The American Short Story:
New Considerations

A Symposium Sponsored by the
Society for the Study of the American Short Story
and the American Literature Association

September 5-7, 2019
New Orleans, Louisiana
The Hotel Monteleone

Symposium Director: James Nagel, University of Georgia
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Acknowledgments:

The conference director wishes to express his appreciation to a number of people who provided help with planning the program, especially my colleagues in the Society for the Study of the American Short Story. Olivia Carr Edenfield, Executive Coordinator of American Literature Association, handled registration as well as all hotel logistics and arrangements. Oliver Scheiding, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität, served as International Coordinator, advertising the symposium in Europe and encouraging colleagues in American Studies to attend. Many other people contributed time and effort in constructing panels and other aspects of the program, among them Emily Pittman and Konner Smith, Executive Assistants of the ALA, as well as Robert Clark, Kirk Curnutt, Vicki Aarons, Shirley Samuels, Gloria Cronin, and a score of other scholars across the country who formed panels for this meeting. Their contributions have made the organizing of the event a pleasure. I offer special thanks to Alfred Bendixen and Olivia Carr Edenfield of the American Literature Association, whose generous assistance added enormously to the success of the symposium.
Thursday, September 5, 2019

Registration and Opening Reception
4:30-5:30 p.m.
(Riverview Room)

Welcome by Society President Jim Nagel
5:30 – 5:50
(Riverview Room)

Roundtable Discussion:
The Forms of the American Short Story
5:50-7:00
(Riverview Room)

Chair: Gloria Cronin, Brigham Young University
Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University
Monika Elbert, Montclair State University
Karen Kilcup, University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Jose Limon, University of Texas, Austin
Wendy Martin, Claremont Graduate University
Jim Nagel, University of Georgia

Registration
7:00-7:30
(Riverview Room)

Late Registration
9:00-10:00
(Bienville B)
Session 1-A  9:00-10:20 (Iberville D)  
Organized by the John Updike Society  
John Updike’s Short Fiction  
Chair: Leslie Petty, Rhodes College  
1. “Writing and Well Being: Story as Salve in the Work of Two Updikes,” Susan Norton, Technological University, Dublin  
2. “Outside the Grand Narrative: The Personal in John Updike’s Olinger Stories,” Takashi Nakatani, Okohama City University  
3. “My Father’s Tears and Other Stories as (Literary) Last Will and Testament,” Laurence W. Mazzeno, Alvernia University  
4. “John Updike’s ‘Divorcing: A Fragment’ and the Question of Genre: Shoring Stories against the Ruins in Too Far to Go/The Maples Stories,” Robert M. Luscher, University of Nebraska at Kearney  

Session 1-B 9:00-10:20  (Iberville C)  
Organized by the William Faulkner Society  
Faulkner  
Chair: John Wharton Lowe, University of Georgia  
1. “Memory, Beauty, and William Faulkner’s ‘Barn Burning,’” Abigail Scherer, Nicholls State University  
2. “Airing out the Compson’s Dirty Laundry: Reading The Sound and the Fury through ‘That Evening Sun,’” Travis Rozier, Texas A & M University  

Session 1-C:  9:00-10:20  (Iberville B)  
Contemporary Writers  
Chair: Chris Johnson, University of Minnesota, Duluth  
1. “American Minimalist Narratives in Bungie’s Destiny 2 and Naughty Dog’s The Last of Us,” Robert C. Clark, College of Coastal Georgia  
2. “Who Wants to be an American?: Game Shows and Citizenship in Robert Olen Butler’s ‘The American Couple,’” Mike Miley, Loyola University  
4. “The Downward Spiral: Community, Regionalism, and Cultural Mobility in Sherwood Andersons’s Winesburg, Ohio (1919) and Donald Ray Pollock’s Knockemstiff (2008),” Jochen Achilles, University of Wuerzburg (Germany)
Session 2-A: 10:30-11:50  (Iberville D)
African American Writers
Chair: Dennis B. Ledden, Pennsylvania State University

