee, U of Western Ontario

Joel Faflak, U of Western Ontario – You Put a Spell on Me: Romanticism, Mesmerism, and Psychoanalysis

Andrew Sargent, U of Western Ontario; Jeff Swim, U of Northern British Columbia – Romantic Astronomy, Myth, and the Revelation of Finitude: Keats’s Saturnine Cosmos

Jeremy Arnott, Concordia U – Romanticism and the Mechanical Body: Hoffman & Kleist on Automation

Adam Mohamed, U of Western Ontario – Exploring the Limits of Schlegel’s “Logical Chemistry:” Reading Shelley’s *A Defence of Poetry* as Symphilosophy and the “Science of Sciences”

10:30 a.m. The World Remade: Deconstruction and Reconstruction through Language 1
MB 2.210

Chair: Kate Sheckler, Marianapolis College

Emily Magajna, McGill U – Diagnostic Colonialism v.s. Guerilla Mutineers: Cracks in the Attempted Calcification of Meaning in Translations and *Blue/Orange*

Kirsten Bussière, U of Ottawa – “Littl Shyning Man the Addom”: The Development of Myth in Post-Apocalyptic Fiction

Kate Sheckler, Marianapolis College – Burning Down the House: Determinative Metaphor and the Patriarchal Gaze in *Jane Eyre*

Nitasha Baig, U of Alberta – Fanatic and Fanatacized: Rejecting Orientalist Identity in *Poems From Guantanamo: The Detainees Speak*

10:30 a.m. How Should a Person be Bored?
MB 2.430

Chair: Myra Bloom, York U; Erin Wunker, Dalhousie U

Busra Copuroglu, U of Western Ontario – Hanging Over Like a Lazy Rain Cloud: Describing a Feel

Kasia Van Schaik, U of New Brunswick – “The cruelty of the world was tranquil”: Clarice Lispector’s Bored Women

Myra Bloom, York U – The Banality of Incel: Russell Smith’s *Self-Care*

Alex Prong, U of New Brunswick – Plotlessness as Resistance in Contemporary Queer Fiction

10:30 a.m. Rethinking the Profession of Journalism and Authorship in/through Periodical Studies (RSVP/ACCUTE)

MB 2.435

Chair: Stephan Pigeon, St. Francis Xavier U

Kaitlyn Fralick, Queen's U – Reconsidering the Female Poet's Interpretive Labour through Nineteenth-Century Illustrated Literary Annuals

Lisa C. Robertson, U of New Brunswick – The Prophetic Reviewer: Time and Authorship in Margaret Oliphant's "Modern Light Literature" Series in Blackwood's

Stephan Pigeon, St. Francis Xavier U – Endless Precarity: Status and Labour in Victorian Journalism

Alexis Easley, U of St. Thomas – Celebrity Portraiture, Intimacy, and the Mass Media in Late Victorian Britain

10:30 a.m. Marxism v. Poetry

MB 2.445

Chair: Paisley Conrad, Concordia U; M.A. King, Concordia U

Amie Zimmerman, U of Albany; Geordie Miller, Mount Allison U – "Writing & Fighting": Wendy Trevino's Committed Poetics

Fintan Calpin, King's College London – Depreciated Machinery

Annalise Quesnelle, Brock U – "Teaching That We Matter": Poetic Instruction in Derek Beaulieu's *Do It Wrong: How to be a Poet in the Twenty-First Century*

10:30 a.m. Reimagining Canada: Roundtable

MB 3.430

Gregory Betts, Brock U

Concetta Principe, Trent U

Barrington Walker, McMaster U

Carl James, York U

Ian Mckay, McMaster U

10:30 a.m. Celebrity and Cultural Authority

MB 3.210

Chair: TBA

Lorraine York, McMaster U – “Mr. Murakami’s Place”: Reluctant Literary Celebrity As Digital Agony Uncle
Sosthenes Ekeh, U of Alberta – Literary Prize Culture and the Politics of National Literature: Interrogating the Nigeria Prize for Literature
Bebhinn Jennings, McMaster U – *Doppelgänger* and Double Life: The Constraints of Public Persona in Celebrity Memoir

10:30 a.m. Writing in the Eighteenth Century
MB 3.270

Chair: TBA

Chance Pahl, Briercrest College – Tranquility in/and the Eighteenth-Century Periodical: James Boswell’s *Hypochondriack* as a Cure for Melancholy
Mariana Chajon Oliveros, Independent Scholar – A Heteronormative Veil: Interpreting the Marriage Plot in Frances Burney’s *Evelina*
James Munro, McMaster U – The World On Stage: Geographic Shifts in the Representation of Colonized Spaces in the 17th Century English Theatre

10:30 a.m. Pedagogy in the Age of AI
MB 3.435

Chair: TBA

Taylor Breckles, Alexander College; Rebecca Ardron, Alexander College – The Fear of the Required Unknown in Higher Education: Exploring Hesitancies Surrounding the Encouraged Adoption of AI and Indigenization
Sarah Seeley, U of Toronto; Michael Cournoyea, U of Toronto – Naming the Response: A Critical Examination of Bot-Proofing
Matt Kavanagh, Okanagan College – Uncanny Valley: Encountering AI doppelgängers in the classroom

10:30 a.m. Storytelling, Worldbuilding
MB 3.445

Chair: TBA

Kirsten Favreau, U of Ottawa – Greater than Resistance: Metafictional Orality in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved* and Louise Erdrich’s *Tracks*
Louise Harrington, U of Alberta – Border voices: storytelling and peacebuilding
Morgan Kittson, Dalhousie U – Marriages, Misfortune, and Manifestation: Gudrun’s Agency in the Face of Fate in *Laxardal Saga*

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026

Renan Cabral Paulino, Simon Fraser U – Negotiating Archipelagic Identities in Rachel Hang's *The Great Reclamation*

10:30 a.m. ***Teaching, Researching, and Writing Literature in Genocidal Times: Gaza in the Classroom (CAPS/ACCUTE)***
MB 3.255

Chairs: Aaron Kreuter, Trent U; Zishad Lak, Trent U

Lisa Richter, Independent Scholar – Poetry after Zionism: Diasporism as a Gateway to a Pluralistic Poetics

Waed Hasan, U of Guelph – When the World Burns: Refugeetude and Writing Through Catastrophe

Osama Jarrar, Arab American U – Narratives of Resilience and Hope: Theory and Practice against Scholasticide

DAY 1 – Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

12:00 p.m. ***ACCUTE Representatives Lunch***
LB 649

12:00 p.m. ***ACCUTE Board Lunch***
LB 646

12:00 p.m. ***Group Book Launch for New Scholarly Books on Canadian Literature***
LB Building - 4th Space (Ground Floor)

Concordia University Press cordially invites you to a group book launch to celebrate new scholarship on Canadian literature. Please join us to celebrate authors from around the country and hear short presentations about the new books they have published with Association of Canadian University Presses members. Books will be for sale, refreshments will be served, and there will be time to mingle, discuss, and congratulate colleagues and friends. Time: 12 pm to 1:30 pm; Location: 4th Space, ground floor of 1400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W.

DAY 1 – Session 3: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

1:30 p.m. ***Speculative Fictions of Sleep and Wellness***
MB 1.210

Chairs: Bart Vautour, Dalhousie U; Marissa Carroll, Dalhousie U

Eric Schmaltz, Dalhousie U – A Periodical That Sings: R. Murray Schafer’s *Open Letter Festschrift*
Billy Johnson, Dalhousie U – What Makes an Issue Special? Canadian Little Magazine Precursors at the Turn of the Twentieth Century
Molly Pearce, McGill U – Groundwork: Periodicals and the Development of Critical Bioregionalism in Canada
Smaro Kamboureli, U of Toronto – Special Issues: Re-fashioning Canadian Literature

1:30 p.m. *What is African Feminism? (CAAS/ACCUTE)*
MB 2.210

Chairs: Deborah Egbekpalu, Memorial U

Gladwell Pamba, Concordia U – “Vulgarity” as Agency: Understanding African Feminism
Racheal Kalaba, U of Toronto – Women’s Narratives as Living Theory: An African Womanist Reading of Bemba Indigenous Leadership
Uchechukwu Umezurike, U of Calgary – Feminist Criticism and Penile Masculinity in Lola Shoneyin’s novel *The Secret Lives of Baba Segi’s Wives*
Chinelo Ezenwa, Memorial U – From Motherism to Nego-Feminism: Acknowledging the Many Faces of African Feminisms

1:30 p.m. *Alienation and Identity in Western Canadian Poetry*
MB 2.430

Chair: Solomon Goudsward, York U

Maia Harris, Concordia U – Even the Ground’s Dispersed
Jordan Price, U of Victoria – “writing a self / a country”: Western Alienation and National Allegory in bpNichol’s *The Martyrology*
Patric Aura, U de Montréal – “An Explosion of Trying”: Alienation and the Prefatory Long Poem in Patricia Blondal’s *A Candle to Light the Sun*

1:30 p.m. *Special Issues of Cultural and Critical Production in Canada*
MB 2.435

Chairs: Amala Poli, U of Western Ontario; Suvendu Ghatak, U of Florida

Ana Fraile-Marcos, U de Salamanca – Indigenous Reframings of Sleep in the Burnout Era
Clara Langlois, Simon Fraser U – Sleep as Chrysalis: Fantastical Self-reconstruction in Ottessa Mosfegh’s *My Year of Rest and Relaxation*
Nicole Dufoe, York U – Restless Rhythms: Morris, Wells, and the Sleep of the Future

Zohreh Daeizadeh, York U – Sleeping Bodies, Confessing Images: Sophie Calle and the Post-Photographic Confessional

1:30 p.m. ***Disability and Illness Narratives as Re-worlding 1***
Disability Gain: Writing the Creative, Reframing Disequilibrium, and Thinking in the Hyphens
MB 2.445

Chair: Jorge Vallejos, York U

Maureen Medved, U of British Columbia; Diane Drieger, U of Manitoba – Disability Gain: Writing the Creative
Mikaela Kassar, McGill U – Reframing Disequilibrium: Investigating the Politics of Care and Cure in Contemporary Literature
Tess Casher, U of Alberta – Thinking in the Hyphens

1:30 p.m. ***WORKSHOP: Reflexive Trauma Methodology: Emotional and Structural Reflexivity in Research***
MB 3.430

Organizer: Waed Hasan, U of Guelph

This workshop addresses the challenge of conducting research on sensitive, potentially traumatic subjects while remaining critically aware of one's own emotional responses and positionality. Drawing on Bourdieu's reflexive sociology and Finlay's reflective methodologies, participants will explore both structural and personal dimensions of reflexivity in their research. The session will be highly interactive, combining short theoretical overviews with practical exercises.

Activities include:

- Structured Reflexive Mapping: Participants trace their positionality and emotional responses to their research topic.
- Emotional Journaling Exercise: Guided prompts encourage researchers to document feelings, triggers, and embodied reactions encountered in research.
- Peer Reflection Dialogue: Participants share insights in small groups, practicing ethical and empathetic engagement with emotions in research.
- Integrative Discussion: Participants link their personal reflections to structural and theoretical frameworks, exploring how emotions shape research decisions, interpretations, and representations.

By the end of the workshop, participants will gain concrete strategies for identifying, documenting, and analyzing emotional responses in research, understand the interplay between structural reflexivity and personal emotions, and develop a methodologically rigorous yet ethically sensitive approach to trauma-informed scholarship.

