

TRAVEL LIGHT: APPREHENDING BEING ON THE MOVE



2023 Graduate Conference of
Comparative Literature, Hispanic Studies and
the Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism

March 10th-11th 2023

University College 3110 (Conron Hall) at Western University
<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/94106701417>

WELCOME TO TRAVEL LIGHT

In its return since the COVID-19 pandemic, *Travel Light: Apprehending Being on the Move* is the 2023 iteration of the Annual Graduate Conference. This year, the team is comprised of: Shahrzad Izadpanah and Marziyeh Ghoreishi (Comparative Literature), Hanna Barnett and Lorena Rojas Castañeda (Hispanic Studies), and Brendan Brown and Shubhayan Chakrabarti (The Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism). Our theme was inspired by a restlessness that only can be understood through the now quotidian lens of global lockdowns during COVID-19. The prohibition of large-scale ambulation meant that movement, previously ubiquitous, leaped forth anew with potentialities previously hidden in the patterns of everyday life. Therefore, we sought to draw together various thinkers, writers, and scholars engaged in the critical project of understanding and analyzing non-normative approaches to speed, vectorial choreography, migration, and even stasis-as-movement. Intersecting these inquiries were concerns for tangible and measurable justice-oriented modalities of praxis. No more are we content with the simple static relation of thought to action. This conference, instead, is pushing theory to chase after movement. Playing on the polysemantic interpretations of ‘traveling light’, we are eager to learn, listen, and follow along with the exciting presentations gathered here. We would like to thank the keynote speakers, presenters, moderators, volunteers, graduate chairs, and staff (Sylvia Kontra and Dawn Gingerich) who have all made this conference possible.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that this conference is being hosted at Western University, which is located on the traditional lands of the Anishinaabek, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak and Chonnonton Nations, on lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum. We acknowledge historical and ongoing injustices that Indigenous Peoples endure in Canada, and we accept responsibility to contribute toward revealing and correcting miseducation as well as renewing respectful relationships with Indigenous communities through our research.

PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

MARCH 10 TH		MARCH 11 TH	
9-9:30	Registration and Opening	9-9:10	Opening
9:30-10:30	Keynote – Dr. Wolff	9:10-10:10	Keynote – Dr. McLean
10:30-10:45	Break	10:10-11:50	Panel 4
10:45-12	Panel 1	11:50-1	Lunch
12-1	Lunch	1-2:15	Panel 5
1-2	Workshop	2:15 - 3:05	Panel 6
2-2:50	Panel 2	3:05-3:20	Break
2:50-3	Break	3:20-4:35	Panel 7
3-4:15	Panel 3	4:35-5:50	Panel 8
4:15-4:30	Closing	5:50 - 6:00	Closing

FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH

9:00 - 9:15	Registration	
9:15 - 9:30	Opening Address	
9:30 - 10:30	Keynote	<p>Dr. Victoria Wolff, Western University <i>A Novel on the Move: Bless Me, Ultima in Literature and Music</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderated by Hanna Barnett</p>
10:30 - 10:45	Break	
10:45 - 12:00	Panel 1 UC 3225	<p style="text-align: center;">GENDER</p> <p>Deeplina Banerjee, Western University <i>No Place to Call Home: Gendering the Rohingya Forced Migration</i></p> <p>Tara Jacklin, Western University (Virtual) <i>Monuments to Roman Womens' Travels: Language on the 'Colossus of Memnon'</i></p> <p>Shalom Verghese, Monash University (Virtual) <i>Romancing the Monster in Contemporary YA Fantasy Fiction</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderated by Marziyeh Ghoreishi</p>
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 - 2:00	Workshop	<p style="text-align: center;">CONTEMPORIZING YOUR DEGREE</p> <p>Dr. Julie Jonkhans and David Feeney, Own Your Future</p> <p>Dr. Lorraine Davies, School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies</p> <p>Dr. Constanza Burucúa, Western University</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderated by Lorena Rojas Castañeda</p>
2:00 - 2:50	Panel 2	<p style="text-align: center;">MONEY</p> <p>Vinay Sharma, Western University <i>Accelerationist Ontology of Capitalism</i></p> <p>Dr. Manuvelraj Ponnuduari (Virtual)</p>

