



CAAS 2017: Uncertain Futures
Conference Program



Conference Program Overview

FRIDAY, October 27th

8:00AM – 9:00AM: Registration (Room 187)
9:00AM – 10:30AM: Session One
10:30AM – 10:45AM: Coffee & Snacks (Room 187)
10:45AM – 12:15PM: Session Two
12:15PM – 1:30PM: Lunch (Room 187 & Room 190)
CAAS Executive Lunch (Room 642)
12:45PM – 1:15PM: Screening of *Lunar Schism* (Room 190)
1:30PM – 3:00PM: Session Three
3:00PM – 3:15PM: Coffee & Snacks (Room 187)
3:15PM – 4:45PM: Session Four
5:00PM – 6:00PM: CAAS Reception (Room 187)
6:15PM – 7:45PM: Virginia J. Rock Plenary (Room 190): Elizabeth Freeman

SATURDAY, October 28th

8:00AM – 9:00AM: Registration (Room 187)
9:00AM – 10:30AM: Session Five
10:30AM – 10:45AM: Coffee & Snacks (Room 187)
10:45AM – 12:15PM: Session Six
12:15PM – 1:30PM: Lunch & CAAS AGM (Room 187 & Room 190)
1:30PM – 3:00PM: Session Seven
3:00PM – 3:15PM: Coffee & Snacks (Room 187)
3:15PM – 4:45PM: Session Eight
5:00PM – 6:00PM: CAAS Reception (Room 187)
6:15PM – 7:45PM: Robert White Plenary (Room 190): Ramzi Fawaz

SUNDAY, October 29th

8:00AM – 9:00AM: Registration (Room 187)
9:00AM – 10:30AM: Session Nine
10:30AM – 10:45AM: Coffee & Snacks (Room 187)
10:45AM – 12:15PM: Session Ten

Note: All conference events will take place at OCAD University's main campus building (100 McCaul Street).

OCAD University acknowledges the ancestral and traditional territories of the Mississaugas of the New Credit, the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe, and the Huron-Wendat, who are the original owners and custodians of the land on which we stand and create.

FRIDAY, October 27th

8:00AM – 9:00AM: Registration (Room 187)

9:00AM – 10:30AM: Session One

Session 1A (Room 284): The End of the World (As We Know It)

- Moderator: Lindsey Banco (Saskatchewan)
- Adam Beardsworth (MUN Grenfell) "Nuclear Past, Nuclear Future: Poetics of Oblivion from the Cold War to Post-Trump"
- Michael Epp (Trent) "Fantasies of Full Employment: Zombies, Video Games, and Violent Labor"
- Samuel Rowland (Waterloo) "The Atomic Bomb in the Garden: Manifest Destiny and the Post-Nuclear Frontier in *Fallout 4*"

Session 1B (Room 264): L.A.'s Uncertain Futures

- Moderator: Peter Brown (Mount Allison)
- Susan Ingram (York) "Made in Downtown L.A.: Utopia, Dystopia, and the Appeal of the American Apparel Decade"
- Markus Reisenleitner (York) "Do Androids Dream of Going Surfing? Silicon Beach and L.A.'s Countercultural Urban Imaginaries"
- Elena Siemens (Alberta) "Interstate 10: Snapshots of an Uncertain Future"

Session 1C (Room 544): Uncertain Fictions

- Moderator: Rita Bode (Trent)
- Rita Bode (Trent) "'By reinventing culture, they were reinventing themselves:' Art as Intervention in *Bodega Dreams*"
- Sarah Howden (UNB) "The Postmodern Frontier and Paradoxical Progress in Joan Didion's *Democracy*"

10:30AM – 10:45AM: Coffee & Snacks (Room 187)