1. “Respect and Reform: Reimagining the Ghetto in Claude Brown’s The Children of Ham,” William M. Etter, Irvine Valley College
3. “Of Course the Sky is Gray: Ernest Gaines, Canonicty, and the Rejection of Metaphor,” Matthew Luter, St. Andrew’s Episcopal School

Session 2-B: 10:30-11:50  (Iberville C)
Writers and Their Society
Chair: Thomas Bonner, Xavier University

1. “The Contemporary American Short Story and Print Culture,” Oliver Scheiding, University of Mainz (Germany)
2. “Reified Minimalism: The Aesthetics of Epistemology in Denis Johnson’s Jesus’ Son,” Lawrence Kuhar, Wilkes University
3. “The ‘Spectacular’ Suicide of Seymour Glass,” Margaret Elizabeth Geddy, Georgia Southern University
4. “Nineteenth-Century Children’s Periodicals and Animal Transformation,” Emily DeHaven, University of Kentucky

Session 2-C: 10:30-11:50  (Iberville B)
Southern Voices
Chair: Nicole Camastra, The O’Neal School

1. “‘The Respectable Woman’ and ‘The Southern Cross’: Reconsidering Southern Morality and Womanhood,” Michelle-Taylor Sherwin, University of Georgia
2. “Missing Pieces: Reassessing the Role of Short Stories in James Still’s Literary Oeuvre,” Ted Olson, East Tennessee State University

Lunch: 12:00-1:50
(Iberville A)

A Reading: “Student Affairs”
An original story by Dorie LaRue
Session 3-A: 2:00-3:20 (Iberville D)
Organized by the Jewish American Literature Society
Contemporary Jewish American Short Stories
Chair: Debra Shostak, College of Wooster

1. “Jewish Self-expression in the Short Fiction of Maxim Shrayer,” Victoria Aarons, Trinity University
2. “Jewish Identity in Philip Roth’s ‘Eli the Fanatic,’” Enikő Maior, Partium Christian University, Oradea (Romania)

Session 3-B: 2:00-3:20 (Iberville C)
American Writers: A Broader View
Chair: Oliver Scheiding, University of Mainz (Germany)

2. “George Saunders: Defining the New American Dystopia,” Robert Ficociello, Holy Family University
3. “Landscape and Women in Two of Margaret Atwood’s Northern Short Stories,” Maureen Long, Yukon College
4. “Kay Boyle’s Study of European Fascism: Austrian, French, and German Stories from 1935-1951,” Anne Boyd Rioux, University of New Orleans

Session 3-C: 2:00-3:20 (Iberville B)
Home as Hell: Ugliness in Living Spaces in African American Short Stories
Chair: Trudier Harris, University of Alabama

1. “Heaven, Hell, House, and Home in Zora Neale Hurston’s ‘Sweat,’” Valerie N. Matthews, Georgia Perimeter College
2. “I’m Catching Hell’: Home and Racialized Violence in Richard Wright’s ‘The Ethics of Living Jim Crow,’” Trimiko Melancon, Loyola University
3. “House of God or Man: No Place for a Woman in Alice D. Nelson’s Short Fiction,” Elizabeth J. West, Georgia State University
Session 4-A: 3:30-4:50 (Iberville D)  
Organized by the Grace King Society  
Grace King  
Chair: Barbara C. Ewell, Loyola University, New Orleans

1. “Grace King’s Balcony Stories,” Clara Juncker, University of Southern Denmark, Odense  
3. “Going to the Source: Grace King’s Papers and Critical Analysis,” Miki Pfeffer, Nicholls State University

Session 4-B: 3:30-4:50 (Iberville C)  
Identity, Race, and Displacement in the American Short Story (1934-1959)  
Chair: Aimee Pozorski, Central Connecticut State University

2. “Varieties of Displacement in Flannery O’Connor’s ‘The Displaced Person,’” Katalin G. Kállay, Károli Gáspár University of the Hungarian Reformed Church, Budapest (Hungary)  
3. “Philip Roth, Paul Gauguin, and The Lion Tamer: Reading the ‘Heart’ Books in Roth’s Goodbye, Columbus,” Aimee Pozorski, Central Connecticut State University

