

“Poverty viewed at a distance”? Depicting Destitution across Media



Graz, 11–13 October 2017

University of Graz

Centre for Intermediality Studies in Graz (CIMIG)

American Studies Graz

Keynote Speakers

Prof. Dr. Linda Hutcheon | University of Toronto

Prof. Dr. Michael Hutcheon | University of Toronto

Prof. Dr. Christopher Lukasik | Purdue University

Keynote Speakers

Linda Hutcheon (University of Toronto)



Linda Hutcheon holds the rank of University Professor Emeritus in the Department of English and the Centre for Comparative Literature at the University of Toronto. She is author of nine books on critical theory and contemporary postmodern culture in Canada and around the world. She has edited five other books on cultural topics and is associate editor of the *University of Toronto Quarterly*. In 2005 she won the Canada Council's Killam Prize for the Humanities for scholarly achievement and, in 2010, the Molson Prize of the Canada Council. In 2011, she was made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Michael Hutcheon (University of Toronto)



Michael Hutcheon is Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto. His scientific research publications focus on, among others, pulmonary physiology and lung transplantation. He has also published in the fields of medical education and the semiotics of pharmaceutical advertising.

Linda and Michael Hutcheon's collaborative research on the cultural construction of sexuality, gender and disease in opera appeared in the monograph *Opera: Desire, Disease, Death* (1996). Their second book, a study of both the real and the represented operatic body entitled *Bodily Charm: Living Opera*, was published in 2000. *Opera: The Art of Dying* (Harvard University Press, 2004) is a study not only of the ubiquitous theme of death in opera but, more importantly, also of how viewing operas can actually help us deal by proxy with our own and our loved ones' mortality—something our culture has not facilitated. Their latest book, *Four Last Songs: Aging and Creativity in Verdi, Strauss, Messiaen, and Britten* (University of Chicago Press, 2015), is a study of the late lives and last works of those long-lived composers for whom writing an opera was, in each case, a unique response to the challenges—and opportunities—of growing older.

Christopher Lukasik (Purdue University)



Christopher J. Lukasik is Associate Professor of English and American Studies at Purdue University. He earned his B.A. in English and B.F.A. in Painting from the University of Illinois and his M.A. and PhD in English from Johns Hopkins University. His research has received fifteen fellowships, including long-term awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Antiquarian Society, the Boston University Humanities Foundation, the Purdue Research Foundation, and the Harrison Institute for American History, Literature, and Culture at the University of Virginia. He has presented over seventy papers on three continents and his work has been published in over a dozen journals.

He is the author of *Discerning Characters: The Culture of Appearance in Early America* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010) and is currently working on a new book project entitled *The Image in the Text: Intermediality, Illustration, and Nineteenth-Century American Literature*.

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