

wr|ting rights
r|ghting wrongs
Transatlantic Narratives of Race

An Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research Conference, April 11, 2018
Huron University College
London Canada



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- 8:30-9:00** Morning Coffee (Great Hall)
9:00-9:15 Welcome (Dr. Tom Peace, History; Dr. Jim Crimmins, Acting Dean, FASS)
9:15-10:15 Keynote: Cecily Nicholson reading from *Wayside Sang*

10:30-11:45 Concurrent Session 1 (Great Hall)

No Safe Havens: Searches for Safety and Respect, Pre and Post Abolition

Chair: Dr. Tamika Nunley (Department of History, Oberlin College)

- Michele-lane Detouche (SUNY-Geneseo) "The Lesser of Two Evils: How African Americans Turned to Canada for Safety"
Krista Borst (SUNY-Geneseo) "The Effect of Emancipation on Interracial Relationships"
Alex Kohn (Oberlin College) "Revisiting the '(Con)founding fathers' on Slavery and Freedom"
James Hamilton (SUNY-Geneseo) "The Colfax Massacre: The Siege of the County Courthouse Colfax Louisiana, 1873"

Concurrent Session 2 (Huron Commons)

Peculiar Consequences of the Peculiar Institution: Slavery and its ongoing impact

Chair: Dr. Justin Behrend, (Department of History, SUNY-Geneseo)

- Natalia Rodriguez (SUNY-Geneseo) "Ongoing Impact of Slavery from Segregation to Today"
Theresa Gibbons (SUNY-Geneseo) "Irish Slave Myths"
Agatha Rowe-Crowder (Bath Spa University) "Authority and Identity in Sylvia Dubois: A Biography of the Slav who Whipt Her Mistres and Gand Her Freedom by C.W. Larison Sylvia Dubois"
Muntaha Mohamed (Oberlin College) "Narrative and Healing, from Harriet Jacobs to *Beloved*"

12:00-12:45 Lunch (Great Hall)

12:45-1:30 POP-UP MUSEUM (Huron Commons)

Seeing Oppression: Digital and Visual Examinations of Slavery and Subjugation

- Ashley Amofah (French 2408A) “Creating the Comic ‘I Had a Dream’ an Imagining of Dr. Luther King Witnessing 21st Century American Racial Injustice”
- History 3801E: “Antislavery In Small Things”
- Alisa Mentor, (SUNY-Geneseo) “Seeing the Parallels between the Underground Railroad and Efforts to Find Refuge from the Contemporary North Korean Regime”
- Patrick Kinghan (History, Huron) Black Press in Canada Project: Digitizing *Dawn of Tomorrow*
- Reframing Resistance, 1858: The Oberlin-Wellington Rescue/Sylvanus Demarest Rescue

1:30-2:45 Concurrent Session 3 (Great Hall)

New Stories Demand New Storytellers: Identities Established through Narrative

Chair: Dr. Boulou Ebanda de b’Berl, (Department of Communication, University of Ottawa)

Andrew French (Huron University College) “Langston Hughes and the notion of ‘Dreams Deferred’ from Harriet Jacobs to the Civil Rights Movement”

Eleanor Hardy (Bath Spa University) “‘A girl gets sick of a Rose’ (Gwendolyn Brooks, ‘A Song in the Front Yard’): Poetry of the Chicago Black Renaissance and the Female Experience. “

Millie Williams (Bath Spa University) “We are all defined by the food we eat’ (Sherman Alexie): Food and culture in Indigenous Canadian and Native American literature. “

Grace Winters (Oberlin College) “Black Abolitionist Print Culture”

Concurrent Session 4 (Huron Commons)

Performing the “Right” Words and Behaviours: Perfectability, Respectability and Rhetoric

Chair: Dr. Catherine Adams (Department of History, SUNY-Geneseo)

Claudia Baker (Oberlin College) “Charles Finney, Christian Perfectionism and Antislavery Oberlin

Erin Herbst (SUNY-Geneseo) “Lincoln’s Rhetoric”

Kira Findling (Oberlin College) “Black Female Respectability and Abolitionism: Lucy Stanton at Oberlin College and Beyond”

2:45 Wrap-up and departure (Great Hall)



Writing Rights, Righting Wrongs: Transatlantic Narratives of Race is an interdisciplinary conference showcasing undergraduate research on racial slavery, narratives of race, antislavery resistance, and civil rights. The conference is focused on the regional culture of the Great Lakes and its links to the Atlantic world. In keeping with the theme of crossborder and transatlantic perspectives, the conference brings together student participants from Canada, the US, and the UK, along with local community partners. Writing Rights, Righting Wrongs is part of the wider undergraduate research learning collaboration inaugurated in 2016-17 between Huron and Bath Spa University, titled *Phantoms of the Past: Slavery and Resistance, History and Memory in the Atlantic World*. The *Phantoms* project mobilised students and faculty from Huron University College and Bath Spa University, and local community research partners on both sides of the Atlantic, reframing the British imperial context as a site of research on histories and memories of racial slavery and resistance.

About our Keynote Speaker: Cecily Nicholson, from small-town Ontario via Toronto and South Bend, relocated to the Pacific coast almost two decades ago. On Musqueam-, Squamish-, and Tsleil-Waututh-occupied lands known as Vancouver, she has worked, since 2000, in the Downtown Eastside neighbourhood, most recently as administrator for the artist-run centre and mental health resource, Gallery Gachet. A part of the Joint Effort prison abolitionist group and a member of the Research Ethics Board for Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Cecily was also the 2017 Ellen Warren Tallman Writer in Residence at Simon Fraser University. She is the author of *Triage* and *From the Poplars*, winner of the 2015 Dorothy Livesay Poetry Prize. Cecily will introduce her research and read from her latest book of poetry, *Wayside Sang*, published by Talonbooks.

Thank you to all of our student panelists and presenters, and to the participants from **Centre Dufferin District High School** for sharing your work and insight through this collaborative research project! Conference proceedings will be available at huronresearch.ca/phantomsofthepast/conferences

Huron Organizing Committee:

Amy Bell (History)
Neil Brooks (English and Cultural Studies)
Andrea King (French Studies)
Tom Peace (History)
Nina Reid-Maroney (History)
Scott Schofield (English and Cultural Studies)
Deanne van Tol (Coordinator—Teaching and Research)

Faculty Collaborators:

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Justin Behrend (Geneseo)
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Ian Gadd (Bath Spa)
Tamika Nunley (Oberlin)
Olivette Otele (Bath Spa)

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