

# LITERATURE *and* SOCIAL JUSTICE *Graduate Symposium*



## Spring 2021 Literature and Social Justice Symposium

All sessions will be held online. To attend, click the link below and enter the login information.  
*For the sake of presenters and speakers, please keep your computer audio muted.*

### Friday, April 16

#### 5:30-7:30 • Welcome Celebration and MFA Reading

[Main Meeting Room \(Click Here to Join\)](#) (Meeting ID: 820 6948 7291 | Passcode: m8Tum%)

*Chair:* Joel Dodson (Associate Professor, English) and Terri Davis (MFA '21)

5:30-6:00 PM – Spring 2021 English Graduate Program Celebration

*Grab a beverage or other refreshments and join us for a happy-hour celebration with the English faculty and graduate community.*

6:00-7:30 PM – MFA Reading

*An evening of poetry, fiction, and creative non-fiction with the students of Southern's MFA program in Creative Writing, featuring:*

Jonah Craggett  
Mike Tenney  
Bill Conlon  
Manar Toumeh  
Maryanne Boyen  
Ira Rosofsky  
Tamera Sternberger  
Manuel Aldarondo  
Teresa Twomey  
Grace Collins-Hovey  
Brenna Harvey

# Saturday, April 17

## Morning

### 9:30-10:45 AM • Graduate Paper Panels

#### **Panel A • Gender, Sexuality, and Trauma in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fiction**

[Seminar Room A \(Click Here to Join\)](#) (Meeting ID: 891 4360 7833 | Passcode: ms\*Uv9)

*Chair:* Nicole Fluhr (Professor, English)

Lauren Reilly, “Resisting the Aesthetic Allure of Gay Death: George Falconer’s Suicidality in Christopher Isherwood’s *A Single Man*”

Emily Aquilino, “The Battle of the Gazes: The Juxtaposition of the ‘Lesbian Gaze’ and ‘Male Gaze’ in Patricia Highsmith’s *The Price of Salt*”

Mike Tenney, “Trauma as a Uniting Force in Virginia Woolf’s *Mrs. Dalloway*”

#### **Panel B • Seeing and Reading Poverty**

[Seminar Room B \(Click Here to Join\)](#) (Meeting ID: 846 2335 1250 | Passcode: i7?NLV)

*Chair:* Andrew Smyth (Professor, English)

Marisa Misbach, “Behold, a [poor] mammal’: Defining and Seeing Poverty in *King Lear*”

Andi Tonnies, “Found: Language – An Examination of Knut Hamsun’s Limited Language in *Hunger*”

Bailey Gartman, “Dress for the Job You Want: Clothing as an Expression of Class”

### 11:00-11:45 AM • Social Justice Workshop with New Haven Community Partners

[Main Meeting Room \(Click Here to Join\)](#) (Meeting ID: 820 6948 7291 | Passcode: m8Tum%)

*Chair:* Shelley Stoehr-McCarthy (Instructor, English and Creative Writing)

*Join us for a discussion with Y2Y / Youth Continuum and IRIS (Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services) to explore the links and future opportunities for social justice and the humanities in the SCSU and New Haven region.*

## Lunch

### 12:00-1:15 PM • Keynote Lecture and Roundtable

[Main Meeting Room \(Click Here to Join\)](#) (Meeting ID: 820 6948 7291 | Passcode: m8Tum%)

#### **Portrayal of Police and Communities of Color in Independent Black Comic Books**

**Dr. William H. Foster**

**Naugatuck Valley Community College**

*Followed by Q&A and Roundtable on Race and Comics with SCSU English Graduate Students*

*Chair:* Charles Baraw (Associate Professor, English)



## Afternoon

### 1:30-2:45 PM • Graduate Paper Panels

#### **Panel A • Class and Precarity in the Novel**

[Seminar Room A \(Click Here to Join\)](#) (Meeting ID: 891 4360 7833 | Passcode: ms\*Uv9)

*Chair:* Cynthia Stretch (Professor, English)

Grace Collins-Hovey, “The Benevolent Dictator in the House: The Domestic Power of Feminine ‘Virtues’ in Dickens’ *Bleak House*”

Kofi Adomako-Ayisi, “Alienation and Emasculation as the Inevitable Wage for Men in a Capitalistic System”

Salvatore Ghamo, “Horatio Alger: A Proposed Remedy For Invidious Comparison?”

#### **Panel B • Close Reading &/as Protest: Language, Pedagogy, and Social Change**

[Seminar Room B \(Click Here to Join\)](#) (Meeting ID: 846 2335 1250 | Passcode: i7?NLV)

*Chair:* Scott Ellis (Professor, English)

Teresa Twomey, “What’s in a Game?: The Sole Successful Strike in Steinbeck’s *The Grapes of Wrath*”

Cassie Carroll, “A Matter of Language: The Linguistic Power and Controversy of ‘Black Lives Matter’”

Drew Denbaum, “Higher Order Thinking: An Action Research Study on Literature and Social Justice”

Joy Pepe, “If You Can Make it There, New York, New York: The City as Character in Colson Whitehead’s *Zone One*”

### 3:00-4:00 PM • Keynote Lecture and Closing Forum

[Main Meeting Room \(Click Here to Join\)](#) (Meeting ID: 820 6948 7291 | Passcode: m8Tum%)

#### **Small Axe/Acts: The Politics of Black Pleasure**

**Dr. Rashida Z. Shaw McMahon**

**Wesleyan University**

*Chair:* Corinne Blackmer (Professor, English)

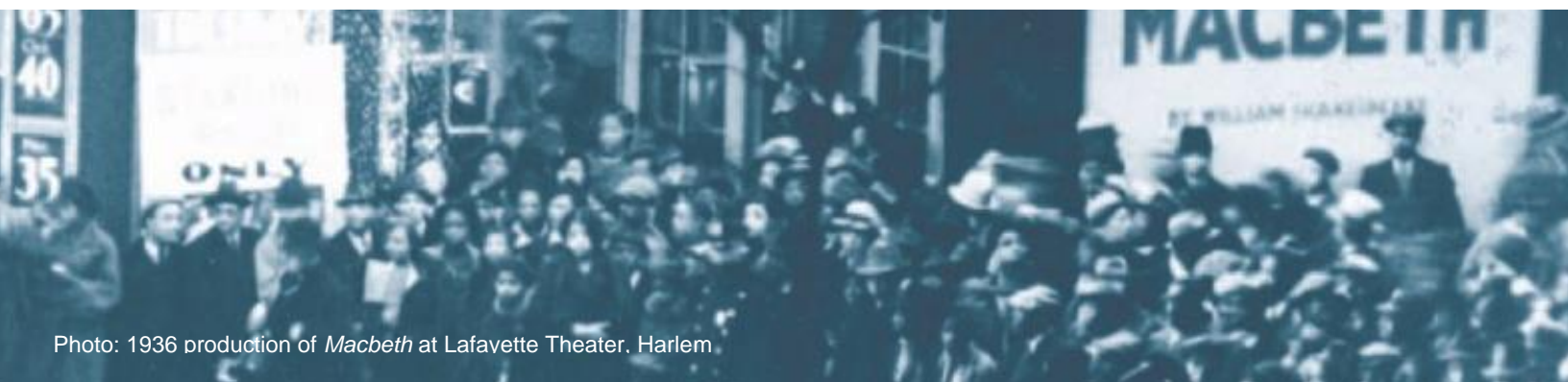


Photo: 1936 production of *Macbeth* at Lafayette Theater, Harlem