

THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESENTS:  
THE 14TH ANNUAL MADISON GRADUATE CONFERENCE ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

# MADLIT

*Nationalism and Apocalypse, Now and Then*



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

PROFESSOR COLIN DAYAN

FRIDAY, FEB. 23

4:00PM, MEMORIAL UNION

## PLENARY ADDRESS

LEAH POPE PARKER

SATURDAY, FEB. 24

12:15PM, MEMORIAL UNION



Funded in part by an Associated Students of Madison viewpoint neutral grant.  
Contact request@asm.wisc.edu for accommodation information.

For more information and the conference program, visit us online ([dept.english.wisc.edu/gsa](http://dept.english.wisc.edu/gsa)) or contact us at [uwmadlit@gmail.com](mailto:uwmadlit@gmail.com). This event is co-sponsored by the Associated Students of Madison, the Wisconsin Experience Grant, the Americanist Lecture Series, and the Department of English. The EDGSA is an independent registered student organization.

**THE 14TH ANNUAL GRADUATE CONFERENCE  
ON LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
FEBRUARY 23-24, 2018**

The English Department Graduate Student Association at UW-Madison is delighted to welcome you to our 14th annual MadLit conference. This year's theme, "Nationalism & Apocalypse, Now & Then," allows us to interrogate the historical relationship between two phenomena whose long histories have attained a renewed relevance in recent years. Nationalism names the belief in and valorization of a shared origin; apocalypse names the fear of a shared end. How, we ask, does attachment to the form of nation and anxiety about collective undoing shape cultural production, and how are these things in turn shaped by it?

EDGSA would like to thank Professor Colin Dayan, the UW-Madison English Department, Professor Monique Allewaert, the Americanist Lecture Series, the conference panelists, moderators, and attendees for their support and participation, our volunteers both at the registration table and those who are helping throughout the conference behind the scenes, and the staff of Memorial Union. Additional funding was generously provided by the Associated Students of Madison and the Wisconsin Experience Grant.

**EDGSA Members:**

Ivan Babanovski, Robert Collins, Elinor Hayden, Ruth Kellar,  
Liam Kruger, Emily Loney, Anna Muenchrath, Sarah Olson, Leah  
Pope, Aaron Vieth, Angela Zito

**EDGSA Co-Chairs:**

Robert Collins and Ivan Babanovski

**Co-Coordinator of the Americanist Lecture Series:**

Adam Schuster and Andrew Thomas

## FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD

*Registration is located outside Old Madison on the third floor and will be kept open from 3:30 to 5:00pm.*

**4:00pm**

---

### **Keynote Address**

**“Up Against the Law; or, The Impossible Color of Separation”**

**Professor Colin Dayan, Vanderbilt University**

Room: Old Madison (3rd floor)

Professor Colin Dayan is Professor of English, Robert Penn Warren Professor in the Humanities, and Professor of Law at Vanderbilt University. She works in prison law and legal language in a non-human terrain; the literary and religious history of the Americas; Caribbean Literature; and African American Studies. The recipient of numerous awards including Danforth, NEH, and Guggenheim fellowships, she has written for *The Yale Review*, *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, the *London Review of Books*, *Boston Review*, and other publications. She was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2012. Her books include *Haiti, History, and the Gods*; *The Story of Cruel and Unusual*; *The Law is a White Dog*; and *With Dogs at the Edge of Life*. She is currently at work on a book called *Melville's Creatures* and a memoir—as yet untitled—about her mother and the South in the 1960s.

### **Reception**

Room: Beefeaters (3rd floor)

# SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH

*Registration is located outside of Old Madison on the third floor and will be open from 8:00am to 5:00pm.*

**8:00 - 8:30am**

---

## **Breakfast and Coffee**

Room: Old Madison A (3rd floor)

**8:30 - 9:45am**

---

## **Panel 1: *Nationalism***

Room: Old Madison A (3rd floor)

Moderator: Professor Martin Foy, University of Wisconsin-Madison

- **Elaine Cannell**, University of Wisconsin-Madison: “‘The Still Burning’: Female Embodiment and the Accumulation of History in *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao*”
- **Kitty Shropshire**, Carnegie Mellon University: “Making Revolutionaries: *The Turner Diaries* and the Production of White Nationalism”
- **Kassie Jo Baron**, University of Iowa: “Escaping Franklin’s Gothic Commerce”
- **Sarah Friedman**, University of Wisconsin-Madison: “War and Rape Culture in *Troilus and Criseyde*”

**10:00 - 11:15am**

---

## **Panel 2: *Species and Sensation***

Room: Old Madison A (3rd floor)

Moderator: Professor Katie Lanning, University of Wisconsin-Madison

- **Jared Seymour**, University of Wisconsin-Madison: “‘All the Species were Peculiar’: Species Thinking and Nationalism in George Eliot’s *Daniel Deronda*”
- **Naomi Salmon**, University of Wisconsin-Madison: “Staging Reception: Mary Elizabeth Braddon’s Fictional Avatars Face off in the Victorian Press”
- **Aaron Vieth**, University of Wisconsin-Madison: “Reparative Evidence: How to Get Away with Murder in *The Woman in White* and Why You Should”

## **Roundtable: *Medievalisms and White Nationalisms***

Room: Old Madison B (3rd floor)

Moderator: Maxwell Gray, University of Wisconsin-Madison

This roundtable is organized by the Graduate Association of Medieval Studies (GAMS) and will feature a conversation by the following University of Wisconsin-Madison graduate students: **Lauren Poyer** (German, Nordic, and Slavic), **Patricia Ruiz-Rivera** (Comparative Literature), **Olivia Ernst** (English), **Meredith Nnoka** (English), **Tristan Matthia Mueller-Vollmer** (German, Nordic, and Slavic), **Weishun Lu** (English), and **Christine Evans** (German, Nordic, and Slavic).

