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february 28–march 2, 2013

9th Annual Madlit Conference

University of Wisconsin-Madison

**University of Wisconsin–Madison Conference
in Language and Literature
English Department Graduate Student Conference
February 28-March 2**

The Graduate Student Association of the University of Wisconsin-Madison English Department is pleased to welcome you to the 9th annual MadLit conference. This year's theme, "Between Surface and Depth," investigates how humanistic disciplines articulate notions of superficiality and depth in their scholarly practices. Building from the debates surrounding Stephen Best and Sharon Marcus's "Surface Reading: An Introduction" (*Representations* 108.1 (Fall 2009): 1–21) this conference explores the implications of using spatial models to conceptualize the location of meaning in language, literature, and discourse.

Keynote Speaker: Mary Poovey

This year's keynote address will be delivered by Mary Poovey, Samuel Rudin University Professor of the Humanities and Professor of English at New York University. In her talk, Poovey offers an explanation for the current interest in methods of reading and then returns to the nineteenth century, when discipline-specific modes of reading began to be introduced. She offers a reading of John Ruskin's *Unto the Last* to illustrate the controversy over reading that began to emerge in the 1860s and 1870s.

Thursday, February 28

Registration is located in the lobby of the Fluno Center and will be open at 4 p.m.

5:00 p. m.

Keynote Address

“Why Write About Reading Now?”

by Professor Mary Poovey, New York University

Fluno Center Auditorium

A reception with light refreshments immediately to follow.

Friday, March 1

Registration is located in Helen C. White Hall, Room 6191 and will be open from 8:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

8:30–9:30 a.m.

Breakfast and Coffee

Helen C. White Hall, Room 6191

9:30–10:45 a.m.

Panel 1A: *Methods of Inquiry*

Helen C. White Hall, Room 7191

Moderator: Professor Jon McKenzie, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- **Joshua Hjalmer Lind**, University of Oregon: “Reading Desire: A Defense of Psychoanalytic Criticism”
- **Rick Ness**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “Tool or Theory: Does Digital Humanities Produce New Knowledge?”
- **William Noseworthy**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “Surface Reading: The Crisis of Bilingualism and Akhar Thrah spaces, 1651-1969”

11:00 a.m–12:15 p.m.

Panel 2A: *People and Perception in the Nineteenth Century*

Helen C. White Hall, Room 6191

Moderator: Ph.D. Candidate Rebecca Soares, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- **Valentina Montero–Roman**, University of Michigan: “*Middlemarch* and the Magic–Lantern: Illuminating Depth in the Description of Perception”
- **Sara Bordowitz**, University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign: “A Proper Gentleman: Emotionality in Jane Austen’s Reconstruction of Masculine Ideals”
- **Frances Laskey**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “Seeing Beyond the Seen: Dickens and the Private Life of Things”ism and Akhar Thrah spaces, 1651-1969”

Panel 2B: *Heart, Meet Sleeve: Structures of Affect and Textuality*

Helen C. White Hall, Room 7191

Moderator: Professor Leslie Bow, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- **Rachel Carroll**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “The God of Small Politics: Affective Poetics in *The God of Small Things*”
- **Sunny Chan**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “The Life of Objects: Reading the Iron Chink through Marx and Ngai”
- **Leah Pope**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “*Modern Love* and the Formal Function of Affect”

12:15–1:30 p.m.

Lunch

Consult your welcome packet for restaurant suggestions!

1:30–2:45 p.m.

Panel 3A: *Punctuated Performances*

Helen C. White Hall, Room 6191

Moderator: Professor Michael Bernard-Donals, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- **Cody St. Clair**, University of Indiana–Bloomington: “Domino Dancing: The Queer Epistemology and Metaphysics of Nugent’s Ellipsis in ‘Smoke, Lilies and Jade’”
- **Harun Serpil**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “Deconstructing Scare Quotes: Nothing to Be ‘Scared’ About”

Panel 3B: *Spatial and Textual Practices*

Helen C. White Hall, Room 7191

Moderator: Professor Jeffrey Steele, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- **Evelyn Galindo–Doucette**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “Of Other Spaces: IFC’s *Portlandia* through Foucault’s Looking Glass”
- **Cynthia Francica**, University of Texas–Austin: “Surface Writing: the Case of Argentinean Queer Literature”
- **Jessie Gurd**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “Containerizing the God–Sea of The *Tempest*”

3:30–5:00 p.m.

Plenary Address

“The Way We Read Satire” by Ph. D. Candidate

Eric Vivier

Helen C. White Hall, Room 7191

Vivier examines existing theories of satire and highlights surprising disagreement, particularly about the relationship between satiric texts and their historical contexts. He turns to the satirical controversies of the 1590s and in particular to the work of Thomas Nashe in order to propose a different way of reading satire.

Join us for dinner and drinks at Brocach Irish Pub, located at 7 W Main Street on the Capitol square!

Saturday, March 2

Registration is located in Helen C. White Hall, Room 6191
and will be open from 8:30 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

8:30–9:30 a.m.

Breakfast and Coffee

Helen C. White Hall, Room 6191

9:30–10:45 a.m.