Capacity: 20

1:30 p.m. *Ecological Kinship, Grief, and Care*
MB 3.210

Chair: TBA

Jason Haslam, Dalhousie U – No Island is a Man: Francis Stevens' “Friend Island” and Extraction

Veronica Exner, U of Alberta – In the Midst of the Willows: A Poetics of Willowiness

Ben Berman Ghan, U of Calgary – Everything is Happening Right Now: Writing the Fantastic with Climate Grief

1:30 p.m. *Fiction, Ethics, Attention*
MB 3.270

Chair: TBA

Bahare Yousefi, U of Ottawa – Unexpected Attunement and Lyric Attention in Kim Stanley Robinson's *The Ministry for the Future*

Aaron Kreuter, Trent U – Fictionalizing Pivotal Moments in the Zionist Colonization of Palestine in Alison Pick, Tova Reich, and Adania Shibli

Sanchari Sur, Wilfrid Laurier U – Using Postmemories to Write the Mad Naxal Revolutionary into Fiction

1:30 p.m. *Worldbuilding as a Political Practice 1: Theory*
MB 3.435

Chair: Brent Ryan Bellamy, Trent U

Antje Rauwerda, Goucher College – Creative Reading as Challenge to the Academy: A Cognitive Science Approach

Danna Petersen-Deeprise, Queen's U – The Subversive Potential of Queernormative Worldbuilding

Jennifer Komorowski, U of Western Ontario – Indigenous Worldbuilding as Indigenous Futurism

Sharon Engbrecht, U of Guelph – Worldbuilding through Improvisation

1:30 p.m. *Queer Mediation*
MB 3.445

Chair: TBA

Erika Hunter, York U – Acting Upon The Body: On David Wojnarowicz and Bridging the Gap Between Queer Literature and Drug Literature
Asmar Ahmadi Golabkharan, Waldorf International School – Queer Visibility and Media Representation in Canada: Cultural Narratives, Identity, and Inclusion
Amy LeBlanc, U of Calgary – “Buried alive and suffocating to death”: Body Horror and Gothic Embodiment in *I Saw the TV Glow*

1:30 p.m. *Pedagogical Powder Kegs: Intellectual Freedom in an Era of Banned Books*
MB 3.255

Chairs: Tina Trigg, King’s U; Matthew Zantingh, Redeemer U

Linda Morra, Bishop’s U – (Not) Making Room: Institutional Hierarchies in the Study of Literature
Matthew Zantingh, Redeemer U – Did You Read the Fine Print? Exploring Institutional and Departmental Substructures
Noah Van Brenk, Independent Scholar – Pornographic Piety: Sola scriptura as Textual Fetishism in Margaret Atwood’s *Gilead* Novels

DAY 1 – Break 2: 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

DAY 1 – Session 4: 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

3:30 p.m. *PLENARY LECTURE: Michael A. Bucknor – “(De)colonial Hauntings and the Black Sonic Fantastic: Riffing Off Dub Poetry”*
MB 1.210

Michael A. Bucknor is Professor and Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Black Global Studies and Decolonial Practice at the University of Alberta. Formerly, he was Chair of the Department of Literatures in English, Public Orator at the Mona Campus (University of the West Indies), and Chair of the Association of Commonwealth Literature and Language Studies (ACLALS). Awarded the 2018 and 2020 UWI Principal’s Award for Best Research Article, he also received the 2019 Institute of Jamaica’s Gold Musgrave Medal for Eminence in the field of Literature. He currently serves on the editorial boards of several journals and is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of West Indian Literature*. He carries out research on the African Diaspora, Austin Clarke, Caribbean-Canadian writing, Black Canadian cultural production, postcolonial literatures and theory, masculinities, sexualities, and popular culture. Widely published, his most recent publication is “‘Leaving Traces’: Decolonial Hauntings and Affective Ecologies,” (Co-authored with Aon Abideen) *JWIL* (April 2025), and the monograph, *Olive Senior*, in The Caribbean Biography Series, UWI Press is forthcoming in 2026.

Sponsored by Wilfrid Laurier University Press

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026

DAY 1 – Evening Events: 5:00 p.m. onwards

6:00 p.m. **Opening Night Dinner**
Satay Brothers - 3721 rue Notre Dame Ouest
(Tickets must be purchased via the [conference registration link](#))

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026

DAY 2 – Session 1: 8:30 a.m. -10:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m. *Mental Health in the Creative Writing Classroom*
MB 1.210

Chair: Samantha Annie Bernstein, York U

Bronwen Tate, U of British Columbia – 10 Practices to Support Emotional Agency in Creative Writing Courses

Joshua Friesen, U of Western Ontario – Affective Writing and its Grading Practices

Kate Hargreaves, U of Windsor – Trauma-Informed Practice in the Post-Secondary Creative Writing Workshop

Maria Cichosz, U of Toronto; Erica Cardwell, U of Toronto (Scarborough) – Managing Boundaries and Difficult Topics in Creative Nonfiction

8:30 a.m. *Restorative Storytelling*
MB 1.210

Chairs: TBA

Charlotte Lilley, McMaster U – Nostalgic Storytelling In/Through Apocalypse in Ma's *Severance* and Mandel's *Station Eleven*

Zahra Mirabolfathi-Nejad, U Western Ontario – Why Not Laugh Back?: Humour and Storytelling in Firoozeh Dumas' *Memoir of Iranian Resistance in the West*

8:30 a.m. *Humour Me: Retelling Stories and Histories*
MB 2.435

Chairs: Mohammad (Mo) Sharifi, Fanshawe College; Kristine Dizon, Concordia U

Christiane Tarantino, Toronto Metropolitan U – Sprinkles and Sweatshop Stories: Humour, Trauma, and Immigrant Labor in Thammavongsa's Work

Gladwell Pamba, Concordia U – Trading with Caution: Retelling of History & Trauma

Amelia (Molly) Labenski, U of Calgary – Storytelling through Absurdism in E.L Doctorow's *Ragtime* and Paul Beatty's *The Sellout*

Maya Phillips, McMaster U – Replacing Lack with Abundance: Indigenous Historical Fiction as Retroactive Self-Determination

8:30 a.m. *Reimagining Canada: Panel*
MB 2.445

Chair: Gregory Betts, Brock U

Kalli McIver, U of British Columbia – Time-Travelling with Warren Cariou's Petrographs
Isabella Lirette, Dalhousie U – Mi'kmaq Poetry as "Counter-mapping"
Zoe Mix, U of British Columbia – Métis Books Abroad: Studying the Transnational
Reception of Métis Literature in the US and Canada

8:30 a.m. *Mediating Meaning: Time, Politics, Embodiment*
MB 3.210

Chair: TBA

Megan Gorsalitz, Queen's U – Television Temporalities: The Effects of the Streaming
Model on Medievalism
Ian-Jyzel Gallardo, U of Guelph – Fluxeuse Poiesis
Alex Blais, U of Calgary – Claiming Jane: Affinity Spaces of the Alt-right Janeites

8:30 a.m. *That Sh*t Hurted: Beyond the Limits of Language*
MB 3.430

Chair: Theo Fox, York U; Tamara Frooman, York U

Emily Mao, U of British Columbia – "watch me vanish": Psychic Suffering and
Postdramatic Poetics in Sarah Kane's *4.48 Psychosis*
Emily Cann, Dalhousie U – Graphic Suffering: Comics and Remaking the World of
Chronic Pain
Natasha Alcalde Lawton, York U – My Body's Pain: Undone, and Knit Into a Shawl
Asmar Ahmadi Golabkharan, Waldorf International School – Non-Standard Grammar as
Emotional Expression in Contemporary English

8:30 a.m. *Diaspora and Memory in Asian North American Literature*
MB 3.270

Chair: TBA

Avleen Grewal, U of Ottawa – Haunting artefacts: Traumatic disorientations in Sharon
Bala's *The Boat People*
Sofia Osborne, U of British Columbia – Mapping Mixed-Raceness in Edith Eaton's
Montreal

Mary Igmen, McMaster U – Alienated Mother: To Whom the Immigrant Child Speaks in
Ocean Vuong’s *On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous*
Hanako Teranishi, Simon Fraser U – Re-historicizing *In Cold Blood* (1965) in Light of
Japanese Internment and the Civil Rights Movement

8:30 a.m. ***Literature in the Digital Age: Reading, Writing, and Reviewing Across
Platforms 1***
MB 2.430

Chair: Aman Grewal, McGill U

Juliana Lau, U of Calgary – BookTok, Bookstagram, and BookTube
Alexandra Lamb, U of British Columbia – The Work of Art in the Age of Digital
Reproduction: What Modern Readers Can Learn From Medieval Manuscripts
Elena Sénéchal-Becker, McGill U – Teaching Each Other How to Love: Queer Affect
Transmission and Archiving Methods in Digital Poetry Communities

8:30 a.m. ***Poetic Worlds, Poetic Spaces***
MB 3.435

Chair: TBA

Joel Katelnikoff, U of Alberta – “The Limits of My Language Mean the Violent
Thudding of My Heart”: Investigating the Strangeness of Wittgenstein’s
Language through Cut-Ups
Youeal Abera, McGill U – The Affordability of Archiving: An Analysis of Rukeyser’s
The Book of the Dead and the Obscuration of White Supremacy
Christopher Giannakopoulos, U of Waterloo – Made under constraint: literary tensions in
poetry as architecture

8:30 a.m. ***Philosophical Approaches***
MB 3.445

Chair: TBA

Kayla Fanning, Concordia U – Rootedness, Trans-corporeality, and Violence in Sarah
Moss’s *Ghost Wall*
CJ MacDonald, U of Toronto; Nat Leduc, U of Toronto – Pink Opacities: Trans
Becoming as Opaque Illumination
Jesse Genereux, McMaster U – Cultivating the Conditions of Ethical Subjectivity
Through Experiments in Literary Form: bpNichol and Emmanuel Levinas

8:30 a.m. Roundtable on Victorian Incubators (VSAWC/ACCUTE)
MB 3.255

Chair: Heather Marcovitch, Red Deer Polytechnic; Susan Johnston, U of Regina

Sammy Cormier, U of New Brunswick – Queering the Salon: Natalie Clifford Barney's "Paris Circle"

Jo Devereux, U of Western Ontario – The St. John's Wood Clique: Incubating Aestheticism in the 1860s

Tara MacDonald, U of Lethbridge – The Men and Women's Club as Flawed Feminist Incubator

Andrea Korda, U of Alberta; Mary Elizabeth Leighton, U of Victoria; Vanessa Warne, U of Manitoba – Digital Methods and Material Encounters: What We Learned from Crafting Communities

Heather Marcovitch, Red Deer Polytechnic; Richa Dwor, Douglas College – Jewish Victorian Incubators

Daniel Martin, MacEwan U – James Hunt and the Choreographies of Contagious Speech, 1850-1900

Jill Ehnenn, U of Alberta – Collaboration and Incubation

DAY 2 – Break: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

DAY 2 – Session 2: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

10:30 a.m. Beyond Binaries: Victorian Literature in Transnational Contexts (NAVSA/ACCUTE)
MB 2.210

Chair: Reza Taher-Kermani, Concordia U

Ella Hooper, Concordia U – Opium, Object and Orientalism: Symbols of Empire and the Expansion of the Victorian Periodical Press

Donna Tillotson, Queen's U – From Translation to Transformation: Spinoza's Role in Eliot's Reimagining of Victorian Gender

Ali Hassanpour Darbandi, York U – "Azad or Free Like Cypress": Thoreau's Non-propositional *Religion of Nature* and Saadi's *Gulistan*

Cherrie Kwok, U of Iowa – E. Pauline Johnson's Mohawk Metalepsis

10:30 a.m. New Writing in a Time of Disorientation 2
MB 2.210

Chair: Anna Veprinska, U of Calgary; Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike, U of Calgary

Andy Weaver, Trent U – PurgatorioXIX: Erasure (Poetry) In the Time of COVID
Uchechukwu Peter Umezurike, U of Calgary – Postwar Memory, Historical Trauma, and Poetry
Blair Yoxall, U of Calgary – An Historical Presence: Treat Them as Buffalo in Its Modern Catastrophic Contexts

10:30 a.m. Narratives of the Unspoken: Trauma, Memory, and Identity 1 – Trauma at the Borders
MB 2.435

Chair: Nafiseh Shajani, U of Western Ontario

Aamna Rashid, U of British Columbia – The Body as an Archive: Performing the Memory of Partition (1947)
Fatemeh Zarvasi, U of Victoria – Co-naissance and Co-affectivity in Aliyeh Ataei's *The Alcove*
Concetta Principe, Trent U – Minor Detail and the Muselmann

10:30 a.m. Irrepressibility: Women's Writing throughout History 1 – 1600-1900
MB 2.445

