

Northern Illinois University

Department of English

31st annual Midwestern Conference on Literature, Language, and Media

“Ethnic Images: Between Art and Reality in the United States”

Keynote: Dr. Mark Chiang

“From Representation to Racial Economy: Love, Money, and Crazy Rich Asians”

March 25 & 26, 2023

DeKalb, Illinois

Organized by Amani Alsharief and Karina Diaz

mcillm@niu.edu

Saturday, March 25

Registration & Virtual Welcome: 9:00 am – 9:30 am

Panels 1 & 2: 9:45 am-11:15 am

Break Out Room: “Art”

Moderator: Tim A. Ryan

“‘Go Down, Moses’: African American Spirituals in Johnson’s *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*” by Justina Clayburn (she/her), Northern Illinois University

“No One’s Tempo: When Jazz and Obsession Collide in Damien Chazelle’s *Whiplash*” by John Mason, Sr., Pursuing PhD in English/Literature, Northern Illinois University

“‘Real Deep and Funky Hole’: Sifting through Agents of Darkness in James Baldwin’s ‘Sonny’s Blues’” by Austin Slott, Northern Illinois University

Break Out Room: “Reality”

Moderator: Karina Diaz

“ePortfolios: Myths, Reflections, and Trajectories” by Amy Erickson, Caitlin Gamble, Eric Hoffman, & Jordan Pennington from Northern Illinois University

Panels 3 & 4: 11:45 am-1:15 pm

Break Out Room: “Art”

Moderator: Joe Bonomo

“James Baldwin on the Importance of Withholding Critical Education in America’s ‘Democracy’” by Elias Cepeda, PhD student & English Instructor, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

“‘People Play for Keeps’: Examining Illegal Sexual Activity in Toni Morrison’s *Jazz*” by G. Jeffrey O’Malley, Northern Illinois University

“Ethnic Diversity or Unity in Confronting Nature” by Xuan Qian, Northern Illinois University

Break Out Room: “Reality”

Moderator: Karina Diaz

“Between Equity and Inclusion”

Featuring:

Melisa Adams-Campbell, Director of Undergraduate Studies, Northern Illinois University

Michelle Ortiz Wortel, Quality Assurance Analyst, University of Chicago

Lunch (on your own): 1:15 pm – 1:45

Keynote: 2pm

“From Representation to Racial Economy: Love, Money, and Crazy Rich Asians” Dr. Mark Chiang

Panels 5 & 6: 2:45 pm – 4:15 pm

Break Out Room: “Art”

Moderator: Amani Alsharief

“The Orphic Hymns: Challenges in Translating Pagan Liturgy” by Patrick Dunn, Associate Professor of English, Aurora University

“‘The View is Better from the Other side’: Exiled Love, Lost Souls, and the Quest for Identity in Pawel Pawlikowski’s *Cold War*” by Mina Rajaei Moghadam (she/her), MA student, Northern Illinois University

“Recognition: Contribution of Non-immigrant Students and Faculty to Learning Spaces” by Janet Lucky Ochieng (she/her), MA student, Northern Illinois University

Break Out Room: “Reality”

Moderator: Karina Diaz

“From the Margins to the Middle: Centering Student Voices in your Classroom” by Caitlin Gamble, Ashley Palmer, & Faye Scott from Northern Illinois University

“Opportunities for Labor-Based, Contract, and Un-Grading in First-Year Composition” by Melina Baer, Northern Illinois University

Panels 7 & 8: 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm

Break Out Room: “Art”

Moderator: Tim A. Ryan

“The Burden of the South: Modernist Living, the American South, & Faulkner’s *As I Lay Dying*” by Mrs. Haleigh Klaus-Belka (she/her), M.Ed., Southern New Hampshire University

“Traces of Fracture: Trauma, Violence, And the Failure of Constructed Identity in Toni Morrison’s *Jazz*” by Patrick Lindsey, Northern Illinois University

Break Out Room: “Reality”

Moderator: Joe Bonomo

“Shakespeare of Arabia” by Amani Alsharief, Northern Illinois University

“Is there a Room for One More Language?: 20th century Immigrants’ Languages and Fiction” by Najwa Alsulobi, PhD Candidate, Kent State University

“Black Hills and White Faces: Issues of Legality, Criminality, and Justice in Chris Eyre’s *Skins*” by Danielle Mercier, PhD Candidate, University of South Florida

Sunday, March 26

Registration & 2nd day Virtual Welcome: 9:30 am – 10:00 am

Panel 9 10:00 am – 11:55am

Break Out Room: “Art & Reality”

Moderator: Mark Van Wienen

“The Capacious Sociological Imagination and Commitment to Dignity of DuBoisian Philosophy” by Elias Cepeda, PhD student & English Instructor, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale

“Dystopian Displacement: Satire as Social Critique in Gary Shteyngart’s *Super Sad True Love Story*” by Nicholas Dertinger (he/him), PhD Student in the Department of English, Northern Illinois University

“Take to the Pews and Wonder: Collectivism vs. Individuality in Catherine Lacey’s *Pew*” by Kristen Feigel, Northern Illinois University

“Zombies Beneath the Surface Level” by Brianna Hiram, Loyola Marymount University

“Bumble: Bff, Bizz, and Blackboard? The Exploration of Swift Trust As a Cross Cultural Relationship Building Tool in Online Classrooms” by Danielle Conyers, Marshall University

Panel 10 12:05 pm – 1:35pm

Break Out Room: “Reality & Art”

Moderator: Alexandra Bennett

“Yentas, Princesses, and Overbearing Mothers: Disrupting Stereotypes of Jewish-American Womanhood in Recent Film and Television” by Ilana Goldstein, English PhD Student, Northeastern University

“Your Liberation is Bound Up in Mine: TikTok as a Platform for Community Building Across Marginalized Identity Groups” by Hayley L Neiling (she/her; they/them), Northern Illinois University

“Pinoy as per Jo Koy: Humor in Netflix and the Representation of Filipino Identity in the United States” by Lady Aileen Orsal, Department of Communications, Northern Illinois University

“The Esperpentic Gaze in Kipo and the Age of Wonderbeasts” by Sumor Ziva Sheppard, Assistant Professor, Prairie View A & M University

Thank you for joining us! See you next year!