10:45AM – 12:15PM: Session Two

Session 2A (Room 284): Past and Future Borders

- Moderator: Jennifer Andrews (UNB)
- Jennifer Andrews (UNB) “The Missionary Position: The American Roots of Northrop Frye’s Peaceable Kingdom”
- Jennifer Harris (Waterloo) “Digging up the Legacy: Black Writing on the Border”
- Alyssa MacLean (Western) “Build That Wall? Contemporary Rhetorics of Canada-US Border-Crossing”

Session 2B (Room 264): Screening the Future: Speculative Film and Television

- Moderator: Hermínia Sol (University of Lisbon)
- David Huebert (Western) “Sex After The Human: *Ex Machina*, Extinction Panic, and The Fantasy of the Designer”
- Reginald Khokher (York) “‘None of That Non-Interference Crap’: The War on Terror and *Star Trek* in the age of George W. Bush”
- Leigh McKagen (Virginia Tech) “Imagining Imperial Futures: Examining Spaceships as Global Cities in Contemporary Science Fiction Television”

Session 2C (Room 544): Subjects and Surveillance

- Moderator: Ross Bullen (OCAD)
- Kim Nguyen (Waterloo) “Neoliberal Love, Power Couples, and Surveillance in *Gossip Girl*”
- Mary Eileen Wennekers (OCAD) “*Black Mirror*: The Subject, Mediation, and Ethics”
- Julia M. Wright (Dalhousie) “Who Watches the Microwaves?: Technology and the Gothic State”

12:15PM – 1:30PM: Lunch (Room 187 & Room 190)
CAAS Executive Lunch (Room 642)

12:45PM – 1:15PM: Screening of *Lunar Schism* (Room 190)

Special Session (Room 190): Screening of *Lunar Schism* (dir. JL Whitecrow, 2017)

- Film screening (8 minutes) followed by an interview with JL Whitecrow.

1:30PM – 3:00PM: Session Three

Session 3A (Room 284): Future's Pasts I

- Moderator: Jennifer Harris (Waterloo)
- Marc Egnal (York) "Revisioning American Literary Nationalism"
- Adam Lewis (Boston College) "Emigration Literature, U.S. Empire, and the Figure of the Black British Soldier"
- Sandra Tomc (UBC) "Cheap Poe"

Session 3B (Room 264): The Future of Love

- Moderator: Mary Eileen Wennekers (OCAD)
- Meryl Borato (Independent Scholar) "Performing Love: Karen Finley's Temporary Communities"
- Ania Malinowska (University of Silesia) "Feelings without Organs: Post-human Materiality and Affection"
- Maria-Belén Ordóñez (OCAD) "Future Intimacies and the Heteronormativity of Sex Dolls: Canadian Regulation of Non-Human Bodies and the Heteropanic of Non-Relations"

Session 3C (Room 544): Uncertain Utopias

- Moderator: Art Redding (York)
- Brian Lefresne (Guelph) "'The space platform they got out there': Sun Ra and the Soviet Union's *Salyut I*"
- Art Redding (York) "Back to the Future: Utopian Thinking between 1820 and 2020"
- Laura Thursby (Trent) "Exopolitics: A Utopian Conspiracy Theory"

3:00PM – 3:15PM: Coffee & Snacks (Room 187)

3:15PM – 5:00PM: Session Four

Session 4A (Room 284): Future's Pasts II

- Moderator: Jenna Hunnef (U of Toronto)
- Luke Bresky (St. Mary's) "Visiting with Margaret Fuller"
- Taylor Kraayenbrink (Western) "'What Sin I have committed': Jonathan Edwards's 'Resolutions,' the Puritan Aesthetic, and the Spirit of American Critique"
- Thomas Loebel (York) "Aesthetic Judgment and the Hysterical Position: Henry James, Beauty, and the Future"
- Craig Stensrud (UBC) "Thoreau's Shame: The Political Limits of Anti-hypocrisy"

Session 4B (Room 264): Anti-Racist Pedagogy: Teaching Speculative Fiction

- Roundtable organizer: Martha Kenney (San Francisco State)