Session 4-C: 3:30-4:50 (Iberville B)  
Social and Religious Issues in the Short Story  
Chair: Philipp Reisner, Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf (Germany)

1. “Native American Short Stories as Healing Strategies,” Gudrun M. Grabher, University of Innsbruck (Austria)  
2. “Lutheranism in the Contemporary Short Story,” Philipp Reisner, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf (Germany)  
3. “Megan Abbott and Noir in the Suburbs,” Brad McDuffie, SUNY, Ulster
Session 5-A: 5:00-6:20  (Iberville D)
Jim Harrison and Raymond Carver  
Chair: Robert Luscher, University of Nebraska, Kearney

1. “Epic-Not-Fail: Jim Harrison’s ‘Legends of the Fall’ and the Short Narrative as Epic,” Chris Johnson, University of Minnesota, Duluth
2. “‘Taking His Bearings’: The Body of Signification in Raymond Carver’s Fiction,” Steve Gregg, Palm Beach Atlantic University
3. “Narratological Experiments in Jim Harrison’s Short Fiction,” Rick Wallach, University of Miami

Session 5-B: 5:00-6:20  (Iberville C)
Southern Stories  
Chair: Shirley Samuels, Cornell University

1. “‘Running like the Mischief’: Civil War Louisiana in the Southern Magazine,” Kathleen Diffley, University of Iowa
2. “Forgotten Soldiers, Commemoration, and the Recuperative Work of Historical Fiction in Alice Dunbar-Nelson’s ‘Esteve, the Soldier Boy’,” Sidonia Serafini, University of Georgia
3. “Mixed Company,” Elizabeth Steeby, University of New Orleans
4. “Like a Mother: Milking Parlors and White Supremacy in Selected Short Fiction by Flannery O’Connor,” Katie Berry Frye, Pepperdine University

Session 5-C: 5:00-6:20  (Iberville B)
Ernest Hemingway  
Chair: Nicole Camastra, The O’Neal School

1. “Utopian Counter-Discourses in Hemingway’s ‘Big Two-Hearted River,’” Lisa Nabeshuber and Lance La Rocque, Acadia University (Canada)
2. “Trauma, Loss, and Subjectivity in the Stories of Katherine Anne Porter and Ernest Hemingway,” Mark Henderson, Tuskegee University
3. “Hemingway’s Good Places,” Steven J. Florczyk, Hampden-Sydney College

Session 5-D: 5:00-6:20  SSASS Business Meeting  (Vieux Carre)
Chair: Jim Nagel, President

Business meeting for the Society for the Study of the American Short Story and the Editorial Board for the new journal.

Topics for the society: forthcoming European conferences; plans for San Diego; should we have society dues? With regard to the journal: the submission process; articles for the first issue; editorial board assistance on attracting new material; content emphasis for the first few volumes.
Saturday, September 7, 2019  
Registration: 8:20-9:00 a.m. (Bienville B)  

Session 6-A: 9:00-10:20 (Iberville D)  
Reconstruction Stories  
Chair: Kathleen Diffley, University of Iowa  

1. “Bodily Reconstruction in Charles Chesnutt’s ‘Po’ Sandy,’” Candace Waid, University of California, Santa Barbara  
2. “Children on/in the Ground: Ambrose Bierce,” Shirley Samuels, Cornell University  

Session 6-B: 9:00-10:20 (Iberville C)  
Filming and Performing the African American Short Story  
Chair: Trudier Harris, University of Alabama  

1. “A Rarity: The Perfectly Matched Film of Ernest J. Gaines’s ‘The Sky Is Gray,’” Trudier Harris, University of Alabama  
2. “Over-adapting Wright’s ‘Long Black Song’: How to Mutilate a Short Story in 30 Minutes or Less,” Sondra Bickham Washington, University of Alabama  
3. “Here is Where You Turn Back’: Performing African American Short Stories,” Robin Vander, Xavier University  