Chairs: Charlotte Esme Frank, McGill U; Emily McConkey, McGill U

Marie Trotter, McGill U – “I’m Bold To Sit Amongst You For My Ease”: Irrepressible Female Spectatorship in *The Knight of The Burning Pestle*
Abigail Butler, McGill U – Negotiating Female Sexual Pleasure in the Early Romance Novel
Zohreh Ramin, Acadia U – Irrepressible voices from Qajar Iran to Enlightenment England
Julia Bifulco, McGill U – “We found her hidden just behind those screens”: Christina Rossetti and Elizabeth Siddal

10:30 a.m. ROUNDTABLE: AMA and FAQ: Submitting your Research to a Journal
MB 3.210

Mary Chapman, U of British Columbia – Canadian Literature Journal
Allan Pero, U of Western Ontario – English Studies in Canada
Janice Shroeder, Carleton U – Victorian Review

10:30 a.m. Sound Pedagogy: Listening to Literary Audio in Classrooms and Beyond
MB 3.430

Chairs: Karis Shearer, U of British Columbia; Klara du Plessis, U of British Columbia

Natasha D'Amours, U of Alberta; Sarah Freeman, U of Alberta – 360° Video and Ambisonic Audio: A Case Study in “Re-Sounding” Literary Audio for Research-Creation

Emily Fedoruk, Independent Scholar – The Classroom Theatre: Pedagogies of Sound at the 1963 Vancouver Poetry Conference

Cole Mash, U of British Columbia (Okanagan Campus) – ‘Physiology Flutter’: Reading and Pedagogy of Mediatized Spoken Word Poetry

10:30 a.m. Postcolonial Masculinities and Femininities
MB 3.270

Chair: TBA

Ifra Kainat, U of Lahore – Masculinities in Transit: Gender, Power, and Vulnerability in the works of Mohsin Hamid and Kamila Shamsie

Mariana Chajon Oliveros, Independent Scholar – The Mimic Women in The Mimic Men

Haley Prosser, McMaster U – Resisting the Domestic Space: Gender, Sexuality, and Imagined Spaces in *The Shadow Lines*

10:30 a.m. Modernism, Fascism, and Race
MB 2.430

Chairs: TBA

Allan Hepburn, McGill U – Rex Warner, Betty Miller, and Fascist Melodrama

Andre Furlani, Concordia U – Counter-Flanerie: Racialized Walking in Modern Fiction

Joseph Rosenberg, U of Notre Dame – Litvinoff Contra Eliot

10:30 a.m. Practicing Poetic Attention
MB 3.435

Chairs: TBA

Andy Weaver, York U – Theodore Enslin’s Poetry of Ethical Attention

Gaurav Jain, U of Victoria – The Queer Fool’s Etiquette: Gary Snyder’s Fire Writings and the Refusal of Redemption

Kasia Van Schaik, U of New Brunswick – A Day’s Work: Durational Poetry and Domestic Time

10:30 a.m. *Writing a Life from the Margins 1: Writing a Queer Life*
MB 3.445

Chair: Titi Aiyegbusi, U of Toronto

Bronte Cronsberry, U of Western Ontario – Reading the Canon: Life Writing and the Embodiment of Queer Theory

Shannon Brown, Dalhousie U – A Queer Mourning Matrix: Beautiful Writing and Living

Aiza Gamboa Bragg, U of British Columbia – "A Shout from the Grave": *Pro Bernal Anti Bio* as Queer Filipinx Anti-Archive

Arshad Said Khan, U of Alberta – Deviant Citizenship: Caste, Gender, and the Promise of Hindu Sovereignty in Contemporary Indian Hijra Life Narratives

10:30 a.m. *Mapping Canadian Literatures from Backwoods to Prairies*
MB 3.255

Chair: TBA

Marissa Carroll, Dalhousie U – A Digital Literary Cartography: Mapping The Song Fishermen's Song Sheet's Transnational Field of Cultural Production

David Buchanan, Athabasca U – Literary Historification of Canada: *British Columbia: A Centennial Anthology*

Jackson Mattocks, U of Calgary – Empathetic Loneliness: Empathy and Loneliness in Prairie Fiction

Matthew Zantingh, Redeemer U – What Lurks in the Backwoods?: Jeff Lemire's Comics as Southern Ontario Gothic Texts

DAY 2 – Lunch: 12:00 p.m - 1:30 p.m.

12:00 p.m. *ACCUTE Creative Writing Caucus Member Lunch*
LB 646

12:00 p.m. *ACCUTE Graduate Student Caucus Member Lunch*
LB 649

12:00 p.m. *ACCUTE Contract Faculty Member Lunch*
LB 659.04

DAY 2 – Session 3: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

1:30 p.m. *Wave Upon Wave 1: A Poetry Reading and Discussion*
MB 1.210

Chairs: Gillian Sze, Concordia U; Diane Yeung, Concordia U

Rijaa Khan, McMaster U – Water as Archive: Memory and the Earth in Diasporic Poetics
Madelaine Caritas Longman, Concordia U – Common Grounds and Waters: Ethics,
Elegy, Ekphrasis
Vinh Thach, McMaster U – Delta Elegy: Refugee Poetics of Water
Rob Winger, Trent U – Selected Bridges

1:30 p.m. *Celebrating the Centenary of Margaret Laurence's Manawaka Saga*
MB 2.210

Chairs: Nora Foster Stovel, U of Alberta

Nora Foster Stovel, U of Alberta – Margaret Laurence's Cultural Mosaic in her
Manawaka Saga
Christl Verduyn, Mount Allison U – Writer to Writer: Marian Engel's Defense of
Margaret Laurence's *The Diviners*
Laura Davis, Red Deer Polytechnic – What Margaret Laurence Told Us About the
Environment: Reading Laurence's Writing Through Eco Criticism
Leilei Chen, U of Alberta – Globalizing "The Canadian Local": Translating Margaret
Laurence's Short Stories into Chinese

1:30 p.m. *Literature and the Geo-Logics of Conquest 2*
MB 2.435

Chair: Brennan McCracken, Concordia U

Tom Nakasako, McGill U – Romantic Natures and Primitive Accumulation in William
Wordsworth and Jane Johnston Schoolcraft
Meaghan Sych, U of Alberta – Reading "The Geology of Colonialism": Prairie Geology
in the Anthropocene
Paisley Conrad, Concordia U – Objectivism, Geology and Value in Lorine Niedecker's
Lake Superior

1:30 p.m. *Disability and Illness Narratives as Re-Worlding 2*
Pain Without Resolution, Re-Envisioning Terminal Illness and Caregiver
Coping, and Non-linear Narratives of Photographic Non-Capture
MB 2.445

Chairs: Jorge Vallejos, York U

Rachel Huh, U of Calgary – Pain without Resolution: Disenfranchised Grief and the Right to Suffer

Anastazia Csegeny, U of Western Ontario – "This is Not a Story About Grief": Re-Envisioning Terminal Illness and Caregiver Coping in Rick Louis' *Ronan and the Endless Sea of Stars*

Shane Neilson, McMaster U – This is Not a Picture of Me, and There has Never Been One: On Photographs of Autistic People and Nonlinear Narratives of Photographic Non-Capture

1:30 p.m. Audience Reactions to Shakespeare (CSRS/ACCUTE)
MB 3.210

Chair: Alexandra Lukawski, U of Western Ontario; Alice Hinchliffe, U of Guelph

Julian Quigg, U of British Columbia – ‘Women to Change Their Shapes’: Reconciling Homoeroticism and Heterosexuality in *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*

Kenzo Pecchia, McGill U – Mitigating the Trauma of the Civil War: William Davenant's Shakespeare on the Early Modern Stage

Jacqueline Petropoulos, York U – Playing with Shakespeare and Audience Expectations: The Politics of Colonial Betrayal

1:30 p.m. WORKSHOP: Improvisatory Practices in Research and Pedagogy
MB 3.430

Organizer: Sharon Engbrecht, U of Guelph

"When broken down improvisation, etymologically, lends itself to the idea of unproviding for the future, a decolonial approach to colonialist histories of individualization and knowledge production, what Elwood Jimmy and Vanessa Andreotti describe as “thread sensibilities” in *Towards Braiding*. Threading sensibilities are an orientation towards relationships that focus on collective well-being critical of the hierarchical nature of goal- and progress-oriented outcomes and decision-making. With this in mind, what does it mean to improvise research? What can we do to incorporate improvisation into our scholarship? How can we incorporate improvisatory practices as educators?

Part introduction to the language and tools offered through Critical Studies in Improvisation, part open discussion, and part collaborative and create think-tank about arts-based practices and creative output, the “Improvisatory Practices in Research and Pedagogy” workshop will call attention to implicit hierarchies and institutional practices while also asking participants to respectfully consider and also call into question their own practices as scholars and educators.

This workshop will give participants the chance to answer some of the above questions and to think about the confluence of improvisatory practices in research and pedagogy. Critical Studies in Improvisation gives us language and tools to work within and responsibly challenge the colonialist creep, and neoliberal structure, of the university. The language and tools of improvisation can help us reevaluate the models we have inherited, asking us to think outside the box about how to shift entrenched institutional practices while mindful of the stakes in what it means when we expose a problem at the same time we might be perceived as posing a problem (Ahmed, *Living a Feminist Life*).

The workshop will ask participants to examine how improvisation brings into perspective different approaches to ways of being and doing. The design of the workshop will invite participants to co-design the contents and focus of discussion. This addresses questions about how co-creation takes place within structures that demand or, in the least often presume, a clear structure of knowledge production and quantifiable outcomes. The intention behind this opening-up of the workshop's potential boundaries also invites participants to think about the way modelling can be a basis for thinking through and embodying improvisatory practices.

Together we will investigate multiple contexts of knowledge production and improvisatory practices, including what that means for post-secondary teaching and learning, community-engaged research, and spaces of knowledge curation. The hope is to work together to build a collaborative and caring environment where we can experiment, take risks, and learn from one another, while acknowledging the diversity of our lived experiences and approaches as scholars and educators.

1:30 p.m *Feeling American: Race, Labour, Orientalisms*
MB 3.270

Chair: TBA

Colleen Foster, U of Waterloo – Under Construction: The Affective Ideal in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Nicholas Marcelli, Queen's U – “Madonna of the Prairie”: Cover Art and the Sexualization of Manual Labour in Willa Cather's *My Antonia*

Albana Stafa, York U – Materializing the American Universal and its Orientalisms Through the Campus Novel: Mary McCarthy's *The Groves of Academe*, Vladimir Nobokov's *Pnin*, and Sonora Jha's *The Laughter*

1:30 p.m *Black and Indigenous Relationalities*
MB 2.430

Chair: TBA

Odessa Twibill, Simon Fraser U – Finding Black and Indigenous Solidarity in the Life Writing of Maria Campbell and Malcolm X
Jay Pahre, McMaster U – Whiteness as Ambush Predator: Strategies of Settler Hunger, White Consumption, and Gut-turning
Bailey Schaan, U of Alberta – Shading in the Shadow of the Future: Creative History in Wade Compton's *The Outer Harbour*

1:30 p.m. *Worldbuilding as a Political Practice 2: Criticism*
MB 3.435

Chair: Brent Ryan Bellamy, Trent U

Diana Manole, Trent U – To Have or Not to Have a Lapdog in Iran: The Fictional Rereading of Chekhov's Short Story in Fereshteh Molavi's Fiction
Alison Dyck, U of Western Ontario – The Human Under Totalitarianism in *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*
Ethan Coleman, U of Ottawa – Reading Books with Maps: Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* and the Politics of the Paratextual Map
Johanna Gibson, Dalhousie U – Time Flies Like a Banana: Queer Temporality in *This is How You Lose the Time War*

1:30 p.m. *Opacity, Agency, and the Subject in Creative Forms*
MB 3.445

Chairs: Kendra Guidolin, U of Ottawa; Ritu Kurien, U of Ottawa

Claudia Martinez Rivera, U of California, Berkeley – No sé traducir pedregosidad
Kiera Obbard, U of Waterloo – Quiet Comings Out: A Poetics of Queer Opacity
Salena Wiener, Simon Fraser U – "I am half sick of living in the shadow of his gaze": Desire and Opacity in *Cities of Delusions*

