Mysterious America: Crime Fiction in American Culture

A Symposium Sponsored by the American Literature Association

September 22 – 24, 2011

DeSoto Hilton Savannah
15 East Liberty Street
Savannah, Georgia

Conference Directors: Alfred Bendixen, Texas A&M University
Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University

Acknowledgments

The conference directors wish to express their appreciation to the many individuals who organized sessions or submitted papers. We also wish to thank the Department of English at Texas A&M University and the Department of Literature and Philosophy at Georgia Southern University for their support of this symposium.
Thursday, September 22, 2011

Savannah Ghost Tour: 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. (DeSoto Lobby)

Robert Edgerly, author of *Savannah Hauntings*, will lead a walking tour of the historic district. Come hear stories of mystery from this noted local historian. This is a fun and interesting way to discover Savannah. Our discounted price is $15. Please be prepared to pay with cash. We will begin and end in the DeSoto lobby.

The Flannery O'Connor House is open daily 1-4 p.m, including Sundays, 207 E. Charlton Street, within easy walking distance of the hotel. Phone: (912) 233-6014. $6 for adults - $5 for students – free for those 15 and under.

Friday, September 23, 2011

The Chippewa Room is open for breaks during the day.

Coffee and Registration: 8:15 – 8:45 a.m., inside the Pulaski Room.

Plenary Roundtable: 8:45 – 9:50 (Pulaski Room)

“Futures for Crime Fiction Studies”

Moderator: David Schmid, University at Buffalo

1. Susan Elizabeth Sweeney, College of the Holy Cross

2. Charles Rzepka, Boston University

3. Catherine Ross Nickerson, Emory University
Session One A: 10:00 – 11:20 (Lafayette Room)
Flannery O’Connor Society: Crime and Violence in Flannery O’Connor

Chair: Michael Schroeder, Savannah State University

1. “Delinquency in ‘The Lame Shall Enter First.’” Robert Donahoo, Sam Houston State University.
2. “When Evil Comes to Town: Drifters and Criminality in Flannery O’Connor’s Stories.”
   Bill Dawers, Armstrong Atlantic State University.

Session One B: 10:00 – 11:20 (Monterey Room)
Race and Crime

Chair: Leslie Petty, Rhodes College

3. Fingerprinting Race and Criminality in Mark Twain’s Tragedy of Pudd’nhead Wilson.”
   Alexandra Reznik, Duquesne University.
4. “Stealing from the Maya: John Lloyd Stephens as Explorer or Tomb-raider?”
   William Lenz, Chatham University.

Session One C: 10:00 – 11:20 (Telfair Room)
Detectives and Criminals

Chair: Gloria Cronin, Brigham Young University

   Alfred Bendixen, Texas A&M University.
2. “Portrait in a Rogue Gallery: Frederick Irving Anderson’s Adventures of the Infallible Godhal (1914).”
   Gary Hoppenstand, Michigan State University.
3. “Rejecting the Rational Detective: Consciousness, Cognition, and Cannabis in Pynchon’s Inherent Vice and The Crying of Lot 49.”
   Michael Wayne Harris, Georgia Southern University.
Session Two A: 11:30 – 12:50 (Lafayette Room)

Nineteenth-Century Detective Fiction

Chair: Susan Elizabeth Sweeney, College of the Holy Cross

1. “Who’s In Charge Here? Learning from Poe’s and Melville’s Failed Detectives.”
   Kelly Ross, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.
   John Gruesser, Kean University.
3. “Poe’s Spaces.” David Schmid, University at Buffalo.

Respondent: Norlisha F. Crawford, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Session Two B: 11:30 – 12:50 (Monterey Room)

Cultural Issues and Crime

Chair: Michael Wayne Harris, Georgia Southern University

1. “Paul Auster’s Invisible: Murder, Mystery, and Response to Racism.”
   Kathy Rugoff, University of North Carolina Wilmington.
3. “Revelation or Incrimination: Peering Behind Alcott’s Mask.” Carmen Trammell Skaggs, Columbus State University.

Session Two C: 11:30 – 12:50 (Telfair Room)

Hardboiled Modernity

Chair: Gail Sinclair, Rollins College


Lunch: 1:00 – 2:10 (Harborview Room)

“‘Haunt of Criminals and Ne’er-Do-Wells’: Savannah under the Trustees.”
Jonathan Bryant, Georgia Southern University.
Session Three A: 2:20 – 3:40 (Lafayette Room)
Cormac McCarthy Society: River, Desert, Road

Chair: Stacey Peebles, Centre College

1. “Suttree’s Deleted River Queen Episode: Deconstruction of a Crime.”  
   Dianne Luce, Independent Scholar.
2. “Discourse Demons: Judge Holden and other Allegories of Inscription.”  
   Rick Wallach, University of Miami.
3. “Navigating the Late World in Cormac McCarthy’s The Road.”  
   Susan Hawkins, Oakland University.