Session 4C (Room 544): Healthy Uncertainties

- Moderator: Jennifer Cowe (UBC)
- Evelyn Deshane (Waterloo) "Cyberhumans: Transgender Digital Life Writing and Queer Futurity"
- Patti Luedecke (Western) "À la Carte Care: *The Federalist Papers* and Remoralizing the Accident"
- Alexandra Rahr (U of T) "Dreaming of Disaster: Anthropocene Futures in State Farm Insurance Ads"
- Bryce Traister (UBC Okanagan) "Why Not Vaccinating Children is Like Hanging Witches, and Vice Versa"

5:00PM – 6:00PM: CAAS Reception (Room 187)

6:15PM – 7:45PM: Virginia J. Rock Plenary (Room 190)

- Elizabeth Freeman (UC Davis) "Care of the Other: Caretaking Work and Queer Relationality"

SATURDAY, October 28th

8:00AM – 9:00AM: Registration (Room 187)

9:00AM – 10:30AM: Session Five

Session 5A (Room 230): After the Apocalypse

- Moderator: Hermínia Sol (University of Lisbon)
- James Collins (Sheridan) “Reclaiming America’s Future: The Post-Apocalyptic Frontier in J. G. Ballard’s *Hello America*”
- Bryn Skibo-Birney (University of Geneva) “‘Bright Side’: Atwood’s Post-Apocalyptic Post-Anthropocentrism”
- Hermínia Sol (University of Lisbon) “A Woman’s Place Is in the Resistance: The Case of Margaret A”

Session 5B (Room 284): Against Uncertainty

- Moderator: Art Redding (York)
- Jennifer Cowe (UBC) “The Prodigal Son’s Battle Cry: Dystopian Visions of America in Henry Miller’s *The Air-Conditioned Nightmare*”
- Aaron Kreuter (York) “‘Longings Even More Unimaginable’: The Complications of Jewish Justice in Philip Roth’s *Operation Shylock*”
- Maggie Ward (UNB) “Risk Society in Don DeLillo’s *Underworld*”

Session 5C (Room 544): Society, Community, Change

- Moderator: Ross Bullen (OCAD)
- Alia Weston (OCAD) “Business and Food as a Catalyst for Change”

Session 5D (Room 190): Symposium I: The Tenses of the Virtual: Materiality, Representation, and Technical Media

- Moderator: Mary Eileen Wennekers (OCAD)
- Nannini Lee Balakrishnan (OCAD) & Daniel Ura (OCAD) “Fictional Certainty”
- Tobias Williams (OCAD) “Algorithmically Enhanced Art: Collaborating with Code”
- Samaa Ahmed (OCAD), Bijun Chen (OCAD), Sara Gazzaz (OCAD), Ginger Guo (OCAD), Katie Micak (OCAD), & Ania Medrek (OCAD) “Universal Futures”

10:30AM – 10:45AM: Coffee & Snacks (Room 187)

10:45AM – 12:15PM: Session Six

Session 6A (Room 230): Resources and Regeneration in the Anthropocene

- Moderator: Bryn Skibo-Birney (University of Geneva)
- Brent Ryan Bellamy (MUN) "What do to without Oil? On Energy Anxiety in Recent Post-Apocalyptic Fiction"
- Roberto Chiotti (OCAD) "Finding Our Way Back to the Garden: Implications for Designers and Educators in the 21st Century"
- Neta Gordon (Brock) "'That's Our Word': National Identity in Vaughn and Skroce's *We Stand on Guard*"

Session 6B (Room 284): Narrative Resiliency from Ruins to Race

- Moderator: Percy Walton (Carleton)
- Andrew Connolly (Trinity College) "Teaching "Black Art" at a White College"
- Chris Vanderwees (Western) "Psychoanalysis and the Social Imaginary of Ruination"
- Percy Walton (Carleton) & Jonathan Chau (Carleton) "'I'm Not Black, I'm OJ': Constructions, Productions, and Refractions of Blackness"

Session 6C (Room 544): Exploring Possible Futures: WIP from a Digital Futures Grad Class

- Cindy Poremba (OCAD) & graduate student presenters TBA.

