

International Conference

IN-BETWEEN

Liminal Spaces in Canadian Literature and Culture

Graz, 2-4 June 2016

University of Graz

Department of American Studies

Center for Inter-American Studies

Keynote Speakers

Aritha van Herk | University of Calgary

Reingard Nischik | University of Konstanz

Marlene Goldman | University of Toronto

Schedule

Thursday, June 2, 2016

Time	Place	Event
15:00–17:00	Attemsgasse 25 American Studies Office	Registration (2 nd floor) and Coffee (Room Montreal)
17:00–17:30	Meerscheinschlössl Mozartgasse 3	Opening of the Conference: Stefan Brandt (Department of American Studies) and Ulla Krieburnegg (Center for Inter-American Studies) Welcoming Remarks: Martin Löschnigg (Centre for Canadian Studies), Lukas Meyer (Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities), Jonathan Sauvé (Embassy of Canada to Austria), Martin Polaschek (Vice-Rector for Studies and Teaching at the University of Graz)
17:30–18:30	Meerscheinschlössl Mozartgasse 3	KEYNOTE 1: Aritha van Herk (University of Calgary): Tripping on the Threshold; Groping in the Dark
18:30–Open End	Meerscheinschlössl Mozartgasse 3	Dinner Reception

Friday, June 3, 2016

Time	Place	Event
08:30–09:00	Attemsgasse 25 2 nd floor American Studies Office	Registration
09:00–11:00	Attemsgasse 25	PANEL Session 1
11:00–12:00	Attemsgasse 25	POSTER Presentation (organized by young scholars)
12:00–13:30		Lunch Break
13:30–14:30	Hörsaal 06.02	KEYNOTE 2: Reingard Nischik (University of Konstanz): Multiple Liminality: Aging in the Canadian Short Story
14:30–15:00	Attemsgasse 25 Room Montreal	Coffee Break
15:00–17:00	Attemsgasse 25	PANEL Session 2
18:00–Open End	Graz Town Hall Hauptplatz 1	Mayor’s Reception (Meeting Point 17:45 in front of Town Hall)

Schedule

Saturday, June 4, 2016

Time	Place	Event
09:30–10:00	Attemsgasse 25 Room Montreal	Morning Coffee
10:00–12:00	Attemsgasse 25	PANEL Session 3
12:00–13:00	Attemsgasse 25	Light Lunch
13:00–14:00	Attemsgasse 25 Room Calgary	KEYNOTE 3: Marlene Goldman (University of Toronto): Canadian Performers from the Raging Grannies to Alice Munro: Undoing Shame through the Queer Art of Failure
14:00–14:30	Attemsgasse 25	Closing Remarks
14:30–17:30		City Tour

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Liminal Spaces in Canadian Literature and Culture

Panel Session #1

Friday, June 3, 2016, 09:00–11:00

Panel 1: Blurry Visions – Canadian Cinema and the In-Between
Chair: Oana Ursulesku, Room Winnipeg

Vesna Lopičić	The Intriguing Liminality of Dying in Keefer's <i>Going Over the Bars</i>
Christopher Koy	Meeting, Converting and Dying: Brian Moore's <i>Black Robe</i>
Ulla Krieburnegg	The Liminality of Old Age in Thom Fitzgerald's <i>Cloudburst</i>
Ian Robinson	Doubled, Displaced, and Enigmatic: <i>Enemy's</i> Toronto

Panel 2: Collisions and Collaborations: Language, Genre, Identity
Chair: Silke Jandl, Room Calgary

Nassim Balestrini	National Self-Definition and the Bilingual Poet Laureate Position
Nikola Tutek	Diane Schoemperlen: By the Book, Stories and Pictures – Fragments in Contrapuntal Unity
Yvonne Völkl	A Liminal Phenomenon: The Moral Press in France and Quebec

Panel 3: Political Limbo: Human Rights, Law, Memory
Chair: Manuela Neuwirth, Room Toronto

Melanie Braunecker	"One man's passion is another man's poison": Contemporary Canadian Literature and the Controversial Canadian Oil Industry
Peter Goggin	"Exclaveness" and Liminality: Materialities and Rhetorics of Place at the Tsawwassen Peninsula Pene-Exclave of Point Roberts
Cécile Heim	At the Margins of Justice: Renegotiating Right and Space in Marie Clements's <i>The Unnatural and Accidental Women</i>
Andreea C. Lazar	Politics of Memory and Longing in Kim Thuy's <i>Ru</i>



Poster Presentation

Friday, June 3, 2016, 11:00–12:00

Supervisor: Maria Löschnigg, Department of English Studies, University of Graz
Room Montreal

Anela Alagic

The Short Fiction of Margaret Atwood

Melanie Braunecker

"A Greed To Which We Have Agreed?" Nature-Human Relationships in Contemporary Canadian Literature of the North-West

