



**University of Wisconsin-Madison Conference in Language and Literature  
English Dept. Graduate Student Conference March 1-3, 2012**

The Graduate Student Association of the University of Wisconsin-Madison English Department is pleased to welcome you to the 8th annual MadLit conference. This year's theme, "Visual Memory: Mind, Monument, Metaphor" seeks to investigate the role that vision plays in the creation, recollection, and use of memory as well as to challenge the relationship between optic experience and the visual idioms often used to describe these processes.

These relationships have been fraught at least since Aristotle's characterization of memory as a seal imprinted on the wax of the mind by sensory perception. Their instability has been highlighted recently not only by what W.J.T. Mitchell has called "the pictorial turn" in humanistic studies but also by a number of current events. The dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. monument in Washington, DC, for instance, has been dogged by controversy over whether the statue adequately resembles the man it commemorates and over its inscription, missing an "if" clause in its claim that "[King] is a drum major for justice," which poet Maya Angelou has claimed wrongly characterizes the man as arrogant. Though all visitors to the site will have ostensibly similar sensory experiences, representational power of the experience itself is unfixed; though the visual is intended to act as a "repository" for memory, it is also contingent upon the memories of those who encounter it. The visual also conversely takes an active role in shaping the memories of those encounters and participates in the way that memory gets invoked for political, cultural, or personal ends.

**Keynote Speaker: Eve Meltzer**

This year's keynote address will be delivered by Dr. Eve Meltzer, Assistant Professor of Visual Studies at NYU's Gallatin School of Individualized Study. Dr. Meltzer has research and teaching interests in the areas of contemporary art history and criticism, photography, material culture, and a range of philosophical and theoretical discourses including psychoanalysis, structuralism, and phenomenology. She received both her M.A. and Ph.D in Rhetoric from the University of California at Berkeley. Her first book—which will be published by the University of Chicago later this year—situates the conceptual art movement of the late 1960s and 70s in relation to the field of structuralist thought and, in effect, offers a new framing for and insight into two of the most transformative movements of the 20th century and their common dream of the world as a total sign system. She regularly writes exhibition reviews for Frieze Magazine, and is beginning work towards her second book project, currently titled "Group Photo: The Psycho-Photographic Process and the Making of Group Identity."

## Thursday, March 1

- 6:00 PM –** Keynote Address  
“What Antihumanism Forgot to Let Us Know”  
by Eve Meltzer (Memorial Library 126)  
Reception immediately to follow

## Friday, March 2

- 8:30 AM –** Breakfast and Coffee (6191 HCW)

**9:30 – 10:45 AM –**

- 7191: *Cultural Memory and the Making of National Identity*
- Joseph Brogdon (Georgia College and State University): “I-I-I don’t know’: The Postmodern Uncertainty of Brian Friel’s Ballybeg Plays”
  - Michelle Gibbs (CUNY, Brooklyn College): “Colonial Trauma of Dissociative Proportions in *Dream on Monkey Mountain*”
  - Duaa Salameh (UW-Madison): “Id-Entity: Lieux de Mémoire and the Spatialization of the Self in *City of Saffron*”

6191: *Touching the Past: Material Culture and the Archive*  
Moderator: TBA

- Sara Cole (University of Chicago): “An Archive of the Quotidian: Representations of the Everyday in the Comics of Chris Ware”
- Erin J. Paul-Schuetter (UW-Madison): “Material Culture in *El cuarto de atrás* (1978) by Carmen Martín Gaité: The Role of Letters and Notes in Memory Reproduction and Forgetting”
- Dmitri Sandbeck (UW-Madison): “A Paleographic Approach to Livy’s *Ab Urbe Condita*”

**11:00 – 12:15 PM –**

- 7191: *Visual Memory and Subjectivity*
- Laura Hahn (UW-Madison): “Visualizing the Subject: The Limits of the Visual in Marginalized Subject Creation”
  - Joshua Hjalmer Lind (University of Oregon): “Ephemeral Visions: Time and Subjectivity in John Ashbery’s ‘Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror.’”
  - Jennifer Maclure (UW-Madison): “A Story A Day Keeps the Doctor Away?: The Health Benefits of Expressive Writing in an Age of Posthuman Subjectivity”

- 6191: *The Vision Planted in My Brain Still Remains: The Sound of Silence*
- Zachary Marshall (UW-Madison): “Improvising Memory: Trauma-Comedy in Toni Morrison’s *Jazz*”
  - Liz Medoff (School of the Art Institute of Chicago): “Sound Monuments: Rethinking Public Memory”
  - Naomi Salmon (UW-Madison): “YouTube ‘Notecard Confession’ Narratives: Social Media and Memorial Depiction”

- 12:15 – 1:15 PM –** Lunch (consult your packet for restaurant suggestions!)

**1:30 – 2:45 PM –**

- 7191: *Occupy Memory Lane: Memorial Practice in Politically Contested Space*
- John Staffard Anderson (UW-Madison): “Break on the Wheel: Memory, Coons, and the Cape”
  - Alainya Kavaloski (UW-Madison), “Fictional Boundaries and Historical Communities: Spatial and Visual Collisions and Intersections in 20th-Century Israel-Palestine”
  - Valerie Klorman Sorenson (UW-Madison), “The Elephant in the Room: Memory Sites as Unseen Sights?”

