

MUSE presents

Literati 2018: Transformations

The sixth annual undergraduate conference of
language, literature, and the humanities

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Union South

March 10th, 2018

Featuring Keynote Speaker
Professor Amy Quan Barry



ENGLISH





Madison Undergraduate Society for English

MUSE, the Madison Undergraduate Society for English, would like to formally welcome you to Literati. Now in its sixth year, the conference remains one of the largest undergraduate English conferences in the nation.

Though the conference is the largest organizational effort of the Society, MUSE also serves as a pre-professional organization that aims to connect English students, faculty, and professionals. We work to create an environment supportive of academic, personal, and communal growth among our members through weekly informal gatherings, volunteering opportunities, and our annual conference.

MUSE membership is open to all undergraduates enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. We encourage all interested students to join, regardless of major.

We thank you for coming and hope that you enjoy the conference.

The MUSE Executive Team

Matthew Stokdyk, Co-president

Eliza Weisberg, Co-president

Abigail Los, Marketing Chair

Alexandra Pleasant, Head of Member Involvement

Robyn Cawley, Treasurer

Kara Conley, Literati Subcommittee

Erin Guokas, Literati Subcommittee

Veronica Hayes, Literati Subcommittee

Sarina Johnston, Literati Subcommittee

McKenzie Maccaux, Literati Subcommittee

Lauren Souza, Literati Subcommittee

About the Theme

Transformations

This year's call for papers invited panelists to consider the theme of "transformations." We asked submitters to "explore a variety of questions: how does the experience of literature change the individual? How does it change the world? How does a transformation within a text—of character, of narrative perspective, of writing style—translate into meaningful experience for the reader?"

From these questions, we have assembled a fantastic collection of perspectives on the theme. They examine natural changes and social changes, individual transformations and national transformations, major shifts and subtle shifts; they explore works from the ancient to the recent. Through both creative writing and literary analysis, presenters today will evaluate, interpret, and explore these concepts.

Keynote Speaker

Professor Amy Quan Barry

Professor Amy Quan Barry, writing as Quan Barry, is a poet and novelist. After receiving her BA at the University of Virginia, she earned her MFA at the University of Michigan; she currently teaches at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Her work has appeared in numerous major publications, including *The New Yorker*, *The Missouri Review*, *Ploughshares*, and *The Kenyon Review*. She has received numerous fellowships, including those from Stanford University, the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing, the Wisconsin Arts Board, and the National Endowment for the Arts. She is also the recipient of the Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize for her poetry collection *Asylum*.

Her most recent published volumes are a novel, *She Weeps Each Time You're Born*, and a book of poetry, *Loose Strife*, both published in 2015.

Schedule of Events

Check-in 8:30am – 9:00am and throughout the day
Varsity Hall Doors
(2nd floor)

Welcome 9:00am – 9:25am
Industry
(3rd floor)

Dr. Karen Redfield
Undergraduate English Adviser

Matthew Stokdyk and Eliza Weisberg
MUSE Co-presidents

Keynote 9:30am – 10:30am
Industry
(3rd floor)

Tell All the Truth but Tell It Slant
a reading by Professor Amy Quan Barry
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Presentation Session I 10:40am – 11:40am

Panel 1 Shifting from Trauma

Traditions
(2nd floor)

Diamond Patrick
The Girl You Didn't Know You Wanted To Be:
Representations of Girlhood in Swing Time and Lady Bird
University of St. Thomas

Kaitlyn Spratt
If It Ever Was a Real Thing
University of St. Thomas

Moderated by Kara Conley

Panel 2

Agriculture B
(3rd floor)

Gendered Metamorphoses in Myth

Lauren Quirk
Genderbending in Nordic Mythology
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Cali Mellin
Vulnerability in Rape Victims of Ovid's Metamorphoses
University of St. Thomas

Moderated by Emma Hinker

Panel 3

Sift & Winnow
(2nd floor)

Revolutionary Myth and Vision

Sydney To
Liminal Distortions in Shelley's "The Triumph of Life"
Bowdoin College

Sarah Cowan
Reality and Ritual: an Analysis of Femi Osofisan's
Morountodun and Closing the Gulf: Myth, History, and
the Fallacy of Dichotomies
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Moderated by Abigail Los

Presentation Session II 11:50am – 12:50pm

Panel 4

Agriculture B
(3rd floor)

Transformations in Collective Memory

Samantha Adams
Modes of Erasure of Black Women's Collective Memory of
Slavery: Investigating Gender in Authorship in Colson
Whitehead's The Underground Railroad and Octavia
Butler's Kindred
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Haley McNiff
How to Butcher Poultry
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Moderated by Eliza Weisberg

Panel 5
Traditions
(2nd floor)

Perverse Change

Tyler Odeneal
The Tree
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Brady Simenson
*Afraid of Your Own Shadow: Finding Rebirth through
the Perversion of Self in Neil Gaiman's American Gods*
University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point

Moderated by Veronica Hayes

Panel 6
Sift & Winnow
(2nd floor)

Shifts Sudden and Slow

Sarah Eckhaus
Blanketed
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Madeline Peterson
Penitentiary Fire Kills Local Man, Guard Suspected
University of Wisconsin-Eau Clair

Moderated by Sarina Johnston

Lunch
Varsity Hall
(2nd floor)

1:00pm – 1:50pm

Presentation Session III 2:00pm – 3:00pm

Panel 7

Traditions
(2nd floor)

Local Transformations

Alexandra Pleasant
Josiah
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Stuart Deets
How To Create A More Beautiful Earth
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Moderated by McKenzie Maccaux

Panel 8

Agriculture B
(3rd floor)

Religious Revision

Henry Robinson
Rewriting Kabir: Robert Bly's The Kabir Book and the Possibilities of Translation
Yale University

Jenna Lieungh
"indue me with a knowledge of thee": The Reification of Leared Protestant Identity in a 1575 Edition of Pseudo-Augustine's Meditations
Marquette University

Moderated by Matthew Stokdyk

Panel 9

Sift & Winnow
(2nd floor)

From Silence to Voice

Shawna Rivedal
Exulansis
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Tove Conway

*A Fictional and Feminist Movement: Comparing the Voices
of Margaret Atwood and Virginia Woolf*

University of St. Thomas

Moderated by Erin Guokas

Networking Hour

Wisconsin Idea

(2nd floor)

3:10pm – 4:00pm

Acknowledgements

The Madison Undergraduate Society for English would first like to thank everyone who has participated in the conference, whether by presenting, volunteering, or attending; your presence and efforts have made this event possible. We would also like to thank Professor Barry for her keynote reading.

The food for this event has been provided by a generous contribution from the Wisconsin Experience Grant. The Wisconsin Union has graciously provided space at Union South for us to use. In particular, we would like to thank our event planner, Amanda Waller, for her help in arranging for food and space.

We would also like to extend a thank you to everyone who submitted their work to the conference. Moreover, we would like to thank the professors and instructors whose classes or mentorship allowed submitters to produce high-quality work for the conference, and we especially thank UW-Madison professors and staff, whose guidance has led many local students to participate in MUSE and Literati.

Finally, we would like to thank Dr. Karen Redfield, the undergraduate English advisor. Her advice and support have been integral to the operation of this conference since its foundation, both for the organization of the event and for the academic and personal well-being of the University's many English majors.

We hope that you have enjoyed the conference and hope to see you again next year.

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