Session 6-C: 9:00-10:20 (Iberville B)  
Adventures in Short Fiction by Authors Famous for Other Genres  
Chair: Gail Sinclair, Rollins College  

1. “Are Judy O’Grady and the Captain’s Lady Really Sisters?: Women in Edna Ferber’s Short Fiction,” Leslie Petty, Rhodes College  
2. “Hard Candy, Black Masseurs, and a Short Story Named Desire: Tennessee Williams’s Neglected Short Fiction,” Kirk Curnutt, Troy University  
Session 7-A: 10:30-11:50 (Iberville D)
Organized by the Poe Studies Association
Another Look at Poe’s Short Fiction
Chair: Steve Rachman, Michigan State University

1. “‘The Gold Bug’ and Delia Owen’s Where the Crawdads Sing,” John Gruesser, Sam Houston State University
2. “Ventriloquial Effects in Poe's Horror Tales,” Susan Elizabeth Sweeney, College of the Holy Cross

Session 7-B: 10:30-11:50 (Iberville C)
Louisiana Stories
Chair: Clara Juncker, University of South Denmark

1. “A Dream on the Bayou,” Dorri Beam, Syracuse University
2. “I do want to be a good woman once’: The Denied Lagniappe in Alice Dunbar-Nelson’s ‘Tony’s Wife,’” Deborah De Rosa, Northern Illinois University
3. “Kate Chopin’s ‘An Egyptian Cigarette’: An Ignored Psychoactive Moment of Truth,” Liam Purdon, Doane University

Session 7-C: 10:30-11:50 (Iberville B)
Organized by the William Faulkner Society
New Approaches to Faulkner
Chair: Kirk Curnutt, Troy University

2. “‘Ad Astra’: Faulkner’s Melancholic Commentary on Transnational Brotherhood,” John Wharton Lowe, University of Georgia
3. “Wars Great and Small: An Intertextual Reading of William Faulkner’s ‘Victory,’” Christopher Rieger, Southeast Missouri University
Lunch: 12:00-1:50
(Iberville A)

Keynote Address:

“The Short Story and Medical Narrative”

Gudrun M. Grabher

University of Innsbruck
Session 8-A: 2:00-3:20  (Iberville D)
Contemporary Writers
Chair:  Shirley Samuels, Cornell University

1. “John Wideman’s Briefs: Experiments in the Short Story Form,” Keith Byerman, Indiana State University
2. “Embodiment and Sexuality in Gayl Jones’s *White Rat*,” Deborah Wilson, Arkansas Tech University
3. “The Rewriting of Dalton Trevisan’s Short Stories from Periodicals into Book Form,” Leandro Valentin, São Paulo State University (Brazil)
4. “Short Form Thinking in Lydia Davis: A Comparative Study,” Bernardo Palmeirim, University of Lisbon

Session 8-B: 2:00-3:20  (Iberville C)
Organized by the Kate Chopin International Society
Roundtable Discussion
Indispensable Chopin: The Short Stories that Continue to Shape the Genre
(No papers will be read. The session will be a discussion among the panelists and the audience. Participation is expected.)
Chair:  Leslie Petty, Rhodes College

1. Thomas Bonner, Xavier University of Louisiana
2. Barbara Ewell, Loyola University
3. Susan Moldow, Florida Atlantic University
4. John Staunton, Eastern Michigan University
5. Emily Toth, Louisiana State University

Session 8-C: 2:00-3:20  (Iberville B)
Mid-Century Writers
Chair:  Brad McDuffie, SUNY Ulster

1. “‘Just a Little One’: Dorothy Parker and the Creation of *The New Yorker* Casual,” Park Bucker, University of South Carolina, Sumter
3. “Post-Automobile Nostalgia in Breece Pancake’s Short Stories,” Megan Flanery, Georgia Southern University
4. “Why I like this story,” Jackson R. Bryer, University of Maryland
Session 9-A: 3:30-4:50  (Iberville D)
Nineteenth-Century Issues
Chair: Jerome Loving, Texas A & M University