1:30 p.m. *Problems of Memory and Nostalgia*
MB 3.255

Chair: TBA

Craig Jacobs, U of British Columbia Okanagan – What I Remember Is This: Reflexivity, Physical Decline, and Shifting Memories of Atrocity in Westerns
Adelvida (Amor) Lomibao, York U – Nostalgia and Futurism and Its Discontents
Shelley Hulan, U of Waterloo – Blind Spot: Nostalgia and Eugenics in Alexander McLachlan's *The Emigrant*

DAY 2 – Break: 3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

DAY 2 – Session 4: 3:15 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

3:15 p.m. Indigenous Horror
MB 1.210

Chairs: Krista Collier-Jarvis, Mount Saint Vincent U; Naomi Simone Borwein, U of Western Ontario

Gage Diabo, Concordia U – Horrors and Comforts of Kinship: The Tones of Shirley Cheechoo's *Bearwalker*

Mylène Gamache, U of Manitoba; Adrienne Huard, U of Manitoba; Ashley Daniels, U of Manitoba; Nicole Stonyk, U of Manitoba; Hope Ace, U of Manitoba – Haunting Relations across the Indigenous prairies (and Beyond)

Doina Ciochina, U of Sherbrooke – Mythic Beasts and Survival: The Rougarou and Wendigo as Symbols of Colonial and Environmental Decay: *Empire of Wild* and *Moon of the Crusted Snow*

3:15 a.m. Medieval Masculinities (CSM/ACCUTE)
MB 2.210

Chairs: Megan Arnott, Lakehead U; Kathryn Walton, Lakehead U

Megan Arnott, Lakehead U – Female Masculinities in the Robin Hood Tradition

Sophia Hastings, Simon Fraser U – Medieval Male Gaze and Feminine Body Politics

Emily Pickett, Queen's U – "The Heart and Stomach of a King": How a Genderbent *Henry V* Can Unlock New Parallels to Elizabeth I in Contemporary Performance

Krista Milne, Leiden U – Representations of Maternal Age in Literary Sources from Medieval England

3:15 p.m. Self in the Age of Autofiction 1
Aesthetic Considerations: Race, the Archive, and the Sublime of Autofiction
MB 2.435

Chair: Concetta Principe, Trent U

Tony Cooper, McGill U – Realer than Real: Accessing the Ideal in the Sonnets of Diane Seuss

Julia Polych-O'Neill, Memorial U – "IF SHE IS AN IMAGE, SHE IS THE IMAGE OF EVERYTHING THE STATE EVADES": The Archive and/of Lisa Robertson's Autofictional Selves

Hannah Gardiner, Independent Scholar – From autos to eros: deceptive aesthetics & autofiction

3:15 p.m. Ramones at Fifty (CAAS/ACCUTE)
MB 2.445

Chair: Peter Robert Brown, Mount Allison U

Bradley Clissold, Memorial U – Come On, Let's Renegotiate Nazi Rhetoric with the Ramones!

Susan Ingram, York U – Hey! Ho! Let's Go... to Berlin: Musealizing the Ramones

Frances Cameron, McGill U – Curating Rebellion: Punk Music and Alternative Aesthetics in the United States

3:15 p.m. The Literary Critic of Humour, Round Two
MB 3.210

Chair: Danielle Bobker, Concordia U

Gaurav Jain, U of Victoria – Cringe, Click, Repeat: Funny Feelings, Affective Overflow, and the Doomscrolling Critic

Yara Ajeeb, Concordia U – When Kings Cannot Read Themselves: Humour, Misrecognition, and Interpretive Failure in *Kalīla wa Dimna*

Mike Robertson, Vancouver Island U – The Clowns of Country Music: Word Play and Literary Relevance

Emily Stuchbery, Concordia U – In Pursuit of Obstinate Inefficiency: Anticapitalist Imaginings and The Memeification of Whimsy

3:15 p.m. Montreal in the Cultural Imagination: Mapping a City Through Story and Symbol
MB 3.430

Chairs: Nathalie Cooke, McGill U; Lorraine York, McMaster U

Nathalie Cooke, McGill U; Erin Vandenberg, McGill U – Cafés, Clubs, and Clandestine Cabarets: Prohibition-era Nightlife in Sin City and its Surrounds

Sophie Feng, U of Toronto – Mapping the Montreal Queer Nightscapes

Tina Wayland, Independent Scholar – Faint Traces: Mapping the History and Cultural Significance of Montreal's Lithuanian Community

Lu yu, NanJing Normal U; U of Alberta – Alternative Flavors: Culinary Writing and Citizenship Transformation in *Mǎn*

3:15 p.m. Technology in the Literature Classroom
MB 3.270

Chair: TBA

Navid Jalali, McMaster U – Reimagining Shakespeare Pedagogy through Video Games
Joe Toner, Concordia U – ChaucerCast: Embracing Middle English Phonetics
Aaron Tucker, Memorial U – Creative Writing Against, With, and About AI

3:15 p.m. *Performing Resistance*
MB 2.430

Chair: TBA

Zahra Barzegar, York U – Spiral, Radial, Fractal: Performing Gendered Memory in Contemporary Indigenous Poetry
Niloofer Rezaee, U of Western Ontario – “It Wasn’t Always Easy Growing Up Here”: Translation and Iranian Diasporic Identity Onstage
Tika Simone, Iverna Island – Rest as Resistance: Black Feminist Aesthetics, Creative Sovereignty, and the Politics of Refusal
Katarina Dyck, Queen’s U – All the World’s a Stage in “this low cottage”: How Ann Yearsley’s “To Indifference” Blurs the Line Between Public and Private Space

3:15 p.m. *Circulation and Authority in Victorian Literature*
MB 3.435

Chair: TBA

Marziyeh Ghoreishi, U of Western Ontario – Gendered Voices of Empire: British Travel Writing on Iran in the Nineteenth Century
Kaitlyn Fralick, Queen’s U – The Anglo-Irish Author and the English Periodical Press: J. Sheridan Le Fanu’s Literary Revisions for Charles Dickens’s *All the Year Round*
Alex DiCecco, U of Western Ontario – “Elle Était Un Peu Gourmand”: Navigating the Taboo of the Gourmand in Victorian Women’s Cookbooks

3:15 p.m. *R. Murray Schafer: Reassessing his legacy*
MB 3.445

Chair: Eric Schmaltz, Dalhousie U; Shannon Brown, Dalhousie U

Emanuel Puscoi, U of Calgary – The Function of Absence: A Psychoanalytic Reading of Silence and Noise in the Work of R. Murray Schafer
William Brubacher, McGill U– The Sonic Meaning of Water in R. Murray Schafer and bpNichol’s Ecologies
Karl Jirgens, U of Windsor – R. Murray Schafer’s Literary Accomplishments

DAY 2 – Session 5: 5:00 p.m. - 7 p.m.

5:00 p.m. **PLENARY LECTURE: Marcie Frank –“Genre, Situation, Rule: Some Concepts for Literary History?”**
MB 1.210

Marcie Frank is Professor of English at Concordia University. She has published books on gender, theatre, and the development of literary criticism in 17th-century England, Gore Vidal’s career as a public intellectual, and most recently, *The Novel Stage: Narrative Form from the Restoration to Jane Austen* (Bucknell UP, 2020). Recent essays include “Point of View and Embodiment Revisited” in *Eighteenth-century Fiction* and “Situation: A Narrative Concept” in *Critical Inquiry* (Summer 2024), which she co-authored with Kevin Pask and Ned Schantz. The former is part of her current project about narrative point of view in the eighteenth-century novel and the novel of today; the latter emanates from SSHRC-funded team research into the narrative concept of situation. The plenary talk for ACCUTE 2026 builds on the work of the Situation team and takes it into some directions that members may neither recognize nor approve.

Celebration of Research
MB 1.210

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026

DAY 3 – Session 1: 8:30 a.m. -10:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m. Gail Scott: Fiction+/Theory 1: Scott's Styles
MB 1.210

Chairs: Sarah Burgoyne, Dawson College; Jeff Noh, U of Toronto

Corey Frost, New Jersey City U – Nonfinite Possibilities: Syntactical Effects in *Furniture Music* and Other Works by Gail Scott

Geneviève Robichaud, U de Moncton; Erin Wunker, Dalhousie U – Gail Scott's Sartorial Poetics

Andre Furlani, Concordia U – Gail Scott's Arcades Projects

8:30 a.m. The World Remade: Deconstruction and Reconstruction through Language 2
MB 2.210

Chair: Kate Sheckler, Marianopolis College

Dakota Jabbour, U of Western Ontario – open: Playing with empty Language in bpNichol's Poetry

Joseph Sereney, York U – “Her voice carves / ginger root and oregano / into purloined air”: Female Prophecy and the Destruction of Linguistic Meaning in *After Beowulf*

8:30 a.m. Poetry of Infrastructure/Poetic Infrastructures: Panel 1
MB 2.430

Chair: Robert Stacey, U of Ottawa

Karis Shearer, U of British Columbia; Cole Mash, U of British Columbia (Okanagan) – The Lab as Poetic Research Site

Joseph (J) Shea-Carter, U of Guelph– Along the Bièvre: The Poetics of Infrastructure in Lisa Robertson's *Riverwork*

Jason Wiens, U of Calgary – Tish's Bridges

8:30 a.m. Pedagogies of Relation
MB 2.435

Chair: TBA

Maddie Beaulieu, Independent – "Burn the Buried Sunshine": The Queer Ecopedagogies of Ann-Marie MacDonald's *Fayne*

Myra Bloom, York U and U of Mannheim; Stefanie Schäfer, U of Mannheim – Where is Here—and There?: Transnational Approaches to CanLit in the Digital Age

Kate Monahan, Thompson Rivers U – Presencing Indigenous Knowledge in Land-Based Post-Secondary Education: A Settler Educator's Reflexive Inquiry into Decolonization, Accountability, and Relationality

8: 30 a.m. ***The Pregnant Text: Reimagining the Maternal Body***
MB 3.430

Chairs: TBA

Krista Collier-Jarvis, Mount St. Vincent U – It's A...: Portmortem Virality and the Pregnant (Zombie) Body

Michael Gillis, Concordia U – Queering the Patrilineal Patriarch: Birthing Performative Becomings in Gertrude Stein's "Picasso"

Kelsey Blair, U of the Fraser Valley – Minor Pain and the Postpartum Experience in *Nightbitch* and *Die My Love*

8:30 a.m. ***Transparency and its others in 18th century literature***
MB 2.445

Chair: Marcie Frank, Concordia U

Janice Niemann, Camosun College – "I am no longer to be deceived": Disability, Transparency, and Summer-house Settings in Frances Burney's *Camilla*

Mathieu Bouchard, John Abbott College – "A Transpicuous Gloom": Visibility in Richard Bentley's *Paradise Lost* (1732)

Trishala Dutta, U of British Columbia – Exhaustion as Method: Opacity, Refusal, and the Archive in M. NourbeSe Philip's *Zong!*

8:30 a.m. ***Modernism, Markets, and the Politics of Use***
MB 3.210

Chair: TBA

Ann Martin, U of Saskatchewan – How Bazaar: Virginia Woolf and the Politics of Use(fulness)

Elloïse Bastien, McGill U – Reclaiming the Fragmented Nymph in H.D.'s "Oread"

Catherine Hogg, Concordia U – Shopping at the Supermarché: Advertising and Consuming in Gertrude Stein's *Tender Buttons* and Harryette Mullen's *Trimmings and S*PeRM**K*T*

8:30 a.m. *The Future of EDI*
MB 3.270

Chairs: Mohammad (Mo) Sharifi, Fanshawe College; Richard Douglas-Chin, U of Windsor

Candace Brunette-Debassige, Laurentian U – The Chilling Effect of Residential School Denialism on Indigenous Faculty Members in Universities
Chinelo Ezenwa, Memorial U – Designing Inclusive and Bias-Free Language Systems: Empowering (Racialized) Faculty Through Transformative Union Agreements
Nicole Kaniki, Huron U – XXX