Panel 4A: (De)Stabilizing Print Culture

Helen C. White Hall, Room 6191

Moderator: Professor Susan Bernstein, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- **Naomi Salmon**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “Poetic *Ramblings*: Formal Irony and Generic Destabilization in the Nineteenth–Century Periodical Underground”
- **Zach Marshall**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “Reading Dickinson, Reading Anthologies: Tracking Curatorial Practices in the Literary Establishment”
- **Neil Simpkins**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “‘A Revelation Not of the Flesh, But of the Mind’: Rural Queer Identity Formation and Print Culture”

Panel 4B: Superficial Selves

Helen C. White Hall, Room 7191

Moderator: Professor Timothy Yu, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- **Sarah Munchow**, Southern Illinois University: “Death by Conditions: Ersatz America in Burrough’s *Nova Express*”
- **Lee Norton**, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill: “Deeply Shallow: Sincerity, Self- Consciousness, and the Problem of Depth in David Foster Wallace’s *The Pale King*”
- **Katie Schaag**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “Between Essence and Artifice: Nicki Minaj’s Plastic Performativity”

11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.

Panel 5A: *Novel Bodies*

Helen C. White Hall, Room 6191

Moderator: Professor Sarah Anderson, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- **Amanda Auerbach**, Harvard University: “If Sexual Selection Were a She: Evolution, Decadence, and the Power of the Population”
- **Sagashus Levingston**, University of Wisconsin-Madison: “Motherhood, Madness, and Rebellion: Reimagining the Mother in Nalo Hopkinson’s *Brown Girl in the Ring*”
- **Julia Dauer**, University of Wisconsin-Madison: “Speaking from the Inside: Atomic Narration and the New Political Body”

Panel 5B: *Teachers, Students, and Writers: Moving Between the Curriculum and Extracurriculum of Composition*

Helen C. White Hall, Room 7191

Moderator: Professor Morris Young, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- **Anna Floch**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “Mapping Identities: Understanding the Rhetorical Affordances and Limitations of Student Movement between Urban Geographies”
- **Annika Konrad**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “Teachers as Migrants: Examining the Impact of Graduate Student Teachers’ Identities of Place on Composition Curriculum and Instruction”
- **Nancy Reddy**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “‘The Rural Life I Know Best’: The Impact of Rhetorical Space and Region on a Writing Group in the Extracurriculum”

12:15–1:30 p.m.

Lunch

Consult your welcome packet for restaurant suggestions!

1:30–2:45 p.m.

Panel 6A: *Poetry, Politics, and Performance*

Helen C. White Hall, Room 6191

Moderator: Professor Theresa Kelley, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- **Emily Campbell**, University of Massachusetts–Amherst: “‘What the reader should know’: Poetics and the Performativity of Self–Deconstruction”
- **Victor Lenthe**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “Roman Aesthetics and Political Deliberation in the Jacobean Lyric: King James and Mary Wroth”
- **Jackie Teoh**, University of Wisconsin–Madison: “Singapore’s Merlion in Four Poems: Surface and Depth in a Monumental Object”

Panel 6B: *Whither Depth? Whence Surface? Symptoms of Late Modernity*

Helen C. White Hall, Room 7191

Moderator: Professor Jim Brown, University of Wisconsin–Madison

- **Robert T. Collins**, University of Massachusetts–Boston: “Surface and Depth from Aristotle to Joyce”
- **James T. Duggan**, University of Massachusetts–Boston: “The Horizon of ‘The Way We Read Now’: Surface Reading, or, The Cultural Logic of Late(-est) Capitalism”
- **Melissa C. Macero**, University of Massachusetts–Boston: “Description, not Disagreement: Surface Reading and the Rise of Multiculturalism”

1:30–2:45 p.m.

**Closing Forum: Beyond Surface and Depth: Spatial Metaphors
in Critical Practice**

Helen C. White Hall, Room 7191

Professor Mario Ortiz-Robles, University of Wisconsin–Madison;
Professor Jordan Zweck, University of Wisconsin–Madison;
Professor Mark Vareschi, University of Wisconsin–Madison;
Ph.D. Candidate Andrew Kay, University of Wisconsin–Madison

The forum will consist of brief position papers from each of the four speakers, followed by a discussion with the audience. The panelists will be responding to three recent articles that challenge us to examine scholarly reading practices in the humanities:

- Best, Stephen and Sharon Marcus. “Surface Reading: An Introduction.” *Representations* (Fall 2009): 1-21.
- Felski, Rita. “After Suspicion.” *Profession* (2009): 28-35.
- Gallop, Jane. “The Historicization of Literary Studies and the Fate of Close Reading.” *Profession* (2007): 181-186.

5:00–5:15 p.m.

Closing Remarks

Helen C. White Hall, Room 7191

Catherine DeRose and Mattie Burkert, Co–Chairs, English Department
Graduate Student Association

5:15–8:00 p.m.

Closing Reception

Helen C. White Hall, Room 6191

**The 9th Annual UW-Madison
Conference in Language and Literature
presented by the
Department of English
Graduate School Association**

*The Graduate Student Association would like to thank
Professor Mary Poovey, the UW-Madison English Department,
The Middle Modernity Group, the Anonymous Fund, and the
conference panelists, moderators, and attendees for their support and
participation.*

GSA Co-Chairs: Catherine DeRose and Mattie Burkert

GSA Members: Nathan Mertes, Frances Laskey, Ana Lincoln,
Jacob Tootalian, Rachel Herzl-Betz, Jessie Gurd, Rachel Carroll, Sarah
Dimick, Amy Huseby, Alainya Kavaloski, Vanessa Lauber, Victor
Lenthe, Naomi Mercer, Leah Misemer, Neil Simpkins, Naomi Salmon,
and Jackie Teoh.