		<p><i>Understanding the Movement of North Indian Workers into Tamil Speaking South India: A Critical Analysis of the Migration, Economic Circulation and Development</i></p> <p>Moderated by Shubhayan Chakrabarti</p>
2:50 - 3:00	Break	
3:00 - 4:15	Panel 3	<p>KNOWLEDGE</p> <p>Daniel Arias, University of California, Santa Cruz <i>Boat People as Poetic Form: Caribbean Borderlands, Translation at Sea, and Haunting Ode and Elegy</i></p> <p>Yanping Gao, Monash University (Virtual) <i>John Chinaman's Journey in China: G.L Dickinson's Letters from John Chinaman (1900-1910)</i></p> <p>Hiba Naeem, Georg-August University of Göttingen (Virtual) <i>Counter-Mapping in Contemporary and Postcolonial South Asian Literature</i></p> <p>Moderated by Vinay Sharma</p>
4:15 - 4:30	Closing Remarks	

SATURDAY, MARCH 11TH

9:00 - 9:10	Opening Address	
9:10 - 10:10	Keynote	<p>Dr. Lisa McLean, King's University College at Western University <i>Central American Migration and the Transnational Activism of Mothers of Disappeared Migrants</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderated by Brendan Brown</p>
10:10 - 11:50	Panel 4	<p style="text-align: center;">IMMIGRANT/DIASPORIC/REFUGEE EXPERIENCES</p> <p>Ryan Haddad, Western University <i>Looking Inside Broken Windows: The Pursuit of Home in Omar El Akkad's What Strange Paradise and Rawi Hage's Cockroach</i></p> <p>Maia Nichols, University of California San Diego (Virtual) <i>The Uses of Drawing and Poison Bait: Grasshopper Spawns and Flights in the Mixed Commune of Graz 1940-55</i></p> <p>Ziyana Lategan and Soumya Dasgupta, University of Binghamton and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Virtual) <i>Neither Here nor There</i></p> <p>Verity Oswin, University of Adelaide (Virtual) <i>Ode to the American Airport: How to be Nowhere and Everywhere All at Once</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderated by Bruno Sinder</p>
11:50 - 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 - 2:15	Panel 5	<p style="text-align: center;">STORY TELLING</p> <p>Umar Nizarudeen, University of Kerala (Virtual) <i>Cryogenic Caste Systems: Malayalam Science Fiction and the future of Hierarchy</i></p> <p>Susan Harris-Gamard, University of Buffalo <i>Post-Apocalyptic Shakespeares: Trauma, Memory, and Performance in Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel</i></p>

		<p>Nadia Butt and Michelle Stork, Institute of British and American Studies, University of Giessen, Germany; and Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany (Virtual) <i>Mobile Lives, Nomadic Selves: Between Home and Homelessness in the Road Film Nomadland (2022)</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderated by Nicholas Birmingham</p>
2:15 - 3:05	Panel 6	<p style="text-align: center;">(POST) COLONIALISM</p> <p>Ashar Mobeen, Western University <i>The Implications of the λCDM Model of Cosmology on the Post-Colonial Terrain of Queen's Park, Toronto</i></p> <p>Tulika Jha, University of Potsdam (Virtual) <i>Progress, Displacement and Loss: A Critical Study of the Effects of 'Movement' through British Colonialism in India</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderated by Susan Harris-Gamard</p>
3:05-3:20	Break	
3:20-4:35	Panel 7	<p style="text-align: center;">STATES OF MIND</p> <p>Caio Marin Brunet Lee, Universidad de Valencia (Virtual) <i>Transforming Movement: Minima Moralia's Aphorism as Moving Stillness and Still Movement</i></p> <p>Nicholas Birmingham, Western University <i>Sleep and the Overtakelessness of Flesh</i></p> <p>Sohrab Mosahebi, Western University <i>"I Run Towards Home. My Heart Arrives Before Me:" The Uncanny Presence of the Question of Home and Identity in Ma'asoumeh Jafari's Why shan't I worship the Darkness?</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderated by Ryan Haddad</p>
4:35-5:50	Panel 8	<p style="text-align: center;">PHILOSOPHICAL THOUGHTS</p> <p>Frances Wear, University of Victoria (Virtual) <i>Dithyrambic Gyres: Apocalyptic Post-humanism in Yeats's "The Second Coming," and Nietzsche's The Birth of Tragedy</i></p>

		<p>Giuseppe Vicinanza, The New School for Social Research (Virtual) <i>Moving: A Critique of Personal Identity from the 'Discourse on Sexuality' to the 'Informational Person'</i></p> <p>Suhyang Baek, Western University <i>Three Negatives of the Tourist—Vagabond, Migrant, and Flaneur: Thoughts of Bauman, Le Blanc, and Benjamin on Movement</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Moderated by Hanna Protasova</p>
5:50- 6:00	Closing Remarks	