8:30 a.m. *Tuning in to Literary Radio 1*
MB 3.435

Chair: Michael O'Driscoll, U of Alberta; Sean Luyk, U of Alberta

Katherine McLeod, Concordia U – Fugitive Radio: Listening to CBC Radio Recordings Outside the CBC Archives
Niloofer Rezaee, U of Western Ontario – The Haunted Medium: Radio, Voice, and Intertextuality in Samuel Beckett's *Embers*
Elena Razlogova, Concordia U – From Virtuosity of the Segue to Poetry of the Body: Freeform Radio at Listener-Supported WFMU

8:30 a.m. *Writing a Life from the Margins 2: Mental Illness, Trauma, and Life Writing*
MB 3.445

Chair: Titi Aiyegbusi, U of Toronto

Odessa Twibill, Simon Fraser U – Finding Black and Indigenous Solidarity in the Life Writing of Maria Campbell and Malcolm X
Theresa Tinkle, U of Michigan – Mad Cripistemologies
Lydie Hua, U of Saskatchewan – Slow Postmemory and Ocean Vuong's Memorialization of his Mother in *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*

8:30 a.m. *Writerly Forms from Doodles to Data*
MB 3.255

Chair: TBA

Sheheryar Sheikh, Dalhousie U – The Doodle as Antidote: Meandering Toward Self-Directed Meaning

Ryanne Kap, U of Calgary – Scholars of the Self: Parasocial Readings of Catherine Lacey’s *The Möbius Book*
André Babyn, McGill U – Sphere Without Circumference: Systems Thinking, the Library of Babel, and Generative AI

DAY 3 – Break: 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

DAY 3 – Session 2: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

10:30 a.m. Gail Scott: Fiction+/Theory 2: Re-reading The Obituary
MB 1.210

Chair: Sarah Burgoyne, Dawson College; Jeff Noh, U of Toronto

Carla Harryman, Eastern Michigan U – A Score for *The Obituary*
Alonso Gamarra, U of Toronto – Fragmented Prose and the Narratable Self in Gail Scott’s *The Obituary* (2012)
Jennifer Henderson, Carleton U – *The Obituary*: a family story that is not one

10:30 a.m. Imagining Spatiality in End of the World Narratives 1: Reconfiguring space after the end
MB 2.210

Chair: Kirsten Bussiere, Mount St. Vincent U; Marisa Lewis, Heritage College

Theo Gray, U of Alberta– Urban Border-space and Apocalypse in adrienne maree brown’s *Grievers*
Michael Cameron, Dalhousie U – The City and the Wasteland: Apocalyptic Spatialities in Kevin Brockmeier’s *The Brief History of the Dead*
Mik Tampold, McMaster U – Objects Among Themselves: Anti-Anthropocentrism in *A Tidy Armageddon*
Ian-Jyzel Gallardo, U of Guelph – B-Mor: A space of hope on such a full sea (of squalor and decay)

10:30 a.m. ROUNDTABLE: Doing Critical Thinking Differently
MB 2.435

Moderator: Erin Moure, Writer and Independent Scholar

Three active poet-critic-teachers engage us in a conversation about doing critical thinking differently, from the perspective of their recent hybrid creative/critical works. After brief individual readings, panelists will contribute to a moderated conversation to shed light on their practices and approaches—which may break the norms of literary criticism, but also

renew it and make it possible. In different and delightful ways, all three writers explore literary texts and precedents not by assuming a “critical distance” in order to speak about prior texts, but by writing in collaboration with these texts. The result is an opening of texts to contemporary critical response that does not deny the critic’s own position as reader/writer, and that invites us all to read anew. With panelists Geneviève Robichaud (*The Poetics of Translation*), Joel Katelnikoff (*Recombinant Theory*), and Klara du Plessis (*I’mpossible Collab*).

10:30 a.m. ‘How much do I need to learn about elves?’: Genre in the Creative Writing Workshop
MB 3.430

Chairs: Glenn Clifton, Sheridan College

Richard Kevis, Toronto Metropolitan U – Books That Play Back: Choice, Agency, and Literacy in *Escape from Tenopia*

Danielle Martak, U of Toronto – Genre as Compass: A Pedagogy for Situating A Piece of Creative Writing in Discourse

Bronwen Tate, U of British Columbia – Influences and Inspirations: Micro-Presentations to Support Genre and Aesthetic Diversity in the Creative Writing Classroom

Heather Clitheroe, U of Calgary – Writing Romance and Erotica: Designing a consent-based, trauma-informed online classroom

10:30 a.m. *Doing Magic in the University: A workshop for the admin-curious*
MB 3.430

Organizer: Lily Cho, York U

Co-organisers: Laura Moss, U of British Columbia; Neta Gordon, Brock U

English literature professors are over-represented, in the best way, in the ranks of senior administration across Canada. In this workshop, we examine the skills that scholars of English literature bring to administrative and leadership work in the university. Participants will learn to map the skills they already have as scholars in our field onto some of the skills necessary for being an effective administrator. As former administrators who have served in roles at multiple levels of leadership in Canadian universities, we know that administrative work, despite its many challenges, can be a place for doing magic in the university. We want to share that possibility for magic, and for transformation during these times of crisis and austerity. We will guide participants to understand how their gifts as scholars can set them up to be outstanding university leaders. While we would be delighted to be joined by folks who are currently administrators, we particularly welcome graduate students who may be considering careers in the university outside of TT positions, and colleagues who are newer to administrative roles (or who have not yet served in one).

Skills participants will acquire skills in:

- Understanding principles of university governance
- Using a literary review and similar research skills to understand the needs of leadership roles
- Recognizing the value of strategic editing in policy revisions
- Understanding the role of storytelling for better communications plans
- Connecting literary critical skills to understanding institutional budget processes
- Locating institutional data and using institutional data for advocacy and decision-making
- Connecting our skills in empathy and intersectionality to approaching leadership roles

Workshop Leaders:

Lily Cho is an Associate Professor of English at York. She has served as Undergraduate Program Director, Department Chair, Associate Dean at York University. She also served as Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, International, at Western University.

Neta Gordon is a Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at Brock University. She served as Department Chair from 2008 to 2014 and Associate Dean for the Faculty of Humanities from 2018 to 2021.

Laura Moss is Professor of Literature at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Among other leadership roles, she has served as Canadian Studies Program Chair and as Associate Dean, Students for the Faculty of Arts. Currently on UBC Senate, she is chair of the UBC Teaching and Learning Committee.

10:30 a.m. *Irrepressibility: Women's Writing Through History 2 – 1900-2020s*
MB 2.445

Chairs: Charlotte Esme Frank, McGill U; Emily McConkey, McGill U

Aman Grewal, McGill U – The Aesthetic of Difficulty: Reading Mina Loy's *The Lost Lunar Baedeker*

Kayla Penteliuk, U de Montréal – "Secret Friends": Queer Love, Disability, and Witchcraft in *Living Alone* (1919) by Stella Benson

Maya Jaishankar U of Western Ontario – "To always carry one's inner voice about is a heavy burden": Young Girls' Voices in Postcolonial Cultural Resistance

Sophia Shelley, McMaster U – Songs of Self-Pleasure: Irrepressibility, Feminist Resistance, and the Politics of Pop Music

10:30 a.m. *Beyond Interdisciplinarity – GSC-Sponsored Panel*
MB 3.210

Chairs: Bailey Schaan, U of Alberta; Melanie Fishbane, U of Western Ontario

Daniel Green, U of Western Ontario – Why I Study Videogames in an English Department; or, Gadamer’s Hermeneutics and the English Department Today
Marisa Bordonaro – Making Narratives “Mad”: (Re)writing Mad Radical Poetry as a Collaborative Creative Process
Wiamm Berred, Qatar Museums – Thinking In, With, and Against Interdisciplinarity: Towards a Practice of Conceptuality

10:30 a.m. Montreal as Contact Zone: Topography, Diaspora, and the Poetics of Place
MB 3.270

Chair: TBA

John Z. Ming Chen, Global College – Montreal and Sui Sin Far: Daoism from Here to Everywhere
Nina Cloutier, McGill U – A City Imagined: Migration, Escape, and Montreal’s Contradictory Contact Zone
Adam Carter, U of of Lethbridge – *Two Solitudes*, Two Views from Mount Royal, and the Topographical Tradition

10:30 a.m. Queer Memory and Forms of Care
MB 3.435

Chair: TBA

Lydie Hua, U of Saskatchewan – Multiplication or Fragmentation: Queer Black Masculinities and Diasporic Identity in Marlon James’ *A Brief History of Seven Killings*
Evan Buck, U of Ottawa – “More Than a Painful Memory”: Queer Kinship in Jane Rule’s *Memory Board*
Camila Lefebvre, McMaster U – Feminist Epistolary Intimacy and the Practice of Care
Emily Cann, Dalhousie U – Queer Time and Mad Healing in Carmen Maria Machado’s *In the Dream House*

10:30 a.m. Staging Vision in Early Modern Literature
MB 3.445

Chair: TBA

Julian Quigg, U of British Columbia – ‘Not Amurath’ and Amurath: Foils and Racialized Performance in *Henry V* and *The Courageous Turk*

Katherine Walker, U of Western Ontario – Investigating the Male Gaze: Laura Mulvey’s
Scopophilia and the Renaissance Love Poem

Fatemeh Shahnava, U of Western Ontario – Penning with Paint: Redefining Female
Authorship Through Lady Anne Clifford’s Visual Autobiography

10:30 a.m. Translation in Contemporary Literature
MB 3.255

Chair: TBA

William Brubacher, McGill U – From “Dog of water” to “Chien d’eau”: Translation,
Relationality, and Ecology in Erin Moure’s Little Theatres

Malaika Mitra, McMaster U – The Opacity of Grammar: Kathy Acker and Clarice
Lispector’s Assertion of Agency Through Foreignization

Nisha Susan, U of Calgary – Stealth Glossing: The Satisfying Melodrama of Translation’s
Multitasker

DAY 3 – Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

12:00 p.m. ACCUTE Book L(a)unch
MB 5.215

Join us to celebrate new books by ACCUTE members, with short author talks and a light
lunch to eat while you listen.

DAY 3 – Session 3: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

1:30 p.m. Climate Change and the Maximalist Novel
MB 1.210

Chair: Anjalee Nadarajan, York U

Adam Hill, McGill U – More less and more more in Samatha Harvey’s *Orbital* (2023)

Richini Abayakoon, McMaster U – “How many peaceful lives must follow a violent one,
not to redeem it, exactly, but to remove the violence from relevance? Is the play
more of a history or a fiction?” : Exploring the fault lines between history, fiction
and climate change in *Rakesfall*

Anjalee Nadarajan, York U – Cultivating a Politics of Patience in Pynchon and Robinson

1:30 p.m. New Writing in a Time of Disorientation 3
MB 2.210

Chair: Anna Veprinska, U of Calgary; Uchechukwu Umezurike, U of Calgary

Aaron Kreuter, Trent U – Where We Both Are: Antizionist Jewish Fictional Responses to the Gaza Genocide

Jackson Mattocks, U of Calgary – A Lesson in Evil Companies

Amy LeBlanc, U of Calgary – This Is How It Ends: Interactive Fiction in a Time of Disorientation

Lisa Richter, Independent – Curiouser and Curiouser: Duende and the Associative Leap in Writing Through Rupture

1:30 p.m. *Literature in the Digital Age: Reading, Writing and Reviewing Across Platforms 2*
MB 2.430

Chair: Aman Grewal, McGill U

Aman Grewal, McGill U – Rewriting Romance: Genre Categorization and Reader-Driven Taxonomies on #BookTok

Chloe Mee, U of British Columbia – Serial Social Reading Across Platforms: Comparing Wattpad and Victorian Readers of *Oliver Twist*

Eric Joosse, U of Guelph – Reader-Response in the Algorithmic Age: YouTube Personalization, Visibility and Algorithmic Identity

1:30 p.m. *Narratives of the Unspoken: Trauma, Memory, and Identity 2 – Artistic Mediations of Trauma*
MB 2.435

Chair: Nafiseh Shajani, U of Western Ontario

Pamela Beyer, Concordia U – Intertextual Productivity and Traumatic Temporalities in Nicole Raziya Fong's *PEYFACT*

Anindita Mukherjee, U of Alberta – The anxiety of listening after the Holocaust in Wolfgang Koeppen's *Death in Rome*

Yasmine Lemnij, U of Western Ontario – Articulating the Inarticulable: Representations of Trauma in the Works of Derek Jarman and David Wojnarowicz

1:30 p.m. *Care for: Epistolary as Reflection, Research, and Resistance Workshop*
MB 3.430

Organizer: Jorge Vallejos

Epistolary is not only a form of communication, but it can also be a practice of care for oneself and care for others. Epistolary as we know it has roots in feminism; women

(originally of European background) practiced agency on the page via reflecting on their lives and sharing their lived experiences, ideas and strategies of defiance and resistance, while building community with other women. Academia as is practiced in the academic industrial complex has its roots in patriarchy (Acevedo-Zapata, 2019) and often sees a practice of writing that is formulaic: "...the professional article and monograph – is underwritten by conformity rather than philosophical reflection and commitment (Lysaker, 2019).