Session Three B: 2:20 – 3:40 (Monterey Room)
Crime and American Literary Naturalism

Chair: Kenneth K. Brandt, Savannah College of Art and Design

1. “Marcus Schuler, Detective?: Reading Frank Norris’s McTeague as a Crime Novel.”  
   Mischa Renfroe, Middle Tennessee State University.
   David Stivers, Savannah College of Art and Design.
   Gina Rossetti, Saint Xavier University.

Session Three C: 2:20 – 3:40 (Telfair Room)
Crime in the Canon

Chair: Carmen Tramell Scaggs, Columbus State University

1. “The Value of Appearances in Henry James’s The Other House.”  
   Jennifer Eimers, Missouri Valley College.
2. “The Crime of Knowledge in Melville's ‘Billy Budd.’”  
   Carl Findley, University of Chicago.
   Jaswant Singh Malik, CCS University Meerut, India.
Session Four A: 3:50 – 5:10 (Lafayette Room)
**Visual Media and Crime Fiction**

Chair: Melissa Hay, Georgia Southern University

   Gretchen Elizabeth Smith, Southern Methodist University.
3. “‘Piss Trickles’: *The Wire* as Condemnation of Trickle-Down Economics.”
   Harry Newburn, University of Tennessee Knoxville.

Session Four B: 3:50 – 5:10 (Monterey Room)
**European Influences**

Chair: Anthony Eberhardt, Georgia Southern University

   Dustin Anderson, Georgia Southern University.
   Jane Eblen Keller, University of Baltimore.
   Mary C. Kim, Savannah College of Art and Design.

Session Four C: 3:50 – 5:10 (Telfair Room)
**Women’s Perspectives**

Chair: Megan Morris, Georgia Southern University

   Courtney George, Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians, Columbus State University.
2. “Crime Makes It ‘Real’: The Tangible Traumatic Kernel in Gloria Naylor’s *The Women of Brewster Place*.”
   Jill Goad, Georgia State University.
   Scott Peeples, College of Charleston.

**Opening Reception and Keynote Address: 5:15 – 6:45 (Pulaski Room)**

“Cormac McCarthy's Mosaic of Crime”

Allen Josephs, University of West Florida
Saturday September 24, 2011

The Chippewa Room is open for breaks during the day.

Session Five A: 9:00 – 10:20 (Lafayette Room)
Cormac McCarthy Society: Breaking Rules, Bending Genres

Chair: Dianne C. Luce, Independent Scholar

1. “Genre Formulations in No Country for Old Men.”
   Scott Yarbrough, Charleston Southern University.
   Susan J. Tyburski, The Women’s College of the University of Denver.
   Stacey Peebles, Centre College.

Session Five B: 9:00 – 10:20 (Monterey Room)
The Deviant and Subversive

Chair: Nicole Camastra, University of Georgia

1. “‘Deviant’ Discourses: The National Police Gazette and American Literature of the 1840s and 50s.”
   Ashna Bhagwanani, University of Waterloo.
2. “Ruptures in Reason and Faith in Charles Brockden Brown’s Wieland.”
   Angela Green, Columbus State University.
3. “Is there a penalty for killing a dead man?: subverting the androcentric detective genre as a journey to empowerment in Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s murder mystery, Unpunished.”
   Jacquelyn Markham, South University.

Session Five C: 9:00 – 10:20 (Telfair Room)
Identity in Crime

Chair: Francine Koenig, Georgia Southern University

1. “Fiction and the Unabomber: Susan Choi, A Person of Interest.”
   Judie Newman, University of Nottingham.
2. “He Knows at Last Who He Is: Native American Detectives and Constitutional Knowledge in Louis Owens’ The Sharpest Sight.”
   Grant Bain, University of Arkansas.
   John J. Daily, Lynn University.
Session Six A: 10:30 – 11:50 (Lafayette Room)
Twenty-First Century Detective Fiction

Chair: John Gruesser, Kean University

1. “Neuro-Noir: The Detective’s Mind from Poe to Cyberpunk, and Back.”
   Susan Elizabeth Sweeney, College of the Holy Cross.
   Norlisha F. Crawford, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.
3. “Strange Birds: Rewriting The Maltese Falcon.”
   Cindy Hamilton, Liverpool Hope University.

Respondent: David Schmid, University of Buffalo.