Session 6D (Room 190): Symposium II: Chance and the Machine: Subjectivities in the Future

- Moderator: Mary Eileen Wennekers (OCAD)
- Andrew Wenaus (Western) & Christina Willatt (Western) "From Dada to Data: Granular Synthesis, Automation, and Autonomy"
- Lynne Heller (OCAD) "The Adventures"
- Stirling Prentice (Stirling Prentice + Winged Beast) "If You Are Lost, You Are Here"

12:15PM – 1:30PM: Lunch & CAAS AGM (Room 187 & Room 190)

1:30PM – 3:00PM: Session Seven

Session 7A (Room 230): Indigenous Futures

- Moderator: Jenna Hunnef (U of Toronto)
- Julie Pelletier (Newberry Library) "Deconstructing the Anthropocene Through an Indigenous Lens: Protest Art from Standing Rock"
- Ryder Thalheimer (UBC) "Learning from Bella Bella: A Community's Approach to Housing"

Session 7B (Room 284): Youth's Futures

- Moderator: Michelle Miller (OCAD)
- Jennifer Bethune (York) "The Child Citizen and the Political Futurity of Youth"
- Nat Hurley (Alberta) "Toward a Theory of Kidless Lit and the Spoils of Non-Reproduction"

Session 7C (Room 544): Uncertain Subjects

- Moderator: Jeff Dzogola (Queens)
- Annika Rosanowski (Alberta) "Posthuman Futures in Contemporary Young Adult Dystopias"
- Anna Ziering (UConn) "The Novella as a Tool of Viral Seduction: Masochistic Temporality in *Venus in Furs*"

Session 7D (Room 190): Symposium III: Screening of *Trading the Future* (dir. b.h. Yael, 2008)

- Film screening (55 minutes) followed by Q&A with b.h. Yael (OCAD)

3:00PM – 3:15PM: Coffee & Snacks (Room 187)

3:15PM – 4:45PM: Session Eight

Session 8A (Room 230): The Uncertain Future of the University

- Moderator: Geordie Miller (Dalhousie)
- Lynne Heller (OCAD) & Kathleen Morris (OCAD) "Embodied Knowledge and the Neoliberal Turn"
- Bill Leeming (OCAD) "Negotiating the End(s) of Practice-based Education in an Era of Neoliberalism"
- Geordie Miller (Dalhousie) "Pretty Vacant: Intellectual Labour at New Public Management U"

Session 8B (Room 284): Politics, Poetics, and Pedagogy in American Literary History

- Moderator: Luke Bresky (St. Mary's)
- Mary Esteve (Concordia) "Midcentury Politics and Poetics of Incrementalism: Decision Theory and Gwendolyn Brooks's Vignette Seriality"
- Laura Fisher (Ryerson) "The Fault of the Method: Nella Larsen's Student Protest"
- Kate Stanley (Western) "Pragmatism and Pedagogy: John Dewey and John Cage at Black Mountain College"

Session 8C (Room 544): Poetics, Affect, Uncertainty

- Moderator: Adam Beardsworth (MUN Grenfell)
- Phillip Crymble (UNB) "Contesting the Future: Rebecca Wolff, *Fence Magazine*, and the Gender Politics of Post-Avant Writing Practices"
- Leif Schenstead-Harris (Concordia) "Airports, Time, Uncertainty: Reading Another Poetics of Migration"
- Carolyn Veldstra (Alberta) "Affective Labour and Uncertain Futures"

Session 8D (Room 190): Symposium IV: Transformative Future Making: Objects, Places, Scenes, and Space

- Moderator: Jessica Mace (OCAD)
- Adrienne Crossman (Windsor) "Fear of a Queer Planet Series"
- Matthew-Robin Nye (Concordia) "Crashing Worldings Together: Three Works"