Letter-writing offers students and philosophers the freedom to explore ideas without judgement, worry of disappointing a professor or supervisor, and/or feeling the pressure of academic perfection and professionalism. And in several cases, it facilitates the building of academic community (Khang Le et al., 2024).

Following my intro and listing of group agreements, I will encourage participants to share their names and preferred pronouns, then lead a quick diaphragmatic breathing exercise (that can be done sitting or standing) to ground ourselves. The first third of the workshop will see me give a brief introduction about the herstory and practice of letter-writing; my own practice of writing letters to friends alive and dead, and an 18-month correspondence with an LatinX inmate in the American prison industrial complex.

As a group we will read one of three short open letters by Cree Two-Spirit academic, poet, and novelist Joshua Whitehead, Trans writer Cindy Bourgeois, and British journalist Eva Wiseman. These three letters are examples of writers practicing care for themselves as well as care for the people and systems they are challenging, calling-in, and extending an olive branch to. We will then have a group discussion about the letters by Whitehead, Bourgeois, and Wiseman. Following this will be two twenty-minute letter-writing exercises. The final section will see an opportunity to voluntarily share writing done in the workshop and/or ideas about the practice and process of letter-writing. A check-in, debrief, and communal outro will end the workshop.

This workshop is aimed to be a safe-r space with participants practicing respect for others.

1:30 p.m. *Nineteenth-Century Activism and Social Justice (VSAO/ACCUTE)*
MB 2.445

Chairs: Jo Devereux, U of Western Ontario; Taylor Tomko, U of Western Ontario

Matthew Samuelson, U of Western Ontario – "To Make Cogs and Compasses of Themselves": William Morris, Utopian Landscapes, and the Politics of Work in Socialist Societies

Hilary Lerner, U of Alberta – George Moses Horton: Subverting Allusions

Karen Selesky, U of the Fraser Valley – The Lady Visitor as Mother Confessor: Felicia MF Skene at the Oxford County Gaol

1:30 p.m. *Roundtable on The Bloomsbury Handbook of Poetry. Gender, Sexuality and Poetry*
MB 3.210

Chair: Heather Milne, U of Winnipeg; Elena Basile, York U

Alyson Brickey, U of Winnipeg – Rereading Canonical. Poets: Walt Whitman’s Queer Democracy

Sarah Dowling, U of Toronto – Speaking in the Second Person

Concetta Principe, Trent U – The Messiah and the Mystic: Mad Subjects and the Feminine Poetics of Ethics

Bethany Hicok, Williams College – Queer Feminist Publishing and the Women’s Liberation Movement: The Women’s Press Collective

Laura Westengard, CUNY – Queer Corporeal Poetics and the Medical Gothic

Erin Wunker, Dalhousie U – Reproductive Bodies and Poetic Mattering

1:30 p.m. *Decolonial Poetics and Archives in Canadian Contexts*
MB 3.270

Chair: TBA

Amber McMillan, U of New Brunswick – Metaphor as Relational Ontology: Ethics, Poetics, and Pedagogy

Veronica Austen, St. Jerome's U – The Work of a Photograph: Heeding a Call to be Friends in Face Kao: Portraits of Japanese Canadians Interned During WWII

Precious Gauthier, McMaster U – A Prairies Black History Project: The Counter Erasure Through Archives and Narratives

1:30 p.m. *Trust, Labor, and Voice in the Contemporary Academy*
MB 3.435

Chair: TBA

Daryl Bruce, Dalhousie U – The Queer Voice in the Ivory Tower: Scholarly Podcasting as Acts of Refusal

Eric Lehman, Trent U – Eat. Sleep. Grade. Repeat – New Narratives of Precarity in Seminar Leader, Teaching Assistant and Marking Roles in 2025.

1:30 p.m. *Forbidden Fiction: Intellectual Freedom, Fear, and Control on the Battleground of Banned Books*
MB 3.455

Chair: Zara Diab, U of Western Ontario

Parastoo Tahmasbi, U of Saskatchewan – Read No Evil: Producing Conformity by
Banning Dystopian and LGBTQ+ Books

Liam Rockall, U of Western Ontario – Harry Potter and the Bedlam of Banned Books

Alexander Sallas, Literary Review of Canada – Deus ex Machina, Colonial “Civilizing
Missions,” and the Politics of Intellectual Control

1:30 p.m. ***Mary Shelley's The Last Man in 2026***
(NASSR/ACCUTE)
MB 3.255

Chair: Raj Banerjee, U of Western Ontario

Megan Misztal, McMaster U – Against Disastrous Thought: Mutations of Hope at the
End of Shelley's World

Jennifer McDougall, U of Calgary – From Romanticism to Posthumanism: Shelley's
Early Experiment in Decentering the Human

Devin Stroink, U of Western Ontario – Framing Authenticity: The Problem of Veracity in
Mary Shelley's *The Last Man*

DAY 3 – Break 2: 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

DAY 3 – Session 4: 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

3:30 p.m. ***PLENARY LECTURE: Jordan Abel – “Dad Era:
Indigenous Knowledge Transmission Through Poetry”***
MB 1.210

Jordan Abel is a queer Nisga'a writer from Vancouver. He is the author of *The Place of Scraps*, *Un/inhabited*, *Injun*, *NISHGA*, and *Empty Spaces*. Abel has won many awards for his work, including the Griffin Poetry Prize and the Governor General's Award, and his latest book of poetry is titled *Dad Era* (Coach House Books 2026). Abel is a Professor at the University of Alberta where he teaches Indigenous Literatures, Research-Creation, and Creative Writing

SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026

DAY 4 – Session 1: 8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

8:30 a.m. **Annual General Meeting**
MB 1.210

DAY 4 - Break 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m

DAY 4 – Session 2: 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

10:30 a.m. **Gail Scott: Fiction+/Theory 3: Friends, Histories, Contexts**
MB 1.210

Chairs: Sarah Burgoyne, Dawson College; Jeff Noh, U of Toronto

Nora Fulton, Independent Scholar – The Periodizing Subject in *Permanent Revolution*

Jessi MacEachern, Dawson College – Among Friends: Reading and/as Translation in
Scott's *The Obituary* and *Furniture Music*

Sarah Dowling, U of Toronto – Gail Scott and Damion Searls Write the American 2010s

Clint Burnham, Simon Fraser U – Fiction-theory after mediation: Gail Scott avec Anna
Kornbluh

10:30 a.m. **Imagining Spatiality in End of the World Narratives 2: Memory-making and
nostalgia in the end of times**
MB 2.210

Chairs: Kirsten Bussiere, Mount St. Vincent U; Marisa Lewis, Heritage College

Sharon Engbrecht, U of Guelph – When the Past and Future Collide: Spatiality in *The
Past Is Red*

Sean Rhoads, Queen's U – Nostalgic Geographies and Apocalyptic Spatialities in
Stranger Things

Naomi Boswell, Dalhousie U – Inevitably Buried: Uneasy Erosion of the Self in Yoko
Ogawa's *The Memory Police*

10:30 a.m. **Poetry of Infrastructure/Poetic Infrastructures 2**
MB 2.430

Chair: Robert Stacey, U of Ottawa

Max Karpinski, Trent U – Pipelines, Poetics, Worldmaking

Jennifer Baker, U of Ottawa – The Necro-georgic: Insider oil poetics and labour-as-nation
Dale Tracy, Kwantlen Polytechnic U – Poetry and Infrastructural Spirit

10:30 a.m. *Narratives of the Unspoken: Trauma, Memory, and Identity 3 – Traumatic Inscription on the Body*
MB 2.435

Chair: Nafiseh Shajani, U of Western Ontario

Jenna Miller, U of Saskatchewan – "it is not known in words but in the body": Embodied Memory in Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing*
Kellie Chouinard, U of Waterloo – Recasting Trauma: Collaborative Art and Queer Survivorship
Emily Zepick, U of Saskatchewan – The Body Remembers: Traumatic Bodily Memory and Diasporic Experience in Ocean Vuong's *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*

10:30 a.m. *Medieval Magic (CSM/ACCUTE)*
MB 2.445

Chairs: Kathryn Walton, Lakehead U; Megan Arnott, Lakehead U

Kathryn Walton, Lakehead U – Sacred and Secular Crossover in the Magical Spaces of Cotton Nero A x
Serafina Piasentin, Dalhousie U – Pearl and *Paradise Lost*: The Fall of Divine Consolation
Sansian Tan, U of British Columbia – Infinite Joust: Spectral Return in Sir Launfal

10:30 a.m. *Creative Research 2*
MB 3.210

Chair: TBA

Rebecca Fredrickson, Thompson Rivers U – Touching the Heart Hereafter: Janis Ledwell-Hunt's Knotted Sculptures and the Persistence of Tactile Perception
Glenn Clifton, Sheridan College – Writing to Catch up with Crisis: A Comedy
Sheheryar Sheikh, Dalhousie U – "The Last TRC": Collaging Genocides to Write the Multi-Perspective Narrative of Our Time

10:30 a.m. *Rethinking the Postcolonial Subject*
MB 3.270

Chair: TBA

Ali Hassanpour Darbandi, York U – Disenchantment, Postcolonial Liberation and the Emergence of the Secular Selves in V.S. Naipaul's *In a Free State* (1971)
Friday Okpo, Memorial U – Transcultural Phenomenology in Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing*
Mahdiyeh Ezzatikarami, George Brown College – In the Margins No More: Class, Gender, and Uprising in Marjane Satrapi's Artistic Trajectory from Persepolis to Woman, Life, Freedom

10:30 a.m. Indigenous Literary Resistance
3.435

Chair: TBA

Shirin Z. Z. Shoushtari, York U – *The Marrow Thieves*: A Subversion of the Panoptic Eye
Taylor Breckles, Douglas College – Understanding (Il)literacy: Examining the Shadow Presence of Residential Schools as Found in Jordan Abel's *Nishga*
Naomi Simon Borwein, U of Western Ontario – Speculative Indigipoeitics of Apocalypse

10:30 a.m. Nineteenth-Century Forms and Practices
MB 3.445

Chair: TBA

Donna Tillotson, Queen's U – The Shape of Becoming: Literary Form and Identity Formation in George Eliot
Tobin Valcour, U of Western Ontario – English and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance: studying English in the Mechanics Institutes of 19th century Canada (before there were motorcycles)
Nora Foster Stovel, U of Alberta – The Lovers' 'Spirits Danc[e] in Private Rapture' in Jane Austen's *Persuasion*
Yasmin Solomonescu, U of of Notre Dame – *The Last Man* as Metafiction

10:30 a.m. The Role of Publishing Houses in Shaping Literary Discourse
MB 3.430

Chair: Tom Halford, Memorial U (Grenfell Campus)

Rowan Li, Queen's U; Julien Lefort-Favreau, Queen's U – Harvest House: Un Québec universel
Sandra Yeboah, U of British Columbia – The Presence of African Literature in the Global Book Market: Gatekeeping, Barriers, and Emerging Pathways