Elisabeth Gießauf

Being Old on the East Coast. The Depiction of Seniors and their Regional Contextualization in the Atlantic-Canadian Novel

Magdalena Tatenda Moser

Power and Obsession in Alice Munro's Short Stories

Rebekka Schuh

In Correspondence: Letters and the Canadian Short Story

Sabrina Thom

Translating Traumata: The Representation and Literary Transformation of Traumatic Experiences in Multi-cultural Contemporary Canadian Fiction

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Panel Session #2

Friday, June 3, 2016, 15:00–17:00

Panel 4: Canadian Third Spaces — Language, Nation, and Fiction Chair: Sarah Lahm, Room Vancouver	
Judit Molnár	Negotiating Space in Contemporary Anglo-Montreal Writing
Eszter Szabó Gilinger	Little Hungary, BC: Neither Here, Nor There
Mirna Radin-Sabadoš	Thunder Cloud Learns Cyrillic
Éva Zsizsmann	Between Story and History: Tamas Dobozy’s <i>Siege 13</i>
Panel 5: Between Her Words: Cultural and Textual Marginality in Alice Munro’s Works Chair: Marilyn Lim, Room Toronto	
Jason Blake	Maximally Liminal: Geological and Personal Junctures in Alice Munro’s "Axis"
Michelle Gadpaille	Parsing the Gap in Alice Munro’s Fiction
Tjaša Mohar	Old Age as Liminal Space in Munro - Contesting the "Old Age" Narrative
Tomaž Onič	Translating the Gap: Challenges of Rendering Munro’s Ellipses and Fragments into Slovene
Panel 6: Migration and Immigration — Liminal Identities and Canadian Fiction Chair: Katharina Kreiter, Room Calgary	
Martina Horakova	Liminal Spaces in Madeleine Thien's <i>Simple Recipes</i>
Rebekka Schuh	[B]etween the One and the Many: Liminal Identities and Narrative Genre in Rohinton Mistry's <i>Tales from Firozsha Baag</i>
Andrea Strutz	Exile and Liminality: Experiences, Memories and Subsequent Lives of Interned Austrian Jewish Refugees in Canada
Panel 7: Hyphenated Canada — Indigenous Voices and Hybrid Identities Chair: Rabanus Mitterecker, Room Winnipeg	
Anna-Regina Kroutl-Helal	So Near, So Far: The Game of Lacrosse as a Threshold for the Mohawk Community of Kahnawake
Judit Kádár	The "Special Occasions": Identity Formulation and the "Hybrid Potential" in Literary Texts by Some Contemporary Hyphenated Identity Canadian Writers
Svetlana Seibel	"Continuous Transference": Fantastic Post-Apocalypse in Contemporary Indigenous Transgeneric Fiction

Panel Session #3

Saturday, June 4, 2016, 10:00–12:00

Panel 8: Ambiguous Fictions — Liminality in the Canadian Novel Chair: Eva-Maria Trinkaus, Room Toronto	
Isabel Alonso-Breto	Liminality in the Spotlight: Vasugi Ganesananthan’s <i>Love Marriage</i> (2003)
Elisabeth Gießauf	"Where Do You Belong?" Negotiations Between Generational and Liminal Spaces in Alistair MacLeod’s <i>No Great Mischief</i>
Bernhard Wenzl	"...beyond the invisible barrier at Portage and Main": Liminality in John Marlyn’s <i>Under the Ribs of Death</i>
Panel 9: Border Physics — Humans, Animals, Posthuman Bodies Chair: Christian Perwein, Room Winnipeg	
Maureen Coyle	Caught in the Act
Linda Hess	"Because of the Wilderness": Queer Aging and Spatial Imagery in Jane Rule’s <i>Memory Board</i> (1987) and Suzette Mayr’s <i>The Widows</i> (1998)
Patrizia Zanella	"not quite human, not quite wolf, but something in between": Liminal Spaces in Eden Robinson’s <i>Monkey Beach</i>
Panel 10: Painting Borders: Canadian Arts and Liminality Chair: Elisabeth Schneider, Room Vancouver	
Astrid Fellner	Working In-Between or Beyond? Contemporary Indigenous Border Artworks
Alexandra Ganser	Painting "Indians" at the U.S.-Canadian Border
Katalin Kürtösi	Crossing Borders of Art Forms: The Case of Bertram Brooker
Panel 11: Frontiers and Frontlines: War, Terrorism, and Resistance Chair: Oszkár Roginer, Room Calgary	
Diane Bélisle-Wolf	History, Space and <i>Otherness</i> : New Representation(s) of the Frontiers in Francophone and Anglophone Canadian and American Literary Production after 9/11?
Katharina Fackler	"Although He Doesn’t Know It Yet, She Isn’t His Real Life": Liminality in the Figure of the Vietnam Draft Evader
Sarah J. Grünendahl	"Betwixt and Between": How U.S. War Resisters Navigate Legal Uncertainty in Canada
Vanja Polić	Reading Between the Lines: Natalee Caple's Calamity Jane as the Ambivalent Icon of the Wild West

