



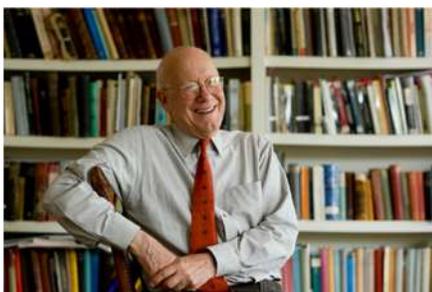
Western

ENGLISH & WRITING STUDIES

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2016

## SIR CHRISTOPHER RICKS & SABINE NÖLKE TO RECEIVE HONORARY DEGREES FROM WESTERN



Sir Christopher Ricks will receive an honorary doctorate at this year's fall convocation ceremony. Sir Christopher is the William M. and Sara B. Warren Professor of the Humanities at Boston University, having formerly been an English professor at the University of Bristol and the University of Cambridge. The renowned literary critic and editor was elected Professor of Poetry at the University of Oxford in 2004 – a hotly contested academic position that has been held by many notables over the past 308 years, including Matthew Arnold, A.C. Bradley, W.H. Auden, and Robert Graves.



Sabine Nölke completed both her BA & MA degrees in English before earning her Bachelor of Laws, all at Western. Currently, she holds the position of Ambassador of Canada to the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Permanent Representative of Canada to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Both honorees will receive their degrees on Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. Western's acknowledgement of these accomplished individuals, both with strong backgrounds in English studies, proves the effect

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an English degree can have upon a career. We are very pleased that Sir Christopher will be speaking to the department, on October 27<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 a.m., in AHB 2R21. His talk is titled "Mr. Eliot's *Mr. Apollinax*".

## GILLER APPLAUDS BARWIN, DONOGHUE, BIBLIOASIS



Gary Barwin and Emma Donoghue, both former Western Writers-in Residence, were among six authors named to the 2016 Scotiabank Giller Prize shortlist, announced last week. A third title named to the list was published by Windsor, Ont.-based Biblioasis, founded and operated by Western alumnus Dan Wells. The six titles were chosen from a longlist of 12 books announced on Sept. 7. One hundred and sixty-one titles were submitted by 69 publisher imprints from every region of the country. CBC Radio's Matt Galloway hosted the special event along with jury members Lawrence Hill, Jeet Heer, Samantha Harvey, Kathleen Winter and Alan Warner.

The books shortlisted for the 2016 Scotiabank Giller Prize are:

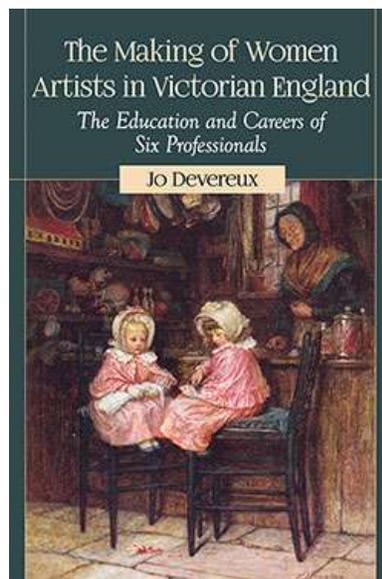
- Mona Awad, *13 Ways of Looking at a Fat Girl* (Penguin Canada)
- Gary Barwin, *Yiddish for Pirates* (Random House Canada)
- Emma Donoghue, *The Wonder* (HarperCollins Publishes Ltd)
- Catherine Leroux, *The Party Wall* (Biblioasis International Translation Series, translated by Lazer Lederhendler)

- Madeleine Thien, *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* (Alfred A. Knopf Canada)

- and Zoe Whittall, *The Best Kind of People* (House of Anansi Press Inc.)

The 2016 Scotiabank Giller Prize gala, hosted by Steve Patterson, will air on CBC and be live-streamed at CBCBooks.ca on Nov. 7

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS



Jo Devereux published *The Making of Women Artists in Victorian England* (McFarland) in July 2016 and is presenting a paper entitled "'The Best Paid Posers in England': Transgression and the Late Victorian Artist's Model," at the VISA WUS



--JOHN EVERETT MILLAIS, "AN IDYLL OF 1745" (1884)

Conference in Austin, Texas, September 29- October 1, 2016. The following is an abstract of the book:

In *Memories of Philip Wilson Steer*, the artist's model Rose Pettigrew (1875-?) opens with a significant moment in her childhood, when she and her sisters Hetty and Lily arrived in London with their brother, an art student, with introductions to some of the most celebrated artists of the day.