Ruth Panofsky, Toronto Metropolitan U – “A slew of entertaining business books”: Diane Francis and Key Porter Books

Logan Ropson, Memorial U – Breakwater Books Influence on the Teaching of Newfoundland Culture

DAY 4 – Lunch: 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

12:00 p.m. BIPOC Caucus Lunch

LB 646

12:00 p.m. English Studies in Canada Lunch

LB 649

DAY 4 – Session 3: 1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

1:30 p.m. Rethinking Romantic Science 2 (NASSR/ACCUTE)

MB 1.210

Chairs: Raj Banerjee, U of Western Ontario

Nathan TeBokkel, U of Western Ontario – Steady thy Laden Head: A Romantic Critique of Philosophy of Science's "Ladenness" Metaphor

Natasha Lomonosoff, Independent – Natural and Social Uses of Science in Anna Barbauld's *The Invitation*

Liam Rockall, U of Western Ontario– William Blake and Romanticism's Moral Revolution

McKenna Boeckner, U of New Brunswick – On Botanical Sex: The Homoerotic Science of Botany in Long-Romantic Literature

1:30 p.m. Silence, Speech, and Trauma

MB 2.210

Chair: TBA

Dania Idriss, U of Calgary – Consuming Imperatives: Collective Trauma of War and Occupation as Monstrous Apparitions

Sarah Webster, U of Victoria – The Silent Treatment: Silence as Resistance in *All My Puny Sorrows* and *Swing Low: A Life*

Payal Nagpal, U of Calgary – Silence and Speaking in David Chariandy's *Soucouyant*: Adele's Right to Forget

1:30 p.m. *Systems Thinking and/in Literature*
MB 2.430

Chairs: Jay Ritchie, Bishop's U

Brennan McCracken, Concordia U – "Reading" the Anthropocene? On systems-thinking and literary technique

Migrant Labour Market through the lens of CBC's First Person Migrant Stories

Jon Saklofske, Acadia U – "When, after all, it was you and me": Systems literacy, responsibility, and the poetic potential of semantic systems

Georgiana de Rham, U of California Davis – Ecosystems of Voice and Meaning in Roslyn

Orlando's *Ekhō: A Poem in Three Parts*

Zahra Barzegar, York U – Ocean as Memory, Poem as Witness: Systems Thinking in Craig Santos Perez's *Habitat Threshold*

1:30 p.m. *Self in the Age of Autofiction 2*
Queering Autofiction
MB 2.435

Chair: Concetta Principe, Trent U

Saghar Ghezeli, McMaster U – Autofiction, Trauma, & The Language of Freedom in Ocean Vuong's *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*

Daryl Bruce, Dalhousie U – Proof, Pain, and the Managed Lie: Queer Refusal in Autofiction

Charlotte Esme Frank, McGill U – Playing the field: The Strategic Marketing of Contemporary "autofiction" and "autotheory"

1:30 p.m. *Reading Canada Otherwise*
MB 2.445

Chair: TBA

Jessica McDonald, U of Saskatchewan – "Freeways / superb in all their trash and glam": Non-Place Poetry by Elizabeth Bachinsky and Sarah Pinder

Madelaine McLaughlin, York U – In Sickness: Monstrosity and Metaphor in W.W.E. Ross's "The Cloud" and James Reaney's "Antichrist as a Child"

Sarah Regier, U of Western Ontario – "We Do Immortal Tasks": Malcolm and Max as Settler Kings in Crawford's *Malcolm's Katie*

1:30 p.m. *Ecocritical Perspectives in Contemporary Canadian and Indigenous Writing*
MB 3.210

Chairs: TBA

Meaghan Sych, U of Alberta – Sonic Habitat Study: Aspen, Sparrow, Creek
Disability-Centric Workshop Experience

Patrick Aura, U de Montréal – Stone Grammar: ‘Transcreation’ and Radical Ecology in
Fred Wah’s Pictograms from the Interior of B.C.

Denbeigh Whitmarsh, Queen’s U – Ecocritical Asian Canadian and Indigenous Relations
in Saeed Teebi’s *Her First Palestinian and Other Stories* and Mariam Pirbhai’s
Garden Inventories: Reflections on Land, Place and Belonging

1:30 p.m. *Neoliberalism and the Public Sphere*
MB 3.270

Chair: TBA

Samantha Bernstein, York U – Derelict Daughters: Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore, Sarah
Shulman, and Sim Kern on Urban Roughness and Resistance

Alia Wazzan, Brock U – Netflix Feminist Identity

Cal Smith, U of British Columbia Vancouver Campus – Little Sister’s, the Public Sphere,
and Queer Liberation[?]

1:30 p.m. *Shakespeare in Extremis*
MB 3.435

Chair: TBA

Max Soucie, U of Western Ontario – Traumatic Cannibalism and the Othered Mother in
Titus Andronicus

Alice Hinchliffe, U of Guelph – What does it mean to kill Shakespeare?

Chloe Stewart, Queen’s U; Valentina Gaio, Queen’s U – “Ever since I discovered art, this
cell has become a prison”: The audience behind prison bars in *Caesar Must Die*

1:30 p.m. *Writing a Life from the Margins 3*
Collaboration, Community, and the Counter Narrative: Writing the Erased Life
MB 3.445

Chair: Titi Aiyegbusi, U of Toronto

Mohsina Shafqat Ali, U of Waterloo – Issues with Collaboration: Regaining Authorship
in Mukhtar Mai’s *In the Name of Honor*

Susanna Joseph, U of Toronto – “Autobiography of a Community”: Tracing Dalit Subaltern Counter Publics in Bama’s Sangati and Yashica Dutt’s *Coming Out as Dalit*

Jorge Vallejos, York U – Counter Stories from the Shoreline: Life Writing by Reinaldo Arenas and Audre Lorde

1:30 p.m. *Diasporic Identities*
MB 3.430

Chair: TBA

Samira Shahanjarini, Goethe U – The Role of Literature in Identity Formation of Iranian Women in Diaspora

Adhora Ahmed, U of Alberta – Performance of British and Muslim Identity in Kamila Shamsie’s *Home Fire*

Mahdiyeh Azzatikarami, George Brown College – Reimagining Diasporic Subjectivity: Linguistic Disruptions, Feminist Cartographies, and Epistemic Rupture in *Prophetess*

DAY 4 – Break: 3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m

DAY 4 – Session 4: 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

3:30 p.m. *Wave Upon Wave 2: A Poetry Reading & Discussion*
MB 1.210

Chair: Gillian Sze, Concordia U; Diane Yeung, Concordia U

Bronwen Tate, U of British Columbia – Body in Cold Water

Kenzie Allen, York U – “The River Formed by the Hand” -- Water Poems and Wampum as Framework

Tony Cooper, McGill U – Cadent Currents: The Ocean as a Structural and Thematic Device

Misha Solomon, Concordia U – “You Tell Me I Should Appreciate the Water”: Water Beyond Bodies

3:30 p.m. *Indigenous Storytelling as World(re)making*
MB 2.210

Chair: TBA

Mohammad Sharifi, U of Western Ontario – *Kiss of the Fur Queen*: Retelling a Story, Rebuilding the World

Shannon Webb-Campbell, Lakehead U Orillia – Mi'kmaq Visual Artists and Writers from Newfoundland and Labrador Speaking Back Against 1949's Confederation Terms of Union

Maya Jaishankar, U of Western Ontario – From Abstract to Concrete: Storytelling, Embodied Language, and Identity in *The Marrow Thieves*

3:30 p.m. Teachers as Investigators in the Age of AI
MB 2.430

Chair: Rahul Gautham Veliyil Edwin, U of Saskatchewan

Liam Exner, Independent Scholar – “You can Build Culture Out of Trash, but Only Trash Culture.” The Role of Educators as Champions of Human Creativity

Ella Ophir, U of Saskatchewan – Metaphors We Teach By

Antje Rauwerda, Goucher College – Issues Arising from AI in Assistive Learning Tools like Genio (formerly Glean) and Kurzweil 3000

3:30 p.m. Canadian Fictions and Movements
MB 2.435

Chair: TBA

Allan Weiss, York U – Schools in the Schools: University-Based Literary Movements in Canada

Solomon Goudsward, York U – Beautiful Beasts: Land and Parricide in *Mad Shadows* and *The Double Hook*

Avleen Grewal, U of Ottawa – The Outsider Masculinity: Queer Transformations in the Diaspora in Danny Ramadan's *The Foghorn Echoes* (2022)

3:30 p.m. Paradise and Polemics in Milton and Dryden
MB 2.445

Chair: TBA

Christina Wiendels, Fanshawe College – “The rising world of waters dark and deep”: Creation and Liquid Space in Milton's *Paradise Lost*

Jillian Vandervoort, McMaster U – From Misogyny to Irrepressibility: Leonida as an Active Agent in *Swetnam the Woman-Hater: Arraigned by Women*

James Munro, McMaster U – Competing Universalities in the Poetry of John Milton and John Dryden

3:30 p.m. Global and Indigenous Graphic Narratives
3.210

Chair: TBA

Stephanie Lewis, Wilfrid Laurier U – Blood Memory: Interconnectivity, Reconciliation, and Embodiment in Indigenous Graphic Novels
Kiana Fazilatmoaddeli, U of Western Ontario – Rebels Write Back: Nonmovements and Youth Agency in Marjane Satrapi's *Persepolis*
Dr. Bhawana Pillai, Texas Tech U – Graphic Stories from Global South

3:30 p.m. Life Writing in Embodied and Feminist Forms
MB 3.270

Chair: TBA

Ari Lord, U of Calgary – NeuroElectric: Exploring Neurodiversity Through Memoir
Dr. LaTrina Johnson, WGB Collective – Writing From the Flesh: Black Women's Epistolary Life Writing as Temporal Witness and Survival Practice"
Andrea Cabajsky, U de Moncton; Annie Gallant, U de Moncton – The Montaignian Essay as Feminist Critical Practice: Archival Recovery and the Lost Memoir of Marguerite Dutcher
Haley Down, U of Waterloo – Culinary Recreation: the role of recipes in women's food memoirs

3:30 p.m. Tuning in to Literary Radio 2
MB 3.435

Chairs: Michael O'Driscoll, U of Alberta; Sean Luyk, U of Alberta

Katherine McLeod, Concordia U; Jason Camlot, Concordia U – Listening on the Radio
Sabrina Binte Masud, Queen's U – Reading Sound: Epiphanic Listening and the Literary Possibilities of Radio Drama
Pouria Torkamaneh, U of Alberta – From Radio to Algorithmic Sound: Listening to *Welcome to Night Vale*

3:30 p.m. Victorian Faith, Femininity, and Felines
MB 3.445

Chair: TBA

Karen Selesky, U of the Fraser Valley – Faith, Doubt, and the Body in the Victorian Novel

Christopher Keep, U of Western Ontario – “Beauty’s Hour”: Towards a Theory of the Double as Caregiver

Hannah Rigg, U of New Brunswick – “A very ambitious kitten you were...but marriage sobered you” (Stables, Cats...429-30): Gender Constructionism Through the Feminine and the Feline in Mona Caird’s *The Wing of Azrael*

3:30 p.m. *WORKSHOP: Identifying and Disrupting Racialized-Gendered Normativities in the Classroom Workshop*
MB 3.430

Organizer: Alia Wazzan, Brock U

This workshop helps teachers not rooted in postcolonial feminist theory identify and disrupt normalized racialized and gendered assumptions about the “Other” that sneak into classroom discussions in many humanities and social sciences classrooms. The workshop draws on real statements the workshop leader has heard in feminist classrooms and offers practice and nuanced insights on how to disrupt statements embedded in hierarchical and binary logics shaped by normalized common sense and internalized racism. Grounded in postcolonial feminist theory (Mohanty; Mahmood; Abu-Lughod; Spivak; Riley; Schick; Loomba; Fanon; Cole), the workshop translates key insights from this body of theory into a simplified pedagogy that can be applied to educational settings in order to decolonize discourses that define the “Other.”