5:00PM – 6:00PM: CAAS Reception (Room 187)

6:15PM – 7:45PM: Robert White Plenary (Room 190)

- Ramzi Fawaz (Wisconsin-Madison) "Legions of Superheroes: Multiplicity, Diversity, and Collective Action Against Genocide in the Superhero Comic Book"

SUNDAY, October 29th

8:00AM – 9:00AM: Registration (Room 187)

9:00AM – 10:30AM: Session Nine

Session 9A (Room 230): Time, Sex, and Television

- Moderator: Julie Pelletier (Newberry Library)
- Nicole McCleese (Central Michigan) "Rebellion, Dissent, and Other Disruptions to Heteronormative Time: Queer Theory's Historical Performativity and TV's Pornographic Suffering in *Outlander*"
- Suzannah Showler (Ohio State) "After the Final Rose: the False Promise of the Future on *The Bachelor*"

Session 9B (Room 284): Uncertain Time and Place in Stephen King

- Moderator: Lindsey Banco (Saskatchewan)
- Jeff Dzogola (Queens) "The Metageography of Stephen King's Maine"
- Nicola Nixon (Concordia) "Stephen King's Preemptive History"

Session 9C (Room 544): Technologies of the Self

- Moderator: Alia Weston (OCAD)
- Samaa Ahmed (OCAD) "Putting the Self in Selfie"
- Mazi Javidiani (OCAD) "Our Obsession with Gadgets: Imagining Futures Beyond Robots, Devices, and Interfaces"
- Ala Roushan (OCAD) "Simulated Hyperreal: Territorialization Beyond the Limits of Human Perception"

10:30AM – 10:45AM: Coffee & Snacks (Room 187)

10:45AM – 12:15PM: Session Ten

Session 10A (Room 230): Music, Popular Culture, and Representations of Resistance

- Moderator: Peter Brown (Mount Allison)
- Peter Brown (Mount Allison) "'You better shut up and listen!': The Screamers, Punk Nihilism and Pop Futurity"
- Ryan Gaio (UNB) "'Wouldn't it be nice if we were older?': The Optimistic Possibilities of Youth and Rock and Roll in Thomas Pynchon's *The Crying of Lot 49*"
- Ed Shannon (Ramapo College) "Good Grief Comrade Brown! Woody Guthrie, Charles Schulz, and the 'Moronic Creations Parading Under the Banner of "Comics"'"

Session 10B (Room 284): Future Markets and Mass Extinctions

- Moderator: Brent Ryan Bellamy (MUN)
- Mariusz Marszalski (University of Wroclaw) "Speculations on the Future of Economic Models in the Wake of Trans/Posthuman Sentient Evolution in Charles Stross' *Accelerando*"
- Jordan Sjol (Duke) "From Options Pricing to Mass Extinction: Performative Models in Finance and Climate Science"
- Mark Soderstrom (SUNY Empire State) "Speculative Futures: Neoliberal Economy and Resistance in Speculative Fiction"

Session 10C (Room 544): Paranoid Futures

- Moderator: Ross Bullen (OCAD)
- Lindsey Banco (Saskatchewan) "Flight-Control-Technology: The Case of the Aviation Mystery/Thriller"
- Ross Bullen (OCAD) "The Crying of Cicada 3301: Thomas Pynchon's Cryptocurrencies"
- Jason Haslam (Dalhousie) "Ellison, Delany, and the Forgetting of Things Future"
- Chris McIntyre (York) "The Artist as Cold War Psychiatric Subject in Charles Willeford's *Pick-Up*"

Session 10D (Room 554): Future Visions

- Moderator: Mary Eileen Wennekers (OCAD)
- Jeremy Bowes (OCAD) "How Can Data Visualization Address Uncertainty"
- Michele Mastroeni (OCAD) "Science Fiction and Our Attitudes Towards Technology: Seeing Value Once the Shine Wears Off"
- Andrew Woods (Western) "Visions of the Future"

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