The Pettigrews came from Portsmouth, from a distressed family of 13 children: their father was a cork cutter and their mother did fine needlework to earn extra money. The three girls sat first for John Everett Millais' *An Idyll of 1745* (exhibited at the Royal Academy, 1884): subsequently, during their teens, as Rose says, the "beautiful Pettigrews" became the most sought after and "best paid posers in England," modelling for James McNeill Whistler, Beatrice Whistler, Onslow Ford, William Holman Hunt, Edward Poynter, Val Prinsep, Theodore Rousset,

Linley Sambourne, John Singer Sargent, Walter Sickert, Philip Wilson Steer, and Hamo Thornycroft, among others. This paper argues that artists' models such as the Pettigrews, Whistler's model/ mistresses Joanna Hiffenan and Maud Franklin, and Frederic Leighton's favorite model of his later years, Dorothy Dene, can be seen as exemplifying gender and social-class transgression by challenging the entrenched orthodoxies of the Royal Academy and other conservative institutions. Earlier in the century, William Etty's female mythological nudes effectively erased the individual personality of his models, blurring their averted faces and hands, focusing instead on the torso: breasts, waists, and buttocks. By contrast, later artists' works, both portraits and nudes, reveal individual women: and not just those of the upper classes, but those whose presence in the fine art world demonstrates their crossing or transcending social-class and repressive moral barriers. The representation of these women in numerous artworks can itself be read as a transgression of the strict boundaries of aesthetic values, social-class identity, and socially-sanctioned late nineteenth-century womanhood.

Visit the website for further details on the book and how to purchase a copy.

<http://www.mcfarlandbooks.com/2016/08/newly-published-making-women-artists-victorian-england/>



## THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF CANADA HONOURS ONE OF OUR OWN AS A NEW SCHOLAR

English and Writing Studies professor, Dr. Thy Phu, has been named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada College of New Scholars, Artists & Scientists. Dr. Phu, along with seven other Western professors, recently received the honour of this title. The RSC strives to distinguish excellence in research, the arts and individual scholars.

Congratulations to Dr. Phu on this esteemed recognition.

## SSHRC INSIGHT GRANT

Christopher Keep is part of a team of collaborators that has been awarded a SSHRC Insight Grant. The project, "Visualizing the Unmarked: The Social politics of Fin-de-Siècle Periodicals and Digital Humanities Markup Practices," brings together scholars at Ryerson, Western, and the University of Windsor to develop electronic editions of late-Victorian periodicals for The Yellow Nineties website. The value of the award is \$229,666.



## THE ALUMNI GAZETTE FEATURES TWO ENGLISH ALUMNI

Leagh Turner is currently the Chief Operating Officer for SAP Canada, a business applications company based in North America. Before her booming career began, she studied English Literature at Western, receiving her BA in 1995.

Leagh told the Gazette: "My English degree helped me improve my communication skills and become a significantly better, down-the-road leader as a result of being able to communicate and motivate through language and writing".



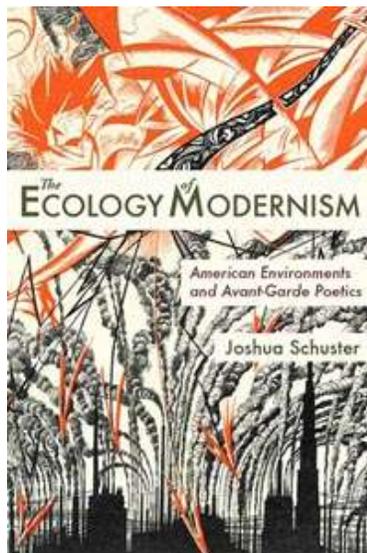
English graduate (BA '93), Sandor Johnson has had an interesting journey to his career. Post-graduation, Johnson attempted journalism in Japan, while also modelling for agencies worldwide, even appearing in an Armani campaign. Johnson came back to his home of Tweed, Ontario to begin crafting a winery that took over seventeen years to flourish.

Please visit the Alumni Gazette homepage to view the full-length articles.

<http://www.alumni.westernu.ca/alumni-gazette/fall-2016/>

## AWARDS

DR. JOSHUA SCHUSTER,  
WINNER OF 1<sup>ST</sup> ALANNA  
BONDAR BOOK PRIZE



The Association for Literature, Environment and Culture in Canada (ALECC), presents the Alanna Bondar prize biennially to a Canadian author. "The committee seeks to award the prize to provocative, original, and stimulating books on environmental topics."

Dr. Schuster's book, *The Ecology of Modernism: American Environments and Avant-Garde Poetics* (University of Alabama Press, 2015), was awarded the inaugural prize at this year's conference. The ALECC's jury provided notable praise of the book: "Joshua Schuster's analysis of American modernism's attentiveness to form and framing as part of a text's environmental conditions is carefully constructed, crafted, and written. Focusing on four case studies – Moore's animal fables, Stein's ambient poetics, blues music, and John Cage's work – Schuster moves beyond the temporality and the literary focus of the modernist canon and develops revelatory ecocritical readings of even some of the most obscure elements of American modernism."