When asked why they join a feminist class, many (female) students from the Global South identify as oppressed by their culture, family, or religion and express hopes that a feminist course in Canada will liberate them from cultures they perceive as inherently misogynistic. Students from dominant groups, attempting to show solidarity, often embrace the “saving” logic and the role of the white “savior.” At times, students remark that they are “lucky” not to belong to a Global South country, which they describe as “essentially” misogynistic, unlike the West. These roles of “oppressed” and “savior” create racialized hierarchies in the classroom and advance the tacit assumption that feminism exists only in the West and that Western feminism functions as a universal savior (Connell, “Rethinking Gender” 520).

Students who produce these statements are highly intelligent and strongly opposed to discriminatory and colonialist practices. Still, media narratives that shape understandings of the Self and the Other are often unconsciously carried into classroom discussions. Assumptions about gender roles, women’s oppression, and liberation frequently operate at a subconscious level and surface in conversations about the expected role of feminism. This workshop is designed to disrupt and challenge these normalized assumptions. The workshop is interactive by design and aims to foster insightful, critical discussion by engaging participants through reflection-based questions that invite multiple perspectives and explanations. Participants are presented with a set of ten statements drawn from real classroom conversations and are invited to reflect on whether these statements feel

familiar or problematic, and to identify the binaries, hierarchies, and assumptions they may generate in classroom spaces.

Through guided exercises (using prompts and examples provided on slides), participants work to de-essentialize women's oppression by grounding their responses in material conditions and power structures (using the Wheel of Power), replacing culturalist explanations and supremacist "saving" rhetoric with frameworks of solidarity and structural analysis. A substantial portion of the workshop is dedicated to rewriting practices, where participants collaboratively reframe statements by adding historical, colonial, economic, and political context, reversing the gaze to include Western structures of oppression, and recognizing non-Western forms of agency and resistance.

Skills (Objectives):

- Learn to decolonize classroom conversations
- Develop strategies to create more inclusive and genuinely diverse learning environments
- Identify and flatten hierarchical binaries
- Recognize hidden curricula in classroom discussions
- Guide students toward critical awareness of mainstream assumptions
- Increase the visibility of students of color's voices in predominantly majority-culture spaces

ACCUTE 2026 PUBLISHERS' BOOK EXHIBITION

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., June 4-7

MB Building Atrium

We are proud to host a conference Publishers' Book Exhibition at ACCUTE 2026. And we are thrilled to announce that the following academic and literary presses have already signed on and will have display tables at the conference:

Athabasca University Press
Book*hug Press
Broadview Press
Coach House Books
Concordia University Press
Inanna Publications
McGill University Press
University of Alberta Press
University of Toronto Press
Wilfrid Laurier University Press
University of Regina
Wolsak and Wynn
Invisible Publishing

The Book Exhibition will be located on the main level of our conference activities in the MB Atrium, near the registration desk, adjacent to our coffee breaks, just outside our main plenary hall, and easily accessible to conference participants and passersby who will see it through the many large windows that run along Guy Street.

If you are a publisher and wish to participate in the ACCUTE 2026 Publishers' Book Exhibition, please contact us for information about participation and sponsorship opportunities at info.accute@gmail.com

WORKSHOPS

Pre-registration instructions and full descriptions for all workshops to be announced.

Identifying and Disrupting Racialized-Gendered Normativities in the Classroom

Organizer: Alia Wazzan, Brock U

This workshop helps teachers not rooted in postcolonial feminist theory identify and disrupt normalized racialized and gendered assumptions about the “Other” that sneak into classroom discussions in many humanities and social sciences classrooms. The workshop draws on real statements the workshop leader has heard in feminist classrooms and offers practice and nuanced insights on how to disrupt statements embedded in hierarchical and binary logics shaped by normalized common sense and internalized racism. Grounded in postcolonial feminist theory (Mohanty; Mahmood; Abu-Lughod; Spivak; Riley; Schick; Loomba; Fanon; Cole), the workshop translates key insights from this body of theory into a simplified pedagogy that can be applied to educational settings in order to decolonize discourses that define the “Other.”

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“saving” rhetoric with frameworks of solidarity and structural analysis. A substantial portion of the workshop is dedicated to rewriting practices, where participants collaboratively reframe statements by adding historical, colonial, economic, and political context, reversing the gaze to include Western structures of oppression, and recognizing non-Western forms of agency and resistance.

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Improvisatory Practices in Research and Pedagogy

Organizer: Sharon Engbrecht, U of Guelph

"When broken down improvisation, etymologically, lends itself to the idea of unproviding for the future, a decolonial approach to colonialist histories of individualization and knowledge production, what Elwood Jimmy and Vanessa Andreotti describe as “thread sensibilities” in *Towards Braiding*. Threading sensibilities are an orientation towards relationships that focus on collective well-being critical of the hierarchical nature of goal- and progress-oriented outcomes and decision-making. With this in mind, what does it mean to improvise research? What can we do to incorporate improvisation into our scholarship? How can we incorporate improvisatory practices as educators?

Part introduction to the language and tools offered through Critical Studies in Improvisation, part open discussion, and part collaborative and create think-tank about arts-based practices and creative output, the “Improvisatory Practices in Research and Pedagogy” workshop will call attention to implicit hierarchies and institutional practices while also asking participants to respectfully consider and also call into question their own practices as scholars and educators.

This workshop will give participants the chance to answer some of the above questions and to think about the confluence of improvisatory practices in research and pedagogy. Critical Studies in Improvisation gives us language and tools to work within and responsibly challenge the colonialist creep, and neoliberal structure, of the university. The language and tools of improvisation can help us reevaluate the models we have inherited, asking us to think outside the box about how to shift entrenched institutional practices while mindful of the stakes in what it means when we expose a problem at the same time we might be perceived as posing a problem (Ahmed, *Living a Feminist Life*).

The workshop will ask participants to examine how improvisation brings into perspective different approaches to ways of being and doing. The design of the workshop will invite participants to co-design the contents and focus of discussion. This addresses questions about

WORKSHOPS

how co-creation takes place within structures that demand or, in the least often presume, a clear structure of knowledge production and quantifiable outcomes. The intention behind this opening-up of the workshop's potential boundaries also invites participants to think about the way modelling can be a basis for thinking through and embodying improvisatory practices.

Together we will investigate multiple contexts of knowledge production and improvisatory practices, including what that means for post-secondary teaching and learning, community-engaged research, and spaces of knowledge curation. The hope is to work together to build a collaborative and caring environment where we can experiment, take risks, and learn from one another, while acknowledging the diversity of our lived experiences and approaches as scholars and educators.

Proposed Workshop Format (90 minutes):

15 minutes: welcome, introductions, & icebreakers

10 minutes: open discussion about experience with improvisatory practices (modelling pre-assessments of knowledge base)

15 minutes: brief intro to critical studies in improvisation's language and tools for research and pedagogical practices

15 minutes: creative problem-solving challenge & small group dialogue

10 minutes: reflective discussion

15 minutes: reassessing practices of knowledge production, embodied action, & co-creation

10 minutes: reflective discussion & debrief (handouts)

Care For: Epistolary as Reflection, Research, and Resistance

Organizer: Jorge Vallejos, York U

Epistolary is not only a form of communication, but it can also be a practice of care for oneself and care for others. Epistolary as we know it has roots in feminism; women (originally of European background) practiced agency on the page via reflecting on their lives and sharing their lived experiences, ideas and strategies of defiance and resistance, while building community with other women. Academia as is practiced in the academic industrial complex has its roots in patriarchy (Acevedo-Zapata, 2019) and often sees a practice of writing that is formulaic: "...the professional article and monograph – is underwritten by conformity rather than philosophical reflection and commitment (Lysaker, 2019).

Letter-writing offers students and philosophers the freedom to explore ideas without judgement, worry of disappointing a professor or supervisor, and/or feeling the pressure of academic perfection and professionalism. And in several cases, it facilitates the building of academic community (Khang Le et al., 2024).

Following my intro and listing of group agreements, I will encourage participants to share their names and preferred pronouns, then lead a quick diaphragmatic breathing exercise (that can be done sitting or standing) to ground ourselves. The first third of the workshop will see me give a

WORKSHOPS

brief introduction about the herstory and practice of letter-writing; my own practice of writing letters to friends alive and dead, and an 18-month correspondence with an LatinX inmate in the American prison industrial complex.

As a group we will read one of three short open letters by Cree Two-Spirit academic, poet, and novelist Joshua Whitehead, Trans writer Cindy Bourgeois, and British journalist Eva Wiseman. These three letters are examples of writers practicing care for themselves as well as care for the people and systems they are challenging, calling-in, and extending an olive branch to. We will then have a group discussion about the letters by Whitehead, Bourgeois, and Wiseman. Following this will be two twenty-minute letter-writing exercises. The final section will see an opportunity to voluntarily share writing done in the workshop and/or ideas about the practice and process of letter-writing. A check-in, debrief, and communal outro will end the workshop.

This workshop is aimed to be a safe-r space with participants practicing respect for others.

Doing Magic in the University: a workshop for the admin-curious

Organizer: Lily Cho, York U

This workshop follows on the panel of the same title at the 2021 ACCUTE conference. English literature professors are over-represented, in the best way, in the ranks of senior administration across Canada. In this workshop, we examine the skills that scholars of English literature bring to administrative and leadership work in the university. Participants will learn to map the skills they already have as scholars in our field onto some of the skills necessary for being an effective administrator. As former administrators who have served in roles at multiple levels of leadership in Canadian universities, we know that administrative work, despite its many challenges, can be a place for doing magic in the university. We want to share that possibility for magic, and for transformation during these times of crisis and austerity. We will guide participants to understand how their gifts as scholars can set them up to be outstanding university leaders. While we would be delighted to be joined by folks who are currently administrators, we particularly welcome graduate students who may be considering careers in the university outside of TT positions, and colleagues who are newer to administrative roles (or who have not yet served in one).

Skills participants will acquire skills in:

- Understanding principles of university governance
- Using a literary review and similar research skills to understand the needs of leadership roles
- Recognizing the value of strategic editing in policy revisions
- Understanding the role of storytelling for better communications plans
- Connecting literary critical skills to understanding institutional budget processes
- Locating institutional data and using institutional data for advocacy and decision-making
- Connecting our skills in empathy and intersectionality to approaching leadership roles

Workshop Leaders:

Lily Cho is an Associate Professor of English at York. She has served as Undergraduate Program Director, Department Chair, Associate Dean at York University. She also served as Vice-Provost and Associate Vice-President, International, at Western University.

Neta Gordon is a Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at Brock University. She served as Department Chair from 2008 to 2014 and Associate Dean for the Faculty of Humanities from 2018 to 2021.

Laura Moss is Professor of Literature at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Among other leadership roles, she has served as Canadian Studies Program Chair and as Associate Dean, Students for the Faculty of Arts. Currently on UBC Senate, she is chair of the UBC Teaching and Learning Committee.

Reflexive Trauma Methodology: Emotional and Structural Reflexivity in Research

Organizer: Waed Hasan, U of Guelph

This workshop addresses the challenge of conducting research on sensitive, potentially traumatic subjects while remaining critically aware of one's own emotional responses and positionality. Drawing on Bourdieu's reflexive sociology and Finlay's reflective methodologies, participants will explore both structural and personal dimensions of reflexivity in their research.

The session will be highly interactive, combining short theoretical overviews with practical exercises. Activities include:

- Structured Reflexive Mapping: Participants trace their positionality and emotional responses to their research topic.
- Emotional Journaling Exercise: Guided prompts encourage researchers to document feelings, triggers, and embodied reactions encountered in research.
- Peer Reflection Dialogue: Participants share insights in small groups, practicing ethical and empathetic engagement with emotions in research.
- Integrative Discussion: Participants link their personal reflections to structural and theoretical frameworks, exploring how emotions shape research decisions, interpretations, and representations.

By the end of the workshop, participants will gain concrete strategies for identifying, documenting, and analyzing emotional responses in research, understand the interplay between structural reflexivity and personal emotions, and develop a methodologically rigorous yet ethically sensitive approach to trauma-informed scholarship.