**11:15 - 12:15pm**

---

### **Lunch**

Consult your welcome packet for restaurant suggestions!

**12:15 - 1:30pm**

---

### **Plenary Address**

**“Light of the Everlasting Life: Disability, Xenophobia, and Anglo-Saxon Apocalypticism”**

**Leah Pope Parker, University of Wisconsin-Madison**

Room: Old Madison (3rd floor)

In the late tenth and early eleventh centuries, Anglo-Saxon England faced repeated attacks by Viking armies, resulting in the deaths of kings, the despoliation of religious houses, and widespread assaults upon the developing English nation and its people. Many Anglo-Saxon Christians interpreted their chaotic circumstances as signs of the imminent apocalypse in the decades surrounding the year 1000. This talk traces Anglo-Saxon anticipation of the apocalypse in Old English homilies, preaching texts composed for both oral and written dissemination, which made complex theological doctrines available to the larger Anglo-Saxon populace through parables of easily recognizable lived experiences of religious practice and the physical body. For example, Ælfric of Eynsham’s homily on the Healing at the Pool of Bethesda parses various forms of disability as anti-Semitic metaphors for the spiritual “impairments” of Jews, while Wulfstan of York’s *Sermo Lupi ad Anglos* utilizes the physical vagaries of Viking attacks—plague, famine, sexual assault—to narrate the imminence of the apocalypse. The rhetorical use of disability in these homilies structures a xenophobic system of Otherness that is external to the cultural Self, in opposition to that which is tolerable or even acceptable

within the cultural Self. Through the representation of outsiders—both those external to the Anglo-Saxon Christian community, such as Jews and Vikings, and those within the community, such as people with disabilities and survivors of sexual assault—these homilies construct promises of resurrection and salvation as part of the coming Christian apocalypse. These medieval means of using marginalized groups to imagine the “light of the everlasting life,” as one homilist described salvation, in turn shed new light on the imbrication of nationalism and apocalyptic anticipation, as well as the mythology of white Anglo-Saxon ethnic homogeneity in the present day.

Leah Pope Parker is a PhD candidate in English at UW-Madison, completing a dissertation titled “Body Eschatology: Disability, Death, and the Afterlife in Early Medieval England.” Her work is forthcoming in *The Journal of English and Germanic Philology* and a volume on *Disability, Monstrosity, and the Posthuman in the Medieval and Early Modern World* (Palgrave Macmillan). In addition to embodiment and eschatology, her research interests include neurodiversity, homiletics, and manuscript studies.

**1:45 - 3:00pm**

---

### **Panel 3: Apocalypse**

Room: Old Madison A (3rd floor)

Moderator: Professor David Zimmerman, University of Wisconsin-Madison

- **Sarah Olson**, University of Wisconsin-Madison: “One Human is a Disappointment: Superorganisms and Super-Ideas in Allison Cobb’s *After We All Died*”
- **Philip Savage**, University of Washington: “Kurt Vonnegut: End Times and Paleo-Humanist Alternatives to Neoliberalism”
- **Sara Gabler Thomas**, University of Wisconsin-Madison: “The Climate of Territory: Colonial History and Hurricanes in the Poetry of Vincent Toro”

**3:15 - 4:30pm**

---

**Panel 4: *Modernists, Modernities, and the Nation***

Room: Old Madison A (3rd floor)

Moderator: Phil Bandy, University of Wisconsin-Madison

- **Anna Muenchrath**, University of Wisconsin-Madison:  
“America, Harlem, Germany: Political Belonging between the Wars, or Rethinking the Nation in Translation”
- **Patricia Ruiz-Rivera**, University of Wisconsin-Madison:  
“Capturing Nationalist Violence, Trauma, and Apocalypse: The Use of Photography in the Literature of Julio Cortázar”
- **Erica Kanesaka Kalnay**, University of Wisconsin-Madison:  
“Modern Enchantment and the Advent of Color in Children’s Picture Books: England, American, Japan”

**4:45 - 6:00pm**

---

**Skin of the Dog: Roundtable Discussion with Colin Dayan**

Room: Old Madison A (3rd floor)

Moderator: Laura Perry, University of Wisconsin-Madison

A roundtable discussion with Colin Dayan on “Skin of the Dog” from her book *The Law is a White Dog* (Princeton UP 2011) and in response to her conference keynote. Potential topics include dogs, ghosts, slaves, felons, terror suspects, and civil society’s ability to marginalize and exclude both animals and humans.

**6:15pm**

---

**Closing Remarks and Conference Dinner**

Room: Beefeaters (3rd floor)



**WISCONSIN**  
**EXPERIENCE GRANT**



Funded in part by an Associated Students of Madison viewpoint neutral grant.  
Contact [request@asm.wisc.edu](mailto:request@asm.wisc.edu) for accommodation information.