*“What Joshua Schuster achieves in *The Ecology of Modernism* alters the field and freshly reorients Modernism for ecocriticism. It’s a beautifully written book that will inspire a whole range of new thinking.”*

*“Schuster manages the difficult trick of reinforcing the traditional reasons for reading modernist texts while illuminating new ways to teach them. By setting high-modernist works against less predictably modernist works, and by sensitively reading individual texts both for their materiality and for their self-*

*conscious textuality, Schuster brings us a modernism more sensibly attuned to ambience, toxicity, and the petroleum century. More than that, the *Ecology of Modernism* is a pleasure to read, and therefore a book to be jealous at not having written oneself.”*

([www.alecc.ca](http://www.alecc.ca))

## AFRICAN QUEER STUDIES CONFERENCE

Tunji Osinubi will convene a conference on African Queer Studies, with support from SSHRC,

English and Writing, WSFR, Modern Languages, Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism, and the Dean’s Office. “Directions in African Queer Studies: Agendas, Epistemologies, Practice”, will be held at the Ivey Spencer Leadership Centre, on October 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>. The conference’s main objective is to bring together scholars, their research findings and techniques, and ultimately to enhance the emerging field of African Queer Studies. Details of the conference can be found on the website. [www.africanqueerstudies.com](http://www.africanqueerstudies.com)

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## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR WIR 2016/17!

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If you would like to nominate a writer, or are a writer interested in applying for next year’s **Writer-in-Residence program** (2017-18), please send your suggestions or applications to the Vice-Chair ([sbruhm2@uwo.ca](mailto:sbruhm2@uwo.ca)) by **December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**. Please include, as part of your nomination/application:

- a brief statement indicating why you think your nominee would be appropriate for the role and how you envision this nominee contributing to creative writing on campus and in the community.
- a representative list of his/her publications
- a writing sample

The general mandate for the residency is to provide support for an accomplished writer, while also allowing the community to benefit from the writer’s expertise. The elected WiR will hold weekly office hours to offer feedback and consultations with aspiring writers in our London community. The WiR also gives readings, classroom visits on campus and elsewhere, and takes on a leadership role at a variety of literary and cultural events. Through such events, the WiR works to raise the profile of literary activity and enriches the cultural scene in the community.

Selection is made by a committee, whose decision will be officially announced in Spring 2017. For more information on the Writer-in-Residence program, please see: [http://uwo.ca/english/people/about\\_wir.html](http://uwo.ca/english/people/about_wir.html)

## UPCOMING THEATRE PRODUCTIONS!!!



Come experience Shakespeare's Hamlet as you've never seen it before! Theatre Studies at Western and the Department of English and Writing Studies proudly presents Q1 Hamlet, the First Quarto of The Tragical History of Hamlet, Prince of Denmark (1603), the earliest printed version of the Bard's most famous tragedy. Less than half the length of more familiar editions of the play, Q1 Hamlet features live original

music and includes a bonus short Tudor Interlude, John Rastell's "Four Elements."

The performances will be from November 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, with evening shows at 8:00 p.m. Please visit the website for further details on ticket sales.

[www.artsproject.ca](http://www.artsproject.ca)

Coming in the first week of November: "Squalls of Glass", a full-length play by Meg Cormack, showing at the Arts Project. Produced by students of last year's American Drama course, the play is a powerful psychological piece that deals with mental health issues. It dramatizes how members of a theatre company, through the creative process of

writing and producing a new musical, come to terms with the profound loss of a loved one who has taken her own life. The one-act version was performed at the McManus Theatre of the Grand Theatre last winter. The creative team includes undergraduate and graduate students, alumni of English and Writing Studies and of other departments. The play is presented by the Theatre Studies Program with generous support from the Department of English and Writing Studies, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, and the Hume Cronyn Fund. Proceeds go to the Canadian Mental Health Association Middlesex. Watch out for announcements and further details!

WRITE NOW! SPEAKER SERIES PRESENTS AWARD-WINNING POET

DON MCKAY

Please join the Write Now! Speaker Series for a reading and Q&A with award-winning poet Don McKay who has won two Governor General's Awards and the Griffin Poetry Prize. His most recent book of essays, *The Shell of the Tortoise*, received the Winterset Prize for Excellence in Newfoundland and Labrador Writing for 2011. *Paradoxides*, his most recent book of poems, winner of the E.J. Pratt Prize for Poetry, includes meditations on geology and deep time, while pursuing ongoing obsessions with birds and tools. *Angular Unconformity: Collected Poems* was published in 2014. Don McKay lives in St. John's, Newfoundland.

Date & Time: Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m.

Location: UCC Rm 56