

Literature and Social Justice Graduate Symposium

Southern Connecticut State University | April 27

9:30-10:00 AM • Engleman Rotunda

Registration

Coffee, bagels, and pastries provided

9:55-10:00 AM • Engleman A120

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Joel Dodson & Shelley Stoehr-McCarthy

10:00-11:15 AM • Engleman A120

Session #1 – Reading for Justice

Maryanne Boyen (Chair)

The Plague Camp: Understanding Auschwitz through Foucault

Max Bickley

Diction and Syntax in *Blood Meridian*

Natalie Schriefer

Connecting Scenes to Make Social Statements in *Huck Finn* and *Blood Meridian*

Nancy Manning

11:15-11:30 AM • Engleman Rotunda

Coffee Break

11:30 AM-12:15 PM • Engleman A120

Roundtable Discussion: *Slow Violence and Literary Action*

Joel Dodson (Chair), Evan DeCarlo, Alex Speiser, Jen Westerman, DeLauné Michel

This will be an open-forum discussion – for *all* participants – about the future for social justice and public action in our own work as graduate students, teachers, creative writers, and scholars in English studies. A pre-circulated copy of Rob Nixon's 2011 article "Slow Violence" is included in your packet and available online

(<https://www.chronicle.com/article/Slow-Violence/127968>). The roundtable – featuring Southern English Master's thesis candidates and our two visiting speakers – will kick off the conversation, and then open the floor to everyone: *What work do we do as English practitioners? Does that work alleviate or contribute to the kind of "slow violence" Nixon describes? Can literary studies and creative writing do social justice? Where should we go from here?*



12:15-12:30 • Engleman D253

Lunch Break

Sandwiches (P&M Deli), with veggie and non-veggie options, and other refreshments provided. Free to all participants.

12:30-1:30 • Engleman D264

Workshop: Writing and Community Outreach

DeLauné Michel (Author and Founder of Spoken Interludes)

1:45-3:00 PM • Engleman A120

Session #2 – Method and Pedagogy at the Margins

Eric Ong (Chair)

Surrounded by Deadlines: Threatening Keywords in the Classroom
Cole Depuy

Masculine Sexuality, Discourse, and Structure in *Hero and Leander*
Cesar Gonzalez

Confessional Poetry: Taboo Topics as a Feminist Approach to Motherhood
Terri Linn Davis

3:00-4:00 PM • Engleman A120

Keynote: “The Literary Art of Sustainable Development”

Dr. Jennifer Westerman (Appalachian State University)

Please join us afterward for an end-of-year party at RAWA in Westville (4-6 PM; free appetizers, with cash bar).

This symposium was sponsored by the English Department and an SCSU Social Justice Grant. Special thanks to: Darcey Lovell, Natalie Schriefer, Julianne Fowler, and Andrew Smyth.