Keynote Speakers

Aritha van Herk (University of Calgary)



Aritha van Herk is a public intellectual and motivational cultural speaker as well as an award winning Canadian novelist whose work has been acclaimed throughout North America and Europe. She was born in central Alberta, read every book in the library at Camrose, and studied at the University of Alberta. Her popular, creative and critical work has been widely published and her work has been translated into ten languages. She first rose to international literary prominence with the publication of *Judith*, which received the Seal First Novel Award and which was published in North America, the United Kingdom and Europe. Her other books include *The Tent Peg*; *No Fixed Address: An Amorous Journey*; *Places Far From Ellesmere*; *Restlessness*; *In Visible Ink* and *A Frozen Tongue*. Her most recent expedition into time and words is *Mavericks: An Incurable History of Alberta*, which won the Grant McEwan Author's Award. Supported by SSHRC research funds, she is currently working on a creative place-biography of Robert Kroetsch. She is a member of the Royal Society of Canada and of the Alberta Order of Excellence, recipient of the Lt. Governor's Distinguished Artist Award, and recipient of the Lorne Pierce Medal, awarded to recognize achievement of special significance and conspicuous merit in imaginative or critical literature in Canada. Aritha van Herk is also a Professor who teaches Canadian Literature and Creative Writing, Canadian Literature, and Contemporary Narrative in the Department of English at the University of Calgary, but first of all, she is a writer who loves stories.

Reingard Nischik (University of Konstanz)



Reingard Nischik is Professor and Chair of North American Literature at the University of Konstanz. She studied English and North American Literature as well as Social Sciences at the University of Cologne, where she obtained her Ph.D. with a thesis on single and multiple plotting in English-language literatures. Awarded many prizes, fellowships and grants throughout her career, during the academic year 2009/2010, Nischik was a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies at the Center of Excellence "Cultural Foundations of Integration" at the University of Konstanz, funded by the German Excellence Initiative, and in 2014 was awarded the competitive "Freedom for Creativity" by the German Research Foundation (DFG). In both her teaching and her numerous publications, she has focused on the literature and culture of the United States and Canada, with special emphasis on narratology, the short story, the work of Canadian writer Margaret Atwood, literature and gender, and literature and the visual media. Reingard Nischik is considered one of the pioneers and leading scholars of Canadian Studies in Germany and Europe, and is an internationally leading expert on the works of Margaret Atwood. Her current focus is specifically on Comparative North American Studies. In 2010, she was awarded the 'Best Book' Award by the Margaret Atwood Society for her monograph *Engendering Genre: The Works of Margaret Atwood* (University of Ottawa Press, 2009). Other recent publications include *Comparative North American Studies: Transnational Approaches to American and Canadian Literature and Culture* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2015) and the edited volumes *The Palgrave Handbook of North American Literature* (Palgrave Macmillan 2014), *History of Literature in Canada: English-Canadian and French-Canadian* (Camden House, 2008), and *The Canadian Short Story: Interpretations* (Camden House, 2007).

Keynote Speakers

Marlene Goldman (University of Toronto)



Marlene Goldman is a Professor in the Department of English at the University of Toronto. She received her B.F.A. and M.A. from the University of Victoria and her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto. She specializes in contemporary Canadian literature. Her recent research focuses on the intersection between narrative and pathological modes of forgetting associated with trauma, dementia, and Alzheimer's disease. She is the author of *Paths of Desire* (University of Toronto Press, 1997), a book on apocalyptic discourse in Canadian fiction, *Rewriting Apocalypse* (McGill-Queen's Press, 2005), and *(Dis)Possession* (McGill-Queen's Press 2012). She also acted as guest editor of *University of Toronto Quarterly* on several occasions and has published numerous articles on Canadian literature, gender, and race and alterity in literature. Currently, Marlene Goldman is writing a book entitled *Forgotten: Age-Related Dementia and Alzheimer's in Canadian Literature*. Recognizing Canadian writers' unique contribution to cultural understandings of age-related memory loss and Alzheimer's, this book project analyzes how Canadian aesthetic narratives engage with, critique, extend, and at times resist the findings of contemporary, cutting-edge biomedical research. Although her primary focus is Canadian Literature, Goldman's study contextualizes literary discourses within the larger context of the historical conversations ranging from the late nineteenth century to the present among scientific, cultural, and literary depictions of age-related dementia and Alzheimer's. The overlaps and tensions between complementary and at times competing discourses—biomedical, media, and aesthetic—offer rich ground for the analysis of the political and ethical stakes involved in conceptualizing age-related dementia and Alzheimer's.



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