6191: *Lines of Inheritance: Texts and Images of Forefathers*

- Jamie Kuehnl (California Institute of Integral Studies): “Re-Membering the Ancestors: Bones as the Visual Repository of Cell-Deep Memories in Linda Hogan’s *Solar Storms*”
- William B. Noseworthy (UW-Madison): “Akhar Thrah: Contemporary Approaches: Literature and Scholarship 1969-Present”
- Kathryn Will (University of Michigan): “Gilding the Acorn: The Social Life (and Lies) of Heraldry”

- 3:30 PM –** Graduate Student Keynote  
“Portrait of the Artist as a Young Woman: Representation and Reflection in Mary Wroth and Aemilia Lanier”  
Kristiane Stapleton (7191)

Join us for dinner and drinks at Brocach Irish Pub, right on the Capitol Square!

## Saturday, March 3

- 8:30 AM –** Breakfast and Coffee (6191)

**9:30 – 10:45 AM –**

7191: *Being “Seen Seen” by the Animal*

- Laura Perry (UW-Madison): “Pedagogy of Shit: Teaching Excess in Kafka’s “A Report to an Academy”
- Peter Ribic (UW-Madison): “When is a Corpse Just a Corpse? Heidegger and the Question of the *Animort*”
- Steel Wagstaff (UW-Madison): “‘the wild deer / Startle and stare out’: Objectivist Poetics and Animal Sight”

6191: *Local, Organic, Artisanal: Text and Performance of the Close-to-Home*

- Sarah Dimick (UW-Madison): “The Accumulation of Visual Memory in Lorine Niedecker’s “Lake Superior”
- Jessie Gurd (UW-Madison): “‘Herefordshire for a Morris Dance’ and the Absence of London”
- Angela Zito (UW-Madison): “Spatial, Temporal, and Affective Distanciation in Detroit’s Heidelberg Project”

**11:00 – 12:15 AM –**

7191: *Faithful Rhetorics*

- Benjamin Beier (UW-Madison): “‘Vile Words’ or ‘Honorable Intent’? The Rhetorical Ethics of Augustine of Hippo”
- Rachel Carroll (UW-Madison): “A Question Full of Flesh and Blood”
- A. Trevor Sutton (Concordia Seminary): “Iconoclasm 2.0: The Modern Struggle of Religious Images”

6191: *Theorizing Public Memory*

- Meryl Borato (York University): “Writing Images Against the Grain: Benjamin and the Historical Archive”
- Leigh Elion (UW-Madison): “Re-Imaging Belfast’s Troubled Memory; Or, How to Do Things With Walls”
- Megan Massino (UW-Madison): “the Moon and Mars, or, Postcards from Criticism’s Recent History”

**12:15 – 1:15 PM –** Lunch (consult your packet for restaurant suggestions!)

**1:30 – 2:45 PM –**

7191: *Special Performance: Afterword: A Conversational Soufflé*, Andrew Salyer and Katrina Schaag

Katrina and Andrew have a problem: they can’t stop talking to each other. Drawing on their interest in linguistic and corporeal structures as sites of articulation and disarticulation, they co-create a conversational structure that insistently breaks and reconstructs itself. Continuously departing from their ostensible topic, they talk themselves into a series of moments that cyclically and tangentially defer closure. *Afterword* is a performance relating to the art installation *Ossuary* by Laurie Beth Clark, currently on exhibition in the Chazen Museum of Art, 750 University Avenue (New Chazen, 750 University Ave., Garfield Gallery, 2nd floor).

Katrina and Andrew will perform another version of this piece next Friday, March 9, as part of a lecture series, *About Bones*, presented by Laurie Beth Clark in conjunction with her installation *Ossuary*. More information about *Ossuary* can be found here: <http://ossuaries.wordpress.com/about/>

**3:00 – 4:15 PM –**

7191: *Mid-Mortem: Mediating Between Life and Death*

- Sean Hutchinson (New York University): “The Contemplative Mode: Death and Recollection in William Butler Yeats’ ‘The Tower’”
- Lucy Travers (UW-Madison): “Materializing Metaphors and Re-Membering the Dead In Fin-de-Siècle Representations of Ectoplasmic Phenomena”
- Faina Polt (UW-Madison): “Lest We Remember, Lest We Forget: The State and the Biopolitics of Memorialization”
- Becca Tarsa (UW-Madison): “Ghostly Memorials: The Twin Towers Onscreen Post-9/11”

**5:00 – 6:15 PM –** Discussion Forum: “Looking Ahead: What Role Will the Visual Play in the Future of Humanities Professions?” (7191)

- Respondents: UW-Madison faculty and graduate students. All welcome to attend and participate.

**6:15 – 6:30 PM –** Closing Remarks (7191)

**6:30 – 9:00 PM –** Reception (6191)

The 8<sup>th</sup> Annual UW-Madison  
Conference in Language and Literature  
presented by the  
Department of English  
Graduate Student Association

GSA Chair: Leigh Elion

GSA Members:

Kevin Boettcher, Mattie Burkert, Rachel Carroll, Cathy DeRose, Sarah Dimick,  
Jessie Gurd, Amy Huseby, Andrew Kay, Laini Kavaloski, Katie Lanning, Ana  
Lincoln, Naomi Mercer, Nathan Mertes, Neil Simpkins, Jacob Tootalian

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