Session Six B: 10:30 – 11:50 (Monterey Room)
Flannery O’Connor Society: Crimes Intended and Committed in O’Connor’s “The Displaced Person”

Chair: Tim Vande Brake, Roberts Wesleyan College.

1. “The Holocaust and the American Cultural Imaginary in ‘The Displaced Person.’”
   Joshua J. Masters, University of West Georgia.
2. “‘The Displaced Person’: Evidence of Bodies in the Corpus of Flannery O’Connor.”
3. “Judging the Priest’s Behavior in ‘The Displaced Person.’”
   Marshall Bruce Gentry, Georgia College & State University.

Session Six C: 10:30 – 11:50 (Telfair Room)
Wright and Norris

Chair: Gautam Kundu, Georgia Southern University

1. “Richard Wright and his Bluebeard Fantasy.” Mary Aswell Doll, Savannah College of Art and Design.

Lunch: 12:00 – 1:10 (Madison Ballroom)
Session Seven A: 1:20 -2:40 (Lafayette Room)
William Faulkner’s Crime Fiction

Chair: Dustin Anderson, Georgia Southern University

   Joseph R. Lease, University of Georgia.
2. “Southern Culture on Trial: Faulkner and the Failure of Testimony.”
   Lisa Hinrichsen, University of Arkansas.
   Sarah Elizabeth Vanover, Indiana University at Pennsylvania.

Session Seven B: 1:20 – 2:40 (Monterey Room)
Crimes Domestic and International: Re-evaluating Harriet Prescott Spofford’s Crime Fiction

Chair: Melissa Adams-Campbell, Northern Illinois University

   Kristen Renzi, Michigan State University.
   Jim Berkey, Duke University.
   Jon Blandford, Bellarmine University.

Session Seven C: 1:20 – 2:40 (Telfair Room)
Crime, Violence, and the Code Hero

Chair: Alan Swirsky, Georgia Southern University

   Homer B. Pettey, University of Arizona.
   William Moss, Wake Forest University.
3. “Murder in the Mountains: Violence, Gender, and Dispossession in Three American Novels.”
   Jo Angela Edwins, Francis Marion University.
Session Eight A: 2:50 – 4:10 (Lafayette Room)
**Perspectives on Poe**

Chair: Jennifer Bugna Lambeth, Georgia Southern University

1. “‘Upon the Very Verge of Remembrance’: Music and Mystery in Edgar Allan Poe’s ‘Ligeia.’” Nicole Camastra, University of Georgia.

Session Eight B: 2:50 – 4:10 (Monterey Room)
**Crime and Contemporary Fiction**

Chair: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University


Session Eight C: 2:50 – 4:10 (Telfair Room)
**Crime and Detection**

Chair: Alfred Bendixen, Texas A&M University

3. “Midrash, Philip Roth, the ‘Open Text’ and Post-Modernism.” Jane Statlander, Miami International University of Art and Design.
Session Nine A: 4:20 – 5:40 (Lafayette Room)
Hard-Boiled Crime Fiction

Chair: Lyndsey Brown, Georgia Southern University

1. “Guilty by Association: Character Networks in Dashiell Hammett’s *Red Harvest.*” Adam Stier, Ohio State University.

Session Nine B: 4:20 – 5:40 (Monterey Room)
Written in Blood: Factual Crime and American Fiction

Chair: Harold Schechter, Queens College, The City University of New York

1. “Exonerating the Victim: The Roseann Quinn Murder in Fiction and Fact.” Jean Murley, Queensborough Community College, City University of New York.
2. “‘He spoke much of his domestic felicity’: The Yates Family Murders & Charles Brockden Brown’s *Wieland.*” Duncan Faherty, Queens College, the City University of New York.

Session Nine C: 4:20 – 5:00 (Telfair Room)
Paranoiac Knowledge and Literary Sub-Genres in Thomas Pynchon

Chair: Scott McClintock, National University

3. “Paranoia as Strategy in Thomas Pynchon’s *Inherent Vice.*” Riley McDonald, Dalhousie University.

Closing Reception: 5:45 – 7:15 p.m. (Poolside)

**Flannery O’Connor Event: 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.**
(The Book Lady Bookstore, 6 East Liberty)

Bruce Gentry, Robert Donahoo, and other scholars will be discussing the *Flannery O’Connor Review* and *The Cartoons of Flannery O’Connor at Georgia College*, a collection recently published by Georgia College.

**Humphrey Bogart’s In a Lonely Place: 7:00 p.m.**
(Trustees Theater, 216 East Broughton Street)

Savannah College of Art and Design Cinema Circle invites you to attend.

Thank you for your support of the American Literature Association