1. “‘Jumping Frogs’ and Roughing It Out West,” Susan L. Roberson, Texas A & M University, Kingsville
2. “The Politics of the Fiction/Nonfiction Boundary: Mark Twain and the Form(s) of Anti-Imperialism,” Andrew Levy, Butler University
3. “Latinx Responses to Jack London’s ‘The Mexican,’” Jeanne Reesman, University of Texas at San Antonio
4. “‘The Piazza’ Reconsidered: Melville’s Psychological Introduction to The Piazza Tales,” Brian Elliott, University of Montana Western

Session 9-B: 3:30-4:50  (Iberville C)
Organized by the Eudora Welty Society
Eudora Welty’s “Moon Lake” Revisited on the 70th Anniversary of Publication
Chair: Monika Elbert, Montclair State University

1. “‘Moon Lake’ Modernism: Rethinking All the Risk in Its Form,” Harriet Pollack, College of Charleston

Session 9-C: 3:30-4:50  (Iberville B)
American Short Fiction between Cultural Mobility and Critical Regionalism
Chair: Jochen Achilles, University of Wuerzburg (Germany)

1. “Black Prints on White Pages: Community, Toni Cade Bambara, and the Short Story,” Gérald Préher, Université Catholique de Lille (France)
2. “Affect, Community, and Mobility in the Speculative Fiction of Steven Millhauser and George Saunders,” Michael Basseler, Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen (Germany)

Response: Oliver Scheiding, University of Mainz (Germany)
Session 10-A: 5:00-6:20 (Iberville D)
Multi-Cultural Short Stories
Chair: Alfred Bendixen, Princeton University

1. “Understanding Sandra Cisneros’s ‘Never Marry a Mexican’ through the Lens of Gloria Anzaldúa’s Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza,” Dennis B. Ledden, Pennsylvania State University
2. “Interrogation of Patriarchy in Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni’s ‘Arranged Marriage,’” Muktaja Vikas Mathkari, Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women’s University (India)

Session 10-B: 5:00-6:20 (Iberville C)
Organized by the Poe Studies Association
New Studies in Poe
Chair: Steven Florczyk, Hampden-Sydney College

1. “The Duc, the Devil, and the Pantaloons,” Sandra Tome, University of British Columbia (Canada)
2. “‘Some Words with a Mummy’ or the Un/American Face of Edgar Poe,” Steve Rachman, Michigan State University
3. “Unpacking ‘The Oblong Box,’” Ellen Weinauer, University of Southern Mississippi
4. “Speculating with Von Kempelen: Poe’s Experiment,” Caleb Doan, Louisiana State University

Session 10-C  5:00-6:20 (Iberville B)
Roundtable Discussion: Future issues for the study of the American short story
(No papers will be read. The panelists will make brief comments and then the discussion will open for audience comments and questions.)
Chair: Jim Nagel, University of Georgia

Panel: Oliver Scheiding, University of Mainz (Germany)
Gudrun M. Grabher, University of Innsbruck (Austria)
Robert C. Clark, College of Coastal Georgia
Trudier Harris, University of Alabama

Closing Reception  6:30-7:30
(Riverview Room)
Please Join Us for Our Upcoming Symposia

“American Poetry”
Kimpton Hotel Palomar
Washington, D.C.
February 20-22, 2020
Conference Director: Richard Flynn, Georgia Southern University
Keynote Speaker: Aldon Lynn Nielsen, Penn State University

“The Historical Imagination in American Literature”
Drury Inn
Santa Fe, New Mexico
October 29-31, 2020
Conference Director: Olivia Carr Edenfield, Georgia Southern University
Keynote Speaker: Deborah Clarke, Arizona State University

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Please join us for our 31st Annual Conference:
Manchester Grand Hyatt
One Market Place
San Diego, California
Conference Director
Leslie Petty, Rhodes College
May 21 – 24, 2020

Details on these and other events sponsored by the American Literature Association are available on our website: www.americanliteratureassociation.org